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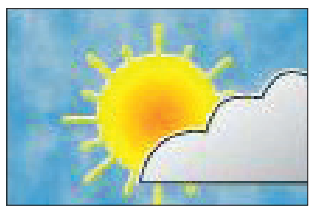


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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY

APRIL 6, 2010



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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

Big Spring High School choir students — joined by Choir Director Anna Castaneda O'Brien and accompanist Eddie Vandewalker — perform Monday evening in the school's auditorium to prepare for the University Interscholastic League contests Thursday at Andrews High School.

RUNOFF ELECTION

Early voting going on at courthouse

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Early voting to decide the Republican nomination for the Precinct 2 seat on the Howard County Commissioners Court began Monday morning and is scheduled to continue through Friday at the county courthouse, according to election officials.

"We're hoping to collect about 500 votes during early voting, and then another 500 on election day. We had a little more than 1,000 ballots cast in the primaries, so I feel like that's a pretty reasonable goal."

Sandra Bloom,
elections administrator

Local resident Donnie Baker will square off against incumbent Jerry Kilgore in a runoff for the Republican nomination in the November contest.

Baker came out ahead in the March Republican primary, pulling in 617 ballots for 43.45 percent of the vote. Kilgore came in second with 532 ballots, or 37.46 percent of the vote, while third-place finisher Melanie Gambrel was eliminated with 271 ballots, making up the final 19.08 percent of the vote.

However, because neither of the two top candidates managed to garner 50 percent or more of the vote in the Republican Primary, state law requires a runoff election be held between them to determine who will represent the party in November.

According to Howard County Elections Administrator Sandra Bloom, she and

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Mayoral debate to have full slate of candidates April 22

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Coordinators for the April 22 mayoral debate say all candidates in the race have agreed to take place in the event, as candidate Tommy Duncan recently agreed to participate.

Incumbent Russ McEwen — along with challengers Oscar Velasco, Shannon Thomason and Duncan — have now all committed to participate in the debate, according to coordinator Dana Baker, who said preparations for the informative event are moving along quickly.

"Things are moving along smoothly so far," said Baker. "We still have a lot to do to prepare for the debate,

Send your debate questions to Big Spring Debate, P.O. Box 2733, Big Spring 79721.

but I think it will all be worth it in the end."

Baker said the debate — which is slated for 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at the Howard College Cactus Room — will give the candidates a chance to answer questions from a variety of sources.

"We're asking the people of Big Spring to send their questions to us so we can address what's really on the mind of the Big Spring vot-

ers," Baker said. "Questions can be submitted in writing to Big Spring Debate, P.O. Box 2733, Big Spring 79721, or by e-mail at bigspringdebate@gmail.com. We have officials with the Republican and Democratic parties that will be helping us sort through the submissions and form them into questions for the candidates."

The debate is being coordinated by volunteers within the community, according to Baker, to help voters make an informed decision during the May election.

"I just felt like we need to give the candidates a chance to speak out

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Head for the hill: Master the Mountain 5K Saturday

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Time is "running" out for competitors and health-enthusiasts wanting to pre-register for the 12th annual Master the Mountain Fun Run and Walk, as Big Spring State Park officials get ready to host the event Saturday.

According to Ron Alton, manager of the Big Spring State Park and an avid runner, this year's event will differ slightly from years past, concentrating strictly on 5K walks and runs.

"This year we'll be holding a 5K run and a 5K walk. There



Alton

in and around the Permian Basin, and that's how most of them are set up.

"We feel really good going into this event. It's a lot of fun each year. Some folks will come and treat it as very competitive, and then some folks will come and take part just for fun. It's something

won't be any 10K competitions this year," said Alton. "Also, awards will only be given in the running category. We did some checking around and looked at some of the runs

the runners in the area really look forward to." For those who think of the Big Spring State Park as an odd place to hold such a competition, Alton said the park — and Scenic Mountain, more precisely — get plenty of attention when runners are looking for a course to challenge their speed and skill.

"You can run around a flat track all day long and not get anywhere near the effect you get from running the hills and slopes of Scenic Mountain," said Alton. "You really can't find the kind of hills that we offer with this run anywhere else. I've heard runners refer

to one of the hills on the run as Terminator Hill. The steep grades really offer a challenge to runners."

Alton said he hopes people take a very special reminder about exercising away from the annual event.

"I started running about nine years ago, and it's had a tremendous impact on my health," said Alton. "You can't believe the amount of energy that it creates. It sounds funny, but exercise breeds energy. At the end of the run you're so tired you can barely stand up, but the

See **RUN**, Page 3A

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Duke tops Butler in thriller for 4th NCAA title

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The ball went sailing while the buzzer went off. Where it landed would be the difference between a shining moment for one team, a tearstained loss for another.

Butler forward Gordon Hayward's halfcourt shot hit backboard, then rim, then barely careened out.

Duke beat Butler 61-59 on Monday night. What a game! And what a way to end the season, even if America's favorite underdog came up a little short.

"It will become an historic game, a benchmark game," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "Not just the way it was played, but who played in it and what comes about."

Memorable, indeed, for the way both teams battled, never giving an inch, or giving in on a single possession.

And memorable for the way it ended. Tiny Butler, on a mission to write a sequel to "Hoosiers," had two chances to win it in the last 4 seconds. Hayward's more traditional attempt — a fadeaway, 15-footer — was barely long. Then, after Brian Zoubek made

one free throw and intentionally missed the next, Hayward collected the rebound, moved to halfcourt and took another shot that was on line, but barely bounced out.

"I can't really put it into words because the last couple of plays were just not normal," said Duke's Kyle Singler, who scored 19 points and was named the Final Four's most outstanding player.

The Blue Devils (35-5) got the right bounces at the end to snap Butler's 25-game winning streak and bring the long-awaited fourth national title back home to the Cameron Crazies.

The "Big Three" — Singler, Jon Scheyer (15 points) and Nolan Smith (13) — won the Big One for Coach K, his first championship since 2001 and fourth overall, tying him with Adolph Rupp for second place on the all-time list.

Krzyzewski is now 4-4 in title games.

"It's the best one I've been involved in of the eight," he said.

Nobody figured this would be easy, and it wasn't — no way that was going to happen against Butler, the

See **DUKE**, Page 2B



AP FILE PHOTO

The Rangers celebrate in a 2009 file photo. Texas had cause for celebration on Opening Day as Nelson Cruz's two big hits powered the Rangers to a 5-4 comeback victory at Ameriquest Field in Arlington.

Rangers come back on Opening Day

Associated Press

ARLINGTON—There was all the pomp and pageantry, the energy of a sold-out crowd and the expectations fueled by team president Nolan Ryan's repeated insistence that the Texas Rangers should win at least 92 games this year.

Yet, the Rangers went into the seventh inning on opening day against Shaun Marcum and the Toronto Blue Jays still without a hit.

Thanks to two big hits from Nelson Cruz and a two-run rally in the ninth, though, Texas has taken the first step toward Ryan's goal after a 5-4 victory Monday.

"We showed our character out there," manager Ron Washington said. "We got no-hit for six, got our first hit in the seventh, but they played nine innings. ... They never quit. I tell you what, that clubhouse is something special."

Texas, which won 87 games last season, scored twice in the ninth off Blue Jays closer Jason Frasor.

"What a way to start the season," Blue Jays

manager Cito Gaston said. "We start with almost a no-hitter and it leads to a loss."

Michael Young, the longest-tenured Texas player in his 10th season, had a leadoff double before Josh Hamilton took a called third strike. Vladimir Guerrero then had an infield single, though second baseman Aaron Hill made a diving stab deep behind the base to prevent the tying run then.

"We just had to get something going," Young said. "We're just thinking about tying it up, not thinking about getting two."

Nelson Cruz then hit an RBI double down the right-field line that tied the game before Chris Davis was intentionally walked to load the bases. Jarrod Saltalamacchia's flyball to right-center was well out of reach for the drawn-in outfield for a game-winning single.

"It was an unbelievable feeling. I've never done that before," said Saltalamacchia, the catcher who will platoon with Taylor Teagarden to start the season.

Marcum missed last season recovering from elbow surgery. The right-hander didn't allow a hit until Guerrero's one-out single in the seventh, after walking Hamilton. Cruz, who hit 33 home runs last season, followed with a three-run homer that tied the game at 3.

Marcum struck out six and walked one as the first Blue Jays pitcher since 2002 other than Roy Halladay to start the season opener. Halladay, a six-time All-Star who won an American League Cy Young Award in his 12 seasons with Toronto, was traded to Philadelphia over the winter.

The back-to-back hits in the seventh were the only ones allowed by Marcum. Scott Down took over with a perfect eighth.

"I never expected that. But you never expect a no-hitter. All in all I felt good," Marcum said. "The home run he hit was a good pitch. Give him credit for getting wood on it and getting it up in that jet stream."

Cruz reached out and poked the ball the

opposite way, sending it nearly 400 feet from home plate to the Rangers bullpen in right-center field.

Frank Francisco (1-0), the fourth Texas pitcher, struck out two in the ninth.

In what was a sort of home opener for him, Vernon Wells had three hits. He had a two-run homer in the first and an RBI single in the eighth to give Toronto a 4-3 lead. Wells, the longest-tenured Blue Jays player beginning his 12th season, grew up in Arlington and still lives in the area.

Wells' go-ahead hit in the eighth came on a 98-mph pitch thrown by Rangers reliever Neftali Feliz, the 21-year-old fireballer who remained a setup reliever after being given a chance this spring to be in the rotation.

"We have nothing to be ashamed about. We played a good game," Gaston said. "We got Marcum about where we wanted. ... We were pulling hard for him to come out of it with a win."

Scott Feldman,

See **RANGERS**, 2B

Shanahan, McNabb aim high with 'Skins

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When Mike Shanahan was introduced as Washington Redskins coach, he said he hated to use the word rebuilding even though he was taking over a 4-12 team.

With the acquisition of Donovan McNabb from the NFC East rival Philadelphia Eagles, Shanahan and new general manager Bruce Allen have made it clear they are trying to make a quick turnaround in Washington.

"That definitely sent a message," said 32-year-old center Casey Rabach, who re-signed with the Redskins in March. "This isn't about rebuilding. This is about going out to win games now. At this stage of my career, that's exciting."

Prior to trading for McNabb, the Redskins had signed eight players in free agency. All of them will be at least 30 by November 11. This is no youth movement.

It harkens back to the days Allen's late Hall of Fame father, George Allen, was running the Redskins. The future is now, was his philosophy back in the 1970s.

"Talking to guys this morning, everyone was excited," Rabach said after his workout at the Redskins Park. "Everyone knows the kind of player that Donovan is, the kind

of leader he is. He's a winner on and off the field."

