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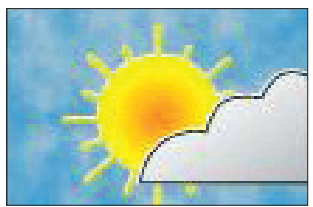


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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY

APRIL 27, 2010



VOLUME 105, NUMBER 121

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Job done, consultant bids adieu

Dr. Stevens leaves BSISD to retire again

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

With the fate of a \$60 million bond election just two weeks away, Big Spring Independent School District said goodbye to one of the bond's key planners, Dr. Michael Stevens, whose tenure as a consultant for the district came to a close Friday.

According to BSISD Superintendent Steven Saldivar, Stevens was asked to stay onboard with the district after his contract as interim superintendent ended to play a key role in the development of the bond and the project the money is intended for.

"Dr. Stevens served as interim superintendent for nearly a year, then stayed on with the district as a consultant," said Saldivar. "He was charged with helping get the bond that's currently being proposed together, planning the bond and even working with the architects to make sure the plan would meet the school district's needs.

"With just two weeks left before the bond will be decided by the voters, Dr. Steven's work was essentially completed. There was no contract between the district and Dr. Stevens, and since his work was essentially done, my understanding is he's decided to go back to retirement."

Voters began weighing in on the proposed bond Monday morning, as early voting in the matter began.

BSISD officials plan to use the bond money in the following manner:

- \$43 million will be used to construct new elementary campuses at the current sites of Washington, Marcy and Goliad schools, demolish those existing buildings along with Bauer Elementary, add a classroom wing and physical education gym to Moss Elementary and renovate Kentwood Elementary.
- \$2.7 million will be spent to

See **BSISD**, Page 3



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins
Contractors with Oncor Electric work to erect a street light in one of the medians located on Main Street. The lighting is part of the city's downtown street project, which calls for streetscaping in and around the downtown area.

Rubio repeats

Joins Carrillo, Freeman, Lewis as state qualifiers

Herald Staff Report

Big Spring High School will send four students, including a repeat performance for junior Jessica Rubio, to the University Interscholastic League State academic meet to be held in Austin May 5-8 on the University of Texas campus.

The academic competitors — Rubio and seniors Haley Carrillo, Danielle Freeman and Andrew Lewis — earned slots for the state meet after placing well in the UIL Regional I-4A academic competition held this past weekend in San Angelo. BSHS sent 13 students to regionals.

Rubio took top honors in the information extemporaneous competition, adding a 2010 region championship to her resume. Carrillo placed second in editorial writing.

Placing third in their res-

See **UIL**, Page 3



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins
Jay Cowart, spokesman for the Plains Cotton Cooperative Association, goes over a grant agreement with the Howard County commissioners court during Monday morning's meeting.

Pact OK'd with Plains Co-op

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners approved an economic development grant for the Plains Cotton Cooperative Association that will hopefully secure a \$2 million expansion of its warehouse facility in Big Spring.

The grant was approved by a unanimous vote, providing the PCCA

with a five-year agreement that mirrors a tax abatement recently approved for the group by Howard College.

According to PCCA spokesman Jay Cowart, the grant will provide tax rebates in place of the abatement for a recent \$8 million expansion of the company's warehouses during the next five years.

"We had applied for a tax abatement through the county and the college. We were successful in getting the abatement through the college, but due to some misunderstandings, we were not able to get the one through the county," said Cowart. "We've been working

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Obituaries

Dorothy Coleman

Dorothy Coleman, 78, of Big Spring died Sunday, April 25, 2010, at her residence. Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 28, 2010, at Nalley-Pickle and Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Sharon Wiese, pastor of First United Methodist Church, officiating. Interment will be at Lost Prairie Cemetery in Groesbeck.

She was born July 3, 1931, in Groesbeck and married Bill C. "Bud" Coleman on July 29, 1950, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death July 12, 2007.

She worked with her husband at Higginbotham-Bartlett Lumber Company for many years as bookkeeper.

She was a member of First United Methodist Church and enjoyed playing bridge.

Survivors include two sons, Bobby Coleman and wife, Debbie, of Houston and Bill Coleman of Big Spring; a sister-in-law, Dorothy Johnson of Big Spring; and a number of nieces and nephews.

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

Bonnie Dempsey Cain

Bonnie Dempsey Cain, 80, of Midland died Saturday, April 24, 2010, at the Hospice House of Odessa. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland.

James Robert Wigington Sr.

James Robert Wigington Sr., 80, of Big Spring died Tuesday, April 27, 2010, at the Veterans Administration Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

J.E. Peugh

J.E. Peugh, 76, of Stanton died Monday, April 26, 2010, in a Midland hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Gilbert Reyna

Gilbert Reyna, 77, of Big Spring died Saturday, April 24, 2010, at Medical City Hospital in Dallas. Vigil services will be at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 28, 2010, at Myers & Smith Funeral Chapel. Funeral mass will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 29, 2010, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with the Rev. Ariel Lagunilla officiating. Burial, with military honors, will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

He was born May 26, 1932, in San Antonio to Juanita and Martin Reyna. He came to Big Spring in 1949 from Michigan. He married Demetria Marin on June 20, 1957, in Big Spring.

He was a veteran of the United States Army. He had been a member of the G.I. Forum and was a charter member of the Big Spring Chicano Golf Association. He worked at White's Auto Store for 15 years and then was employed by Howard County Road and Bridge Department. He retired in 1995 after 20 years of service. He was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church and a member of the Knights of Columbus.

He is survived by his wife, Demetria (Donna) Reyna of Big Spring; three daughters, Juanita Fierro and her husband, John, of Dallas, Barbara Tatom and her husband, Corby, of Ponca City, Okla., and Sonya Corral and her husband, David, of Tulsa, Okla.; three sons, Nick Reyna and his wife, Lisa, and Sammy Reyna and his wife, Anita, all of Big Spring, and Frank Lee Reyna and his wife, Renee, of Fort Worth; 16 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and one brother, Rogelio Reyna of Saragosa, Spain.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Martin and Juanita Reyna; and one son, Martin Reyna; three brothers, Edward, David and Mickey; and one sister, Josefina Gonzales.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersand-smith.com

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 52 inmates at the time of this report.

- JOE LOPEZ CHAVEZ III, 40, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of assault – family violence.

- LINDA RENE TORRES, 27, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension without fine resolution.

- HOLLY DENISE JENNINGS, 25, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of assault – family violence.

- GILBERTO RAY HINOJOS, 17, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon.

- NICK ORNELAS, 27, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- ALAN CRAIG, 40, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.






Support Groups

TUESDAY

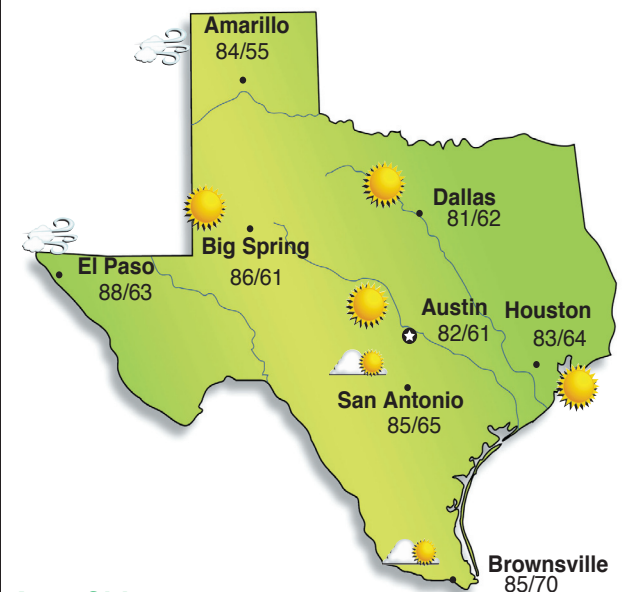
- The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 4/28	Thu 4/29	Fri 4/30	Sat 5/1	Sun 5/2
 86/61 Sunny skies. High 86F. Winds S at 20 to 30 mph.	 89/52 Windy with sunshine. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the low 50s.	 82/52 Sunny and wind. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the low 50s.	 82/56 More sun than clouds. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the mid 50s.	 83/56 Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the mid 50s.
Sunrise: 7:03 AM Sunset: 8:25 PM	Sunrise: 7:02 AM Sunset: 8:25 PM	Sunrise: 7:01 AM Sunset: 8:26 PM	Sunrise: 7:00 AM Sunset: 8:27 PM	Sunrise: 6:59 AM Sunset: 8:28 PM

Texas At A Glance



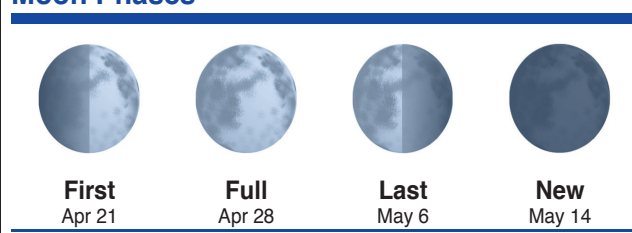
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	83	62	sunny	Kingsville	86	67	pt sunny
Amarillo	84	55	windy	Livingston	83	58	sunny
Austin	82	61	sunny	Longview	81	58	sunny
Beaumont	82	62	sunny	Lubbock	87	58	sunny
Brownsville	85	70	pt sunny	Lufkin	86	58	sunny
Brownwood	85	61	sunny	Midland	88	64	sunny
Corpus Christi	83	69	sunny	Raymondville	87	68	pt sunny
Corsicana	80	60	sunny	Rosenberg	83	64	sunny
Dallas	81	62	sunny	San Antonio	85	65	pt sunny
Del Rio	86	63	sunny	San Marcos	83	62	sunny
El Paso	88	63	windy	Sulphur Springs	81	61	sunny
Fort Stockton	89	61	sunny	Sweetwater	85	62	windy
Gainesville	78	59	sunny	Tyler	81	58	sunny
Greenville	80	58	sunny	Weatherford	80	59	sunny
Houston	83	64	sunny	Wichita Falls	81	60	sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	71	45	sunny	Minneapolis	69	52	pt sunny
Boston	50	40	rain	New York	57	45	rain
Chicago	63	44	sunny	Phoenix	84	56	windy
Dallas	81	62	sunny	San Francisco	56	45	rain
Denver	74	43	windy	Seattle	53	44	rain
Houston	83	64	sunny	St. Louis	73	55	mst sunny
Los Angeles	65	49	windy	Washington, DC	64	47	mst sunny
Miami	84	67	mst sunny				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Wed 4/28	Thu 4/29	Fri 4/30	Sat 5/1	Sun 5/2
10	10	10	10	10
Very High	Very High	Very High	Very High	Very High

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

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Fire/EMS

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

- TRAUMA was reported in the 2300 block of Allendale. Service refused.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 12000 block of N. County Road 35. One person was transported to SMCC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of E. 15th Street. One person was transported to SMCC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 3600 block of W. Highway 80. One person was transported to SMCC.

