

Manny Ramirez goes 1 for 3 in final rehab game

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP) — Ready or not, Manny Ramirez is headed back to the big leagues.

The suspended slugger played what is expected to be his final minor league rehab game Monday night for Class-A Inland Empire, going 1 for 3 with two strikeouts.

He is eligible to return to the Los Angeles Dodgers on Friday night in San Diego after serving a 50-game suspension for violating baseball's drug policy.

The Dodgers originally planned to have Ramirez play another game with Inland Empire on Tuesday morning.

But on Monday night, team spokesman Josh Rawitch said the slugger's stint in the minors was over.

In part because of the 11 a.m. start Tuesday, the Dodgers didn't see any need to push Ramirez further.

"I don't think one more game is going to make that

much difference," said general manager Ned Colletti, who was in San Bernardino to watch Ramirez play against Rancho Cucamonga.

Ramirez batted leadoff as the designated hitter and beat out an infield single in his first at-bat Monday. For the second consecutive night, he

struck out twice.

Once again, he declined to speak with reporters before the game.

"No thank you," Ramirez said. "Go to YouTube."

Ramirez came out after striking out in the fifth

See **MANNY**, Page 2B

Rangers lose more ground to Angels



AP photo/Donna McWilliam

Los Angeles Angels' Vladimir Guerrero gets a base hit against the Texas Rangers in the fourth inning of a baseball game in Arlington Monday. The Angels took their sixth straight win.

Sixth straight win puts LA farther in AL West lead

STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON — When the Los Angeles Angels left Texas in mid-May, they had just been swept and were 4½ games behind the surprising Rangers.

Things have certainly turned around since.

"Over the last month, we've been playing better defense, our pitchers have been getting the job done and timely hitting," Torii Hunter said. "We're on all cylinders right now."

Juan Rivera and Kendry Morales hit back-to-back homers and rookie Sean O'Sullivan overcame giving up consecutive homers as the now AL West-leading Angels beat Texas 5-2 on Monday night for their sixth straight victory.

The Angels were without Vladimir Guerrero six weeks ago, and Texas was still hitting.

Guerrero was 2 for 5 and scored twice, including on Rivera's homer that made it 3-2 after he had led off the sixth with a single off Vicente Padilla (6-4). Morales then homered.

The Rangers have lost eight of 11, a slide that cost them the division lead they had held since May 5 — by 5½ games four weeks ago. Los Angeles, which has won 13 of 16 overall, took over first place Saturday and now leads by 2½ games.

Los Angeles will return home after this series ends Wednesday still in first place.

"Just better baseball," manager Mike Scioscia said, explaining the recent surge. "We've gotten guys back, but the biggest influence has been that we've been fundamentally better."

Texas was up 2-1 in the fifth when Marlon Byrd, who already doubled and homered, came up with two runners on and got the pitch he was expecting.

Except Byrd was too far ahead of a changeup and grounded to third baseman Chone Figgins for an inning-ending double play.

"That was a big momentum shift,"

Scioscia said.

"I believe it changed the game. ... I've got to get those runs in, at least one," Byrd said. "They came back out and do what they do. They just capitalize on mistakes and they don't make many mistakes."

Guerrero led off the sixth with a single and Padilla was gone four batters later. Figgins added a sacrifice fly later in the inning.

David Murphy and Byrd hit consecutive 400-foot homers in the third, but that was it against O'Sullivan (2-0) as Texas was held to two runs of less for the 10th time in June. Brian Fuentes worked the ninth for his major league-best 22nd save.

O'Sullivan, in his third major league start since coming up when Ervin Santana went on the disabled list for the second time this season, struck out five and walked two. The right-hander has allowed six runs over 18 innings (3.00 ERA) and could remain in the rotation even when Santana, an All-Star last season, returns to the rotation as early as this weekend.

"He's a young kid who pitched like a vet," Scioscia said.

Rays 4,

Blue Jays 1

At Toronto, Carl Crawford and Pat Burrell homered and Tampa Bay's ruined Roy Halladay's return with its sixth straight victory.

Halladay (10-2) came in having won his past seven decisions, the longest streak in the majors, but lost for the first time since April 21. Jeff Niemann (7-4) won his third straight decision.

Athletics 7,

Tigers 1

At Oakland, Calif., Mark Ellis hit a two-run homer, and Ryan Sweeney homered and drove in two runs for Oakland.

Kurt Suzuki had a run-scoring double for the last-place A's, who snapped a five-game

See **AL**, Page 2B

NASCAR submits findings from second lab as evidence in Jeremy Mayfield's lawsuit

JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

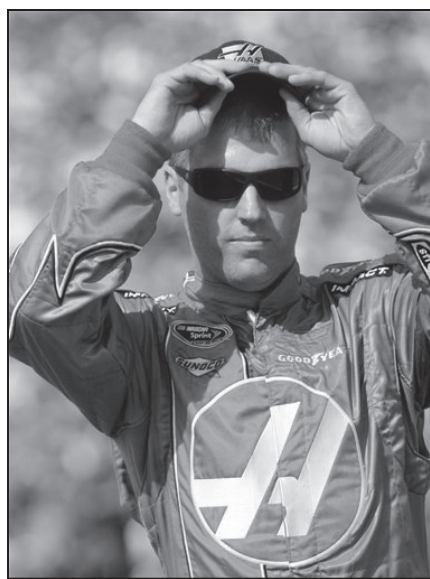
CHARLOTTE, N.C. — NASCAR filed court documents Monday night that show an independent laboratory found an illegal substance in the urine sample that led to Jeremy Mayfield's suspension for a failed drug test.

The documents, part of NASCAR's response to Mayfield's lawsuit to have his indefinite suspension lifted, show that Medtox Laboratories in Minnesota tested both his "A" and backup "B" samples last week and "confirmed the presence" of a substance that is blacked out in the filing.

Both sides are due in U.S. District Court on Wednesday, and Mayfield is hoping a judge reinstates him in time to travel to this weekend's race at Daytona International Speedway.

NASCAR, which is countersuing, argued in its filing Monday that the "safety risk is simply too significant to let Mayfield back on the track."

"No one but Mayfield knows whether his (drug name redacted) use was an isolated event," NASCAR said in its brief.



AP file photo/Paul Kizzle

NASCAR driver Jeremy Mayfield adjusts his cap on pit road prior to the start of the Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway in this file photo. This may be Jeremy Mayfield's last shot at racing again this season.

Mayfield has been suspended since May 9 for failing a random drug test eight days earlier for

what NASCAR has deemed "a dangerous, illegal, banned substance." Mayfield indicated in an affidavit filed last week that he tested positive for methamphetamines, which he denied using.

Mayfield has previously blamed his positive test result on the combination of Adderall for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, and Claritin-D for allergies, but that explanation was debunked by NASCAR's program administrator.

In Monday's filing, NASCAR claimed Mayfield provided a prescription for Adderall that he received from the "Vitality Anti-Aging Center & Medical Spa" in Hickory, and not his personal physician.

Mayfield's lawyer's are challenging the validity of NASCAR's drug testing process in their bid to have Mayfield reinstated. Mayfield has missed seven races since his suspension, which also covers his role as owner of Mayfield Motorsports.

He said in his affidavit last week that his career has been ruined by the suspension, and

See **NASCAR**, Page 2B

Sports in brief

Ragball tournament to benefit sandlot team

There will be a benefit rag ball tournament benefiting the Boys 16-Under Sandlot Team set for July 3-5 at the Roy Anderson Complex and Cotton Mize Field.

Entry fees are \$10 per person, and registration is set for Friday, July 3, at the Roy Anderson Complex. Friday night's games will be played at the Roy Anderson Complex.

Trophies will be awarded to the first- through third-place teams and T-shirts will be awarded to the first- and second-place teams.

Proceeds from the tournament will be used to send the team to the New Mexico State Tournament in Clovis, N.M., and to the USSSA Youth Slow Pitch World Tournament set for July 30-Aug. 2 in Lubbock.

For more information, call Ben Flores at 432-816-1262 or Manuel Sosa at 432-213-5511.

12 Under softball all-stars raising money at Pizza Inn

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association 12U All-Stars team is raising money to attend its all-star tournament.

One of its fund raisers will be waiting tables at Pizza Inn from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. July 9.

A portion of the profits will benefit the team. Donations will also be accepted.

Obituaries

Franklin E. Fullmer

Franklin E. Fullmer, 74, son of Ethel Ellen St. Clair Fullmer and Eugene Earl Fullmer, went to meet our Lord Saturday, June 27, 2009. The funeral will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday at Skyvue Victoria Chapel, with burial to follow at Skyvue Memorial Gardens. Visitation is set for 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday at Skyvue Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, send donations to Cook Children's Hospital of Fort Worth or the Susan G. Komen Fund.

Frank was a beloved husband, father and cherished grandfather.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara Fullmer; daughters, Karey Fullmer, Kimberly Orner and husband Steve, Cynthia King, and Brenda Blaker and husband Brian; sisters, Shirley Kiernan and Barbara Gallagher; and grandchildren, Jeff Orner, Tyler, Lyxi and Katlyn Blaker.

