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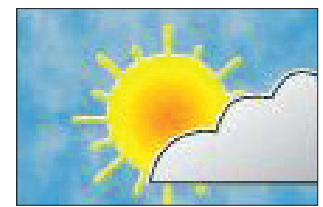


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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY

MAY 11, 2010



VOLUME 105, NUMBER 133

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY



Courtesy photo

Coahoma first graders Seth Brooks, Kaylee Kernick, Tyler Seymore, Sean Stiegler, Abbie Lopez and Kacie Henson decorate luminarias for Relay For Life, which will be held Friday at Blankenship Field.

Luminaria ceremony impressive feature of annual Relay For Life

Coahoma elementary students motivated by art project

By **NANCY KOGER**
Special to the Herald

One of the most impressive parts of any Relay For Life is the luminaria ceremony at 10 p.m., when all the lights are extinguished except the candles glowing in the decorated bags lining both sides of the track at Blankenship Field. Each bag honors the memory of someone who has survived cancer or who has lost the fight. In the flickering light, the names are read through the darkness. Some of the bags have been painted with near-professional skill; others have photos. But many are obviously the work of very young amateur artists. What would get a bunch of children interested in decorating luminarias for an event dedicated to fighting and curing cancer? Carolyn Brooks, luminaria co-chair, asked

if some of the elementary students at Coahoma might be interested in an art project. Misty Henson, first grade teacher, took a stack of plain white bags and handed them out to her class. She explained what the bags were used for; some of the children knew about Relay, others had family or friends who had had cancer. "I appreciate Mrs. Brooks for asking us to do this; the children learned a valuable lesson about caring for others," the teacher explained. With 6-year-old enthusiasm, Abbie Lopez gave a resounding, "Yeah!" of approval before starting to work on her project. Tyler Seymore said he wanted to design a bag "because some people I know died, and it makes me feel good to do this for them."

See **RELAY**, Page 3A

Don't text and drive

Remember in a deadly wreck, commissioners told

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners met with local Dispute Resolution Director Debbie Jensen Monday morning, as she extended an invitation to the members of the court to a special School's Out Safety event set for Saturday, May 22.



Jensen

Jensen, who works with the Dispute Resolution Department as a local mediator, said the event is aimed at stressing the importance of being safety-minded during the summer vacation, specifically, getting teens and other young drivers to agree not to text while they are behind the wheel. "We've teamed up with the Municipal Court to put this event on," Jensen told commissioners. "We want to make kids think before they do something dangerous. Our main focus is going to be on getting our young people to agree not to text while they are driving." Jensen said the event, which is slated for 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. at the Sonic Drive-In on FM 700, will include some special guest speakers. "Johnny Mack and Jeanne Brown of Wellman will be there

to talk to the kids," said Jensen. "They lost their 17-year-old daughter, Alexandria Marie Brown, to an accident caused by texting and driving in November. They went on to found BUST (Buckle Up and Stop Texting), a program to educate both youth and adults on the dangers of texting while driving. "When they travel, they have a trailer they pull behind them with the truck their daughter died on on it, along with signs warning of the danger. I think seeing that truck and knowing what happened could go a long way in opening up some people's eyes as to just how big a problem texting and driving is." Jensen asked the commissioners to not only attend, but to also sign a pledge they will refrain from texting while driving. "We want you to set the example for them," she said. "Those who sign the pledge will also have a chance to win iPod Shuffles, gift cards and other prizes." For more information on the event, contact Jensen at 264-2531 or 264-0675. Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@big-springherald.com

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BSHS student third in Austin

Special to the Herald

AUSTIN — Hundreds of students from around the state flocked to the campus of the University of Texas this past weekend to compete in the 100th annual University Interscholastic League State Championships. Among those students was Big Spring High School senior Andrew Lewis, who took home the bronze for Big Spring in persuasive extemporaneous speaking. "I was so excited when I heard that I made finals," Lewis said. "I nearly broke my coach's hand when we high-fived." "I kind of expected to be nervous for finals, but I was just happy to be there," he added. "If I'd have placed sixth, it wouldn't have mattered to me because any placing means that I was in the top six in the state."

UIL academic competition begins on the

See **LEWIS**, Page 3A



Courtesy photo

Clint and Jennifer Adams, Big Spring High School teachers and academic coaches, stand on either side of student Andrew Lewis, who took third place in persuasive extemporaneous speaking at the Class 4A state contest.

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Forsan first baseman Patrick Robles prepares to receive a throw from second baseman Trevor Burchett during a recent team practice. The Buffaloes will face Borden County in a best-of-three Class 1A playoff series beginning at 6 p.m. Wednesday in Greenwood.

GCHS girls third at UIL golf tourney

Forsan's Stevenson falls in first round of state tennis play

Herald Staff Report

AUSTIN — Garden City's girls' golf team is sitting in medal contention heading into today's final round at the University Interscholastic League Class 1A state golf tournament.

The team of Britni Cook, Katelyn Hoelscher, Rachel Hirt, Kate Halfmann and Laura Halfmann shot a team score of 372, which placed them solidly in third place after the first day of competition at the Morris Williams Golf Course Monday.

Baird leads the tournament with a team total of 345, followed by Memphis with a 351. Grapeland and Utopia trail Garden City with scores of 388 and 401, respectively.

Cook's score of 79 has her in fifth place in individual competition, while Kate Halfmann is ninth with an 83. Laura Halfmann and Hoelscher both shot 100, while Hirt carded a 116.

Alex Neal of Baird shot a 73 to lead medalist play.

See **UIL**, Page 2B

Watkins named TABC JUCO player of year

Adams wins coach of the year honors

By CINDY SMITH

Special to the Herald

Howard College baseball player Josh Watkins was recently named the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches (TABC) Junior College Player of the Year.

Watkins, a sophomore from New York, has already signed a letter of intent to play with the University of Utah.

"This is a well deserved honor for Josh," said Howard Head Coach Mark Adams. "He has had a great career with the Hawks and has demonstrated his abilities on the court over and over again. He has earned this recognition through hard work."

Watkins was previously named to the All Conference first team for the Western Junior College Athletic Conference (WJCAC) and to the all-region team for Region V. Also, he was named most

"This is a well-deserved honor for Josh. He has had a great career with the Hawks and has demonstrated his abilities on the court over and over again. He has earned this recognition through hard work ... Josh is a great player and will do well in Utah, and they are lucky to have him."

