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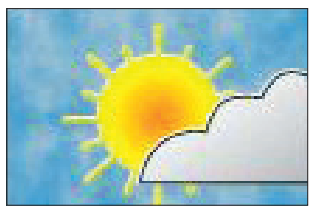


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BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY

MAY 21, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 146

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HERALD file photo

Dylan Nutter and Alexis Henry, 8 years old in this file photo, let their artistic imaginations run wild as they make teddy bears out of paper plates during the Salvation Army's Girls and Boys Club summer program. This year's program begins June 8 and several spots are still open, officials said.

Click it or Ticket

Public complying with seat belt law, says PD lieutenant

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Apparently, the importance of wearing a safety belt is getting through to local motorists, as law enforcement officials say their officers are having a hard time targeting violators during this year's Click it or Ticket campaign.

"The officers have written several citations, but overall, they are having a pretty tough time spotting safety belt violators," said Lt. Terry Chamness of the Big Spring Police Department.

See **CLICK IT**, Page 3

Summertime fun

Boys & Girls Club still has room for a few more kids

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA

Officials with the Big Spring Salvation Army's Boys & Girls Club of America say they still have several openings left for the annual program, which is set to begin June 8.

Program Coordinator Barry Barnett said the summer program, which is limited to 100 children, will be ready to go by the June start date.

"We really have a lot to do to plan everything," said Barnett. "My kids help with the muscular dystrophy camp each year, and they spend six months planning one week of camp."

I came onboard with the program about a month ago, and we have to plan 45 days of camp. So there's definitely a challenge there, but I feel like we'll be ready to go by June 8."

Barnett said the list of activities for summer camp-goers took a serious hit when the city of Big Spring

announced it wouldn't be opening the municipal swimming pool due to legal and safety issues.

"When we found out they (the city) were closing the pool down, it threw a pretty good monkey wrench into our plans," said Barnett. "However, we're working around it. We're planning some theme days, like crazy hat day, or crazy hair day. We're also working on some outdoor water activities. Just because the kids can't go to the pool doesn't mean they can't get wet and have some fun."

The program will run from June 8

See **SUMMER**, Page 3

Gaskins, Lucio Sands HS top students for '09

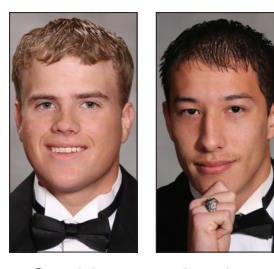
Herald Staff Report

Sands High School principal Zelda Bilbo has announced the valedictorian and salutatorian for the 2009 graduating class.

Logan Gaskins has been named valedictorian with a GPA of 98.8. Logan is the son of Van and Chris Gaskins of Knott. He plans to attend Texas A&M University with a major in agribusiness and agricultural economics.

Richard Lucio has been named salutatorian with a GPA of 98.3. He is the son of Lisa and Sam Rodriguez of Ackerly. Richard plans to attend Texas Tech University and major in architecture.

Also graduating with honors are Tamara Nichols, daughter of Terry and Dorothy Nichols of Ackerly; Brittni



Gaskins Lucio

See **SANDS**, Page 3

Investigation continues into shooting that damaged sheriff's vehicle, house

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Law enforcement officials remain tight-lipped concerning the May 11 shooting that damaged a Howard County deputy's vehicle and narrowly missed a woman in a nearby home, citing an ongoing investigation.

Chief Deputy Mark Hall said it's still unclear if the bullet that shattered the windshield of a deputy's vehicle was intended for the law enforcement officer or was a stray shot.

"The investigation is still ongoing, so I really can't go into detail," said Hall.

Hall said his office has a suspect in

custody, but declined to identify the alleged shooter.

"The suspect was arrested the same night as the shooting on an unrelated charge," said Hall. "We still have him in custody, but he hasn't been charged with the shooting yet. We're also looking for a second suspect, but he knows we're after him, so he's made himself scarce. Until we can bring him in, I'd rather not release the name of the first suspect."

The shooting took place in the 100 block of Lamesa Highway, near the Casa Blanca restaurant, according to law enforcement reports.

Hall also declined to release the identity of the deputy who was traveling in the vehicle on Lamesa High-

way when the shooting occurred. He did, however, confirm the deputy's injuries were minor.

"He got some of the glass in his eyes, but the wounds were minor," said Hall.

The unnamed deputy wasn't the only person to narrowly make it out of the altercation, according to Hall.

"Witnesses said they heard approximately six shots fired," said Hall. "Investigators located a second bullet at a nearby home, where it had entered the residence and missed a female subject by inches. Luckily, she is believed to have been the only person home at the residence at the time of the shooting."

See **SHOOTING**, Page 3

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Gifts For Your '09 Graduate

Appeals court affirms conviction of Harbert, serving time for murder

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The Texas Court of Appeals recently affirmed the murder conviction of a Lamesa man found guilty of December 2006 shooting of former Big Spring High School track star Tory Mitchell.

Michael E. "Gibson" Harbert, 23, was found guilty of murder and sentenced to life in prison — accompanied by a \$10,000 fine — by a jury in August of 2007. He was also sentenced to 20 years in prison and fined a second \$10,000 after being found guilty of possession of a firearm by a felon.

Both sentences were the maximum allowed by law.

The affirmation was issued May 14 per curiam memorandum opinion, delivered by the 11th District Court of Appeals Chief Justice Jim Wright, Justice Terry McCall and Justice Rick Strange.

According to testimony and law enforcement officials, the murder was the result of a dispute between Harbert and Mitchell.

"It appears that the defendant and Mr. Mitchell had their differences, and those differences appeared to have escalated, ultimately culminating in the state's allegation that Mr. Harbert shot Mr. Mitchell in the back with a .357 Magnum (pistol)," Howard County District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson said prior to the guilty verdict.

Mitchell earned fame as a multiple gold medal winning track athlete at Big Spring High School in the 1990s. He won back-to-back double gold medals at the state track meet in the 100 meters and 200 meters during that time and eventually signed a football scholarship with the University of Miami in 1999.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer for the Big Spring Police Department, Mitchell was shot multiple times.

"Patrol officers were dispatched to a residence in the 2600 block of Fairchild in reference to a shooting," said Everett. "Officers were advised that one subject had been shot and the suspect had left the scene in a small, red Ford. While en route to the call, a police officer saw a vehicle matching the description. He stopped and detained the two occupants of the vehicle."

Harbert, along with Felicia Aldridge, 20, of Big Spring, were arrested soon thereafter. Harbert was found to be in possession of a handgun that was ultimately proven by expert witnesses to be the murder weapon.

As Harbert was being led back to the county jail after receiving his life sentence, members of the Mitchell family taunted Harbert by waving and saying, "Bye-bye. Bye-bye for life."

Harbert responded in kind, saying, "At least I'm still breathing, and your cousin's still dead."

Family members of both the murderer and his victim exchanged heated words for a minute or two before police finally dispersed the crowd.

According to officials with the Howard County District Attorney's Office, the sentences must be served concurrently, meaning that Harbert must serve at least 30 years before becoming eligible for parole.

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

Texas Legislature

VOTER ID

AUSTIN (AP) — House Democrats said Wednesday they are prepared to put up a fight to stop a looming battle over efforts to require Texans to show more ID before they can vote.

The bill has already been a partisan flashpoint in the Republican-led Senate, where it was approved along party lines in March. But whether the proposal becomes law will depend largely on how it fares this week in the House, a still healing chamber that has seen more bipartisan harmony in the past five months under the rookie leadership of Speaker Joe Straus than in the past five years.

But Democrats, who helped propel the Republican into power, say their good relations with Straus won't hamper them from waging an all out war over voter ID, a bill they say is an unfair attempt to suppress votes.

"If anyone doubts our resolve to protect the voting rights of our constituents, they are sadly mistaken," House Democratic Leader Jim Durnam said. "It's a very serious issue, anytime you are trying to prevent people from voting."

Straus' office refused to comment.