Paid obituary

Robert 'Bob' Dean Hobbs

Robert "Bob" Dean Hobbs, 81, a resident of Albuquerque since 1988, died Friday, June 19, 2009.

He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Sondra Peckham Hobbs, and numerous other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his mother, Rosa Gilbert Hobbs, and father, Bob Hobbs.

Bob taught at West Texas State University.

Memorial mass will be celebrated Wednesday, July 1, 2009, at 11 a.m. in St. Thomas Catholic Church, Big Spring. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Cemetery.

Should friends desire, memorial contributions may be made in Bob's name to the American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 11454, Alexandria, Va. 22312; or the American Heart Association National Center, 7272 Greenville Ave., Dallas 75231.

Please visit our online guestbook for Bob at RememberTheirStory.com

Take Note

• Angel Food ordering days for the July 4 holiday weekend will be Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Orders will be taken only at North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church, 2702 N. Birdwell Lane, on those days.

Regular order days for July will be Friday, July 11, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, July 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the church. Orders will also be taken from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 12 at the Big Spring Mall. For more information, call 267-2203.

• The West Texas Pachyderm (Republican) Club is having its monthly meeting Thursday, June 25 at noon at the Big Spring Country Club located off of Driver Road.

Lunch will be served for a nominal fee. Plans for an upcoming Tea Party will be discussed and anyone interested please attend. For more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 267-7387.

• The Permian Basin Foundation has awarded West Texas Opportunities funds through the Texas Resources for Iraq Afghanistan Deployment fund. West Texas Opportunities will assist current and former military personnel serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families.

Funding will serve Howard, Martin, Andrews, Borden, Dawson, Ector, Fisher, Gaines, Glasscock, Midland, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry and Upton counties. For more information, contact Diana Martinez or Debbie Wilson at 110 Johnson in Big Spring or call (432) 267-9536.

• An account to defray funeral costs for the family of Justin Hernandez has been set up at Western Bank — formerly known as First Bank of West Texas — located on FM 700. Hernandez was killed in a shooting May 29. For more information, contact the bank at 267-1113.

Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 3 - 12 - 14 - 24. Bonus Ball: 2.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Monday by the Texas Lottery: 4 - 13 - 15 - 25 - 32.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5 - 7 - 3 - 5. Sum It Up: 20.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3 - 8 - 7. Sum It Up: 18.

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Police blotter

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

- LEROY TREVINO, 23, of 600 Lancaster, was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.
- BILLY KIRK, 62, of 2610 Langley, was arrested Monday on three local warrants.
- THEFT was reported in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
- TERRORISTIC THREAT was reported in the 900 block of Bell.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1700 block of Highway 350.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 1600 block of Sunset.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1200 block of Wood.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 2900 block of Highway 80.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1900 block of Highway 87.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 66 inmates at the time of this report.

- JAY LEE BILLINGSLEY, 43, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while license invalid.
- BILLY KIRK, 63, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of operating an unregistered motor vehicle, failure to maintain financial responsibility and no seat belt.
- CARL MERWORTH, 47, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of theft.
- LEROY TREVINO, 23, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

Fire/EMS

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

- TRAUMA was reported near the intersection of Wasson and Randolph. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2600 block of Fairchild. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 300 block of 10th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of E. Sixth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

• The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St.

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

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

WEDNESDAY

• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

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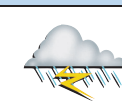


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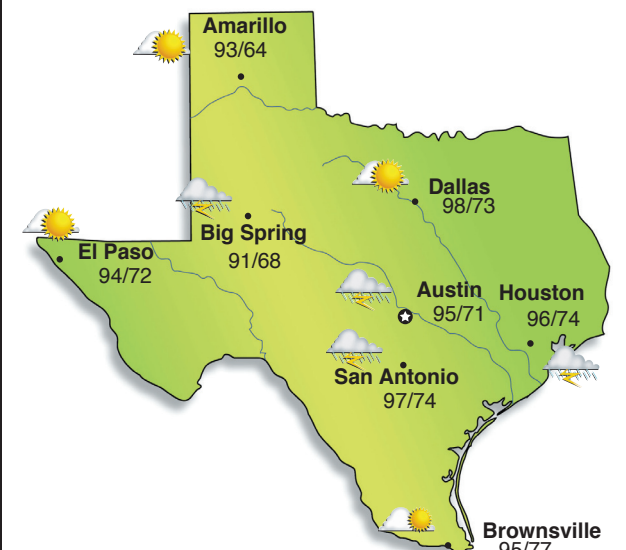
Local 3-Day Forecast

Wed 7/1	Thu 7/2	Fri 7/3
 91/68 A few isolated thunderstorms developing during the afternoon. High 91F. Winds S at 5 to 10 mph.	 93/68 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the upper 60s.	 91/70 Sunny. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the low 70s.
Sunrise: 6:43 AM Sunset: 8:57 PM	Sunrise: 6:44 AM Sunset: 8:57 PM	Sunrise: 6:44 AM Sunset: 8:56 PM



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Texas At A Glance



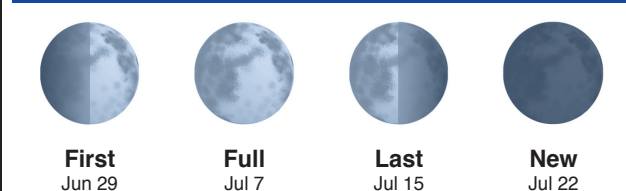
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	94	71	t-storm	Kingsville	98	74	t-storm
Amarillo	93	64	mst sunny	Livingston	97	71	t-storm
Austin	95	71	t-storm	Longview	98	72	mst sunny
Beaumont	96	74	t-storm	Lubbock	94	67	mst sunny
Brownsville	95	77	pt sunny	Lufkin	97	72	t-storm
Brownwood	95	70	t-storm	Midland	92	71	t-storm
Corpus Christi	96	77	t-storm	Raymondville	99	75	mst sunny
Corsicana	96	71	t-storm	Rosenberg	97	73	t-storm
Dallas	98	73	mst sunny	San Antonio	97	74	t-storm
Del Rio	95	75	t-storm	San Marcos	96	71	t-storm
El Paso	94	72	mst sunny	Sulphur Springs	98	73	mst sunny
Fort Stockton	91	68	t-storm	Sweetwater	93	69	t-storm
Gainesville	97	71	mst sunny	Tyler	98	70	mst sunny
Greenville	97	70	mst sunny	Weatherford	96	71	mst sunny
Houston	96	74	t-storm	Wichita Falls	98	70	mst sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	91	65	mst sunny	Minneapolis	78	57	pt sunny
Boston	72	61	t-storm	New York	78	65	t-storm
Chicago	68	57	rain	Phoenix	100	83	t-storm
Dallas	98	73	mst sunny	San Francisco	77	57	pt sunny
Denver	87	61	mst sunny	Seattle	79	55	sunny
Houston	96	74	t-storm	St. Louis	84	66	mst sunny
Los Angeles	79	64	pt sunny	Washington, DC	83	67	t-storm
Miami	90	80	t-storm				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Wed 7/1	Thu 7/2	Fri 7/3
11	11	11
Extreme	Extreme	Extreme

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, 0 with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

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First full match under roof produces drama at Wimbledon

STEPHEN WILSON

AP Sports Writer

WIMBLEDON, England — The first match played entirely under Wimbledon's new retractable roof produced a five-set marathon that finished later than any previous Centre Court encounter in history.

They might as well have called it Wimbledon's first "night session."

What's more, it ended with a British winner celebrating in front of a raucous home crowd.

Andy Murray and Stanislas

Wawrinka battled for nearly four hours Monday under the translucent roof and stadium floodlights before the third-seeded Scot closed out a 2-6, 6-3, 6-3, 5-7, 6-3 victory with a forehand winner at 10:39 p.m.

Murray sank to his knees and bowed his head on the grass..

"It was pretty special," said Murray, who is bidding to become the first British man to win Wimbledon since Fred Perry in 1936.

Previously, no Centre Court match had lasted later than 9:35 p.m.

And at a tournament that be-

gan in 1877, not a single point had been played indoors until earlier Monday, when a light sprinkle interrupted Dinara Safina's 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory over champion Amelie Mauresmo — the first rain break of the tournament after a dry first week.

After the fifth game of the second set, the roof was closed, and Safina and Mauresmo finished up — even though by the time they resumed, the rain had stopped.

Organizers decided to keep the roof closed for the Murray-Wawrinka match in case of more rain.

In the end, the rain stayed away but the roof allowed the match to reach its completion while it was dark outside.

Murray was surprised by the decision and found the playing conditions hard to get used to.

"We were warming up outside," he said. "It was dry. Was expecting to play without the roof, and then obviously it came. I had never played a grass court match indoors before and it made a difference."

"It's very, very heavy and very humid," he said. "Sweating so much. From the start I

noticed it very early. ... When I finished, it was like I'd been in a bath."

The closed conditions helped magnify the partisan support from Murray's fans in the arena.

"At the end, that was probably the noisiest crowd I played in front of," he said.

Pressure on Murray will continue to build as Britain's fans wait for him to end the country's 73-year-old men's title drought.

