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TUESDAY

May 12, 2009



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**VOLUME 104, NUMBER 138** 

# HAWKS SET NATIONAL RECORD ...Page 1B



Howard County Road and Bridge Administrator Eddy Jameson (left, standing) discusses pipeline crossings and road maintenance with County Commissioners during Monday morning's meeting.

# Out-of-county inmate deal OK'd, but draws questions

By THOMAS JENKINS

**Howard County commissioners** agreed to endorse a contract to house Glasscock County prisoners by a unanimous vote Monday morning, but not without some questions being raised regarding the economics of boarding out-ofcounty inmates.

Sheriff Stan Parker presented the contract to the court, saying the likelihood Glasscock will manage to stretch the 96-bed county jail beyond its capacity is slim to none.

"This is a contract for us to house Glasscock County inmates," said Parker. "It's a pretty

"I know they don't pay your taxes, Mr. Simer. But you do have to be friendly with your neighbors."

-Judge Mark Barr

standard agreement that Josh (Hamby, county attorney) drew up. We would charge \$45 a day for each inmate, and they (Glasscock County) will pay for all medical charges and any other expenses.

"They aren't expecting to house more than one to three (inmates) at a time. They currently have

two prisoners in Reagan County that they are paying for, and they said they don't plan to move those two. However, any new ones would come to us... You're looking at one or two at a time, for a couple of days at a time."

And while it was obvious Commissioner Gary Simer was in favor of using the extra space in the jail to generate revenue for the county, the \$45-a-day charge drew a number of questions from the Precinct 4 representative.

"Why are we just charging \$45? Why so cheap?" asked Simer.

Parker said the amount was

See JAIL, Page 3A

# Robbery suspect locked up

Police decline to indentify individual; seek 2nd man

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

One suspect is in custody following an aggravated robbery at the local Wagon Wheel restaurant Saturday night, according to law enforcement officials.

Lt. Terry Chamness with the Big Spring Police Department said one of the two men who allegedly robbed the Scurry Street eatery at gunpoint is in custody, but declined to release

See SUSPECT, Page 3A

# Best Loser last weigh-in is this week

The 2009 Best Loser Challenge is coming to an

Contestants, don't forget to weigh in this week at the YMCA between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. today through Friday. This will be the last weigh-in to determine the final percentage loss and, ultimately, determine the winners.

Remember, those who do not weigh in will be disqualified.

New photos will be taken between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. May 18-22 at the Big Spring Herald. You must take a group photo.

Winners will be announced in the Sunday, May 31 edition of the Herald.

For more information, contact Rick Nunez at 263-7331.

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### To reach us: 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 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. Sunday.



# CISD Pre-K signups due

**Herald Staff Report** 

COAHOMA — Pre-registration of Coahoma Independent School District kindergarten students concludes Thursday. To be eligible for the kin-

dergarten program a child must be five years of age on or before Sept. 1. The district provides full-day kindergarten from 7:55 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

at 394-4323 to schedule a test-

ing/registration appointment

with a teacher. While the

Officials ask parents of prospective kindergarten students to call the school office

teachers are visiting and testing the child, the office will help parents fill out registration forms and copy documents. Registration times this

week are from noon until 6 p.m. Wednesday and noon until 5:30 p.m. Thursday. If parents do not register their children this month,

they will have to wait until

August, officials said. To register, parents must provide the school with the following items:

A state-certified copy of

the child's birth certificate,

which can be obtained from

the Howard County Courthouse or state the child was born in. A hospital issue certificate of birth is not a legal document. An updated, valid immu-

- nization record (shot record). A social security card for
- each child. Legal guardian's state
- driver's license or state issued identification card. • Proof of residency.

If parents do not have a student attending Coahoma

schools at this time, please go by the school district's Administration Office to get a proof of residency form.

Parents are asked to provide one of the following items: Receipts for tax or utility bill/ deposit; deed /mortgage/lease papers; or a notarized letter confirming residency when living with another house-Students currently enrolled

in the district's pre-kindergarten program are automatically registered for kindergarten. New information sheets

will be sent home on the first day of school. The student's permanent folder, which con-See CISD, Page 3A



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# SPRING HERALD

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

Page 1B Tuesday May 12, 2009

# Lady Steers rally to take Game 1

By BILL NORRIS

Special to the Herald

LUBBOCK — Big Spring's Lady Steers displayed perseverance on the

softball diamond Monday night.

The Lady Steers stood tough, battled back from a 4-1 deficit and came away with a big 5-4 win over Canyon Randall to win the first game of a Class 4A bi-district best-of-three play-

Cerbi Ritchey drove in the winning run when she was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded in the bottom of the

"This team showed what they can do tonight," Big Spring Head Coach John Sparks said. "We have been harping on them all year to have confidence at the plate. When they have it, they can hit anyone and they showed that tonight."

The Lady Steers jumped out to an early lead in the bottom of the first. Valerie Ross drove home Linzee Yarber with a single to center to make it 1-0.

Canyon Randall came right back in the top of the second as Lexi Palacios

doubled to lead off the inning and Alexis Del Torro followed with a home run to left for a 2-1 Lady Raiders

Canyon Randall would add two more in the fourth. Loni Johnson singled and came around to score on a double by Vanessa Devore. Devore would later score on a throwing error by Kenzie Hunt, giving Canyon Randall a commanding 4-1 lead.

The Lady Steers were finally able to string some hits together against Canyon Randall starter Shelby Moser in the bottom of the fifth.

With one out, Yarbar singled to center. Jillian Valle followed with a triple to left, scoring Yarbar and cutting the deficit to 2.

Mirella Torres laced a single to right that scored Valle and when the ball got past the Lady Raiders right fielder, Torres raced around to third. Ross followed with a single to left, driving in Torres and evening things up at 4-4.

The inning could have been bigger,

See BSHS, Page 2B

# Mavs not done yet

# Dallas staves off elimination with win over Nuggets

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — Down by 14 and playing listlessly, the Dallas Mavericks sure looked ready to call it a season.

Then Carmelo Anthony threw a jab, and everything changed.

Dirk Nowitzki and the Mavs awoke from their early-game slumber with rally after rally, getting close or even tied yet unable to get ahead until the former MVP made a tough, higharching shot with 1:05 left. Having worked so hard for the lead, they weren't about to give it back, pulling out a 119-117 victory over the Denver Nuggets on Monday night to avoing being swept.

Anthony scored a career playoffbest 41 points and snagged five steals. He was the one turning away most Dallas rallies and made a 3-pointer with 3.1 seconds left that got Denver within a point. Yet when Mavericks guard Jason Terry intentionally missed a free throw with 1.1 ticks left, Anthony was out of answers. He got the rebound, but couldn't stop the clock and didn't even have time to try a 90-foot heave.

The buzzer sounded and confetti fell as the teams left the court knowing they will meet again Wednesday night in Denver.

"It was an unbelievable game," said Nowitzki, who scored 19 of his 44 points in the fourth quarter. "We were down the whole game, but were able to come back and win and we've been doing that all season long. ... We've got to go back to Denver and let it all hang out again."

The Mavs lost all four regular-season games against the Nuggets and the first three of this series, but all along felt they were close. The scoreboard showed it, too, as Denver's margin shrunk from 14 in the opener to 12 then to one in Game 3, which also needed a mistaken no-call and a 3-pointer by Anthony with a second

"We've been fighting and fighting this whole series," said Mavs forward Josh Howard, who had 21

See **MAVS**, Page 2B



**HERALD** photo/Tony Claxton

Howard College's Joe Leftridge singles in action from the Region V Tournament at LaGrave Field in Fort Worth Monday. Leftridge had two RBI in an 11-1 Howard win over rival Midland College. The win was the 56th of the season for the Hawks and sets an all-time win streak record at any level of collegiate baseball.

# History makers

# Hawks pick up record 56th consecutive win

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

FORT WORTH — It might be the most significant 90 feet Howard College's Monk Kreder had ever trot-

Bottom of the sixth inning, two outs and the bases loaded, Howard designated hitter Will Calhoun worked himself into a full count, facing Midland College right-hander Jake Worsham.

The score is 10-1 and Howard needs just one run to end the second-round game of the Region V Baseball Tournament via the 10-run mercy

As Calhoun takes his base, Kreder makes his way as the crowning and conclusive run of the game.

With the 11-1 victory, the Hawks stand alone in the record books as they improve to 56-0 on the season. The 56 consecutive victories make up the longest win streak ever at any level of collegiate baseball.

"At this point, we're just 2-0," said Howard College Head Coach Britt Smith. "We had our celebration after the end of the regular season. Now, our focus is on winning the tournament. We play tomorrow night and we can give ourselves a great opportunity to get set up to win this tournament. Hopefully, we come out

See **HAWKS**, Page 2B

# Rangers pitching starting strong

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON - Kevin Millwood has pitched at least seven innings every time he has taken the mound. Vicente Padilla just became the first Texas pitcher to allow one hit in consecutive starts. Matt Harrison has tossed 19 scoreless innings his last three games.

Call it the Nolan Ryan effect on the slugging Texas Rangers.

The Rangers are still bashing the ball — 53 homers already in 31 games and on pace this season to break the major league record.

