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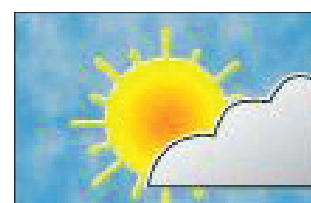
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TUESDAY

MAY 19, 2009



BIG SPRING HERALD

VOLUME 104, NUMBER 144

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Memorial Day tribute slated here Monday

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

As the country prepares to honor its fallen heroes next week, officials with Trinity Memorial Park are planning a patriotic display and ceremony that features more than 100 full-size U.S. flags and hundreds of smaller flags.

Set for 2 p.m. Monday, officials with the local memorial park will hold a Memorial Day ceremony to honor the men and women who have given their lives in defense of America, according to Trinity Memorial Park Facility Manager Phillip Welch.

"This year's ceremony is going to be very simple and basic, a lot like it was last year,"

"When this ceremony first started out, we didn't have anywhere near 100 flags, but over the years it's grown and grown. It's really something beautiful to see."

—Phillip Welch,
Trinity Memorial Park manager

said Welch. "There won't be any speakers or anything like that, just the simple wreath laying ceremony."

Preparations for the cer-

See **TRIBUTE**, Page 3A



Courtesy photo

As spring begins to give way to summer, humans aren't the only ones enjoying the warmth of the sun, as this swarm of bees recently took up temporary residence on the Big Spring Air Evac Lifeteam's helicopter, located at McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark. Lifeteam officials said no one was stung by the bees, which they removed by taking the chopper a few times around the airpark, although some managed to hang on despite the high-speed trip.

Democratic fundraiser convicted of corruption

By **TOM HAYS**

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Longtime fundraiser Norman Hsu was convicted Tuesday of violating campaign finance laws in a case that became an embarrassment to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and other prominent Democrats.

Prosecutors had argued that Hsu, 58, used straw donors to make thousands of dollars in campaign donations to bypass rules limiting the amount any single individual or group can donate.

Hsu's defense argued he was framed by investors who cut deals with the government to avoid prosecution.

A federal jury in Manhattan convicted Hsu after deliberating for over two days.

A prosecutor said during closing arguments Monday that Hsu thought he could get away with breaking campaign contribution laws by using actresses and other political neophytes as straw donors.

During the trial that began May 12, prosecutors played a voicemail recording of

See **HSU**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Howard College Hawks pitcher Zach Neal high-fives students from Elbow Elementary School during a sendoff for the Hawks baseball team today in the parking lot for Jack Barber Field. The Hawks left for Grand Junction, Colo., for the Division I Junior College World Series. Howard starts play in the 10-team double-elimination tournament at 10 a.m. Saturday.

4 BSHS students headed for state academic contest

By **BILL RIGGS**

Special to the Herald

Four Big Spring High School students will be competing in the State University Interscholastic League Academic Contest, to be held next week in Austin.

The students hit paydirt in the form of gold, silver and bronze recently at the UIL 4A Region I Academic Meet in San Angelo while BSHS as a team placed second overall by 20 points behind Aledo.

Seniors James Bowen and Kade Parker are making their second trip to the state tournament while sophomore Jessica Rubio and freshman Lacy McMurtrey will be attending their first state academic meet.

Bowen placed first in News Writing, second in Feature Writing, second in Editorial Writing and fourth in Head-

line Writing, meaning he has earned the right to compete in three events and possibly in a fourth if one of the top three headline writers from Region I does not show in Austin.

He advanced in and won Feature Writing at the state meet last year.

His placings allowed BSHS to take the journalism team championship plaque and added 47 points to Big Spring High School's second-place regional title.

All four of the journalism events will take place Monday.

Kade Parker makes his second appearance at state in two events as he placed second in Number Sense and third in Mathematics.

Number Sense takes place at 8 a.m. Monday while Math-

See **ACADEMIC**, Page 3A

HC, SWCID internet to be down

By **CINDY SMITH**

Special to the Herald

Starting Thursday, Howard College and SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf will not be traveling on the information superhighway.

As part of ongoing construction and renovation projects that are a part of the bond project on the HC Big Spring campus, an Internet outage is scheduled which will bring down the How-

ard College and SWCID websites for a period of time.

The sites will be unavailable during the outage, which is scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. Thursday and will conclude as early as possible next Tuesday.

The outage will not affect access to the college's athletic website www.hchawk.com. This site will be continually updated with the latest news on the Hawks baseball team at the Junior College World Series in Grand Junction,

Colo.

College officials apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and ask persons to contact any Howard College campus for any assistance needed during the Internet outage.

Those contact numbers are:

- Big Spring Campus: 264-5000
- Lamesa Campus: 806-872-2223
- San Angelo Campus: 325-481-8300
- SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf: 264-3700.



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Howard College's first team of destiny

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer
They had a Hall of Fame coach, the national player of the year and talent up and down the roster. With that recipe, Howard College cooked up a national junior college baseball title in 1991.

As the Hawks prepare for their second-ever trip to the National Junior College Athletic Association World Series later this month, the 2009 ver-

sion, which enters with a 58-1 record and is ranked No. 1 in the nation, is hoping to prove as successful as the 1991 Hawks.

That team didn't have the sterling win-loss record or the gaudy team statistics of this year's squad. But Head Coach Bill Griffin assembled a group that proved to be second-to-none at the national tournament.

Leading the way for Howard was Frankie Rodriguez, a freshman from

New York City. Rodriguez, who went on to play professionally for Boston, Seattle and Minnesota, was named the National Junior College Player of the Year that season, sporting a 14-1 record as a pitcher and crushing 26 home runs — tops in the nation — at the plate.

But Rodriguez was hardly a one-man show for the Hawks. On the mound, he was joined by sophomore Mike Coppel and freshman Jesse

Armendariz, a pair of right-handers who combined to win more than 20 games for Howard. At the plate, the squad featured a hard-hitting lineup — led by Rodriguez, first baseman Franklyn Johnson, catcher Sean Teague, right fielder Willie Olivias and second baseman Jeff Schulz — that averaged almost .400 for the season.

See HC, Page 2B

Bufs fall to Ralls, 3-2

Lowery pitches gem, but can't pick up win

Herald Staff Report

LUBBOCK — Sophomore Dylan Lowery gave the Forsan Buffaloes all he could on the mound Monday night.

Unfortunately, it just wasn't enough.

The Buffs were eliminated in the area round of the Class A baseball playoffs for a second consecutive year, falling to the Ralls Jackrabbits, 3-2.

It wasn't because of a lack of pitching, though. Lowery was stellar, pitching all seven innings and giving up just three runs — one earned — on one hit, while striking out seven batters.

"It is unusual to throw a legitimate one-hitter and lose," said Lowery. "Dylan settled down after the first few innings and threw really well. We just had tough luck at the plate last night. We struck out only five times, but we hit the ball right at them. We picked a bad time to go into a hitting slump."

Ralls' Justin Velez picked up the win, allowing two runs on two hits as he went the distance.

There were no extra-base hits in the game for either team. Lowery and Foster Burchett had one RBI apiece for the Buffs.

The hard loss brings another premature end to the Buffs' season after expectations had them contending in Region I.

"Once again, it is a tough way to go out," said Forsan Head Coach Jason Phillips. "We feel like we should be preparing for this weekend. The area round has been a tough round for us when it comes to hitting the last two years. I am really proud of these guys and the season we had. They're a fun group to coach and are outstanding young men."

"We have an exciting bunch of players returning next season and we expect to go even further in the playoffs," he added. "However, we will miss our three seniors. Zach Herrin, Rey Martinez and Jeremy Freitag have been a big part of developing our baseball program here."

Ralls 110 100 0-3 1 3
Forsan 001 010 0-2 2 1

Justin Velez and Josh Velez. Dylan Lowery and Zach Herrin. W - Velez. L - Lowery. RBI: For - Lowery, Foster Burchett.



Courtesy photo/Bob Fishback

Forsan Lady Buffaloes shortstop Shelby Jones winds to throw a runner out at first in softball action April 17 at Lady Steer Park. The Lady Buffs rallied from a 5-run deficit to defeat district rival Eldorado, 13-5, Monday in San Angelo, advancing to the Class A regional semifinals.

Forsan prevails

Lady Buffs rally from 5-run deficit for 13-5 victory

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

SAN ANGELO — Most will argue baseball and softball are not meant to be played in one-game scenarios in the postseason.

However, every squad remaining in contention was forced to put its season on the line based on the results of one game either Monday or tonight due to the brief postponement of competition because of the threat of the swine flu earlier this month.

Fortunately, the Forsan Lady Buffaloes were able to overcome a slow start against Eldorado's Lady Eagles Monday and come away with a 13-5 win in a Class A regional quarterfinal matchup.

Eldorado found itself up 5-0 after the top of the second inning, mostly because of the struggles of Amanda Longorio in the pitcher's circle to consistently hit the strike zone.

However, the Lady Buffs pulled within one with four runs in the bottom of the second and Longorio settled down, allowing two hits and three walks in the final five innings of play.

Forsan Head Coach Shanna Roberts had Alyx Pappajohn, who is also a capable pitcher on the

See FORSAN, Page 2B

Rangers roll to top of AL West with 7-game win streak

STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON — The Texas Rangers can really get excited if they are in the same position in four months.

For now, their majors-best seven-game winning streak and significant lead in the AL West after sweeping the division rival Los Angeles Angels provide a different feeling.

"It gives us momentum and confidence, but it's May. We want to be there at the end," manager Ron

Washington said. "We're not looking at it like we're in first place. We're just trying to play the best baseball we can play."

Ten years after last making the playoffs, the Rangers (23-14) can't do any better than they did the past week, when they had an undefeated homestand with three-game sweeps of division rivals Seattle and Los Angeles. They have also been pretty good over an extended stretch this season.

Texas, which was off Monday, has

won 17 of 22 and is nine games over .500 for the first time since June 2005.

The sweep over the Angels, capped by a 3-0 victory Sunday when four pitchers combined for the shutout, gave Texas a 4½-game division lead. Los Angeles played at Seattle on Monday night.

"This series tells me our team is for real," outfielder Marlon Byrd said.

See RANGERS, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Alex Newsom

Sands High School senior Brittnei Blagrove (center) signed a letter of intent to play basketball at Howard College beginning in the 2009 season. Pictured with Blagrove are her parents Carla (right) and Stan (left), Howard College Assistant Coach Jamie Fisher (standing) and Sands Girls Basketball Coach Ben Connell.

Sports in brief

Bulldogs advance with 1-0 win, CHS girls play tonight

The Coahoma Bulldogs picked up an area championship in the Class 2A playoffs, defeating Eastland 1-0 Monday in Abilene. They'll face the winner of Jim Ned and No. 1 Holliday in the regional quarterfinals.

The Bulldogettes play their regional quarterfinals game at 7:30 p.m. tonight in Colorado City. They'll be taking on Coleman, which upset Bowie in the area round.

Big Spring ISD announces sports skills camps

The Big Spring High School Athletic Department will host a variety of sports skills camps during the summer.

Steers Baseball Skills Camp

Big Spring Steers Head Coach Burt

Otto will host a baseball skills camp beginning June 8 and ending June 11 at Steer Park for first through eighth graders.

Cost is \$25 with an optional T-shirt fee of \$10.

