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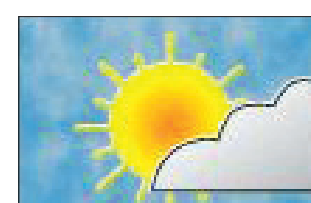


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H BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY

APRIL 23, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 122

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

BSISD repair projects to begin

BSISD trustees approve spending \$1.75M Wednesday

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

Let the renovations begin. Big Spring Independent School District trustees voted to approve \$1.75 million in repair and renovation projects during a brief special meeting Wednesday afternoon.

Taking advantage of an unexpected windfall from the state, trustees voted to upgrade the Blankenship Field track, purchase modular offices for the administration building, perform remediation work on the high school roof and emergency repairs at Marcy Elementary.

Most of these projects should be completed during the summer months, officials said.

The work at the Blankenship Field track, which has an estimated cost of \$600,000, will begin after the conclusion of summer track season in July. It will involve a total resurfacing of the track from the base up, converting it from a 440-yard oval to 400 meters in circumference and making it seven lanes in width.

Officials had touted the move as a way not only to improve training facilities for BSISD track athletes but for the district to host track meets in the near future.

Repair work on the high school roof, which

See **BSISD**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

A bulldozer deposits a load of dirt into a dump truck on Scurry Street near 15th Street Wednesday afternoon. Work crews are busy resurfacing Scurry and Main streets as part of a \$6 million street renovation project.

Cars, Stars and Handlebars tickets still on sale for Saturday fund-raiser

Special to the Herald

Tickets to the Third Annual Cars, Stars and Handlebars fund-raiser may be purchased until just before the event begins Big Spring State Hospital Superintendent Ed Moughon said.

The charitable opportunity gets under way at 5 p.m. Saturday night at the Big Spring Country Club. Tickets may be purchased until 4 p.m.

Only 750 tickets have been made available. A ticket gives attendees the opportunity to take the keys

to a new car or motorcycle, while enjoying an evening of food and entertainment.

Big Spring State Hospital patrons who purchase a \$100 ticket are invited to attend the eve-

See **TICKETS**, Page 3

Veteran of Month reception slated tonight at Hangar 25

Marie Mejia-Justice is the Hangar 25 Air Museum April 2009 Veteran of the Month.

A reception in her honor will be held at 6 p.m. today in the Hangar 25 Briefing Room. The public is invited.

Mejia-Justice served in the United States Army from 1988-1994. She worked as a telecommunications operator while stationed in Germany and Korea.

For more information, call 264-1999.

Master Gardener's plant sale expected to draw large crowd

By **BILL MCCLELLAN**

News Editor

Want to brighten the patio? Add some color to the porch? Grow your own tomatoes? There's a problem, though, right? Everything your green thumb touches turns brown.

You can put the odds a little more in your favor Saturday when the Howard County Master Gardeners hold their annual plant sale. The event will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Heart of the City Park in downtown Big Spring.

Come early.

"I know last year we had a crowd by the time we started the sale. We had lines of people," said Vickie Cheyne, club secretary, who along with Connie Cline is co-chairing this year's sale. "We had a good turnout all day, but it was very busy in the morning."

Many of the plants the organization will be offering are especially suited for the West Texas climate — hot and dry. Plus, shoppers will be able to get advice from experienced gardeners on planting and caring

for their purchases.

"We try to offer a fairly wide variety. We'll have everything from ground cover to flowering plants, annuals, perennials and more," said Cheyne. "We're not going to get into the big shrubs or trees but we'll have a lot of things. We'll also have some tomato and pepper plants and some herbs."

The organization purchased most of the plants for Saturday's sale from a local nursery — Johansen's. In the future, members hope to sell more "club-grown" plants.

"We're preparing to erect greenhouses on some property we have purchased and the proceeds from this sale will help us do that," explained Cheyne. "That way, we'll be able to grow more

of our own plants. We will be selling some plants that Master Gardeners have grown and donated for this sale though."

Also for sale will be a book on plants that have done well in West Texas — "Some of the plants in

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Obituaries

Don Cannon

Don Cannon went to be with his Lord and Savior April, 19, 2009, after a long-fought and courageous battle with cancer. A memorial service was held Thursday, April 23, 2009, at First Presbyterian Church with Pastor Steve Schorr officiating.



Don was born Sept. 18, 1939, in Wichita Falls to Doyle and Minnie Cannon. His family moved to Big Spring in January 1941. He graduated from Big Spring High School in 1958. His main interest in school was band. Don played the trumpet for six years while in junior high and high school and was part of a small dance band for several years, as well.

In 1959 he married Lyn Sneed and they had two children, Donald "Donny" Ray Jr., born March 30, 1961, and Debra Lyn, born March 30, 1965. He and Lyn were active members and workers at East Fourth Baptist Church in Big Spring.

Don joined the U.S. Marine Corp Reserves in 1957 while he was a junior in high school and was honorably discharged from active duty in January 1963. During his working career, Don was mainly involved in food products. He started sacking groceries at a neighborhood grocery store (Newsom's) in 1951, when he was 12 years old. He was assistant manager of the store at the time he went to work with the Frito-Lay Company in 1965.

He and his family were transferred to Sweetwater with Frito-Lay in January 1967, and were active members of the First Baptist Church there. He was also active in the Sweetwater Jaycees and served as president in 1970. He was promoted to sales manager with Frito-Lay and was transferred to Midland in January 1971. He and his family were active members of the Wilshire Park Baptist Church in Midland.

In October 1975, Don went to work as a salesman for the John Sexton Co., a food service company headquartered in Chicago, Ill., with regional offices in Dallas. Rather than transfer with John Sexton to Dallas in 1981 and a promotion to sales manager, Don went to work for Cardinal Surveys, a local oil field service company and served as sales manager for 11 years before the Midland office closed in 1993.

Later in 1993, Don went to work for Watson Food Company in Lubbock. Watson Foods was acquired by Sysco Foods in 2000 and Don retired from Sysco in May 2001. Don had excellent selling skills and over the years won many outstanding sales awards with each and every company he worked for.

In 1992 Don met Donna Keller and three years later, on May 6, 1995, they were married. He and Donna would spend their remaining years together sharing a very special love for each other and traveling the world hand in hand.

They were active members of First Presbyterian Church. Don started his retirement by accompanying a group of youth from the First Presbyterian Church to Fort Collins, Colo., in June 2001. This would be the first of many youth trips he would participate in as a member of First Presbyterian.

Hank Smoot

Hank Smoot, 58, of Big Spring died Tuesday, April 21, 2009, at his residence. Memorial services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Ken McMeans, pastor of College Baptist Church, officiating.

Hank was born May 13, 1950, in Colorado City. He came to Big Spring in 1962 from Colorado City. Hank was a self-employed computer consultant. He was a member of College Baptist Church and the Optimist Club. Hank loved the outdoors, yard work and traveling, especially to Nevada.

He is survived by one son, Michael Smoot of Benbrook; one daughter, Jennifer Smoot of Big Spring; mother, Honey Smoot of Mid-

land; one sister, Mary Gingerich and husband Tom of Waco; one brother, Carl Smoot and wife Olga of Midland; two granddaughters, Kelia Smoot and Karsen Smoot; four nieces; one nephew; and several great nieces and nephews.

Honorary pallbearers will be Rick Hill, Gary Faulkner, Dr. Reg Cranford, Dr. Harold Smith, Bob Doolin and Richard Wright.

He was preceded in death by his father, Joe H. Smoot, on April 17, 2006.

The family suggests memorials to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, 120 Wall Street, 19th Floor, NY, NY 10005, or at their website, located at www.jdrf.org.

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

Paid obituary

His favorite youth trip was the annual trip to Juarez, Mexico, with 75 to 100 youth and adults to build homes and churches for the Hispanic people there. He went on this particular trip for five years during spring break and headed up the cook team before being diagnosed with cancer in 2006. Before his death he had traveled with the youth of the church on 10 different trips.

He was very active in the church and served in many positions within the different churches he was a member of. He had served as a Sunday school teacher, deacon, treasurer of two different churches, head of a building committee and chairman of the board of one church. He was on the board and served as president of the Chandelle Homeowners Association between 1996 and 2000. He was also active in the Hi Sky Emmaus community where he served as lay director for men's walk No. 122 in September 2001.

Over the years, Don enjoyed participating in fast pitch softball, slow pitch softball, volleyball and golf. In his retirement years, he and his wife Donna were able to travel to many places around the world. Don always enjoyed playing golf wherever they traveled. Don was a very organized, detailed and self-disciplined individual in everything he undertook. The trips that he and Donna took were always fully planned and taken care of months and sometimes years in advance as a result of his organizational skills.

Don was a happy man and loved his family more than anything else in this world. His goals in life were to be a loving, caring and effective disciple for Christ, a good son, a loving husband, a kind and loving dad, a hard worker and a friend to all those he came in contact with.

He was preceded in death by his dad, Doyle, in 1975; his sister, Jean, in 1994; his brother, Kenneth, in 1997; and his mother, Minnie, in 2000.




He is survived by his wife, Donna of Midland; one son, Donny and wife Amelia of Grandfalls; one daughter, Debra and husband Matt of San Antonio; two step-sons, Barry Keller of Hurst and Eric Keller and wife Crystal of Fort Worth. He had seven grandchildren, two "grandawgs," four great-grandchildren, three nephews, three nieces, many cousins and his two beloved cats, Penelope and Pasquale.

While in the hospital, Don always considered the doctors and nurses who took care of him on 4E as his "New Best Friends" and "Guardian Angels." He did say on many occasion with a smile on his face, that all those who took such good care of him could have met at a more fun place than the cancer wing of the hospital. He visited with them on a regular basis after leaving the hospital just to let them know how important all of them had become to him and his family.

Memorials can be made to the Midland College Foundation Nursing Scholarship in honor of the nurses who cared for Don, 3600 N. Garfield, Midland 79705; or to the First Presbyterian Church Youth Mission Trip, 800 W. Texas, Midland 79701. Arrangements were under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home. To place on-line condolences please visit www.mem.com.

Paid obituary

Your Local Weather

Fri 4/24	Sat 4/25	Sun 4/26
 89/61	 85/63	 83/60
Sunny skies. Warm. High 89F. Winds S at 20 to 30 mph.	More clouds than sun, windy. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the low 60s.	Windy, slight chance of a thunderstorm.