Mark Adams
Howard College coach

valuable player at the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I National Men's Basketball Tournament for his

efforts in leading the Hawks to the championship title in March.

"Josh is a great player and will do well in Utah, they are lucky to have him," said Adams. "But even more importantly, this is a fantastic opportunity for him to continue his education while playing basketball for a Division I school."

The TABC will host a ceremony later this summer to recognize Watkins, along with Adams, who was named the organization's junior college coach of the year.

Information on this ceremony will be made available at a later date, officials announced.

For more information on Howard College Hawk Athletics visit www.hchawk.com.

Contact Cindy Smith at (432) 264-5034 or by e-mail at csmith@howardcollege.edu



HERALD file photo

Howard College's Josh Watkins, right, shown in action earlier this year, was named the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches' junior college player of the year for the 2009-2010 season. Also, HC coach Mark Adams was named the organization's coach of the year.

Area playoff schedule

Wednesday

Forsan baseball vs. Borden County, 6 p.m., Greenwood.

Thursday

Coahoma baseball vs. Holliday, 7 p.m., McMurry University.
Coahoma softball vs. Coleman, 5 p.m., San Angelo Central High School field (Knickerbocker and Johnson).

Forsan softball vs. Ralls, 5 p.m., Western Texas College, Snyder.

Saturday

Coahoma baseball vs. Holiday, site and time TBD.
Coahoma softball vs. Coleman, 2 p.m., San Angelo Central High School field (second game, if necessary, will begin 30 minutes after first game concludes).

Forsan softball vs. Ralls, 11 a.m., Western Texas College, Snyder (second game, if necessary, will begin 30 minutes after first game concludes).

Resilient Rangers first in AL West

ARLINGTON (AP) — The Texas Rangers have been without at least one of their sluggers every game. Their opening day starter and the rotation's prized offseason acquisition have both struggled.

Off the field, the pending sale of the team drags on without resolution despite a deal struck 3½ months ago. There is scrutiny on manager Ron Washington after his shocking revelation during spring training that he used cocaine during the season last year.

Yet somehow, the Rangers (18-14) were in first place in the AL West on Monday, their first day off in three

weeks. Their modest four-game winning streak after a weekend sweep of the Kansas City Royals was the longest in the majors.

"I like where we're at right now," said third baseman Michael Young, the longest tenured Ranger in his 10th season. "The biggest positive for this team is we're not focusing on where we are in the standings. ... We know that to win this division, we're going to have to get better."

Texas has gone 13-7 in moving from last to first in the division. Seattle and the Los Angeles Angels, the defending division champ which finished 10 games ahead of

Texas last season, have unexpectedly struggled.

The Rangers have a one-game lead over Oakland (17-15), which opens a three-game series Tuesday night at Rangers Ballpark after taking two of three at home against Texas last week.

"We're looking forward to the challenge of playing Oakland," said outfielder David Murphy, who had three hits Sunday but likely won't have a regular spot in the lineup when slugger Nelson Cruz returns this week.

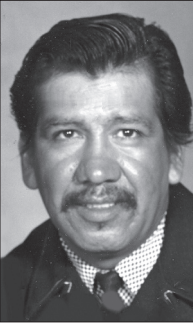
Cruz, an All-Star last season when he had 33 home runs, was hitting .323 with

See **RANGERS**, Page 2B

Obituaries

Jesus 'Jesse' Hernandez Jr.

Jesus "Jesse" Hernandez Jr., 68, of Big Spring died Sunday, May 9, 2010, at his residence. Vigil services will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.



He was born April 20, 1942, in San Antonio to Dominga and Jesus Hernandez Sr. He was a retired farmer, having worked for many years for Rodney and Marty Brooks. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and was a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church.

He is survived by his companion, Inez Garza of Big Spring; one son, Luis Hernandez and wife Amy of Big Spring; one step-son, Ben Garza and wife Gloria of Big Spring; two daughters, Sylvia Martinez and husband Antonio, and Mary Lou Gomez and husband Joe, all of Big Spring; six step-daughters, Alice Gonzales and husband Armando, Erlinda Uribe and husband George, Mary Johnson and Genice Ovalle, all of Big Spring, Beatrice Uranga and husband Rigo of Odessa, and Delores Cantu and husband Elizar of Ackerly; two brothers, Luis Hernandez and wife Helen, and Celestino Hernandez and wife Mary, both of Big Spring; four sisters, Mary Hernandez of Odessa, Rosita Aguirre and husband Andrew, and Juanita Walton and husband Jerry, all of Big Spring, and Esther Hernandez and husband Eduardo of Greeley, Colo.; 14 grandchildren; 22 step-grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; 29 step great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Gilberta Ruiz Hernandez.

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

Annie Belle Thomas

Annie Belle Thomas, 87, of Big Spring died Monday, May 10, 2010, in a local hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of E. Fourth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Tucson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported near the intersection of Fifth Street and State. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 300 block of W. Fifth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of E. 16th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

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

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

Police blotter

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

- FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ ADAME, 35, of 1419 Tucson, was arrested Monday on charges of evading arrest or detention, driving while intoxicated – second offense and evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.
- DUSTY DAWN NALLEY, 31, of 308 S. Aylesford, was arrested Monday on a charge of assault – threat or offensive touch.
- STEPHANIE SHULTS, 36, of 3903 Hamilton, was arrested Monday on a charge of theft – more than \$50, less than \$500.
- RAYMON RAMIREZ RODRIGUEZ JR., 19, of 805 N. Scurry, was arrested Monday on a charge of operating a motor vehicle with an expired license plate.
- JAMES NAZY, 49, of 200 N. Scurry, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- CRYSTAL JEAN THREATS, 19, of 502 S. Goliad Apt. B, was arrested Monday on a warrant from another agency.
- ELEUTERIO TORRES PADRON, 61, of 407 Lancaster, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- ANTHONY ROBERT GUNN, 24, of 1513 Sunset, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- MARIO ILDEFONSO SALAZAR, 20, of 502 S. Goliad Apt. B, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported: In the 200 block of W. Third Street. In the 100 block of Cedar Road. In the 2100 block of Merrily Drive.
- ASSAULT was reported in the 1900 block of Winston Street.
- THEFT was reported in the 200 block of FM 700.
- DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported in the 500 block of S. Goliad.