Wayland Baptist University conducting baseball tryouts

The Pioneer baseball coaching staff at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview is conducting a tryout camp for all graduating high school seniors and/or players with college eligibility remaining.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. June 13 at Wilder Field on the WBU campus. Tryouts follow at 9 a.m. There is no charge for the camp.

For more information or to make reservations, contact WBU Head Coach Brad Bass at (806) 291-1157 or Assistant Josh Milner at (806) 291-1158.

Obituaries

Robert Turner 'Bob' Ballenger

Robert Turner "Bob" Ballenger, 91, of Garden City went home to be with his Lord and Savior Saturday, May 16, 2009, at his ranch. Visitation will be held at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Midland on Tuesday, May 19, 2009, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Services will be held at Nalley-Pickle & Welch



Funeral Home Chapel in Midland Wednesday, May 20, 2009, at 10 a.m. Graveside services will be held in Sterling City at the Monteval Cemetery following the services in Midland, with the Rev. Ken McIntosh of First Christian Church of Big Spring officiating.

Bob was born May 4, 1918, in Henderson to Robert Turner and Ivy D. Ballenger. He grew up and attended schools in Henderson. Following high school graduation, he attended Texas Christian University, graduating in 1939 with a BS in business administration and a minor in economics.

At TCU he was a member of the Bryson Literary Club and played the trumpet in the swing band. After graduation from TCU, he became involved in ranching in West Texas and was a rancher all of his life in Glasscock and Upton counties. He made his home southwest of Big Spring for 70 years.

Bob raised Hereford and Black Angus cattle, quarter horses, and at one time was one of the largest Rambouillet sheep producers in Texas. He was most recently honored by the American Quarter Horse Association, receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award for his breeding of quarter horses for more than 50 years.

He was also a judge for the AQHA in the 1960s. His foundation stud, Buck Dodger, left a huge legacy in the quarter horse world with many competing in halter classes, as well as cutting horse and roping horse competitions. His top winning mare, Dixie Buck acquired a total of 53 points in 1957.

With Bob showing her himself, Dixie Buck was the high point halter mare in 1959 and 1960 in the West Texas Quarter Horse Association. She also was high point aged mare and high point horse. Dixie Buck received a certificate of honor for winning high point halter and performance individual second in senior cutting. She was the grand champion of the 1960 Fort Worth Stock Show. Bob had many cutting horses that became national champions, including Bill Dodger and Booger Buck. He was a former member of The Cattlemen's Association and The Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association.

Bob was a generous person with a wonderful sense of humor who loved and had great respect for the land and the animals he raised. Bob had a deep love of family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He always remembered to call them on their birthdays and was there for the big events in their lives. He was a regular at many West Texas football games throughout the years cheering on his grandsons, Fred, Robert and Jeff.

Bob had a host of friends all over West Texas and will always be remembered for his sense of humor, his hospitality, his stories and his great love of life and spirit of adventure. His house was always open to any and all. He was a gentleman.

Bob was a member of the First Christian Church in Midland in the 60s, where he proudly served as a deacon. He later transferred his membership to the First Christian Church in Big Spring. He loved great hymns and music and had a deep and abiding faith and love for the Lord. Bob was a Christian and lived with Christian principles. Bob also took great delight in beautiful flowers and the beauty of nature.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Francys Walls; his brother-in-law, Bill Walls; his sister-in-law, Joyce Ballenger; and his nephew, Bill Walls.

Survivors include three daughters, Lynda Ruth Ballenger Glass and husband Larry of Sterling City, Barba Sue Ballenger Keene and husband David of Plano, and Francys Ann Ballenger of Dallas; two brothers, Max Ballenger and wife Jean of Henderson and Dan Ballenger of Kilgore; four grandchildren, Fred Squire and wife Bonnie of Midland, Scarlett Squire of Ft. Worth, Robert Glass and wife Brooke of Spur, Jeff Glass and wife Jaime of Amarillo.; 10 great-grandchildren, Reagan, Maggie and Turner Squire, Riley, Rachel and Ben Glass, Daniel, Emily, Andrew and Grayson Glass; nieces, Brynda Ballenger, Nancy Ballenger, Babs Ballenger, Beth Ballenger and Mary Walls Somerville; and many, many friends who will miss him dearly.

Pallbearers will be Fred Squire, Robert Glass, Jeff Glass, Wesley Glass, Allen Lucas and Mike Coomer. Honorary Pall Bears are Wesley Yeager and Tommy Owens.

The family would like to give a special thank you to Gracie Leal, Jackie Hill and Debbie Bagnall for caring for Bob, day and night, over the past several months and to Home Hospice of Big Spring. The family would also like to thank Bob's dear friend, Ann Schafer, who watched over him during the past several years.

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

Paid obituary

Louise Robertson

Louise Robertson, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend, passed away Sunday, May 17, 2009, in Marble Falls. She was born Dec. 5, 1915, in Big Spring to A.T. and Effie Rogers. She grew up around Garden City and married Ollie "Stuffy" Robertson in 1938. She lived her early mar-



ried life farming and raising their three children in the west Texas community of Tarzan. Louise and Stuffy bought and operated Sportsman's Lodge near Marble Falls from 1964 until 1972. Her activities centered around her family, gardening, painting and reading. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Marble Falls.

Louise was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, six sisters and four brothers.

She is survived by her son, Jim Robertson and wife Brenda; daughter, Dena Robertson Ealey and husband Bill; son, Dale Robertson and wife Beverly; six grandchildren, Cade Robertson, Casey Robertson Dick, Kay Ealey Holcomb, Codie Ealey, Kelly Robertson Martin, Ben Robertson; and ten great-grandchildren, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation was held Monday, May 18, 2009, at Clements-Wilcox Funeral Home in Marble Falls with graveside service held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 19, 2009, at Lakeland Hills Memorial Park with the Rev. Max Copeland officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Burnet County Child Welfare Board at 1104 Buchanan Drive, Suite 2, Burnet 78611.

Arrangements entrusted to Clements-Wilcox Funeral Home of Marble Falls.

Paid obituary

Police blotter

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

- MIRANDA SAIZ, 20, of 1905 Wasson Rd. Apt. 76, was arrested Monday on local warrants.
- TARA WHITE, 26, of 817 W. Eighth St., was arrested Monday on charges of possession of marijuana and possession of a controlled substance.
- DANIEL RAWLS, 23, of 1704 W. First St., was arrested Monday on a local warrant.
- TYRONE MANLEY, 44, of 538 Westover Rd. Apt. 261, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- MANUEL MATA, 22, of 700 N. Moss Lake, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- SHANNON BOUDREAUX, 30, of 1712 E. 15th St., was arrested Monday on charges of driving while license invalid and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- BOE PAYNE, 27, of 1601 E. Third St., was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- THEFT was reported in the 1500 block of Martin Luther king Blvd.
- TERRORISTIC THREAT was reported in the 1500 block of Scurry.
- POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson.
- INJURY TO THE ELDERLY - CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE was reported in the 800 block of Creighton.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 700 block of 15th Street.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported: in the 400 block of Westover Road.
- in the 2000 block of Golliad.




Take Note

• A spaghetti supper to benefit Moss Elementary employee Sherra Harrell and her husband Trey will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, at the school cafeteria. Carry-out and delivery only. Plates are \$5 include spaghetti, salad, bread and dessert. Please order by May 18 by calling 264-4148 or by e-mail at rbelew@bsisd.esc18.net. Trey has been ill and unable to work. The benefit is to help raise funds to pay for medical expenses and other bills. An account has been established at State National Bank. Ask to donate to the "Trey and Sherra Harrell Fund."

• The Big Spring High School class of 1979 is seeking 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.

• A benefit account has been established at Woodforest National Bank (Account 1652331339) for John Allison and Jacoby Rivera, who lost their belongings in a residential fire on Runnels. Donations can also be made by calling (431) 213-4091.

Your Local Weather

Wed 5/20	Thu 5/21	Fri 5/22
 84/58 Mostly sunny skies. High 84F. Winds SSE at 10 to 20 mph.	 85/57 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the upper 50s.	 78/58 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the upper 50s.

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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

• Big Spring Band Boosters meets at 5:30 p.m. in the high school band hall. All band parents are invited to attend.

• Howard County Master Gardeners meet at 5:30 p.m. in the basement of the county courthouse. The public is invited.

• Big Spring Art Association meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library. All working artists and those interested in art are invited to attend.

• Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

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, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

Fire/EMS

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 3100 block of Main Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the area of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the area of State Street and Stadium. Three people were transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2700 block of S. Anderson Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 19-24-30-33. Bonus Ball: 2.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 9-17-21-31-33.
Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:
3-8-5-9. Sum It Up: 29

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:
5-8-6. Sum It Up: 19

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FORSAN

Continued from Page 1B

team, available, but said she was confident Longorio would pull out of the tough early stretch.

"I didn't really think about putting Alyx in until we got ahead," said Roberts. "Amanda was a little nervous. This was a one-game playoff. In this whole tournament, this was probably the hardest game to come into. Eldorado had already seen us, but they hadn't seen Amanda. I felt confident she was going to come back. She was nervous at first, but she came around.

"Amanda is strong mentally and she has a lot to do with the success of this team with her ability to fight back from adversity," said Roberts.

Keying the Lady Buffs offensively throughout the night was sophomore Miranda Park. Park had two doubles on the night and a triple for four RBI.

Parks first double of the night came with no outs in the bottom of the second and it put the first two Forsan runs of the game on the board.

While previous Lady Buffs batters were struggling with the changup being thrown by Eldorado's Bridgette Mitchell, Park sat on the pitch and drove to the wall down the left field line. Kelsey Jones and Longorio, who each walked earlier in the frame, came around to score in the inning.

Freshman Ambra Hill brought in two more runs with a single later in the inning, scoring Haylie Burleson and Kevy O'Brien to bring Forsan to a 5-4 deficit.

Park hit her second double to lead off the fourth. She scored three batters late, as did Burleson, after an errant throw by Eldorado third baseman Abby Fuentes on a ball hit by Sandi Golleher.

The fielding mishap gave Forsan its first lead at 6-5. It was all the Lady Buffs would need, but they weren't satisfied, either.

Two more runs scored in the frame when Golleher and Hill crossed on a single by Shelby Jones.

Park's triple in the fifth brought in Longorio who had singled to lead off the inning. Park scored on a fielder's choice ball hit by Burleson.

Hill picked up her third RBI of the game with a fielder's choice by the shortstop, scoring O'Brien. Golleher was plated by an error.

Park picked up one more RBI in the sixth, singling to score Kelsey Jones, who led off the inning with a double.

In all, Park was 4-for-4 on the night. Forsan collected 14 total hits as a team.

"I'm happy with the lineup," said Roberts. "Some of the girls who had been struggling some got some hits today."

Longorio allowed five runs — four earned — on three hits and eight walks, while striking out 10 batters.

It was Forsan's fourth win over Eldorado this season. Last time the two teams met, the Lady Buffs humiliated the Lady Eagles with an 18-2 victory.

Roberts was warned the team against believing it would dominate its district rival like that a second time.

"I've been telling the team all week not to count on beating Eldorado like that again," said Roberts. "We hadn't seen them play in about eight weeks. I had no idea what we were walking into. I've been preaching all week to come in here with intensity and focus and to take care of this game."