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Take Note

• The Big Spring High School Class of 2012 will hold a play day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 1, at Blankenship Stadium to raise money for the prom. There will be Air Extreme sports games and a dunking booth. Cost is \$10 per person. For tickets, call Valerie at 213-8315 or Shannon at 264-3641, ext. 1416.

• The Howard County A&M Club is accepting applications for scholarships from high school students who are graduating this May and have been accepted at Texas A&M University for the following autumn. Students must be Howard County residents who will be enrolling for at least 12 hours. Deadline for applications is May 1. For more information, visit the club's Web site at <http://clubs.aggienetwork.com/howardcountyamc/webhome.htm>

• On May 22, the Howard County Road Kill Running Club (HCRK) will host the first Bob Fishback 5K fun run/walk in Comanche Trail Park. The event will start at the Alice Hayes Pavilion which is located by the Kids' Zone play area. All proceeds will be donated to the Fishback family to help pay for medical expenses. Entry fee is \$20 and there will be awards for first through third place female and male participants. You can either pre-register, or register the morning of the event. Registration will open at 6:30 a.m. You can download the flyer at <http://pages.suddenlink.net/hcrk/docs/Annual%20Bob%20Fishback.pdf>

• If you were laid off between December 2008 and March 2010 and are interested in training, contact the Workforce Solutions Permian Basin office in Big Spring at 263-8373 or 1-800-749-8373. Training dollars are available to assist those affected by the layoffs and ultimate plant closure.

• The Big Spring High School Class of

1975 will have its 35-year reunion June 25-26. We will also have members from the classes of 1973, 1974 and 1976 joining in the fun. If you, or someone you know, is a member of any of these classes and would like to attend and join in on the fun, contact Roxie McDaniel Blair at 432-553-8551 or by e-mail at roxieblair@matthewblair.com for more details.

• Tyler Keeton/Hightower has been diagnosed with osteosarcoma (bone cancer). He is undergoing chemotherapy at Cook Children's Hospital in Fort Worth. He has a surgery scheduled April 20 to remove a tumor and replace part of his femur and knee. An account has been established at Citizens Federal Credit Union under the name Tyler Keeton for those who would like to help with medical expenses.

• The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We currently have 55 children in foster care without a volunteer. We need your help! A class is forming in Howard County and we need at least 27 volunteers to fill this need. If you're interested in volunteering please contact Suzy Milliken at 1-877-316-8346 or visit www.BecomeaCASA.org or www.casawtx.org.

• A fund has been established at Wood Forest National Bank for Jeffery Cate (Bubba). He is a lifetime resident of Big Spring and is employed at B&E Roustabout. He was in a car accident New Year's Eve and is still in a hospital in Lubbock. He had surgery to remove his spleen and has several broken bones, including one in his neck. He has also suffered some memory loss due to a bruise on one side of his brain. He has three small boys. The medi-

cal bills and family travel expenses are adding up. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

• Attention military personnel and dependents: The Salvation Army currently has funding for Texas military personnel now serving or who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Members or dependents may apply at the Salvation Army Office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., or call (432) 267-8239. The grant is funded by the TRIAD Fund of Permian Basin Area Foundation.

• Bring joy and kindness to others by becoming a Compass Hospice volunteer. Help those at the end of life's journey. Make a difference in someone's life. Call 263-5999 to begin your journey.

• The Permian Basin Foundation has awarded West Texas Opportunities Inc. \$130,000 through the Texas Resources for Iraq Afghanistan Deployment fund. WTO will assist current and former military personnel serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families. Funding will serve Howard, Martin, Andrews, Borden, Dawson, Ector, Fisher, Gaines, Glasscock, Midland, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry and Upton counties. For more information, contact Diana Martinez or Debbie Wilson at 110 Johnson in Big Spring or call (432) 267-9536.

• Scenic Mountain Medical Center's Relay For Life team is selling cookbooks to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. The cookbooks can be purchased at the PBX operator's booth for \$10 apiece. For more information, contact Beverly Grant at 268-4952.

• HATS (Hope After The Sadness), an American Cancer Society Resource Room is available at First Methodist Church.

This center provides information and valuable resources for those affected by cancer. This HATS ministry, established in memory of the late Rev. Dr. Shane Brue, maintains a room with free hats, wigs and head coverings available for check-out by those dealing with hair loss due to cancer treatment. Other services and resources are also available. Contact the "Hat Lady," Marci Lykken at 267-2915.

• Road to Recovery, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call (877) 277-1618, the High Plains American Cancer Group Report Center. Anyone wishing to volunteer to drive in this program should call Sherry Hodnett, president of the Big Spring ACS Board, at 264-7599 at her office at Home Hospice.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288
 Sharleen Shree Moore, 48, died Saturday. Services were at 11 a.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.
 Arnold Parmley, 80, died Sunday. Graveside services were at 5 p.m. today at Mount Olive Memorial Park.
 Gilbert Reyna, 77, died Saturday. Vigil services will be at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park with military honors.
 James Robert Wigington, Sr., 80, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

UIL

Continued from Page 1

pective events were Freeman, who competed in information extemp., and Lewis in persuasive extemp.

The overall performance by the speech team of Rubio, Freeman and Lewis garnered the trio the Regional Speech Championship Team Award to add to the their list of accolades. As a team, Freeman and Lewis placed ninth in the cross

examination debate at the UIL state meet held earlier this year.

"I am extremely proud of the kids; they have had a great year," said BSHS speech coach Jennifer Adams. "These three — Rubio, Freeman and Lewis

— will join junior Opal Gonzales and sophomore Shermila Kherat at the National Speech and Debate Tournament this summer in Kansas City, following winning bids at the February national qualifying tournament."

BSISD

Continued from Page 1

construct new classrooms at Big Spring Junior High to house BSISD sixth-graders, making BSJH a three-year campus.

• \$12 million in improvements

are planned at the high school, including installation of a new roof and fire suppression system and upgrading the building's science labs.

• An additional \$2.5 million is being asked for improvement to campus grounds, parking lots and driveways.

To finance the new bond, BSISD officials estimate the

district's tax rate — currently \$1.12 per \$100 valuation — will increase by 35 cents for the life of the 20-year bond. That would raise taxes on a median-priced home in Howard County (\$42,000) by approximately \$70 a year. Owners of a home valued at \$100,000 would see their taxes rise by about \$240 a year.

This election is coming two years after voters rejected a \$34 million bond to construct a central elementary campus and renovate the high school.

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

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1

together to try to get this cleared up, but the window for the abatement, after Dec. 31, 2009, had essentially expired. This grant is a way by which the county can replace the value of that abatement over the course of a five-year period.

"The abatement would have provided 100 percent abatement of the property taxes in the first year and 100 percent in year two. After that, it would be 70 percent in year three, 50 percent in year four and 30 percent in year five. After the end of that five-year period, we would be paying 100 percent of the property taxes. The rebate is going to mirror the value of that abatement would have been. Essentially,

what we're going to do is write a check for our property taxes and the appropriate amount will be rebated back to us."

Cowart said the company's board of directors recently began deliberating on an additional \$2 million expansion of the facility, which is located north of Big Spring, and the grant approved by the commissioners court Monday morning will go a long way in moving the project forward.

"It's a farmer-owned cooperative based in Lubbock with operations in Kansas, Oklahoma and the majority of the state of Texas," said Cowart. "We have about 28,000 cotton producers who are members of our organization and our warehousing sector of the business has continued to grow. We were under capacity here in West Texas

and embarked on a project about a year ago to expand here in Big Spring.

"We spent about \$8 million and added 100,000 bales of cotton storage capacity. We've been working hand-in-hand with the county to develop some incentives and this morning we were fortunate enough to get the county's blessings on those. We've essentially cleared the way to begin talks on doing another \$2 million in expansion here at the Big Spring site."

When the matter of a tax abatement for PCCA was first heard by the commissioners court in 2009, Commissioner Jimmie Long voted

against the measure. However, Long made the motion to approve the grant Monday, saying he sees both sides of the matter.

"I've heard plenty of arguments for and against this (grant)," Long told the court. "And like I've said before, I'm basically 51 (percent) and 49 (percent) on it."

Long's motion was seconded by Commissioner Jerry Kilgore.

According to Cowart, the grant will total approximately \$45,000 to \$46,000 in assessed taxes in the first year and follow the plan — according to taxable values set by the Howard County Appraisal District — after that.

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

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MISSING BIRD



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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

SMMC seeking your nominees for nurse award

It's a point we've made before, and it's as true today as it was then: Nobody likes being in the hospital ... not as a patient anyway.

Let's face it, any health problem that calls for a hospital stay is nothing to smile about. What's more, having to stay in a strange room, sleep in a bed that's not yours and eat institutional meals, no matter how well prepared, are simply not enjoyable experiences.

Most of us have found the only thing that makes the experience bearable is the knowledge that at some point we'll be headed home.

Every once in a while, however, you find yourself cared for by a nurse who seems to go out of his or her way to make your hospital stay the best it can be. Such nurses are virtually unforgettable.

And when you've received that kind of care, you often find yourself wishing there was something more you could do than just thank that special nurse.

So does Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

If you've been a patient at SMMC and were impressed by the care you received by one of the nurses there, hospital officials want to know about it and are currently asking local residents for nominations for the Patient Choice Award.

The Patient Choice Award honors one nurse in particular — one the hospital believes has represented the quality care, comfort and compassion they want offered by the nurses at SMMC. Continuing the tradition of the last few years, that one nurse at Scenic Mountain will receive the Patient Choice Award during Nurses' Week, May 6-12.

However, you don't necessarily have to have been an SMMC patient to nominate a nurse. If you, or a family member, have received inpatient or outpatient care at the hospital during the past year and you have a nurse you'd like to thank, you can submit a nomination.

Nominations for the 2010 Patient Choice Award are being accepted until Monday. To nominate a nurse, send the nurse's name and a few paragraphs explaining your nomination, along with your own name (and the name of the patient), address and telephone number.

E-mail nominations can be sent to Kim_Howell@chs.net or mail them to Kim Howell, Marketing Director, Scenic Mountain Medical Center, 1601 West 11th Place, Big Spring 79720. Nominations can also be faxed to 268-4732.