"I believe I can win Wimbledon," he said. "That's not changed since the first match"

AL

Continued from Page 1B

losing streak. Gerald Laird had an RBI double for the AL Central-leading Tigers, who have lost three of four after a seven-game winning streak.

Rick Porcello (8-5) allowed

nine hits and five runs. Brett Anderson (4-7) earned his first victory in four starts.

Red Sox 4,

Orioles 0

At Baltimore, Jon Lester (7-6) pitched seven shutout innings and J.D. Drew came within a double of hitting for the cycle for Boston.

Jonathan Papelbon got the final out with two on to earn his 132nd career save, tying Bob Stanley for the most in Red Sox history.

White Sox 6, Indians 3

At Cleveland, Gavin Floyd (6-5) shut out Cleveland on five singles over 7 2-3 innings and Chicago climbed back to .500 by handing the Indians their 11th loss in 13 games.

Jermaine Dye and Gordon Beckham had RBI singles off Carl Pavano (6-7) as the White Sox (38-38) won for the 10th time in 14 games.

Royals 4,

Twins 2

At Kansas City, Mo., Miguel Olivo homered, tripled and drove in two runs and Luke

Hochevar (3-3) overcame some shaky moments in seven scoreless innings as Kansas City ended a five-game home losing streak.

Kansas City missed a few early chances against Twins starter Nick Blackburn (6-4) before breaking open a tight game on consecutive homers by Alberto Callaspo and Olivo in the sixth inning.



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MANNY

Continued from Pg. 1B

inning. In five minor league appearances, all sellouts, he went 3 for 10 with a home run.

Colletti doesn't expect Ramirez to be in peak form.

"He's probably going to be a little bit rusty," Colletti said. "You can't expect him to miss 50 games and come right back. But it takes less time for the best players."

Ramirez led off the bottom of the first by smacking a hard-hit bouncer deep into the

hole between shortstop and third. Shortstop Andrew Romine made a nice stop and throw, but Ramirez just beat it.

He struck out swinging in his last two at-bats.

After Ramirez left the game, he was again escorted to his white SUV like a rock star.

NASCAR

Continued from Pg. 1B

he's been forced to borrow money from family and sell personal assets to pay his living expenses. His wife, Shana, is currently listed as the owner of the No. 41 Toyota, but she has not sent it to the track to compete the last five weeks.

NASCAR argued in its Monday filings that Mayfield Motorsports can send the team to the track with a substitute driver, as it did the first two weeks of his suspension.

The sanctioning body also cautioned against allowing Mayfield to fight his positive drug test in court instead of abiding by the toughened policy, which calls for him to participate in a reinstatement pro-

gram.

"It is not in the public interest to send the message that (drug name redacted) and other drug users can simply ignore a sports league's decisions by racing to the courthouse to overturn the league's decision — all by merely alleging procedural imperfections, without any evidence that some imperfection actually led to a false positive," NASCAR wrote.



Community Guide

A resource for newcomers to Big Spring and Howard County

Publication Date: July 26, 2009
DEADLINE: July 15th

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SMMC conducts emergency preparedness drill

The administration, physicians and staff of Scenic Mountain Medical Center (SMMC), in cooperation with local authorities and law enforcement, conducted a routine emergency preparedness drill at the facility Monday morning.

"Periodically, we exercise our emergency plan in order to ensure our readiness to respond," explains George Parsley, chief executive officer for the hospital.

Presented with a surprise scenario, "Our team of physicians and hospital personnel immediately went into action," reported Judy Roeber, chief nursing officer and clinical point person for the drill. "Not knowing how many individuals may have been affected, the hospital activated its emergency protocol and was ready to handle the situation."

Working closely with local officials, staff is able to identify areas for improvement and refinement of the plan. Participants in Monday's drill included Big Spring EMS, Big Spring Fire Department, Big Spring Police Department, Department of Public Safety, Howard College nursing students and the Howard County Sheriff's Office.

"We appreciate the cooperation of all the folks who contributed to creating a realistic scenario for today's drill," Parsley commented.

SHOOTING

Continued from Page 1A

Guzman and Threats are still being treated at SMMC, while Castillo was transported to

Lubbock."

Everett said numerous witnesses to the shooting have been interviewed, but a clear motive has not yet been established.

"Witness accounts vary tremendously,"

said Everett. "There were numerous spent .40 caliber rounds and .410 gauge rounds recovered from the scene, and several vehicles were struck. However, no weapons were recovered."

Everett declined to release the names of any suspects in the shooting, although he said the victims themselves have not been ruled out. "At this time, the victims have not been ruled out as suspects," said

Everett. "The investigation is ongoing."

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

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IDOL

Continued from Page 1A

So, just how did Smith wow the judges in Midland?

"There were about 50 competitors who tried out for West Texas Idol," he said. "I sang 'Lean On Me' by Bill Withers for the first round and the judges absolutely loved it. One particular judge made the comment to me, 'You have a million dollar voice.'"

"The way the auditions for West Texas Idol work, everyone tries out singing a two-minute song, and then we take a break

and come back and they announce the top 10 finalists. Myself and nine others were announced. It was so exciting."

Smith said the final round of the Midland competition came down to a different style of singing, but he decided to stay with a Bill Withers song, a decision that really paid off in the end.

"For the finalist round you have to sing a different song a cappella, so I chose to sing 'Aint No Sunshine,' also by Bill Withers," said Smith. "I got so many pats on the back when I was finished performing, it was an awesome feeling. This has always been my dream to become a singer, and I

am just going to keep on trying."

Whether or not Smith makes it onto the American Idol television show, he said his friends and family are the ones that have kept him working toward a career in music.

"I am so thankful for all the family and friends that support me when I attempt to do crazy things like this," said Smith. "They are the ones that really keep me going."

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

FUNTASTIC

Continued from Page 1A

ing.

As for funding, Johnson said, "We're getting close, but we definitely still need sponsors."

There is still space available for those interested in setting up a booth at the event. "We'd really like to feature food booths, but we need more vendors." The price of food booths is \$150 and regular booths are \$50.

Sign-ups for teams wishing to participate in the washer tournament will begin around 1 p.m. Johnson said they usually get around 25 teams interested in participating.

The DRA is also looking to get all of the churches in town involved in this event as its theme is again "God and Country." Johnson said they are looking for help with things like keeping things cleaned up during the day, working the information booth and

other such activities. However, Johnson stressed that people don't have to belong to a church family to help out.

"We're calling for volunteers to come and help out. We'd like to get all the churches in town involved in some way, but we'd welcome anyone kind enough to show up and give us a hand," he said.

Concerns have been raised about construction posing a problem for the event, but Johnson was promised that it would not be an issue. "They may not be done with the construction, but it won't affect the event. Everything should be business as usual."

To sponsor, register for a booth or just for more information, call Johnson at 267-6278, Kalea Watson at Jaguar Bearing Supply at 263-0400 or check out

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In observation of Independence Day The Big Spring Herald Will Be Closed Friday, July 3rd

Early deadlines are as follows:

CLASSIFIEDS & RETAIL

FRIDAY, JULY 3rd

Deadlines:

Wednesday, July 1st, 3:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 5th &

MONDAY, JULY 6th

Deadlines:

Tuesday, July 2nd, 10:00 am

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1409 MT Vernon 3 bdr, 1 bath, CH/A, fenced yard, storage shed. \$800.00 month, \$750.00 deposit. Call (432)213-4647.

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The Spider

During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper.

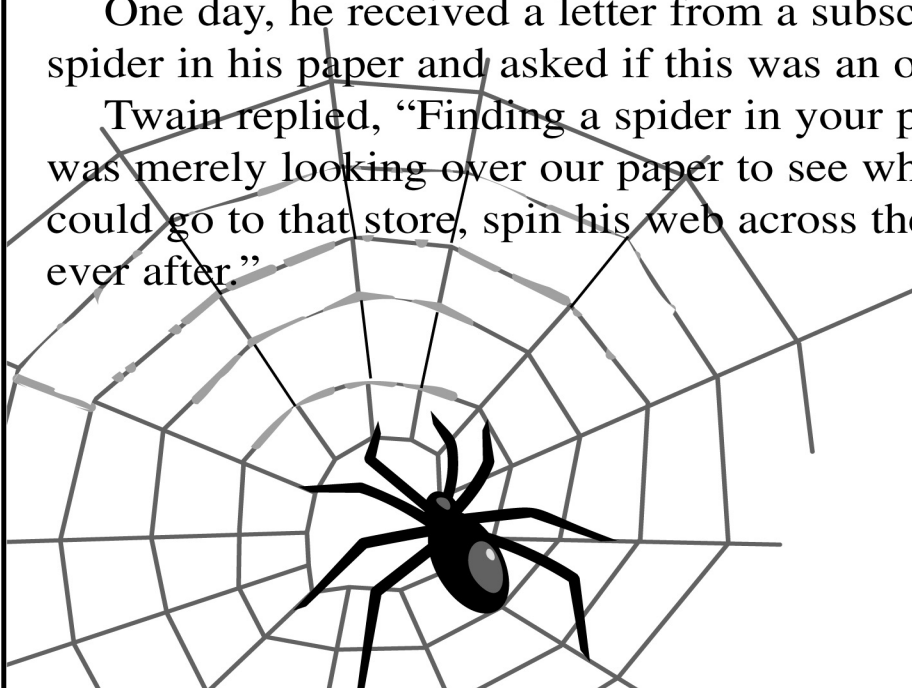
One day, he received a letter from a subscriber stating that he had found a spider in his paper and asked if this was an omen of good or bad luck.