The Lady Buffs will face the winner between No. 2 Albany and Seymour, which advanced to the state semifinals two seasons ago, defeating Forsan in the process.

One reason the Lady Buffs are off to a strong start in the postseason in Roberts' mind is the victory they picked up over Coahoma in a practice game. The Lady Buffs defeated the Bulldogettes, 3-2, in 10 innings.

"That win was a huge boost for us heading into the playoffs," said Roberts. "Just the fact that we beat a state contender in 2A heading into the playoffs gave us a lot of confidence. We hadn't played games in three weeks at that point so we were cold. I think that win has a lot to do with us coming in as strong as we have."

Eldorado 140 000 0-5 3 3
Forsan 040 441 x-13 14 1

Bridgette Mitchell, Amy Alvizo (4) and Haley Higgins, Marisa Gonzales (6). Amanda Longorio and Kelsey Jones. W - Longorio. L - Mitchell. 2B: Eld - Higgins; For - Miranda Park 2, Kevy O'Brien, Kelsey Jones. 3B: For - Shelby Jones, Park. RBI: Eld - Corie Williams, Higgins 3; For - Park 4, Ambra Hill 3, S. Jones 2, Haylie Burleson.

HC

Continued from Page 1B

Howard opened the 1991 campaign by winning its first 12 games and entered Western Junior College Athletic Conference play with a 14-4 record. The battle for the conference title would end up being a two-team battle, with the Hawks and Odessa College entering their season-ending series tied with identical 11-4 league marks.

The showdown proved to be anti-climatic, however, as the Hawks swept the three-game series at Jack Barber Field to claim the WJCAC crown and enter the state JUCO tournament in Stephenville with a 48-11 season record.

In the double-elimination tournament, Howard won its first three games before dropping a 5-2 decision to Lee College. The next day, the Hawks won the rematch and the state title by the score of 4-2, earning their first trip to the JUCO World Series in Grand Junction, Colo.

If nothing else, the Hawks proved they had a flair for the dramatic at the national stage, winning two games in extra innings and rallying from behind to win another pair of contests.

In the World Series opener, Rodriguez had to leave the game in the second inning because of back spasms, but Armendariz was sterling in relief as the Hawks rallied from a two-run deficit in the eighth inning to defeat No. 1-ranked Seminole (Okla.) College, 6-4.

Howard had an even tougher time in Game 2 against South Suburban (Ill.) College, which tied the contest in the bottom of the ninth, then twice more in extra innings before the Hawks finally

secured a 6-5 win in 12 innings.

Extra play was also on the menu for Howard's third game of the World Series, against Allegany (Md.) College. The Hawks rallied from an early 3-0 deficit and eventually won the game, 6-3, on a three-run homer by Johnson in the 10th inning.

A 6-4 loss to Glendale (Ariz.) Community College in Game 4 sent Howard to the loser's bracket and a rematch with Allegheny. Once again, Howard rallied from behind and, fueled by a 13-hit attack that featured Rodriguez's only home run of the tournament, earned a berth in the national title game with a 12-7 victory.

Rodriguez took the mound for the Hawks in that contest and lived up to his national reputation. He limited Manatee (Fla.) College to only five hits while striking out an astonishing 17 batters and walking only one. Offensively, Howard was fueled by Olivas, a sophomore from El Paso who drove in four runs on a home run and a double.

Rodriguez put an emphatic stamp on the evening by striking out the side in the top of the ninth to give Howard a 7-2 victory and the national title.

Officials named Rodriguez the tournament's Most Valuable Player and he was joined on the all-tourney team by Johnson, Teague, shortstop Jose Gomez and Armendariz. Also at the tournament, Griffin was named national junior college coach of the year.

"It's the greatest feeling in the whole world," Assistant Coach Joe Almaraz said after the game. "All the good times and bad times you go through — they're all for this."

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

After gritty run, Rockets face big offseason questions

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Rockets ran out of All Stars before they ran out of steam in the playoffs.

Missing their top two players and a backup center who happens to be the NBA's second all-time shot blocker, the Rockets pushed the Los Angeles Lakers to the brink in their second-round series before losing by 19 in Sunday's Game 7.

Afterward, the Lakers complimented Houston for its grit and heart — but that wasn't what the Rockets felt like hearing.

"We just lost so we're upset," said forward Luis Scola. "But I think in a couple days or couple weeks, we'll be happy we were able to reach what we achieved. We just need to keep moving forward."

Where the Rockets go from here depends on the health of stars Tracy McGrady and Yao Ming, and whether the team can re-sign Ron Artest.

The Rockets and their fans envisioned a championship run last summer when they acquired the unpredictable Artest to form a Houston version of the Boston Celtics' Big Three.

But the enthusiasm diminished when McGrady admitted before training camp that his knee and shoulder were already aching.

The seven-time All-Star played in only 35 games and finally opted for season-ending microfracture surgery in February.

McGrady, a two-time scoring champion, has one season left on his contract that will pay him over \$23 million next season.

The Rockets are hoping he'll return by January, but he turns 30 on Sunday and the results are mixed on players coming back after undergoing the same type of surgery.

The Rockets went 21-8 after McGrady bowed out, advancing to the second round of the playoffs for the first time since 1997, fueling the notion that the team was better without him.

Rick Adelman, runner-up to Cleveland's Mike Brown in the coach of the year voting, shot down that suggestion.

Yao avoided injuries through the regular season and the first-round series with Portland, then broke his troublesome left foot in Game 3 against the Lakers, raising the same old questions about his sturdiness.

The Rockets said Yao will only miss 8-12 weeks and the hairline fracture will not require surgery. Like McGrady, Yao also has one guaranteed year left on his contract, including a player option for the 2010-11 season.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

Michael Young, the longest-tenured player on the Texas roster, made his debut with the Rangers the final week of the 2000 season — a year after they won the last of their three division titles.

There has since been one winning season (2004). The Rangers finished higher than third in the AL West only once, last year when they were second with a 79-83 record and 21 games behind Los Angeles.

So what does Young think about having an early lead over the preseason favorite to win the division for the fifth time in six years, and everybody else?

"Not too much," Young said. "I'm more focused on the fact that we're playing good baseball, rather than looking at the standings. The biggest thing is, we recognize we're a confident group playing good baseball. If we do that, we will be fine."

With a majors-best 62 home runs while scoring an average of 5.65 runs per game, the Rangers are still bashing the ball as they always have.

The obvious difference has been pitching and defense, the two areas that have hampered the Rangers so often.

"It's something we've talked about for three years," said Washington, 177-184 in his third season. "We've corrected the pitching and we're catching the ball. Those are the two things that have put us in position to be successful."

While only two AL teams have fewer than the Rangers' 19 errors, the most significant improvement has been the starting pitching.

Texas had the most overworked bullpen in the majors the past two seasons. This year, Rangers starters lead the AL by averaging nearly 6 1-3 innings per game, a full inning more than last season.

Kevin Millwood (4-3, 2.93 ERA) has gone at least seven innings in all but one of his eight starts. Texas has scored only twice in two of his losses and the right-hander threw a complete game in a 2-0 loss to Kansas City and Zack Greinke.

Scott Feldman, who threw six scoreless innings Sunday, is 2-0 with a 2.17 ERA in five games since moving back into the rotation from the bullpen. Matt Harrison has won four straight starts, including a 22-inning scoreless streak, and became the first left-hander in the majors since 1911 to record 13 victories in his first 22 major league starts.

Brandon McCarthy and Vicente Padilla have both won three games.

"Pitching has been the story all year," said Young, the five-time All-Star who is fifth in the AL with a .351 average after his streak of five consecutive 200-hit seasons ended last year.

The seven-game winning streak, the Rangers' longest in four years, has come without closer Frank Francisco throwing a pitch. Francisco, finally put on the disabled list Saturday after not pitching since May 6 because of right biceps tendinitis, is expected to return Friday.

The Rangers open a three-game series Tuesday in Detroit, where they were swept the first weekend this season after starting 3-0 for the first time since 1996. That started a span when Texas lost nine of 12 before their resurgence to the top of the division.

"We'll play it out and see where it takes us," Washington said. "It is nice to be the hunted."

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Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 84 inmates at the time of this report.

- SHANNON BOUDREAUX, 38, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
- JORGE LUIS GOMEZ, 18, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less.
- SUSIE LEDESMA, 23, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less and unlawfully carrying a weapon.
- TYRONE MANLEY, 44, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- MANUEL MATA JR., 22, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- STERLING MCINTOSH, 26, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of disregarding a stop sign or light.
- RAMONA OLIVAREZ, 28, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less, failure to identify as a fugitive from justice, two local warrants, failure to appear (three counts) and failure to maintain financial responsibility (two counts).
- BOE LEWIS PAYNE, 27, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated — second offense.
- DANIEL SCOTT RAWLS, 23, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of no insurance.
- MIRANDA SAIZ, 20, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of no driver's license, failure to appear and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- MARK LEE SMITH, 49, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated.
- DANIEL MONTEZ VIERA, 21, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on an unnamed charge.
- TARA WHITE, 26m was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana — more than four ounces, less than five pounds, and possession of a controlled substance.

News in Brief

Obama, auto exes announcing plan to reduce emissions

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama wants drivers to go farther on a gallon of gas and cause less damage to the environment — and be willing to pick up the tab.

Obama on Tuesday planned to announce the first-ever national emissions limits for cars and trucks, as well as require a 35.5 miles per gallon standard. Consumers should expect to pay an extra \$1,300 per vehicle by the time the plan is complete in 2016, officials said.

The administration officials spoke on the condition of anonymity ahead of the formal announcement by Obama.

The plan also would effectively end a feud between automakers and statehouses over emission standards — with the states coming out on top but the automakers getting the single national standard they've been seeking and more time to make the changes.

Obama's plan couples for the first time pollution reduction from vehicle tailpipes with increased efficiency on the road. It would save 1.8 billion barrels of oil through 2016 and would be the environmental equivalent to taking 177 million cars off the road, senior administration officials said Monday night.

Sri Lanka president: Country free from terror; rebel leader's body found

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Sri Lanka's president declared his country "liberated from separatist terror" Tuesday as the military said it recovered the body of Tamil Tiger rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran from the battlefield on which he was slain.

TV footage showed a bloated body resembling the rebel leader, still dressed in a dark green camouflage uniform, laid out on a stretcher on the grass. A blue cloth rested on top of his head, apparently to cover a bullet wound. His open eyes stared straight up and his face appeared bloated.

"A few hours ago, the body of terrorist leader Prabhakaran, who ruined this country, was found on the battleground," army chief Gen. Sarath Fonseka told state television.

The death of Prabhakaran, the unquestioned leader of the Tamil Tigers, would make it far more difficult for the rebel movement to reform and continue its nearly three decade separatist war.

Speaking before the announcement, a rebel official abroad denied Prabhakaran was killed and said the Tamil Tiger leader was in a safe place.

Congress sets sights on high credit card fees

WASHINGTON (AP) — Unable to stop the tide of foreclosures and job losses, lawmakers are hoping to give voters at least some breathing room in the economic downturn by banning arbitrary rate hikes and excessive fees charged by credit card companies.

Legislation that would impose new restrictions on the industry was expected to pass the Senate on Tuesday. With the House having endorsed a similar measure already, Democratic leaders said they hoped to send a final version to the president to sign by week's end.