The difference so far this year is that the Rangers (17-14) are pitching pretty well too after an offseason when Ryan, the team president and Hall of Fame pitcher known for his unmatched work ethic during his record 27 major league seasons,

emphasized harder workouts. A primary goal of the extra offseason work, which included throwing live batting practice this spring, was for starters to go deeper into games with less regard for pitch counts.

"It's paying off," Millwood said. "I didn't think there'd be any problems handling it and so far there hasn't

Texas had the most overworked bullpen in the majors the past two seasons. That has changed this year.

See RANGERS, Page 2B

# Sports in brief

# High school baseball and

have reset their postseason schedules.

### softball postseason schedule Interscholastic play has been cleared to resume and local high school baseball and softball teams

• Steers baseball plays a best-of-three series in the Class 4A bi-district round beginning at 7 p.m. Thursday at Moegle Field in Lubbock. Game 2 is set for 5 p.m. Friday at the same location with third game, if needed, to follow 30 minutes after.

· Lady Buffs softball takes on Stamford in a bestof-three series in the Class A area playoffs beginning at 6 p.m. Thursday in Snyder. Game 2 is set for 5 p.m. Friday with a third game, if needed, occurring 30 minutes after.

 Buffs baseball faces McCamey in a Class A bidistrict playoff at 5 p.m. Friday in Andrews.

# Coahoma ISD sets aside day for athlete physicals

Physicals for all incoming seventh, ninth and 11th graders who plan on playing any sport at Coahoma next year will be given May 14 at the elementary gymnasium.

Cost is \$25 and can be paid in cash or check.

# CGA holding monthly tournament May 17

The Big Spring Chicano Golf Association is holding its monthly tournament at Comanche Trail Park May 17.

Cost to play is \$20 per person and participants must be registered by 9:30 a.m.

The tourney will be played in a two-man format with the first six holes being played as a draw, the second six will be selective drive and the final six are played as individual low ball.

For more information, contact Billy Pineda at

# Free adult tennis league starting at Figure 7

Ted Oleson, City of Big Spring tennis pro, is beginning a free adult tennis league on Sundays from 3-5 p.m.

To be eligible, players must be at least 18 years old and out of high school.

# **Obituaries**

# Bernice Patterson



Bernice Patterson Jordan of Odessa, formerly of Big Spring, was born Dec. 1, 1915, in Paducah. She died May 9, 2009.

She grew up around Childress and graduated from Tell High School. She married Thomas E. Jordan Jr. April 15, 1939, and lived in Big Spring all her married life. Bernice was a stay-at-home mom for their one daughter, Joan. Later

she worked for 20 years as an elementary school secretary, and loved being around the children and teachers.

Bernice loved the out-of-doors and was an avid

She was a Presbyterian for many years, at First Presbyterian in Big Spring, then moving her membership to Westminster Presbyterian Church of Odessa when she moved there in 1989.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Henry S. and Eunie Patterson; three siblings, R.D. Patterson, Vanis Patterson and Lorene Roberson; her husband of 44 years, T.E. Jordan Jr.; an infant son, T.E. Jordan III; and a son-in-law, Don Errol McCown.

She is survived by her daughter, Joan Jordan Mc-Cown of Odessa; two much-loved grandchildren, Don McCown Jr. and wife Maryann of Asheville, N.C. and Marley McCown Williams of Richmond, Va.; a great-grandson, Marley's son, Daven; and nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a memorial gift to Westminster Presbyterian Church, 4901 Maple Ave., Odessa 79762.

A memorial celebration will be held Wednesday, May 13, 2009, at 4 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Odessa, and a grave side service will be held at 11 a.m. at Mt. Olive Cemetery in Big Spring Thursday, May 14, 2009. Arrangements are entrusted to Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

# Bruce Carby



Bruce Carby, 56, of Stanton died Friday, May 8, 2009, in a Midland hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, May 11, 2009, at the First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Daniel Armstrong, pastor, officiating. Interment will follow at Evergreen

tales, N.M., and married Mae Houston Sept. 4, 1971, in Clovis, N.M.

worked for Wes-Tex Telephone Coop for 32 years. He was active with his son's baseball leagues and had served as president of Martin County Little League for several years. He was also active in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, was an avid race car driver and raced in short track races in Midland. Bruce loved his family, especially his grandchildren. He was a Methodist.

Survivors include his wife, Mae Carby of Stanton; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Allan and Yvonne Carby of Stanton, and David Carby of Midland; his father, Elbert Carby of Big Spring; two sisters, Edna Murphy of Clovis, N.M., and Janice Carby of Portales, N.M.; one brother, Gerald Carby of Clovis, N.M.; and five grandchildren, Victoria Carby, John-Allan Carby, Paisley Carby, Kinzey Carby and Kyle

He was preceded in death by his mother, Lida County Rd. 35. Service refused. Carby.

The family suggests memorials to the First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 1193, Stanton 79782; or to Hospice of Midland, P.O. Box 2621, Midland

79702-2621. Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

# Wanda Pipes

Wanda Pipes, 82, of Coahoma died Monday, May 11, 2009, at Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Veterans Home. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

# Willie Turner

Willie Turner, 92, died Monday, May 11, 2009, in an Andrews nursing home. Her services are pending with Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton.

To report a news item by e-mail, contact the Herald at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com reporter@bigspringherald.com citydesk@bigspringherald.com

# **NEW CROP Alfalfa**

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# Police blotter

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

- DANIEL FRAUSTO, 54, of Austin, was arrested Monday on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- RICKEY WHITE, 21, of 1612 E. 12th St., was arrested Monday on a charge of theft.
- JOANIE LEDESMA, 26, of 818 W. Eighth St., was arrested Monday on a charge of theft.
- THEFT was reported: in the 200 block of Marcy. in the 400 block of Gregg Street.
- POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA TWO OUNCES OR LESS IN A DRUG FREE ZONE was reported in the 700 block of 11th Place.
- POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA was reported in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
- POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE was reported in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1100 block of 13th Street.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 1700 block of Third Street. BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported
- in the 800 block of 17th Street. BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in
- the 1500 block of S. Gregg Street.
- ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY was reported in the 800 block of Interstate Highway 20.
  - ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported: in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. in the 2900 block of Highway 80.

# Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 68 inmates at the time of this report.

- DANIEL LEAL FRAUSTO, 52, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance.
- PHILIP GARCIA, 32, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of robbery, burglary of a building, theft and aggravated robbery.
- JONIE LEDESMA, 26, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of
- ROBERTO VASQUEZ, 17, was transferred to the He was born June 26, 1952, in Porcounty jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of minor in possession of alcohol.
- RICKY JAY WHITE, 21, was transferred to the Bruce came to Stanton in 1978 from Hereford and county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of

# Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 200 block of Rickabaugh Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of Martin Luther King Blvd. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1400 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1200 block of N.

# Take Note

- The Big Spring High School class of 1979 is seek-Arrangements under the direction of Gilbreath ing classmates to attend our 30-year reunion Sept. 18-19. Please contact Debbye Salazar ValVerde at debbyev@bigspringchamber.com or Cheryl Carter Joy at joycheryl79@hotmail.com with any contact information, be it an e-mail address or physical address..
  - Parents who were unable to attend the Big Spring Independent School District kindergarten registration April 23 may register their students for the 2009-10 school year from 9 a.m. until noon on Friday, May 15, or Friday, May 22. Parents will need to go to the elementary campus in their attendance area and should have a birth certificate, Social Security card, and immunization records for the student as well as current proof of residence (i.e. utility bill). Students must be 5 years old by Sept. to be eligible for Kindergarten. Parents may call 264-4108 if they are unsure which elementary campus their student should attend.

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5/13 5/15 94/64

and clouds.

Highs in the

mid 80s and

lows in the

mid 60s.

86/64 Mix of sun

86/65 Isolated thun derstorms. Highs in the mid 80s and

lows in the

80/58 81/53 Partly Occasional cloudy. showers pos chance of a sible. Highs thunderin the low storm. 80s and lows

5/17

in the low

# **Bulletin Board**

the Herald news room at 263-7331 or email editor@bigspringherald.com The Powwow Committee of Big Spring meets

at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 809

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact

Partly to

mostly cloudy. Hot

High 94F.

at 20 to 30

Winds SSW

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, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Free blood pressure screenings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., provided by InHome Care. 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.
- **THURSDAY** • Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060

in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

- meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant. Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard
- College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. • Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main
- · 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
- American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.
- The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at
- · Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.

# **FRIDAY**

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restau-
- 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.

# Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 9 - 17 - 18 - 29. Bonus Ball: 24.

Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball:

Winning numbers drawn: 3 - 8 - 13 - 16 - 34. Number matching five of five: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4 - 7 - 2 - 5. Sum It Up: 18

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2 - 7 - 1. Sum It Up: 10.

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# **RANGERS**

Continued from Page 1B

Rangers starters have thrown 188 1-3 innings — an average of about 6 1-3 a game, a full inning more than

Their total is fifth in the American League, 14 innings above the major league average for teams so far. "The conditioning over the winter

... the mindset of the guys that have to go through it, that's what's paying off," manager Ron Washington said. "You can always set up the program, but the programs have to buy into the program for it to work."