Durnam and other Democrats did not say how they would stop the measure, but the most obvious option would be a quorum-busting road trip out of Austin, much like the trip Democrats took to Ardmore, Okla., in 2003 to halt a congressional redistricting effort. Without a quorum present, the House would not be able to conduct business.

WORK LEFT TO DO

With less than two weeks left in the legislative session, Democrats are complaining that the House has yet to deal with a number of substantive issues.

Among the legislation waiting for consideration are an effort to overhaul the Texas Department of Insurance, cap college admissions through the state's top 10 percent rule and lower college tuition rates.

"We have so many other issues that this Legislature has yet to address," said Rep. Jessica Farrar, chairwoman of the House Democratic Caucus. "Our concern is that those issues won't be addressed. What's being placed at the forefront of the agenda is a very partisan issue."

CLICK IT

Continued from Page 1

"They are parking in various locations and looking for motorists who refuse to buckle up, but it seems like they just aren't there like in years past.

"The program really seems to be working at this point. I'm very pleased with the citizens for taking the time to buckle up properly. It's a good thing for them, not just because it keeps them from getting a ticket, but because it increases their chances of surviving a traffic crash. From what I'm hearing from the officers on the street, the message is finally sinking in."

The state-funded, 14-day period — aptly named Click it or Ticket for its zero-tolerance policy on safety belt violations — began Monday and will continue through May 29, according to Chamness.

"The grant money allows us to keep an officer on the road for five four-hour shifts each day," said Chamness. "And these officers won't be doing their normal duties. They will be looking specifically for seat belt violations. So, if you decide not to buckle up, there's going to be an officer looking just for you."

"And if you do get caught, there won't be any talking your way out of a ticket. We've had a zero tolerance rule

for seat belt violations since 2002. You'll get a ticket, and the fine from Municipal Court will be \$147. It's also a moving violation, so it will effect what you're paying for insurance."

Chamness said the program, which focuses on the Memorial Day holiday, has been a big success in the past, and he and other law enforcement officials are happy with the results so far this year.

"When we quit doing Click it or Ticket about three years ago, safety belt compliance was at about 94 percent," said Chamness. "It's fallen to about 88 to 89 percent since then. However, if the last few days are any indication, I think we're going to see that

number rise quite a bit. Officers have written citations, but they aren't writing nearly as many as we had originally expected."

Since the start of the Click it or Ticket campaign in 2002, Texas has seen a 15 percent increase in safety belt compliance. In 2008, a study by the Texas Transportation Institute revealed that 91.2 percent of Texans were buckling up. This year, TxDOT hopes to increase safety belt compliance to 93.25 percent, according to state officials.

And while Click it or Ticket certainly aims to get drivers to buckle up, passengers should also be a major concern, according to Chamness.

"When you are the

driver, you're responsible for making sure all passengers are buckled up — especially the young ones," said Chamness. "Children under 17 buckle up only 70 percent of the time — and 10 percent of those are buckled up incorrectly. The fact remains that nearly 3,500 people

die on Texas roadways every year. Many of those deaths might be prevented by the proper use of safety belts."

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

SHOOTING

Continued from Page 1

Hall said the bullet recovered from the home came from a 9mm handgun.

Anyone with information regarding this or any other crime should call Big Spring Area Crimestoppers at 264-TIPS (8477) or contact the HCSO at 264-2244.

SANDS

Continued from Page 1

Blgrave, daughter of Stan and Carla Blgrave of Ackerly;

David Martinez, son of Venancio and Dora Martinez of Ackerly; Miranda Gutierrez, daughter of Pete and Emma Gutierrez of Ackerly; Kayla Franco, daughter of Daniel and

Nelda Franco of Ackerly; William Carson, son of Douglas and Katricia Carson of Ackerly; C.D. Karns, son of Cary Karns of Big Spring; and Melissa DeLeon, daughter of Mario and

Rita DeLeon.

Graduation ceremonies will take place at 8 p.m. Friday in the new auditorium of Sands High School.

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Jane Ray, 79, died Wednesday. Memorial Services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

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SUMMER

Continued from Page 1

until Aug. 14, according to Program Director Sonnet Hildebrand, Mondays through Fridays from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

"For a lot of parents, daycare just isn't an option," said Hildebrand. "The charge will be \$20 for the first two months and \$10 for August. That's the whole summer for \$50, which is within the reach of most parents. And they have the option of paying the entire amount up front, or just paying on a month-to-month basis."

Hildebrand said lunches will be provided during the first month, and after that, the children

will be expected to bring a sack lunch.

"The first month we'll be busing the kids to the (Big Spring) High School for lunch," she explained. "After that, the children will be responsible for bringing their own lunch, while we'll provide a snack for them."

The program is limited to 100 children, she added.

"We're currently taking applications now,"

said Hildebrand. "There are no financial restrictions to be met or anything like that. Once the program is full, there will be a waiting list in case any of the children drop out."

For more information on the program, contact Hildebrand at 264-0455.

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

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD



By Eddy Pitchford

Many parents accept their God-given responsibility to nurture their children in the Lord while others ignore the assignment. Some parents obsess and agonize over their inability to perfectly train their children.

One glimmer of hope is found in the Old Testament story of Joseph, who proved to be a person of faith, success, and integrity in spite of being raised in an extremely dysfunctional family that puts soap operas to shame.

Parents should not use Joseph as rationalization for neglecting their duty but they can take hope in knowing that even dysfunctional families can function and plant seeds of faith.

Embracing such a faith perspective is vital to nurturing children - and parents.

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► News in brief

4 men charged in plot to bomb NYC temple, shoot down military planes with guided missiles

NEW YORK (AP) — Four men arrested on charges of plotting to bomb a Jewish temple and shoot down military planes are expected to appear Thursday in federal court in White Plains.

Officials told The Associated Press the arrests came after a nearly yearlong undercover operation that began in Newburgh, N.Y., about 70 miles north of New York City.

James Cromitie, David Williams, Onta Williams and Laguerre Payen, all of Newburgh, were charged with conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction within the United States and conspiracy to acquire and use anti-aircraft missiles, the U.S. attorney's office said.

Three of the defendants are U.S. citizens and one is of Haitian descent, officials said.

The men had planned to detonate a car with plastic explosives outside a temple in the Bronx neighborhood of Riverdale and to shoot military planes at the New York Air National Guard base at Stewart Airport in Newburgh with Stinger surface-to-air guided missiles, authorities said.

AP poll: When campus stress goes beyond a case of the blues; students grapple with depression

WASHINGTON (AP) — Got stress? Oh, yeah, college students say, what with roommates, GPAs, student loans and all the rest.

But where's the line between feeling simply stressed and being truly depressed?

Eighty-five percent of college students surveyed in an Associated Press-mtvU poll reported feeling stressed in their daily lives in recent months: Worries about grades, school work, money and relationships were the big culprits.

At the same time, 42 percent said they had felt down, depressed or hopeless several days during the past two weeks, and 13 percent showed signs of being at risk for at least mild depression, based on the students' answers to a series of questions that medical practitioners use to diagnose depressive illness.

These students complained of trouble sleeping, having little energy or feeling down or hopeless — and most hadn't gotten professional help. Eleven percent had had thoughts that they'd be better off dead or about hurting themselves.

That's not just a case of the blues to be shrugged off by taking a break with Facebook or going for a workout.

Obama in political box over closing Guantanamo, looks for way out in Thursday speech

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama finds himself in a political box — at home and

abroad — on closing the Guantanamo Bay prison, and he has prepared a major address on national security in hopes of working out of the tight spot.

Obama was taking on the explosive topic Thursday, a day after the Senate, at the behest of majority Democrats, denied his request for \$80 million to close the prison. The 90-6 vote followed a similar move last week in the House and underscored widespread apprehension among Obama's Democratic allies in Congress over the issue.

In spite of lawmakers' concerns, the Obama administration plans to send a top al-Qaida suspect held at Guantanamo Bay to New York to stand trial for the deadly 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Africa, an administration official told The Associated Press on Wednesday. The suspect, Ahmed Ghailani, would be the first Guantanamo detainee brought to the U.S. and the first to face trial in a civilian criminal court.