We here at the Herald are convinced there are several nurses at SMMC who deserve recognition and applaud the hospital on creating the Patient Choice Award.

After all, it's an opportunity for appreciative patients to offer more than just a heartfelt "thank you."

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we choose Your truth, Lord, for our life.
Amen

My last Goodwin Liu column — I hope

When now-Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito faced a Senate confirmation vote in 2006, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., had no qualms about rejecting Alito simply because she did not agree with him. "If one is pro-choice in this day and age, in this structure, one can't vote for Judge Alito," Feinstein declared.

Feinstein went even further. When Republicans argued that simple fairness demanded a full floor vote on Alito, Feinstein, like Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., and then-Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., supported the use of the filibuster to prevent it. They tried, but failed to prevent a majority-rules vote.

Now that Democrats are in power, judicial philosophy doesn't matter.

Before a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the confirmation of UC Berkeley Law Professor Goodwin Liu to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Feinstein complained to The Chronicle's Bob Egelko that Liu's critics were all "attack, attack, attack," which seemed unfair, as Liu is "exemplary."

So here is the conundrum, in two parts.

Should Democrats, who have happily rejected Republican presidents' judicial nominees on philosophical grounds, complain when Republicans do the same to the Democrats' picks?

The answer is: No, but it's not as if you can stop them. And should Republicans stick to the "let a conservative pick a conservative, and then let the full Senate vote" standard when a liberal is the president and Democrats rule the Senate?

Yes, but that doesn't mean Repubs have to throw rose petals at Liu's feet.

The standard I would suggest is a low bar — that the GOP treat Liu better than he treated Alito and now-Chief Justice John Rob-

erts who, Liu argued, were too extreme for the Big Bench.

Liu's criticism of four Alito decisions upholding capital punishment cases — only one of which prevailed — showed that Liu wrongly jumped "to a conclusion of racism," according to Kent Scheidegger of the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation. Scheidegger believes that if Liu becomes an appellate judge, he would overrule death penalty convictions given any excuse, no matter how far-fetched.

At the hearing, Liu told Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., "I have no opposition to the death penalty. I've never written anything questioning its morality or constitutionality. I would have no problem enforcing the law as written in this area." Liu also admitted that his language on Alito was "perhaps unnecessarily flowery." Flowery?

Conservatives cite a Stanford Law Review article, "Rethinking Constitutional Welfare Rights," to argue Liu may find a court-mandated fundamental right to shelter, subsistence, health care and more.

Yet the article — I read it so you don't have to — noted that lawmakers must act first. To wit: "we cannot hope to change our law without first doing the hard work of changing our politics." Good.

Minnesota law professor Richard Painter, who served as Bush's chief ethics lawyer, concluded, "There are real left-wingers in academia. He's not one of them."

Liu recognizes that legislators, not judges, write laws that create entitlement benefits; then in their "interstitial role," courts can identify and interpret criteria — a view Liu calls "conservative." But he leaves open a door to mischief.

In citing areas where the bench "can legitimately foster evolution of welfare rights," he refers to "California's antiquated and inequitable system of school finance." I felt the cold brace of another pricey Ninth-Circuit-Court-acting-as-Sacramento decision.

UC Berkeley Law Professor



DEBRA SAUNDERS

Obama's got a profits allergy?

I wonder why any president of the United States would feel compelled to protest, repeatedly, "I believe in the power of the free market." Has any other president said it — at least in the context Obama keeps saying it? That's rhetorical.

Sure, Ronald Reagan talked about the glories of capitalism frequently, but never in terms of trying to convince skeptics that he really believed what he was saying.

But Obama said it again in that very context, in his Wall Street speech in New York on Thursday. "As I said two years ago on this stage, I believe in the power of the free market." Believe me; he didn't go on to elaborate on the wonders of entrepreneurship, capital formation, liberty or the robust economic growth that free markets produce and which cannot be replicated, with any faint degree of consistency, in command-control economies.

Indeed, just one sentence later, Obama added one of his ubiquitous free market qualifiers. He said, "But a free market was never meant to be a free license to take whatever you can get however you can get it."

Excuse me? Please tell me one capitalist who believes that a free market is synonymous with a license to steal. None does. They all understand that our capitalist system operates under the rule of law. We already have laws preventing stealing, fraud and the like. So why does he have to frame the issue in such distorted extremes? Also rhetorical.

But let me ask you something: Could Obama make the same statements about the federal government, as in, "I believe in the power of the federal government,

but the federal government was never supposed to have a license to take whatever it can get however it can get it"?

Sure he could make the statement, but would he mean it?

Rhetorical.

Surely we can all agree that he has far more confidence in the federal government than in the invisible hand of the free market. In fact, Obama leftists these days are coming out of the woodwork to condemn conservatives and other free market advocates for believing that capitalism can possibly work without the constant heavy hand of government regulation pressing down on evil entrepreneurs for their excess profiteering.

Raised and mentored at the feet of capitalist-hating leftists, Obama repeatedly reveals a visceral distaste for profits. And I don't mean so-called "excess" or "ill-gotten" profits only, but just plain old profits. Obama thinks, like a Marxist, that profits are "surplus value" stolen by capitalists from laborers who produce the wealth.

He is obviously so deeply steeped in Marxist indoctrination that he believes that prices are only high because of profits.

In his static view, only a government-controlled system can cut out those evil profits and maintain reasonable prices. He apparently has no concept of — or any appreciable real-world experience validating — the ability of the market, through competition, to produce higher-quality goods at lower prices.

We witnessed this with his opportunistic war on insurance companies, when he savaged them for their "obscene and excessive" profits. But the unvarnished data proved the insurance industry's profits are modest compared with those of other industries. Obama was surely aware of that but shrewdly labeled them "excessive" because he knows Americans are

Jesse Choper told me, "I do believe that he will make an honest attempt to figure out what the circuit (court) precedent or the Supreme Court precedent is."

I buy that. But what happens when the precedent is insufficient? What about the precedents for overturning well-deserved capital sentences, for which the Ninth Circuit is infamous? This may well be a case of right man/wrong court.

As Scheidegger told me, "I am more worried about a nominee like this before the Ninth Circuit than I would be with another circuit. One off-the-wall judge in a circuit (court) generally full of people with good sense doesn't cause that much damage. But a judge added to a court that is already way off in left field can cause considerably more damage."

Now, do the math. Barring a bonehead misstep that won't happen, Liu has the votes to pass out of the Judiciary Committee, then a Senate floor vote. Only a filibuster can stop him.

Scheidegger argued for the filibuster. "The Republicans have to take the position that they can't unilaterally disarm, as much as they don't like the filibuster," he said. And: "If one side uses it and the other side doesn't, we're going to end up skewing the courts in one direction."

But a filibuster cannot and should not happen. It would take all but one of 41 GOP senators to sustain a filibuster.

Too many Republicans have argued passionately against that trick to change course now.

Painter found the filibuster option "really unacceptable. I'm just not willing to say the Republicans should do the same thing. It gets circular, and they (the Democrats) will do it when we want to get our people in."

And the day that the Republicans will want to get their people in may come sooner than expected.

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

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not allergic to profits as he is.

In hot pursuit of his latest federal power grab (a complete financial overhaul), what Obama doesn't tell us is that it wasn't an unregulated market that primarily caused the financial crisis — the crisis that facilitated his ecstatic quest to completely transform America into a socialist state. It was largely an unbridled, out-of-control, do-gooder leftist Congress that substituted its values for the wisdom of the market and incentivized and forced financial firms to make loans to people who couldn't possibly repay them, among other things. These wonderful leftist congressmen, who hold themselves out as impartial regulators, resisted Republican efforts to rein in their friends at Fannie and Freddie.

Obama's financial overhaul bill would not enhance the rule of law, which in a nutshell is a government of laws, not of men. It would diminish the rule of law by replacing the law's intended impartiality (objective standards that citizens can rely on) with giving "unlimited discretion" to arrogant, power-drunk government thugs who think they are better-equipped, morally and intellectually, to run our macroeconomy. There would be no level playing field guaranteed by the rule of law, but an expansion of the ability of government, with yet more confiscated taxpayer money, to pick the winners and losers for whatever reason it wants and without having to explain why. This, as I wrote before, is TARP writ permanent. And we know how much accountability the government has had with TARP expenditures — or with Obama's stimulus funds, for that matter.

When will this insanity end?

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney.

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DAVID LIMBAUGH

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What's the Difference?

There are five things different between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?



Answers: 1. missing hat 2. missing fishing lure in hat 3. two flowers in soccer girl's hair 4. garden girl has darker hair 5. missing shovel

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1788: MARYLAND BECOMES THE 7TH STATE.
- 1952: THE UNITED STATES OCCUPATION OF JAPAN ENDS.
- 1994: FORMER CIA OFFICIAL ALDRICH AMES PLEADS GUILTY TO SUPPLYING SECRETS TO THE SOVIET UNION AND LATER RUSSIA.

HEALTH FACT:



WHAT SOIL-DWELLING CREATURES CAN NATURALLY PLOW AND FERTILIZE YOUR GARDEN, MAKING FOR A HEALTHIER OUTDOORS?

ANSWER: WORMS

New Word

COMPOST

decayed organic matter used as a plant fertilizer

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Grass

SPANISH: Hierba

ITALIAN: Erba

FRENCH: Herbe

GERMAN: Gras

Did You Know?

A MATURE, HEALTHY TREE PRODUCES ENOUGH OXYGEN IN A SEASON TO PROVIDE AIR FOR 10 PEOPLE TO BREATHE FOR A YEAR.



GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: RIDING MOWER

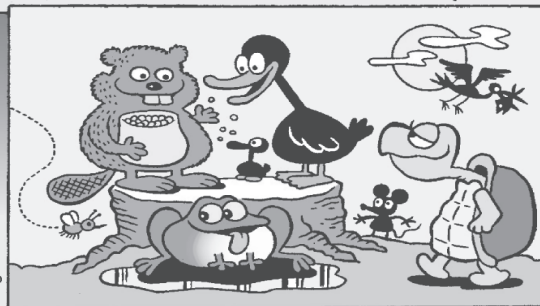
SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

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?

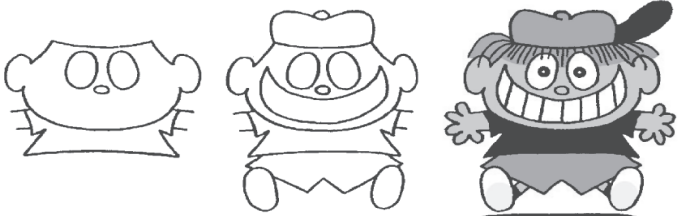


Find six differences between these panels.