If Obama signs the bill, as expected, the credit card industry would be required within nine months to change the way it does business: Lenders would have to post their credit card agreements on the Internet, let customers pay their bills online or by phone for free and give customers 45 days notice and an explanation before interest rates are increased.

In a key provision addressing a concept called "universal default," a customer would have to be more than 60 days behind on a payment before seeing his rate on an existing balance increase. Even then, the credit card company would be required to restore the previous, lower rate after six months if the consumer pays the minimum balance on time.

The banking industry is pushing back, warning lawmakers that the legislation would restrict credit at a time when Americans need it most. They defend their business practices as necessary to protect themselves when providing money to consumers with no collateral and little more than a promise to pay it back.

NASA astronauts to bid farewell to Hubble Space Telescope

CAPE CANAVERAL (AP) — It's time for NASA to say goodbye to the Hubble Space Telescope.

Astronauts on the space shuttle Atlantis Tuesday morning will gently toss the 19-year-old observatory back into orbit. That's after five successful spacewalks to install two new scientific instruments, fix two broken ones, and do general maintenance.

NASA says the handyman mission not only fixed Hubble, but it should last five to 10 more years and unlock even more mysteries of the cosmos.

There will be no more repair missions to Hubble. Sometime after 2020, NASA will send a robotic spaceship to steer Hubble back into the atmosphere and a watery grave.

TRIBUTE

Continued from Page 1A

emony begin Saturday, according to Welch, as local Boy Scouts take time to show their appreciation in a very special way.

"Each year, the day before the ceremony, the Boy Scouts from the Buffalo Trail Council

come out and place miniature American flags on the graves of the veterans buried here," said Welch. "It's a very emotional thing to see. The flags will remain on the graves until Tuesday."

Welch said the ceremony will be held near the park's Avenue of Flags — which will feature an impressive display of American flags.

"In honor of Howard County veterans, there will also be more than 100 full-size American flags flying at the park's Avenue of Flags, which is sponsored each year by the veterans' families. When this ceremony first started out, we didn't have anywhere near 100 flags, but over the years it's grown and grown. It's really some-

thing beautiful to see."

Welch said the ceremony should serve as a heartfelt thanks to the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for the United States.

The wreath being laid at the park's main flagpole during the ceremony represents a number of local veterans organizations, said Welch.

"The wreath is divided up into portions, and each portion is devoted to a different veterans organization," said Welch. "I'm not sure which organizations will be there to take part in the ceremony, but it's always a very moving thing to watch."

Trinity Memorial Park is located on S. Highway 87, approxi-

mately five miles south of Big Spring.

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

ACADEMIC

Continued from Page 1A

ematics will start at 8 a.m. Tuesday.

Freshman Lacy McMurtrey placed second in Ready Writing, an essay writing contest that lasts two hours in which students write about one of two topics presented to them.

McMurtrey's topic at regionals dealt with man as an animal by nature. Her competition will also begin Monday at 8 a.m.

Rubio, a sophomore at BSHS, will be advancing to the state meet in informative speaking after placing first at regionals.

Informative speaking has the student presented with a choice of topics in a draw situation. The student then has a limited

time to prepare a speech dealing with the topic and presenting it to a panel of judges.

Her final topic that won the regional contest dealt with Somalian pirates, relevant due to recent news events.

Rubio's state event will begin Monday at 1 p.m.

The four students are expected to leave Big Spring around 9 a.m. Sunday.

HSU

Continued from Page 1A

Clinton, then a senator, effusively praising Hsu for his loyal support. After his 2007 arrest, the senator returned more than \$800,000 to donors whose contributions were linked to him.

Jurors also heard testimony from several investors who recounted how Hsu wowed them by showing off his political connections. Another witness has testified she met President Barack Obama, Secretary of State Clinton, President Bill Clinton, Sen. John Kerry, Sen. Ted Kennedy and Rep. Patrick Kennedy of Rhode Island at fundraisers she

attended with him.

Television actress Susan Chilman testified that she given nearly \$42,000 to Hillary Rodham Clinton and other Democratic candidates. Once Chilman took out her checkbook, Hsu would simply give her a name and an amount, she said.

Hsu's trial came just days after he pleaded guilty to 10 counts of wire and mail fraud, admitting that he cheated investors of at least \$20 million in a Ponzi scheme.

Hsu was arrested in Colorado in September 2007 after he became ill on an eastbound Amtrak train and had to be hospitalized in Grand Junction.

Fox's thrilling '24' ends season on a high note

NEW YORK (AP) — Even if the world had been applauding Jack Bauer at the season's end of "24," he couldn't hear them.

He was last seen hospitalized in a coma. Infected by a bioweapon targeting America, counter-terrorist hero Jack had taken the hit while trying to save his fellow citizens. Then, woozier and sweatier by the hour, he managed to foil the terrorists.

By Monday's finale of the Fox thriller "24," all

Jack wants is — no, not a Medal of Freedom or an attaboy from a grateful nation — but to die in peace.

That's not going to happen. He's Jack Bauer, he's played by series star Kiefer Sutherland, and the series has plenty of life left in it. No wonder Jack's daughter, Kim, arrives at his bedside and demands experimental surgery for him that involves taking stem cells from her body — surgery that Jack had nixed hours

earlier.

"I'm sorry, Dad," says Kim (Elisha Cuthbert)

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THE COLORADO River Municipal Water District, regional raw water supplier for the Permian Basin, is accepting applications for following positions. **Central Control Operator**- Responsible for monitoring water flows, pressures, and tank levels using SCADA system. Perform administrative support including recording readings, monitoring phones, and basic data entry. Basic computer skills including Excel needed. This position involves shift work. CRMWD is an equal opportunity employer. Benefits include health insurance, retirement plans, and sick, vacation and holiday leave. Applications are required and are available at the District's office, 400 E. 24TH Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, by calling (432) 267-6341 or crmwd.org

PRE-SCHOOL TEACHER needed full-time. Prefer 1 yr. exp., but will train. High School Diploma or GED required. Apply in person, 1901 W. 16th Street, Learning Tree Academy.

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EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OTHER VIEWS

Insurance industry in retreat is really a very rare sight

Anyone who has been turned down, or felt victimized, by health insurance companies should be relishing the spectacle of that industry in retreat.

It is a rare sight indeed to see an industry leader ask for greater government regulation. At a Senate Finance Committee hearing Tuesday, America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) President and CEO Karen Ignagni did just that, saying her members "accept the premise that the system is not working today and needs to be reformed."

The industry has been backpedaling furiously to forestall its worst nightmare: a Medicare-style public plan that potentially could drive private insurance companies out of business. It has been renouncing some past business practices that have been lucrative, and what many consider heartless.

In November, AHIP said its members would accept customers with pre-existing conditions if everyone were required to obtain health insurance. In March, it offered to stop charging those sick people more than healthy policyholders.

AHIP's latest concession is to stop charging women higher premiums than men. Women who get health insurance from their employers are protected by federal law from this disparity, and also must be offered maternity benefits. But the 7 percent of women who buy health insurance directly have been charged 25-50 percent more because they use more health care services than men. And those policies did not even cover maternity expenses, which are available at an extremely expensive surcharge. Such practices no doubt contribute to the fact that 26 percent of Texas women are uninsured.

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., who has filed a bill to end the practice, said during the hearing, "The disparity between women and men in the individual insurance market is just plain wrong, and it has to change." Ignagni agreed.

Many state insurance pools that cover high-risk residents allow gender to be considered in setting rates. For example, women ages 25-29 in Dallas and Houston pay 39 percent more than men the same age to buy coverage from the Texas Health Insurance Risk Pool.

This so-called "individual market" insurance largely falls under state regulation, which is cursory in most states. One medieval example: It is legal in nine states and the District of Columbia for insurers to reject domestic-violence victims. In some states, insurers can reject those who have had a cesarean section.

At one time, the insurance industry charged racial minorities more for health insurance because they had poorer health outcomes. Why gender disparities have been allowed to persist is beyond comprehension. It is especially egregious given that women earn less than men.

Even if the public insurance plan does not come to fruition, its threat is forcing significant and long-overdue private health insurance reform. Now that is progress.

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 - 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 everything is overwhelming, Lord, may we find a quiet retreat and spend some time in prayer.

Amen

They're political war veterans

Members of President Obama's Cabinet are three times more likely to have attended law school than boot camp. How things have changed since 2004, when Democrats were outraged that, in time of war, the GOP White House could be run by men with no combat experience. Saying that he was "reporting for duty," while speaking at the Democratic National Convention in Boston, Sen. John F. Kerry, D-Mass., made much of his combat experience, as others criticized President George W. Bush for only serving in the Air National Guard during Vietnam. From the Senate floor, Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., called Vice President Dick Cheney a "chicken hawk" in light of Cheney's five draft deferments during the Vietnam War.

In 2009, America is still at war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Yet somehow the military-background imperative is gone. President Obama never served in the military. Vice President Joe Biden, the Associated Press reported last year, received five student draft deferments during the Vietnam War. Just like Cheney.

As for the Obama Cabinet,

according to administration biographies, only two of its 16 members — Defense Secretary Robert Gates (originally a Bush appointee) and Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki — have military experience. Add the six officials that the Obama administration considers to be Cabinet rank, and the total remains. Two.

By contrast, the first Cabinet of George W. Bush included six military veterans — seven when you add his first Homeland Security Secretary, Tom Ridge.

A White House spokesperson noted that it has many vets within the administration — such as National Security Adviser James Jones, National Intelligence Director Dennis Blair, Matthew Flavin at the Department of Defense, Assistant Veterans Affairs Secretary Tammy Duckworth and senior foreign policy adviser Mark Lippert.

I should note: I chose to compare Cabinets because the list is not subjective.

And the Cabinet choices reflect the presidents' views as to who should govern this country and the type of people with whom they choose to surround themselves.

Why the difference in the makeup of veterans in the two administrations' Cabinets? Figure generational differences are at play, as some Obama appointees were too young for Vietnam-era service. I thought gender might account for the lower number of vets, but both Bush

and Obama chose four women to serve in their first Cabinets.

Me? I've never served in the military. I also have never had a military-service litmus test for political candidates, although I do see military experience as a strong plus.

Yet the political conversation goes from partisans fiercely advocating for the need for military service, and then, poof, it's gone.

In 2004, Democrats were saluting Kerry and trashing Bush and Cheney for their lack of combat experience. Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe called Bush "AWOL" during Vietnam — unbothered by the fact that his former boss, President Bill Clinton, evaded National Guard service.

In 2008, only two Democrats running for president — former Sen. Mike Gravel and Sen. Chris Dodd — had any military experience. None of the top three contenders — Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and John Edwards — was a veteran.

In 2009, America is still at war in Iraq and Afghanistan. America has a president with no military experience and a vice president with five draft deferrals. But I don't think you'll be hearing the term "chicken hawk." And that's OK with me. It always was a phony issue.

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

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Age brings wisdom, early bedtime

A wave of shame swept over me as I finished ordering my tall decaf skim iced caramel macchiato at Starbucks the other day. Perhaps the only way to make my order less manly would have been to request it served in a pink glass and humming an Elton John song as the barista made it.

Once a proud drinker of straight coffee with full caffeine and no flavors, whipped cream or other ridiculous stomach problems, the need to occasionally sleep and generally getting older forced me to start placing this hopelessly wimpy order. At least I was not wearing Crocs while ordering or sporting an outfit that matched my 5-year-old's, but it was the type of coffee order I would have teased someone else about.