On his second day in office, Obama announced that within one year he would close the prison that was constructed by the Bush administration at the U.S. naval base in Cuba to hold terrorism suspects, most of them captured in Afghanistan.

The Obama administration says the lockup had become a "recruiting poster" for al-Qaida because prisoners were being held indefinitely without charges and some were subjected to "enhanced interrogation," including waterboarding — a simulated drowning technique that Obama has called torture.

But when prisons close, inmates must either be released or sent to other jails, and Obama still "has not decided where some of the detainees will be transferred," spokesman Robert Gibbs said Wednesday.

In a shocker, Kris Allen takes 'American Idol' title from Adam Lambert after 100 million votes

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kris Allen beamed with disbelief, shook his head as if to reject that this was really happening and struggled to find words.

The fact that he'd just beaten rollicking vocal powerhouse Adam Lambert for the "American Idol" title wasn't going to sink in quickly for the unassuming underdog from Arkansas. The only downside to this stunning victory: He'd have to sing "No Boundaries" one more time.

"Adam deserves this. I'm sorry, I don't even know what to feel right now. This is crazy," said the 23-year-old from Conway, Ark.

Allen's smooth vocals and boy-next-door image gave him the edge after nearly 100 million viewer votes were cast, turning the theatrical Lambert into the most unlikely of also-rans. When the season started, Allen seemed unsure he had a right to take center stage, let alone stand there and snatch victory from such a formidable rival.

During his "Idol" audition last summer, Allen, hands in his pockets and a newsboy cap pulled down around his eyes, was asked by the judges if he was the best singer around.

"You know, there's probably people who are better than me," was Allen's response, offered in the quiet, low-key spirit he retained despite his growing profile.

Conversely, Lambert's commanding vocal range and stage presence — and the judges' lavish adoration — at times turned "Idol" into "The Adam Lambert Show," with the other contestants mere guests. But it turned out that "Idol" viewers could embrace a gifted performer like Lambert, one who sported black nail polish and bold self-assurance, only to a point.

Credit reform bill marks end of an era for college students who survive by using plastic

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's an end of an era for the thousands of college students who rely on MasterCard or Visa to get them through tight times.

Under a new law awaiting President Barack Obama's signature, credit card companies will be prohibited from giving cards to people under 21 unless they can prove they have the means to repay the debt or a parent or guardian co-signs for the loan.

Congress passed the bill this week, and Obama was expected to sign it into law Friday. The changes will go into effect in nine months.

"The hope is that when they spend, they'll spend under better terms and there'll be fewer traps for them," said Pedro de la Torre, a spokesman for Campus Progress, a progressive group in Washington that tracks issues affecting young people.

Congress is hoping to break a vicious cycle: A cardholder falls behind in paying the bill and watches helplessly as the interest rate spikes on the existing balance. Buried in higher rates and late fees, the cardholder spend less, which hurts local businesses.

College students are particularly vulnerable.

With Guantanamo closing money pulled, Senate set to approve Obama war funding request

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is likely to get a sweeping bipartisan endorsement when the Senate votes on his request for continuing military and diplomatic operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The \$91.3 billion measure being taken up by the Senate on Thursday closely tracks Obama's request for war funds, although the \$80 million he was seeking to close the U.S. naval prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, was dropped Wednesday.

A vote to limit debate was scheduled for Thursday. It was expected to succeed easily and pave the way for a final vote later in the day. A final House-Senate compromise is likely when Congress returns in June from a weeklong Memorial Day recess.

2009
Graduation Edition

Look For
The
Graduation
Section In
This Sunday's
Edition Of The
Big Spring Herald
It's A Momento
You'll Treasure
Through The Years.

76TH BIG SPRING COWBOY REUNION RODEO PARADE

5 p.m. — Thursday, June 18

Let's make this the biggest and best rodeo parade ever! Award categories include floats, tractors, riding clubs, motorcycle, custom and classic cars and bicycles. First- through third-place entries will receive cash awards of \$100, \$50 and \$25, respectively; while the top entries from the six categories will receive a plaque.

ENTRANT _____

TYPE ENTRY (Check type) Float Riding Club
 Custom/Classic Car
 Bicycle Tractor
 Motorcycle

CONTACT _____
 PHONE No. _____

Return entries to the Big Spring Herald, 710 Scurry, no later than noon on Monday, June 15, then get your boots, hat and western wear ready to join us in the celebration!

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: My 41-year-old fiancé, "Michael," recently started a new job that requires some overnight travel. Last week while out of town, a 21-year-old female co-worker asked Michael's help to put air in her tires. He got in her car and they drove together to a gas station. This week, while out of town again, he and the same co-worker texted and phoned each other a few times, which I found disturbing.

When I confronted him, he became defensive and said he did nothing wrong. I explained it was inappropriate to be riding in a female co-worker's car and for the two of them to call each other.

Even if it was completely innocent, there is always the possibility of an accusation of sexual harassment or that other co-workers will think negatively of him.

There are several male co-workers Michael could associate with, so I don't get why he has chosen to bond with this young girl. And what bothers me more is that he doesn't see how inappropriate it is. He says I have blown it out of all proportion and there is nothing further to discuss.

Is this just my insecurity surfacing, or do I have a legitimate concern? — *Worried in Virginia*

Dear Virginia: Both. The fact that a female co-worker asked a male co-worker to help her fix a tire is perfectly understandable and it's not a stretch that he would accompany her to the gas station in her car.

You are right that these things can be misinterpreted and that Michael puts his job at risk if he continues to behave in a way that others believe is questionable.

However, we aren't convinced anything untoward has been going on. The "evidence" of misconduct is pretty flimsy. Say nothing more, but keep an eye on the situation if it bothers you.

Dear Annie: I just lost my son to alcoholism. He was 55 years old and for five years had been progressively drinking himself to death. We were totally unaware. His multitude of friends and business associates knew he had an alcohol problem, but didn't realize the gravity of the situation and didn't think to notify me, his father.

My son was divorced, had no children and lived alone. I've since been told that I couldn't have done much unless he was willing to admit he was an alcoholic and wanted to quit.

I'm a well-educated person, but didn't know the true symptoms of alcoholism. My son is dead, gone from my life, because I didn't know how alcoholics act and think. My friends tell me not to blame myself.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

But who else is there? — *California*

Dear California: There is no blame to be had. Your son had a disease for which there is no cure, only management, but he either didn't recognize the problem, or didn't have the wherewithal to stay sober. Even if you knew everything about alcoholism, you could not have prevented this from happening. Self-recrimination can be part of the grieving process. Please get some short-term counseling so you can come to terms with this. Our condolences.

Dear Annie: I had to respond to "Just Wondering for Future Reference," who asked if menopausal women can still have a satisfying sex life.

As a woman in her mid-50s who had not been in a relationship for over eight years, I had pretty much given up on meeting a man who piqued my interest. I asked my doctor about my lack of sex drive, which had never been a problem before. Her response was, "When you meet the right guy, it will happen."

I met a guy five months ago, and my sex life has never been better. In fact, he complains that I wear him out and he's 15 years younger. — *Having Fun at 50-Plus*

Dear Having Fun: We're glad you found someone who helped you rediscover your libido. It doesn't work for everyone, but you've given hope to the rest.

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

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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.

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A Bitter Pill to Swallow

West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ Q 6
♥ K 9 5 2
♦ K 6 4
♣ A 7 5 3

WEST EAST
♠ 10 3 ♠ K J 9 7 4 2
♥ 4 ♥ 7 6 3
♦ Q 10 5 ♦ J 9 8 7
♣ K Q J 9 8 4 2 ♣ —

SOUTH
♠ A 8 5
♥ A Q J 10 8
♦ A 3 2
♣ 10 6

The bidding:
West North East South
3 Pass Pass 3♥
Pass 4♥

Opening lead — king of clubs.
"What can defeat me?" is a question every declarer should ask himself as he embarks on the play of any hand. Here is a striking example that illustrates the wisdom of asking this question before proceeding with the play.

South reached four hearts on the sequence shown, and West led the king of clubs. Declarer played the ace, ruffed by East, who then returned a diamond.