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

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 ...

- One-quarter inch
- One-third inch
- One-half inch
- One inch

Answer -- (c)

Bird Poop: Injured sparrow rehabilitated to migrate again

For nearly a week, the woman had seen large flocks feeding by the side of the Garden City Highway. Whenever her car neared the area, the birds seemed to sense rather than see her approach.



BEBE
MCCASLAND

Like a giant being coming to life, they would suddenly leave the roadside in unison. How each one knew at the same time where they were going was beyond her wildest imagination. Resembling a small, dark cloud, the individual members appeared to have rehearsed every move to sustain this phenomenon.

During one drive she had stopped her car in the middle of the road to watch as their flight undulated toward a nearby fence line. After a momentary stop, the birds continued the harmony of flight that had first caught her attention.

Having left that

morning for a day's shopping, the woman hoped she would see the migrating birds that afternoon on her way home. However, the further she drove from the city, the more trucks she encountered from the farm and ranch roads. With the unexpected traffic, she realized the birds would have to wait for an opportunity to feast on grass seeds.

Ahead, as a semi topped a rise in the terrain, she could see another blur of fluttering wings. "Whew!" she thought, "A near miss." Divided in their haste to get away from the truck, the flock soon merged over a nearby field. Flying further from the roadway, they disappeared into a large clump of scrub-like growth.

Approaching the same area, the woman did not expect to see a lone bird standing beside the pavement. After realizing oncoming traffic might hit it, she applied the brakes, made a U-turn, and headed back.

Fortunately the nearest truck was a speck in the distance. As quietly as possible, she opened the door and tiptoed



Courtesy photo

Adaptable, the white-crowned sparrow spends its summers in northern forests. During the winter it is often seen in parts of Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Mexico and the Gulf Coast.

toward the bird.

Stopping just behind it, she noticed one wing was held slightly lower than the other. Not until she quickly grabbed the bird did it realize its predicament. Struggling against her grip, the colorful sparrow pecked at her finger and thumb repeatedly.

After learning the woman had already traveled some distances that day, Art and I decided to drive to Garden City to meet her and her patient. The 20 miles south through the countryside was a pleasant diversion.

As a convenient place to meet we chose

the imposing courthouse. Before opening the box containing the bird, I had Art place a towel over my hand and around the edges.

The woman's warning of its trying to get out several times was well founded.

Without seeing the frisky bird, I felt the empty voids of the box until I sensed it had chosen a corner. My quick grab was not rewarded. Instead, I felt the bird brush the side of my hand as it scurried to another corner. From the sound coming from the box, I determined which end and tried again.

For a sparrow, it was fairly large. Most noticeable were the broad black and white stripes on top of its head. If ever a bird's name suited its appearance, this was the occasion. Still wiggling, the white-crowned sparrow was a study in contrasts.

With brown the color of its back, rump, tail and wings, nature had

accented its upper back with black streaks and each wing had two white bars. A soft gray embellished its face, neck and breast, while its throat and belly were lighter.

As I extended each wing, the sparrow used its dark pink bill to peck my hand repeatedly.

Such a beak was typical for a seed and insect eater.

Allowing the bird to flap its wings, and not finding any signs of a break, I felt the sparrow might have been a victim of a downdraft from a passing semi.

Being slammed to the pavement by such turbulence could have caused bruising to the affected wing.

A brief stay at the Eos Sanctuary in Midland would give this feisty sparrow time to recover. Having wintered in our semi-arid, warmer portion of Texas, the bird could then continue its journey to the breeding territories of

Canadian forests.

Along the way, it might forage on the ground for seeds.

Emerging buds of fruit trees would be considered delicacies, while fields of waste grain is a mainstay. Invariably flies, mosquitoes, small caterpillars and beetles would be available in late spring and early summer.

The sparrow would relish whatever nature provided.

"It's so hard to tell which kind of sparrows they are," the woman sighed as we started to leave. "If they'd only hold still!"

Amused, we shared in common that comment. With the unique markings on the white-crowned sparrow's head, however, she, and we had learned there are no other sparrows quite like it.

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

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE FUNDS

April 16, 2010
City of Big Spring
310 Nolan St.
Big Spring, TX 79720
(432) 264-2401

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about April 28, 2010 the City of Big Spring will submit a request to the Texas Department of Rural Affairs (TDRA) for the release of Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds under the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 ("HERA"), to undertake a project known as Big Spring NSP, for the purpose of demolition of approximately forty five (45) blighted properties and construction of approximately five (5) new homes on foreclosed lots all within the targeted area of the program described as that area within the city limits of Big Spring that is west of U.S. Hwy. 87; east of McMahan Wrinkle Airport; North of Webb Street and Martin Luther King Blvd. and South of Interstate Highway 20.

The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act requirements. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the Office of the City Attorney, City of Big Spring, 310 Nolan St., Big Spring, TX 79720 and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the Notice of Intent to request a Release of Funds to the City of Big Spring, 310 Nolan St. Big Spring, TX 79720. All comments received by April 27, 2010 will be considered by the City prior to a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of Big Spring certifies to the Texas Department of Rural Affairs (TDRA) that Russ McEwen in his capacity as Mayor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relations to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. TDRA's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the city of Big Spring to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

TDRA will consider objections to the release of funds received by May 14, 2010 or a period of fifteen days from its receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer or other officer of the City approved by TDRA; (b) the City has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by TDRA; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to David B. Brown, Environmental Regulatory Officer, Texas Department of Rural Affairs, P.O. Box 12877, Austin, TX 78791. Potential objectors should contact TDRA to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Parent's Corner:

Humor, ability to laugh is good to have, learn

Humor is infectious and the sound of roaring laughter is contagious. When laughter is shared, it binds people together and increases happiness and intimacy. In addition to the domino effect of joy and amusement, laughter also triggers healthy physical changes in the body.

Humor and laughter strengthen your immune system, boost your energy, diminish pain and protect you from the damaging effects of stress.

Best of all, this priceless medicine is fun, free and easy to use.

Laughter is a powerful antidote to stress, pain and conflict. Nothing works faster or more dependably to bring your mind and body back into balance than a good laugh. Humor lightens your burdens, inspires hopes, connects you to others and keeps you grounded, focused and alert.

With so much power to heal and renew, the ability to laugh easily and frequently is a tremendous resource for surmounting problems, enhancing your relationships and supporting both physical and emotional health.

Laughter makes you feel good. And the good feeling that you get when you laugh remains with you even after the laughter subsides. Humor helps you keep a positive, optimistic outlook through difficult situations,

disappointments and loss.

More than just a respite from sadness and pain, laughter gives you the courage and strength to find new sources of meaning and hope. Even in the most difficult of times, a laugh — or even simply a smile — can go a long way toward making you feel better.

And laughter really is contagious, just hearing laughter primes your brain and readies you to smile and join in on the fun.

You can't feel anxious, angry, or sad when you're laughing.

Your sense of humor is one of the most powerful tools you have to make certain that your daily mood and emotional state support good health. Humor and playful communication strengthen relationships by triggering positive feelings and fostering emotional connection.

When we laugh with one another, a positive bond is created. This bond acts as a strong buffer against stress, disagreements and disappointment and is an effective tools for keeping relationships fresh and exciting.

All emotional sharing builds strong and lasting relationship bonds, but sharing laughter and play adds joy, vitality and resilience. Humor is a powerful and effective way to heal resentments, disagreements and hurts.

Laughter unites people during difficult times. Mutual laughter and play are an essential component of strong, healthy relationships.

By making a conscious effort to



DARRELL
RYAN

News in brief

Obama's challenge: Selling economic recovery in the face of high unemployment

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even as he touts his efforts to put more Americans to work, President Barack Obama faces a public increasingly skeptical of his ability to bring jobs back to Main Street.

During stops in Iowa, Illinois and Missouri, Obama will try to convince voters that his economic policies are working, despite an unemployment rate that's expected to remain at painfully high levels for months if not years.

Those voters - many of them crucial independents - will be key to Obama's re-election prospects in 2012. And his fellow Democrats, facing a tough political climate in the November, need their support even sooner.

"The bottom line is that the Democrats are almost certain to be campaigning in economic circumstances that will not be politically favorable," said William Galston, a former domestic policy aide in Bill Clinton's White House and now a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

The latest economic forecasts do show signs of progress: The nation added jobs at the fastest pace in three years last month; the manufacturing industry is growing at a steady pace; and new claims for jobless benefits have declined.

State vs. U.S. rights: Legal challenges expected over Arizona's crackdown on illegal immigrants

PHOENIX (AP) — The debate over Arizona's new illegal immigrant law will likely move from protest lines and talk shows to the courtroom, where a judge could be asked to decide whether the state can enforce laws that until now had been the federal government's exclusive domain.

Republican Gov. Jan Brewer, who signed the bill on Friday, said Arizona must act because Washington has failed to stop the flow of illegal immigrants and drugs from Mexico.

Opposition to the law grew Monday as opponents used refried beans to smear swastikas on the state Capitol, civil rights leaders and others demanded a boycott of the state, a petition drive began to put the measure to a public vote and the Obama administration weighed a possible legal challenge.

Activists are planning a challenge of their own, hoping to block the law from taking effect by arguing that it encroaches on the federal government's authority to regulate immigration and violates people's constitutional rights by giving police too much power.

The measure — set to take effect in late July or early August — would make it a crime under state law to be in the U.S. illegally. It directs state and local police to question people about their immigration status if there is reason to suspect they are illegal.

Goldman CEO, executives appearing before Senate panel 10 days after government fraud suit

WASHINGTON (AP) — The CEO of Goldman Sachs and other executives from the Wall Street powerhouse are coming before Congress 10 days after the government accused the firm of fraud. The Senate panel hearing their testimony Tuesday alleges that Goldman used a strategy that allowed it to profit from the housing meltdown and reap billions at the expense of clients.

Goldman executives misled investors in complex mortgage securities that turned toxic, investigators for the Senate subcommittee say. They point to a trove of some 2 million e-mails and other Goldman documents obtained in an 18-month investigation. Excerpts from the documents were released Monday, a day before the hearing bringing CEO Lloyd Blankfein and the others before the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

Blankfein says in his prepared testimony that Goldman didn't bet against its clients and can't survive without their trust.

Also appearing Tuesday: Fabrice Tourre, a Goldman trading executive who, federal regulators say, marketed an investment designed to lose value. Tourre who famously called himself in a January 2007 e-mail "The fabulous Fab ... standing in the middle of all these complex, ... exotic trades he created."