Never exactly James Dean or even z-grade Dean knockoff, Luke Perry, getting married and becoming a father has made me even less macho.

I now go to bed by 10:30 most

nights, consider midnight impossible late and am more likely to know the name of Spongebob's friends than the name of a hip, young band.

In my earlier days I worked at a rock magazine, stayed out late going to concerts, drank coffee by the pot and didn't consider staying up for Conan (in his pre "Tonight Show 12:30 a.m. time slot) abnormal.

Now, I run a toy store, go to approximately four concerts a year, take Prevacyl, drink water by the bottle and am lucky to make it through the 8:30 p.m. replay of "The Colbert Report."

While I'm only 35, I find myself no longer able to keep up with the way my young staff members live. They're wearing hip clothes and the latest sneakers and I'm wearing, well, clothes and buying new Dr. Scholl's inserts for my decidedly untrendy sneakers.

Forget learning about new music, I can't learn the names of all the energy drinks available. I'm aware of Monster and Red Bull, but the rest sound like they're from a factory that just pumps out high sugar, high caffeine beverages giving them random, aggressive sounding names.

Drinking a caffeine free Diet Coke in front of my younger staff

makes me feel like I'm my grandfather keeping a secret stash of Moxie in the basement, except Moxie at least had some gritty street cred. Much like Moxie, Diet Coke tastes terrible, nothing like an actual Coke. It was created for overweight middle-aged women, one of which, I have apparently become.

The most adventurous part of my day today involved a trip to Target where I bought kitty litter and looked at, but did not purchase, a new crock pot.

I'm window shopping for slow cookers while contemplating the merits of various methods of dealing with cat waste. My younger self would punch me in the mouth and my younger self wasn't that tough to begin with.

While I don't want to go back to being a teenager, I would like to find a little more fun in my everyday routine.

Perhaps I will guzzle some Crunk!!! (yes, the three exclamation points are part of the title), down some Amp or maybe even quaff a Hype.

It's more likely though, that, I will cave in and buy the crock pot.

Daniel B. Kline's work appears in over 100 papers weekly. He can be reached at dan@notastep.com



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Bird Poop: Enjoyable times with a green heron

“Your Saturday should be a good one,” said the radio announcer. “Clear, mild, with light and variable winds,” he continued as he provided the day’s outlook.

By noon, we had finished mowing and edging the yard. Since the temperature was climbing, we decided to finish an indoor project. Half-way through, a glance out the windows signaled our bright day was becoming cloudy.

Outside, gentle breezes had been overtaken by an eerie stillness. From the darkening sky, clouds seemed to be joining forces. From their undersides were clusters of short, rounded loops that were growing in frightening numbers.

The calm was suddenly broken by a chilling wind from the southwest. “It’s rained somewhere,” said Art as we went back in the house.

When the wind-driven rain slammed into our house, we were apprehensive of what might come.

The radio offered no reassurance. “Possibly large hail,” warned the announcer. After the rain pelted our windows like winter’s sleet, the storm lessened, then continued eastward.

Confident that once again we had been spared from a spring phenomenon, we were startled as the ring from the phone interrupted our afternoon. Working at the Rodeo Bowl, a Humane Society worker had found what she thought was some type of shore bird.

The next call came from a residential area adjacent to our state park. Underneath the trees of one home, 75 birds of various species littered a front yard.

East of town, the game warden reported sixteen Mississippi kites on the ground. Battered by hail, only two were barely alive.

Checking with Animal Control, we learned the hail had traveled in lines across the community. As it came from the southwest, the pelting had cut a narrow swath that had missed our neighborhood by one block.

Still wet from the drenching rain, the bird we were given at the rodeo arena was a small, dark-colored heron. If we were correct in identifying it as a green heron, we knew it could be in our area during spring and summer.

When the bird struggled to rise from the ground as she approached, the worker had noticed the sagging of one wing. Bruising or a possible fracture were possible from the golf ball sized hail.

Below a blackish crest, the sides of its head, neck and chest were a subtle reddish brown or chest-



Courtesy photo

Preferring early morning and late evening, the green heron is a day feeder. Needing a pond, creek, river, or marsh-like environment for the food it requires during migration, the bird avails itself of frogs, crawfish, small fish, and grasshoppers.

nut, with a tinge of white on its chin and down its neck. With proper lighting, its grayish green back appeared almost glossy. Adding to its coloration were yellow eyes and orangish legs. Its dark back, brownish-gray underparts, blackish green wings and tail, seemed nondescript in comparison.

Thanking the alert volunteer, we carried home our new responsibility. Providing the heron with a large cage, we offered several roosts and a shallow bowl of water. By what happened next it was hard to determine who had the most fun.

Adding minnows for the heron’s pleasure, we backed away to watch. The agitated movements of its tail and crest slowed, then stopped. As if frozen, it watched the fish for only a moment.

Slowly moving forward with guarded steps, the heron flattened itself almost parallel to the floor of the cage. In this crouch, its short neck had been retracted. With a quick thrust, it propelled its neck forward. Grabbing an unsuspecting prey with its pointed bill, the heron downed the minnow and went for more.

The following day we delivered our guest to the wildlife sanctuary in Midland. A fracture in the wing was revealed by x-rays. Although the bird would have to remain until healing was accomplished, it would be given additional parts of its



BEBE McCASLAND

diet: insects, earthworms and mice.

Fifteen years later we were reminded again of the enjoyment we had shared with a green heron. Having driven to Sterling City to meet volunteers with an owl from San Angelo, I noticed the top of their car. Often during spring and summer when we met, the couple had told of their rescues and the nesting habits of the green herons in their neighborhood.

The descriptions of saving youngsters and watching them succeed in climbing among the branches of nesting trees had entertained our imaginations. Long before they could fly, these birds would use not only their feet and wings as they struggled upward. Placing their bill and chins over a branch, they somehow managed to pull themselves to the next limb.

Seen on their car’s roof was the announcement that a family of green herons was occupying the tree under which the couple parked. With a splattered motif, the avian decoration signified approval of the tree’s location near a river.

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PARENT’S CORNER

Not enough mean parents

I had the opportunity during our Mother’s Day activities to chat with my boys about the logic that motivates a parent. I included information that was sent to me by my cousin discussing MOM (abbreviation for Mean ole Mother).



DARRELL RYAN

Part of the dialog went as follows: I love you enough to ask where you are going, with whom, and what time you will be home. I love you enough to be silent and let you discover that your new best friend is a creep. I love you enough to stand over you for two hours while you clean your room, a job that should have taken 15 minutes. I love you enough to let you see anger, disappointment and tears in my eyes. I know that children must learn that their parents are not perfect.

I love you enough to let you assume the responsibility for your actions even when the penalties are so harsh they almost break my heart. But most of all, I love you enough to say no when I know you will hate me for it. These are the most difficult battles of all and I will win them, because in the end you will win too. I know that someday when your

children are old enough to understand the logic that motivates parents, you will tell them.

Now I thought I had the meanest parents in the whole world! While other kids ate candy for breakfast, I had to have cereal, eggs and toast. When others had a Pepsi and a Twinkie for lunch, I had to eat sandwiches. And for dinner (which at my house we called supper) my parents insisted on a family meal.

My parents also insisted on knowing where I was at all times. I thought I was a convict in a prison. My parents had to know who my friends were and what I was doing with them. They insisted that if I said I would be gone for an hour, I would be gone for

an hour or less. I was ashamed to admit it, but they had the nerve to break the Child Labor Laws by making me work. I had to wash the dishes, make the beds, learn to cook, vacuum the floor, do laundry, empty the trash and all sorts of cruel jobs. I think they would lie awake at night thinking of more things for me to do. They always insisted on me telling the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

By the time I was a teenager, my parents could read my minds and had eyes in the back of their heads. Life was really tough! My parents wouldn’t let my friends just honk the horn when they drove up. They had to come up to the door so they

could meet them. While everyone else could date when they were 12 or 13, I had to wait until I was 16. Because of my parents I missed out on lots of things other kids experienced. I have never been caught shoplifting, vandalizing other’s property or ever arrested for any crime. It was all my parents’ fault.

Now that I am raising a family of my own I am doing the best I can to be a mean parent just like mine were. I guess that is what’s wrong with the world today; it just doesn’t have enough mean parents!

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

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Advertisement for Sealed Bids The Howard County Junior College District is now accepting bids for the following:

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SWCID Core Swich System Documents may be obtained from Jason Mims, Director of Business Services, Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432)264-5167. Sealed proposals will be accepted through 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 2, 2009, in the Practical Arts Building, room 105A, Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, at which time they will be read into record. Vendors are instructed that a formal opening will not occur. The college will negotiate with qualified vendors concerning the bids submitted. The final determination of bid award will be made at a future board meeting. All questions should be directed to Jason Mims, Director of Business Services, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, e-mail jmims@howardcollege.edu, (432)264-5167. Howard County Junior College District reserves the right to reject any and all bids. #6141 May 13 & 19, 2009

Tomorrow's Horoscope

This is the last full day of the sun in Taurus, and a productive one at that. You may not have the proper resources or man power to finish the things on your list, but it all gets done anyway, by way of luck combined with sheer determination. Reward yourself for this and many other strong efforts that have come together well over the last few weeks.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You've spent hours dreaming about doing a certain thing and it's time to stop dreaming. You'll never be exactly ready for this, so the thing to do is just to start and see what happens.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). People are too busy to care about what you're doing. You have to make them care by finding the benefit to them in your project. Keep asking yourself, "What's in it for them?" until you find answers.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your belief system is being challenged. You respect those who are able to make you think this deeply about how you've come to your values. It's an enlightening process, even though you may not change your mind.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Old patterns become uncomfortable to return to. That's how you know you're really going places. Give yourself a pat on the back for the work you did to make this progress.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Find a physical outlet for your pent-up energy and frustration. If you can work it out of your body, your mind will be free to create, solve problems and dream of new adventures.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept.

22). Just because you want something for yourself doesn't make you selfish. It's likely that what you want will benefit others, too. If your intentions are pure, you attract the highest good.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's funny how different people bring out dormant qualities of your personality. You get super-animated around the new personalities in your midst. You might tell a story you haven't thought about in ages.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). An organization you'll be dealing with has obvious problems. There are communication issues and a lack of strong leadership. This is an opportunity. Become the leader or suggest someone you think would do a good job.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A friend asks for a favor. As much as you'd like to help, were you in the same position you never would have asked this, and that takes away some of your motivation. Don't rush to do this one.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Knowing when to assert yourself and when to back off will be key to turning a situation in your favor. It's a delicate balance you're walking, but your talent for diplomacy will kick in when you need it most.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). If you don't honor your need for privacy, nobody else will. And people are overly interested in what you're doing lately. It might seem fun to have their attention for a while, but it gets old. Arrange for some quietude.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's still so easy to get a mixed message. Double-check to make sure that you and the person you are talking to are on the same page. It helps if you are dealing with the most informed person available.

HERE COMES THE GEMINI SUN! Tomorrow

brings a new solar journey and with it a burst of Gemini energy. So what can we expect from the sun's transit through the twins? The change will be quickly apparent. A breezy new perspective is available, too enticing not to adopt.