Declarer won with the ace, drew trumps and led a low spade toward the queen. He was hoping West had the king, in which case he could later

discard a diamond loser from dummy on his ace of spades. But after the queen lost to East's king, South had to go down one, losing a spade, a diamond and two clubs.

However, declarer could and should have made the contract. He neglected to apply the principle espoused above. The fatal misstep occurred at trick one, when South should have ducked West's king, knowing from the bidding that there was an excellent chance the club ace might be ruffed. If West then continued with the queen, dummy would duck again, and if West played still another club, declarer would duck once more and ruff in his hand.

These three plays would enable South to maintain the 10 tricks he had started with — five trumps, a spade, two diamonds, a club and a spade ruff in dummy. He would lose only two clubs and a spade, eventually discarding his diamond loser on the club ace.

Before making a play from dummy at trick one, South should ask himself: "What can possibly go wrong?" In the present instance, given West's three-club bid, the danger of playing the club ace should be apparent.

The next step in the process follows almost automatically — 10 tricks can be maintained by the simple expedient of letting West win the first two club tricks.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

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Customer Notice

Wes-Tex Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (the Cooperative) has filed a request with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) seeking approval to implement a minor rate change to the following services: 1-Party Exchange Access Line rates for residence and business customers; Key Trunk Hunting Exchange and PBX Trunk Exchange Access Line rates for business customers; and non-recurring rates for the Primary Service Ordering Charge, Subsequent Service Ordering Charge, Central Office Access Line Charge, Premises Visit Charge, and Returned Check Charge in its Member Services Tariff. The Cooperative also proposes to remove the 2-Party Exchange Access Line rates for residence and business customers as Wes-Tex has no subscribers for these obsolete services.

In its Long Distance Message Telecommunications Service Tariff (LDMTS), Wes-Tex proposes to increase the following Two-Point Service Charges: Operator Assisted, Station-to-Station Service, Person-to-Person Service and Other Services; and the local and intraLATA Directory Assistance Services. The Cooperative also proposes to eliminate the free three-call allowance for a single-line and subsequent call allowance for additional lines to Directory Assistance Service. In addition, Wes-Tex proposes to remove the obsolete Two-Point Service Charges for Operator Assisted, Fully Automated, Station-to-Station, Collect Calls and Billed to Third Number Calls that are no longer provided by the Cooperative's Directory Assistance and Operator Service Provider, AT&T Texas.

The proposed effective date for the minor rate change is July 31, 2009 for the following exchanges served by the Cooperative. The estimated annual revenue increase recognized by the Cooperative is \$25,163.28 for the first year of service, which is 1.58% of the Cooperative's gross annual intrastate revenues.

Current and proposed rates are:

Member Services Tariff	Class	Current Rates	Proposed Rates
Local Exchange Service - Section 4			
Exchanges - Ackerly, Lenorah, Lomax, Luther and West Stanton			
Key Trunk Access Line	Business	\$14.00	\$15.40
Exchanges - Garden City, St. Lawrence and Vincent			
1-Party Access Line	Residence	\$9.40	\$10.34
1-Party Access Line	Business	\$11.90	\$13.09
Key Trunk Access Line	Business	\$12.50	\$13.75
PBX Trunk Access Line	Business	\$18.75	\$20.62
Exchanges - Coahoma and Sand Springs			
1-Party Access Line	Residence	\$6.50	\$7.15
1-Party Access Line	Business	\$11.45	\$12.59
PBX Trunk Access Line	Business	\$19.25	\$21.00
Service Charges - Section 5			
Primary Service Charge	All	\$12.00	\$15.00
Subsequent Service Charge	All	\$8.00	\$10.00
Central Office Access Line Charge	All	\$8.00	\$10.00
Premise Visit Charge	All	\$15.00	\$20.00
Returned Check Charge	All	\$15.00	\$25.00

Long Distance Message Telecommunications Service Tariff	Class	Current Rates	Proposed Rates
Two Point Service - Service Charges - Section 2			
Operator Assisted Service			
Station-to-Station			
Calling Card			
Non-Automated	All	\$1.15	\$3.50
Semi-Automated	All	\$1.15	\$3.00
Fully Automated	All	\$0.40	\$2.50
Collect			
Non-Automated	All	\$1.15	\$3.95
Semi-Automated	All	\$1.15	\$3.00
Billed to Third Number			
Non-Automated	All	\$1.15	\$5.30
Semi-Automated	All	\$1.15	\$3.95
Sent Paid			
Non-Automated	All	\$1.15	\$3.95
Semi-Automated	All	\$1.15	\$3.95
Person-to-Person Service			
Non-Automated	All	\$2.80	\$8.95
Semi-Automated	All	\$2.80	\$8.95
Other Services			
Line Status Verification	All	\$1.35	\$6.00
Busy Interrupt	All	\$2.20	\$7.00
Directory Assistance Service			
Local & intraLATA DA, direct dialed	All	\$0.30	\$1.50
Local & intraLATA DA, alternately billed	All	\$0.60	\$2.25
Elimination of the free three-call allowance & subsequent call allowance for additional lines per month for DA, direct dialed (up to \$4.50 in additional charges)			
	All	\$0.00	\$1.50

Persons with questions or who want more information on this application may contact the Cooperative located at 1500 W Business 20, Stanton, TX 79782 or call (432) 756-3393 during normal business hours. A complete copy of the application is available for inspection at the address listed above. The Commission has assigned Tariff Control Number 36896 to this application. Persons who wish to formally participate in the Commission's proceedings concerning this application, or who wish to express their comments concerning this application should contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas, Office of Customer Protection, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, or call the Public Utility Commission's Office of Customer Protection at (512) 936-7120 or, toll free, at (888) 782-8477. Hearing and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the commission at (512) 936-7136 or reach the Commission's toll free number through Relay Texas at (800) 735-2988.

Requests to participate in the proceedings and comments should reach the Commission no later than June 15, 2009. If the Commission receives a complaint(s) relating to this application signed by the lesser of 5% or 1,500 of the affected local service customers to which this application applies by July 1, 2009, the application will be docketed. The 5% limitation will be calculated based upon the total number of customers of record as of the calendar month preceding the Commission's receipt of the complaint(s).

To submit a local story or brief, call 263-7331, ext. 232.

Local teams have big games over the weekend

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

Over the next three days, the trio of teams from Howard County remaining in either the softball or baseball playoffs are going to learn exactly where they stand in the contention for regional and even state titles.

Forsan's softball squad and Coahoma baseball and softball teams continue their postseason runs this weekend, hopeful its seasons won't be coming to a sudden end.

Two of the three remaining Howard County squads play highly-ranked opponents, while the other is out to prove that its time at the top of Region I isn't over yet.

Bulldogs take on No. 1 Holliday

Coahoma's Bulldogs (20-4) begin a best-of-three regional quarterfinal series with top-ranked Holliday at 7 p.m. tonight at Driggers Field on the campus of McMurry University in

Abilene.

Game 2 is set for the same location at 4 p.m. Friday with a third game, if needed, taking place 30 minutes after.

Holliday (24-1) has been ranked atop the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association's Class 2A poll for a majority of the season. The Eagles defeated Coahoma's District 7-2A rival Jim Ned in the area round, 8-0.

The Bulldogs will face Holliday's

ace, senior left-hander Matt Buckmaster, in the first game. Buckmaster (9-0) scattered four singles and struck out nine batters against Jim Ned in six innings of work.

While he just pitched Tuesday, Buckmaster only threw 60 pitches against Jim Ned, meaning he'll be ready for the opener against Coahoma.

See AREA, Page 12

Rangers turn triple play, fall to Detroit, 5-3

DETROIT (AP) — Justin Verlander struggled for one inning Wednesday night and that wasn't quite enough for the Texas Rangers.

After not allowing a hit for the first four innings, the Detroit Tigers' ace threw 41 pitches in the fifth. Unfortunately for the Rangers, the last one became a bases-loaded groundout by David Murphy, allowing Verlander to escape with the score tied at 1.

Detroit, which hit into a triple play in the fourth inning, scored four times in the sixth, starting with a solo homer by Wilkin Ramirez in his major league debut, and the Tigers went on to a 5-3 win, their fifth straight.