Sheriff

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 63 inmates at the time of this report.
- STEPHANIE ANNE SHULTS, 36, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of theft – more than \$50, less than \$500.
 - DUSTY DAWN NALLEY, 31, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of assault – physical contact.
 - RAYMON RAMIREZ RODRIGUEZ, 19, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of displaying an expired motor vehicle registration.
 - DONNIE RODRIGUEZ, 18, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.
 - CRYSTAL THREATS, 19, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana.
 - ELEUTERIO PADRON, 61, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
 - ANTHONY ROBERT GUNN, 24, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
 - JAMES EDWARD CARSON, 49, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

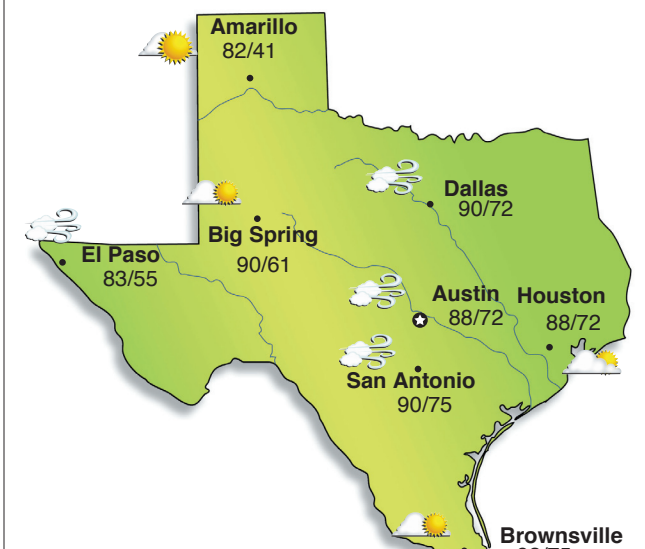
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Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 5/12	Thu 5/13	Fri 5/14	Sat 5/15	Sun 5/16
90/61 Sunshine and clouds mixed. High near 90F. Winds SSW at 10 to 15 mph.	67/57 Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the upper 50s.	68/57 Showers. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the upper 50s.	77/59 A few thunderstorms possible.	78/57 Partly cloudy with a stray thunderstorm.
Sunrise: 6:50 AM Sunset: 8:35 PM	Sunrise: 6:50 AM Sunset: 8:35 PM	Sunrise: 6:49 AM Sunset: 8:36 PM	Sunrise: 6:48 AM Sunset: 8:37 PM	Sunrise: 6:48 AM Sunset: 8:38 PM

Texas At A Glance



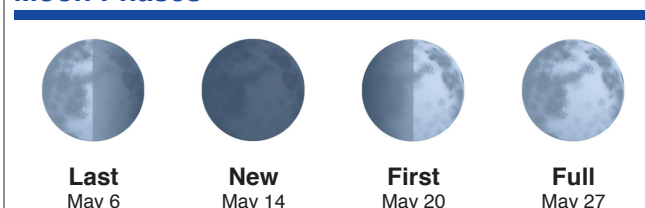
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	89	68	cloudy	Kingsville	93	75	windy
Amarillo	82	41	mst sunny	Livingston	89	68	cloudy
Austin	88	72	windy	Longview	91	70	windy
Beaumont	88	72	cloudy	Lubbock	88	50	mst sunny
Brownsville	93	75	pt sunny	Lufkin	91	70	cloudy
Brownwood	91	70	windy	Midland	92	62	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	89	77	windy	Raymondville	95	75	windy
Corsicana	89	70	windy	Rosenberg	88	72	cloudy
Dallas	90	72	windy	San Antonio	90	75	windy
Del Rio	94	73	cloudy	San Marcos	89	72	windy
El Paso	83	55	windy	Sulphur Springs	90	72	windy
Fort Stockton	96	60	pt sunny	Sweetwater	91	65	cloudy
Gainesville	87	69	windy	Tyler	90	69	windy
Greenville	89	69	windy	Weatherford	88	68	cloudy
Houston	88	72	cloudy	Wichita Falls	89	63	cloudy

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	84	65	pt sunny	Minneapolis	48	44	rain
Boston	54	41	rain	New York	53	47	rain
Chicago	53	50	rain	Phoenix	80	57	mst sunny
Dallas	90	72	windy	San Francisco	70	50	mst sunny
Denver	44	32	mixed	Seattle	65	46	cloudy
Houston	88	72	cloudy	St. Louis	82	71	t-storm
Los Angeles	75	55	sunny	Washington, DC	82	54	t-storm
Miami	86	76	pt sunny				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Wed 5/12	Thu 5/13	Fri 5/14	Sat 5/15	Sun 5/16
10	11	7	7	9
Very High	Extreme	High	High	Very High

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

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 2-8-10-15-28.
Number matching five of five: 0.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 6-12-15-18. Bonus Ball: 10.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:
5-3-9-7. Sum It Up: 24

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:
1-8-7. Sum It Up: 16

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Cowboys, Rams swap former top picks

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The Cowboys and Rams have swapped underachieving former first-round picks, with offensive tackle Alex Barron going to Dallas and linebacker Bobby Carpenter headed for St. Louis.

Carpenter made only two starts in four seasons for the Cowboys, one in the regular season and one in the playoffs, and was a backup inside linebacker in a 3-4 defense last season. The Rams have a 4-3 defense and the 250-pound Carpenter could start alongside fellow Ohio State products James Laurinaitis, a second-round pick last year, and Na'il Diggs. A fourth St. Louis linebacker, Larry Grant, also played for the Buckeyes.

there," Carpenter said. "It's going to be great to come in and play with those guys."

Carpenter was the 18th pick of the 2006 draft and Barron was the 19th choice in 2005. The trade was finalized Monday and Carpenter welcomed a fresh start.

"We've had a good team for a lot of years and it's been tough to get on the field," Carpenter said of his years in Dallas. "I think it's going to be a great opportunity."

"They've got some great defensive minds and really a young team, so I think it's going to be really enthusiastic, a lot of energy."

The 6-foot-7, 315-pound Barron played in 76 games for St. Louis, all but two of them starts, and has been at least

a mild disappointment after moving full-time to left tackle last year as the replacement for Orlando Pace. Barron had been a restricted free agent before agreeing to a one-year tender.

Barron drew five holding calls and 14 penalties last season, most in the league by an offensive lineman, according to STATS. The service said Barron also is the most frequently whistled offensive lineman since 2005 with 73 penalties, 23 more than Flozell Adams.

Barron was benched for disciplinary reasons the second half of a loss to the 49ers last October.

A spokesman for Barron had not returned a telephone message from the AP.