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Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

• League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The public is invited.

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 at the Howard College Cactus Room.
• Dance at the Senior Center, 1901 Simler, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

MONDAY

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad, in the dining hall on the east side of the building. Weigh-in starts at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 6 p.m. There is a different program each week. For more information, call 213-1342 or 263-6819.
• The Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at the Howard County Library. For more information, call 264-6116.

Police blotter

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

- ERNEST CLARK, 68, transient, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- AARON BARNES, 26, of 706 E. 16th St., was arrested Wednesday on charges of evading arrest, possession of marijuana, possession of a controlled substance and two Midland County warrants.
- STEPHANIE WILLIAMS, 20, of 1412 Wood, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of marijuana – four ounces or less.
- ADOLFO LOPEZ, 59, of 1901 E. 25th St., was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.
- THEFT was reported: in the 2000 block of Gregg Street. in the 1100 block of Lamesa. in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.
- POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA – MORE THAN TWO OUNCES LESS THAN FOUR OUNCES was reported in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION – ASSAULT was reported in the 1700 block of State.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 5 - 25 - 32 - 40 - 51 - 53. Number matching six of six: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 2 - 6 - 14 - 18 - 20.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0 - 1 - 3 - 2. Sum It Up: 6.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9 - 9 - 3. Sum It Up: 21.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of E. 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Purdue. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1400 block of E. Sixth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Winston. Service refused.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 800 block of Scott. Service refused.
- STRUCTURE FIRE was reported in the 1900 block of Thorpe. The call was determined to be a smoke scare.

Sheriff

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

- Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 44 inmates at the time of this report.
- JESUS SOLIZ, 17, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of evading arrest or detention.
- ORLANDO SANCHEZ JR., 24, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of burglary of a habitation.
- BRYAN HEATH PEARSON, 23, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana – more than four ounces, less than five pounds.
- CHRISTOPHER RYAN TUBB, 36, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on a Tom Green County warrant for driving while intoxicated.

BIG SPRING ART ASSOCIATION

Area Art Show -- Howard College
Marie Hall Performing Arts Center

Public Viewing Drop off - Fri May 1, 10 am - 4 pm
Sat. May 2, 3-5 pm Judging - Sat May 2, 11 am - 1 pm
M-F May 4-8 8-5 daily Patron Viewing 1-3 pm
Sat May 9 11 am - 5 pm Call 263-4033 for details

Artist's reception 3-5 pm Sat May 9

All area artists welcome. No limit for entries.

Entry fee \$8 each, \$6 for BSAA members

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Texas Briefs

Woman, 20, jailed in SFA threat

NACOGDOCHES (AP) — A 20-year-old Stephen F. Austin State University student was in jail Thursday, a day after her arrest on allegations that she posted signs on and near campus last week that threatened a deadly mass shooting.

Jennifer Grant, a sophomore from Palestine, is a tenant of The Grove, the off-campus apartment complex where several signs appeared April 16. They warned that "10 people will be killed and shot at The Grove."

A notice on the university Web site said campus police arrested Grant and booked her into the Nacogdoches County Jail. The District Attorney's Office had no record of an attorney for Grant. A jail official said she was being arraigned Thursday morning.

The signs were found on the second anniversary of the Virginia Tech massacre that left 32 people dead.

SFA Police Chief Marc Cossich said in Thursday's Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel the investigation remained active but that no more arrests were expected. Cossich said information leading to the arrest came from a variety of sources.

Officials said it was too early to comment on a possible motive.

A student who said he knew Grant said he was surprised by the arrest.

"She has always been nice to me whenever I have talked to her and really seems like a nice person all around," said 19-year-old David Bruce Smith, also of Palestine. "For her to make those drastic threats like that, all of a sudden, is highly doubtful for me."

More nests found of endangered sea turtles

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Biologists have found five Kemp's ridley sea turtle nests along the Padre Island National Seashore.

The Wednesday finds bring the total of the endangered sea turtles' nests found along the Texas coast to 10 this year. The Corpus Christi Caller-Times reports in its online edition Thursday that one nest was found on South Padre Island.

The turtle's nesting season usually runs from April through July or August. State wildlife officials ask the public to refrain from disturbing nesting turtles. Instead, they ask the public to report the sighting to 1-866-TURTLE5.

Ex-U.S. Attorneys in Texas join Ashcroft law firm

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Two former U.S. Attorneys in Texas have joined the law firm of former U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft.

Johnny Sutton was the top federal prosecutor for the Western District of Texas for more than seven years before resigning last week. He joins Ashcroft's firm along with John Ratcliffe, the former chief of the Eastern District of Texas, and two other Bush administration prosecutors.

The form will be called Ashcroft Sutton and Ratcliffe LLC.

Sutton's tenure was marked by his prosecution of two Border Patrol agents convicted of shooting a fleeing drug smuggler. Sutton said before resigning that he doesn't regret prosecuting the pair, though he called their mandatory 10-year sentences harsh.

Wine bill slips onto Senate agenda

AUSTIN (AP) — Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, a known wine connoisseur, isn't always able to drink his favorite vintage when he goes out for dinner. But that could change soon under legislation he is said to be actively pushing.

A bill on its way to the state Senate would let Texans carry their own bottles of wine into liquor-carrying restaurants and then leave with whatever they don't drink. Industry representatives have taken to calling the legislation the "Dewhurst bill."

Glen Garey, a top official at the Texas Restaurant Association, said Dewhurst was frustrated because he couldn't order his preferred bottle when dining out in Austin. The lieutenant governor presides over the state Senate and was instrumental in getting the legislation moving, said Garey, the association's general counsel.

"He is the one who refers bills, and he also has a nice wine collection, so he would, I guess, enjoy it if we could in fact allow the practice," Garey said. "There is actually a particular brand of wine he likes ... but we don't carry it at his favorite restaurant, and he had expressed that interest before."

Dewhurst spokesman Rich Parsons said Dewhurst spoke with the Texas Restaurant Association about the bill earlier this year, but he denied that the powerful lieutenant governor wanted it passed so that he could carry his own wine into restaurants.

Parsons said the industry association had "dropped the ball" by not finding a sponsor to file the legislation before last week. Garey agreed the industry had goofed by not finding a sponsor earlier, but said that Dewhurst's intervention this late in the session was crucial.

Neither Garey nor Parsons could name Dewhurst's favorite wine.

House approves incentives to graduate more nurses

AUSTIN (AP) — An estimated shortage of 22,000 nurses across Texas drove the state House on Wednesday to tentatively approve a measure that would increase the incentives some nursing schools get for hiring more teachers and graduating more nurses.

The issue is on the minds of many lawmakers this session, and in many bills seeking to move forward in the final weeks of the session.

"Nurses are good jobs, and we're having to import nurses. Yet when you look at the kinds of jobs you want your children and other people's children to have, this one jumps to the forefront," said Rep.

Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, the author of the bill approved Wednesday.

Kolkhorst's proposal would target some state grants toward hiring nursing faculty at some nursing schools. She is also behind incentives in the state budget to reward nursing schools that have a more than 70 percent graduation rate.

The state estimates that if Texas fails to graduate more nurses as the population grows, demand will outstrip registered nurses by 70,000 in 2020. Kolkhorst said her measures aim to catch up to demand by 2013.

Supporters of Kolkhorst's bill say nursing schools can't get more graduates until they have more teachers.

Texas nursing schools had to turn away 8,000 qualified applicants in 2008 because they didn't have enough faculty, said Rep. Donna Howard, D-Austin.

"That's one of the biggest kinks in the pipeline, is lack of faculty," said Howard, a former nurse who is supporting the bill. "Nurses with advanced degrees can typically make at least \$20,000 more working in a clinical setting rather than in academia."

The state has had a grant program, called the Professional Nursing Shortage Reduction Program, to give incentives to nursing schools since 2005. Currently the grants are handed out based on how much nursing schools increase the number of graduates each year, said Chris Fowler with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The board hands out the grants.

"There are three stipulations (for use of the money). For new faculty, salary supplements for current faculty, and preceptors," Fowler said. Preceptors are hospitals nurses who agree to take on nursing students for their clinical training, she said.

Kolkhorst's bill would smooth the way for some of that grant money to be given to schools up front, rather than after a school has established higher graduation rates.

Perry stands firm on unemployment money

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry stood firm this week in his position that Texas shouldn't accept \$555 million in federal economic stimulus money for expanded unemployment benefits, even though some fellow Republicans are pushing to take the cash.

The Senate voted this week to accept the federal money and expand state unemployment coverage to include people seeking part-time work and those who leave their jobs for compelling reasons, such as a child's illness or family violence. The proposal by Sen. Kevin Eltife, a Tyler Republican, now goes to the House.

Perry, an outspoken critic of the federal stimulus package, contends that once the federal money runs out Texas would be left paying the cost of the expansion to the tune of \$75 million a year through taxes on employers. He wasn't specific on when he believes that cost would kick in, but said it would be "in those out years."

BSISD

Continued from Page 1

is estimated at \$500,000, will involve repairing and cleaning roof drains and removing built-up dirt. Inadequate drainage has allowed water to collect in several areas of the roof, officials said.

The modular buildings at the administra-

tion office will allow officials to bring more of the district's administrative services to one location.

Interim Superintendent Dr. Michael Stevens said the district plans to close the Anderson building, which currently houses the alternative education, special education and various diagnostician programs. The alterna-

tive education students would relocate to the high school, while the administrative personnel would move to the new modular buildings.

Emergency repairs at Marcy Elementary will include patching the stone archway at the building's entrance. A recent survey disclosed cracks forming along the archway, Stevens said, and trustees voted

to spend \$50,000 to repair the structure.

Trustees also approved \$175,000 for miscellaneous maintenance work throughout the district.

Funds for these projects will come from a \$3.2 million rebate the district recently received from the Texas Education Agency as payback for TEA misfiguring state aid to BSISD

from 2006 to 2008. The unused portion of those funds will be placed in the district's reserve account for possible later use, said Chief Financial Officer Sandra Waggoner.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
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Hank Smoot, 58, died Tuesday. Memorial Services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

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TICKETS

Continued from Page 1

ning's event. Hors d'oeuvres will be served at 6 p.m. Music will be provided on the patio.