The Redskins gave up the 37th overall choice in this month's draft as well as a third- or fourth-round selection in 2011 for McNabb, who will be formally introduced at a news conference on Tuesday.

Among active quarterbacks, only Minnesota's Brett Favre, Indianapolis' Peyton Manning and New England's Tom Brady have more regular season victories than McNabb's 92. Only Favre has been to as many conference title games. And among active passers with at least 60 starts, only Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger and San Diego's Philip Rivers have a higher winning regular season percentage than McNabb's .648.

The news of the McNabb trade was not necessarily good for Redskins quarterback Jason Campbell. Last year's starter has a career 20-32 record and hasn't played a playoff game. His career-high 86.4 passer rating from 2009, matches the fifth-best single season for McNabb.

Campbell, who couldn't be reached for comment, had lunch with Shanahan on

See **SKINS**, Page 2B

Howard's Crowder named All-American

Herald Staff Report

Hawk transfer Jae Crowder can add another honor to his growing basketball resume as the sophomore was named an NJCAA First-Team All-American on the list was released last week.

Crowder led the WJAC in scoring and ranked in the top five in five statistical categories as he led the Hawks to a 33-2 record and a

junior college national championship.

The Marquette signee was a second-team selection last year with South Georgia Technical College before transferring to Howard for the 2009-10 season.

Crowder was an all-Region 5 selection, named to the national all-tournament team and led the Hawks in scoring and rebounding.

Sports in brief

Forsan baseball, softball showcase set for April 9

The Forsan Buffaloes and Lady Buffs will be in action one last time together Friday at Forsan High School. The Forsan Booster Club is giving away free hot dogs and drinks and baked goods will be available for \$1.

The baseball team will play Loraine and the softball team will play Eldorado. The games get under way at 5 p.m.

Rotary Club to sponsor golf tournament

The Big Spring Rotary Club is sponsoring a four-person scramble golf tournament April 10 at the Big Spring Country Club.

The cost is \$60 per person, which includes green fees, a cart, a meal and prize money.

Mulligans are \$5 dollars and not included in fees.

The tournament will get under way at 8:30 a.m. Saturday.

Tawanna's Troopers to host dodgeball tournament

A Relay for Life dodgeball tournament sponsored by Tawanna's Troopers is scheduled for Saturday at the junior high gym.

The tournament is \$5 per person to play. Teams are made up of four boys and four girls. Registration starts at 10 a.m. Saturday, followed by the start of games at 11 a.m. Bring extra money for concessions. Contact Jennifer at 213-1288 for more info.

Obituaries

Robert Noble 'Bob' Read

Robert Noble "Bob" Read, 79, of Big Spring died April 4, 2010, at his residence. Graveside services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 8, 2010, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with Tom Koger, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Coahoma, officiating.

Bob was born March 7, 1931, in Big Spring to Charles D. and Ida Lee Landers Read. He was a member of a Howard County ranching family who had been in the county since 1881, when C.D. Read came from Rich Pond, Ky., to work for the railroad, which had reached Big Spring. Mr. Read began buying up land for a stock raising venture and the family has remained in ranching until the present.

He attended Coahoma schools and graduated with a B.S. from Sul Ross State University in Alpine.

Bob was married to Marilyn Nickell of Alpine on Sept. 24, 1956. The couple lived first in Midland, then Alpine, and in Pleasanton and Floresville before returning to Big Spring in 1970.

Bob was a life-long member of the First Presbyterian Church in Coahoma, where he served many terms on the session as church elder. Bob was named Outstanding Conservation Rancher in 2001 by Howard Soil and Water Conservation District and was a member of Texas Cattle Raisers Association.

He is survived by his wife, Marilyn Read of Big Spring; one daughter and son-in-law, Kim and Gary Roberts of Perryton; one son and daughter-in-law, Jim Bob and Cindy Knight Read of Lubbock; and four grandchildren, Jordan and Taylor Read of Lubbock, and Carlee and Jolee Lane of Abilene.

He was preceded in death by one daughter, Kerri Read Lane of Abilene.

Friends are welcome to visit Bob's family at his residence.

The family suggests memorials be made to First Presbyterian Church of Coahoma.

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

Paid obituary

Lilly Grace Davenport Katelyn Rose Davenport

Lilly Grace Davenport and Katelyn Rose Davenport, infant daughters of Jenny and Steve Davenport, died at birth Monday, March 29, 2010. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

James R. 'Pete' Shannon

James R. "Pete" Shannon, 78, of Big Spring died Monday, April 5, 2010, in a local nursing home. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Robert H. Mendoza

Robert H. Mendoza, 87, of Big Spring died Sunday, April 4, 2010, in a local nursing home. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Take Note

• Big Spring Independent School District officials have scheduled kindergarten and pre-K registration for Thursday at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Students who will be 4 or 5 years old by Sept. 1 and reside within BSISD may enroll for 2010-2011 classes at the registration, which will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call 264-3600.

Louise Stallings

(Doris) Louise Stallings, 80, of Stanton died Monday, April 5, 2010, in a Midland hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, April 8, 2010, at First Methodist Church of Stanton with the Rev. Monte Kreis, pastor, officiating. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery. The family will receive friends at Gilbreath Funeral Home Wednesday, April 7, 2010, from 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.



She was born April 4, 1930, in Tye. She graduated from Merkel High School in 1947 and moved to Stanton in 1948. She married

Jimmy Stallings on July 1, 1950.

Louise and Jimmy founded an accounting firm in 1958 in Stanton. She was a member of First United Methodist Church.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Andrew Jackson Graham and Ruby Keith Graham; brothers, Jack Graham and June Graham; and a sister, Virginia Martin.

She is survived by her husband, Jimmy Stallings of Stanton; son, Stephen Stallings and wife Kathy of Stanton; two daughters, Twila Stallings of Abilene and Susan Brown and husband Mike of Snyder; three grandsons; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be directed to the First United Methodist Church of Stanton, P.O. Box 1193 Stanton; Permian Basin Area Foundation, 200 N. Loraine Suite 500, Midland 79701; Martin County Senior Citizens Center, P.O. Box 1233 Stanton 79782; and Aphasia Center of West Texas, 5214 Thomason Dr., Midland 79703.

Arrangements are under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Police blotter

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

- ROCKY RODRIGUEZ, 34, of Denton, was arrested Monday on a warrant from another agency and a charge of public intoxication.
- ALFREDO CASTILLO, 25, of 1609 Bluebird, was arrested Monday on two local warrants.
- JOE VALENCIA JR., 26, of Luther, was arrested Monday on a charge of no driver's license (when unlicensed).
- HIRAM MORALES, 40, of 1011 N. Runnels, was arrested Monday on two warrants from another agency.
- DELIVERY OF MARIJUANA was reported in the 600 block of Sixth Street.
- DEADLY CONDUCT was reported in the 1100 block of State.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported: In the 1900 block of Donley.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 800 block of Scurry.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported: In the 2600 block of Albrook.
- In the 1900 block of N. Highway 87.

Sheriff

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 64 inmates at the time of this report.
- RAFAEL OLIVERA, 52, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a fugitive warrant from Florida for

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 4/7	Thu 4/8	Fri 4/9	Sat 4/10	Sun 4/11
69/36 A mainly sunny sky. High 69F. Winds NNW at 20 to 30 mph.	71/43 Sunshine. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 40s.	81/49 Sunshine. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 40s.	85/52 Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the low 50s.	82/55 Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the mid 50s.
Sunrise: 7:27 AM Sunset: 8:10 PM	Sunrise: 7:25 AM Sunset: 8:11 PM	Sunrise: 7:24 AM Sunset: 8:11 PM	Sunrise: 7:23 AM Sunset: 8:12 PM	Sunrise: 7:22 AM Sunset: 8:13 PM

trafficking in cocaine.

• ALFREDO LANCE CASTILLO, 25, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of driving while license invalid (two counts), violation of a promise to appear and failure to control speed.

• EARL P. HANKE, 51, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension without fine resolution.

• JOE ERNEST VALENCIA JR., 26, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of no driver's license.

• HIRAM GONZALEZ MORALES, 40, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of no driver's license and speeding.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1100 block of E. 13th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Simler. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1200 block of Robin. One person was transported to SMMC.
- STRUCTURE FIRE was reported near the intersection of 10th Street and Runnels.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of Father Delaney. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 600 block of S. Second Street in Coahoma. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the area near the Stampede, Highway 350. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 4900 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 400 block of Jeffrey Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 4100 block of S. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1300 block of Barnes. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2400 block of Roberts. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Wood. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1300 block of Barnes. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2400 block of Roberts. Service refused.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 300 block of Wilson Road. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Westover Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

Lottery

The winning numbers in Monday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Two Step" game were: 15-21-24-32, Bonus: 11.

The winning numbers in Monday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Cash 5" game were: 06-15-17-28-29.

The winning numbers in Monday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Daily 4 Night" game were: 8-6-2-3.

The winning numbers in Monday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Pick 3 Night" game were: 8-1-6.

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SKINS

Continued from Page 1B

but doesn't figure to be retained. The Redskins have already signed former Chicago starter Rex Grossman, who played under offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan in Houston last year, as a

backup.

"Jason is a great guy and he's handled all the controversy he's been through as well as it could be handled, but the best thing for him now would be to be traded," Rabach said.

Carolina, Buffalo, Oakland and perhaps Jacksonville could

be interested in trading for the 28-year-old Campbell, who started 52 of Washington's past 56 games while trying to master three different offenses. McNabb, the first player chosen by the Eagles in the 1999 draft, benefited from playing his entire 11-year career in

Philadelphia under one coach, Andy Reid, and in one system.

"Donovan can still play and do a nice job for a long period of time," Reid said. "I look at the last quarterback I coached (as a Green Bay assistant) and that was Brett Favre. He's about 150 years old and

still playing."

McNabb's arrival also alters Washington's draft outlook. The Redskins now have just one pick — No. 4 overall — among the first 100.

Given the retirement of six-time Pro Bowl tackle Chris Samuels and no ready replace-

ment on the roster, Washington will almost certainly look at filling that void in the first round. Oklahoma State's Russell Okung and Rutgers' Anthony Davis, two of the leading available left tackles, will visit Redskins Park this week.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

started last season as a long reliever before moving into the Rangers rotation and winning 17 games, gave up three runs on a pair of home runs. The 27-year-old right-hander struck out three and

without a walk, three days after getting a new contract through 2012 worth nearly \$14 million that adds a team option for 2013.

Adam Lind hit a solo homer and was 3 for 3 with two runs scored for Toronto. He had a two-out single before Wells' homer in the first, then was inten-

tionally walked to load the bases in the eighth before Wells singled.