The Cowboys last month released Adams, a five-time Pro Bowler, although fourth-year player Doug Free is expected to fill that opening. Free was a fourth-round selection in 2007 and started the final seven games at right tackle for injured Marc Colombo, and stepped in for an injured Adams in the second half of the NFC divisional playoff game at Minnesota.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said in a statement that Barron was "just entering his prime years in the NFL."

"That experience is invaluable for a young offensive lineman," Jones said. "It also speaks to his durability and versatility having started at both tackle positions."

The Rams drafted Rodger

Saffold of Indiana to open the second round of this year's draft and could start him at one tackle opposite Jason Smith, the second overall pick of last year's draft. Those two young players would lead the protection for quarterback Sam Bradford.

Carpenter was drafted by Bill Parcells, who coached Carpenter's father, Rob, a running back with the Giants from 1981-85. Carpenter became dispensable when the Cowboys moved up four spots in the second round of this year's draft and took Penn State linebacker Sean Lee with the 55th pick.

Lee is expected to fill Carpenter's role on special teams and as a backup linebacker.

Owner: More info needed on suspensions

NEW YORK (AP) — Houston Texans owner Robert McNair says he'd like more information to be provided to the team when a player has a league suspension pending.

McNair said Monday he knew during the 2009 season that linebacker Brian Cushing had "an issue" with the NFL. McNair was given no details by the league of what it concerned.

Turns out, it concerned Cushing using a banned substance, for which he was suspended last week for the first four games of the 2010 season.

The Associated Press NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year admitted taking a non-steroid banned substance, which is still considered performance-enhancing by the league. He did not identify the substance he took.

Cushing won the end-of-season honor as part of the AP's annual awards for outstanding on-field performance by players.

As a result of the penalty and admission, the AP is taking a revote for the defensive rookie award plus for All-Pro

outside linebacker.

Cushing received five votes in that category and made the second team. He is still among the nominees in the revote.

All ballots in the revote are due by early Wednesday afternoon.

Cushing was a runaway winner for the rookie award in balloting by a nationwide panel of 50 sports writers and broadcasters who cover the league.

He received 39 votes, easily beating Buffalo safety Jairus Byrd, who had six.

"This is the first time we've encountered an issue like this," said Lou Ferrara, AP's managing editor for sports and entertainment. "Because these awards are based on on-field performance, we consider it necessary to review the matter and allow for a revote, especially after concerns were raised by many of our voters."

McNair criticized the NFL's suspension and appeal process.

"The club is left completely out of the loop on that," McNair said.

"We're not even notified,

it's the league and the player and the players' union. All we know is what's been announced at this point in time."

Cushing is suspended without pay for the first four games of the 2010 season, even though he said he took the substance in September, the first month of the 2009 schedule. He appealed the ban and a final decision was handed down last week.

"Brian had mentioned that he had an issue there," McNair said, "but we don't know what any of the details are, we don't know what doctors he may have consulted with, we don't know what evidence that the league might have had ... which is a very bad position to be in because we're the guy that's got the investment in the player. The league doesn't have any money invested in the player, the union doesn't have any money invested in the player, and yet they get the information and we don't."

"So it's a sensitive area because it is sort of like medical information and there's confidentiality and this sort

of thing. But I think it's something that needs to be addressed in the next collective bargaining agreement."

Cushing will not be eligible for next season's Pro Bowl — he made the AFC team last January, but did not play, citing several injuries — or any NFL-sponsored awards.

"In the year a player is notified of and serves his suspension, he is ineligible for selection to the Pro Bowl or to receive any other honors or awards from the league or the NFL Players Association," NFL spokesman Michael Signora said Monday.

That includes player of the week and player of the month awards, the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award, or the Super Bowl most valuable player award.

Cushing can participate in all training camp and pre-season activities, then must leave the Texans for the first four weeks of the season.

A first-round draft pick from Southern California, Cushing had 133 tackles for the Texans, who went 9-7, their first winning record. He had five sacks, four interceptions and

two forced fumbles, two sacks that normally belong to a seasoned veteran.

But he won't be available to the Texans until Oct. 4.

"Brian, what he has said, is he's been taking the same supplements ... for the last 10 or 15 years and he's been checked umpteen times and it hadn't shown up to be any kind of problem," McNair said. "So what happened, I don't know. He doesn't know at this point in time."

"The fact (is) that he didn't think he would get the suspension, but that's the way it is at this point in time and we accept it and we need to move on."

San Diego's Shawne Merriman won the 2005 defensive rookie award, then tested positive in the 2006 offseason for steroids contained in a supplement.

Carolina's Julius Peppers won the 2002 award even though he had already been suspended for the final four games of the season for violating the league's drug policy — he used a dietary supplement that contained a banned substance.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

seven homers and 17 RBIs in 19 games when he went on the disabled list because of a recurring right hamstring strain April 27.

That came three days before All-Star second baseman Ian Kinsler made his season debut after missing the first 22 games with a high right ankle sprain.

Texas is 8-2 since Kinsler got back.

"We're starting to get a little momentum. We're starting to get comfortable with how our lineup is set," Kinsler said. "We miss Nellie. Our projected opening day lineup hasn't been together much, so we haven't gotten close to reaching our potential. Hopefully we can get there by September."

Washington hasn't yet been able to post his planned line-

up with No. 2 hitter Young followed by Josh Hamilton, Vladimir Guerrero, Kinsler and Cruz.

"We'll finally have the lineup we thought we were going to open the season with," said Washington, in his fourth season. "It certainly will make us look like we're a murderer's row. Now we just have to go out there and perform."

Guerrero, the 35-year-old slugger not re-signed by the Angels after an injury-filled 2009 season, is hitting .339 with six homers and 26 RBIs. He had homers in three consecutive at-bats last week, the blasts coming in a span of four pitches.

Texas has improved its record each season under the 58-year-old Washington, though he doesn't have a contract past this year.

After the cocaine revelation this spring, Washington called it a "huge mistake" and one-time incident.

The Rangers knew about

his indiscretion last summer, and refused Washington's offer then to resign. They stuck with him again when it became public and players say the manager has been himself this season.

"Same old Wash, same guy. ... There's always people that want to see guys in position of prominence fail, but there's just as many people out there pulling for him to succeed," reliever Darren O'Day said.

Said Young: "It hasn't bothered Wash. We had that day or two where we had to address the issue. Once we wrapped that up, it hasn't been an issue."

The Rangers were 5-9 after a six-game losing streak. That included being swept by the Yankees and two consecutive losses in Boston that started the uninterrupted three-week stretch.