Verlander acknowledged his preparation leading to the fifth was a little rushed after the Rangers brought abruptly ended the bottom of the fourth with their first triple play since 2002.

"I'm usually ready for a team to turn an inning-ending double play, but I didn't even think about them doing that," he said.

Verlander (6-3) gave up one run and walked two to improve to 4-0 with a 1.02 ERA in his last five starts.

He did fall short of becoming the first pitcher in Tigers history to strike out 10 or more batters in four straight starts, finishing with eight.

Matt Harrison (4-3) took the loss, allowing five runs and nine hits in five-plus innings.



AP photo
Detroit Tigers catcher Ryan Rayburn, left, is tagged out by Texas Rangers shortstop Elvis Andrus to complete a triple play in the fourth inning of an AL baseball game in Detroit Wednesday. The Tigers picked up their fifth straight win, 5-3, despite the triple play.

Magic stun Cavs

TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — LeBron James chewed on his fingernails as he talked quietly with Mo Williams in the corner of Cleveland's muted locker room.

As they reviewed the game's final seconds, the two stars stared blankly at a boxscore floating in an ice tub above James' feet.

They looked stunned. And for good reason.

No longer untested, no longer unbeaten. The Cavaliers finally met their match in the playoffs.

Dwight Howard scored 30 points, Rashard Lewis added 22 and the Orlando Magic rallied from a 15-point halftime deficit to hand James and the Cavaliers their first loss of the postseason, 107-106 on Wednesday night in the Eastern Conference finals opener.

Lewis made a 3-pointer with 14.7 seconds left and the Magic, who dethroned the champion Boston Celtics in seven games in the previous round, survived two shots by Cleveland in the closing seconds. Williams missed a catch-and-shoot jumper off a jump ball as the horn sounded, dropping the Cavs to 8-1 in the postseason.

"It's a big victory," said Howard. "We kept fighting the whole game."

Cowboys QB Romo begins life after T.O.

JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

CARROLLTON — Tony Romo took the field under unusual circumstances Tuesday: For the first time since he's become the starting quarterback of the Dallas Cowboys, Terrell Owens wasn't part of the organization.

T.O. was released months ago, so his absence wasn't a surprise. Still, the start of organized team activities marked the start of life without Owens

and Romo's first chance to comment on it.

He didn't say much, offering up cliched lines such as, "The organization and management decides those things," and, "We have to go with the guys we have here now, go forward and keep improving."

Coincidence or not, Romo never mentioned Owens by name, initials, jersey number or anything more personal than "he." (He did avoid using, "The player," as Bill Parcells referred to

Owens for most of their story season together.)

"He's a great player and it's always difficult to replace someone who's had the success and been the dominant player he's been over the years," Romo said.

On the field, Owens and Romo clicked from the start. T.O. caught the first touchdown pass Romo threw and was a big part of his rise from undrafted,

See COWBOYS, Page 12

Sports in brief

Upcoming high school softball and baseball playoff dates

Coahoma's baseball and softball teams and Forsan's softball squad are all that remain in the postseason. Here's a look at the upcoming playoff matchups.

Coahoma

- Bulldogs baseball will face the No. 1 team in the state in the regional quarterfinals. Holliday is 20-1 and has been atop the state poll for a majority of the season. Game 1 of the best-of-three is set for 7 p.m. Thursday at Driggers Field in Abilene. Game 2 will be played at the same location at 4 p.m. Friday. A third game, if needed, occurs 30 minutes after.

- Bulldogettes softball advances to face Kermit in the regional semifinals. The Bulldogettes are currently ranked No. 8 in the state. The best-of-three series is taking place at MUGS softball complex in Midland. Game 1 is at 7 p.m. Friday with Game 2 set for 1 p.m. Saturday. A third game, if needed, takes place 30 minutes after Game 2.

Forsan

- Lady Buffs softball meets No. 2 Albany in the regional semifinals. This is the second time in the four-year history of the softball program Forsan has advanced to this stage of the postseason. Game 1 of the best-of-three series with Albany is set for 5:30 p.m. Friday at Abilene Christian University. Game 2 is at 2:30 p.m. Saturday with a third game, if needed, taking place 30 minutes after.

Physicals for athletes being given at ATC today

The Big Spring High School Athletic Department

has set aside today for anyone who needs an athletic physical for next school year to receive one at the Athletic Training Center from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Cost is \$25 and the appropriate forms must be filled out.

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. Call Kay Cook at the Athletic Training Center with any questions at 264-3662.

Camp of Champs

Camp of Champs is a weight conditioning program geared to helping increase strength, quickness, speed and agility.

The program begins June 1 and continues through June 18 at the Athletic Training Center. There are two different sessions for different age groups.

Third through fifth graders attend 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., while sixth and seventh graders work out 11 a.m. to noon.

The camp is held Monday through Thursday during the allotted dates.

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

Steers Basketball Skills Camp

The Big Spring Steers boys basketball coaching staff, headed up by Marcus Morris, will be leading a skills camp June 1-3 at the Big Spring Junior High gyms.

Second through fifth graders will work out from 9 a.m. to noon in the east gym, while sixth through

eighth graders man the west gym also from 9 a.m. to noon.

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

Lady Steers Softball Skills Camp

Lady Steers Coach John Sparks is hosting a softball skills camp June 1-3 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. each day at Lady Steer Park.

The camp is for girls entering third through eighth grades.

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

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.

Lady Steers Basketball Skills Camp

Lady Steers Head Coach Mike Warren will lend his skills in teaching a basketball camp for girls entering second through eighth grade June 22-25.

The camp will be split into two age groups. Second through fifth graders participate from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. each day at Steer Gym, while sixth through eighth graders take the court every day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$25 with an optional \$10 T-shirt fee.

Steers Football Skills Camp

A skills camp for first through eighth graders interested in football will be held June 15-18 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. each day at the Athletic Training Center.