The Securities and Exchange Commission this month filed a civil fraud case against Goldman, saying it misled investors about securities tied to home loans. The SEC says Goldman concocted mortgage investments without telling buyers they had been put together with help from a hedge fund client, Paulson & Co., that was betting on the investments to fail. The agency also charged Tourre.

Key Afghan military operation moves slowly as Washington's political clock ticks

WASHINGTON (AP) — The American-led effort to gain control of southern Afghanistan is off to a slow start and the political clock is ticking as U.S. troops head into what could be the bloodiest fight yet in the eight-year war.

The U.S. and its NATO allies last week set a goal of starting to transfer control of Afghanistan to the central government by the end of the year, and President Barack Obama has said U.S. troops must start leaving in 2011.

But the slow pace of progress makes it less likely Obama can meet these tight deadlines, and it's not clear if he can buy more time: He has struggled to persuade Congress to commit troops based on the current schedule.

The expanded U.S. campaign began in late winter in the small farming hamlets of Marjah, in Helmand Province, and has advanced more slowly than expected, officials said.

Now U.S. and NATO troops face a much more formidable task: securing Kandahar, the birthplace of the Taliban and the area from which al-Qaida planned the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Army troops guard Bangkok elevated train stops after protesters overrun downtown station

BANGKOK (AP) — Anti-government protesters forced a rush hour shutdown of Bangkok's busy elevated train system Tuesday and promised to expand the protests that have plunged the Thai capital into chaos by sending teams of demonstrators throughout the city.

The prime minister, who has broken off negotiations with the protesters occupying parts of central Bangkok, said he hoped to resolve the crisis soon without resorting to force, but appealed for patience.

"We recognize that as every day passes by, the people of Thailand suffer, the country suffers, but we want to make sure that there is rule of law," Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva told CNN's Christiane Amanpour, according to quotes posted on the news channel's website. "We will try to enforce the law with minimum losses and we will try to find a political resolution, but it takes time, patience and cooperation."

The four-hour closure of Bangkok's Skytrain caused commuter chaos and raised concerns in the tense capital, where hundreds of soldiers armed with automatic weapons were deployed to guard stations and other major city boulevards.

Cook aboard oil rig that exploded off the La. coast recalls her escape as crews work on leak

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Oleander Benton, a cook on an oil rig that exploded off the Louisiana coast, was sitting at a laundry room table with a

friend when the lights went out. Then, there was the blast.

The Deepwater Horizon platform shuddered, debris fell from the ceiling and Benton hit the floor, as she had been trained to do. She scrambled through hallways littered with rubble, following a man in a white T-shirt.

"I could not see anything but that man. He just kept on saying 'Come this way, come that way.' It was like he was coaching me to my lifeboat, because I couldn't see," she said.

She made it across the sweltering, mud-caked deck to a lifeboat — one of 115 people to safely escape the platform after the explosion a week ago. Eleven others are missing and presumed dead.

Benton, 52, recalled her tale as crews used a remote sub to try to shut off an underwater oil well that's gushing 42,000 gallons a day from the site of the wrecked drilling platform. If crews cannot stop the leak quickly, they might need to drill another well to redirect the oil, a process that could take about two months while oil washes up along a broad stretch of shore, from the white-sand beaches of Florida's Panhandle to the swamps of Louisiana.

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

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

You Don't Need a Calculator

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ J 3
♥ A K 8
♦ A K J 5
♣ K 8 6 4

WEST
♠ 7 4
♥ J 10 4
♦ 9 8
♣ A Q 10 9 5 3

EAST
♠ A 6 2
♥ Q 9 5 3
♦ Q 10 7 4 2
♣ J

SOUTH
♠ K Q 10 9 8 5
♥ 7 6 2
♦ 6 3
♣ 7 2

The bidding:
1♦ North East South West
3 NT Pass 4♣ Pass
Opening lead — jack of hearts.

Some plays are much harder to find than others. Here is one that almost anyone might overlook.

West led the jack of hearts against four spades. Declarer won with the king and played the jack of trumps from dummy. East grabbed the ace and returned his singleton jack of clubs.

West had no trouble reading East's return. He took the ace and

returned the queen. When declarer played the king from dummy, East ruffed, and South then had to go down one, losing a heart at the end.

The outcome was certainly unlucky, and yet the fact is that South's defeat was his own fault. When West led the queen of clubs at trick four, South should have played low from dummy!

Had he ducked the queen, West could then have done no better than continue with the ten of clubs, which South would duck again, preserving dummy's king as a trick. After ruffing the ten of clubs and drawing trumps, declarer would discard his heart loser on the club king and wind up losing only the ace of trumps and A-Q of clubs.

There is little doubt that most declarers would cover West's queen of clubs with the king at trick four. They would not realize that by ducking the queen and conceding that trick to West, they were simply swapping an immediate club loser for an otherwise certain heart loser.

Ducking the queen of clubs is a supersound safety play that preserves the 10 tricks South is looking at. It protects against the possibility of a club ruff — at no cost — and therefore is the right play.

Tomorrow: Choosing between options.

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RYAN

Continued from Page 6

incorporate more humor and play into your daily interactions, you can improve the quality of your love relationships, as well as your connections with co-workers, family members and friends.

Anyone can join the laughter movement. All it takes is a willingness to risk some loss of control.

The timid may start with a few

shy giggles. The courageous may jump in with deep belly laughter.

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Laughter is your birthright, a natural part of life that is innate and inborn. Infants begin smiling during the first weeks of life and laugh out loud within months of being born.

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to laugh at any stage of life. As laughter becomes an integrated part of your life, your creativity will flourish and new discoveries for playing with friends, coworkers, acquaintances and loved ones will occur to you daily.

Humor takes you to a higher place where you can view the world from a more relaxed, positive, creative, joyful and balanced perspective.

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

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Texas falls to Detroit

ARLINGTON (AP) — Neftali Feliz got his first opportunity to pitch on consecutive days for the Texas Rangers.

The second go-round wasn't very good for the youngster who often throws 100-mph fastballs.

Feliz gave up back-to-back homers to Miguel Cabrera and Miguel Inge in the ninth inning Monday night and the Detroit Tigers beat the Rangers 8-6 after blowing a five-run lead.

"It wasn't the result I expected. It wasn't a good result, but I was feeling good," Feliz said through an interpreter. "It wasn't the pitches. It was the location of the pitches, it wasn't where I wanted to locate."

Cabrera's homer came on a 95-mph fastball, the hardest of the right-hander's 15 pitches Monday — and faster than any of the seven pitches the 21-year-old Feliz (1-1) threw to get three outs Sunday in another non-save situation. Inge hit a 94-mph pitch for his second homer of the game.

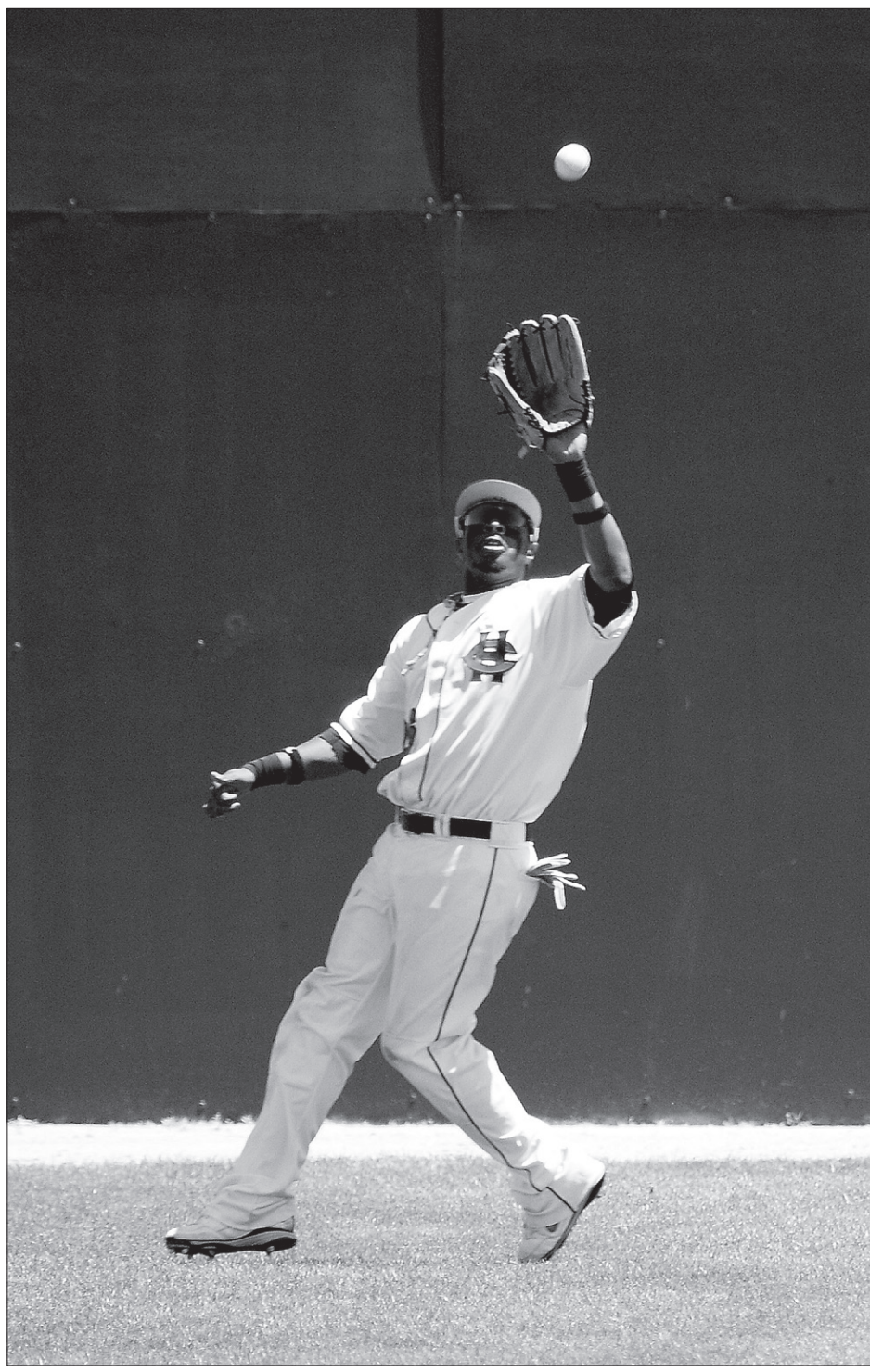
"We knew he was tough," Cabrera said. "You have to be patient and make contact. He throws so hard that if you make contact, it can go out, especially in this ballpark."