The weekend sweep of the Royals was capped by a 6-4 victory Sunday when Scott Feldman (1-3, 5.84 ERA) needed

100 pitches to get through four innings before leaving a tie game.

"I'm just not pitching well," said Feldman, a 17-game winner last year whose only win this season was April 11. "I've got to get better. I'm in a bit of a slump and I've got to get myself out of it. We've got a good team here and I know I can do better than this."

Free agent addition Rich Harden (2-1, 3.53) had more walks than strikeouts in his five April starts.

But the right-hander pitched seven shutout innings last week in Oakland and has 12 strikeouts and two walks in 12 innings in May.

The best starter has been converted reliever C.J. Wilson (3-1, 1.51), the left-hander whose ERA is best in the American League. He threw a complete game in a 4-1 win Friday over the Royals.

"He had the stuff," Washington said. "But we didn't know how he'd handle starting."

UIL

Continued from Page 1B

The state tournament concludes today.

Stevenson falls at state tourney

AUSTIN — Unfortunately, Kyle Stevenson's stay at the University Interscholastic League state tennis tournament was a short one Monday.

Stevenson, representing Forsan High School, was defeated in opening round in the Class 1A championships, held at the Lakeway World of Tennis Monday. He took Adam Dirlbeck of Archer City to three sets before falling, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3.

Garden City entrants at the state tournament both lasted into the semifinals.

Taylor Hughes defeated Kristin Smithy of Hubbard in the first round of the Class 1A girls singles, 1-6, 6-4, 6-3, but was defeated by Canadian's Emily Lusk in straight sets, 6-1, 6-2, in the semifinals.

Garden City's mixed doubles team of Paige Niehues and Aaron Long opened play at the tournament by defeating Hannah Jones and Matt Van Hoy of Martin's Mill, 6-1, 6-3, but fell to the Sundown duo of Mason Elam and Devin Price, 6-2, 6-3, in the semifinals.

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► News in brief

Companies pointing fingers at each other as Senate begins hearings on the Gulf oil spill

WASHINGTON (AP) — The blame game is in full throttle as Congress begins hearings on the massive oil spill threatening sensitive marshes and marine life along the Gulf Coast.

Executives of the three companies involved in the drilling activities that unleashed the environmental crisis are trying to shift responsibility to each other in testimony to be given at separate hearings Tuesday before two Senate committees, even as the cause of the rig explosion and spill has yet to be determined.

Lawmakers are expected to ask oil industry giant BP, which operated the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig 40 miles off the Louisiana coast, why its drilling plans discounted the risk that such a catastrophic pipeline rupture would ever happen, and why it assumed that if a leak did occur, the oil would not pose a major threat.

The morning hearing by the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the afternoon session before the Environmental and Public Health Committee give lawmakers their first chance to question the executives publicly about the April 20 rig fire, attempts to stop the flow of oil and efforts to reduce the damage.

Copies of planned testimony, obtained Monday by The Associated Press, brought into the open fissures among the companies caught up in the accident and its legal and economic fallout.

Obama's pick for Supreme Court wins Democratic praise and a mild Republican response, so far

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court nominee Elena Kagan embarks on her quest for Senate confirmation with a strong presumption of success, drawing praise from majority Democrats and nary the threat of an all-out election-year battle from Republicans.

GOP critics laid down a series of markers, though, making clear they will question the 50-year-old solicitor general about her lack of judicial experience, her decision as dean of the Harvard Law School to ban military recruiters from campus, and her ability to rule objectively on cases involving the Obama administration.

Americans "do not want someone to be a rubber stamp for any administration," Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said Monday, a few hours after President Barack Obama named Kagan as his choice for the high court. "They instinctively know that a lifetime position on the Supreme Court does not lend itself to on-the-job training."

If confirmed, Kagan would take the place of retiring Justice John Paul Stevens and, on the face of it, would not be expected to alter the ideological balance of a court that often splits 5-4 on the most contentious cases.

Even so, Obama e-mailed a video to thousands of supporters in which he said the 90-year-old Stevens has helped justices "find common ground on some of the most controversial and contentious issues the court has ever faced." He added Kagan could "ultimately provide that same kind of leadership," suggesting she had the legal acumen and personality necessary to knit together a majority coalition of five justices, as Stevens has done.

Britain's Labour Party woos third-place Liberal Democrats to form new gov't; Conservatives fume

LONDON (AP) — Britain's pivotal third party kept its larger suitors — and the electorate — hanging Tuesday, opening formal negotiations with Prime Minister Gordon Brown's Labour Party to form a new government after talks with the rival Conservatives.

Five days after an election that produced no outright winner, the third-placed Liberal Democrats were playing hardball in hopes of extracting maximum concessions in return for propping up a Conservative or Labour administration.

Brown's dramatic decision Monday to announce his impending resignation opened the way for a

possible deal with the Liberal Democrats — who had demanded his removal as a condition for any deal.

Both of the two main political parties have now offered to meet the Liberal Democrats' key demand — electoral reform — muddying the differences between the two offers.

Conservative leader David Cameron appeared miffed at the sudden turn of events, which came after both the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats claimed to be making progress Monday in their coalition talks.

U.S. missile barrage targets militant stronghold in NW Pakistan

PARACHINAR, Pakistan (AP) — Up to 18 American missiles slammed into a Taliban sanctuary in Pakistan close to the Afghan border Tuesday, killing 14 alleged insurgents in the third such strike since a failed car bombing in New York drew fresh attention to the region, officials said.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's foreign minister said the nation's ties with the U.S. have not suffered as a result of the bombing plot, which Washington has linked to militants with bases in the lawless border regions.

The number of missiles fired into North Waziristan was unusually high, reflecting multiple targets.

They struck cars, homes and tents across a wide area in the Doga area, where insurgents have hideouts and training facilities, two intelligence officials said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media. The identities of the people killed in the attack were not immediately known.

North Waziristan has been the target of nearly all of about 30 other American attacks this year. In recent months, it has become a new haven for militants who fled a Pakistani army offensive in their previous stronghold, neighboring South Waziristan.

Son of democracy icons headed for landslide in Philippine elections, promises clean government

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Sen. Benigno Aquino III, whose parents fought to topple a dictatorship, promised Tuesday to fulfill his campaign promise to fight corruption in the Philippines as he headed for a landslide victory in the presidential elections.