A window opens in the attic of your mind and the fresh air blows off the dust. Possibilities you didn't see before will shimmer, begging to be investigated.

Gemini energy is light, bright and intelligent but not serious. Gemini is about making things work out of pluck and savvy, not sweat and toil. If you're working too hard, just know that it's not necessary and probably not productive.

And if you can't seem to figure out how to do your job in a smarter way, the fix is simple: Head out to your local coffee shop, bookstore or trendy lunch spot and start talking to people. As the Sun transits this communicative realm of the sky, it's friendly conversations that make the world go around.

It's important to note that there's a fun sense of mischief that comes with this transit. When you shoot the breeze with a stranger, you never quite know whom you're talking to or the wonderful adventures that could spring from the connection.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Grammy Award-winning George Strait can get the crowd swaying with a barroom ballad or rouse them with his boot-stomping honky tonk — either way, this living legend keeps it real. This golden voiced king of country music was born under Taurus. Rootsy Taurus is the sign of country music because it's aligned with the rhythms of the earth, and also with money. Country music is a cash cow!

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Formula for Failure

East dealer.

East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ Q 8 2

♥ 10 4

♦ A Q 7 5

♣ K 9 5 2

WEST

♠ A J 3

♥ Q J 9 8 2

♦ 10 8 6 3

♣ 7

EAST

♠ 10 9 6 4

♥ 7 6 5 3

♦ 9

♣ A 10 8 4

SOUTH

♠ K 7 5

♥ A K

♦ K J 4 2

♣ Q J 6 3

The bidding:

East South West North

Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT

Opening lead — queen of hearts.

A declarer who plunges blindly ahead on the assumption that the key suits will break normally is sure to experience bitter disappointment from time to time. Consider this deal where South took it for granted at the outset that he would make three notrump, and soon found himself headed for down one.

He won the heart queen with the ace and, observing that nine tricks could not be made without establishing his clubs, played the queen. East took the ace and returned a heart to South's king.

When declarer next cashed the jack of clubs and West showed out, the contract suddenly lost its glamour. He could cash his club and dia-

mond winners to bring him to eight tricks, but could not then avoid losing three hearts and the spade ace to finish down one.

Since South was sure to succeed if the clubs were divided 3-2, he should first have stopped to ask himself if there was anything he could do to overcome a possible 4-1 club break. Had he done that, he would surely have seen the wisdom of approaching that suit in an entirely different way.

The best line of play is to cross to dummy with a diamond at trick two and lead a low club toward the closed hand. East cannot afford to go up with the ace — if he does, South immediately has nine tricks — so declarer wins the club with the queen. Dummy is then entered with a second diamond, and another low club is led. Again East has to play low, and South's jack wins the trick as West shows out.

The picture has now changed considerably. South has already scored two clubs to add to the two hearts and four diamonds he started with, so he simply abandons clubs and leads a spade to acquire his ninth trick.

Note that once South adopts this approach, there is nothing the defenders can do to stop him from making the contract. Note further that if West, rather than East, started with four clubs, South can eventually finesse dummy's club nine to bring in nine tricks.

Tomorrow: There's nothing at all to it.

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Texas Briefs

More abuse found at Corpus Christi state school

DALLAS (AP) — At least 40 Corpus Christi State School employees were fired or forced to resign for abusing or neglecting residents during the same two-year span when workers organized fights between residents, according to a newspaper analysis.

Six former employees were indicted for their alleged roles in the fights.

State officials have said the Corpus Christi fight club abuse was isolated — and happened on under-supervised night shifts.

But a review of state termination records show the employees who were fired or forced to resign are accused of incidents in the last four years that occurred during day shifts. Twenty-two more were suspended without pay for their offenses, The Dallas Morning News reported.

The Corpus Christi facility does appear to have higher-than-average rates of abuse. In 2008, the facility averaged one case of confirmed abuse, neglect or exploitation for every six residents — one of the highest rates among Texas' 13 institutions for the disabled.

Among the confirmed Corpus Christi cases:

In July 2007, an employee found a female resident hanged in her bedroom and did not try to help her, "potentially reducing her chance of survival," according to a letter outlining findings in the case. It's the only known case in which abuse or neglect contributed to a patient's death.

In August, a worker used a belt to whip a resident on the face and mouth.

The Texas House voted Monday to improve security and oversight of the state's large state institutions for the mentally disabled.

"This bill should be the beginning of the state finally meeting its legal, ethical and moral obligation to taking care of ... our state's most vulnerable population," said Rep. Abel Herrero, D-Robstown, whose district includes the Corpus Christi State Schools.

Lawmakers have been looking to improve the facilities known as state schools in the wake of a 2008 federal report that said residents' civil rights were being routinely violated.

Gov. Rick Perry declared the issue a legislative emergency in February and the Senate passed a similar bill in March. Monday's vote in the House comes two weeks before the June 1 end of the session.

The House bill re-names them as "state supported living centers" and each would be assigned an ombudsmen to work directly with residents' families to address problems.

El Paso teen killed by stray bullet in Juarez

EL PASO (AP) — A 15-year-old El Paso teenager was killed by a stray bullet while attending a family gathering across the border in Juarez over the weekend.

Tania Lozoya, a freshman at Coronado High School, had been at her aunt's house along with her parents and two of her brothers when gunfire broke out when two men chased another man into the backyard of the residence.

Daniela Gonzalez Lara, a spokeswoman for the regional prosecutor's office in Mexico, said Tania and two men were killed at the party in Ciudad Juarez on Saturday. Tania was shot in the neck and died at a hospital, Gonzalez said. Six shell casings were found, Gonzalez said.

Tania, who had a broken foot and was on crutches, was in the living room when the gunshots began.

"My sister was on her way to the floor when the bullet caught her on the neck," Abraham Lozoya Jr. told the El Paso Times.

Abraham Lozoya Jr. said his parents and siblings were in Juarez to celebrate a cousin's baptism and another cousin's birthday.

He said his sister dreamed of going to an Ivy League school to study law.

"Ever since she saw that movie 'Legally Blonde,' she wanted to go to law school. She had been telling me for a while it was her dream to go to Harvard to study law. I would tell her she could do it, to stick to it and follow her dreams. I knew she

could do it," he said.

"It's hard to believe she's gone. She struggled so hard to get where she was and in a minute, they took all that away."

Additional counselors were sent to Tania's high school on Monday to speak to students.

"This has come as a shock because we don't expect when you go out to a birthday party with your parents to have some stray bullet hit you," Principal Marielo Morales said. "It's always hard when you lose somebody, especially when they are so young and when they have their life ahead of them. I'm just thinking about her parents and siblings and how hard it must be for them."

East Texas man set to die Tuesday

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Condemned prisoner Michael Riley wasn't volunteering to die but had asked his friends to not pray for a reprieve that would keep him from the Texas death chamber Tuesday evening.

"I've been locked up 23 years," Riley, 51, said recently from a tiny visiting cage outside death row. "I've been going through this over and over. It's getting old."

With his appeals exhausted and the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles refusing a clemency request, Riley was set to die for fatally stabbing a store clerk during a robbery in 1986 in his hometown of Quitman in East Texas.

His lethal injection would be the 15th this year in the nation's most active death penalty state.

Riley had been a frequent customer at the Shop-A-Minit convenience store and when he walked in and asked for ice cream on a Saturday morning, clerk Wynona Lynn Harris told him to help himself. She was busy counting money.

Riley pulled out a 10-inch butcher knife, stabbed her in the back and kept stabbing. After inflicting nearly three dozen wounds, he walked out with about \$1,000 in a money bag and a left a trail of bloody footprints leading toward his home a few blocks away.

"He stabbed her with such force he bent the end of the blade and bent the handle on the concrete floor when he was ramming it through her," recalled Marcus Taylor, the former district attorney in Wood County who prosecuted Riley for capital murder. "The crime scene was extremely violent. He severed bones all over her body."

Speaking to The Associated Press from death row, Riley readily acknowledged the slaying and blamed a gambling addiction for repeatedly getting him into trouble.

"Dice," he said. "I've been a gambler all my life. I was weak. Every time I was locked up, it was dice games I lost."

In 2005, Riley was within days of execution when lawyers contending he was mentally disabled and ineligible for capital punishment won a court-ordered reprieve.

"You can't be scared to die," he said. "After so many years here, you should be prepared for it."

Man charged in Mother's Day crash that killed 3

GALVESTON (AP) — A Galveston man has been charged with three counts of intoxication manslaughter in connection with a rear-end collision that killed three people on the city's seawall on Mother's Day.

Orvel Wayne Speck, 44, was booked into the Galveston County Jail after being released Sunday from Memorial Hermann Hospital-Texas Medical Center, where he had been treated for injuries suffered in the crash. He was being held in lieu of bonds totaling \$240,000. Jail records did not show if he had an attorney.

Police said alcohol and speed were factors in the crash that killed Tremaine Albert, 25, his stepson Alan Meredith, 10, and his godson, Isaiah Barnett, 3. Albert's wife and another child escaped injury, police said.

Albert was loading his parked car when a sport utility vehicle driven by Speck slammed into it, causing Albert to collapse on the sidewalk and throwing the two children into the street, the Houston Chronicle reported.

Galveston police said the crash happened after the SUV drove onto the sidewalk atop the seawall.

Police said the three victims were with several families celebrating Mother's Day at the beach.

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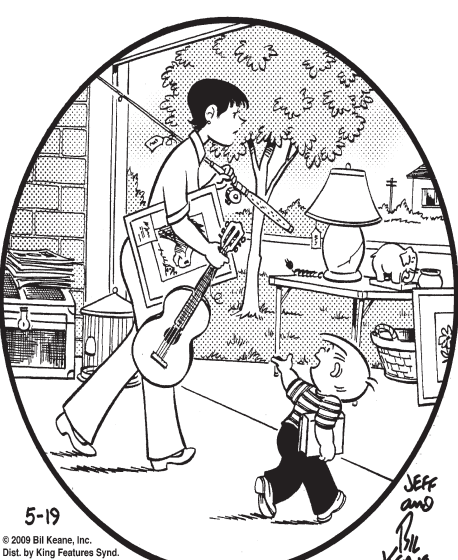
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5:30 PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Lopez Lopez	News CBS	Noticiero	News NBC	Raymond Friends	Scrivner Uri Harel	BBC Business	Cash Cab	Dogmen, Kurtwood Smith	CSI: NY	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas and Ferb	Horn Interrupt	SportsCenter
6:30 PM	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Tontas Cielo	Two Men Two Men	News CBS	12 Corazones	News NBC	Seinfeld	Dr. Young	News-Lehrer	Deadliest Catch	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order			Montana NFL Live	Football	
7:30 PM	Dancing Stars	Dancing Stars	Cuidado-Angel	American Idol	Entertain NCIS	Doña Barbara	Moments	Fam. Guy	Israel	Nova (DVS)	Deadliest Catch	Movie: Penelope Ann Miller	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	Movie: Barbershop	Movie: The Thirteenth Year	Poker	NBA
8:30 PM	Dancing With the Stars	Dancing With the Stars	Mañana es	Glee	The Mentalist	El Rostro de Analia	Law & Order: SVU	Fam. Guy	Office	Light of the Southwest	Deadliest Catch	Frontline (DVS)	Deadliest Warrior	Law & Order	College	Wizards	Series of Poker	NBA Draft
9:30 PM			Aquí y Ahora	TMZ	(:01) Without a Trace	Sin Senos El Cartel	Law & Order: SVU	My Boys	Office		Out of the Wild	Deadliest Warrior	Bones	College	College	Montana	Baseball Tonight	NBA Conf. Final
10:30 PM	News Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	Raymond King-Hill	News	Noticias	News	Office	Israel Cortes		Deadliest Catch	Movie: Sleeping With the Enemy	4th and Long	Law & Order	Movie: Barbershop	Suite Life	SportsCtr.	
11:30 PM	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Escuela VIP	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones de	Late Night-Jim	Sex & Friends	Ministerio-Vida	Smiley	Deadliest Catch	Smiley	CSI: NY	Cold Case		Life De	NASCAR	
12:30 AM	News Jimmy Kimmel Live	Extra	Contra Viento	RENO 911	Insider	Pagado	News	Movie: Stuck on You, Eva Mendes	Church	Out of the Wild	Movie: Coogan's Bluff, Susan Clark	Amazing Video	Cold Case	College	College	Replace	Poker	Fastbreak
1:30 AM	News Jimmy Kimmel Live	Marketing	Mujer...	Friends	Entertain	Pagado	Poker After Dark		Light of the Southwest	Everest: Limit	Disorderly Con.	Disorderly Con.	Cold Case	The Deal	Emperor Dragon	NHRA Drag Racing	SportsCenter	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I'M NOT AFRAID OF MY OWN SHADOW, BUT THERE'S LOTS OF OTHERS OUT THERE THAT ARE SCARY!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