KOSA-TV co-anchor Tatum Hubbard — a former Miss Texas — will co-host the event along with Cars, Stars and Handlebars co-chairman Stacy Barr and Moughon.

All proceeds will ben-

efit the patients of Big Spring State Hospital. The Volunteer Services Council plans to build a Family Visitation Cen-

ter with money raised from the evening's festivities.

To purchase a ticket, call (432) 268-7535.

Big Spring State Hospital is a 200-bed psychiatric hospital serving people with mental illness in West Texas.

PLANTS

Continued from Page 1

the book will be ones we're selling," noted Cheyne — with proceeds going to the organization.

Finally, anyone interested in the Master Gardeners can learn about the organization

and register for a future class.

"We're always interested in recruiting more people," Cheyne said. "We'll have sign-up sheets at the sale."

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD



By Eddy Pitchford

Susan Boyle recently surprised the judges and the audience with her singing of "I Dreamed A Dream" at a British talent show. Much of the astonishment was due to her appearance, which lacked the style of most would-be entertainers.

We live in a world characterized by more style than substance. We are so conditioned to sight that we dare to judge a singer by her appearance before we hear one song leave her mouth.

Many folks seek religious activity and church life that looks glamorous. They desire to impress people with fashion instead of simply obeying God in faith. They choose external glitz over eternal glory.

"For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ." (Galatians 1:10).

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Sunday Worship.....5:00 PM
Wednesday Class.....7:00 PM

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.

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

Bill McClellan
News Editor

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

OUR VIEW

Jail open house is chance to see what we bought

Saturday, the public will get a chance to see what its bought and what exactly what a \$11.5 million jail facility looks like.

Howard County officials will give taxpayers a chance to view the newly-constructed county jail, located at 3611 W. Highway 80, when a public open house is held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

"We want to give them a chance to walk through and see what their dollars have paid for, and what a tremendous improvement this is for our county," County Judge Mark Barr said of the open house. "This will be the last chance for many area residents to see the entire jail before we start bringing in inmates. After that, most of the facility will be closed to the public."

The building features 39,925 square feet and is designed to house 96 inmates with the ability to add 16 beds without a building expansion, and a pre-designed future addition that would expand the facility to 144 beds.

Passage of the bond issue that provided funds to build the facility brought an end to one of the most contentious arguments this county had seen in many years — one that not only divided voters in the community, but membership of the Howard County Commissioners Court.

Even when it became clear to everyone, thanks to the Texas Jail Standards Commission's closure of the existing jail, that building a new facility was necessary, squabbling continued — both in the commissioners court and the community — as to the size the new jail needed to be and where it would be located.

Barr said he believes the new jail is "quite an investment for the county. I really appreciate the commissioners. We all came together on this and we all had to give and take some. But we did it and we got it done, and this will be a very efficient place."

Although it is unclear exactly when the first inmates will be moved to the new facility, the jail's staff is currently in training, there's no question the new jail will be in use very soon.

County commissioners are hoping local taxpayers will take the time to see exactly what their tax dollars are buying, and we here at the *Herald* encourage our readers make the most of this opportunity.

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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- 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

You know, Lord, when our intentions are good.

Amen

Castro's offering 'Trojan Horse'

Cuban dictator Raul Castro says he is willing to talk to the United States about "human rights, press freedom, political prisoners — everything" — and everyone is biting, hook, line and sinker!

We are so eager to see better relations with our Caribbean neighbor — so idealistic about helping the Cuban people — that we forget to read the fine print.

Following that oft-quoted line by Castro, in which he expressed his willingness to discuss "everything," Castro insisted that Cuba's sovereignty must not be challenged.

Yet no one has challenged that part of his statement. In the U.S. news media, where leftist tendencies and shallow journalists reign, that part was omitted from many articles and reports.

Castro made that statement in Venezuela as he addressed a meeting of Latin America's leftist leaders.

They were celebrating the anniversary of the failed U.S.-led Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, which was in 1961. It was a defiant, arm-waving statement. He was telling his Latin American comrades that the Castro regime will not tolerate outside interference.

Yet now the defiant speech is being treated as an olive branch!

One news report called it "a major softening of the communist island's stance." Another one described it as "an extraordinary overture."

It's all wishful thinking, part of an unrealistic chorus of calls for Congress and the Obama administration to lift the U.S. economic embargo against the

communist island, which lies only 90 miles south of Florida.

Yet those who have followed U.S.-Cuba relations have 50 years' worth of reasons to be skeptical. If history is a lesson, the Castro brothers will be willing to talk and perhaps even give a little, but only enough to allow them to maintain total control of their repression machine.

They may free a few political prisoners — as they have in the past, only to round them up again later — but expecting the regime to allow a free press or free multiparty elections is terribly naive. That is not how dictators function. They will negotiate on everything that doesn't affect their absolute control of power, and they will shut down when we insist that change toward freedom and democracy must become part of the bargain.

So what is Castro offering? I say it's a Trojan horse.

Fortunately, in the Obama administration, there are people who apparently see that horse coming.

In his speeches last week, first in Mexico and later in Trinidad and Tobago, President Barack Obama explained that he already had made a "good-faith effort" by lifting U.S. travel restrictions for Cuban-Americans who want to visit or send remittances to their relatives in Cuba. But he also made it clear that he expects the Cuban government to reciprocate.

"We do expect that Cuba will send signals that they're interested in liberalizing in such a way that not only do U.S.-Cuban relations improve but so that the energy and creativity and initiative of the Cuban people can potentially be released," Obama said in Mexico. He noted that most of the talk is concentrated on the U.S. ban on travel to Cuba. "There's not much discus-

sion of the ban on the Cuban people traveling elsewhere," he said.

At the Summit of the Americas, in Trinidad and Tobago, Obama kept calling Castro's bluff. He did it in a subtle, diplomatic way, but it was reassuring to see that the candidate who said he would negotiate "without preconditions" has become a president who sees that in order to get the Castro brothers to release their choking grip on the Cuban people, preconditions are absolutely necessary.

"My guidepost in U.S.-Cuba policy is going to be how can we encourage Cuba to be respectful of the rights of its people, freedom of political speech, political participation, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, freedom of travel," Obama said in Mexico.

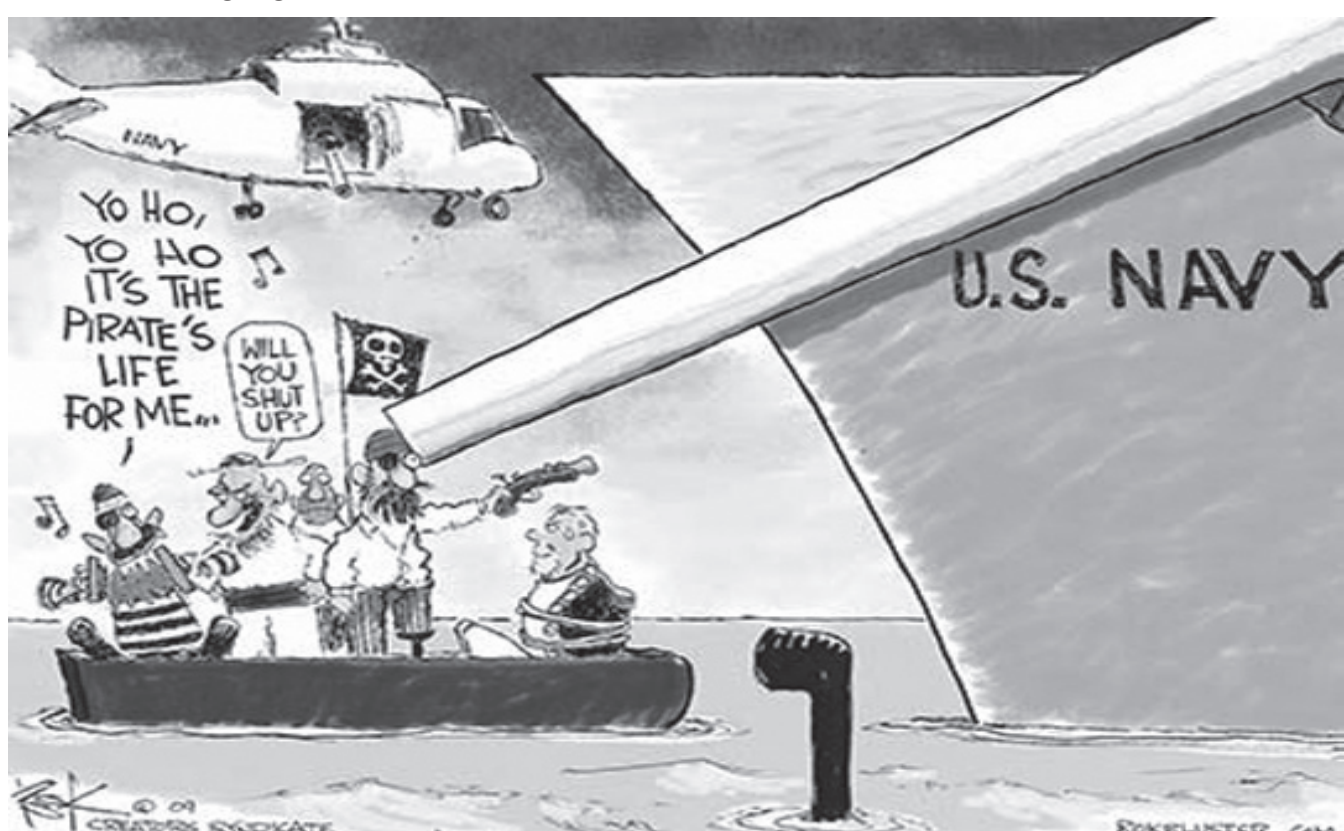
Yet the shallow news reports often fail to go deeper than simply discussing whether the U.S. will lift the embargo. They don't even cite specific instances when Obama clearly was responding to Castro's phony rhetoric.

For example, because Castro spoke of talking to the United States without allowing his regime's sovereignty to be challenged, Obama insists his administration's policy toward Cuba will have "guideposts."

In an obvious response to Castro's sovereignty concerns, Obama noted that "United States policy should not be interference in other countries, but that also means we can't blame the United States for every problem that happens in the hemisphere. That's part of the bargain."

The media want to roll in the Cuban Trojan horse, and thankfully, we have a president who wants to take a look inside.