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

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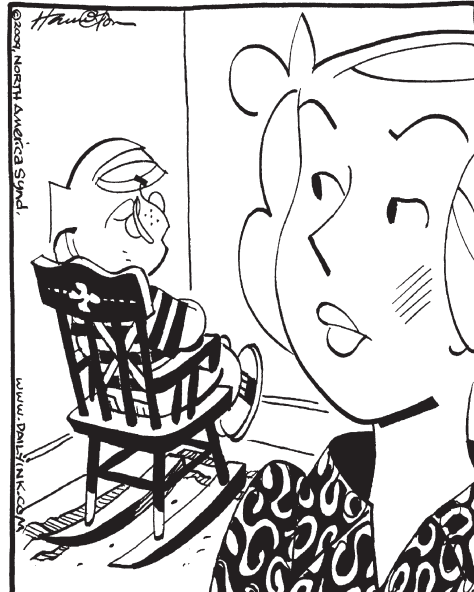
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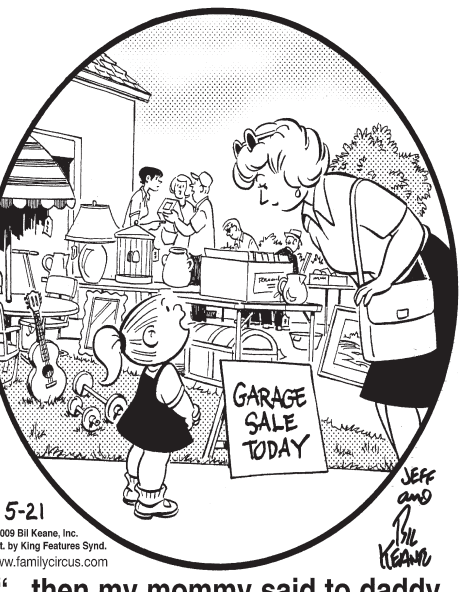
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5 :PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Raymond	Granger	BBC	Cash Cab	Trek: Nemesis, Brent Spiner	CSI: NY	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas	Horn	SportsCenter
6 :PM	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Tontas Cielo	Lopez	News CBS	12 Corazones	News NBC	Friends	Brad	Business	Cash Cab	UFC Unleashed	Law & Order	Montana	College Softball: NCAA Super Regional	Montana	College Softball: NCAA Super Regional	Dream Season
7 :PM	Ugly Betty	Ugly Betty	Cuidado-Angel	Two Men	Entertain	NCIS	Doña Barbara	Seinfeld	Hagee	Quiz	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Catwoman, Sharon Stone	UFC Unleashed	The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift	Movie: Paper Soldiers, Damon Dash	Movie: Return to Never Land	Update	NBA Shoot-around
8 :PM			Mañana es	So You Think You Can Dance	CSI: Crime Scn	El Rostro de Analia	Office	Friends	Light of the Southwest	Walden-Bal-lad	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Constantine, Shia LaBeouf	TNA Wrestling	Law & Order	College	Wizards	College Softball: NCAA Super Regional	NBA Basketball: Western Conf. Final
9 :PM	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Mujeres Asesinas	TMZ	(:01) Flash-point	Sin Senos	Southland	Movie: Head of State, Dylan Baker	Basin	Deadliest Catch	Movie: Highlander, Roxanne Hart	UFC 98 Count	Law & Order	College	Wizards	College Softball: NCAA Super Regional		
10 :PM	News	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Israel	Dr. Smiley	Smiley	Movie: The Out-of-Towners	UFC 98 Count	Law & Order	College	Wizards	College Softball: NCAA Super Regional		
11 :PM	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	King-Hill	Late Show	Titulares	Tonight Show	Sex & Dr.	Swallow	Swallow	Movie: The Out-of-Towners	MAN	The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift	College	Wizards	College Softball: NCAA Super Regional		
12 :AM	Insider	Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Nuestra Belleza	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones de Famosos	Late Night-Jim	Sex & Dr.	Swallow	Swallow	Movie: The Out-of-Towners	MAN	The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift	College	Wizards	College Softball: NCAA Super Regional		
1 :AM	News	News	Contra Viento	RENO 911	Insider	Pagado	News	Israel	LightWrd	LightWrd	Movie: The Out-of-Towners	UFC 98 Count	Cold Case	College	Wizards	College Softball: NCAA Super Regional		
1 :AM	Paid	Marketing	Mujer...	Friends	Entertain	Pagado	Poker After Dark	Israel	LightWrd	LightWrd	Movie: The Out-of-Towners	UFC 98 Count	Cold Case	College	Wizards	College Softball: NCAA Super Regional		

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"THIS CORNER IS BORING! I LIKE THE ONE AT SCHOOL BETTER!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

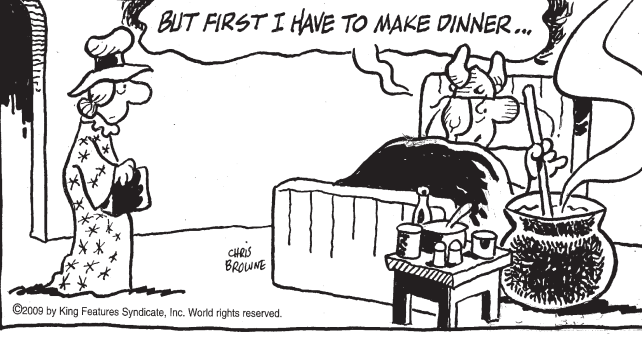


"...then my mommy said to daddy, 'We'll get rid of all the junk around this place.'"

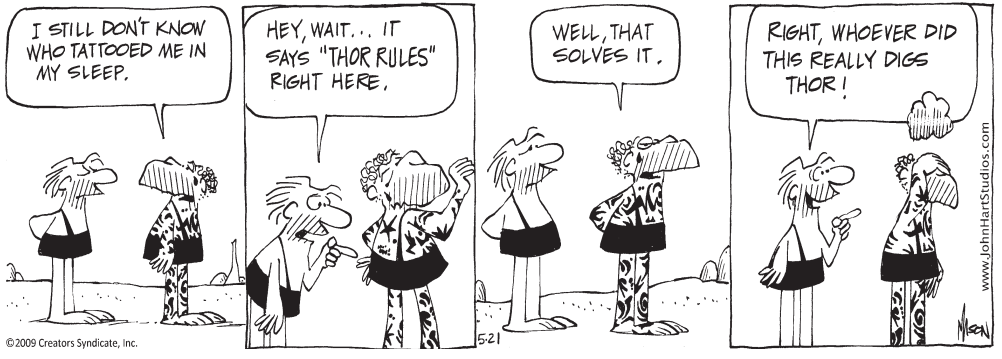
HAGAR



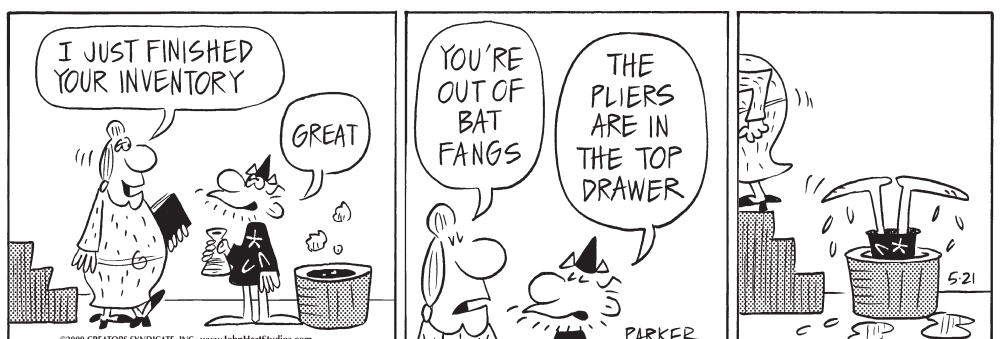
BUT FIRST I HAVE TO MAKE DINNER...