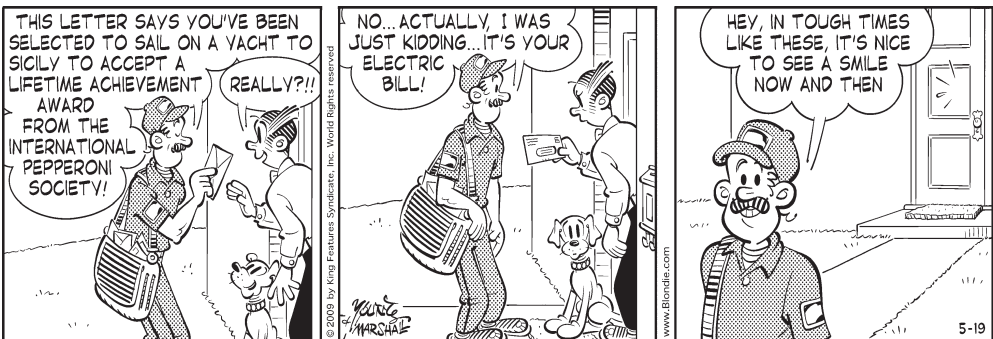


"All the kids in my class are comin' to our garage sale. They don't have any money, but they like to watch."

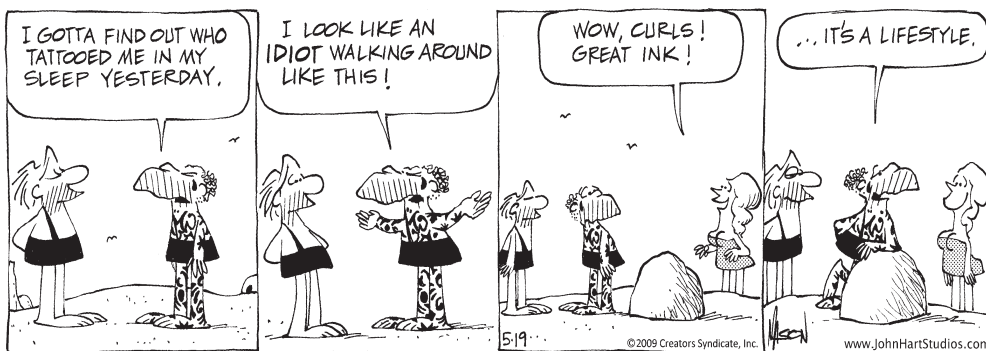
HAGAR



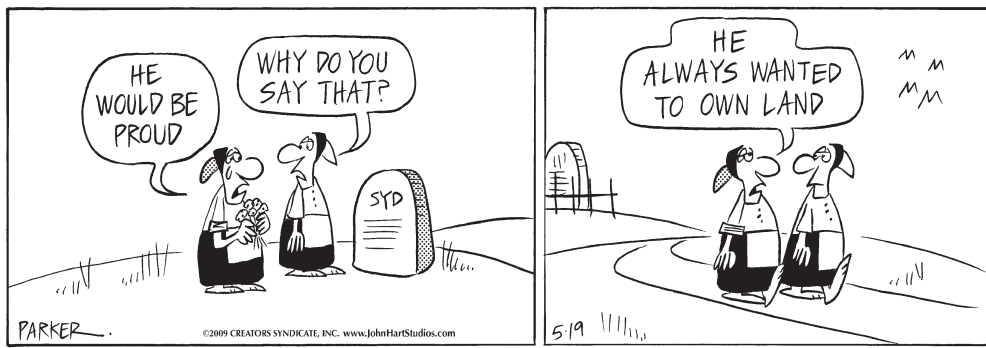
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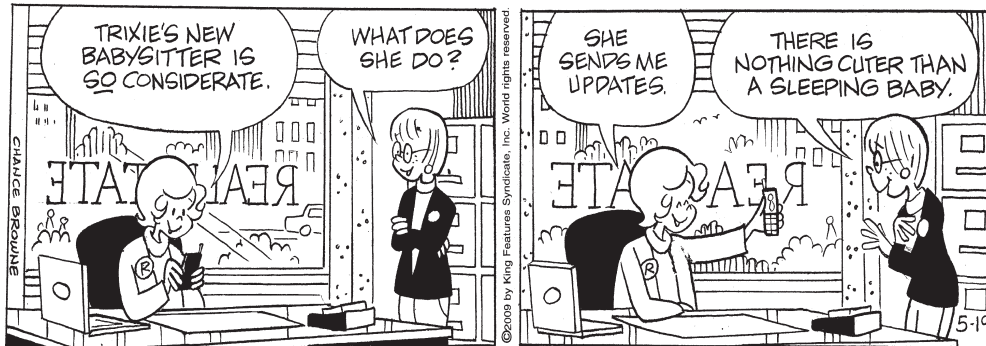
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AGNES



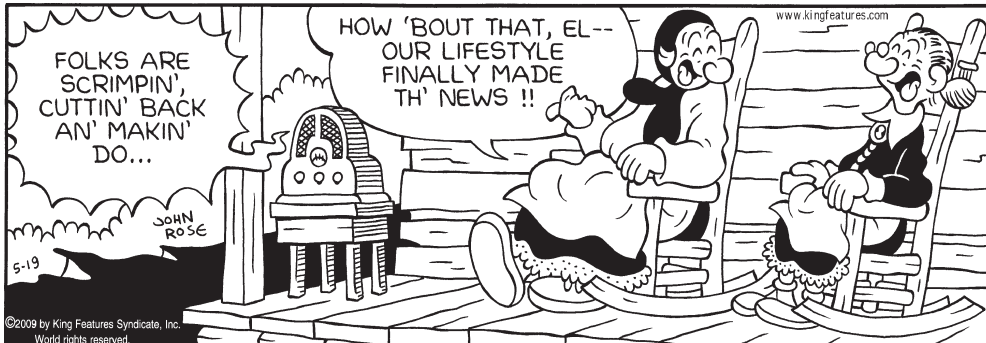
HI AND LOIS



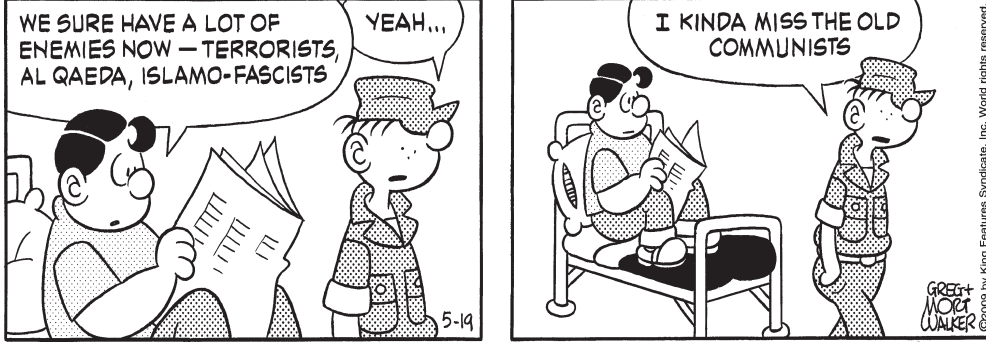
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, May 19, the 139th day of 2009. There are 226 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: One hundred years ago, on May 19, 1909, the innovative Ballets Russes (Russian Ballets), under the direction of Sergei Diaghilev, debuted in Paris.

In 1536, Anne Boleyn, the second wife of England's King Henry VIII, was beheaded after being convicted of adultery.

In 1780, a mysterious darkness enveloped much of New England and part of Canada in the early afternoon.

In 1921, Congress passed, and President Warren G. Harding signed, the Emergency Quota Act, which established national quotas for immigrants.

In 1935, British soldier T.E. Lawrence, also known as "Lawrence of Arabia," died in Dorset, England, six days after being injured in a motorcycle crash.

In 1943, in an address to the U.S. Congress, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill pledged his country's full support in the fight against Japan.

In 1962, during a Democratic fundraiser at New York's Madison Square Garden, actress Marilyn Monroe sang "Happy Birthday to You" to guest-of-honor, President John F. Kennedy.

In 1964, the State Department disclosed that 40 hidden microphones had been found in the U.S. embassy in Moscow.

In 1967, the Soviet Union ratified a treaty with the United States and Britain banning nuclear weapons from outer space.

In 1992, the 27th Amendment to the Constitution, which prohibits Congress from giving itself pay raises until the next congressional term, went into effect.

In 1994, former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis died in New York at age 64.

Today's Birthdays: PBS newscaster Jim Lehrer is 75. TV personality David Hartman

is 74. Actor James Fox is 70. Actress Nancy Kwan is 70. Author-director Nora Ephron is 68. Actor Peter Mayhew is 65. Rock singer-writer Pete Townshend (The Who) is 64. Concert pianist David Helfgott is 62. Rock singer-musician Dusty Hill (ZZ Top) is 60. Singer-actress Grace Jones is 57. Rock musician Phil Rudd (AC-DC) is 55. Former baseball catcher Rick Cerone is 55. Actor Steven Ford is 53. Rock musician Iain Harvie (Del Amitri) is 47. Actor Jason Gray-Stanford is 39. Rock singer Jenny Berggren (Ace of Base) is 37. Actor Drew Fuller is 29. Christian rock musician Tim McTague is 26. Actor Eric Lloyd is 23.