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Getting sick can be really risky

Let's start with the bad news — 100,000 patients die each year from hospital-acquired infections. Another 100,000 die from medical error. And according to the Institute of Medicine, two in five adults get misdiagnosed. Unfortunately there isn't any good news. Well, I guess there is good news if you get well, which most of us do.

The problem is that society has set up some serious road blocks to getting well.

Just try, for example, to find out from the state health department whether your doctor has had complaints filed against him. Or if you have a medical dispute that goes to court, just try to find a doctor who will testify on your side. Sorry, they're not into that.

And those are the good guys! When we cross over the bar and fuss with insurance or drug companies our odds worsen. Since no one wants to insure us if we're sick, many folks can't afford treatment if they get really ill. And since drug manufacturers want us to buy their product whether it does us any good or not, they find ways to subtly (or not so subtly) bribe doctors to prescribe their stuff even if it

may not be quite right.

Further, when corners are cut, or bad practice is introduced, or plain old mistakes happen, you can probably imagine what happens to the whistleblowers who point that out. At last count the Justice Department had a backlog of 500 cases of health fraud.

And now comes a *New York Times* report that the Food and Drug Administration scarcely bothers even trying to test new medical devices. In fact any kind of regulation at all only dates back to 1976 and the deaths that resulted from the infamous Dalkon Shield. Since then the FDA has been empowered, but not adequately funded, to make sure that new products won't poison, injure, or infect us. But producers often concoct creative incentives for doctors to go ahead and use their devices anyway.

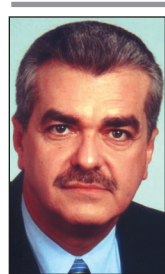
Nor are doctors, hospitals and corporations the only dangers in our care system. Pharmacists are a secretive lot as well. Though generally of very high type, they, like the rest of us, also make mistakes. Also like the rest of us, they prefer to hide them. The big drug chains won't talk about this, let alone provide data. Thus there is no tool for consumers to use in comparing pharmacies or in getting a handle on the scope of the error problem. (Though by way of endorsement, a Stop and Shop

pharmacist did recently drive out to our house to pick up a misdirected prescription.)

Medicare has now gotten into the act too. It is refusing to pay health providers for medical mistakes. Nor will it allow them to charge the victims. That's dandy, but since most hospitals are non-profit, losses have to be made up by someone. That means higher rates or larger government support. Not much incentive there to tighten up. The better answer is stricter regulatory supervision and closer record keeping. Somehow government rarely seems to find money for that sort of thing. Too many lobbyists against it.

So worse luck, a lot of responsibility for our own care falls back upon us. Who else is going to ask the doctor if he washed his hands? Who else is going to verify our prescription labels? Who else is going to check that someone has marked the right body part for surgery? And who else is going to grouse to our legislators that we can't get any info on malpractice, complaints, corporate gifts, infection rates, or whistle blowing. Medicine can be a grubby business, and pending real reform, we have to put up our own defenses.

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



MIGUEL PEREZ

News in brief

AP poll: Plurality says

U.S. on right track

WASHINGTON (AP) — For the first time in years, more Americans than not say the country is headed in the right direction, a sign that Barack Obama has used the first 100 days of his presidency to lift the public's mood and inspire hopes for a brighter future.

Intensely worried about their personal finances and medical expenses, Americans nonetheless appear realistic about the time Obama might need to turn things around, according to an Associated Press-GfK poll. It shows most Americans consider their new president to be a strong, ethical and empathetic leader who is working to change Washington.

Nobody knows how long the honeymoon will last, but Obama has clearly transformed the yes-we-can spirit of his candidacy into a tool of governance. His ability to inspire confidence — Obama's second book is titled "The Audacity of Hope" — has thus far buffered the president against the harsh political realities of two wars, a global economic meltdown and countless domestic challenges.

Paramilitary platoons sent to Pakistani district recently infiltrated by Taliban

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistani paramilitary troops sent to protect government buildings and bridges in a district recently infiltrated by the Taliban came under fire Thursday by gunmen who killed a police officer, authorities said.

The assault in Buner district is likely to heighten concern about the viability of a government-backed peace deal that imposes Islamic law in a large segment of the country's northwest in exchange for peace with Taliban militants in the neighboring Swat Valley.

In recent days, the valley's militants have entered Buner in large numbers — establishing checkpoints, patrolling roads and spreading fear in an area some 60 miles (97 kilometers) from Islamabad. Their movement has bolstered critics' claims that the deal would merely embolden the militants to spread their reign to other parts of the province bordering Afghanistan.

The U.S. has become one of the deal's foremost critics.

Senate Democrats hold back on independent panel

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Democratic leaders don't appear inclined to appoint an independent panel to investigate the Bush administration's interrogation program before the Senate Intelligence Committee completes its own probe near the end of the year.

The panel is investigating the legal underpinnings for the interrogation program as well as the

value of the information it gathered. Republicans oppose the creation of a bipartisan commission for what they view as a backward-looking effort to vilify former President George W. Bush.

"One way or another there needs to be a public accounting of these troublesome policies," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. Reid said the committee inquiry "will answer a lot of the questions the American people have."

Two Senate reports issued back to back this week were meant to answer some of those questions.

A Senate Armed Services Committee report draws a direct line between the Bush administration's approval of the CIA's harsh interrogation program and the military's abuse of prisoners at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Decade-long battle to allow gay marriage in Conn. will end with expected signature

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — A decade-long battle for marriage equality in Connecticut ended when the General Assembly voted to update the state's marriage laws to conform with a landmark court ruling allowing gay and lesbian couples to tie the knot.

"It feels so good. It really does feel like the book is closing," said Anne Stanback, president of Love Makes a Family, a gay-rights group that has led the fight for same-sex marriage in the state.

A spokesman for Gov. M. Jodi Rell said she will sign the bill, which passed 28-7 in the Senate and 100-44 in the House of Representatives late Wednesday, into law. While Rell, a Republican, signed the state's 2005 civil unions law, she has said she believes that marriage should be between a man and a woman.

The bill comes six months after the State Supreme Court ruled 4-3 that same-sex couples have the right to wed in Connecticut, rather than accept the civil union law designed to give them the same rights as married couples.

It redefines marriage in Connecticut as the legal union of two people. State law previously defined marriage as the union of a man and a woman.

To create nuclear power, United Arab Emirates works Washington corridors

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United Arab Emirates is wise to the ways of Washington. With Capitol Hill soon to review a deal to send American nuclear power technology to the U.A.E., the oil-rich nation has enlisted a pair of heavyweight lobbying firms to convince lawmakers the agreement won't be a boost to neighboring Iran's pursuit of atomic weapons.

Since July, the U.A.E. has paid nearly \$1.6 million in fees to Akin Gump and DLA Piper, according to foreign agent registration records on file with the Justice Department.

Both sides of the political aisle are covered. On the U.A.E.'s lobbying team are Vic Fazio, a former 10-term California Democratic congressman now at Akin Gump, and DLA Piper's Dick Arme, the former Republican House majority leader from Texas, the records show.

Putting sensitive nuclear gear into the hands of a country that once recognized the Taliban and is a trading partner with Iran has unnerved a small but vocal group of lawmakers who want President Barack Obama to put the deal on hold. But the U.A.E. and its lobbying corps are pressing for speedy passage, holding out the promise of jobs for American companies hit hard by a sagging economy.

Obama embraces crackdown on credit-card lending

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama, appealing to mainstream consumers, is pushing for more legal protection for the millions of Americans who use credit cards.

Obama was meeting with leaders of the credit-card industry Thursday, and he's already backing tougher legislation.

"The president believes new rules of the road for the credit card industry are needed," Obama senior adviser Valerie Jarrett said ahead of the president's planned session at the White House with executives from the nation's top credit-card companies.


Obama and some congressional leaders are particularly focused on what they consider to be abusive and deceptive practices that squeeze people into paying much higher fees or interest rates than anticipated. Both the House and Senate are considering a credit card "bill of rights" to limit the ability of credit-card companies to raise interest rates on existing balances and to require greater disclosure.

Top Russian diplomat starts mission to get North Korea back into nuclear talks

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Russia launched a mission Thursday to try to bring North Korea back into international disarmament talks, sending its top diplomat to Pyongyang after the North announced it would restart its nuclear program.

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov arrived in North Korea for a two-day visit, the official Korean Central News Agency reported in a brief dispatch. Russia's ITAR-Tass news agency said the nuclear standoff was expected to dominate Lavrov's trip, and that he might meet later Thursday with leader Kim Jong Il.

North Korea last week expelled all international monitors of its nuclear facilities, vowed to restart them and quit six-nation disarmament talks, after the U.N. Security Council condemned its April 5 rocket launch and called for expanded sanctions.



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**APRIL PROCLAIMED SEXUAL ASSAULT
AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH**

Big Spring, TX - Governor Rick Perry designed April 2009 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Texas. Victim Services joins rape crisis centers across the state in commemorating Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month to promote awareness and encourage support of this issue.

According to a 2003 study conducted by the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault and the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work, nearly 2 million Texans have been sexually assaulted. That equals 1 in 5 women and 1 in 20 men in our state. Unfortunately, fewer than 20 percent of sexual assault are ever reported to the police.

Sexual violence is a form of oppression, and is linked to all other forms of oppression. In order to create a world without sexual violence it is imperative that each of us take a stand against all forms of oppression whether based on gender, age, race or ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity. In order to foster healthy communities all citizens must support the efforts to end sexual violence every month of the year.

Last year Victim Services of Big Spring served:

- 41 Child Victims of Sexual Assault; 25 Primary and 16 Secondary
- 10 Adult Victims of Sexual Assault; 9 Primary and 1 Secondary
- Total of 51 Cases

From victims and future victims take a stand today, the next victim could be someone you love, your wife, mother, sister, co-worker, aunt, niece, nephew or a friend.

Contact
Victim Services
263-3312

17260

Robots are narrowing the gap with humans

By **ROBERT S. BOYD**
McClatchy Newspapers
WASHINGTON — Robots are gaining on us humans.

Thanks to exponential increases in computer power — which is roughly doubling every two years — robots are getting smarter, more capable, more like flesh-and-blood people.

Matching human skills and intelligence, however, is an enormously difficult — perhaps impossible — challenge.