Lind, the 26-year-old designated hitter who hit .305 last season with 35 home runs and 114 RBIs, has a new \$18 million, four-year contract that includes three additional club-option years.

"He proved what he

could do last year," Wells said. "I'll have quite a few chances to drive in some runs with those guys ahead of me."

NOTES: Chuck Greenberg, head of the investment group buying the Texas Rangers from Tom Hicks, sat in the owner's front-row seats near the Rangers

dugout. Hicks sat next to him for some of the game. ... The announced crowd was 50,299. ... Marcum also took a no-hitter into the seventh in August 2007 before giving up a two-out hit against Kansas City. ... Andres Blanco started at second base for Texas with Ian Kinsler on the DL. Blanco had

an error in the first inning. Kinsler, recovering from a high right ankle sprain sustained March 12 during drills, described it as frustrating to have to miss the season opener. He hopes to play rehab games at Double-A Frisco later this week.

DUKE

Continued from Page 1B

4,200-student private school that sent millions of brackets to the paper shredder while earning the right to make the 5-mile drive from its historic home, Hinkle Fieldhouse where they filmed "Hoosiers," to the Final Four.

Butler (33-5) shaved a five-point deficit to one and had a chance to win it, when its best player, Hayward, took the ball at the top of the key, spun and worked his way to the baseline, but was forced to put up an off-balance fadeaway from 15 feet.

He missed, but Duke's title wasn't secure until Hayward's desperation heave bounded out.

"The first shot, caught it, tried to go left, went back right. Thought it was a good shot and missed it," Hayward said. "The last shot, it was just a last-second shot. I don't know. It missed."

What a game to end one of the most memorable March Madneses in history, filled with wild finishes, upsets and underdogs; the kind of tournament that some fear could be history if the NCAA moves forward with an expansion to 96 teams — something very much on the

table for next year.

It was the closest margin of victory in a final since Michigan defeated Seton Hall 80-79 in 1989.

"We came up one possession short in a game with about 145 possessions," said Butler's 33-year-old coach, Brad Stevens. "It's hard to stomach when you're on the wrong end of that."

Nobody led by more than six.

The Blue Devils won with defense. They held the Bulldogs to 34 percent shooting and contested every possession as tenaciously as Butler, which allowed 60 points for the first time since February.

They won with some

clutch shooting. Singler went 3 for 6 from 3-point range and the Blue Devils went 6 of 6 from the free throw line in the second half until Zoubek's intentional miss.

They won with a mean streak. It was most pointed when Lance Thomas took down Hayward hard to prevent an easy layup with 5:07 left. The refs reviewed the play and decided not to call it flagrant — one of a hundred little moments that could have swung such a tight, taut game.

They won because that last shot didn't go in.

"Speechless. It's the best feeling in the world," Smith said.

"That shot didn't go in and I just hugged Kyle and just hugged my teammates. We've worked so hard and we finished it together."

A perfect ending for Duke, which won a different way this season, on a team that had no superstars.

Good teams only become great in Coach K's mind when they win it all, and though the members of this group may not end up with lottery-pick money in their pockets, they'll have a national title forever.

They'll be mentioned in the same breath as Christian Laettner and Shane Battier and Grant

Hill, all immortalized by the Cameron Crazies, who were outnumbered about 5-to-1 at cavernous Lucas Oil Field.

They'll be the ones who put Duke back on top on Tobacco Road, where last season, North Carolina brought home its second of two championships in the time since Duke last made the Final Four, six years ago.

That's like a lifetime down there. But now, the Blue Devils are standard-setters.

"There's only one team that can say they are national champions and that's us," freshman guard Andre Dawkins said.

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Meeting Day: First Monday of every month

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Projects For April 2010

★ **Great American Cleanup** ★ & ★ **Don't Mess With Texas Trash-Off** ★

Saturday, April 10 • 9 AM • (Meet at Belaski Pavilion, Comanche Trail Park)
(FM 700 Cleanup will meet at North entrance at Fairgrounds)

★ **Arbor Day - Friday, April 30** ★

(Meet at Pocket Park, Main Street opposite HC Courthouse 9 AM)

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(432) 270-3560

www.keepbigspringbeautiful.org



News in brief

25 dead in W. Va. coal mine blast, 4 still missing in worst U.S. mine disaster since 1984

MONTCOAL, W.Va. (AP) — Rescue teams planned to search again for four workers missing in a coal mine where a massive explosion killed 25 in the worst U.S. mining disaster in more than two decades, though officials said Tuesday that the chances were slim that the miners survived.

The suspended rescue mission would resume after bore holes could be drilled to allow for toxic gases to be ventilated from Massey Energy Co.'s sprawling Upper Big Branch mine about 30 miles south of Charleston, state and federal safety officials said.

"All we have left is hope, and we're going to continue to do what we can," Kevin Stricklin, an administrator for the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration, said at a news conference. "But I'm just trying to be honest with everybody and say that the situation does look dire."

Though the cause of the blast was not known, the operation run by Massey subsidiary Performance Coal Co. has a history of violations for not properly ventilating highly combustible methane gas, safety officials said.

Stricklin said officials had hoped some of the missing survived the blast Monday afternoon and were able to reach airtight chambers stocked with food, water and enough oxygen for them to live for four days. However, rescue teams checked one of two nearby and it was empty. The buildup of toxic methane gas — a constant problem at the mine — and of carbon monoxide prevented teams from reaching other chambers, officials said.

Official blames al-Qaida in Iraq for bombings in Baghdad that kill 34

BAGHDAD (AP) — Baghdad's top military spokesman is blaming al-Qaida in Iraq for a series of massive explosions at apartment buildings across Baghdad which killed at least 34 people.

Maj. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi, an spokesman for Baghdad's operations command center, said after the blasts Tuesday "we are in a state of war with the remains of al-Qaida." He spoke in an interview on state-owned TV.

He said terrorists are trying to disrupt security

and the political process in Iraq, where parties are struggling for form a new government after the March 7 election produced no clear winner.

Tuesday's attack was the fourth with multiple casualties in Iraq in five days.

Police official says Maoist rebels kill at least 60 paramilitary soldiers in eastern India

PATNA, India (AP) — Maoist rebels killed at least 60 paramilitary soldiers in attacks Tuesday in eastern India, a senior police official said, the most casualties since government forces launched an offensive against the insurgents last year.

At least 81 troops were part of a patrol party that came under attack in the rebel stronghold of Dantewada early Tuesday morning, R.K. Vij, the inspector general of state police said.

He said 60 bodies of the soldiers killed in at least two attacks had been recovered so far, and fighting between was continuing in the remote and heavily forested area. Eight wounded troops were also found.

Three soldiers were killed in an ambush and 17 others were killed when their vehicle was blown up by a land mine, Vij said.

The troops killed in the blast were on their way to recover the bodies of those killed in the earlier attack, he said.

New U.S. policy will state the main role of nuclear weapons is to deter a nuclear attack

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration is unveiling a new nuclear weapons policy that seeks to narrow the circumstances under which the United States would use such weapons while preserving long-standing assurances of nuclear protection for allies, U.S. officials said.

It is a delicate balance that the administration will describe in a policy document, called a nuclear posture review, to be released Tuesday following a full year of deliberation led by the Pentagon in consultation with allied governments.

The document is expected to include language reducing U.S. reliance on nuclear weapons for its national defense by narrowing potential U.S. nuclear

targets. That reflects President Barack Obama's pledge to move toward a nuclear-free world, and could strengthen U.S. arguments that other countries should either reduce stockpiles of nuclear weapons or forgo developing them.

The review of nuclear weapons policy is the first since 2001 and only the third since the end of the Cold War two decades ago.

The White House also planned to urge Russia to begin talks on adopting first-ever limits on shorter-range nuclear weapons, an arena in which Russia holds an advantage, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss details of the nuclear policy review prior to its release.

Hit with a record fine, Toyota considers whether to pay or contest penalty over recalls

WASHINGTON (AP) — Already flooded with hundreds of private lawsuits, Toyota now faces a dilemma stemming from safety problems on several popular models: whether to accept a record \$16.4 million fine that could be cast as an admission of wrongdoing, or fight the government at the cost of more bad publicity.

The Japanese automaker was weighing its options after the Transportation Department charged Monday that Toyota had hidden a "dangerous defect" and had failed to quickly alert regulators to the safety problems in such models as the best-selling Camry and Corolla.

The company has two weeks to accept or contest the penalty.

The proposed fine is the most the government could levy, but further penalties are possible under continuing federal investigations.

Toyota Motor Corp. has recalled more than 6 million vehicles in the U.S., and more than 8 million worldwide, because of acceleration problems in multiple models and braking issues in the Prius hybrid.

In announcing the proposed fine, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said documents obtained from the automaker show that Toyota knew of the problem with the sticking gas pedals in late September but did not issue a recall until late January. The sticking pedals involved 2.3 million vehicles.

RUNOFF

Continued from Page 1A

her crew are hoping to pull in at least 1,000 before the end of the runoff election.

"We're hoping to collect about 500 votes during early voting, and then another 500 on election day," said Bloom. "We had a little more than 1,000 ballots cast in the primaries, so I feel like that's a pretty reasonable goal. We'll just have to wait and see, however."

Bloom said the early voting polls will be open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day, with extended hours today and Thursday.

"A lot of people have to work until 5 p.m., so there's no way they could get out and vote early without these extended hours," said Bloom. "We've had a great deal of success with them in the past."

Bloom said election day for the runoff will be Tuesday, April 13, with two different polling locations.

"The polls will be open

from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., as with any election," said Bloom. "Voters in the Big Spring part of the district will cast their ballots at the Big Spring Mall, and voters in Coahoma can cast theirs at the Coahoma Community Center."

While the runoff election gives Bloom and her election officials little breathing room between the recent primaries and the May elections, she said she's more concerned with the effect it will have on the voters.

"It's pretty much

business as usual for us. Having to prepare for two elections at one time is nothing new," said Bloom. "I think it has more of an effect on the voters. It seems like it gets a bit confusing."

In the Democratic primary for the same seat, political newcomer Jim Sinclair took a narrow victory over his challenger with 80 ballots, or 55.56 percent of the vote. Fellow Dem candidate Richard Belew drew 64 ballots, or 44.44 percent of the vote.

Sinclair said the uncertainty going into the

GOP runoff for the Republican nomination does little to soothe his nerves.

"I'm pleased I was able to get my party's nomination, but the uncertainty of who I'm going to face in November makes it sort of hard to celebrate," Sinclair said following the March primaries. "Regardless, however, I'm very excited about the outcome of (the) election. Whoever wins the runoff, however, we're going to have a pretty substantial job putting together a campaign for November.