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Answer to previous puzzle

CARS	SPAS	STIR
OREOS	HULA	TIRE
LADLE	OMEN	ALAS
ABOVEBOARD	GENT	
ETA	STAVE	
TDS	OLD	LOSERS
REAL	SOON	LEVEE
UPFORGRAB	ATTIME	
STEVE	SEAL	SLID
THREAD	TLC	STY
SPRIG	AHA	
TALE	OVERHAUL	
AREA	NONE	ORATE
LINT	ERIE	SANTA
LADS	DYED	SEER

Newsday Crossword

WHAT'S YOUR SIGN by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13			14		15			16			
17					18			19			
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62			63		64				65		
66					67				68		
69					70						71

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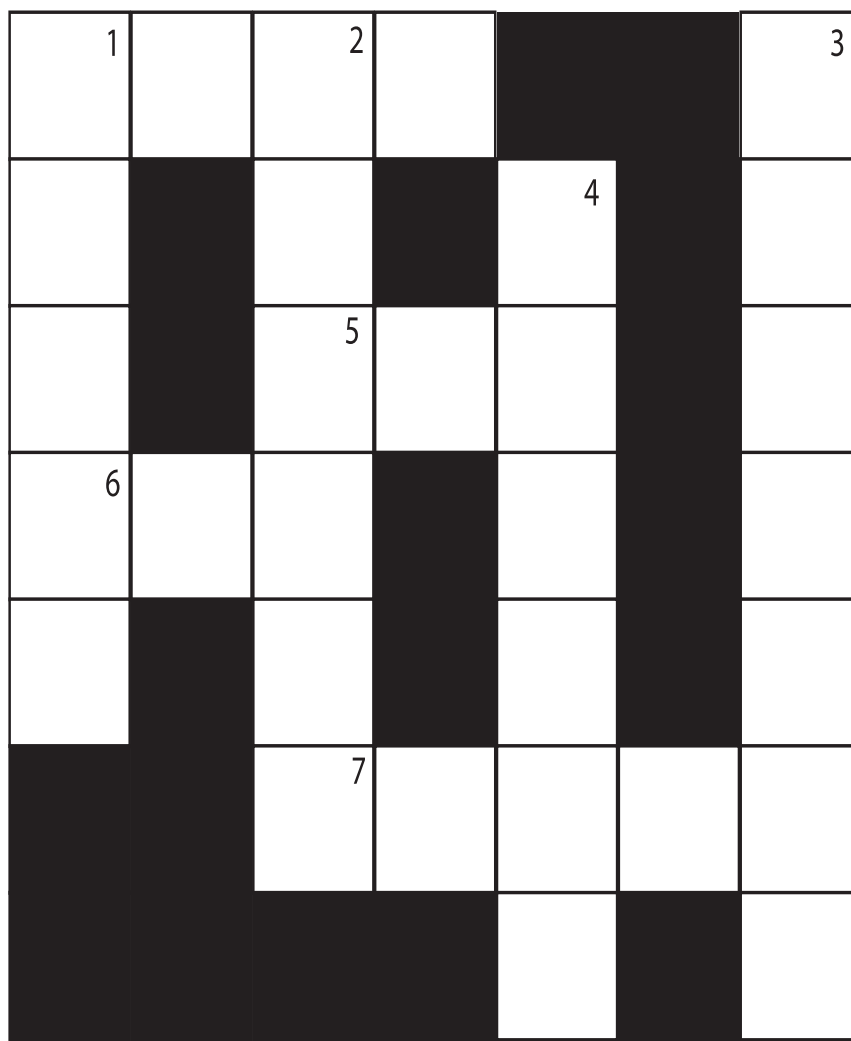
Back In Motion Chiropractic

**Mike Thomas,
Attorney At Law**

ALON USA

**Troy Tompkins,
CMFC Financial Planner
The Prudential Insurance
Company Of America**

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. Sugary drink
- 5. Inflated feeling of pride
- 6. Bunch
- 7. To gargle

DOWN

- 1. Show happiness
- 2. One who diets
- 3. Cleans teeth with special string
- 4. Consecutive effect

Down
1. Smile 2. Dieter 3. Flosses 4. Domino

Across
1. Soda 5. Ego 6. Lot 7. Rinse

Answers:

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1761: THE FIRST LIFE INSURANCE POLICY WAS ISSUED IN THE UNITED STATES IN PHILADELPHIA.
- 1849: ABRAHAM LINCOLN RECEIVED A PATENT FOR A FLOATING DRY DOCK.
- 1992: JOHNNY CARSON MADE HIS LAST HOSTING APPEARANCE ON "THE TONIGHT SHOW."



CARIES

dental tooth decay
also known as cavities

HEALTH FACT!



WHAT TWO MAIN SUBSTANCES MAKE UP A PERSON'S TOOTH?

ANSWER: DENTIN AND ENAMEL

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Smile

SPANISH: Sonrisa

ITALIAN: Sorriso

FRENCH: Sourire

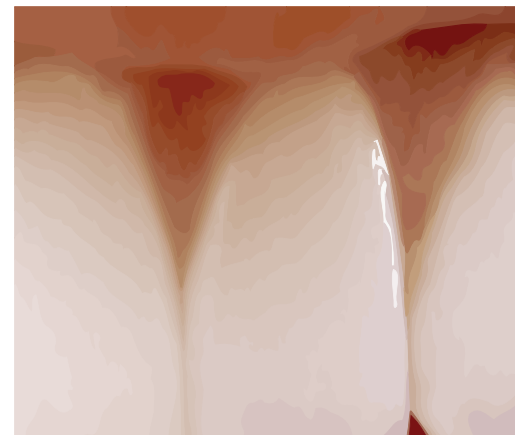
GERMAN: Lächeln

Did You Know?

ORTHODONTIC WORK, INCLUDING BRACES, CAN HELP CREATE A BEAUTIFUL AND STRAIGHTER SMILE.



GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: TEETH

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1742 PURDUE **1605 5TH**

Dear Annie: My in-laws always visit on weekends when things are really laid back around the house. My mother-in-law is great about pitching in and helping with the kids and the house. The trouble is, she never stops. When I cook, she murmurs criticisms about the food, so I stay out of her way and let her do it. She also organizes my cupboards and drawers, and advises me on how to clean. Annie, I know how to clean and organize. I just don't do it on the weekends. Besides, I have my own system, and after my mother-in-law is finished, I can't find anything.

Lazy and Married to Her Son

Dear Not Lazy: Your mother-in-law sounds like one of those women who needs to prove she is still important, and this is how she does it. It has nothing to do with your house-keeping skills. It's OK to ignore her, but better yet, when she shows up, wrap your arms around her and exclaim, "I'm so glad you're here to take over the house! I have errands to run." Then go and enjoy yourself.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

I know she thinks her daughter-in-law is clueless and lazy, and feels responsible for setting me straight on my housekeeping responsibilities. But who does she think cleans the rest of the year? I've tried to ignore her, but I'd like her to stop. How can I be domestically diplomatic with my overbearing cleaner-in-law? — Not

Dear Annie: My husband and I have been married for 15 years. Whenever we go out, he stares at attractive women. He's so obvious that many of these women assume he is

interested in them and flirt back. My husband is a good-looking guy, so this happens a lot.

I can no longer bear it. It is almost like he is trying to make a connection with these women. I have tried to get him to go to counseling, but he says it's my problem and he can't help "noticing" women. It makes me worry what he does when I'm not around. I find this behavior hurtful and humiliating. My resentment is growing by the minute. Please help. — Maybe It's Time To Leave

Dear Maybe: Your husband gets a charge out of the attention from these women. He may never act on it, but you don't sound convinced of his fidelity. Some women can tolerate this behavior, but in your case, it is causing severe damage to your marriage. Ask him again to come for counseling, this time explaining that you are ready to walk out. If he won't go, go without him.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Had Enough," who had a colostomy and is no longer interested in intimacy.

I had my ostomy surgery 21 years ago, at the

age of 21. I have since learned that the ostomy is only a 4-by-4 inch square with a pouch. My face, eyes, arms, legs, smile, mind, etc. are still the same. I have found that taking care of my body helps me feel better about it, and the ostomy doesn't have to change anything except how I use the restroom. I exercise, scuba dive, travel and love life. My husband and I have been together for 15 years, and the ostomy affects nothing in our relationship because I have learned that my self-worth is based on many qualities, and the right-hand side of my stomach isn't one of them.

Options (options-ostomy.com), an online company, makes wonderful undergarments. There are online support groups, too. An ostomy is created to save our lives, and now we have to decide how to live them. I choose joy and happiness. If she can find her way down the same path, that 4-by-4 inch square with a pouch won't seem so big anymore. — The Happy "Bag" Lady

Dear Happy: Thank you for the words of encouragement. We hope she is listening.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. E-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611.



BILLY SPEER
MINISTRIES

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at 7:00 p.m.

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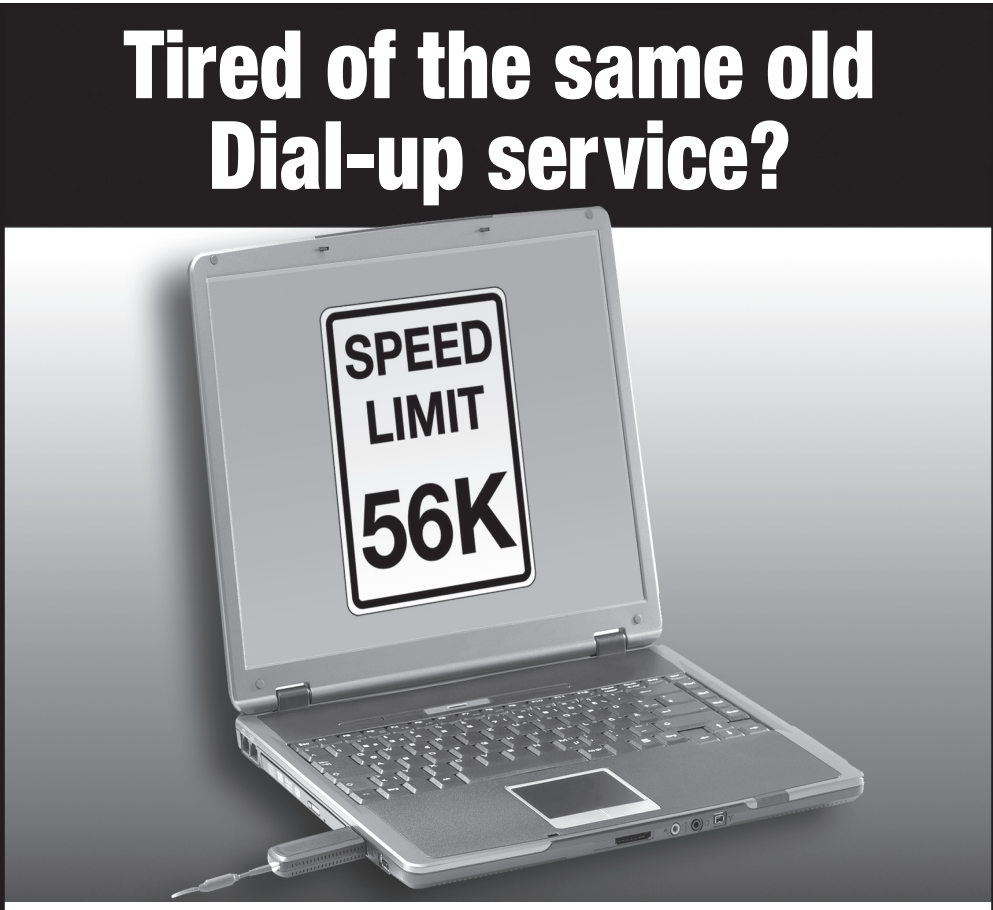
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