Nevertheless, robots guided by their own computer “brains” now can pick up and peel bananas, land jumbo jets, steer cars through city traffic, search human DNA for cancer genes, play soccer or the violin, find earthquake victims or explore craters on Mars.

At a “Robobusiness” conference in Boston last week, companies demonstrated a robot firefighter, gardener, receptionist, tour guide

and security guard. You name it, a high-tech wizard somewhere is trying to make a robot do it.

A Japanese house-keeping robot can move chairs, sweep the floor, load a tray of dirty dishes in a dishwasher and

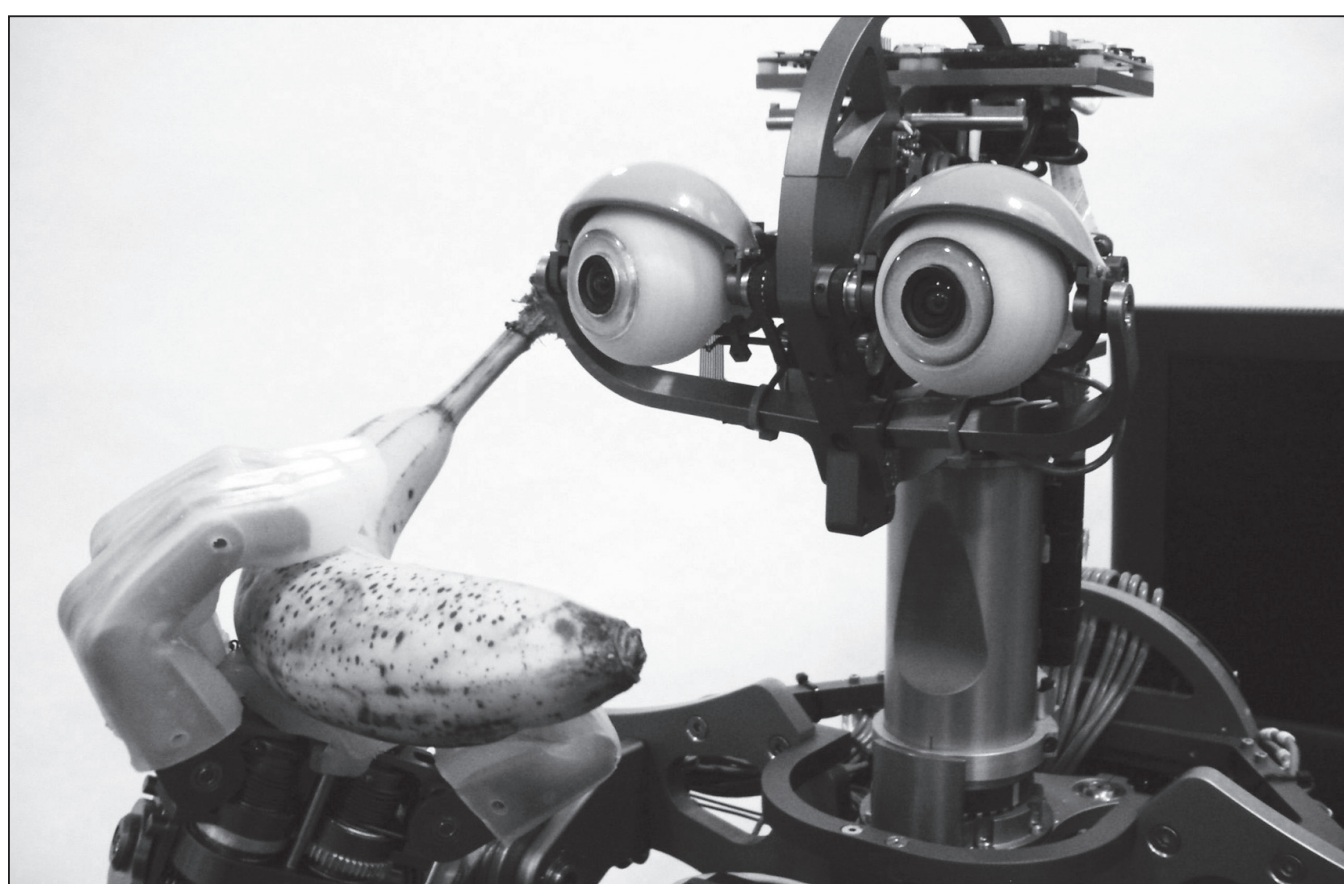
put dirty clothes in a washing machine.

Intel, the worldwide computer-chip maker, headquartered in Santa Clara, Calif., has developed a self-

controlled mobile robot called Herb, the Home Exploring Robotic Butler. Herb can recognize faces and carry out generalized commands such as “please clean this mess,” according to Justin Rattner, Intel’s chief technology officer.

In a talk last year titled “Crossing the Chasm Between Humans and Machines: the Next 40 Years,” the widely respected Rattner lent some credibility to the often-ridiculed effort to make machines as smart as people.

“The truly interesting question is what happens after if we have truly intelligent robots. If we’re very lucky, they’ll treat us as pets. If not, they’ll treat us as food.”



Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Peeling a banana is easy for a human, but a tough challenge for a robot, like this one from MIT’s computer science laboratory.

“The industry has taken much greater strides than anyone ever imagined 40 years ago,” Rattner said. It’s conceivable, he added, that “machines could even overtake humans in their ability to reason in the not-so-distant future.”

Programming a robot to perform household chores without breaking dishes or bumping into walls is hard enough, but creating a truly intelligent machine still remains far beyond human ability.

Artificial intelligence researchers have struggled for half a century to imitate the staggering complexity of the brain, even in creatures as lowly as a cockroach or fruit fly. Although computers can process data at lightning speeds, the trillions of ever-changing connections between animal and human brain cells surpass the capacity of even the largest supercomputers.

“One day we will create a human-level artificial intelligence,” wrote Rodney Brooks, a robot designer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in Cambridge, Mass. “But how and when we will get there — and what will

happen after we do — are now the subjects of fierce debate.”

“We’re in a slow retreat in the face of the steady advance of our mind’s children,” agreed Paul Saffo, a technology forecaster at Stanford University in Stanford, Calif. “Eventually, we’re going to reach the point where everybody’s going to say, ‘Of course machines are smarter than we are.’”

“The truly interesting question is what happens after if we have truly intelligent robots,” Saffo said. “If we’re very lucky, they’ll treat us as pets. If not, they’ll treat us as food.”

Some far-out futurists, such as Ray Kurzweil, an inventor and technology evangelist in Wellesley Hills, a Boston suburb, predict that robots will match human intelligence by 2029, only 20 years from now. Other experts think that Kurzweil is wildly over-optimistic.

According to Kurzweil, robots will prove their cleverness by passing the so-called “Turing test.” In the test, devised by British computing pioneer Alan Turing in 1950, a human judge chats casually with a concealed human and a

hidden machine. If the judge can’t tell which responses come from the human and which from the machine, the machine is said to show human-level intelligence.

“We can expect computers to pass the Turing test, indicating intelligence indistinguishable from that of biological humans, by the end of the 2020s,” Kurzweil wrote in his 2005 book, “The Singularity Is Near.”

To Kurzweil, the “singularity” is when a machine equals or exceeds human intelligence. It won’t come in “one great leap,” he said, “but lots of little steps to get us from here to there.”

Kurzweil has made a movie, also titled “The Singularity Is Near: A True Story About the Future,” that’s due in theaters this summer.

Intel’s Rattner is more conservative. He said that it would take at least until 2050 to close the mental gap between people and machines. Others say that it will take centuries, if it ever happens.

Some eminent thinkers, such as Steven Pinker, a Harvard cognitive scientist, Gordon Moore, a co-founder of Intel, and Mitch Kapor, a leading computer scientist in San Francisco, doubt that a robot can ever successfully impersonate a human being.

It’s “extremely difficult even to imagine what it would mean for a computer to perform a successful impersonation,” Kapor said. “While it

is possible to imagine a machine obtaining a perfect score on the SAT or winning ‘Jeopardy’ — since these rely on retained facts and the ability to recall them — it seems far less possible that a machine can weave things together in new ways or ... have true imagination in a way that matches everything people can do.”

Nevertheless, roboticians are working to make their mechanical creatures seem more human. The Japanese are particularly fascinated with “humanoid” robots, with faces, movements and voices resembling their human masters.

A fetching female robot model from the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology lab in Tsukuba, Japan, sashays down a runway, turns and bows when “she” meets a real girl.

“People become emotionally attached” to robots, Saffo said. Two-thirds of the people who own Roombas, the humble floor-sweeping robots, give them names, he said. One-third take their Roombas on vacation.

At a technology conference last October in San Jose, Calif., Cynthia Breazeal, an MIT robot developer, demonstrated her attempts to build robots that mimic human and social skills. She showed off “Leonardo,” a rabbit creature that reacts appropriately when a person smiles or scowls.

“Robot sidekicks are coming,” Breazeal said. “We already can see the first distant cousins of R2-D2,” the sociable little robot in the “Star Wars” movies.

Other MIT researchers have developed an autonomous wheelchair that understands and responds to commands to “go to my room” or “take me to the cafeteria.”

So far, most robots are used primarily in factories, repeatedly performing single tasks. The Robotics Institute of America estimates that more than 186,000 industrial robots are being used in the United States, second only to Japan. It’s estimated that more than a million robots are being used worldwide, with China and India rapidly expanding their investments in robotics.

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A Light in the Tunnel

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠AK4
♥KJ3
♦KJ108
♣J42

WEST

♠76
♥109
♦Q762
♣K9653

EAST

♠932
♥7652
♦43
♣A1087

SOUTH

♠QJ1085
♥AQ84
♦A95
♣Q

The bidding:
North East South West
1NT Pass 2♣ Pass
2♦ Pass 3♣ Pass
4♣ Pass 6♣

Opening lead — ten of hearts.
Everyone occasionally runs into the vexing problem of which way to take a two-way finesse for a missing queen. Consider South’s problem in this deal, where all he has to do to make the slam is to guess the location of the queen of diamonds.

West leads the ten of hearts, won with dummy’s king. Declarer begins by playing three rounds of trumps and three more rounds of hearts.

This brings him to the moment of truth when he must decide which opponent is more likely to have the queen of diamonds. If South finesses in the right direction, he is sure of making six, and may even make seven. But if he finesses in the wrong direction, he is sure to go down, losing a diamond and a club.