Twain replied, "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good nor bad luck. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever after."

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

Bill McClellan
News Editor

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Monuments-to-me legislation is here and it's about time

Let us sing the praises of but not build a monument to U.S. Rep. Michael McCaul, R-Austin. McCaul has taken as his cause something you'd like as your cause. He has vowed to try to add to every appropriations measure an amendment to bar lawmakers from pushing federal budget earmarks for projects named for themselves.

"Whether these are wise uses of taxpayer dollars is not the question," says McCaul. "The problem is one of perception that these projects receive special treatment. This perception feeds the belief that members of Congress are arrogant and out of touch with the American people we represent."

Members of Congress? Arrogant? Out of touch? Just because they use your money to name stuff for themselves? Such cynicism.

McCaul's idea is gaining some across-the-aisle traction in Washington. Roll Call recently reported that House Appropriations Chairman David Obey, D-Wisc., told Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., he is leaning toward banning what's become known as "monuments to me" in this year's spending bills.

This did not make Waters happy, she of the earmark request for the Maxine Waters Employment Preparation Center in her district.

There's a long, if not proud, tradition of members of Congress naming things for themselves. Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., is your all-time champion of this. It's hard to drive more than a few miles in West Virginia without seeing his name. More than 30 public works honor his service, including the Robert C. Byrd Hardwood Technologies Center, the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing and a Robert C. Byrd high school, federal prison, freeway, highway, expressway, bridge, community center, courthouse, institute, industrial park and addition to the lodge at Wheeling's Oglebay Park.

Hell, let's scrap West Virginia and rename it Byrdland.

Texas is not short on public projects named for state officials. But in most cases, it has been an honor approved after the person left office (and, in some cases, after leaving this life). That's better than the congressional practice of naming things for yourself while you're still appearing on ballots.

For a while, bored Texas statehouse reporters talked about establishing a betting pool on who would be the first Texas official to serve time in a prison bearing his or her name.

Feel free to place your own bets on this. Here's the list of former (and still living) state officials who have prison units named for them: Ex-Govs. Dolph Briscoe and Bill Clements, ex-Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, former state Sen. John Montford, ex-Speaker Gib Lewis, and former Reps. Barry Telford, Jim Rudd, Mark Stiles and Ernestine Glossbrenner.

THE AMERICAN-STATESMAN
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LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Lord, You shouldn't be a back-up plan, You should be our main goal.

Amen

Just call it 'Disability Inc.'

This is not a joke. Last week the U.S. Supreme Court issued a 6-3 decision that required an Oregon public school district to pay a \$5,200 monthly tuition (plus fees) for a private boarding school for a high-school senior whose psychologist had diagnosed him with ADHD, depression, math disorder and cannabis abuse.

Also not a joke: The Obama administration had urged the big bench to so rule. Thus the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which mandates that all "children with disabilities" have the right to a "free appropriate public education," is turning into a cash cow for disability lawyers and private schools. According to an amicus brief filed by Obama's solicitor general, Elena Kagan, Oregon's Forest Grove School District had tested the student — known as T.A. — in 2001, but determined that he had no learning disabilities; specialists did not test for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), although they suspected he had it. Parents and school officials agreed to take a "wait and see" approach.

As he continued to have trouble in public school, T.A.'s mother e-mailed school officials that summer suggesting "there must be some method of teaching more appropriate for him."

In 2002, T.A. started using marijuana. In March 2003, Kagan wrote, T.A.'s parents sent the boy — then a junior — to a psychologist who diagnosed him with "ADHD, depression, math disorder, and cannabis abuse" and recommended that he be admitted to a residential program. The parents pulled T.A. from school, sent him to a three-week wilderness program, and then to

the Mount Bachelor Academy, which specializes in students with "learning disabilities, substance abuse, and behavioral problems." The parents requested an independent hearing in April 2003 to get taxpayers to pay their son's tuition, as per the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act as the school district again determined that T.A.'s disabilities did not merit special education. But in January 2004, a hearing officer found that T.A. had ADHD and Mount Bachelor was appropriate for him.

A district court found against the parents. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the district court. Monday, the Supreme Court ruled that taxpayers should foot the bill for T.A.'s private boarding school.

At issue was a 1997 revision of the IDEA. Dissenting Justice David Souter argued the revision banned subsidizing parents' decision to send their kids to private school without getting approval from the district.

The majority ruling, written by Justice John Paul Stevens and joined by conservative and liberal justices, argued that the revision did not change the law.

Manhattan Institute education senior fellow Jay P. Greene argued that Souter's dissent — joined by two bench conservatives — "was unreasonable in raising alarms about costs."

"The aggregate burden of this kind of policy is a tiny, tiny fraction of aggregate spending," said Greene.

On the other hand, the court arguably engages in policy-making when it tells districts how they must spend valuable education dollars.

Walter Olson of overlawyered.com nailed the problem with the majority ruling when he opined in an e-mail, "The impulse to get a better shake for one's kid is universal, but it's disproportionately wealthy and clever parents, with their hired lawyers and experts, who succeed in using these rules to obtain

a private school education at public expense. In this case, the question was whether parents should at least try the public schools' proffer of special-ed services before declaring them inadequate, which doesn't seem to me to be too much to ask."

And what a test case. You could understand the court's order for tuition payments for private school for a severely disabled child — but not a teenager who had managed to graduate without any special education from kindergarten to the 11th grade, when he developed a marijuana problem.

The Obama administration blithely went along because, as Solicitor General Kagan wrote, it would be wrong to leave parents with "the choice of leaving the child in an inappropriate placement or paying for an appropriate placement in a private school."

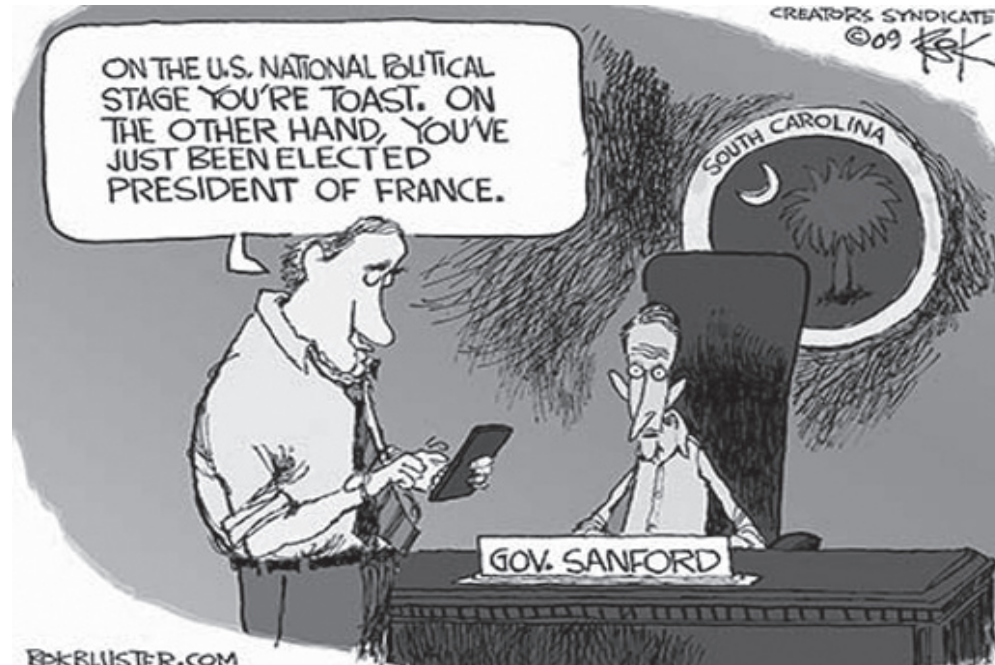
Sadly, many parents face a similar dilemma. But only parents with the resources to game experts (who will diagnose a disability) and lawyers stand to win full boarding school tuition.

Noting that Souter's dissent was joined by conservative Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, Olson noted, "I'm still trying to figure out why being progressive on this issue means siding with the private schools and affluent parents, while the conservative justices are the ones to defend the public school ideal of universal service."

It's one of those nice people things. The government has expanded the notion of disability to the point of absurdity. But nice people refuse to look at the impending drain on public school budgets, or how one child's boarding school tuition can mean that much less funding for all the other students' educational needs.

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

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Don't cry for me, South Carolina

Spare me the tears, OK? If you want me to respect the privacy of your stupidity, don't expect my sympathy. And whatever you do, I don't want to hear about your agony.

South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford's admission that he spent the last five days crying in Argentina provided us with one of those moments to wonder how it is that people can get so far with so little judgment. I know the old explanation that men don't always think with their brain, but as always, it is the part that isn't about sex that is so mystifying.

Is Sanford the only long-married politician out there who is currently and actively unfaithful to his wife? I dare say not. I dare say that is not a road either party would invite the other to walk down. As far as we know, the woman Sanford was involved with didn't even work for him. A heterosexual affair with a woman over 18 who doesn't work for you and who you didn't pay or meet in a public restroom wouldn't even land Sanford on a top-10 list of tasteless political scandals of the last two years were it not for the more mystify-

ing part of this case: the disappearance part.