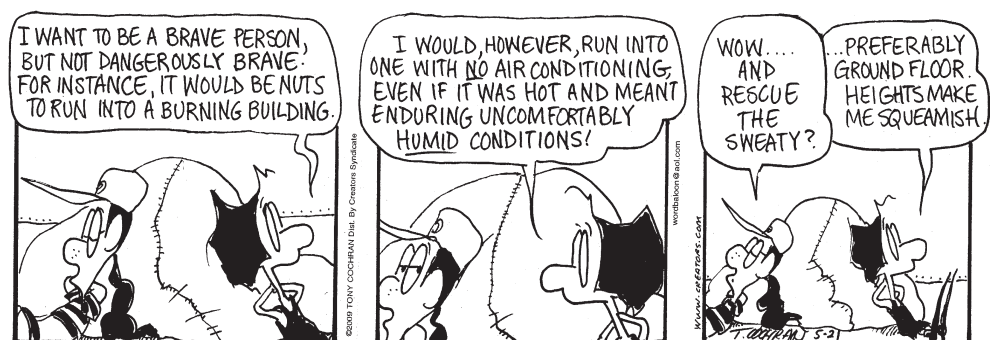
BC



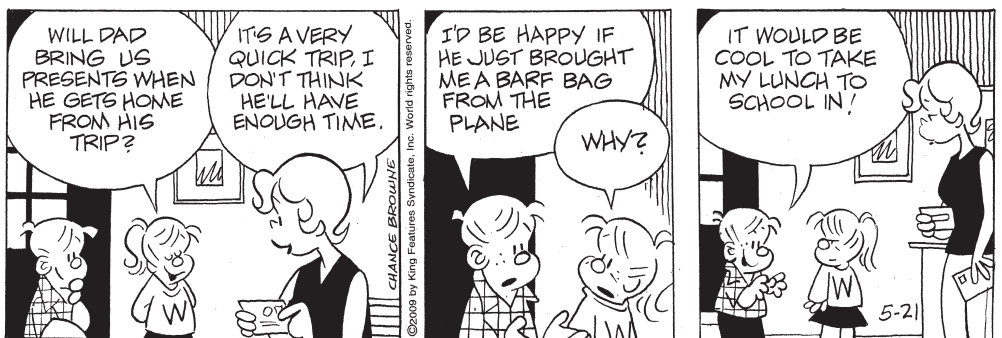
WIZARD OF ID



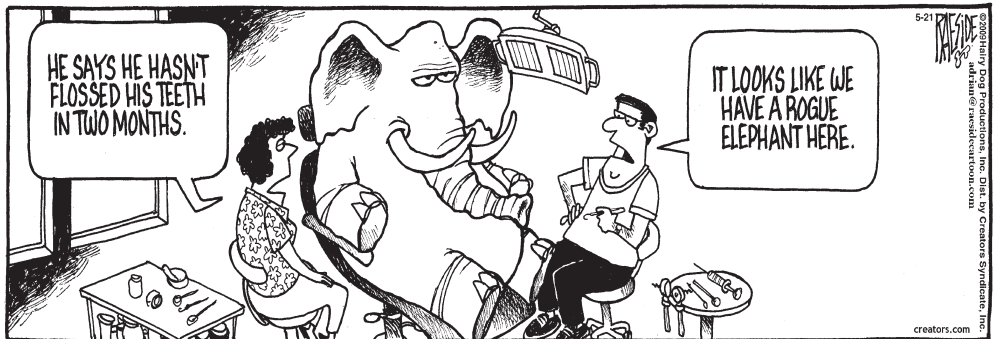
AGNES



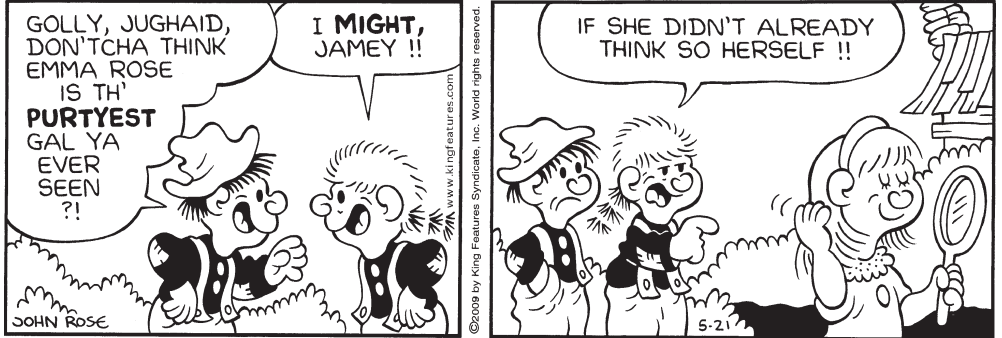
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



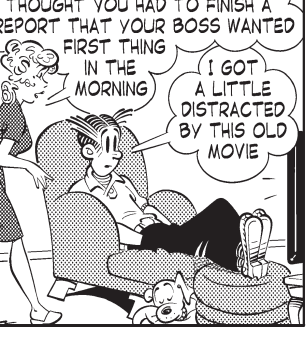
SNUFFY SMITH



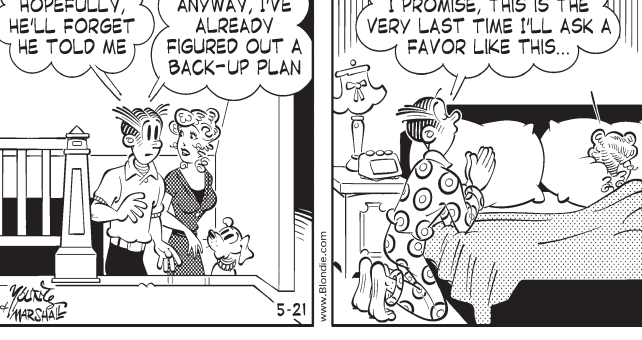
BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



HOPEFULLY, HE'LL FORGET HE TOLD ME...



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, May 21, the 141st day of 2009. There are 224 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 21, 1927, Charles A. Lindbergh landed his Spirit of St. Louis near Paris, completing the first solo airplane flight across the Atlantic Ocean.

On this date:

In 1542, Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto died while searching for gold along the Mississippi River.

In 1832, the first Democratic National Convention got under way, in Baltimore.

In 1881, Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross.

In 1892, the opera "Pagliacci," by Ruggero Leoncavallo, was first performed, in Milan, Italy.

In 1924, 14-year-old Bobby Franks was murdered in a "thrill killing" committed by Nathan Leopold Jr. and Richard Loeb, two students at the University of Chicago.

In 1932, Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean as she landed in Northern Ireland, about 15 hours after leaving Newfoundland.

In 1956, the United States exploded the first airborne hydrogen bomb over Bikini Atoll in the Pacific.

In 1959, the musical "Gypsy," inspired by the life of stripper Gypsy Rose Lee, opened on Broadway.

In 1979, former San Francisco City Supervisor Dan White was convicted of voluntary manslaughter in the slayings of Mayor George Moscone and openly gay Supervisor Harvey Milk; outrage over the verdict sparked rioting. (White was sentenced to seven years, eight months in prison; he ended up serving five years and committed suicide in 1985.)

Today's Birthdays: R&B singer Ron Isley (The Isley Brothers) is 68. Rock musician Hilton Valentine (The Animals) is 66. Actor Richard Hatch ("Battlestar Galactica") is 64. Musician Bill Champlin (Chicago) is 62. Singer Leo Sayer is 61. Actress Carol Potter is 61. Comedian, radio host-turned-politician Al Franken is 58. Actor Mr. T is 57. Music producer Stan Lynch is 54. Actor Judge Reinhold is 52. Actor-director Nick Cassavetes is 50. Actor Brent Briscoe is 48. Actress Lisa Edelstein is 41. Actress Fairuza Balk is 35. Rapper Havoc (Mobb Deep) is 35. Actress Ashlie Brillault is 22. Actor Scott Leavenworth is 19. Actress Sarah Ramos is 18.

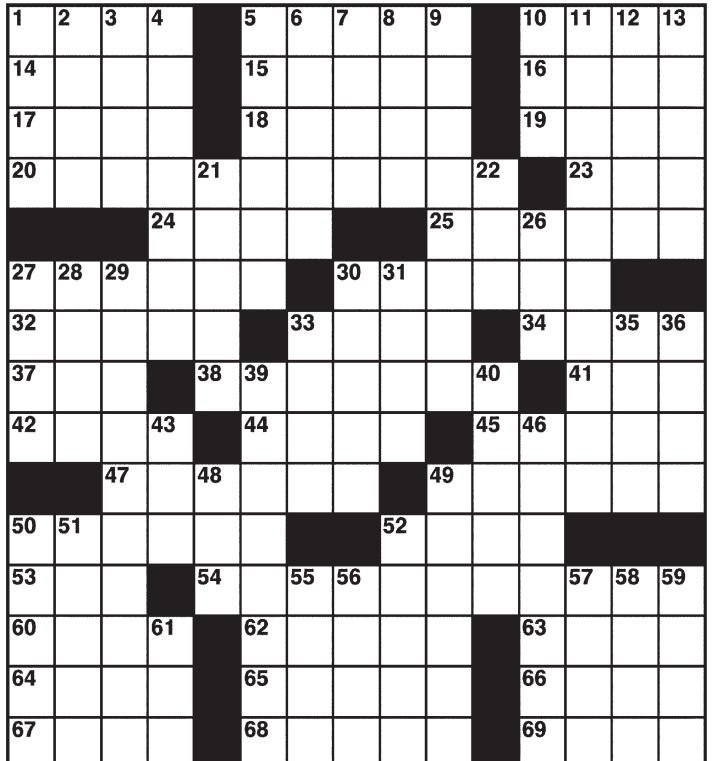
Thought for Today: "Our present addiction to pollsters and forecasters is a symptom of our chronic uncertainty about the future ... We watch our experts read the entrails of statistical tables and graphs the way the ancients watched their soothsayers read the entrails of a chicken." — Eric Hoffer, American philosopher (1902-1983).