There are no absolute guarantees, but on the basis of what has transpired thus far, South should play West for the queen of diamonds. In the course of winning the first seven tricks, South has learned that West started with two spades and two hearts, while East has shown up with three spades and four hearts.

This leaves West with nine unknown cards that might include the queen of diamonds, and East with only six cards that might include the queen.

It follows that West is more likely to have been dealt the queen than East, so declarer should take the diamond finesse through West.

Accordingly, South should cash the ace of diamonds at trick eight, unblocking the ten from dummy, then continue with the nine and let it ride. When the nine wins, he repeats the finesse and winds up scoring all the tricks.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

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may occur 15 to 50 years after exposure.
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Baylor LT Smith in high demand

JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — Jason Smith simply did as he was told.

He took a redshirt his first year at Baylor. The next year, he was a backup tight end. Then coaches asked him to move to tackle, a switch that required bulking up and learning the intricacies of blocking schemes.

Two impressive seasons later, Smith looked into going pro. When the evaluation pointed out all sorts of flaws and Smith returned to school and used it as a checklist of things to do better.

Consider them all checked. Smith was headed Wednesday to New York for the NFL draft, widely expected to become a top-five pick.

"I came here and didn't do anything I wasn't supposed to do and everything I was asked to do," Smith said during a conference call from Waco, Texas. "When you come to Baylor, you get what you want if you work hard."

Smith's school spirit is admirable, but it brings up another interesting part of his dramatic rise: Baylor?

Yes, the private Baptist school that last had a winning season during the days of the Southwest Conference, and that last produced a top-three pick in 1950, just churned out perhaps the most sought offensive lineman in the land.

"Baylor," Smith added, "is a force to be reckoned with."

So is Smith.

Pass blocking is his specialty, but Smith — who is 6-foot-5 and 305 pounds, with a frame that can handle a couple dozen more pounds — is obviously good enough at opening running lanes to be projected as the anchor for Detroit's hoped-for turnaround or as St. Louis' replacement for Orlando Pace.

Part of the appeal is his character. As already mentioned, he's loyal, has a solid work ethic and respects authority. He answers to "Smooth" and is popular for his outgoing personality. He's also a serious student, having made the honor roll and graduated in four years.

Best of all for a team about to invest a healthy chunk of its salary cap in Smith, his rap sheet is crystal clear. The "very, very tight circle" of folks he's invited to

See SMITH, Page 12

Samora shines at Howard Rodeo

Special to the Herald

Howard College Hawk bull rider Cody Samora dominated the competition at the Howard College Rodeo over the weekend, taking home first place and securing his second trip to the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) to be held later this summer.

Samora twisted his first bull for 80 points and second place in the long round. Coming back with a great bull in the short round provided just the break Samora needed.

He marked 86 points to win the short round and the award, which was enough to secure his position in the regional standings and guarantee a trip to the CNFR.

Samora was not the only Hawk bull rider to compete in short-round action. Lonny Graham marked a 79-point ride in the long round to finish third and fifth in the average.

Shane Esco marked a 75-point ride in the long round for sixth place and

See RODEO, Page 12



Courtesy photo

Howard College's Cody Samora holds on to a bull for eight seconds at the Howard College Rodeo Saturday at the Big Spring Rodeo Bowl. Samora won the gold buckle for the bull riding event.



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring Lady Steers shortstop Mirella Torres fields a grounder in the Lady Steers' 5-4 win over San Angelo Lake View Friday at Lady Steer Park. The Lady Steers are one of three softball or baseball teams in Howard County involved in district seeding games Friday.

Finding their spot

3 Howard County squads playing for playoff position

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

While playoff spots have been secured across the state in high school baseball and softball, matchups are still to be determined.

Three teams — Big Spring softball, Coahoma softball and Forsan baseball — are playing seeding games Friday with district opponents.

The Lady Steers are fighting for the third seed in District 4-4A and face Plainview at 6:30 p.m. at Monterey High School in Lubbock.

Meanwhile, Forsan's Buffs and Coahoma's Bulldogettes are seeking the top seeds from their respective districts.

In District 2-A, Forsan will battle two opponents — Ira and Miles — for the No. 1 ranking out of District 2-A. All three teams finished 10-2 in the league.

See SEEDING, Page 12

Dampier backs off fouling Parker comments

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

DALLAS (AP) — After chatting with league officials, Mavericks center Erick Dampier is toning down his plans to thwart San Antonio's Tony Parker.

The big guy is still going to get physical with the speedy point guard in Game 3, but he's no longer guaranteeing that "my first foul Thursday night is going to put him on his back."

"I probably shouldn't have said it like that," Dampier said Wednesday. "Maybe the way it came out, it sounded bad. ... I'm just going to go out there and play the way I've been playing."

Dampier vowed to pop Parker on Monday night, after he turned Game 2 of this first-round series into a personal layup drill. Parker scored 38 points in 33 minutes, leading San Antonio to a 105-84 victory that tied the series at one game apiece.

The quote appeared in Tuesday's editions of The Dallas Morning

News. Once it reached the league office, a "review" began, which essentially meant Dampier having to explain himself. He did so again Wednesday with reporters.

"It's just the game of basketball," he said. "It wasn't said intentionally to go out and hurt anyone. I mean, fouls happen in the game of basketball. It's just that we want to shut down the paint and not give up any easy layups."

No punishment was announced by the league. However, there will be repercussions in the form of more scrutiny from the refs.

"Probably magnified 100,000 times," Dampier said, laughing. "I'm just waiting to see how it's going to happen. But, like I said, I'm not going to go out there and do anything stupid. I just want to go out there and play the best I can."

Mavericks players and coaches stood up for Dampier, essentially calling his threat a heat of the moment, slip of the tongue. They also agreed with his message.

"We can't just give up layup after layup, and Parker is one of the best at scoring in the paint," Dallas point guard Jason Kidd said. "We just have to be a little more physical — not in the sense of hurting anybody, but protecting the paint. I think that's what Damp was trying to say."

Dampier and coach Rick Carlisle both noted that the burly center has only two flagrant fouls over five seasons in Dallas, which hardly brands him as a dirty player.

"They've got one — we don't," Mavs star Dirk Nowitzki said, clearly referring to Bruce Bowen, the Spurs' defensive ace who has long been a thorn to Dallas players.

Parker pretty much brushed off Dampier's threat.

"I can't focus on that," he said. "It's San Antonio and Dallas. We know they're going to come back strong. They're going to play very

See DAMP, Page 12



AP photo/Eric Gay

Dallas Mavericks center Erick Dampier, left, is fouled by San Antonio Spurs guard Roger Mason Jr. (8) during Game 2 of a first-round Western Conference NBA playoff series in San Antonio Monday. Dampier has backed off earlier comments about putting Tony Parker on his back.

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High heel boot camp is a series of baby steps



(AP Photo/Diane Bondareff)

Model Anastasia Khozissova, of Modelinia's High Heel Boot Camp, teaches Associated Press staffers how to walk in their high heels.

SAMANTHA CRITCHELL

AP Fashion Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Anastasia Khozissova doesn't just walk in high heels. She glides. She looks graceful and sexy at the same time, not missing a beat, not teetering even a little bit.

But she's a model so let's chalk that up to a lot of experience.

Me? I'm more of a stumbler in stilettos, a reluctant wearer of the most expensive shoes in my closet because I fear either I'll fall or they'll hurt.

Hopefully Khozissova can cure me of that.

In addition to being a professional catwalker for the likes of Ralph Lauren and Oscar de la Renta, the Russian-born Khozissova has been tapped by the Web site Modelinia to teach the art of wearing — and walking — in towering shoes to the masses in a series of free online videos.

It's high-heel boot camp. She did a live version for myself and a few colleagues on the roof of our Manhattan office building.

Within seconds of meeting Khozissova, I got my slim 4-inch heel caught in a crack in the pavement. I wasn't looking three steps ahead of me like I should, she

notices. That gives you enough time to react to grout, grates and drains, all potential pitfalls for high heels.

Before we start, she gives us some other pointers:

- Every muscle should be working. Walking in heels is not for the slacker.

- Your body should be straight, one line from the top of the head through at least the hips. Shoulders down.

- Don't bounce. Each step should be even in stride.

Before you think about moving in heels, there are stationary exercises to be done, Khozissova says.

Start with your shoulders, rolling them forward and back. It might seem counterintuitive to think about your upper body as you're concentrating on walking, but, she explains, it makes you aware of posture and position.

The most common complaint she hears from other models is pain in their arches. Spending time on your tippy toes, like when you're washing dishes or brushing teeth, should build up tolerance, and, she adds, it's not a bad exercise for your rear.

Swing your arms, too,

to get used to the motion you should be making as you walk.

OK, now we're ready for baby steps.

Like a ballerina, women in heels should lead with their toe, not the heel, and the leg should be extended as you go forward. Body weight should sit on the balls of the feet.

Walking this way, exudes confidence, she promises.

She says she goes through the same motion even if she's wearing flats. "Walking with your toe first is just prettier."

This doesn't seem quite natural — and it's not, Khozissova acknowledges, but it will become second nature with practice.

"It's not just your feet that will hurt, at first, it's the whole body as you get used to the new way you have to move," Khozissova says.

And remind me why we're bothering with all this?

"You wear high heels for the same reason you'd buy a beautiful dress," she says. "The payoff is when someone says, 'You look stunning today.'"