What is so puzzling about Sanford is not the arrogance of thinking that he could send sloppy e-mails to his girlfriend, fly off to see her in Argentina and no one in South Carolina would be the wiser. Every second-rate thief is arrogant in that way, thinking he will be the one who won't get caught.

It's also not the selfishness of expecting those on his staff — who either didn't know but suspected something was wrong or worse, or knew but obviously couldn't say — to lie to others on his behalf, damaging their own reputations and credibility in the process. Hiking on the Appalachian Trail while recovering from the legislative session? Who came up with that one? Whoever did, it was the staff that was forced to try to sell it.

Loyalty may be a one-way street in politics, but having to out-and-out lie to protect your boss's bad behavior is really slimy — but not surprising.

When I was in college, in the last years of curfews and "parietals" (there's a word you don't hear anymore), we were required to sign out when we left the dorm, and in an act of rebellion, we would put down things like Cambridge or New York City. Funny.

Since I've been a grownup, I've understood that if you're a per-

son with responsibilities to and for others, there are times when you must be reached. And in order to be reached, you tell people where you're going. Adults don't disappear. They leave numbers.

Sanford thought he could escape his life, escape his wife and four sons on Father's Day, escape a job he apparently loved and a future he had cultivated, escape all these things to go off to Argentina and play — and not even leave a number.

My guess is that if Sanford's staff is like every other politician's I know, they're on-call to him 24/7. If one of them disappeared to Argentina for a week, they would find an empty desk when they got home. Those are the rules of the game, and everyone knows it.

But the rules don't apply to the king: the president, the governor, the candidate. No one, or almost no one, has the standing to say no to them. No one who wants to be there very long chooses to play that role. So, surrounded by their yes-men and women, politicians — like Benjamin Button — get younger every year until they start believing in their fantasies and losing touch with the hard realities.

I think Sanford really was crying in Argentina, because reality finally intruded on his fantasy. Time to grow up, governor.

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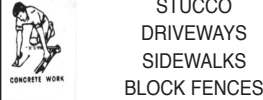


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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Pause and take a nice long look around you, as though you'll be later asked to remember the minute details of this day. What is your mate wearing? Whose cars are parked outside? What did you eat for breakfast? Tomorrow's retrograde of Uranus is pushing for change. You'll later be glad you noticed the status quo of this interesting time.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You've a sense that your destiny has already been determined, and it has — by you. Remember that wish you made when you were but a small child? Part of it comes true today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The dangers of the world don't need any more attention. If you can ignore bad news in favor of playing with children, going for a walk or chatting with a friend, do it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're making something into a bigger deal than it needs to be. Loosen up. Caring a little less won't make you "careless." But being overly cautious, however, is sure to lead to mistakes.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You understand many levels of communication. You can read into the slightest of signals. Tension in a person's voice or body sets off red flags in your mind. You gravitate toward comfortable people.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When a parental figure asks you questions, you might perceive their interest as nosiness. You're in a private sort of mood and besides, your latest project or idea is not yet ready to be shared.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JUNE 30). This year brings many amazements. Absurd ideas turn out to be useful. You'll commit to a person or job you love in July. August brings a sudden burst of energy. You will accomplish an enormous task in a



HOLIDAY
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short period of time. September and October are romantic and you'll see the world in a new way. Virgo and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 6, 20, 31 and 16.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're so generous. If you're not careful, you'll give until you're depleted. That won't help anyone. Change your formula. Get comfortable with less give and more take, if only for the next three days.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Many people like you and want to show you, some more than others. If you are embarrassed by constant dotting attention, then you should keep 10 paces away from Pisces.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's no reason to worry about what's going to happen in the future, and even less reason to worry about now. Anyway, this is a fine time to break the habit of needing something to focus anxious energy on.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Generosity is your nature, though you sometimes wonder whether people really notice that you're doing more than your part. The benefits of doing more than is expected of you will now be obvious and lucrative.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your vision is pure. The money involved, or lack thereof, has no impact on the result you wish to accomplish. Stay true to yourself and soon you'll see your idea come to life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It would seem that the only thing holding you back from the one you love is timing. Instead of cursing father time for holding all of the power, ask him for a peek into the future. An insight you get tonight is the key.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Do not underestimate your role. Your knowledge about one small area of life is the ticket to understanding how many things work. You are important and your influence is crucial in the lives of many.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I am a Libra,

and an extremely convincing person. People tell me that I'm a natural-born saleswoman. I rarely meet a person I don't like and I think it's easy to establish rapport with others and influence their decisions. But when it comes to love, I can't seem to get guys to commit to a relationship with me. No matter how good my case may be or how much I plead, pout or get mad, I just can't convince a guy to take things to the next level with me. Why is it so hard? Can you help?"

You're right, Libra. You can't convince a guy to take things to the next level with you because no matter how fantastic your case may be, making a case in the first place is trying to appeal to a man's head, and that's not where these types of decisions are made. The heart speaks a different language and it's not logical. You can't reason with it and the more you try, the more distant he will become. So instead of convincing the guy to do what you want to do, have fun, stay positive and let a guy know that you're shopping around for someone who is ready to have a relationship with one great gal.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Fantasia Barrino won "American Idol" and went on to land the leading role in a major Broadway musical, "The Color Purple." She has also been cast in the movie version of the musical in the role that Whoopi Goldberg played in the 1985 Steven Spielberg film. Barrino is an extraordinary Cancer mother with her sun, moon, Mercury and Venus all nestled into the soulful sign of the moon.

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

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: Two weeks ago, on the spur of the moment, I went to Las Vegas and married my boyfriend. I can't tell you how much I regret it. I'm not sure whether it's because I've only known him a month or because the wedding ring looks like gold dice.

I am in my 30s and ready to settle down again (this was my third wedding), but even I believe this was too impulsive. My new husband is really committed, but I don't think I can do this. How can I let him down easy and make him understand it was a mistake? — *What Happens in Vegas Should Stay in Vegas*

Dear Vegas: You entered this union in haste, but please take

the time to see if there is something worth saving. This guy is willing to stick by you and deserves that much consideration. You might discover that one secret to lasting relationships is the willingness to work through problems when things get tough.

If you decide, however, that the marriage cannot possibly be successful, you should be able to get an annulment, telling your husband that you both deserve an opportunity to get to know each other better before making this kind of commitment.

Dear Annie: I have a close friend who "forgets" to pay for the items in the bottom of her grocery cart and allows her infant son to play with

toys in the store and then walks out as if they belong to him.

I have warned "Nicole" about this practice, but so far, she has not been caught. To add to that, Nicole and her husband intend to file for bankruptcy, so they are maxing out their credit cards on jewelry, sporting events, restaurants, etc., because they know they won't have to repay the debt.

I'm not sure why I am so upset. Am I jealous because Nicole gets these expensive items for "free" and I am going through difficult times right now?

I have taken a second job to help make ends meet, while Nicole continues to steal from stores, driving up the prices for all of us. What

should I do? — *Indiana*

Dear Indiana: Nicole is a cheat and a thief, and that is reason enough to be upset with her.

We'd cross her off our friend list because she is not a person of integrity. As for the pre-bankruptcy profligacy, federal law denies the benefits of bankruptcy to anyone who is shown to have gone on a credit card spending spree during the 90 days leading up to a bankruptcy filing.

Credit card companies are on the lookout for just this type of situation. Even if the credit card companies don't take legal action against her, it is likely that Nicole will still have to pay a portion of those charges from future

earnings. She's not as clever as she thinks.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Total Loss," whose son dropped out of college, played video games all day and gave up on everything he loved.

My son was very successful in high school, active in the church youth group and was an Eagle Scout. When he went to college, he could not get it together.

He missed classes and spent days in his dorm room. When he came home he was violent. Our doctor diagnosed him with "situational depression." Two universities and another year later, he was diagnosed with Adult Attention Deficit Disorder through the wonderful university

counseling center.

He just graduated with honors and has applied for graduate school. He has grown into everything I expected he could be. Tell that family to never give up. — *Proud Mother*

Dear Proud: Your son is lucky to have loving parents who obviously encouraged him to get the help he so desperately needed. And congratulations to him for having the courage and strength to seek assistance.

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

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News in brief

Aviation inspectors found faults with Yemeni Airways jet during inspection

PARIS (AP) — France's transport minister says French aviation inspectors found a "number of faults" during a 2007 inspection of a plane that has crashed in the Indian Ocean.

The passenger jet from Yemen with 153 people on board crashed Tuesday as it tried to land during heavy wind on the island nation of Comoros.

Dominique Bussereau said on France's i-Tele television Tuesday that the Airbus A310 was inspected by France's civil aviation agency DGAC in 2007 and "they noticed a certain number of faults."

He says the plane had not returned to French air space since.

He lists the airline was not on any European black lists but "was subject to stricter surveillance on our part" and was scheduled for an upcoming interview with European Union safety officials.