Cabrera's tiebreaking homer was a 399-foot shot that landed in the Rangers' bullpen in right-center. Feliz followed with a blast to left.

Inge's two-run shot in the fifth, his first of the season, put Detroit up 6-1.

"Sometimes you hit a spurt where no matter where you hit it, it ends up being an out. But that ends eventually," a relieved Inge said. "You try not to get too frus-

See **TEXAS**, Page 14



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Howard College centerfielder Joe Leftridge settles under a fly ball during the Hawks' game against Midland College Saturday. The Hawks return to action Friday when they host Clarendon College in a doubleheader beginning at noon Friday at Jack Barber Field.

Dallas looking to buck history

DALLAS (AP) — Shawn Marion took on a new role for the Dallas Mavericks on Monday: Motivator.

With the Mavs facing a 3-1 deficit to the San Antonio Spurs, Marion told his teammates how they can overcome the long odds, speaking from the experience of having been part of the last team that pulled it off.

"They believed they were the better team that year, had a couple of tough losses, stuck together and fought through it," Dirk Nowitzki said of Marion's speech. "That's what you have to do in a situation like that — keep believing in each other, play together and just play a little smarter and a little harder down the stretch and we can get it done."

History says they can't. Of the 189 teams in a hole this deep, only eight have clawed all the way out.

The Mavs have a few thin vines of hope they can cling to, starting with their connections to the last two teams that did it: Marion's Phoenix Suns in 2006,

and the 2003 Detroit Pistons coached by Rick Carlisle, who is now Dallas' coach.

Both those comebacks came in the first round, where this series is. Both teams were the higher seed, too, which means they had Games 5 and 7 at home; the Mavs have that advantage, too, starting Tuesday night.

"This is difficult," Carlisle said. "But this is the ultimate in this game, to have this challenge put in front of you that nobody thinks you can do. ... We've got to draw strength and keep battling and find a way to win Game 5."

Those rallies make for great touchstones, but the inspiration loses steam when factoring in another key element: the caliber of teams that those leads.

The 2003 Mavs had Tracy McGrady and not much else. The 2006 Lakers had Kobe Bryant and not much else.

The 2010 Spurs have Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili and Tony Parker.

Duncan has been bounced from the first

See **DALLAS**, Page 14

Is Kentucky Derby heading to prime time?

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The Kentucky Derby, perhaps more than any other sporting event, prides itself on tradition.

From the tasty mint juleps to the meticulously constructed Derby hats to the playing of "My Old Kentucky Home," the nation's oldest continuously run sporting event — as the sign in the paddock reminds you — is an annual step back in time.

Yet four-time Derby-winning trainer D. Wayne Lukas envisions a day when the race run on the first Saturday in May for the last 135 years will move into primetime.

"I think it's inevitable," he

said. For proof, Lukas simply points to the newly installed lights that surround the track, including four that jut right in front of Churchill Downs' iconic twin spires.

"If you ask somebody standing here 20 years ago if we'd ever have lights at Churchill, they'd say 'Absolutely not, that would never happen,'" he said. "And here they are."

The track experimented with temporary lights last summer to see how fans would react to night racing toward the end of the sometimes steamy spring meet.

The response was so overwhelming, with crowds aver-

aging nearly 30,000 a night, the track invested \$3-4 million over the winter to make the lights permanent.

"The decision was really a reflection of the commitment we have to make sure that we're having special events and special nights for the industry," said Churchill Downs president Kevin Flannery.

Flannery likened the move to the one the Chicago Cubs made 20 years ago when lights were finally installed at Wrigley Field.

"We're an iconic track, we're an iconic facility and just like Wrigley we have to give the customer what they want and we have to do things that

spark demand for our product," Flannery said.

Never is that product in greater demand than on Derby Day, when 150,000 crowd the grandstand and the infield and millions more watch on TV.

And though the Derby prides itself as "the fastest two minutes in sports" the race is simply the exclamation point on a three-hour made-for-TV event.

There's a red carpet packed with celebrities. Features on everything from the right food to serve at a Derby party to backstories on the principle

See **DERBY**, Page 14

Sports in brief

Forsan schedules practice games

Now they wait. The Forsan Buffaloes, who concluded a perfect season Friday, now must wait two or three weeks before they start the state Class 1A baseball playoffs.

The Buffs ended the regular season with a 20-0 record after defeating Hamlin 3-2 Friday. Sophomore pitcher Payton Parker improved to 8-0 for the season, striking out seven during the game.

Head Coach Jason Phillips said the Buffaloes have scheduled practice games to remain sharp during their long layoff.

Practice games have been tentatively scheduled against Anson Friday, vs. Lockney Tuesday and against Windthorst Friday. Times and sites will be announced, Phillips said.

Howard agrees to \$125 million extension with Phils

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Ryan Howard took a good-natured jab at those fickle fans in baseball-crazy Philadelphia.

"Hopefully there's no riots taking place back in Philly," he joked of his new megadeal.

Get used to it, City of Brotherly Love. This guy's going to be around for a while.

The slugging first baseman agreed to a \$125 million, five-year contract extension Monday that could keep him with the Phillies until 2017.

Howard preferred securing his future in Philadelphia to testing free agency in two years — and boy, is he getting his payday. He also felt loyal to

the franchise that gave him his chance to reach the big leagues, saying, "That wasn't a very hard decision."

"I tell you what, it's a great feeling to have that security and know where you're going to be," Howard said. "I feel what I've been doing over the last couple of years, I feel pretty confident that down the road, I'll be right where I want to be and still doing the same things."

Howard's teammates wasted no time hitting him up for favors, either.

"Where we going to eat, Ryan?" Ben Francisco asked.

Howard just chuckled.

Rangers' McCarthy on minor league DL

ARLINGTON (AP) — Off-injured Texas Rangers pitcher Brandon McCarthy is hurting again.

McCarthy, at Triple-A Oklahoma City after not making the Rangers' rotation out of spring training, has been put on the seven-day disabled list in his minor leagues after feeling soreness in his right shoulder after his last start.

The right-hander was 7-4 with a 4.62 ERA last season, when he was limited to 17 starts because of a stress fracture in his right throwing shoulder. He had the same problem in 2007.

Rangers bench coach away after daughter's death

ARLINGTON (AP) — Texas Rangers bench coach Jackie Moore is away from the team after the death of his daughter.

The Rangers say Sherry Moore Parker, 52, died Sunday. The cause of death hadn't been determined. Moore learned of her death near the end of Sunday's game against Detroit and is in Houston with his family.

Moore is in the second year of his fourth stint as a Texas coach. The 71-year-old Moore has been involved in professional baseball as a player, coach or manager every season since 1957.

Rangers hitting coach Clint Hurdle, a former major league manager, will fill in for Moore during his absence. Scott Servais, the team's player development director, will also be in uniform.

British Open awaits Woods entry

LONDON (AP) — Tiger Woods has not yet entered the British Open, but organizers expect him to try to become the first player to win the title three times at St. Andrews on the tournament's 150th anniversary.

Woods is one of five players to have won the Open twice at the Old Course — taking the last two majors played there in 2000 and 2005 — and returned to competitive golf recently at the Masters after a long layoff following a sex scandal.

"Tiger Woods has not yet entered, but in a normal year he would not have done that anyway, so I am absolutely certain he will be with us," Royal and Ancient Club chief executive Peter Dawson said in a briefing Tuesday.

The deadline to enter is May 27. The British Open is July 15-18.

Dawson also downplayed concerns that Woods' appearance after his highly publicized extramarital affairs might create security difficulties.

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Annie's Mailbox®

Dear Annie: I am 18 and have been in a relationship with "Justin" since I was 15. I couldn't ask for anyone better. Justin would do anything for me. We love each other's families and friends, too. Let's just say I feel married.

But lately, I feel like we should have some space. Justin doesn't agree. He says once we're apart, he will leave for good.

He doesn't understand why we need this. He doesn't believe in breaks.

However, I think it would make us realize whether we really are meant for each other, instead of wondering when we're much older and it's too late.

I don't want to lose Justin forever, but I can't help the way I feel.

Do I stay in this relationship and make the best of it?

After all, we do love each other. Or do I take the chance of giving myself some space and risk losing him for good?
— *Terrified and Confused in Canada*

Dear Canada: Take the risk. If you are feel-

ing boxed in now, it will only get worse over time and destroy the relationship when the stakes are higher.

You both deserve the chance to see what else is out there

before making a commitment to each other, especially since you haven't had the opportunity before.

Justin is issuing ultimatums because he is scared. You've been together a long time, and it can be daunting to give up the familiar for the new. And yes, there is a possibility you won't get back together.

But if you don't give yourself some space now, you are likely to regret it later.

Dear Annie: My wife has early Alzheimer's, which is not noticeable by casual friends. The problem is that serving



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

on committees, hosting arrangements, taking telephone messages and organizing programs are beyond her ability to handle.

I make sure these requests are turned down, but I have a strong urge

to explain why and then feel guilty if I tell.

Do you have any suggestions that would help me decide when to explain and when to withhold this information?
— *Loyal Husband*

Dear Husband: According to Beth Kallmyer, MSW, senior director of constituent services at the Alzheimer's Association, when to share a diagnosis is a personal decision that differs for everyone.

While it is important for people with Alzheimer's to remain engaged in meaningful activities, the opportunities should match

your wife's current skill set.

Consider having a conversation with her, and together decide who to tell and how.

Sharing this information with close friends or family is often a good place to start.

If either you or your wife feels uncomfortable sharing her diagnosis with a wider circle, you could agree upon a response, such as, "After many years of leading committees and organizing programs, my wife has decided to step down so she can concentrate on her hobbies.

She would still love to participate, so please keep her on your invitation list." For more information, visit the Alzheimer's Association (alz.org) at 1-800-272-3900.

Dear Annie: "Married and Alone" could have been me 60 years ago. I used to become terribly upset with my husband because he never gave me cards or gifts on special occasions. I would get so hurt that I would cry.

One day, my husband took me in his arms and

said, "Honey, wouldn't you rather that I love you every day of the year and not just two or three?"

It is now a running joke in our home for me to buy myself a gift and thank him for his wonderful taste.

Once in a great while, I will get a Valentine's Day card. But for 60 years, he has given me that adoring look that says "I love you." That is so much better than any card or gift.
— *Loving that Man of Mine in Ithaca, N.Y.*

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annies-mailbox@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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When what to her wondering eyes should appear... Share the Journey Read with your child

Tomorrow's Horoscope

The moon's transit from Libra to Scorpio is always a romantic passage. Something changes, intensifies and crystallizes. It's like the moment when platonic love becomes passion and suddenly friends turn into sweethearts.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Tomorrow is the full moon in Scorpio, the sign of transformation. What is it that you would like to see transform in your life?