Both are very strong candidates."

For information on the runoff election, contact Bloom at 264-2273.

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

DEBATE

Continued from Page 1A

on what they feel is important to the community, as well as give the people who will be casting the ballots a voice in the matter," Baker said. "The candidates will be given time to answer the submitted questions, as well as discuss each others' responses. They won't be allowed to see the questions ahead of time, either, so it should be an excellent chance to see how

much they know about the issues that are weighing on the minds of Big Spring voters."

Baker said the moderator for the debate will be Michael Quinn Sullivan, president and CEO of Empower Texans and Texans for Fiscal Responsibility.

"We are really excited to have Mr. Sullivan come in and help us with this debate," said Baker.

Sullivan is a former newspaper reporter, Capitol Hill staffer and think-tank vice president that recently garnered praise

from the Fort Worth Star Telegram for his work slaying "taxpayer dragons in Austin" during the most recent legislative session.

"We contacted Mr. Sullivan to get some information on how best to hold this debate," said Baker. "We were very pleased when he agreed to moderate the debate. We feel like he'll be an asset to the event."

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

RUN

Continued from Page 1A

next day you have even more energy."

The entry fee for the run — which is slated to get under way at 9 a.m. — is \$18, which includes a commemorative T-shirt. And while the 5K race seems to draw the

serious competitors, Alton said the beauty of the mountain draws just as many people for the walking division.

"You don't have to run to be a part of the fun," said Alton. "We get a lot of people that participate in the walk just because of the beauty of the park, and the view from the 200-foot bluff is just

unbelievable. Whether you're running hard or just walking along, it's hard to ignore the beauty from there."

For more information on the "Master the Mountain" Fun Run and Walk, contact Alton at (432) 263-4931. Entrants

can also reach Alton by fax at (432) 263-3935 or by e-mail at bigsprsp@sbcglobal.net

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Linda K. Dodson, 58, died Friday. Funeral Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Coahoma Cemetery.
Lilly Grace Davenport and Katelyn Rose Davenport, died Monday, March 29, 2010. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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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

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEW

Let's make sure Texas Trash-Off is a big success

Spring has arrived and it's time for that traditional "spring cleaning" of our community known as the Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off which will be observed Saturday.

Organizers hope as many local volunteers as possible will join the more than 2 million across the state who will pick up millions of pounds of litter from Texas roadsides and city parks during the March 1-May 31 run of the Trash-Off.

Pat Simmons, the local coordinator for the event, is seeking anyone interested to come out and take part in the Trash-Off, whether they volunteer as individuals, groups or organizations.

Simmons is encouraging all property owners to take part in the event by not only cleaning up their property, but to volunteer by helping clean up vacant lots and other areas throughout the city.

Plastic bags are available for participants and they can be picked up Friday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. Volunteers may also call Simmons at 263-4607, to register individually or as a group.

The Greater Big Spring Rotary Club will be furnishing hot dogs for volunteers' lunch, with the Chamber of Commerce furnishing all the trimmings and drinks.

Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday at the Belaski Pavilion in Comanche Trail Park, which will be the headquarters for the local Trash-Off effort.

Participants will bring the trash they've collected with them to the pavilion where Keep Big Spring Beautiful volunteers will have a 30-yard container.

We encourage anyone who can to take part in this weekend's Trash-Off. You'll not only get a sense of achievement, but you'll help make sure Big Spring continues to be what we consider the prettiest city in West Texas.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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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

You, Lord, can nudge us in the right direction. Thank You.

Amen

Rejection season for students

The other day, Stanford University announced it had accepted a mere 7.2 percent of the tens of thousands of high school seniors across the country who applied for admission to the class of 2014. Other highly selective schools will be making similar announcements in the days ahead.

Meanwhile, in the world of law school admissions, a world I know well, applications are up at many schools by 10 percent or more, which means acceptances will be down by at least that much. This is, in short, the season in which hard-working and dedicated students across the country discover that their best was just not good enough.

I know how they feel. I still remember, nearly four decades later, fingering those thin envelopes from the colleges and universities I yearned to attend. And the very thick one from Wellesley College, the only women's college I applied to and only because my mother volunteered to type up only that application.

Wellesley accepted me — and offered me an extremely generous financial package, which my middle-class family (with my older sister already in college) very much needed. There was no question, no ifs or buts. It was

not what I wanted, but I was going to Wellesley.

Like so many of the students opening thin envelopes this week, I had done everything I could to earn admission to the schools that didn't want me. I was a straight-A student, president of every organization, a scholarly baton twirler, a candy striper, at the very top of my high school class. And I held down a part-time job while doing all the rest.

But there were no Advanced Placement classes at the public high school I attended, no prep courses or tutors to teach me how to ace the SATs. My father didn't go to any of the colleges I applied to; my mother didn't go to college at all. I don't think I even knew what "legacy" meant.

It would be nice if I could tell you that I had just as much fun at Wellesley as I would have had at the places that rejected me, but I'm not sure that's true.

I can tell you that, years later, I came to understand that in many, many ways, going to Wellesley changed my life for the better. It gave me confidence in my abilities and support for my ambitions that stood me in good stead through the challenges that came later, and Wellesley was the place where I met lifelong friends. But I certainly didn't feel that way at the time.

I didn't have a boyfriend, and I spent way too much time trying and getting rejected. The endless dateless Saturday nights no doubt contributed to nagging issues of personal insecurity that

dogged me for decades. Would it have been different at a coed school? Who knows? There are things you simply never know.

But this much I do know, from the distance of decades. I know that being rejected by Harvard was a whole lot easier than losing my father a few years later, when I was in law school at Harvard. I would have traded that fat envelope in a minute.

I know that no one gets all Aces, that life is rarely a straight flush, beginning to end, and that what matters most is not the cards you are dealt but how you play them. A charmed childhood is no guarantee of a charmed life, and learning to deal with rejection is one of those bitter pills we all have to swallow sooner or later.

I know that after a certain point, no one asks you where you went to school; they ask what you have done since. It is not enough to accept what is. The challenge of life is to do more than that, to adapt, to turn it into something better and to not waste too much time and energy bemoaning what isn't.

So congratulations to all of you who will be heading to your second or third or fourth choices because the schools you wanted to attend said no or didn't offer the financial aid you need. You may end up learning more from being turned down than you ever would from being accepted. It really is up to you. I proved them wrong. So can you.

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College Finance 101 at its worst

Last Tuesday, President Obama signed legislation that takes private lenders out of the business of making federal student loans. Instead, starting July 1, the government will originate the loans directly. This legislation was attached to the final piece of health care legislation that passed last week.

Unfortunately, higher education students, the very people who the government claimed they were helping in jamming this law through Congress, will lose under this ill-designed program. Why? Because they will be forced to rely exclusively on the federal government for student loans. The current delivery channel was working efficiently, and students benefited from the competition. Now, they will be forced to rely on four federal call centers instead of more than 2,000 community and nonprofit lenders nationwide. Plus, the federal government's track record in delivering products (the postal service, Social Security, etc.) isn't that good.

This legislation comes after recent regulatory requirements that will make the paperwork involved in offering private education loans so cumbersome and the loan process so time-consuming that many banks will decide to move away from offering private higher education loans altogether.

For many years, private education loans bridged the gap between school or government financial aid. As the availability and amount of government financial aid continues to shrink, these loans have been instrumental in helping students realize the dream of a college education.

The new regulatory requirements — approved by the Federal Reserve Board and effective Feb. 14 — were enacted in the spirit of stronger consumer protection for student borrowers. As amendments to Regulation Z disclosure requirements for private education loans, they implement provisions of the Higher Education Opportunity Act enacted in August 2008. The requirements apply to any closed-end, non-

home secured loan extended expressly, in whole or in part, to be used for post-secondary educational expenses, such as tuition and fees, books, supplies and room and board. They do not apply to home equity lines of credit.

Bankers are committed to fair and flexible education finance solutions for students and families. We fully support transparency in the application process and welcome competition in the marketplace. However, these new rules, while obviously well-intentioned, definitely miss the mark. For example, the new disclosures rules require three distinct and complicated disclosures at three distinct instances: with the application or solicitation; before the loan is closed; and at consummation. In order for a lender to provide these three required disclosures they must print and mail them at each interval and then patiently wait for the student's response. This will waste time, money and valuable resources and can delay the approval and disbursement process.

In addition, institutions must lock in and honor all credit terms for 30 calendar days after the loan has been approved to provide the applicant time to decide whether or not he or she wants to go through with the transaction. To help the applicant shop around for other loans, we are also required to disclose information about federal student loan programs that may offer less costly alternatives.

Then, after the student accepts the loan, the final disclosures must be provided. The student now has the right to rescind or cancel the loan within three business days. During this period, a bank must delay disbursement of the proceeds until the rescission period expires.

Since many of the students applying for these loans need emergency funding, I don't see how they would benefit by having to wait an additional three days for money they may desperately need as soon as possible. For example, a borrower requesting a \$200 loan for books will now have to go through the same time-consuming process required by the new regulations, including the three required disclosures, as someone requesting funds for tuition and fees or room and board.

Honestly, after three separate

stages of disclosures and a 30-day loan lock-in period, I believe this is overkill. If you think about it, if the government is that concerned about a student's safety, then there should be a 5-minute waiting period before someone purchases a high fat, high calorie meal at a fast-food establishment, perhaps to give the student enough time to watch a government-made video about nutrition and weight control. Or, perhaps we should have scales available so the customers can weigh themselves before purchasing these meals.

These new rules are an example of College Finance 101 at its worst. As a banker, I am totally on board with protecting young borrowers from undertaking unnecessary debt. But, given the nature of higher education loans, it makes no sense, for example, to give the student 30 days after the loan is approved to shop around. This would be too long in many cases to accommodate the time for disbursement to the borrower and school. While I believe it is important to encourage shopping for loan terms, it makes little sense and provides no real value to the consumer to provide a shopping opportunity so late in the process.

Many of these private higher education loans are small dollar and provide a very narrow income stream for financial institutions. For most banks, the costs of compliance and the risks and liabilities of noncompliance are simply too high compared to any positive aspects such loans could bring to them. Since many students turn to private education loans after all other sources of aid have been exhausted, it makes little sense to make the process even more difficult.

This is the absolute worst time for the government to be tinkering with student loans. During these tough economic times, students will be relying more and more on loans, and these changes will affect their ability to get and find loans — both private and federal loans.

The question is, where are students going to find resources for funding of their educational needs outside of grants and subsidized loans? Unfortunately, the answer may be, they won't.