Millwood and Toronto's Roy Halladay have both gone at least seven innings in all seven of their starts this season. No other pitcher in the majors made it past their third start without an earlier exit. The 34-year-old Millwood (3-3, 2.92

ERA) has thrown at least 111 pitches in all but one start, a victory at Seattle when he needed only 87 pitches into the eighth. Texas has scored only

twice in two of his losses and he threw a complete game in a 2-0 loss to Kansas City and Zack Grienke.

"I think Milly said it perfectly, he's out there pitching, not thinking," catcher Jarrod Saltalamacchia said recently. "He's just going out there throwing the ball. I think that's what a lot of guys are doing."

That's what Harrison said after his four-hit shutout over the Chicago White Sox on Friday night. Five days earlier he needed 100 pitches to get through five scoreless innings, though he was pleading to go back out after escaping a bases-loaded jam on his final pitch.

Washington said as long as starters are making pitches, he isn't too worried about pitch counts.

"We're paying attention to the results of the opposing bats and how loud the noise is," Washington said. 'There's a limit we're not going to go past, but if they just finished 110 (pitches) in the sixth inning and they are still effective, then we are going to send them back out there in the seventh. But we are going to have somebody available just in case."

# **MAVS**

Continued from Page 1B

points and 11 rebounds on two bad ankles. "The end of Game 3 gave us a lot of willpower for this It sure didn't look like it the first 13 minutes.

Anthony and the Nuggets were scoring at will and the Mavericks were doing little to stop them. On one possession, Anthony turned, saw no one between him and the basket and soared for a dunk it could've been preseason. easv

But then Anthony and Dallas' Antoine Wright the combatants from the Game 3 finish — got their arms tangled. Once untangled, Anthony's open hand smacked Wright in the shoulder. Officials called Wright for a loose-ball foul, hit Anthony

with a technical and watched a video replay to make sure they were right.

Nothing was the same after that. The intensity ratcheted to Game 7 proportions, with a total of seven technical fouls and two flagrants.

It spilled into the stands, too, with security guards removing Anthony's girlfriend, LaLa Vazquez of MTV fame, for her safety and with extra protection around the mother of Kenyon Martin, who had a brief exchange with Mavs owner Mark Cuban after Game 3.

# sudoku

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

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

# **HAWKS**

Continued from Page 1B

tomorrow and play well and get ourselves to what we've been working for all year."

The Hawks are now two games away from claiming a Region V title and advancing to the World Series in Grand Junction, Colo. They'll face Temple College (42-14) at 5 p.m. Wednesday in the semifinals of the winner's bracket. Temple is the only

other undefeated team in the double elimination tournament, having defeated Odessa College, 10-0, in the first round and McLennan College, 3-1, Monday.

However, Temple got to a late start with McLennan and ended

up playing into today's early morning hours. All games were pushed back around three hours Monday due to early morning rains. The Hawks didn't take the field until a little before 8 p.m. and weren't done until 10:15 p.m.

Temple and McLennan started at 10:45 p.m. and didn't conclude their game until 1:16 a.m. today.

The Hawks got off to a strong start despite the late first pitch, scoring five runs in the first two innings.

With one out, shortstop Bryan Johns drew a walk in the first and eventually scored after back-to-back singles by Miles Hamblin and Kreder. Hamblin came around on a fielder's choice ball hit by Nick Popescu and Howard had a quick 2-0 lead. Calhoun singled to

lead off the second, and two batters later, Runey Davis joined him on the basepaths with a single of his own. Joe Leftridge brought

in both baserunners with a single, placing Howard ahead 4-0. Leftridge advanced to second on a throw to home and then made it to third on a passed ball. Johns got on after being hit by a pitch, placing runners at the corners with one out.

Hamblin then struck a line drive to right center that hung in the air just a moment too long. Midland center fielder Chad Stang tracked it down much to the surprise of Johns, who had already advanced to sec-

North dealer.

WEST

The bidding:

petent defenders.

tricks he would make.

2 ♦ 3 NT

Pass

Opening lead — nine of spades.

Some contracts look so secure that declarer may take success for

granted. This can be a dangerous

assumption, especially against com-

Consider this case where West led

the nine of spades against three notrump. South took one look at

dummy and figured the outcome was

merely a question of how many over-

He began by covering the nine of

spades with the queen. However,

East, recognizing his partner's lead as top-of-nothing, withheld the king,

playing the deuce instead. Declarer

Both sides vulnerable

**NORTH ♦** Q 10

**SOUTH** 

♥K 10 8 5 2

South

♥À6

Leftridge tagged up and headed for home, while Stang successfully doubled up Johns at first. However, the home plate umpire ruled Leftridge crossed the plate before Johns was retired, giving Howard a 5-0 advantage.

Midland's lone run came in the top of the fifth. The Chaps worked the bases loaded with one out, but found Howard starter Dylan Cacciola wasn't going to just allow them to get back in the game.

Cacciola did surrender a bloop single to Matt Moreno, allowing Spencer Mailman to come across. That's all the Chaps got out of the opportunity, though, as Cacciola struck out Trey Whaley and forced Logan Bawcom to fly out to right, retiring the side and stranding the bases loaded.

"(The No. 2 hitter) was at the plate for Midland and Dylan made a really good pitch, but the kid fought it off into right field," said Smith. "Nothing he can do about that. I think any time the bases are loaded a pitcher can be resigned to give up some runs and hope the bullpen saves it for him. Dylan didn't do that. He got the next two outs and then we came back and scored in the bottom of that inning. I think any thought Midland had of coming back was sealed right there."

Howard loaded the bases twice in its part of the fifth and managed

By Steve Becker

next led a diamond to the queen, and

West did his part by refusing to take

South could now have made the

contract by abandoning diamonds

and establishing hearts. But, not unnaturally, he chose to pursue dia-monds and crossed to the ace of

hearts in order to play the diamond king.

West won with the ace and, heed-

ing his partner's low spade play at

trick one, shifted to a club. Declarer

played low from dummy, and East

won with the king and returned a club to dummy's ace.

With the diamonds not yet estab-

lished and no entries left in dummy,

South now played the king and another heart. But West won and

cashed the diamond jack and club

Of course, had East played the

spade king at trick one, or had West

won the first diamond lead, South

would have made his game easily. But declarer should not have had to

rely on a defensive slip, since the

contract could not have been

defeated with proper play.

All South had to do was to over-

take the queen of diamonds with

dummy's king at trick two! While it

is true that this play would, in effect,

have wasted the queen, it also would

have assured him of establishing the

diamonds while there were still suffi-

cient entries in dummy, regardless of

how the opponents chose to defend.

queen to set the contract one trick.

Old Habits Die Hard

EAST

West

Pass

Tomorrow: A low blow.

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three runs in the frame for an 8-1 advantage. Two of those runs came off of sacrifice flies by Kreder and Calhoun.

Three more runs in the sixth ended the game. Davis came across first after walking to get on and scoring off an infield hit by Johns.

Johns scored on a single by Kreder, who eventually came across as the game-clinching run after Calhoun drew a walk.

In the 14 combined hits by the two teams, none went for extra bases.

"We have practiced playing small ball all season," said Smith. "We've got a lot of team speed and it can make a big difference for us. We can produce runs in a variety of ways. The ball isn't going to always travel out of the park and we did a nice job of producing the way we had to."

The Hawks are yet to hit a home run at the Region V Tournament after hitting 91 as a team during the regular sea-

Kreder had three RBI Monday, while Popescu, Leftridge and Calhoun each had two apiece.

Cacciola ended up pitching all six innings, surrendering one earned run on four hits and three walks, while striking out six.

Left-hander Anthony Collazo (9-0) gets the starting nod for today's game with Temple, which is ranked 20th in the nation.

Howard 11. Midland 1 000 010-1 4 1 HC 230 033-11 10 1 Travis Lawler, Jamie Storey (5), Jake Worsham (6) and Trent Hudson. Dylan Cacciola and Monk Kreder. W Cacciola (10-0). L - Lawler. RBI: MC Matt Moreno; HC - Kreder 3, Nick Popescu 2, Joe Leftridge 2, Will Calhoun 2, Miles Hamblin, Bryan Johns. LOB: MC 6, HC 3.

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# **BSHS**

Continued from Page 1B

but a well turned double

play by the Lady Raiders ended the threat. Hunt then stepped up in the pitcher's circle,

shutting down the Lady Raiders the rest of the way and setting up the thrilling seventh. With one out, Valle

drew a walk and Torres followed with a perfect bunt past Moser to put runners on first and sec-Ross was walked inten-

tionally bringing up Ritchey with the bases loaded. On a 2-2 pitch Moser came inside, hitting Ritchey with the pitch, driving in the winning run. The two teams meet

again at 5 p.m. Tuesday with a third game, if necessary, to follow.

Canyon Randall 020 200 0-4 9 2 Big Spring 100 030 1-5 8 3 Big Spring 100 030 1-5 Moser and Allen. Hunt and Fox.

# Texas Legislative Roundup

AUSTIN (AP) — State and local governments would face new limits to when they can take private property, under a proposed constitutional amendment passed Monday by the Texas Senate.

The amendment would ban taking property and giving it to a private group or developer "for the primary purpose of economic development or enhancement of tax revenues."

Supporters say the amendment would boost private property rights. But it also faces critics who say it could hamstring major public improvements, such as new airport development, and from some private property advocates who say it doesn't go far enough to protect landowners.