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your work and life experience will come in handy. You don't even have to tell your story in order to be a significant influence. Instead, your example will make a subtle but profound impact on others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Perhaps you don't need a fancy title or additional letters after your name. All you need is to

know what to do. Then you will get the job done. Credentials are irrelevant.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Ward against personality invaders. Don't let anyone else define who you are. Resist those who are obviously trying to influence you. Let your natural attractions guide you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You will take the time to understand and appreciate another person's way of thinking. This is as much a testament of your affection as is giving flowers or saying "I love you."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your plans cannot be carried out alone. There are two other important players on the team. Take measures to build the morale of these people, and make sure that the communication lines between the three of you are open.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll be assembling a group. Too many formalities will put people on edge. Take away a few of the rules. Encourage people to be themselves.

Stripped of pretense, this will be a fun crew.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your input is needed. The others may not follow your advice immediately, but you should go on the record with an opinion just the same. Your influence will be important.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Jealousy comes from a fear of losing someone. Certain people might be flattered by jealousy, but it's far more magnetic to stand confident in what you have to offer. Believe in your powers of attraction.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You don't have to wear a power suit to have power. Your easygoing style will help you deliver important messages with casual grace. People let down their guard and listen to what you have to say.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Look up the meaning of words so that you can communicate precisely. Remember that communication is just as much about hearing and understanding as it is about speaking.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). After recent unusual events, you will enjoy getting back to so-called "normal." Of course, for you, the word "normal" does not describe a static state, as your life patterns fluctuate all the time. Stay flexible.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You do not need the approval of a higher up in order to go through with your plans. However, getting said approval will benefit you down the line. Think carefully about how you will present your case.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 27). You're in a fine position this year. You'll be a newcomer to a scene, and your fresh energy attracts luck. People invest in and promote you in May. In June, you'll improve a relationship, and you could take it to the next level in July. November brings a financial breakthrough. February highlights family. Cancer and Leo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 5, 44, 19 and 32.

VOTE May 8

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5:PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Vida Notic.	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Friends Office	Scrivner Uri Harel	World Business	Cash Cab	Joe Pesci	The Unit	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas and Ferb	Nation Pardon	SportsCenter	
6:PM :30	News Ent	Jeopardy! Wheel	Mi Pecado (SS)	Two Men	News Ent	Caso Cer-rado	News Millionaire	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Dr. Young Sanchez	PBS News-Hour	Deadliest Catch		The Unit	Bones		Wizards of Waverly Place	Football NFL Live	E:60	
7:PM :30	Dancing With Stars	Dancing With Stars	Hasta que el Dinero	American Idol	NCIS	El Clon	The Biggest Loser	Office	Upd	NOVA (DVS)	Deadliest Catch	Movie: First Blood, Brian Dennehy	UFC Un-leashed	NBA Basketball: First-Round Playoff: Teams TBA.	Movie: National Security, Colm Feore	Movie: Starstruck	World Series	30 for 30	
8:PM :30	Lost	Lost	Corazon Salvaje	Glee	NCIS: Los Angeles	Ferro Amor	Office	Office	Light of the Southwest	Frontline (DVS)	Deadliest Catch		Deadliest Warrior		Tiny-Toy	Phineas and Ferb	E:60	Baseball Tonight	
9:PM :30	(:02) V	(:02) V	Aqui y Ahora (SS)	Simpsons Friends	The Good Wife	¿Dónde Está Elisa?	Parenthood	Office	Office	Independent Lens	Construction	Movie: Rambo: First Blood Part II	Deadliest Warrior	NBA Basketball: First-Round Playoff: Teams TBA.	The Mo'Nique Deck	Wizards of Waverly Place	30 for 30	SportsCenter	
10:PM :30	News Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	Raymond	News Letterman	Noticias Decisiones	News Jay Leno	Lopez Tonight	Mark Cortes	Charlie Rose	Deadliest Catch		Deadliest Warrior		Wendy Williams	Suite Life So Raven	SportsNation	Baseball NFL Live	
11:PM :30	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Gancho	Law & Order: SVU	Late Late	Decisiones	Late Night	Name	Ministerio-Vida	World T. Smiley (Off Air)	Deadliest Catch	Movie: Mission: Impossible, Emmanuelle Béart	Deadliest Warrior	CSI: Crime Scn	Inside the NBA	Movie: Notorious B.I.G. Bigger Than Life	Kim Poss Repla	NASCAR Fastbreak	SportsCenter
12:AM :30	News Paid	News Paid	Mujer... Paid	King-Hill	Insider	Pagado	News	Sex & Lopez	Upd	Church	Construction	Overhaul'n	Star Trek: Voyager	Dark Blue			World Series	SportsCenter	
1:AM :30	News Paid	News Paid	Cero	RENO 911	Paid	Pelicula: El	Poker After Dark	Lopez	Light of the Southwest			Movie:			Emperor				

DENNIS THE MENACE

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HAGAR

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WHAT WAS THAT?
I SAID "I DO!"

BC

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I GOT A COUNTERFEIT CLAM IN CHANGE FROM THE NEWSSTAND GUY THIS MORNING.
CAN I SEE IT?
I PANNED IT OFF ON PETER.

BLONDIE

MY TEACHER SAYS KIDS ARE TEXTING SO MUCH THEY CAN'T WRITE CURSIVE ANYMORE!
SHE'S RIGHT! YOU NEED TO LEARN CURSIVE
I'M GONNA TEXT ANYWAY! I DON'T WANNA LEARN CURSIVE!! THEY CAN'T MAKE ME LEARN CURSIVE!!!
ANYWAY...MR. B., WHAT THE HECK IS CURSIVE?

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CALL IT WHAT YOU WILL... I'M GOING TO TOSS IT OUT INTO THE YARD AND WATCH IT SIT THERE!
SHE ALSO PERFECTED... 'GLANCE TAG.'

HI AND LOIS

IT'S A LITTLE EARLY IN THE SEASON, ISN'T IT?
FOR WHAT?
GIVING UP GOLF.

THE OTHER COAST

YIKES, A BEAR! Y'D BETTER TURN BACK!
RELAX, HE WON'T KNOW YOU'RE HERE.
BEARS ARE SHORTSIGHTED, AS LONG AS YOU'RE DOWNWIND OF HIM, YOU'LL BE OK.
HOW WAS IT TO KNOW HE WAS THE ONLY BEAR IN THE WOODS WHO WORE GLASSES?

SNUFFY SMITH

SILAS AIN'T PUTTIN' NEARLY AS MUCH EFFORT INTO FLYERS AS HE USED TO !!
THIS WEEK'S SUPER SAVER STUFF IN CANS!!

BEEBLE BAILEY

WHY IS THAT DOG WEARING A UNIFORM?
HE'S CAPTAIN OF THE "CANINE CORPS," SIR
I DIDN'T KNOW WE HAD SUCH A CORPS
IT WAS HIS IDEA!

This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, April 27, the 117th day of 2010. There are 248 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 27, 1810, Ludwig van Beethoven wrote one of his most famous piano compositions, the Bagatelle in A-minor, popularly known by its reported dedication, "Für Elise" (for Elise).

On this date:

In 1521, Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan was killed by natives in the Philippines.

In 1570, Pope Pius V excommunicated Queen Elizabeth I.

In 1805, during the First Barbary War, an American-led force of Marines and mercenaries captured the city of Derna, on the shores of Tripoli.

In 1822, the 18th president of the United States, Ulysses S. Grant, was born in Point Pleasant, Ohio.

In 1865, the steamer Sultana exploded on the Mississippi River near Memphis, Tenn.,

killer killing more than 1,400 people, mostly freed Union prisoners of war.

In 1932, American poet Hart Crane, 32, drowned after jumping from a steamer into the Gulf of Mexico while en route to New York.

In 1967, Expo '67 was officially opened in Montreal by Canadian Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson.

In 1973, Acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray resigned after it was revealed that he'd destroyed files removed from the safe of Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt.

In 1978, convicted Watergate defendant John D. Ehrlichman was released from an Arizona prison after serving 18 months. Fifty-one construction workers plunged to their deaths when a scaffold inside a cooling tower at the Pleasants Power Station site in West Virginia fell 168 feet to the ground.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Jack Klugman is 88. Actress Anouk Aimee is 78. Announcer Casey Kasem is 78. Actress Judy Carne is 71. Rhythm-and-blues singer Cuba Gooding is 66. Singer Ann Peebles is 63. Rock singer Kate Pierson (The B-52's) is 62. Rhythm-and-blues

singer Herbie Murrell (The Stylistics) is 61. Rock musician Ace Frehley is 59. Pop singer Sheena Easton is 51. Rock musician Rob Squires (Big Head Todd and the Monsters) is 45. Singer Mica (MEE'-shah) Paris is 41. A Actress Sally Hawkins is 34. Rock singer-musician Travis Meeks (Days of the New) is 31. Actress Ari Graynor is 27. Rock singer-musician Patrick Stump (Fall Out Boy) is 26. Actor William Moseley is 23. Singer Allison Iraheta is 18.

Thought for Today: "For those who do not think, it is best at least to rearrange their prejudices once in a while." - Al Luther Burbank, American horticulturist (1849-1926).