Wes Hoskins is president and CEO of First Community Bank in Corpus Christi and chairman of the Texas Bankers Association.



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Creative Coloring

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

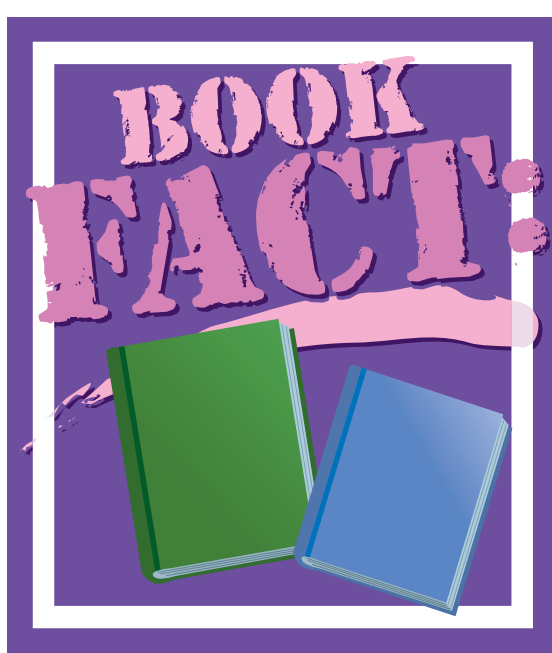


THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1865: PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN MAKES HIS FINAL PUBLIC SPEECH.
- 1951: U.S. PRESIDENT HARRY TRUMAN RELIEVES GENERAL MacARTHUR OF HIS COMMAND IN KOREA.
- 1979: UGANDAN DICTATOR IDI AMIN IS DEPOSED.



THIS POET WROTE THE POEM
"O CAPTAIN! MY CAPTAIN!"

ANSWER: WALT WHITMAN



POEM

rhythmical writing

*How they
SAY that in...*

ENGLISH: Verse

SPANISH: Verso

ITALIAN: Verse

FRENCH: Vers

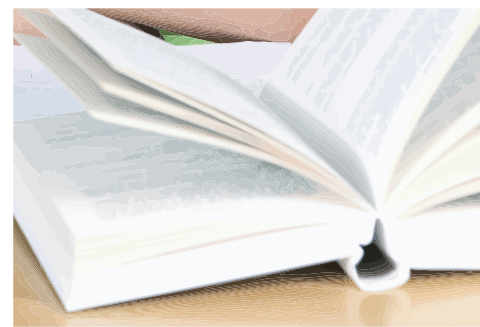
GERMAN: Vers

**Did you
know!**

SHEL SILVERSTEIN WAS A POET,
AUTHOR, PLAYWRIGHT, AND ILLUS-
TRATOR BEST KNOWN
FOR HIS COLLECTIONS OF
POEMS, SUCH AS
"WHERE THE SIDEWALK
ENDS."



**GET THE
PICTURE!**



Can you guess what
the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: BOOK

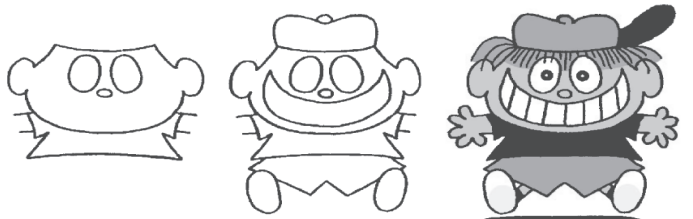
SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

BY BOB WEBER JR.

Witnesses say Wanda Witch was flying on her broom in the past 15 minutes casting hypnotic spells on citizens. But Wanda claims she has just finished with a 45-minute haircut appointment. Slylock Fox noticed something missing that suggests the witch is lying. What is missing?



HOW TO DRAW a very happy boy



YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Will Kenney, age 11, of Penn Hills, PA



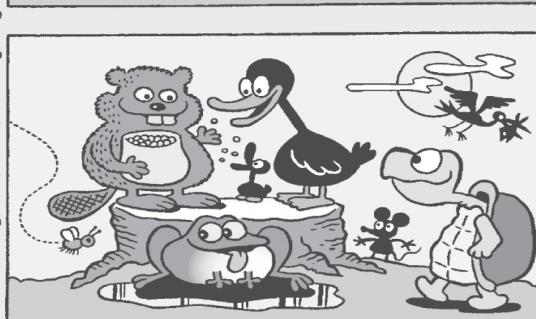
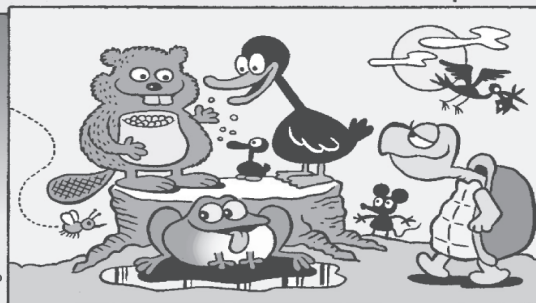
Submit your drawings at www.kidcartoonists.com

Each month a person's hair grows about ...

- a) One-quarter inch
- b) One-third inch
- c) One-half inch
- d) One inch

Answer --- (c)

Find six differences between these panels.



Answer -- Bug, root, cloud, duckling, frog's leg and turtle.

The fourth *Find the six differences* collection is here. Send \$4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to **Six Differences No. 4**, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Though the outside planets (or dwarf planets, as the case may be) indicate aspects that affect society at large, the global cannot help but be personal as we recognize the connections between us. Such connections will be more tangible as Pluto goes retrograde in Capricorn, beginning a cycle of review that will last until Sept. 13.



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You are heading for a different life, though a few old habits might be pulling you away from your focus. What do you want to happen? Keep thinking about that and moving toward it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll be dealing with people so different from you that you may not be sure how to talk to them. But don't let that stop you from going forward. Finding common ground will be easier

than you think.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's an elegance and dignity to you. You're not worried about how you will come across, which is part of the reason you present yourself so well. You'll be centered on what matters most to you.
CANCER (June 22-July 22). How do you know that your goal is big enough for you? When it's something you really can't do on your own. You'll ask for help today — and get it from both seen and unseen forces.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You've signed yourself up for an ongoing pursuit. Have patience. You can't solve it in a day. The best you can do is to be satisfied with the small gains you've made in a day. Celebrate them.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll relax and settle into a comfortable work groove. This might involve getting your personal possessions and records in order. You have a gift for devising systems to make your life easier.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You wish you could

help everyone in the world. Maybe you will, as you freely give your love and acceptance to those around you. Everyone knows where you are coming from. They can feel it.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You know who you are, and yet, when you are around certain people, it is challenging for you to express yourself honestly. You are wise to hang back, quietly learning about the social dynamics in effect.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You are strong and able to do what's on the agenda. You'll see the best results if it's actually your agenda you are attending to. Everyone seems to want something from you. But what do you want?
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Opportunities have a timeline connected to them. There is also a cost involved, which could cause you to hesitate. If you feel it, don't be afraid — just do it. It's better to commit now than to regret it later.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You might

doubt your path now and wonder whether you made the right decision all those months ago. Spending an hour writing and thinking about what's going on in your life will help you regain clarity and certainty.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Use the calm morning to get organized. You'll need everything in place for the exciting and busy afternoon. You'll be well compensated for your efforts. And this wave of activity is a harbinger of things to come.

T O D A Y ' S BIRTHDAY (April 6). This year is marked by strong emotional chemistry. You approach your endeavors with passion and embrace what comes. A rush of romance through April and May is followed by a surge of creativity. Hazy career prospects take form in June. By August you'll be doing work you enjoy, and your income increases, too. Libra and Virgo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 19, 3, 33, 20 and 16.
ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I have Mars in Sagittarius in

my first house. What does this mean?"
Wherever the planet Mars resides in your astrological birth chart is where you generally focus the majority of your energy. A person with Mars in their first house is very driven. You are self-focused, meaning that you generate your power from within yourself, rather than seeking it in other people or things. You also can be rather hard on yourself if you don't feel like you're living up to your own lofty expectations. Because your Mars is situated in the sign of Sagittarius, this tells me that the area of life in which you're so demanding of yourself has to do with the so-called "higher" pursuits: publishing, academia, foreign travel, law, philosophy and so forth. You are worldly and refined, or at least spend a great deal of effort trying to be. Anyone who's wondering where they should focus their energy should look to see where Mars is in their chart. Those with Mars in the second house are traditionally very good at earning money. People

with Mars in the fourth house pride themselves on their homemaking. What drives you?
C E L E B R I T Y PROFILES: Aries actor Paul Rudd uses his understated sense of humor and low-key charm to send audiences laughing. The strong Aries energy running through his natal chart suggests a naturally upbeat countenance with the stamina to simultaneously keep up with his rocketing career and young family. Jupiter in Virgo indicates that he is grounded, into health and nutrition and conscious of his environment.

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: After four years, I finally got engaged to "Thomas." I love him with all my heart.

Thomas is 50 years old. Until last year, he lived with his widowed 68-year-old mother.

She treats him like a husband. When we became engaged, Thomas seemed afraid to tell her, and when he did, she just stared at me.

His friends have joked that I will never pry him from her grip. She treats me coldly and has told friends that Thomas was perfectly happy with her until I came along.

Thomas bought all the furniture and appliances in her home, does all the repair work, and pays the mortgage, taxes and homeowners insurance.

Mom has created ever more debt and complains constantly about not having enough money.

Thomas and I rent a small house together and are struggling to

make ends meet. I resent being saddled with her debts.

The deed to his mother's house is in both of their names, with right of survivorship.

Thomas has a brother and sister who are always looking for a handout. Could they get the house when she dies?

After we marry, would I be responsible for this house debt? Am I making a mistake by marrying Thomas? — *Waiting To Hear*

Dear Waiting: If Thomas and his mother own the house jointly, with right of survivorship, his siblings should not be able to get their hands on it.

As for being responsible for Mom's debt, every state is different. We recommend you talk to a lawyer about protecting yourself in advance.

After all these years, Thomas and his mother have a very tight bond, and she is going to resist your efforts to change

it. How that plays out is up to Thomas and the way he handles her. We also urge you to make a friend out of this lonely woman, or she will make you miserable.