The amendment passed the Senate on a unanimous vote and now goes to the House, which is considering a separate amendment. If approved there, it would go before Texas voters in November.

In 2005, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Kelo et al v. City of New London that cities can seize homes under eminent domain for use by private developers. Texas lawmakers in 2005 passed a law to protect taking private land for economic development or private purposes, but critics have said it left too many loopholes.

### WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS

The Senate passed the "Tim Cole Act" to boost the compensation paid to people who are convicted and sent to prison for crimes they did not com-

The bill would increase the lump sum payments from \$50,000 to \$80,000 for every year of confinement as well as an annuity to provide a lifetime of income. It also would pay for 120 hours of tuition at a career center or

public college.

Because of Senate changes, the bill must still go back to the House for fi-

### **CHILDREN'S MEDICAID**

With the clock ticking, several lawmakers on Monday made a last-ditch effort to heat up interest in legislation extending children's Medicaid coverage from a six-month enrollment period to 12 months.

"The bottom line is, if this bill were to be passed and signed by the governor, approximately 250,000 more kids would have access to insurance," said Houston Democratic Rep. Sylvester Turner, the author of the bill.

Texas leads the nation in uninsured children, according to a study released earlier this year.

Currently Texas children enrolled in the joint state and federal health care program have to reapply and prove they are still eligible every six months, causing many children to lose coverage, supporters say. "It's just another bureaucratic hur-

dle that further impedes access to health care for these children that are most vulnerable," said Rep. Marisa Marquez, D-El Paso.

Turner's 12-month enrollment bill won passage in a House committee late last month, but has yet to make it to a vote by the full House.

### **BOOSTER SEATS**

Children under age 8 would have to be secured in a booster seat when riding in a passenger vehicle under legislation approved Monday by the Texas House.

Current law requires booster seats for children under 5 and less than 3 feet tall. The bill would raise the requirement to include children under

8 years old or 4 feet 9 inches or short-

Rep. Allen Vaught, a Dallas Democrat who sponsored the bill, said seat belts do not fit children properly and can injure or kill them in an acci-

Starting in June 2010, people who don't follow the law would face a \$25 fine, which would be used to buy booster seats for low-income families. Subsequent violations could result in fines up to \$250. Experts say children between 4 and

8 who are using adult restraints are likely to suffer severe head, spinal cord and internal injuries in an accident and that booster seats can reduce that risk of injury by more than Some conservative Republicans

from the Houston area raised opposition to the bill, arguing that it would be difficult for parents to comply, especially if they car pool or have to unexpectedly arrange for alternate transportation.

House changes to the bill, approved by a 99-49 vote, still must get final approval in the Senate.

### TRANSPORTATION SUNSET

A sweeping overhaul of the Texas Department of Transportation has been approved by the House. The measure, including a new elect-

ed commissioner and a phase out of red-light cameras, next goes to the Senate for consideration. The overhaul, which also calls for

the election of 14 regional commissioners, was approved Monday by a 138-6 vote. Currently the governor appoints a

five-member transportation commission, so the House move limits Republican Gov. Rick Perry's power over an agency that's widely criticized as dys-

The vote on the overhaul came in response to a scathing state sunset report that called for more accountability and responsiveness to lawmakers

The bill by Rep. Carl Isett, R-Lubbock, removes some duties from the agency, including driver's license oversight.

### NO NEW TAXES

and the public.

The House has rejected an effort to allow emergency services districts in Texas to raise taxes to help pay for response operations.

The legislation by Rep. Valinda Bolton, D-Austin, fell two votes short of the two-thirds approval required. The House adjourned late Monday without reconsidering the issue. Her plan would give the districts an option of calling an election to raise the tax not more than 5 cents per \$100 of property value.

### **SMOKING BAN**

A statewide ban on smoking in public places in Texas, including bars and restaurants, is moving closer to

The Senate Health and Human Services Committee approved the ban on a 5-3 vote Monday, sending it to the full Senate for consideration. The panel made a few key changes, exempting cigar bars and outdoor patios at restaurants and bars. It also excludes nursing homes.

Supporters, including the Lance Armstrong Foundation and the American Cancer Society, say a ban is needed to protect public health from secondhand smoke. Opponents call it an infringement on civil liberties and property rights.

# SUSPECT

Continued from Page 1A

the suspect's name.

"This investigation is ongoing," said Chamness. "Until the charges have been finalized, it wouldn't be appropriate for me to release his name. However, we do have him in custody on a Midland County warrant, and there have been discussions involv-

According to Chamness, two Hispanic males — one wearing

ing other crimes."

a dark shirt, the other wearing a light-colored shirt, both with bandanas covering their faces – entered the rear door of the Wagon Wheel shortly before 9 p.m. Saturday night. "The suspects both

displayed handguns," said Chamness. "They ordered the employees to get on the floor. At that time, they took money from a cash register, as well as a lock box that was located on the premises. They left on foot, heading in the direction of Gregg Street."

Chamness said the investigation has netted a vehicle believed to have been used in the robbery, a portion of the stolen cash and the bandanas the stick-up men allegedly used. The amount of cash stolen hasn't been determined. he said. The second suspect

has not yet been identified, according to Chamness. Saturday's

robbery was the third in a recent string of hold-ups in the Big Spring area. The first was reported April teristics with Saturday's

press restaurant on FM 700, and the second was reported April 30 at the Bealls department store in the Big Spring Mall.

Philip Garcia, 32, of Big Spring was arrested Monday on charges of robbery, burglary of a building, theft and aggravated robbery in connection with the Chicken Express robbery, according to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the BSPD.

Both previous robberies share similar characspeculate whether they erald.com are related.

"The Bealls robbery is still under investigation," said Chamness. "However, no arrests have been made in that case. The suspects in that case were described as two Hispanic males, and they also wore bandanas over their faces. It's just too early to speculate whether these two crimes are related. however."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-29 at the Chicken Ex- robbery, but Chamness 7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail

said it's too early to at citydesk@bigspringh-

### MYERS & SMITH **FUNERAL HOME** & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288 Wanda Pipes, 82, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Dragon China Buffet 1300 Gregg 268-8888 UUOff Per Adult

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CISD

tains the student's birth certificate and

Continued from Page 1A

"We don't currently have a contract for that. We're working on it. We do have complete discretion whether or not we take their (Glasscock

Barr said there was also a more "neighborly" reason for the \$45-a-day

Barr. "They helped us out."

a sharp remark from Simer.

"I know, but it doesn't help us pay our taxes," Simer quickly said.

fire back. "I know they doesn't

pay your taxes, Mr. Simer," Barr shot back. "But you do have to be friendly with your neighbors. And like he said, Reagan County is

Kelly Newtsn

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Therefore, there is no need for parents of current pre-kindergarteners to attend the kindergarten registration May 12-14, officials said.

immunization record will be moved to the

next grade level.

doing it for \$35 a day."

With the county having contracted with Reagan County for jail space in the past — most recently, while the new county jail was in planning and construction phases — Simer set his sights on the difference in rates charged by Reagan, located just south of Glasscock County.

"How much were they (Reagan County) charging us?" asked Simer. "They were charging us \$45 a day? Then why are they charging them (Glasscock County) \$35 a day?"

sure why Glasscock was able to secure a better rate than Howard had previously paid.

"I don't know why there's a discrepancy in that," said Parker. "I think a lot of it was because it was an old agreement they had, and just decided to stick with it. They had agreement with them that (Glasscock) Sheriff Pruit signed some years back. I honestly can't answer that."

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

Please call the school if you have a pre-

For additional information regarding

registration, please contact the elemen-

kindergarten student and officials will get

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tary school at 394-4323.



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Art: Remington (newer casting) Bronze, Original Oil by Jack Terry, Western Prints, G Harvey, Larry Dyke, Wayne Baize, William Moyers and Others Items of Interest: Antique full-size Wooden Sleigh, Antique Amish Cart, Plows, Antique Grinder, Primitives, Good Coins, Western Decor...Table Saws, Heavy Electrical Wire Furniture: Excellent Antique Oak Bookcase, Sofa, Love Seat, Tables, Oak Antique Ammunition Box, Antique Trunk, Stained glass A great sale with much more than we can list

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Continued from Page 1A

standard for the type of services the county was prepared to render.

"That's the standard

rate. It's actually more expensive than what Reagan County is charging," said Parker. "Reagan County is charging \$35 a day.''

Simer said he thought it was better to reserve the space for more lucrative contracts. "Can't we house fed-

eral inmates for \$65 to \$70 a day? Why don't we reserve our space for that?" asked Simer. Parker said there are

contracts being sought for federal inmates, but nothing solid has developed. "They (federal agencies) are talking about

\$55 a day," said Parker.

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County) prisoners." County Judge Mark

"It's also the good neighbor policy," said

Barr's statement drew

Barr didn't hesitate to

1701 Lancaster

Big Spring, TX 79720

Parker said he was un-

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# EDITORIAL

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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

# Calling all losers: Don't forget final weigh-in Friday

he deadline looms. At least it does for those who decided to take part in the 2009 Best Loser Fat to Fit-ness Spring Challenge, sponsored by the Herald and the Big Spring YMCA.

That deadline is Friday. Participants in the Challenge must weigh in — the final one of the event — by Friday or face disqualification.