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Answer to previous puzzle

ACTS	AWAY	TILT
CHAT	DOLE	AUDIO
DATA	OMEN	WRONG
CRABGRASS	ATSEA	
INN	AIL	
SPELLS	CONTEMPT	
CAROL	BAIT	DIRE
ARAB	ROLLS	ONAN
MESS	ALLY	EVENT
PRETENDS	CLERKS	
EMT	FLA	
METRO	SNAILMAIL	
APART	HIDE	UNDO
TEPEE	OPEN	STOP
HEED	PSST	TILE

Newsday Crossword

THROWAWAYS by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bills and coins
 - 5 Take off weight
 - 9 Observe
 - 14 Two-tone cookie
 - 15 Top-notch
 - 16 Honolulu greeting
 - 17 Low in fat
 - 18 Polka ___ (fabric pattern)
 - 19 Family car
 - 20 Made taunting remarks
 - 23 Assn.
 - 24 In addition
 - 25 Chest muscle, for short
 - 27 Comparable to hen's teeth
 - 31 Hook-and-ladder rider
 - 35 Paid out
 - 36 Ranch unit
 - 38 Scent detector
 - 39 Best available
 - 42 List-ending abbr.
 - 43 Give off
 - 44 Rationed (out)
 - 45 Turns away from wrongdoing
 - 47 Satirical imitation
 - 48 Command to an attack dog
 - 49 Thick carpet
 - 51 Commercial-free TV network
 - 54 Hong Kong harbor vessel
 - 60 Rental agreement
 - 62 Makes an offer
 - 63 Lots and lots

- DOWN**
- 1 Filly's brother
 - 2 Neighborhood
 - 3 Official stamp
 - 4 Goose's warning
 - 5 Jockey's seat
 - 6 Pillages
 - 7 Opening statement
 - 8 Flat-topped hill
 - 9 Dryer's companion
 - 64 Flip-chart stand
 - 65 Border
 - 66 Biblical wise trio
 - 67 In need of airing out
 - 68 Golf-bag items
 - 69 Took a photo of
 - 10 Beer relative
 - 11 Hoopla
 - 12 Burn a bit
 - 13 Install on the wall
 - 21 Keep an ___ the ground
 - 22 Sales pitch
 - 26 Middle
 - 27 According to
 - 28 Ill will
 - 29 Summarize
 - 30 Leg-foot connectors
 - 31 Worry
 - 32 Words to live by
 - 33 "Plant ___ and watch it grow"
 - 34 Uncool
 - 36 Cash dispensers: Abbr.
 - 37 Illinois city, for short
 - 40 Retrieve
 - 41 Public persona
 - 46 Politely
 - 47 Free tickets
 - 49 Rudely sarcastic
 - 50 Row of bushes
 - 51 Said "not guilty"
 - 52 Boyfriend
 - 53 Get smart with
 - 55 "Yeah, sure!"
 - 56 Copy-machine problems
 - 57 Great Salt Lake state
 - 58 NASA cancellation
 - 59 Make mittens
 - 61 Tennis-match unit

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Magic beat Bobcats, complete sweep

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — As the final seconds ticked down, Dwight Howard was back in his familiar spot on the bench and coach Stan Van Gundy was steamed at his superstar for fouling out again.

Then the buzzer sounded and the Orlando Magic became the first team to advance in the NBA playoffs.

Who needs Howard? Not these deep Magic — at least not in the first round.

Vince Carter scored 21 points, Jameer Nelson added 18 and the Magic showcased their depth and pressure shot-making in a 99-90 victory over the Charlotte Bobcats on Monday night to complete a sweep of their first-round series.

Howard was held to six points in his fourth straight game in foul trouble, but the Magic never flinched to accomplish their first four-game sweep in franchise history. Orlando will face the Atlanta-Milwaukee winner in the Eastern Conference

semifinals.

“If you would have told me that he would have averaged well under 30 minutes for the series and we would sweep, I would have said you’re crazy,” Van Gundy said. “I think it’s a testament to our other guys.”

Howard did grab 13 rebounds, but was limited to 23 minutes before fouling out for the second straight game. The Magic, though, got key contributions and big shots from others.

Rashard Lewis scored 17 points, Matt Barnes added 14 and Orlando held Stephen Jackson to 2-of-11 shooting to overcome Howard’s 22 fouls in the series.

“He and I got into it a little bit,” Van Gundy said about their sideline exchange in the last minute. “It wasn’t a bad argument. My point was he was in the restricted area and he’s got to jump. He’s so frustrated now that what he was trying to say is it wouldn’t matter. But, well, let’s jump and find out. What he did was give them the call.”

Tyrus Thomas scored a career playoff-high 21 points for the Bobcats, whose focus will now immediately turn to nomadic coach Larry Brown’s future with the team.

Brown, who has had 13 pro and college coaching jobs, continues to be the focus of reports for openings around the NBA, including Philadelphia, where his wife and kids live.

But he repeated that he’ll only coach for Bobcats owner Michael Jordan.

“I’m not coaching anywhere but Charlotte,” Brown said. “Now am I going to go home and talk to my wife and kids? I’ll be 70 years old with two young kids. Am I going to talk to them and find out what I need to do and am I going to talk to Michael? Yeah, absolutely.”

Could that mean he’d retire or consider a front office job?

“That’s hypothetical,” Brown said. “I love coaching more than anything, except my family maybe.”

DERBY

Continued from Page 8

Derby players, all culminating with 120 seconds of chaos as the world’s best 3-year-old colts dash toward history.

It can make for pretty compelling TV. Ratings for the Derby have steadily increased 27 percent over the past decade. Mine That Bird’s stunning upset in last year’s race drew 16.3 million viewers and a 9.8 rating.

NBC Universal senior vice president of marketing Mike McCarley attributed the uptick in ratings to an effort by both the track and NBC to better market the race. NBC promos the Derby across its broad platform of networks — including Bravo and CNBC — in an effort to

reach a larger spectrum of viewers, particularly females.

McCarley points out that the Derby is one of three sporting events in which more women watch than men. The Winter and Summer Olympics are the others.

“It’s a very unique spectacle,” McCarley said.

One that McCarley isn’t quite sure would work under the lights.

Flannery is a little more ambiguous. Though he says there are no plans to alter post time for the Derby, he added “never say never.”

Good idea.

In an age when everything from the Super Bowl to the World Series to the NCAA championship game doesn’t begin until well after sunset, Lukas thinks running the Derby at night could make sense.

DALLAS

Continued from Page 8

round only once in a series he played — against Dallas, just last year, when Ginobili was out with an injury. Now San Antonio can get revenge against its rivals, and in five games, like the Mavs did to them last year.

“We’re excited to be up 3-1 and in control of this series, but we know it’s not over,” Duncan said. “We understand they’re a very good basketball team and they’re not going to quit. We got

to go in there and try to get that last win. We don’t want to turn this series from a big-time control series to a Game 7, gotta-win one.”

The Spurs sorta-stole one Sunday night.

Duncan, Ginobili and Parker combined for just 31 points, but San Antonio won anyway, mainly by allowing just 11 points in the third quarter. George Hill picked up the scoring slack with 29 points and Antonio McDyess and DeJuan Blair limited Nowitzki to 10 shots. Blair also frustrated Nowitzki into a techni-

cal foul.

“There’s five or six times when DeJuan Blair beats us to loose balls on the floor,” Carlisle said. “Right now, those are the defining plays for the last two games.”

Actually, highlight shows are more likely to feature Eduardo Najera’s hard takedown of Ginobili, who already was playing with thick strips of tape covering his broken nose; Najera was called for a flagrant-two foul and automatically ejected just 43 seconds after he entered the game. That clip would

be followed by replays of the flagrant-one fouls on San Antonio takedowns of Nowitzki and Jason Kidd.

It’s all proof that this series between Texas rivals has reached the point where the teams are sick of each other.

“I don’t think it can get more physical,” Nowitzki said. “It’s already wrestling out there.”

Carlisle said he doesn’t expect the league to further punish Najera. He also said guard Jason Terry was limited during Monday’s workout because of soreness in the left ankle he twisted

Sunday night; he’s still likely to play.

Terry was Dallas’ second-leading scorer in the regular season, but he’s been inconsistent this series, like most of his teammates.

Nowitzki is the only player to score at least 10 points in every game. The 3-point shot Kidd discovered this season has gone missing (7 of 23), while Marion and Caron Butler have struggled at times on both ends of the court. The centers have been such a non-factor that Nowitzki said he wouldn’t be surprised if

the Mavs try going without one for part of Game 5, noting that desperate teams have to do desperate things.

“We’re kind of a strength-in-numbers team,” Carlisle said. “We need to strike a certain balance. It’s not like there’s got to be some guy that’s definitely the No. 2 guy. What we need to do is have five or six guys in double figures and play better defensively and get the ball of the board and have a couple fewer turnovers. If we do that, that’ll be a winning formula for us.”

TEXAS

Continued from Page 8

trated with things. I felt it was a matter of time. I needed to relax.”

Left-hander Phil Coke (3-0), the third Tigers pitcher, worked 1 2-3 shutout innings before Jose Valverde pitched

a perfect ninth against the top of the Texas lineup for his sixth save in seven chances.

Coke took over with one out in the seventh after the Rangers had loaded the bases off Joel Zumaya. Coke struck out Josh Hamilton on three pitches before giving up a two-run single to Vladimir Guerrero

that that tied it at 6.

David Murphy had a two-run double and a run-saving catch after he entered the game for Texas in the top of the sixth for right fielder Nelson Cruz, who reagravated a right hamstring that has bothered him the past week. The Rangers said Cruz is day to day.

Detroit, which wrapped up a 5-6 roadtrip, led 4-0 after the first four batters of the game reached and scored off Matt Harrison.

“I was maybe trying to overthrow,” Harrison said. “Before the game, I

felt good.”

Austin Jackson, the rookie center fielder playing not far from his hometown in Denton, had a leadoff single before consecutive walks. Cabrera had an RBI single, then Ryan Raburn cleared the bases with a one-out double — a ball high off the 14-foot wall in left-center field that would have been a grand slam if only a few feet higher or to the right where the height of the wall decreases to eight feet.

Tigers starter Jeremy Bonderman retired the first 11 batters he faced

until Hamilton homered in the fourth to make it 4-1.

After getting his first day off Sunday, Hamilton’s second homer of the season ended a 6 for 36 slide and he added a single and scored again in the sixth before his strikeout in the seventh and a game-ending lineout.

Hamilton and Guerrero had consecutive two-out singles in the sixth before David Murphy’s two-run double made it 6-4.

Murphy’s defensive gem ended the eighth when he sprinted into the right-center field gap and extended to grab Johnny Damon’s liner. Damon had already extended his hitting streak to 13 games with a single in the second.

A wild pitch by Bonderman in the fifth, very high and outside, allowed a run after Cruz had a leadoff double

and moved to third on Justin Smoak’s double that was his first major league hit. Cruz said his hamstring tightened when he raced home, but said afterward that he was already feeling better.

Bonderman struck out three, walked one and gave up six hits in 5 2-3 innings.

Harrison allowed six runs over six innings, with five strikeouts and three walks.

“We clawed our way back, got back in the game,” Rangers third baseman Michael Young said.

“Sooner or later, we’re going to find a way to put everything on the same page, offense, pitching and defense.”

NOTES: Smoak drew a walk in the sixth, the last batter faced by Bonderman. That gave Smoak at least one walk in each of his first four career games, a Rangers record and the first player in the majors to do that since Evan Longoria for Tampa Bay in 2008. ... Tigers SS Adam Everett (mild right hamstring strain) missed his second straight game. ... Tigers manager Jim Leyland said RHP Zach Miner, who has been on the disabled list with a right elbow problem since spring training, is throwing off a mound and “is about ready to pitch.”



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ANSWERS

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