Dear Annie: My wife and I have been married 19 years. In all that time, she has not updated her wardrobe. She purchases a new item from time to time, and I make sure to tell her she looks great. But for the most part, she still wears things that are out of style, ill-fitting or just plain old. Worse, these clothes are not flattering. My wife is in great shape. I would love for her to have a wardrobe makeover so she looks

like the classy lady she is, and not like the "Frumpelstiltskin" she appears to be. Money is not an issue. How can I inspire her to clothe herself according to the 21st century? — *Wardrobe Malfunction*

Dear Wardrobe: How refreshing to hear from a man who actually wants his wife to spend money on clothes. Many women get stuck wearing the same comfortable outfits. Take some pictures so she can see how she actually looks, and then talk to her about it. Tell her how beautiful she is and that an update would make her feel vibrant and contempo-

rary. Then give her a gift card to a nice boutique and arrange for a sibling or friend to go shopping with her. Good luck.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "M.F.," the flexitarian who is worried about dinner engagements at other people's homes. What an insult to normal, mature adults who eat what is served to us. This person is 49 years old and acting like a spoiled brat. How sad. I have never had a bad meal in my life. And I have always cleaned my plate and been thankful for all my blessings. — *R.W.*

Dear R.W.: We understand your impatience, but those with eating restrictions often find meals a challenge. If someone were allergic to shellfish, for example, it would be rude to knowingly serve it as the main course. "M.F." makes our job everyone to cater to his

needs, but it is not unreasonable for family members and close friends to be more accommodating.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Annie's Mailbox column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. 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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Bird Poop:

Owl fledglings survive fall, canine adventure

In early January the ruckus began. Accustomed to the commotion caused by the courtship during the night, the woman wished her roof had not been chosen by the noisy couple.



BEBE McCASLAND

An entire night of sleep without being disturbed led her to believe the pair had finally set up "house keeping." During February and March, she was so occupied with her own family and pets that she forgot about them.

The winds of March soon turned into the winds of April. Entering the back yard to feed her dogs, the early morning gale whipped her housecoat and tangled her hair.

Having placed the bowls of dried pellets for her ravenous canines on the ground, she turned back toward the house.

Standing against the siding near the back step was what she thought had to be one of the youngsters. In her haste to feed her hungry crew and get out of the wind, she had walked past it in another direction.

Immediately she realized what the dogs would do if they saw the ruffled bundle of feathers.

Quickly, she grabbed her two hounds and secured them on leashes. Moving the dishes tempted the remaining three pets to continue

gobbling their breakfast. Tugging the heelers into their kennels, she neared the last dog as he spotted the bird. Desperate to stop her oldest pet, she lunged for his tail. Feeling a hard jerk as he hurtled forward, she held on tightly.

Angered by the abrupt halt, he turned to confront her. Realizing her admonishment of him included her pulling on his tail and yelling, the old friend was suddenly inundated with remorse.

Sheepishly coming toward her with his apologetic crawl, the dog was once again ready to obey her commands. The gentle scratch behind his ears and reassurance that she still loved him were enough. He followed her to the kennel.

"Their nest is on my roof," said the caller as she described the early morning incident with a fledgling great horned owl. Since she lived in Odessa and needed help in catching the bird, I advised her to call Animal Control.

With one or more fledglings a possibility, I reassured her, and later the officers, we would return if needed.

When the phone rang the next day, a familiar voice told of another owl having ventured from the nest and into the back yard.

Fortunately, the woman had kept her dogs in their kennels overnight. She was taking no chances.

Again, we headed west. Inside the animal facility, another young owl awaited us. At least it would have a companion at our house.

Hatched in February, the twosome now resembled their parents. Downy white at first, then buff colored, the owls had already feathered out on wings, tail, back and most of their bodies. Their heads would be the last to sport wisps of down among the feathers.

With their ear tufts and white throats becoming noticeable, they displayed the usual spreading wings, popping bills and threatening gestures.

Although they had left the security of their nest, they were still dependent upon their parents for feeding and protection. In the wild, flight would not occur for many weeks.

At NightWings, another federally and state licensed facility located in Lubbock in addition to South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, the fledglings were placed in a long mew to facilitate their urge to fly. After accessing the lower perches, they progressed to flying the length of their quarters.

Once in the flight cage, they mastered the tallest roosts. Flying from one end to the other, they soon welcomed the company of other fledglings. Stepping inside the spacious structure was to enter their territory. As if taking turns, the owls silently flew the length of the building with ease.

At night, they would be lured to live mice held captive by the sides of a large container. As their hunger dictated, they could swoop down to catch their prey.



Courtesy photo

With its yellow eyes, tawny facial disks and mottled, barred plumage, this fledgling great horned owl is picturesque in appearance. Weighing three pounds as an adult, with a wingspan of four feet, it will eat almost any live mammal or bird its size or smaller. Carrion, however, is not on its menu.

Their training complete, the great horned owls were ready for release. In the semi-open canyon country to the east of Lubbock, they would find rabbits, rats, skunks and opossums so necessary to their diet.

After their roof top adventure and dangerous landing in the dogs' yard, the twosome now readily accepted their place in nature.

Bebe McCasland is author of The Scoop from Bird Poop. She is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

Parent's Corner: Will Rogers' wisdom

Most of us will never forget Will Rogers. He was probably the greatest political sage this country has ever known.



DARRELL RYAN

He was born in 1879 on a large ranch in the Cherokee Nation near what later would become Oologah, Okla.

He was taught how to use a lasso by a freed slave. As he grew older, his roping skills developed so well that he was listed in the Guinness Book of Records for throwing three lassos at once: One rope caught the running horse's neck, the other would hoop around the rider and the third swooped up under the horse to loop all four legs.

His hard-earned skills won him jobs trick roping in Wild West shows and on the vaudeville stages where, soon, he started telling small jokes.

Quickly, his wise cracks and folksy observations became more prized by audiences than his expert roping. He became recog-

nized as being a very informed and smart philosopher, telling the truth in very simple words so that everyone could understand.

He remained a simple Oklahoma cowboy. "I never met a man I didn't like," was his credo of genuine love and respect for humanity and all people everywhere.

He would scratch his head, grin and quip that he figured there was something wrong with anybody that didn't like a horse.

He is quoted with all kinds of remarks and we are never quite sure if he said them or not, but they certainly go with the kinds of remarks he did make.

I was reviewing some the other day and was quite interested how they fit in today's soci-

ety:

- There are two theories to arguing with a woman but neither works.
- Never miss a good chance to shut up.
- Always drink upstream from the herd.
- If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.
- The quickest way to double your money is to fold it and put it back in your pocket.
- There are three kinds of men: The ones that learn by reading; the few who learn by observation; and the rest of them have to pee on the electric fence and find out for themselves.
- Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.
- An onion can make people cry, but there has never been a veg-

etable invented to make them laugh.

- If you're riding' ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there.

- When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra

- An ignorant person is one who doesn't know what you have just found out.

- I don't know how I got over the hill without getting to the top.

- And finally, if you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you are old.

We don't have people like Will Rogers in this day and time and it's a pity; we need them.

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

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

No Way Out

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ J 6
♥ 7 4
♦ A Q 10 9 4
♣ A 8 5 2

WEST
♠ K 9 5 2
♥ K J 6 3
♦ 6
♣ J 10 9 4

EAST
♠ 10 8 7 4 3
♥ 10 8 5 2
♦ 8
♣ Q 7 3

SOUTH
♠ A Q
♥ A Q 9
♦ K J 7 5 3 2
♣ K 6

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♦ Pass 3 ♦ Pass
4 NT Pass 5 ♥ Pass
5 NT Pass 6 ♣ Pass
6 ♦

Opening lead — jack of clubs.
In most deals, declarer does not know at the outset how he will ultimately fare. This is because the outcome frequently depends on how the opposing cards are distributed.

There also are other deals where the outcome is a foregone conclusion, either because declarer is sure to make the contract, or because he cannot possibly make it, regardless of the lie of the cards.

In today's hand, a capable declarer can forecast the outcome

with certainty, since he cannot be defeated if he plays correctly, no matter how the East-West cards are divided.

South wins the club lead with the king and sees that 12 — and perhaps all 13 — tricks may be made if he attempts finesses in spades and hearts and wins both. However, he also notes that if both finesses were to fail, the slam would go down one. Since safeguarding the slam is his primary concern, declarer seeks a means of overcoming the possibility that West was dealt both missing kings.

Accordingly, he draws a round of trumps, cashes the ace of clubs and ruffs a club. Another trump lead to dummy permits him to ruff dummy's last club.

After returning to dummy with a trump, declarer leads a heart and inserts the nine after East follows low. He certainly does not expect the nine to win, but he knows that when it loses to West, the rest of the tricks are his, regardless of what West returns. West is endplayed, thanks to declarer's earlier elimination of the clubs.

Note that East cannot foil South's scheme by playing his ten on the heart lead from dummy. In that case, declarer simply covers with the queen to produce the same winning position.

Tomorrow: First things first.
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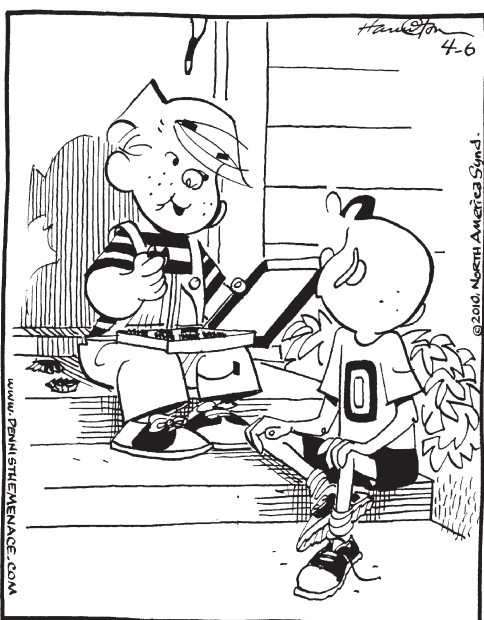
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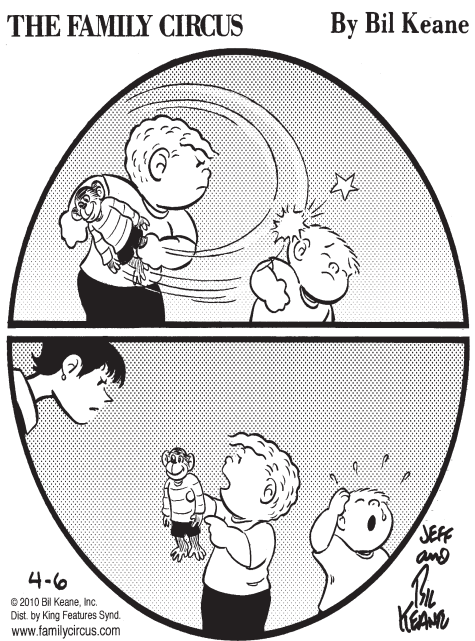
Table with 20 columns representing different TV channels (WFAA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLE, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN) and rows for different times of day (5:30 PM, 6:30 PM, 7:30 PM, 8:30 PM, 9:30 PM, 10:30 PM, 11:30 PM, 12:30 AM, 1:30 AM).