We here at the Herald and at the YMCA know from personal experience that losing weight is a little easier when you've got somebody working to lose weight along with you. It's even better when you've got a support group.

And that's why the challenge was designed for for teams — four people of any sex and any age - to take part.

Why is it so important that participants take part in the final weigh-in?

Well, because those teams are competing for not only bragging rights, but some cold, hard cash — like all the entry fee money.

In addition, team photos will be taken, after the contest and can be compared to those taken before.

So, we're taking this chance to congratulate all those who've taken part in the Challenge, and encourage them to make the most of these last few days.

At the same time, though, we encourage readers that didn't take part in the challenge to do something important for themselves.

Check with your doctor, of course, but the best day to get fit and drop a few pounds

You'll be glad you did, as will those who round and revolve around the love you.

# How to contact us

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opin-

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

# LETTER POLICIES

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

# A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

When we are afraid of the unknown, Lord, may we ask for Your help.

# Defense budget: Common sense

uring the 2008 campaign, candidate Barack Obama pledged to go through the American defense budget "line by line" to eliminate wasteful programs. In his first address to Congress, President Barack

Obama announced he would "reform our defense budget so that we're not paying for Cold War-era weapons systems we don't use.' Mr. Obama

retained Robert Gates, a Republican holdover with a reform agenda, as secretary of defense with the

implicit promise that he could provide the new president with bipartisan cover. In April, Mr. Gates lived up to his record and Mr. Obama lived up to his On April 6, Secretary Gates an-

nounced a new Pentagon budget that slowed or put an end to a slew of weapons programs that were greatly exceeding their cost and long outlasting their usefulness. He halted production of the Air Force's prized F-22 Raptor fighter, a plane that has survived since its design to fight the Soviets. We have spent \$65 billion to buy just 187 planes — many fewer than the 700 originally promised. He scaled back the most pie-

in-the-sky components of the Army's Future Combat Systems (FCS), promising to focus more

on MRAP armored vehicles that have saved lives in Iraq. He announced the end of the Navy's stealth DDG-1000 destroyer, an expensive overkill for the modern threats of land-based insurgencies or even sea-based pirates. And Gates sent the unproven and outlandish pieces of missile defense back to the drawing board in favor of theater missile defense technologies. This announcement came just

days after a new government audit revealed that cost overruns on some of the Pentagon's biggest weapons programs approached \$300 billion.

Although these budget reforms were quite modest in scale, they were monumental in political scope. Almost immediately, the president and Secretary Gates were attacked from members of both parties for their plan to "cut" defense, even though the new budget represented a \$20 billion baseline increase.

One of the most vicious lines came from Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.), who accused President Obama of cutting funding for "our troops in the field during an ongoing war."

Setting aside the big misnomer that cutting stealth destroyers and battle robots somehow affects the troops, Inhofe didn't bother to note that billions were being redirected to personnel and support for combat operations in Afghanistan. But the ability of politicians like Inhofe to get traction from such charges is part of the reason these wasteful weapons programs endure.

Lockheed Martin and builders

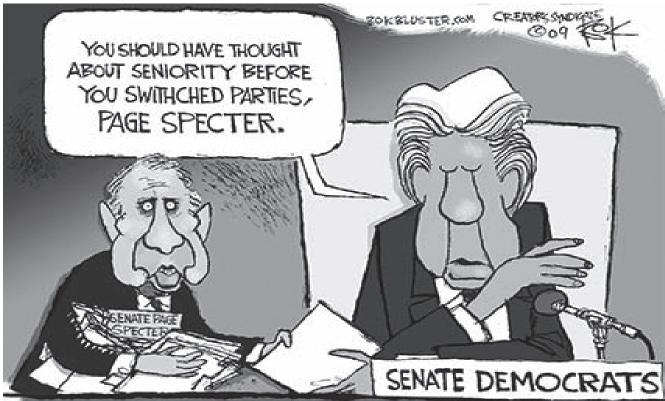
of the F-22 have spread production of the plane across 46 states enlisting friendly members of Congress along the way. In the weeks leading up to Secretary Gates' announcement, Boeing had deployed 100 lobbyists to Congress to push back on the program cuts. And the biggest talk against the president's budget came from congressional representatives with big defense contractor constituencies.

Inhofe, for example, represents the BAE plant in Elgin, Okla., where a major part of the Army's FCS program is assembled.

Absent from all this overheated rhetoric is a discussion about why these programs are needed in the first place, other than to subsidize a defense industry that can't survive a government audit. Every dollar we waste on an unnecessary futuristic weapon, even if we don't divert it to domestic spending, is money that could support the two wars we are currently fighting. The fact that the web of lobbyists, contractors, and pork-laden congressional representatives would argue otherwise is a demonstration of putting the needs of the nation behind the needs of the next election.

The Obama defense budget is a step in the right direction, as the president's former opponent Sen. John McCain said. But the special interests lined up agains him will ensure that any step forward will be uphill.

Vice Adm. Jack Shanahan (Ret.) is the former commander of the U.S. Second Fleet.



# Flat Earth Society of drug laws

issidents used to be burned at the stake for suggesting that the Earth might in fact be sun, or for uttering other like threats to the natural order of

common belief. Well, most of us have accepted those dangerous apostasies by now, though I'm not so sure about Rush Limbaugh.

But these days there are new eternal verities from which one's dissent will earn him at least political

immolation. One of these concerns marijuana. The evidence seems conclusive by now that pot is not a "gateway" drug and is somewhat less personally harmful than alcohol. Does this mean that poli-

WILLIAM A.

**C**OLLINS

cies governing it will change? That stores will be licensed for its controlled sale, as they are for hooch? That it will be duly taxed? That the Food and Drug Administration will govern its purity? Ummm... No. Too many con-

stabulary-related careers are at stake, such as prosecutors, jailers, marshals, cops, clergy and politicians. Imagine their future in a

land where marijuana, already America's largest cash crop, were legally grown on inspected and tested farms, sold in liquor stores at measured strengths and used freely by fun seekers and by desperate medical patients to control their otherwise intractable pain. While pols and clergy

could still rail against "Demon Pot," their law enforcement allies would be reduced to hunting for real criminals.

Growers and pushers would also be out of business, along with smugglers and thugs. Gun merchants would have to tighten their belts, as would their lawyers. Morticians would take a hit too.

The underworld economy would suffer heavy losses, tax revenue from legal sales would zoom, and consumption would likely grow a bit beyond what it is today.

No doubt, you've read that some states are finally moving into such decriminalization with commendable baby steps and with steadily diminishing political risk to those who support it. Holland, as usual, leads the world by planning a highly controlled marijuana "plantation," much as described above. Meanwhile our own new attorney general, Eric Holder, has announced that the Justice Department will no longer pursue medical pot users whose actions are otherwise legal under state law. Duh!

Plainly, other more risky drugs also need attention. Hottest right now are pharmaceuticals, obtainable at your local medicine cabinet. These constitute a terrible problem and good minds are hard at work. Luckily, political vested interests have not yet calcified around them.

Heroin is not that lucky, in this country anyway. But in Switzerland and Canada, governments have set up "infusion rooms." This is marketing lingo for places where hopeless ad-

dicts are invited to come in and

shoot up. They are given clean

needles, clean heroin, clean rooms, and an absence of fuzz. Anti-drug crusaders are duly appalled at such a scheme and conjure visions of Lucifer smirking at the windows. But if so, he must really love Portugal because that country had decriminalized ALL drugs since 2001. So

far, it has worked well. But what really happens in infusion rooms is stability. No more fear of AIDS, no more fear of overdose, no more fear of arrest, no need to steal to support the habit. In other words, a sort of bizarre daily normality evolves. This often leads to unheard of behavior: job seeking, voluntary withdrawal, and faint attempts at citizenship. All this, of course, is outlawed in the United States.

One salient reason for American harshness on drug users is that if those lowlifes were not actually felons, they might want to vote. Heaven forefend! They might not want to vote for ME. Approximately 1.7 million citizens are in that boat today, barred from the voting booth by their failure to keep an arms length from the drug trade. They're mostly poor and black. Not much ferment in prosperous white legislatures to make voting citizens out of "them." And so our nation suffers from

these self-inflicted wounds: jammed prisons, bloated taxes, and rampant crime, all because powerful people make a nice living off the drug war. It's crimi-

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

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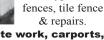
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# News in brief

# Sri Lankan health official says 49 patients, bystanders killed in hospital shelling

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — A mortar shell struck the only functioning medical facility in Sri Lanka's northern war zone Tuesday morning, killing 49 patients and bystanders and wounding more than 50 others, a government health official said. It was the second time this month that the facility was hit.

The attack came after a weekend of heavy shelling that killed hundreds of civilians trapped in the war zone. The military has denied accusations that it was still shelling the tiny coastal strip under rebel control, which is packed with an estimated 50,000 civilians.

Dr. Thurairaja Varatharajah, the top govern-

ment health official in the war zone, said a single mortar shell hit the admissions ward in the makeshift hospital Tuesday morning. In addition to the 49 killed, scores of others were wounded, and he expected the death toll to rise, he said.

Shells were still hitting the area hours later.

Shells were still hitting the area hours later, including one that landed about 150 yards (meters) from the hospital, Varatharajah said.

A second hospital official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said a hospital administrator was among those killed.