U.S. military says 4 soldiers killed in Baghdad on eve of American withdrawal

BAGHDAD (AP) — Four U.S. soldiers were killed in combat on the eve of the withdrawal of American troops from Baghdad and other Iraq cities, the U.S. military said, as Iraqi forces on Tuesday assumed control for security in urban areas.

The U.S. military said the four soldiers served with the Multi-National Division-Baghdad but did not provide further details pending notification of their families. It said they died as a "result of combat related injuries."

The withdrawal that was completed on Monday is part of a U.S.-Iraqi security pact and marks the first major step toward withdrawing all American forces from the country by Dec. 31, 2011. President Barack Obama has said all combat troops will be

gone by the end of August 2010.

The Iraqi government has named June 30 "National Sovereignty Day" and declared a public holiday.

President Jalal Talabani said the day could not have happened without the help of the United States, which invaded Iraq in 2003 and ousted Saddam Hussein — who was later convicted by an Iraqi court and executed in Dec. 2006.

Iran declares election fight over, paving way for Ahmadinejad's second term

IRAN (AP) — A body of 12 clerics declared Iran's disputed presidential vote valid and free of major fraud, paving the way for President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to be sworn in next month despite claims of vote manipulation that sparked weeks of massive protest.

The Guardian Council, an electoral authority the opposition accuses of favoring Ahmadinejad, said Monday that it had found only "slight irregularities" after randomly selecting and recounting 10 percent of nearly 40 million ballots.

"From today on, the file on the presidential election has been closed," Guardian Council spokesman Abbas Ali Kadkhodaei said on state-run Press TV.

10 others will face federal charges by the time Madoff criminal probe is complete

NEW YORK (AP) — In one of the highest-profile financial fraud cases in history, a judge firmly sided with Bernard Madoff's thousands of victims when he gave the disgraced financier a sentence long enough for him to die in prison.

A person familiar with the investigation said 10 more people would face federal charges by the time the probe into the multibillion-dollar fraud is complete. So far, only Madoff and an accountant accused of failing to make basic auditing checks have been criminally charged.

The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing, wouldn't detail potential charges or say whether the 10 would include Madoff's family or former employees.

In court Monday, the 71-year-old Madoff admitted

it was impossible for him to excuse deeds that U.S. District Judge Denny Chin noted had cost investors \$13.2 billion by conservative estimates and \$50 billion by the estimate Madoff gave his sons in December.

"I don't ask any forgiveness," Madoff told Chin. "Although I may not have intended harm, I did a great deal of harm."

Gas train derails and explodes in northern Italy, killing 13, injuring 50

VIAREGGIO, Italy (AP) — A freight train derailed in the middle of the night in northern Italy, setting off an explosion and a fire that killed at least 13 people and sent 50 others to the hospital, many with severe burns, officials said Tuesday.

The 14-car train was traveling from the northern city of La Spezia to Pisa when a rear car plowed into a residential neighborhood beside the train station in the Tuscan seaside town of Viareggio just before midnight Monday.

A train car filled with liquefied natural gas exploded, collapsing at least two buildings and setting fire to a vast area. Homes collapsed or burned, killing residents as they slept.

"We saw a ball of fire rising up to the sky," said witness Gianfranco Bini, who lives in a building overlooking the station. "We heard three big rumbles, like bombs. It looked like war had broken out."

Videos uploaded on YouTube showed a huge plume of fire and smoke towering above Viareggio's low houses. An inferno raged through the night, consuming buildings and cars, while the sound of sirens and explosions pierced the air.

Supreme Court's firefighter discrimination ruling arms Sotomayor's critics

WASHINGTON (AP) — Foes of Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor celebrated the high court's reversal of her decision in a reverse discrimination case.

The 5-4 ruling Monday, backing of reverse discrimination claims by white firefighters, is unlikely to derail Sotomayor's nomination — and it may not even sway a vote. Reaction to the decision fell almost purely along partisan lines, with Republicans cheering the decision and saying it raises serious concerns about the judge, and Democrats condemning the opinion and arguing that Sotomayor had acted appropriately.

Still, the Supreme Court's decision in the case of Ricci v. DeStefano highlighted the competing ideological strains that will shape the debate over confirming Sotomayor.

Conservatives who cheered the reversal as a blow in favor of evenhanded application of anti-discrimination laws said it deepened their questions about the judge's ability to keep her personal opinions and background out of her decisions.

"This case will only raise more questions in the minds of the American people concerning Judge Sotomayor's commitment to treat each individual fairly and not as a member of a group," said Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama, the senior Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Ousted president says he will return to Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — Honduras' ousted president said he will return to his country in two days and reclaim control from coup leaders, urging soldiers to go back to their barracks and stop cracking down on thousands of his supporters who have protested his overthrow.

The military coup has provoked the condemnation of world leaders from U.S. President Barack Obama to Venezuela's Hugo Chavez and sparked clashes in the Honduran capital that have left dozens of people injured.

Flanked by leftist Latin American leaders who have vowed to help him regain power, Manuel Zelaya said late Monday that he would accept an offer by Organization of American States Secretary-General Jose Miguel Insulza to accompany him back to Honduras and work for the restoration of the democratic order.

Zelaya, a wealthy rancher who has championed the poor, said he wanted to make the trip Thursday, after attending a meeting of the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday to seek support from its 192 member nations.

FDA panel to vote on possible restrictions

ADELPHI, Md. (AP) — Government experts are scheduled to vote on whether Nyquil and other combination cold medications should be pulled from the market to help curb deadly overdoses.

The Food and Drug Administration has assembled more than 35 experts for a two-day meeting to discuss and vote on ways to prevent overdose with acetaminophen — the pain-relieving, fever-reducing ingredient in Tylenol and dozens of other prescription and over-the-counter medications.

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5♦ Pass 6♣ Pass

Opening lead — ten of diamonds.

Declarer occasionally finds himself in a contract that he has virtually no chance of making. Regardless of who is to blame — and in many cases no one is really at fault — it is still his responsibility to try to bring about a successful resolution.

Take this case where an overly optimistic South found himself in a virtually hopeless six-spade contract. After learning via Blackwood that an ace was missing, South should have

Tomorrow: Opportunity knocks but once.
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taken the safer course and signed off at five spades rather than assume his partner had the K-Q-x or K-x-x-x of spades, which would have made the slam a strong favorite.

West led a diamond to East's ace, and declarer won the diamond continuation with the king. South then paused to consider the possible divisions of the missing trumps.

If the spades were divided 2-2, a trump trick had to be lost, so he next considered potential 3-1 splits. If either defender had the K-J-x of spades, there was also no hope. Nor would it help if the spade king fell singleton under the ace, since the other defender's J-9-2 could not be overcome regardless of how South continued.

Only one possibility remained — a singleton jack. If the lone jack was in the East hand, it would do South no good, but if West had it, declarer was in business.

So South crossed to the queen of clubs at trick three and led the queen of spades. It didn't matter what East did. If he refused to cover, the queen would win and a repeat finesse would pick up the king. If he did cover, South would win, re-enter dummy and finesse against East's nine to bring in the slam.

Desperate situations require desperate measures.

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.

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

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Spicy Cajun Sirloin
With your choice of two sides: Salad Bar, Vegetable or Rice



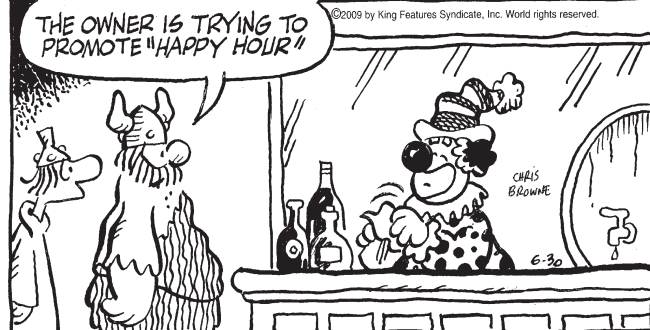
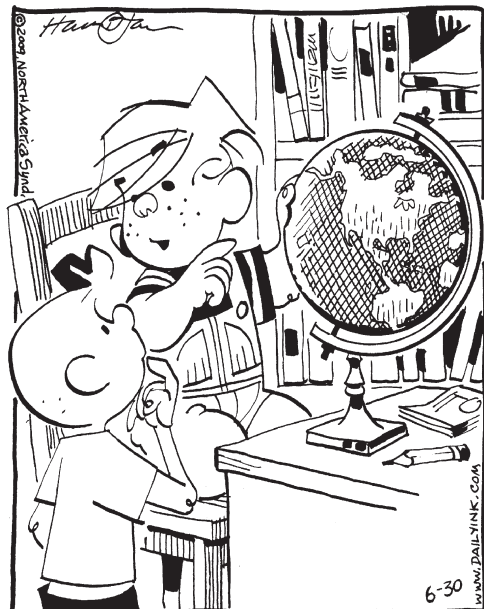
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Table with 18 columns (WFAA, KMD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTL, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN) and 18 rows (5:30 PM to 1:30 AM) listing various TV programs and channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