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Newsday Crossword

ABOUT TIME by Shirley Soloway
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| ACROSS | 62 Truck stop | 6 Moguls | 33 Overstuff |
| 1 Worthy of DeMille | 63 Bassoon kin | 7 Kid around | 35 BMW |
| 5 Low-prestige position | 64 Sundance | 8 Not fooled by | alternative |
| 10 Warts and all | Film Festival state | 9 Wind-scale developer | 36 Vaudeville routine |
| 14 Vein contents | 65 Established earlier | 10 __ Arbor | 39 Lunch-cart selection |
| 15 Form of oxygen | 66 Pealed | 11 Pre-owned | 40 Eschews |
| 16 Fit within one another | 67 "... Grapevine" singer | 12 Biblical patriarch | 43 Genetic stuff |
| 17 "It's __ real!" | 68 Crystal-lined rock | 13 Garden-plant support | 46 Yet to come |
| 18 Some elbows | 69 Checks out | 21 Certain peers | 48 Dickens lad |
| 19 Final Four grp. | | 22 Monopoly quartet: Abbr. | 49 Upper Midwest capital |
| 20 American Idol ancestor | DOWN | 26 NRC predecessor | 50 Do a tech's job |
| 23 Material for some 59 Down | 1 Mediterranean island | 27 Shelley selections | 51 Madonna role |
| 24 Séance sounds | 2 Shelley selection | 28 With no one else | 52 Cavalry mount |
| 25 D-Day setting | 3 Opinion | 29 Turn in | 55 Blue shade |
| 27 AMPAS bestowals | 4 Optimally located | 30 Peel | 56 Dismantle |
| 30 Out of business | 5 Aftermaths of spills | 31 Swimmers' units | 57 Site for 60 Across |
| 32 Versatile worker | | | 58 Tops |
| 33 Singe slightly | | | 59 Wine holders |
| 34 __ Addams (cartoon byline) | | | 61 That ship |
| 37 Right-angle shape | | | |
| 38 Studio reading | | | |
| 41 Arctic bird | | | |
| 42 Convinced | | | |
| 44 Unlikely Tony winners | | | |
| 45 Indian language | | | |
| 47 After a while | | | |
| 49 Political commentator | | | |
| 50 Enumerate | | | |
| 52 Serious errors | | | |
| 53 Actress Mendes | | | |
| 54 Beef cut | | | |
| 60 Price offers | | | |



AREA

Continued from Page 7

The Bulldogs defeated Eastland, 1-0, in the area round and haven't lost a game since April 6. Holliday hasn't lost since the early part of the season, though, as the Eagles cruised through District 5-2A play.

Lady Buffs look to challenge No. 2 Albany

Forsan's Lady Buffaloes (22-9) are getting ready for their biggest challenge of the season, when they meet second-ranked Albany in a best-of-three regional semifinals series in the Class A playoffs.

Game 1 is set for 5:30 p.m. Friday at Abilene Christian University. The two teams hope to get Game 2 started at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, but another playoff game will be occurring before

it. If a third game is needed after the previous game, then the Lady Buffs and Lady Lions will be forced to wait until that game is completed.

Albany defeated Seymour, 6-4, Tuesday in the regional quarterfinals. The Lady Lions being ranked so high didn't faze Forsan Head Coach Shanna Roberts.

"I didn't even realize they were ranked No. 2," said Roberts. "As far as I'm concerned, we will approach each game as if we were playing for a state championship. That means committing no errors and getting lots of hits. We will continue to stay focused on our goal, which is getting to state."

The Lady Buffs got off to a slow start against Eldorado in the regional quarterfinals as the Lady Eagles took a 5-0 lead in the top of the second inning. Forsan proceeded to put four runs on the board in three of the next four innings, eventually winning, 13-5.

The Lady Buffs played nearly error-

less softball through the first two rounds of the postseason. That's a trend Roberts says could be the deciding factor against Albany.

"I know Albany is pretty sound defensively and they have several good hitters," said Roberts. "Fortunately, we are just as good defensively and we also have a lot of good hitters. I think that this will be a series where the team with the least amount of errors wins. Hopefully, that will be us. We have been working hard this week to get ready for them."

Bulldogettes face Kermit in regional semifinals

Coahoma's Bulldogettes (27-11) haven't had anything come easy to them thus far through the Class 2A playoffs.

That's not expected to change this weekend.

The No. 7 Bulldogettes meet Kermit's Lady Yellow Jackets (30-9) in a best-

of-three regional semifinals series, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Friday at MUGS Softball Complex in Midland. Game 2 is at the same location at 1 p.m. Saturday.

Kermit defeated 10th-ranked Slaton in the regional quarterfinals, 2-0, Tuesday.

Coahoma advanced after knocking off Coleman, 1-0, Tuesday. The Bulldogettes were powered by the pitching performance of Heather Newton. Newton struck out 15 batters in the victory and also knocked in the only run of the game with a triple that scored senior Shelbi Paige.

The Bulldogettes almost didn't make it out of the area round after being taken to their limit by Clyde. Clyde took the opening game of the best-of-three series, 2-1. Coahoma rallied to win a doubleheader Saturday, 3-1 and 3-2, with the third game going into two extra innings.

The winner of this game will face Early or Alpine in the regional finals.

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 7

unheralded backup to starlet-dating Pro Bowler. Romo-to-Owens produced more touchdowns over the last three seasons than any other quarterback-receiver tandem in the NFL.

But things weren't the same between them last season as Owens complained about how he was being used and the team collapsed in the final months, ultimately getting routed in their finale to knock them out of the playoffs. Team owner Jerry Jones made it clear when he released Owens in March that the move was made for harmony in the locker room more than anything else.

Asked if he's spoken to Owens since then, Romo said, "I'm just going to keep that stuff personal between me and him."

He also dismissed a question about whether personality problems ruined the 2008-09 season.

"When you win, do you have great chemistry?" Romo said. "I don't know that the chemistry was that different last year than the year before, but we went 13-3. So, I think injuries were a part of it. I think people not performing up to all of our own levels that we might be able to perform up to. I think we all looked at ourselves and wished we would have played better last year in certain games and in certain situations. You go back and you look at it and you try to improve and you try to fix it for the next time."

When Romo lined up with the first team Tuesday, Roy Williams and Patrick Crayton were the receivers. Miles Austin and Sam Hurd were the second-teamers. The production of those four will go a long way toward determining whether dumping T.O. was the right move.

"Guys have to step up and pick up the slack," Romo said. "Guys are working hard, I know that. Whether they're going to do it, we're going to find out this year."

Whether Williams can handle being the lead receiver already is a major storyline for this season. Those posing the question include former Cowboys greats Troy Aikman, Michael Irvin and Deion Sanders.

Williams thinks people are basing their opinions too much on how he played late last season, after he arrived in a midseason trade from Detroit. Romo was

hurt at the time, then Williams was playing through an injury by the time the quarterback returned. Of course, there also was the issue of Owens wanting the ball thrown his way.

When the ball did go to Williams, he didn't always catch it, either. He caught only 16 passes in seven games with Romo.

"Last year, we didn't really talk because we didn't know each other," Williams said Tuesday. "I was scared to cross his boundary and I guess he was afraid to cross my boundary. But now we are talking, good friends, co-workers trying to achieve the same goal. We respect each other."

Williams said he and Romo have been throwing together since March 2, which is just a few days before Owens was cut.

"It's paying off so far," he said. "But we still have a long way to go."

For Williams, Tuesday was his first time as the No. 1 receiver in Dallas. It also was his first time wearing No. 4 since he's joined the Cowboys. He'll switch back to No. 11 for games, but broke out the number he wore during his standout college career with the Texas Longhorns "to remind myself where I come from and for all the doubters."

Extra points: RB Felix Jones returned to full squad activity for the first time since early

last season, but third-stringer Tashard Choice made the most noise

Tuesday. Literally. Every time he broke through the line, Choice

ran far away from everyone, hollering louder with each step.

WE REMEMBER

In Observation Of Memorial Day

The following Financial Institutions will observe the following:

- Citizens Federal Credit Union**
CLOSED
- Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.**
CLOSED
- Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union**
CLOSED
- State National Bank**
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CLOSED
- First Bank Of West Texas**
CLOSED
- Compass Bank**
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	2004 Toyota 4 Runner 2WD \$12,950		2005 Excursion Limited 4x4 Diesel (Hard To Find) \$19,950
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