# Report to show worsening financial picture for Social Security and Medicare WASHINGTON (AP) — The financial health of

the government's two biggest benefit programs may have slipped over the past year, reflecting the deep recession that has already bitten into other areas of the budget.

The trustees for Social Security and Medicare

are scheduled to provide their annual report on the finances of both programs on Tuesday. In advance of the release, many private analysts said they expected both programs could run out of cash sooner than last predicted.

A year ago, the trustees projected that the Social

Security trust fund would start paying out more in benefits than it collects in taxes in 2017 and that the trust fund would be depleted in 2041.

For the Medicare trust fund, which pays for hospital care, the situation was more urgent. It was projected to start paying more in benefits than it collects in taxes within a year, and the trustees forecast that it would be depleted by 2019.

# **Taliban stronghold; missile strike kills 8**MARDAN, Pakistan (AP) — Army helicopters

Pakistan drops commandos into

dropped Pakistani commandos behind Taliban lines in the Swat Valley on Tuesday as part of a widening offensive against the militants, while U.S. missiles killed eight people in an attack on a suspected insurgent hide-out elsewhere in the northwest.

Choppers inserted troops into the remote Piochar

area in the upper reaches of the valley, an army statement said. Officials identified it as the rearbase of an estimated 4,000 Taliban militants also entrenched in Swat's main towns. It is seen as possible hiding place of Swat Taliban chief Maulana Fazlullah.

A military spokesman declined to give details

of the Piochar assault, but a senior government official expressed optimism that the battle for Swat might prove short.

"The way they (militants) are being beaten, the

way their recruits are fleeing, and the way the Pakistan army is using its strategy, God willing the operation will be completed very soon," Interior Minister Rehman Malik said.

Pakistani authorities launched a full-scale assault

on Swat and surrounding districts last week after the Taliban pushed out from the valley on the back of a now-defunct peace deal and extended their control to areas just 60 miles (100 kilometers) from the capital, Islamabad.

# Pope takes message to most contentious site in Israeli-Palestinian conflict JERUSALEM (AP) — Pope Benedict XVI took his

message of peace to the most contentious site in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on Tuesday, urging both sides to engage in "a sincere dialogue aimed at building a world of justice and peace." On the second day of his Holy Land tour, the pope visited the Dome of the Rock, where Muslims believe the Prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven, and the adjacent Western Wall, the last remnant of the ancient Jewish Temple in Jerusalem.

Competing claims to the hilltop compound — revered by Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary and Jews as the Temple Mount — have sparked violence in the past. Resolving the dispute has been the most intractable issue during more than 15 years of on-and-off Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations.

"In a world sadly torn by divisions, this sacred place serves as a stimulus, and also challenges men and women of goodwill to work to overcome misunderstandings and conflicts of the past and set out on the path of a sincere dialogue aimed at building a world of justice and peace for coming generations," the pope said during a meeting with the top Islamic cleric in Jerusalem, Mohammed Hussein.

Before meeting with Hussein, Benedict visited

the mosque at the Dome of the Rock, the most sacred Muslim shrine in Jerusalem and part of the compound that is Islam's third-holiest site. He removed his red shoes before entering as a sign of respect, and a priest helped him slip them back on as he left.

# Suspected Nazi death camp guard arrives in Germany; en route to prison MUNICH (AP) — Suspected Nazi death camp

guard John Demjanjuk arrived in Germany on Tuesday to face a warrant accusing him of being accessory to the murder of 29,000 Jews and others. The retired Ohio autoworker arrived at about 9:15

a.m. (0715 GMT) aboard a private jet at Munich's airport from the U.S. The plane taxied directly into a hangar, accompanied by police vehicles and an ambulance.

Some 45 minutes later, the ambulance was seen

leaving the hangar, escorted by the police cars, headed for Munich's Stadelheim prison.

The 89-year-old Demjanjuk, who is allegedly in

poor health, will be kept in a special medical unit. He will be formally arrested and a doctor will check his condition.

The Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk says he was a

Red Army soldier who was captured by the Nazis, spent the rest of the war as their prisoner and never hurt anyone.

# Democrats race to hearings on interrogations memos

WASHINGTON (AP) — Casting aside their president's misgivings, Democrats are racing into hearings to criticize newly released Bush administration memos justifying harsh terrorism interrogations.

So far, however, the biggest embarrassment

has engulfed a Democrat, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

As Pelosi keeps trying to clarify when she initially learned of the interrogation techniques, a

Senate Judiciary subcommittee scheduled a hearing Wednesday that was billed as the "first public hearing on torture memos since their release," officials said.

The Senate's public hearing — and House hearings to come — demonstrate that even a Democratic median scheduler of the senate of the sen

president can't stop his party's lawmakers from delving into what they consider embarrassments of a Republican administration.

Presidential spokesman Robert Gibbs has said

the administration prefers an inquiry already under way by the Senate Intelligence Committee, which operates behind closed doors with classified information.

# Scientists: Swine flu may have hit 23,000 in Mexico; Cuba also affected

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The swine flu virus was confirmed on Tuesday to have spread to more countries as scientists estimated the new strain could have sickened 23,000 people in Mexico alone before anyone realized it was an epidemic.

Mexican Health Secretary Jose Cordova said his

nation's shutdown of schools — which was lifted in most of the country's 31 states Monday — had averted an avalanche of cases.

"It would have been difficult for us to have con-

"It would have been difficult for us to have controlled this epidemic," Cordova said, according to a statement released his office late Monday. It said Mexico had 56 deaths and 2,059 confirmed cases of swine flu.

Thailand and Finland reported their first confirmed cases on Tuesday of people just arrived from Mexico.

Cuba and China — both countries that had imposed strict measures on flights and travelers from Mexico — have also reported their first confirmed cases of swine flu.



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# Tomorrow's Horoscope

This is no time for messing around. The moon transits into cool. collected Capricorn, a rather grown-up placeing far beyond. ment and even the VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. young and carefree will suddenly seem mature and concerned with becoming more powerful. The Capricorn moon offers emotional control, discipline over the

cess. ARIES ( March 21-April 19). You want to be one with the bright ideas HOLIDAY savvy and smart at

ego and the realization

of a strategy for suc-

You can't be that person with a head full of worries. Anxiety is the enemy of intelligence. Let go of your mental gunk.

every turn.

**TAURUS** 20-May 20). Act honorably. The correctness of your actions is what matters, not whether they are politically the right move to earn the regard of others. You are powerful when you feel good about what you're doing.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You have a new appreciation for the role a close friend plays in your life. This person has lead you to many favorable experiences and introduced you to new people, too. A gesture of thanks is in order.

22-July 22). Everyone is flawed. It's beautiful extremely validating to be in the same category as the rest of the people. So don't fret about your shortcomings or mistakes. You're learn-

(June

**CANCER** 

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). When you hit the road, you feel like a free spirit — liberated, a rebel on the move. This is true even if you're just going to the grocery store; however, your stars support you in travel-

22). You are liked. You are loved. You belong. Assume all of this is true and operate for your own approval. Don't give others power over you by caring too much about what they think. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct.

23). Some of what your parents taught you wasn't correct. You know that now, and yet you haven't really relearned the lesson the right way. Keep working at it. Forgive them for being fallible and find a new model.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your plan will work only as well as you communicate it to the other people involved. It's a good way of tackling the problems you face as a group. Writing it down will help you relay it more thoroughly.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're not sure what's going on with your work situation. It might seem that you're missing some crucial information. Stay aware of your surroundings. All the clues you need are within a few feet of you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You hate to be pushy, but you're going to have to make a slightly more than casual effort in order to make the sale, appointment or impression you're going for. Commit to your strategy.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your work environment affects your love life. If you're always thinking about how to make more money and earn more status, there's little room for romance. Pay attention to what your heart needs.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You don't always feel comfortable asking for help, but today you've got so much on your plate that you'll make an exception. Whoever gets the chance to assist you will feel great about the opportunity. ASTROLOGICAL

QUESTIONS: "I'm a Sagittarius and I am getting married next month to a Leo. I dated my Leo fiance for three years before we decided to get married and I have always gotten along his family. However, now things are getting weird. I'm actually pretty mad. His dad has gotten all entwined in our rehearsal dinner plans. It's not at all what I imagined. He's paying for the dinner, but I hate the venue he chose and would rather pay for it myself than go through with disappointing this choice. It's really tainting my whole wedding experience. I mean, shouldn't this be what we want?"

Congrats on your impending nuptials! Two fire signs together will have one adventure after another together. This wedding thing can also be looked on as an adventure, too, and when you let go of the small stuff (and your problem with the venue most definitely falls into this category) your wedding, and your life, will that lasts through be blissful. Sagittarians are always luckier when they go with the flow, ride the adventure and appreciate other people's choices. This is one night of your life and it's really about families coming together. My advice is to get in the spirit of that and let

CELEBRITY **PROFILES:** Happy 81st birthday to Bacharach, acclaimed master of pop music who has penned no less than 70 Top 40 hits. His melodies are unmistakable and his style timeless. Taurus artists are known for longevity and relevance

decades. This sign has the determination to break into highly competitive arenas and the work ethic that keeps them turning in quality

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

www.creators.com. ® 2009 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

# Annie's Mailbox ®

**Dear Annie:** The Army's recent report of an increase in the suicide rate among soldiers sheds light on an important public health issue. It also highlights the need to create greater awareness around the challenges affecting the men and women serving in our armed forces, as well as the many services available to them through the Department of Defense and other organizations.