On the Net: <http://www.modelinia.com/>

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Who has more power: the CEO of the company or the technical support worker? When the computers are working, it seems like the CEO has more power. But when the computers are down, the tech is a hero riding in on a white horse. Musings about power will continue to arise during the current stressed aspect between Mercury and Jupiter.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You take nothing and no one for granted. You don't have to lose something in order to recognize the value of it. You realize what you have and you do what it takes to keep it perfectly in tact.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You may feel privately sympathetic to someone's plight, but try not to indulge this person in your pity. See the strength in this person and help this person see the strength in himself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). What you contribute to a relationship is significant. What do you get in return? Stand up for yourself. You are nobody's indentured servant. Make a move to show that you know your own value.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). An agreement you made is turning into a much larger responsibility than you bargained for. There are people around you who would be willing to help. As long as they get clear and detailed instructions, all goes well.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Timing is so crucial to attaining the love you need and want. Observe the particular schedule, rhythm and habits of your object of affection. Don't act until you feel an undeniably opportune moment.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're in business to make

money. Keep this fact fresh in your mind as a customer, client or boss will try to get a lot of your time and energy at an unfair monetary exchange rate. Stick to your price.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You appreciate your home after you've left it, your loved ones when they are off on their own adventures. The distance between you and the people you are fond of will intensify your feelings.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're in a plum position to succeed, but you still have to make a big push. As your sign-mate, the humorist Will Rogers once said, "Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Places carry the energy of all the emotions and vibrations of the events and beings that have been there. You'll be sensitive to the feeling of places and should only stay where the atmosphere is welcoming.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your mental powers are keen. Stack the front part of your day with all of the tasks that require precision, focus and creative problem solving. You will be amazed at what you accomplish in just a few hours.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A friend or family member really needs you, though you wouldn't know this unless you asked. Call to catch up and you'll find out how you can be of tremendous help. When you give, your mood gets brighter.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Today features perplexing and random events. Go ahead and impose your own meaning on the situation. Your theory is as good as anyone else's. Your mind needs to make sense of this before you can move on.

ASTROLOGY 101: WHAT ARE GEMINI PEOPLE LIKE?: The first air sign of the zodiac is highly intellec-

tual, quick-witted and full of fantastic energy. Gemini is playful and mischievous, unbound to convention. There's a delightful bit of whimsy that goes with this sign. They are apt to change mid-course, play devil's advocate or endeavor any number of problem-solving techniques for the simple pleasure of the exercise. Gemini just loves to think, to bring new life to old ideas, to originate and to contribute to the body of human knowledge. But the thing Gemini is really proficient at is communication. This sign can relate to people of all walks of life and get their message across. They have an ease with conversation whether it's small talk about the weather or high-minded intellectual debate. Gemini senses when others are not tracking with their line of reason and can change their conversation to subjects on which they can form a real connection. It's not only humans that Gemini communicates with, either — the sign of the twins will often make a bond with animals, too. Their natural friendliness allows them to relate in a variety of "languages" in order to understand another being's world and to also be understood.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: "Slumdog Millionaire" star Dev Patel is a martial artist with a black belt in taekwondo. He'll be using these skills in the upcoming M. Night Shyamalan film, "Avatar: The Last Airbender." This down-to-earth young Taurus has what it takes to remain grounded. His fiery Aries moon indicates an intense energy level. Venus and Mars in soulful Pisces are excellent placements for an actor.

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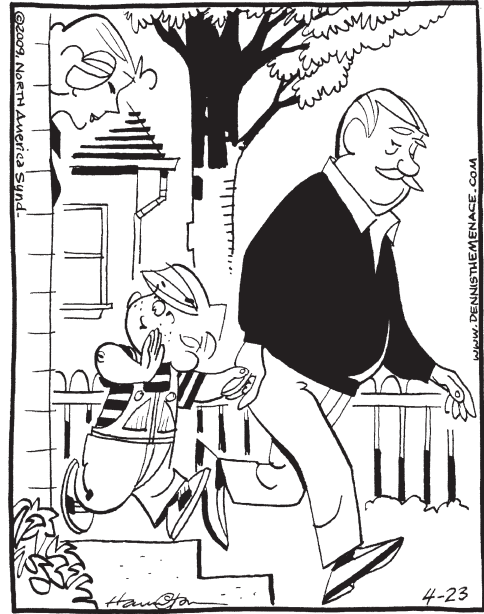
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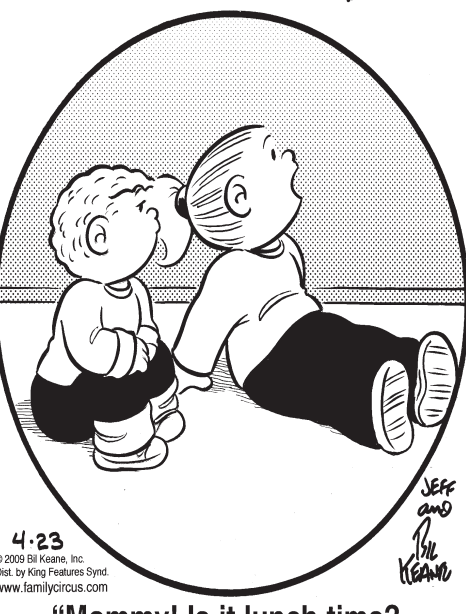
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5 :PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Lopez Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Raymond Friends	Granger Brad	BBC Business	Cash Cab Cash Cab	Movie: Com-mando, Dan Hedaya	CSI: NY	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Suite Life Suite Life	Horn Interrupt	SportsCenter
6 :PM	News ABC	Jeopardy! Fortune	Tontas Cielo	Two Men Two Men	News CBS	Altombra	News NBC	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Sanchez Hagee	News-Lehrer	Made Made	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order		Suite Life Suite Life	Madden Madden	Homecoming	
7 :PM	News ABC	Mother Samantha	Cuidado-Angel	Bones	Survivor: Tocantins	Los Premios Billboard: La Alfombra	Name Parks	Friends Friends	Israel Sprma	Old House Hr.	Destroyed Destroyed	Movie: Passenger 57, Tom Sizemore	UFC Un-leashed	NBA Basketball: First Round -- Teams TBA.	Movie: Get-ting Played, Vivica A. Fox	Movie: Dadnapped	MLS Soccer: Red Bull at Wizards	NFL Live SportsCenter
8 :PM	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Mañana es	Hell's Kitchen	CSI: Crime Scn		Office 30 Rock	Friends Friends	Light of the Southwest	Antiques Roadshow	Destroyed Dirty Jobs		TNA Wrestling			Wizards		Baseball Tonight
9 :PM	(:02) Private Practice	(:02) Private Practice	Fosa	TMZ Raymond	(:01) Harper's		Movie: Enough, Juliette Lewis	Friends Friends	Israel Van Impe	Appalachia: History	Deadliest Catch	Movie: Starsky & Hutch	MAN	NBA Basketball: First Round -- Teams TBA.	College	Wizards	College Football All-Star Challenge	
10 :PM	News Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	Raymond King-Hill	News Late Show	Noticias Titulares	News Tonight Show	Sex & Swallow	Israel Van Impe	Charlie Rose	Destroyed Destroyed	MAN			Harlem	Replace		SportsCenter
11 :PM	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Nuestra Belleza	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones de Famosos	Late Night-Jim	Sex & Swallow	Israel Van Impe	Smiley Dirty Jobs		Movie: Highlander, Roxanne Hart	Mocap Game		Life De	NASCAR SportsCenter	Baseball Tonight	
12 :AM	News Paid	Weekend Paid	Mujer...	Friends	Insider	Pagado	News	News	Light of the Southwest	Into the Unknown	Deadliest Catch		MAN	Inside the NBA	College	Kim	Fastbreak	SportsCenter
1 :AM	Paid	Paid	Güereja	Consumer	Detox	Pelicula:	Poker After Dark					Movie: In-	MXC	Law & Order	The Deal	Emperor Dragon	Series of	

DENNIS THE MENACE



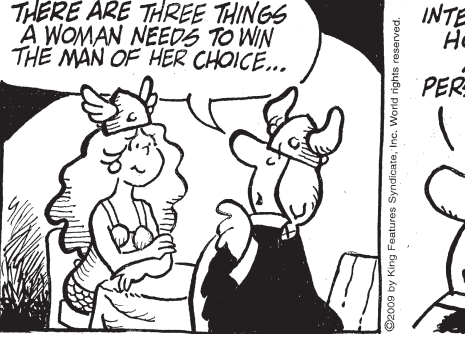
"DON'T WORRY, MOM. I'LL PRETEND I NEED A REST WHEN I THINK GRAMPA NEEDS ONE."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

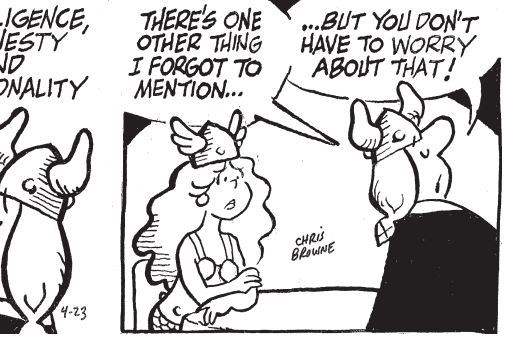


"Mommy! Is it lunch time? Jeffy's tummy keeps gurgling."

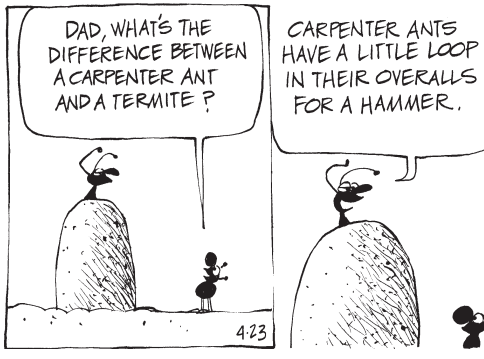
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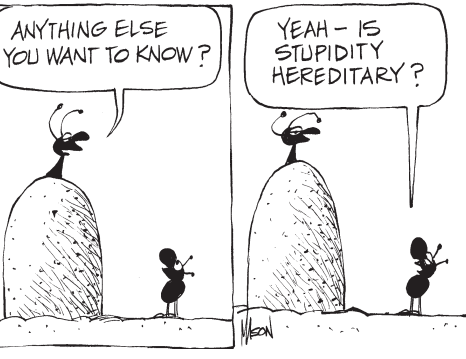
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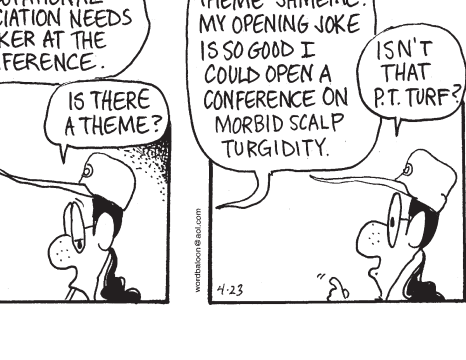
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NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Hidden hoard
6 Wharton degrees
10 Oprah's doctor friend
14 Kind of committee
15 Top of the heap
16 Seek's partner
17 Goof off
20 Famous family of Virginia
21 Topper
22 Common clucker
23 Artistic maj.
24 Soprano's pride
26 Cavorts
30 Presidential-oath word
32 Post by plane
34 Beauty preceder, at times
35 Blitzer's network
36 Take notice of
37 Waffle
41 Is of service
42 Shoebox letters
43 Cargo on the Spanish Main
44 Come before
46 Family member
50 Test question, maybe
51 Hustles
53 Hosp. areas
54 What the goalie guards
56 Whopper
57 Poke fun at
58 Give a rousing ovation