DENNIS THE MENACE



I GAVE MY MOM CHOCOLATES 'CAUSE I KNOW SHE LIKES TO SHARE.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

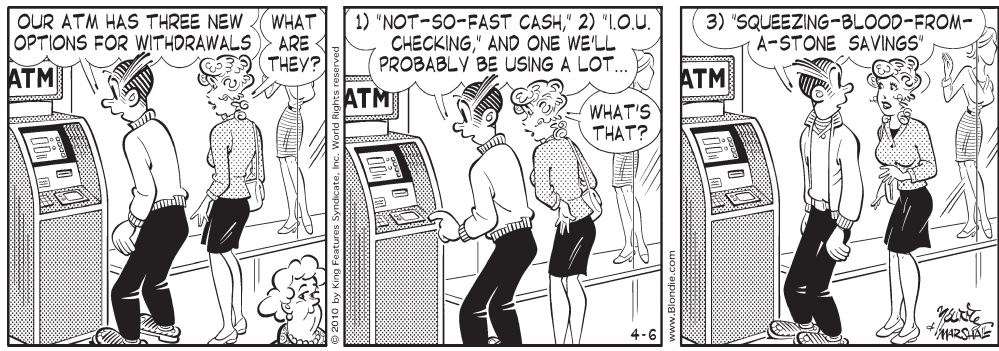


But I didn't hit him. My monkey did!

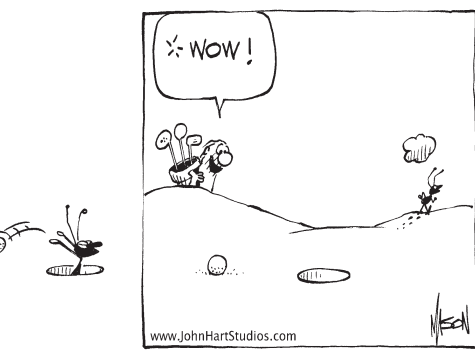
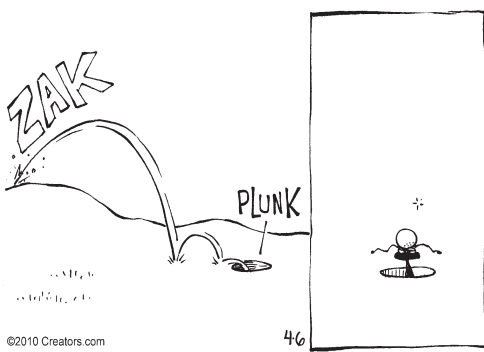
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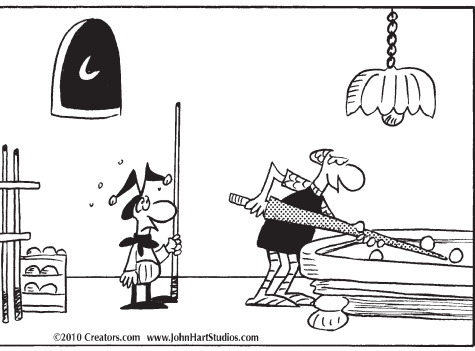
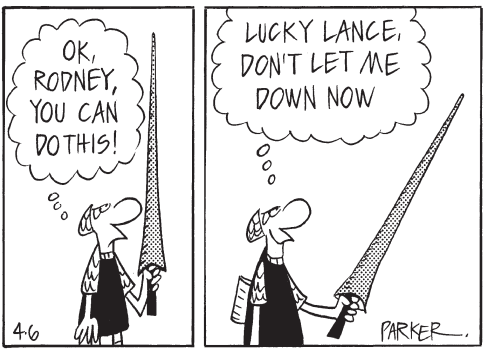
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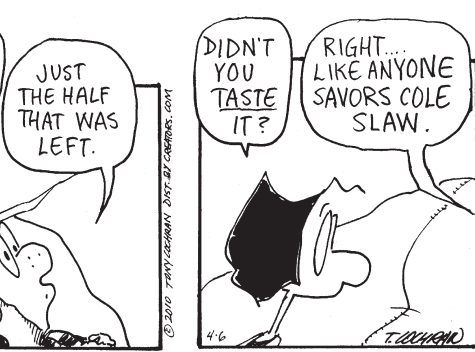
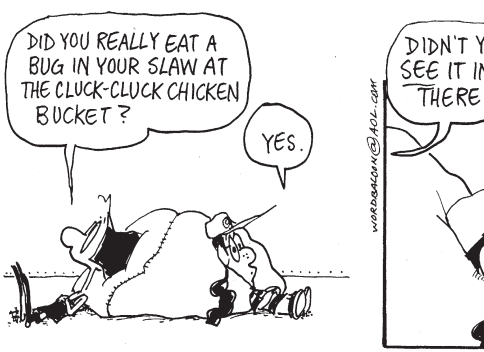
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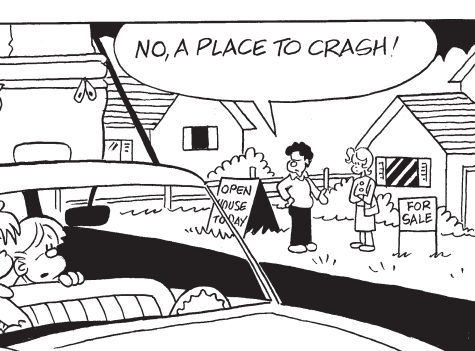
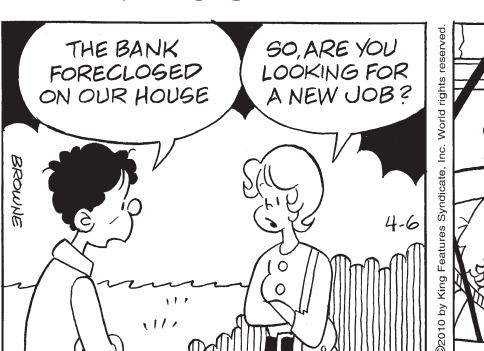
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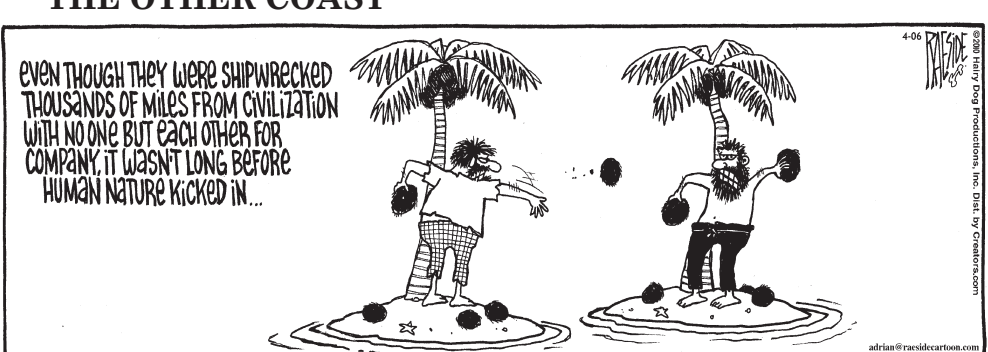
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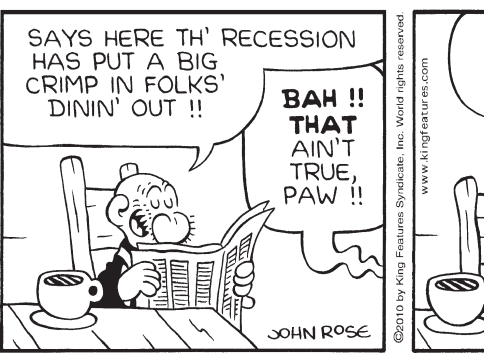
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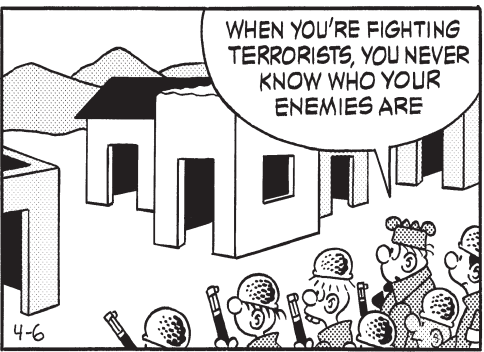
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, April 6, the 96th day of 2010. There are 269 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On April 6, 1909, American explorers Robert E. Peary and Matthew A. Henson and four Inuits became the first men to reach the North Pole.

On this date: In 1830, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints was organized by Joseph Smith in Fayette, N.Y.

In 1862, the Civil War Battle of Shiloh began in Tennessee as Confederate forces launched a surprise attack against Union troops, who beat back the Confederates the next day.

In 1896, the first modern Olympic games formally opened in Athens, Greece.

In 1917, Congress approved a declaration of war against Germany.

In 1945, during World War II, the Japanese warship Yamato and nine other vessels sailed

on a suicide mission to attack the U.S. fleet off Okinawa; the fleet was intercepted the next day.

In 1963, the United States signed an agreement to sell the Polaris missile system to Britain.

In 1965, the United States launched the Intelsat I, also known as the "Early Bird" communications satellite, into orbit.

In 1971, Russian-born composer Igor Stravinsky died in New York City.

In 1985, William J. Schroeder (SHRAY-dur) became the first artificial heart recipient to be discharged from the hospital as he moved into an apartment in Louisville, Ky.

In 1994, the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi were killed in a mysterious plane crash near Rwanda's capital; widespread violence and killings erupted in Rwanda over claims the plane had been shot down.

Today's Birthdays: Nobel Prize-winning scientist James D. Watson is 82. Composer-conductor Andre Previn is 81. Country singer Merle Haggard is 73. Actor Billy Dee Williams is 73. Actor Roy Thinnes is 72.

Movie director Barry Levinson is 68. Actor John Ratzenberger is 63. Actress Marilu Henner is 58. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Janet Lynn is 57. Actor Michael Rooker is 55. Rock musician Warren Haynes is 50. Rock singer-musician Frank Black is 45. Actor Paul Rudd is 41. Actor-producer Jason Mewes is 38. Rock musician Markku Lappalainen (mar-KOO' lap-uh-LAN-en) is 37. Actor Zach Braff is 35. Actress Candace Cameron Bure is 34. Actor Bret Harrison is 28.

Thought for Today: "Men are not against you; they are merely for themselves." - Gene Fowler, American journalist and author (1890-1960).