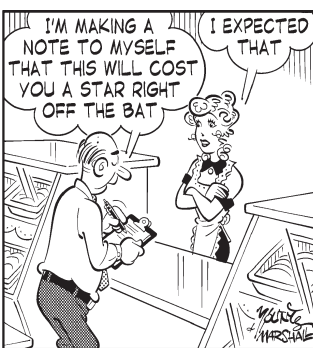
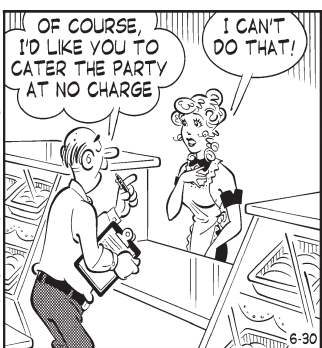
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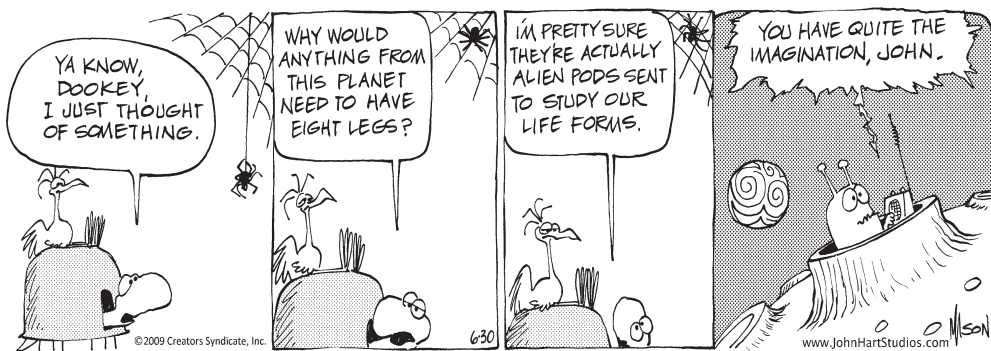
'MY GRAMPA SAYS IF YA DON'T KNOW YOUR GEOGRAPHY, YOU'RE NOWHERE.'

'What else are you planning to do today besides 'nothing'?'

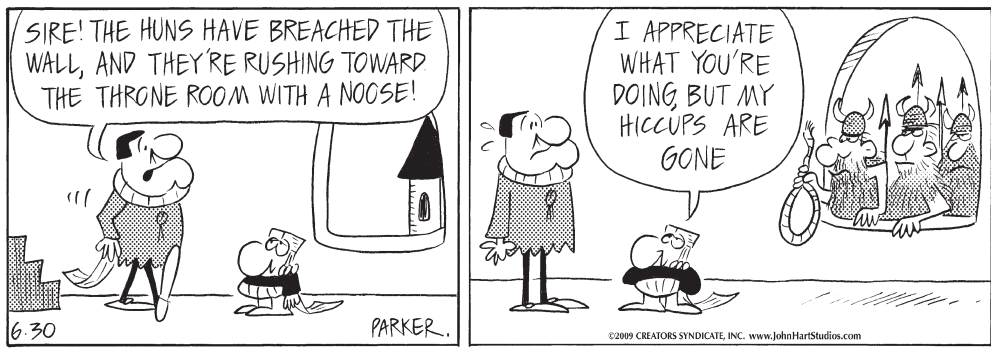
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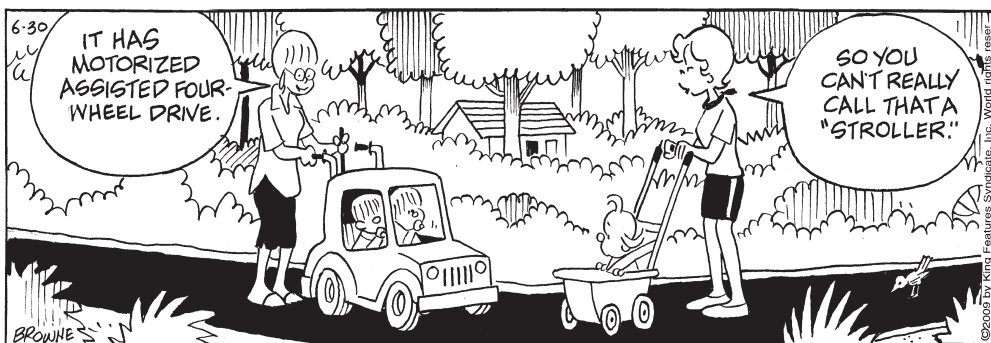
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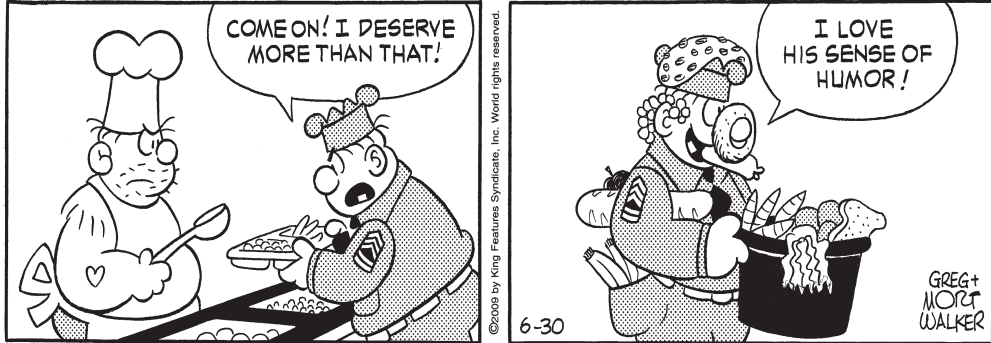
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Germany in what came to be known as 'The Night of the Long Knives.' In 1936, the novel 'Gone with the Wind' by Margaret Mitchell was published in New York. In 1958, the U.S. Senate passed the Alaska statehood bill by a vote of 64-20. In 1963, Pope Paul VI was crowned the 262nd head of the Roman Catholic Church. In 1971, a Soviet space mission ended in tragedy when three cosmonauts aboard Soyuz 11 were found dead inside their spacecraft after it had returned to Earth. In 1984, John Turner was sworn in as Canada's 17th prime minister, succeeding Pierre Elliott Trudeau. One year ago: President George W. Bush signed legislation to pay for the war operations in Iraq and Afghanistan for the rest of his presidency and beyond, hailing the \$162 billion plan as a rare product of bipartisan cooperation. Today's Birthdays: Singer Lena Horne is 92. Actor Tony Musante is 73. Actress Nancy Dussault is 73. Singer Glenn Shorrock is 65. Jazz musician Stanley Clarke is 58. Actor David Garrison is 57. Rock

musician Hal Lindes (Dire Straits) is 56. Actor-comedian David Alan Grier is 53. Actor Vincent D'Onofrio is 50. Actress Deirdre Lovejoy is 47. Actor Rupert Graves is 46. Boxer Mike Tyson is 43. Rock musician Tom Drummond (Better Than Ezra) is 40. Actor Brian Bloom is 39. Actor Brian Vincent is 39. Actress Monica Potter is 38. Actor Rick Gonzalez is 30. Actress Lizzy Caplan is 27. Rhythm-and-blues singer Fantasia ('American Idol') is 25. Olympic gold medal swimmer Michael Phelps is 24. Thought for Today: 'Those who love deeply never grow old; they may die of old age, but they die young.' - Sir Arthur Wing Pinero, English dramatist (1855-1934).

Answer to previous puzzle crossword grid with words like ATBAT, SCAR, FIBS, SAUDI, TORE, IDEA, etc.

Newsday Crossword

JOB SEARCH by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Decrease, 5 Shopping binge, 10 Notion, 14 Strong as..., 15 Requires, 16 Make airtight, 17 Staircase part, 18 Regions, 19 Lab-maze runners, 20 TV-series prototype, 22 Playground retort, 23 Spiritual selves, 24 Limerick, for one, 25 Talk-show hosts, 28 Utter chaos, 30 Carpentry raw material, 31 No longer fresh, 33 Sales agent, for short, 35 Air-quality org., 36 Natural abilities, 38 Paving material, 39 Part of a minute: Abbr., 40 Courted romantically, 41 Religious ceremony, 42 Holy place, 44 Itsy-bitsy, 46 Fire-hydrant attachment, 47 Sounded like a crow, 49 Skedaddle, 51 House builder's showcase, 55 Debtor's notes, 56 Backless sofa, 57 'Good gracious!', 58 Be durable, 59 Clumsy, 60 Desertlike, 61 Bullring cheers, 62 _-eyed (close to tears), 63 Declare untrue, 10 Jerusalem's land, 11 '50s partner of Jerry Lewis, 12 Has dinner besides, 13 Besides, 21 Tip of a sock, 22 Secret writings, 24 Strike, as with hailstones, 25 Rams' mates, 26 Wears a long face, 27 Estate outbuilding, 28 Musical group, 29 Butcher-shop buys, 31 Dark-skinned fruit, 32 Driving-range prop, 34 Hunter's quarry, 36 Unexpected ending, 37 Top-notch, 41 Lucille Ball, notably, 43 Parrot perches, 44 One-fifth of 100, 45 Snakelike fish, 47 Sheltered inlets, 48 Cope with change, 49 Grain-storage building, 50 Old-time furnace fuel, 51 Skimpy skirt, 52 Fairy-tale monster, 53 Most important, 54 Whirling water, 56 Lower, as headlights

Newsday Crossword grid with numbers 1-63 indicating starting positions for words.