After 29 years of military service, I recently retired and began a new chapter of service to my country and comrades. In dealing with my own struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), I have been sharing my personal experience with veterans and active duty members, and encouraging them to acknowledge and seek help for emotional health issues. In my efforts, I hope to not only help prevent the tragedy of suicide, but also to help our brave warriors overcome the too common lack of understanding about mental health issues. Please join me in spreading the

word about the importance of seeking help. One resource available is the Mental Health Self-Assessment ProgramÆ (MHSAP), which offers veterans, service members and their families information on how to manage the stress of military life and provides self-assessments for a range of emotional health



KATHY MITCHELL Marcy Sugar

The assessments are free and anonymous and can be accessed at www.MilitaryMentalHealth. org or by calling 1-877-877-3647. After completing a self-assessment, individuals receive information on how to get help.

It is important for service members to know that PTSD and depression are not character flaws or personal weaknesses. They are illnesses that are common and treatable. It takes courage to ask for help. Thank you for letting me share my story. -Command Sgt. Maj. Samuel Marvin Rhodes Sr. (Ret)

Dear Command Sgt. Maj. Rhodes: We have mentioned this website in our column before and are happy to do so again. We hope active military members,

as well as veterans and their families, will look into this website and take the screening. It is completely confidential and can be enormously helpful. Thank you for letting us spread the word.

Dear Annie: Could you please settle a dispute between my daughter and me? When there is a child's birthday party and it's at a place like Chuck E. Cheese's, what is the proper etiquette on opening the gifts? Should they be opened at the restaurant, or do the parents take them home and open them later when the guests will not be present? I say it is proper to open them at the party. What do you say? — *Grandma* 

Dear Grandma: Many parents of very young children choose not to open gifts during the party because things can get out of hand, the kids become overexcited, the birthday child has a meltdown and Mom loses track of who gave what. Under those circumstances, it makes sense to open gifts later. The only caveat is that each guest must receive a personal thank-you note.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@ comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.

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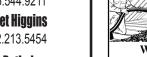
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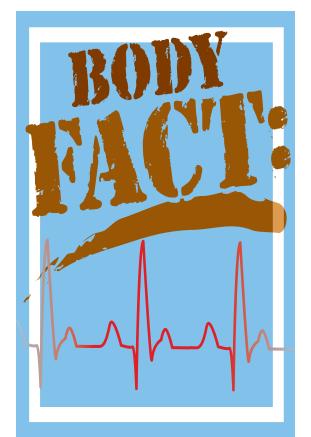
Celebrate National Egg Month.
Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.





THIS DAY IN...

- 1846: THE UNITED STATES OFFICIALLY DECLARED WAR ON MEXICO.
- 1938: JAZZ GREAT LOUIS ARMSTRONG RECORDED "WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN" ON DECCA RECORDS.
- 1981: POPE JOHN PAUL II WAS SHOT IN ST. PETER'S SQUARE IN ROME.



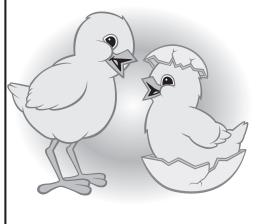
MYTH OR FACT?

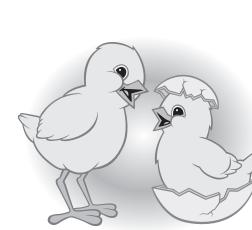
EATING EGGS IS BAD FOR

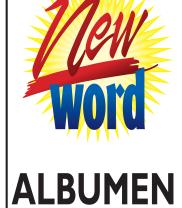
YOUR HEART.

EN OOKED IN WODEKATION.

ANSWER: MYTH, EGGS CAN TYPICALLY BE







the white part of an egg



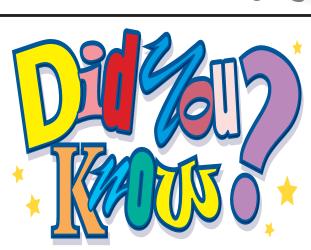
ENGLISH: Yolk

**SPANISH:** Yema de huevo

**ITALIAN:** Tuorlo

FRENCH: Jaune

**GERMAN:** Eigelb



EGGS ARE A GOOD SOURCE OF
NUTRIENTS. ONE EGG CONTAINS
6 GRAMS OF PROTEIN AND
SOME HEALTHFUL
UNSATURATED FATS.

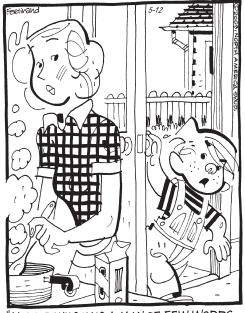


Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

YNƏMEK: DENIFED EGG

		WFAA 2 Dallas	KMID 3 Midland	UNI 4 Spanish	KPEJ 5 Odessa	KOSA 7 Odessa	KTLE 8 Telemundo	KWES 9 Midland	WTBS 11 Atlanta	KMLM 12 Odessa	KPBT 13 Odessa	DISC 20 Discovery	Classics	SPIKE 22 Spike TV	TNT 23 Atlanta	BET 26 Black Ent.	DISN 27 Disney	ESPN2 28 Sports	ESPN 29 Sports
	PM	News	News	Locura	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	Raymond	Scrivner	BBC	Cash Cab	Hernandez	CSI: NY	Bones	106 & Park:	Phineas	Horn	SportsCenter
5	:30	ABC	ABC	Noticiero	Lopez	CBS	Noticiero	NBC	Friends	Uri Harel	Business	Cash Cab	]			BET's Top 10	Suite Life	Interrupt	
	PM	News	Jeopardy!	Tontas Cielo	Two Men	News	12 Cora-	News	Seinfeld	Dr. Young	News-Lehrer		]	CSI: Crime	Law & Order	Live	Suite Life	Football	E:60
0	:30	Entertain	Fortune		Two Men	Entertain	zones	Millionaire	Seinfeld	Hagee	]	Catch		Scn		Movie:	Montana	NFL Live	
7	PM	Jim	Jim	Cuidado-	American	NCIS	Doña Bar-	The Biggest	Fam. Guy	Israel	Nova (DVS)	Deadliest	Movie: Miss-		NBA	Inside Man,	Movie: Pixel	Madden	Poker
	30	Jim	Jim	Angel	Idol		bara	Loser	Fam. Guy	Victory		Catch	ing in Action,	Scn		Jodie Foster	Perfect	Madden	
0			Dancing-	Mañana es	(:04) Fringe	The Mental-	El Rostro de		Fam. Guy	Light of the	Frontline	Deadliest	Lenore Kasdorf	Deadliest	Conference Semifinal			Madden	Poker
8	30	Stars	Stars			ist	Analia		Fam. Guy	Southwest	(DVS)	Catch	Nasdon	Warrior	Teams TBA.		Phineas	Challenge	
0		(:02) Cupid	(:02) Cupid	Aquí y Ahora	TMZ	(:01) Without	Sin Senos		Office		Independent		(:15) Missing			College	Wizards	E:60	Baseball
9	:30				Raymond	a Trace	El Cartel		My Boys		Lens	Wild	in Action 2:	Warrior	NBA	College	Montana		Tonight
40		News	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Office	Israel		Deadliest	The Begin- ning	The Ultimate	Basketball:	Movie:	Suite Life	E:60	SportsCenter
10	30	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	King-Hill	Late Show	Decisiones	Tonight Show	Seinfeld	Cortes	Digital	Catch	Tilling	Fighter	Conference Semifinal	Inside Man,	So Raven		
4.4			Jimmy Kim-	La Escuelita	Law Order:		de		Sex &	Ministerio-	Smiley	Deadliest		CSI: NY	Teams TBA.	Jodie Foster	Life De	NASCAR	Baseball
		Jimmy Kim-	mel Live	VIP	CI	Late Late	Decisiones	Late Night-	Sex &	Vida	Smiley	Catch	Uncommon				Cory	Series of	NFL Live
40	:AM	mel Live	Extra	Contra	RENO 911	Show	de	Jim	Friends	Israel	(Off Air)	Out of the	Valor, Fred Ward	Amazing	Inside the		Replace	Poker	SportsCenter
12	:30	News	Marketing	Viento	Consumer	Insider	Pagado	News	Movie:	Church	]	Wild	VValu	Video	NBA	College	Kim	Fastbreak	
		Paid	Paid	Mujer	Friends	Entertain	Pagado	Poker After	National Se-	Light of the	1	Everest: Limit		Disorderly	Law & Order	The Deal	Emperor	Series of	SportsCenter
	:30	Paid	Paid	Güereja	Consumer	Detox	Pelicula: Na-	Dark	curity, Colm	Southwest			(:45) Movie:	Con.			Dragon	Poker	

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# This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, May 12, the 132nd day of 2009. There are 233 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight History:

On May 12, 1949, the Soviet Union lifted the Berlin Blockade, which the Western powers had succeeded in circumventing with their Berlin Airlift.

On this date:

In 1870, an act creating the Canadian province of Manitoba was given royal assent, to take effect in July.