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Answer to previous puzzle grid with words like SLAM, TOADS, COPS, HIFI, ALLAY, EVIL, OARS, REAIR, DATE, TROT, TOSSASALAD, LBS, CAR, WATER, CLOUD, SAP, ABATE, OATS, MEMO, THROWINTHETOWEL, COPE, METE, ALONE, HRS, RISER, MENDS, SAT, SEC, PITCHATENT, USED, SORE, TABOO, LIVE, SWAN, ELBOW, EDEN, TAPE, DESKS, SENT.

Newsday Crossword

MATTER OF TASTE by Billie Truitt Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 In the thick of 5 USN rank 9 English assignment 14 Start over from scratch 15 Way off 16 Pay increase 17 Shed feathers 18 Piece of evidence 19 Choir voices 20 Use flattery on 22 Shorthand pro 23 Crude shelter 24 Old Faithful, for one 25 Talks back to 29 Gift from the Magi 31 Cereal utensil 32 Papa's partner 37 Bean curd 38 Smart-mouthed 39 "Say no ___!" 40 Practice boxing 41 Volcanic output 42 Out for lunch, perhaps 43 Greasy dirt 45 Most angry 46 Reduce to shreds 49 Wrongdoing 50 Not rural 51 Unhappy outcome 57 Snares 58 "Quickly!" in a memo 59 Sandwich cookie

- 60 Where sailors go 61 ___ mater 62 Pride member 63 "___ my case" (lawyer's words) 64 When a school yr. starts 65 Pre-Easter season

- 9 Pencil end 10 Coarse jokes 11 Locations 12 In unison 13 "Answer ___ no" 21 In those days 24 Battleship color 25 Grounded jets, briefly 26 For each, slangily 27 Couch 28 Sore loser's attitude 29 Bluish purple 30 Gym site, for short 32 Sir's counterpart 34 Short memo 35 Eye part

- 36 Camper's shelter 38 Lose one's footing 42 Zero 44 Charges toward 45 Don't change a thing 46 ___-frutti 47 Wrong move 48 Belittle 49 Post-office purchase 51 Sheep sounds 52 Tahiti, for one 53 Breadbasket item 54 Cleveland's lake 55 Advertising-sign gas 56 "___ you dare!"

13x13 crossword grid with numbers 1-65 indicating starting positions for words.

WANTED

50 PEOPLE

LAST CHANCE

with *hearing loss* to be “*product testers*”

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Call Livingston Hearing Aid Center to see if you qualify to participate in this study.

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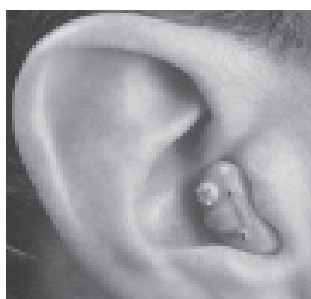
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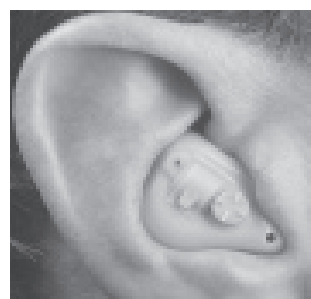
\$1295
each



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News in brief

700-year sentence in

Houston child sex, porn case

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston man has been sentenced to three life terms in prison for sexual assault of a child and 720 years more for possessing child pornography.

Rodney Williams changed his plea to guilty during jury selection Monday in a case prosecutors say involved a 5-year-old girl.

Investigators say the case began last July, when his common-law wife found digital images on a camera that showed him sexually assaulting a child. Investigators also recovered more than 70 images of child pornography on computers in his home.

Williams, who's 23, must serve three life sentences for super aggravated sexual assault of a child under the age 6.

He was also sentenced to 720 years in prison for the child pornography found on his computer and digital camera.

Texas school districts can get vanity plates

SOUTHLAKE (AP) — Supporters of Texas school districts may soon show their team pride by displaying vanity plates touting their favorite mascot.

The Carroll Independent School District could be the first in the state to sponsor personalized Texas license plates with its mascot logo. Trustees on Monday approved a five-year marketing agreement for Carroll Dragon license plates.

The idea is from Austin-based My Plates, authorized by Texas to design and market full-color specialty license plates.

The state-issued license plate would include Carroll's fire-breathing logo, used for all 11 schools, but district officials have not finalized a design for the background. The plan must be approved by the state, district spokeswoman Julie Thannum said.

"I think it is a good idea," said trustee Craig Rothmeier. "It is a no risk opportunity for Carroll."

The state receives the bulk of the money from sales of such plates, Thannum said. The district would get 10 percent.

8 convicted in mortgage fraud scam

DALLAS (AP) — An Irving businessman who aired an infomercial on making money in real estate has been convicted of fraud.

No sentencing date was immediately announced for 57-year-old Eric Rulack Farrington Jr.

Prosecutors say Farrington was among eight defendants convicted Monday in Dallas over mortgage fraud since March 2002.

A jury convicted Farrington of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, bank fraud and aiding and abetting, 15 counts of wire fraud and aiding and abetting, 10 counts of money laundering and aiding and abetting and five counts of engaging in a monetary transaction with criminally derived property and aiding and abetting.

Wire fraud convictions carry maximum 20-year prison terms. The penalty for bank fraud is up to 30 years in prison. Money laundering carries punishment of up to 20 years in prison.

The defendants must forfeit at least \$4.5 million.

Sliding homes to be resold

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A San Antonio neighborhood where sliding soil has kept more than two dozen families out of their houses most of this year

could get new residents.

Homes in the Rivermist neighborhoods that builder Centex Homes has offered to repurchase are expected to be repaired and resold.

Centex has offered to buy the homes of 27 residents who live close to a collapsed retaining wall, in an unsteady soil problem that surfaced in late January.

The San Antonio Express-News reports that so far the company says about two-thirds of the homeowners have agreed to the deal.

Centex spokeswoman Valerie Dolenga says the homes will likely be offered for sale again after the retaining wall is rebuilt.

The 27 evacuated homeowners have had their certificates of occupancy revoked by the city, amid safety concerns.

Houston man pleads guilty to health care fraud

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston man pleaded guilty to a health care scam involving more than 1 million units of diapers and other incontinence supplies.

Fred Jessie Cole Jr. pleaded guilty in federal court Monday to 14 counts of health care fraud. Cole submitted false claims to the Texas Medicaid Program for diapers and briefs that weren't delivered to or wanted by Medicaid beneficiaries.

According to the plea deal, Cole submitted claims to Medicaid for 1.3 million units of diapers and briefs when he purchased only 314,000 units. State and federal officials say that between 2003 and 2006, Cole submitted approximately \$1.1 million in claims and was paid nearly \$940,000.

Cole remains free on bond and will be sentenced in August. He faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Powder forces evacuation of part of Texas airport

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Authorities have evacuated about 30 people from the administrative offices of the San Antonio International Airport after the discovery of an envelope containing white powder.

Officials say airport employees found the envelope in the mail around 2:30 p.m. Monday. Airport spokesman Rich Johnson told the San Antonio Express News that the incident did not affect passengers or flights.

A spokesman for the San Antonio fire department said firefighters trained to handle hazardous materials were at the airport. The department's hazardous materials team was not sent to the scene.

The offices overlook the check-in level of the airport. No injuries were reported.

Texas man threatened deadly force to stop abortion

DALLAS (AP) — A Texas man faces charges after he filed documents in federal court threatening to use deadly force to stop an abortion if the U.S. Supreme Court didn't immediately act to outlaw the practice, federal officials said Monday.

Erylndon Joseph "Joey" Lo, 27, of Plano, filed documents there Friday saying his religious beliefs entitled him to use deadly force to prevent an abortion. He listed the name of a clinic, its address and the time he was going to show up — noon that day.

"I plan on saving at least one human life in Dallas, Texas," Lo wrote.

FBI spokesman Mark White said he was unsure if Lo went at that time, but said agents worked

with Dallas police "to make sure there wasn't going to be an issue at the clinic." Lo was arrested Saturday.

"We take threats to women's clinics very seriously," White said. "And this threat was very specific in its nature."

Lo is charged with one count of using interstate commerce to communicate a threat to injure and one count of threatening force to intimidate and interfere with clients and employees of a reproductive health service in order to intimidate that facility's clients and employees from obtaining and providing reproductive health services.

Lo made an initial appearance Monday in Plano and his detention hearing was postponed until April 15. He does not have a listed phone number and is acting as his own attorney.

Calls to the clinic, Southwestern Women's Surgery Center, went to an answering service Monday evening. A Dallas police spokesman declined to comment.

Hawking honored with auditorium at Texas A&M

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Renowned British astrophysicist Stephen Hawking and Texas billionaire oilman George Mitchell might not appear to have much in common.

Hawking is one of the best-known theoretical physicists of his generation who rose to international fame with the best-selling book "A Brief History of Time." Mitchell, the son of Greek immigrants who was born in the Texas coastal city of Galveston, made his fortune developing one of the nation's largest independent oil and gas companies.

But both men share a love of physics and astronomy and a desire to make Texas A&M University, Mitchell's alma mater, a leader in the fields.

The two men came together Monday to highlight their efforts during a dedication ceremony for an auditorium, named after Hawking, inside the university's two new physics buildings.

The ceremony was part of Hawking's visit to A&M, which also included a campus lecture Monday evening on black holes, which he has studied for more than 35 years.

Hawking greeted the dedication ceremony crowd inside the packed 182-seat auditorium with "Howdy," the official greeting of the university, located about 100 miles northwest of Houston.

"It's good to be back," Hawking said in the synthesized voice created by the computer on his wheelchair. The 68-year-old scientist suffers from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, an incurable degenerative disorder also known as Lou Gehrig's disease that has left him almost completely paralyzed.

GOP elite oppose ex-legislator in Texas court race

AUSTIN (AP) — Former state Rep. Rick Green once slugged a political rival outside a polling place at a Baptist church.

While in office, he hawked a nutritional supplement that promised to "supercharge your brain." And as an attorney, he's spent more time speaking to church groups and Tea Party rallies than arguing cases in court.

But Green has a shot at a seat on the Texas Supreme Court after getting the most votes — 18.9 percent — among six candidates in the March 2 primary. He faces longtime family law judge Debra Lehrmann in the April 13 runoff for the Republican nomination.

Green's campaign has been unusual. Instead of touting lofty legal credentials, he's running as a hard-core conservative everyman who promises to bring what he considers a badly needed dose of normalcy to the court.

The tradition-bound legal establishment has not been amused. High-powered Republicans, including former Chief Justice Tom Phillips and former U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, have endorsed Lehrmann.

They say Green, now an activist and public speaker for the evangelical Christian group Wallbuilders, is unqualified.

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ANSWERS

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