"I will not only not steal, but I'll have the corrupt arrested," Aquino, 50, told a news conference in his first comments since Monday's polls. Massive corruption has long dogged the Philippines, tainting electoral politics and skimming billions of public funds in a country where a third of the population lives on a \$1 a day.

Aquino — whose father was assassinated while opposing Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorship and whose mother led the 1986 "people power" revolt that restored democracy — was leading the nine-candidate presidential race with 40.19 percent of the votes from about 78 percent of the precincts, while his closest rival, ousted President Joseph Estrada, had 25.46 percent.

There is no runoff in the Philippines, home to 90 million people, and whoever has the most votes is declared winner.

Despite glitches with new computerized counting machines and violence that claimed at least 12 lives, election officials hailed Monday's vote as a success in a country where poll fraud allegations have marred previous contests. Turnout was 75 percent among about 50 million eligible voters, the Elections Commission said.

Toyota cruises back into the black in latest quarter with \$1.2 bln profit amid sales recovery

TOKYO (AP) — Toyota cruised back to profit in the latest quarter as the world's top carmaker cut costs and hitched a ride on the global auto sales recovery while fighting to salvage its reputation for quality.

But the automaker's top executive and analysts

alike said Toyota is still far from a full recovery while another potential blow to its image looms after U.S. federal authorities launched a fresh investigation into a steering recall.

Toyota Motor Corp. said Tuesday that January-March profit totaled 112 billion yen (\$1.2 billion) compared with a 766 billion yen loss the year before.

Motown legend Smokey Robinson among those honored in NYC on Apollo Theater's Walk of Fame

NEW YORK (AP) — Smokey Robinson, Ella Fitzgerald and James Brown were among the music legends being honored on the Apollo Theater's new Walk of Fame in New York City.

Workers on Monday began installing sidewalk plaques in front of the storied Harlem theater celebrating some of the artists who have performed there. Others include Little Richard, Patti LaBelle and Gladys Knight and the Pips.

"For me to have a plaque honoring me in front of the Apollo theater is one of the proudest achievements in my life," Robinson said. "I started out at the Apollo and it will always be a home to me."

LEWIS

Continued from Page 1A

district level. There are 32 Class 4A districts in the state. Placing in the top three at district qualifies a competitor for one of the four regional levels of competition. Placing in the top three there advances a student to state.

"There is a large number of students who compete at the district level," BSHS Coach Jennifer Adams said. "When you add those students into a grand total, being third in the state is an awesome accomplishment. We are very proud of Andrew and have enjoyed watching the growth he has made since his freshman year."

This was the 100th annual UIL Academic State Meet. The UIL was created by The University of Texas at Austin in 1910 through the Extension Bureau to provide leadership and guidance to public school debate teachers.

In 1913, the Debating League and the Athletic Association merged to form the UIL, which was centered in the Bureau of Public School Services, then part of The University of Texas Extension Division. Today, the League continues to operate as part of

the University under the auspices of the Office of the Vice President for Diversity and Community Engagement.

The state placement doesn't end Lewis' involvement in speech and debate. "I qualified with my partner, Danielle Freeman, for the National Forensic League National Tournament set for June 13-19," he noted.

To pay for the national tournament trip, the Big Spring High School Speech and Debate Alumni will be holding a performance and silent auction on May 22 in the high school library.

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Jesus Hernandez, 68, died Sunday. Vigil Services will be at 7:00 PM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Services will be at 11:00 AM Wednesday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Ethel Pringle, 85, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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RELAY

Continued from Page 1A

The young artists were not at a loss for ideas.

"I just draw what I think in my head," Kacie Henson said.

Abbie found inspiration in color: "Green's my favorite color so I put lots of that in."

The project prompted collaboration. When

Sean Striegler said, "I messed mine up," Tyler suggested, "You can make it be something else."

Seth Brooks was glad they were doing the art work, but he confided, "I would have looked better in the picture before yesterday when I got hit with a ball."

When Kacie said she wanted to put "Nanny" on her bag, the teacher told her to spell it.

"Sound it out," she prompted. When she reached the last letter, "What makes the E sound at the end?"

When they learned

that such fun opportunities as a Bounce House and a Children's Fun Zone would be part of Relay For Life next Friday, May 14, they agreed they would like to attend for more reasons than to see their art work displayed.

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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OUR VIEW

Now is time for Boys & Girls Club summer program

Summer will soon be here. If you doubt it, look at the temperatures for the past couple of days. And that means the area's school children are anxiously awaiting the end of the school year, and a great many parents in our community realize they're going to need good child care soon.

That's where the Big Spring Salvation Army's Boys & Girls Club of America has a ready — and affordable — solution with its summer program for area children.

"We have a lot of different activities planned this year," said Sonnet Hildebrand, director of the program. "Our program coordinator this year is Stephanie Painter, and we're really glad to have her. We have all sorts of activities planned, from arts and crafts to a splash day."

The program will run from June 1 until Aug. 13, according to Hildebrand, Mondays through Fridays from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

Many parents simply can't afford regular day-care centers. "For lots of them, it's just not an option," said Hildebrand.

However, the Boys and Girls Club program is definitely affordable.

"The charge will be \$20 for the first two months, and \$10 for August. That's the whole summer for \$50, which is within the reach of most parents," Hildebrand explained. "And they have the option of paying the entire amount up front, or just paying on a month-to-month basis."

And while the program is certainly a godsend for many of the area's working parents, Hildebrand said it's also a chance for the children to learn and grow.

"For a lot of these children, the alternative is pretty bleak," she said. "Boys & Girls Club gives them a chance to participate in arts and crafts, sports and other activities that will help them grow as people. If they weren't participating in the program, however, many of them might be getting into trouble or causing problems in the community. So it not only provides a much-needed service to the parents and the children, it also helps keep these kids off the streets and out of trouble. We feel like that's very important."

Hildebrand said lunches will be provided during the first month, and after that, the children will be expected to bring a sack lunch.

It should be noted, however, that the program is limited to 100 children, and spots in the program always fill up quickly and a waiting list of families hoping an opening appears always develops.

Registration for the program is going on now. Financial obligations don't have to be met at the time of registration, but remember, once the program is full no more applications will be taken.

Anyone needing more information can contact Hildebrand at 264-0455.

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 fine tune our understanding of Your word, Lord.

Amen

Drug cartel violence should be United States' national priority

The escalating drug violence on our Southern Border is a matter of national security on so many levels — and our response to the situation must be a national priority.

Texas and Mexico share a 1,200 mile border. We are intertwined in many ways — in trade, families and tourism. Drug violence has a profound effect on both sides of the border.