DOWN
1 "Here's my phone number"
2 Bye-byes in Bordeaux
3 Word to make you smile
4 Masons' carriers
5 Environmental prefix
6 Take charge of
7 Voting area
8 Raggedy doll
9 Abel's brother
10 Prodigy
11 String after G
12 Altar
13 Neighbor of Isr.
18 Bleached
19 Man from Munich
24 Les Misérables author
25 Walking stick
27 Fem. opposite
28 Holmes' trademark
29 Sneaky
31 Medical device
33 Kept up-to-date
35 Revolutionary's nickname
37 Letter opener
38 The 15th, sometimes
39 Souvenir shirts
40 Epochs
41 Tarzan neighbor
45 Gawked at
46 Kind of dive
47 Succeed
48 Altar figure
49 On the wrong path
52 Santa __, CA
55 Beat-up boats
57 Asian cuisine
58 "Quiet!"
59 Bathwater tester
60 Muhammad or Laila
61 Houseplant holder
62 60 Minutes network

This Date In History

Today is Thursday, April 23, the 113th day of 2009. There are 252 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
April 23, 1564, is believed to be the birthday of English poet and dramatist William Shakespeare; he died 52 years later, also on April 23.

On this date:
In 1789, President-elect George Washington moved into the first executive mansion, the Franklin House, in New York.
In 1791, the 15th president of the United States, James Buchanan, was born in Franklin County, Pa.
In 1896, the Vitascoper system for projecting movies onto a screen was publicly demonstrated in New York City.
In 1940, about 200 people died in the Rhythm Night Club Fire in Natchez, Miss.
In 1954, Hank Aaron of the Milwaukee Braves hit the first of his then-record 755 home runs, in a game against the St. Louis Cardinals. (The Braves won, 7-5.)
In 1968, student protesters began occupying buildings on the campus of Columbia University in New York; police put down the protests a week later.
In 1969, Sirhan Sirhan was sentenced to death for assassinating New York Senator Robert F. Kennedy. (The sentence was later reduced to life in prison.)
In 1985, the Coca-Cola Co. announced it was changing the secret flavor formula for Coke. (Negative public reaction forced the company to resume selling the original version.)
In 1988, a federal ban on smoking during domestic airline flights of two hours or less went into effect.
In 1998, James Earl Ray, who'd confessed to assassinating the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and then insisted he'd been framed, died at a Nashville, Tenn., hospital at age 70.

Today's Birthdays: Actress-turned-diplomat Shirley Temple Black is 81. Actor Alan Oppenheimer is 79. Actor David Birney is 70. Actor Lee Majors is 70. Irish nationalist Bernadette Devlin McAliskey is 62. Actress Blair Brown is 61. Writer-director Paul Brickman is 60. Actress Joyce DeWitt is 60. Actor James Russo is 56. Filmmaker-author Michael Moore is 55. Actress Judy Davis is 54. Actress Jan Hooks is 52. Actress Valerie Bertinelli is 49. Actor Craig Sheffer is 49. Actor George Lopez is 48. Rock musician Gen is 45. U.S. Olympic gold medal skier Donna Weinbrecht is 44. Actress Melina Kanakaredes is 42. Rock musician Stan Frazier (Sugar Ray) is 41. Country musician Tim Womack (Sons of the Desert) is 41. Actor Scott Bairstow is 39.

Answer to previous puzzle

PAW	FEUDS	ALIBI
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LINE	GAMBLES	
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MOTTO	PTA	TRACE
ALE	SLIER	SAMOA
BEATLES	RENT	
GROSS	SIDES	
LOAN	EEE	TURBOS
SUMMERSTOCK	OLE	
ADIOS	TAHOE	NEW
TAISTE	ATOMS	DON

IN POSITION by Betty Keller Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

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RODEO

Continued from Page 7

Kyle Andrews rounded out the HC field with a 73-point first-go effort. Adam Sawyer was the only Hawk to compete in more than one event on the final night of action. Sawyer placed third in the first round of the

steer wrestling and sixth in the first round of the team roping, but was unable to capitalize on the chance and bring home a place in short-round action.

Jana Jasper was the only lady HC Hawk representative to make the short round of competition. Jasper finished ninth in the first round of the goat tying and finished the week-end in eighth place.

SEEDING

Continued from Page 7

Forsan takes on Miles at 5 p.m. Friday in Snyder with the winner then facing Ira at 7:30 p.m. If the Buffs win both games, then they'll be district champs.

Coahoma shared the District 7-2A crown with Wall after the Lady Hawks handed the Bulldogettes just their second district loss in program history, 1-0, Monday.

The two will face off for the top seed in 7-2A at 8 p.m. Friday in Midland. How important are the seeding

games? According to Big Spring Head Coach John Sparks, getting the third seed could be vital for the Lady Steers chances of advancing further in the postseason.

Getting the No. 3 ranking would pit the Lady Steers against Canyon High School in the first round. Coming out in fourth, puts them against District 3-4A champion Canyon Randall.

"I think we'd be better off playing Canyon than Randall. It's a better matchup for us," said Sparks. "We'd be a lot better with the third seed. I still think any team coming out of that district is very beatable, though, and I like our chances against either squad. I'd just rather be taking on Canyon rather than Randall."

Wacey Cody made the short go of the bareback riding with a first score of 66 and was able to duplicate that effort in the short round bringing in a seventh-place finish.

The Howard College Hawk Rodeo was once again a huge success, thanks in great part to the tremendous amount of support and efforts provided by the volunteers, sponsors and HC administration.

Pride is also involved in the seeding games. In Forsan's case, the Buffs split their series with Ira and Miles this season, but feel like they should've beaten them each time.

"We are looking at this tournament as a way to determine the best team in the district, even though it was officially a three-way tie," said Forsan Head Coach Jason Phillips. "We feel this tournament will show that. We are approaching this series as a play-off series. We want to use it to build momentum for the playoffs."

There is a drawback for Forsan in winning the top seed, though. The Buffs will be faced with a long layoff between games with the victory. They wouldn't play again until May 14 at the earliest.

Last season, the Buffs won the district outright and faced a similar break before their first playoff game. As a result, the Buffs were upset in the area round by O'Donnell - a team they had no-hit earlier in the year.

"The No. 1 see obviously has some drawbacks because there is such a long layoff," admitted Phillips. "However, we can use the layoff to get some of our guys healthy. Another positive from the seeding tournament is we get a couple more games against playoff caliber opponents. We will try to pick up a couple more warm-up games as well."

The Buffs already played one warm-up Tuesday, falling to Lockney, 7-3. Lockney is ranked eighth in the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association poll. Forsan led the game 3-1 after three innings before Lockney rallied for the win.

For Coahoma, the seeding matchup sets the table for another game in what has turned out to be a high competitive series of games with Wall.

"It takes a lot of effort to produce an event such as this", said Howard Rodeo Coach Greg Kernick. "I really appreciate everyone's involvement in making this year's rodeo one of the best ever."

At this point, both Samora and HC steer wrestler Ryan Viva have their ticket punched to advance to the College National Finals Rodeo to be held in Casper, Wyo., June 14 - 20.

In their first year as district opponents, the Lady Hawks and Bulldogettes split their regular season games with each team winning 1-0 at home. Both games have turned out to be pitchers' duels between Coahoma's Heather Newton and Wall's Shannon Carrico.

In the first game April 3, Newton no-hit the Lady Eagles for the 1-0 victory. However, Carrico got the better of Newton in Game 2, allowing just one hit in 11 innings of work.

Newton only gave up four as the two pitchers combined for 30 strikeouts in the game. However, Wall caught up to her enough in the bottom of the 11th and pushed a run across with two outs in the frame.

The emergence of a new rival could be seen as the biggest motivating factor for the Bulldogettes in the seeding game.

"Nothing that happens Friday night will change the fact both Wall and Coahoma are district champions. This is simply a seeding game. We want the No. 1 seed and apparently they do as well," said Bulldogettes Head Coach Tracy Tadlock. "I think the road to the regional finals is a bit tougher for the No. 2 seed, but I would not say it is easy by any stretch for the No. 1 seed."

"Sure, there is a pride factor, but that is for every game," Tadlock continued. "I think of it as more of a challenge. They're a good ball club and one of the best in the region. They are challenging our dominance of this region. We will never back down from a challenge."

Contact Sports Editor Jonathan Hull by calling 263-7331, ext. 237, or e-mail him at sports@bigspringherald.com.

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SMITH

Continued from Page 7

New York include a high school coach and three coaches from

Baylor: the head coach, offensive line coach and his strength coach.

"You don't need 100 people to get one job done," Smith said.

Smith grew up in Dallas and knew the

long odds of making it to the NFL. Heck, he was only ranked as the 95th best player coming out of the area in 2004.

He made his presence felt on Baylor's scout team, earning top offensive honors that fall. As a redshirt freshman, he caught six passes for 70 yards and a touchdown, which came in a double-overtime loss at Oklahoma.

"Y 22 Spartan," he said. "I ran a corner route."

Guy Morriss, a former NFL offensive lineman, was Baylor's coach at the time, and in the spring of 2006 he suggested that Smith change positions.

"It's what my team needed," Smith said. "I never thought twice about it."

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DAMP

Continued from Page 7

physical. They have a lot of character in that team, and just like we reacted in Game 2, they're going to react as well. ... I'll be ready."

Parker scored 24 points in the opener, but made only two field goals in the second half. He scored as many points in the first quarter of Game 2 as the Mavericks did, then in the second quarter absorbed a flagrant foul from Jason Terry. The league said Terry would not be penalized any further.

"For me, the main thing is to make sure that we do stuff that made us win Game 2," Parker said. "That's my main focus, for me to be aggressive and make sure I help my team win."

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich dismissed the whole Dampier-Parker drama.

"I don't pay attention, honestly, to anybody's comments. Not even my family's comments."

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