News in brief

2 accused of smuggling

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — A federal magistrate set \$50,000 bonds for two Mexican men accused of smuggling illegal immigrants through a drainage pipe running under the streets of Brownsville.

Border Patrol agents made the arrests Thursday after spotting the immigrants near the pipe's Rio Grande outflow grate. They radioed other agents, who followed underground voices.

Agustin Sanchez Cruz, identified as the guide, was arrested with three others after agents opened a manhole cover.

Acosta Hernandez was charged with smuggling four other immigrants.

Sanchez Cruz's court-appointed attorney had no comment after Monday's court hearing. Acosta Hernandez's attorney did not immediately return a call to the San Antonio Express-News.

Border Patrol officials notified the city of Brownsville that the outflow grate of the Rio Grande's drainage pipe is being compromised.

Attorneys await decision

on Stanford's bond

HOUSTON (AP) — Attorneys for Texas financier R. Allen Stanford are hoping a federal judge will side with them and allow their client to be free on bond while he awaits trial on charges he swindled investors out of \$7 billion.

Prosecutors want U.S. District Judge David Hittner to revoke Stanford's \$500,000 bond and keep him in jail. Stanford has been in custody since being indicted June 18.

Hittner was expected by mid-afternoon Tuesday to rule on the fate of Stanford's bond, granted last week. He listened to arguments during a four-hour court hearing Monday.

At the hearing, prosecutor Gregg Costa argued Stanford's international ties make him a serious flight risk and differentiate him from other high-profile fraud defendants, including former Enron Corp. executives Jeffrey Skilling and Ken Lay, who were freed on bond before their trials.

Stanford holds dual U.S. and Antiguan citizenship, has a primary home outside the United States, has an international network of wealthy acquaintances who would help him and might have access to vast wealth hidden around the world, Costa said.

These are "flight risk indicators that are virtually unprecedented for a white collar defendant," he said.

But Dick DeGuerin, Stanford's attorney, said his client, who is broke because all his assets have been seized, has a good reason not to flee.

"When we win this case, and we will win this case, Mr. Stanford will be restored of much of what he has been stripped of," DeGuerin said. "That is a tremendous financial incentive to stay."

Stanford and three executives of his now defunct

Houston-based Stanford Financial Group are accused of orchestrating a massive fraud by misusing most of the \$7 billion they advised clients to invest in certificates of deposit from the Stanford International Bank in the Caribbean island of Antigua.

Judge delays closing arguments in hearing

HOUSTON (AP) — A judge delayed closing arguments in a hearing Monday in order to hear testimony from a forensic expert before ruling on whether new DNA evidence is favorable to a death row inmate.

State District Judge Joan Campbell wants to hear from Patricia Hamby, the city's expert, before issuing a ruling in an evidentiary hearing that could lead to Charles D. Raby's release or a new trial, the Houston Chronicle reported.

Raby was sentenced to death for the 1994 murder of a 72-year-old woman assaulted and stabbed in her home.

During Raby's trial, Houston crime lab analyst Joseph Chu testified that tests on scrapings from under the woman's fingernails were inconclusive. Raby's lawyer presented new DNA tests in January that had no evidence linked to Raby.

Hamby has called Chu's testimony "incorrect ... and not supported." Hamby, who is based in Indiana, is expected to testify sometime next month. After her appearance, Campbell will decide whether the new evidence is favorable to Raby's case, a decision that could provide an opening for his attorney to seek his release or a new trial.

Raby's case puts work by the troubled Houston crime lab under scrutiny again. Questions about the lab first arose in 2002, when the DNA section was first shut down. Inaccuracies were later found in lab divisions that test firearms, body fluids and controlled substances.

Raby's lawyer, Sarah Frazier, called the crime lab evidence presented at trial false and claimed prosecutors failed to disclose information about the forensic tests that could have helped Raby before his 1994 trial.

The Harris County District Attorney's Office has maintained that the new fingernail evidence is inconclusive and does not clear Raby.

AP source: Guard to seek volunteers for border

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration is developing plans to seek up to 1,500 National Guard volunteers to step up the military's counter-drug efforts along the Mexican border, senior administration officials said Monday.

The plan is a stopgap measure being worked out between the Defense Department and the Homeland Security Department, and comes despite Pentagon concerns about committing more troops to the bor-

der — a move some officials worry will be seen as militarizing the region.

Senior administration officials said the Guard program will last no longer than a year and would build on an existing counter-drug operation. They said the program, which would largely be federally funded, would draw on National Guard volunteers from the four border states. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the details have not been finalized.

Officials said the program would mainly seek out guard members for surveillance, intelligence analysis and aviation support. Guard units would also supply ground troops who could assist at border crossings and with land and air transportation.

A senior White House official said Monday that President Barack Obama is concerned about the situation at the border and wants to work with Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano on the question of additional resources.

The official said Obama appreciates the level of discussion between the two agencies, and since the issue is still being debated, he has not yet made any decisions.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal policy debate.

Earlier this spring Obama promised his Mexican counterpart, Felipe Calderon, that the United States would help with the escalating drug war, which has killed as many as 11,000 people since December 2006.

Attorney General Eric Holder and Napolitano announced a 2009 counternarcotics strategy several weeks ago, saying the U.S. would devote more resources to fighting the Mexican drug cartels, including the cash and weapons that flow across the border from the U.S. into Mexico.

High-speed chase in Dallas area ends in crash

DALLAS (AP) — A high-speed chase through the Dallas area ended Monday with the car being pursued by authorities running a red light and colliding with a pickup truck.

Television reports say the chase lasted about 90 minutes after starting in the Dallas suburb of Mesquite.

Television reports identified the suspect as 29-year-old Shane Michel. He was in critical condition late Monday afternoon at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas, said hospital spokeswoman Maria Carpenter.

The driver of the pickup told television stations that he was sore after the crash.

Dallas County constable assistant dispatcher Curtis Hettich said the chase began as a routine traffic stop.

Dallas County Constable Michael Gothard said the suspect was wanted on a felony warrant.



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Owl's home goes up in smoke

The 10 p.m. news had warned of severe thunderstorms approaching from the west. As the blustery winds and rain increased, the phone rang. Alerting the volunteer of a structure fire, the caller advised, "Be ready for a long night."

Parking some distance from the old frame house, the firefighter knew it wouldn't be salvageable. Suited up to join a buddy assigned to search the abandoned home for any transients, the volunteer hoped the others could contain the rapidly spreading flames.

Inside, the dense smoke and heat were expected. Each knew to be thorough in quickly looking through the rooms. As the other volunteer gestured toward the roof as ready to fall, he signaled he was leaving. The firefighter nod-

ded and motioned "one to go."

After entering the remaining room, the firefighter felt an eerie



BEBE McCASLAND

owl.

Staring ahead with dark eyes surrounded by a heart-shaped face, the bird did not move as she approached. Clasping the owl to her chest, the volunteer hurried outside.

When the phone rang as Letterman and Leno made way for the next programs, we both jumped. As we won-

dered who would be calling so late, I heard an exhausted person say, "I have an owl."

Identifying herself as being a member of the Greenwood Volunteer Fire Department, the woman had carried the bird to her truck. Having placed the owl in the front seat, she returned to the dismal scene.

With the collapse of the structure, some of the volunteers doused the remaining embers and surrounding area while others started work on laying out and retrieving hoses. She finally had a chance to call.

"We'll be here for some time until we get things cleaned up," she continued. Worried that the heat and smoke inhalation might be more than the owl could tolerate, she planned to take it home and would phone us the

next day.

It was nearly noon when she called. "I couldn't sleep. I kept seeing that owl in the burning house," she said.

With the description she had given of the bird, I told her she rescued a barn owl. Once in her home and in a well-lighted room, the woman had noticed the owl had a white face and was mostly white underneath. It was a sharp contrast to its wings and back with their golden and gray feathers mottled with white and brown. Observant, she had even noticed the black spots on its breast and belly.

"Was the fire started by a lightning strike," I asked. "No. It was set," was all she had to say. When I asked her how the owl was doing, she said it was still alive. Telling her



Courtesy photo

In an old building, a female barn owl (left) and her mate (right) roost during the day. From nightfall to dawn, they hunt in open country for mice, rats and rabbits. With a wingspan of nearly four feet, the raptors also have phenomenal eyesight and hearing.

we would come for the bird, she said she'd call back after breakfast.

The phone call later brought news of the owl's death. Upset, the woman wished she had found it sooner. "It might not be the only victim," I added. Abandoned buildings offer a place to roost during the day and raise the young. There could have been others.

Regional news the following day announced that a teenage male had

allegedly set the fire. It was noted there were no fatalities. Soon, the incident and its cause were forgotten. In the two years since that night, reports on structure fires and burn bans, bring to mind the senseless loss of the bird of prey in a reckless moment of gratification.

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

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- State National Bank **CLOSED**
- Big Spring Community Federal Credit Union **CLOSED JULY 3rd & 4th**
- Western Bank **CLOSED**
- The Electric Utilities Credit Union **CLOSED July 3rd & 4th**
- Compass Bank **CLOSED**