In 1907, actress Katharine Hepburn was born in Hartford,

In 1932, the body of Charles Lindbergh Jr., the kidnapped son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh, was found in a wooded area near Hopewell,

In 1937, Britain's King George VI was crowned at Westminster Abbey.

In 1943, during World War II, Axis forces in North Africa surrendered.

In 1958, the United States and Canada signed an agreement to create the North American Air Defense Command (later the North American Aerospace Defense Command, NORAD).

In 1970, the Senate voted unanimously to confirm Harry A. Blackmun as a Supreme Court justice.

In 1975, the White House announced the new Cambodian government had seized an American merchant ship, the Mayaguez, in international waters.

In 1978, the Commerce Department said hurricanes would no longer be given only female names.

In 1982, in Fatima, Portugal, security guards overpowered a Spanish priest armed with a bayonet who was trying to reach Pope John Paul II.

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall of Famer Yogi Berra is 84. Critic John Simon is 84. Composer Burt Bacharach is 81. Actress Millie Perkins is 71. R&B singer Jayotis Washington is 68. Country singer Billy Swan is 67. Actress Linda Dano is 66. Musician Ian McLagan is 64. Actress Lindsay Crouse is

61. Singer-musician Steve Winwood is 61. Actor Gabriel Byrne is 59. Actor Bruce Boxleitner is 59. Singer Billy Squier is 59. Country singer Kix Brooks is 54. Actress Kim Greist is 51. Actor Ving Rhames is 50. Rock musician Billy Duffy is 48. Actor Emilio Estevez is 47. Actress April Grace is 47. Actress Vanessa A. Williams ("Melrose Place") is 46. Country musician Eddie Kilgallon is 44. Actor Stephen Baldwin is 43. Actor Scott Schwartz is 41. Actress Kim Fields is 40. Actress Samantha Mathis is 39. Actress Jamie Luner is 38. Actor Christian Campbell is 37. Actor Mackenzie Astin is 36.

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Answer to previous puzzle

ALAS RAFTS CUPS MELT EFLAT ASIA

I N E P T I S L E AMEREDUCEDTORUBBL

SYN STAR GOADED DOE SUNS

ONSALEDATE

Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

**37** More ashen

41 Firm, as pasta

**44** Half a college

year: Abbr.

46 Remove

work

whiskers

pitchers

Norway

for one

material

53 Switchboard

worker: Abbr.

12 |13

49 Capital of

**50** Tater

51 Sandal,

**52** Ponytail

**47** Did modeling

48 Wide-mouthed

43 Gives a speech

PLEASE ATTEND by Gail Grabowski

OKAY

OWERBERTH

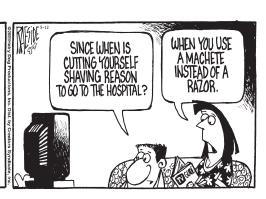




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# **Newsday Crossword**

### **ACROSS** 1 Brings to a halt

- **5** Sounds like an owl
- **10** Parts of a train
- 14 Place to swim at the Y
- 15 Calcutta's
- country 16 Each, slangily
- 17 Memo phrase
- **18** Fragrant
- spring flower
- **19** Practice boxing
- 20 Break into
- pieces **22** Intensely hot
- 23 High-school
- dances **24** Sandwich fish
- **25** Shopping binge
- 28 Male choir voices
- 30 Docking site 31 Was scared of
- **34** Freshly painted 36 Swiss peak
- 37 Bakery
- **38** All \_ day's
- work
- **39** Dairy-farm
- 40 Bowling lanes **41** Part of AMA:
- Abbr.
- **45** Deuce topper
- 46 Drive too fast
- 49 Hollywood
- assistance
- **55** Petty quarrel
- **56** Stage of
- neck

- 59 Bedspread, 10 Las Vegas
- - 61 Racetrack
  - **62** Watermelon
- 63 Makes mistakes 22 Supplies

# **DOWN**

- 1 Long heroic tale
- 2 Toddler's taboo
- **3** Undergrad
- housing
- success **5** African beast,
- 6 Hr. after

- containers
- sound
- 42 Folklore beings 44 Smooth and
- **lustrous**
- award 51 Request for
- development **57** Back of the
- 58 Artificial bait

- for example
- 60 Even. scorewise
- postings
- throwaways

- 4 Unexpected
- **7** Aromas **8** Color lightly
- for short
- midnight

**9** Put into words

- 25 Computer junk-mail **26** Aviator
- 27 Student's grade list

attraction

**11** Seem to be

**12** Lion's sound

\_ you kidding?"

money for

schoolers

24 Most high-

prudent

**13** Agile

- 28 Cafeteria carrier
- 29 Sight or smell
- 31 Young mare **32** Underwater
- slitherers

- 33 Chimp, e.g.
- 35 Armored vehicle

- **54** Gets hitched
- **56** Desktop machines, familiarly

10 11

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# Bird Poop: Sapsuckers rescued

bout 12 feet tall, the young pine tree had caught her attention. Although the extent of her gardening was digging in flower beds,

pruning roses and mowing the lawn, she had first noticed the rings around the upper trunk while standing



The bevy of birds and insects visiting the affected area caused concern. Had the tree been damaged? "Bring your ladder," was her invitation to have a cup of tea. As we sat on the porch and enjoyed an English brew with native honey, we watched the comings and goings of spring. Even a hummingbird was attracted to the evenly spaced, circular holes that had been pecked in the outer

Suddenly, we heard a raucous rendition of complaints. The noise continued until two. undulating blurs of black and white came across the street, under the large ash, and to the topmost branches of the conifer. Not satisfied to perch and give us a chance for identification, the birds chased each other up, down and around the

layer of bark.

During a momentary pause in the antics of the season, the woodpeckers held themselves parallel to the trunk, with only their feet and the tips of their tails touching the bark. On their way from Central America, Mexico or the Texas Gulf, they had brightened our on to Canada.

As the birds left to investigate a neighbor's giant elm tree, their

flight was strong. The agility in gliding and threading their bodies through the branches was enhanced by the closing and opening of their wings in flight.

With another cup of

tea came the tattered bird book I had given my mother to help her identify the birds in her yard. She had read my mind. Telling her I thought it was a sapsucker as I thumbed through the book, I added, "There are only four species." When I found the pages devoted to woodpeckers, we agreed the yellowbellied sapsuckers had been our guests. The red forehead and crown, facial black and white stripes, black back with white barring, black mark on the breast and white wing stripe were easily seen. Only when the birds took flight had we noticed the light yellowish belly.

"Did you notice they both had red on their throats?" she asked. After looking at the bird book, she realized they were males. "The female has a white throat," she added. After telling her the males precede the females on their long journey during spring migration, she asked, "What about the pine tree?"

Drilling into the bark with their bills to drink the tree's sap, the woodpeckers had a ready energy source. Eating the cambium layer of the tree could be likened to the migrating birds that devour emerging buds on elm and mulberry trees. Ants, beetles and wasps attracted to the sticky substance were an additional boon. Even though the yellowbellied visitors would be leaving soon, she decided to watch the pine tree for any signs of decline.

Two weeks later, a call morning before heading from the opposite side of town had me puzzled. After finding three birds that looked like woodpeckers, a friend

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had checked several of her bird books. With a spotted pattern across the back, the birds were brownish below. Facial markings were not remarkable. With wings closed, visible white patches were noticeable. A slight vellow tinge hinted at what they might be.

Having seen the three with some adult birds, she wondered if they were part of a family. Because of neighborhood cats, she had picked them up after they had remained on the ground instead of flying away as she entered her back yard. Upon seeing the

juveniles that were experiencing their first spring migration, I told her the birds were last year's young. Not finding enough to eat, they were thin, weak and could no longer continue. Even with them in hand, I was

not positive as to their identification. What I did know was they were in the woodpecker

After receiving the immature birds, the wildlife sanctuary in Midland confirmed their identity as yellowbellied sapsuckers. Once weight and strength were regained, the birds would be released.

Recently, Art and I checked on the pine tree where sapsuckers had dined and left their signatures. Taller, and wider since 1992, the conifer awaits next spring's arrivals. As avian graffiti, the scars are a reminder of how even one specie depends upon another part of nature for survival.

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



A medium-sized woodpecker, the yellow-bellied sapsucker is noted for its drumming taps on everything from trees and utility poles to metal roofs. A series of rapid taps, a pause, more taps, pause, taps, are as noticeable as the shallow pits they create in search of sap.

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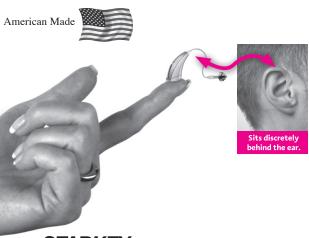
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# Hangar 25 poetry contest winners

Below are the winners from the Hangar 25 Air Museum's 2009 Poetry Contest. The theme for this year's contest was "Pride in your Country's Heritage."

Captain's Division First place — Amanda Daniels

Second place — Patrick Taylor Third place — Foster Burchett Honorable mention — Hope Cimino Honorable mention — Wilson

**Junior Cadet's Division** First place — Emily Bacon





Beth Spence helps little Serena McClinton around the barrel race course during the Washington Elementary rodeo Thursday afternoon. Barrel and flag races, tortilla tossing and roping were just some of the activities the students enjoyed.

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