The violence that is jolting Ciudad Juarez, Nuevo Laredo and other cities along the U.S.-Mexico border is reminiscent of the days of the Colombian Cali and Medellin Drug Cartels. While the violence then was indescribable, it is even worse today.

What makes today's drug cartel violence even more disturbing is that it is happening right on our doorstep.

The Mexican Juarez, Gulf and Sinaloa Cartels, among others, are operating with impunity across half of Mexico, including along our border. The drug-related violence is responsible for nearly 23,000 deaths in Mexico since 2006.

Last year alone, there were nearly 10,000 deaths, and in just the first quarter of this year, there have already been 3,300 killings, including the murders of American embassy employees and their family members. No one is immune from the carnage.

We must protect our borders to ensure that our citizens are not caught in the crossfire of the drug wars.

This problem must be addressed at the federal level. Certainly increased resources are needed for state and local law enforcement in our border communities.

I have cosponsored legislation with fellow Texas Sen. John Cornyn to provide resources to protect our communities from the escalating drug violence.

We are calling on the administration to immediately formulate an action plan, with long- and short-term measures to deal with the increasing drug-cartel violence south of the border.

We should be looking at interim measures like temporarily deploying additional resources to affected regions to better protect communities and minimize disruptions to travel and trade. The different federal agencies need to get out of their bureaucratic silos and operate in a collaborative manner — a lesson we should have learned from 9/11.



KAY
BAILEY
HUTCHISON



Anti-immigrant vigilantes in disarray

The Minuteman movement, whose members were denounced early on as "vigilantes" by then-President George W. Bush, is growing increasingly fractured and radical as Congress prepares to make another run at reforming the immigration system.

Even Chris Simcox, a Minuteman Project co-founder who once claimed he had witnessed Chinese Red Army troops massing along the Mexican border, last year criticized other leaders of his movement for going beyond immigration to embrace unrelated issues, including tax resistance, Texas secession and even insurrection.

Simcox's comments were followed by the arrest of Shawna Forde, leader of Minuteman American Defense, for the May 2009 murder of a 9-year-old Latina girl and her father.

The killing, allegedly carried out as part of a robbery intended to help support Forde's group, put many tough-talking nativist groups on the defensive.

The Minuteman Civil De-

fense Corps, which Simcox had founded and then left for a quixotic primary campaign against Arizona Sen. John McCain, disbanded in March after the group's president, Carmen Mercer, sent an e-mail urging supporters to bring their long arms to the border and "forcefully engage" the "criminals" who try to cross without documentation.

Mercer backtracked almost immediately, sending an e-mail that said the group couldn't take responsibility for what might happen and that the organization, which was having trouble raising funds, was disbanding.

Most of the group's leadership had already left, unable to support such aggressive tactics.

Nevertheless, Mercer urged supporters in an e-mail to "take up arms to defend this great nation."

Despite the turmoil within the movement, the number of similar groups continues to grow. Nativist extremist organizations — those that attempt to take direct action against people perceived as undocumented immigrants — skyrocketed by nearly 80 percent in 2009, rising to 309 groups from only 173 in 2008.

This surge has been driven almost entirely by the rapid growth of the Federal Immigration Reform and Enforcement

Sen. Cornyn and I are also pushing for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) to patrol our border regions to help law enforcement track these criminal activities.

We have been working to resolve jurisdictional issues between the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Customs and Border Patrol to get the deployment of additional Predator drone flights up in air as soon as possible. I have received assurances from the FAA that they will work with us to free up airspace to allow these flights.

We are all less secure because of this kind of violence — organized crime is emboldened, lives are being lost and drug-trafficking organizations are taking root in our communities.

Guns, drugs, money and people are being smuggled. But the issue is not confined to our border communities.

Violent crime linked to the Mexican drug cartels are being seen in Dallas and Houston — and in cities throughout the rest of the country as well.

This issue impacts the entire nation and must be dealt with as a national security priority.

Kay Bailey Hutchison is the senior U.S. Senator from Texas and is the ranking member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.



HEIDI
BEIRICH

(FIRE) Coalition.

This hard-line nativist network had only 13 chapters in 2008 but had expanded to 135 chapters by the end of 2009.

FIRE Coalition activists have held aggressive protests across the country, frequently in front of Mexican consulates, and have staged other provocative actions targeting day laborers.

FIRE also launched The Patriot Coalition, an antigovernment outfit battling "globalism," "socialism" and the "loss of national identity and culture."

It seems certain that the nativist movement will only become more radicalized as its mainline groups crumble and as it cross-pollinates with other extremist movements, creating a potentially dangerous situation along an already-volatile border region.

We don't need armed vigilantes patrolling the border.

What we need instead is for Congress to act without further delay to bring our immigrant workers out of the shadows and into the American community as full-fledged citizens.

That, finally, would pour cold water on the nativist movement, which has nothing to offer in terms of real solutions.

Heidi Beirich is the Southern Poverty Law Center's director of research.

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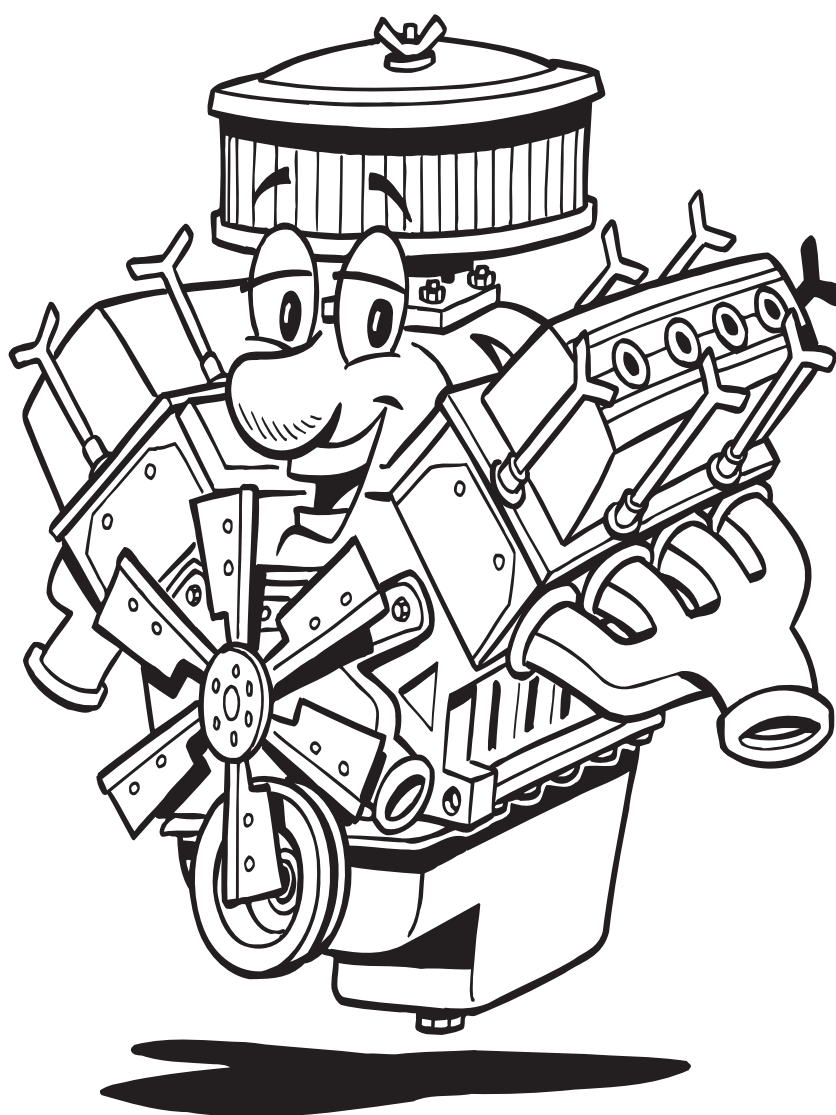
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- 1928: MICKEY MOUSE PREMIERES IN HIS FIRST CARTOON.
- 1988: THE SOVIET UNION BEGINS WITHDRAWING TROOPS FROM AFGHANISTAN.



WHAT TAKES PLACE INSIDE
A CAR ENGINE TO
MAKE THE CAR MOVE?

ANSWER: COMBUSTION



HYBRID

car that is
powered by fuel
and electricity

How they SAY that in...

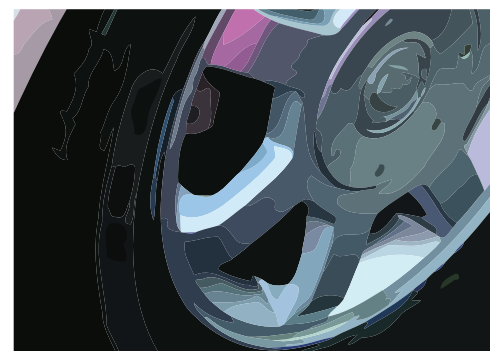
- ENGLISH:** Gasoline
- SPANISH:** Gasolina
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Did you know!



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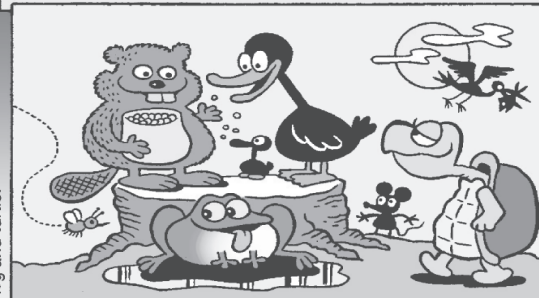
SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

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?

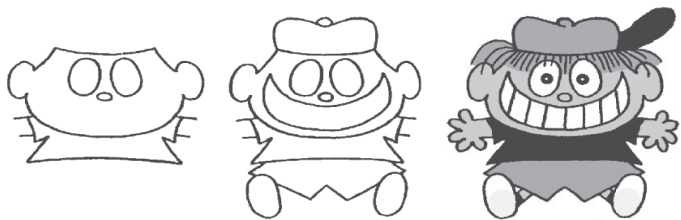


Find six differences between these panels.

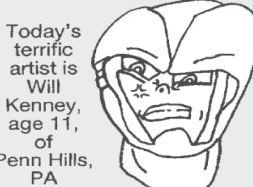


Answer -- Bug, root, cloud, duckling, frog's leg and turtle.

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- One inch

Answer -- c

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Howard College San Angelo is seeking sealed bids for various items to be used in the construction of a new parking lot. Bids will be received at the Howard College San Angelo- West Texas Training Center located at 3501 North US Highway 67, San Angelo, Texas 76905 until 2:00 P.M. on May 18, 2010, at which time bids will be opened and read aloud. Information for bidders, bid form, requirements, plans, specifications and other contract documents may be obtained by submitting a non-refundable fee of thirty dollars (\$30) to SKG Engineering, 1122 S. Bryant Blvd, San Angelo, Texas. #6527 May 7 & 11, 2010

Hold your horses, Mercury! Well, maybe he doesn't have horses. Actually, he doesn't need them with those wings on his feet. Whatever his preferred method of transportation, he halts it all today as the messenger planet prepares to switch directions. We can breathe a sigh of relief, as he'll be following a direct path until August 20.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Terribly busy people like you may not have time to read books and magazine stories about what's going on in the world today. But you'll experience it firsthand and learn all you need to know.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You can't light a fire with icicles, but if the icicles are cold enough, they can still burn you. Stick around the warm people. Avoid extremists regardless of which extreme they are on.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When you're tired, muscle through. Push yourself. If you give in at the first sign of fatigue, backing off becomes a tendency. Keep going so that you will know what you are capable of.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You live and love according to a set of principles. But what are they? Some are still so unconscious that even you don't know. An investigation into your thought processes will help you to be congruent, and congruency is power.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Maybe you are just a

cog in the clockwork of the universe, but as in the most clockwork, every cog is needed to make the thing tick. Anyway, truly powerful people have no need to make you feel small.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Someone is supposed to be splitting the work with you, though it probably feels like you're still doing it all. Keep your eyes open for other contenders. You deserve a strong team.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Give your presentation some pizzazz, even if you're just talking about your trip to the grocery store. As for those in a position to entertain or advertise to people, it's the flames and flash that will catch on.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You aspire to perfect social graces, and yet this cannot be achieved if you forget someone's name or are too sweaty to shake hands. Alas, being human and fallible may be the most charming thing about you!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll be putting things together - matching people to those who will best complement them and building on ideas. You unite people and keep projects moving forward.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You used to think you were helpless to do anything about a certain difficult situation. Now you realize your power. With those strong and capable hands of yours, you can mold circumstances to your liking.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You accept people the way they are and take them straight to your heart. Therefore, you find

certain formalities unnecessary. As for those who are not as open, using manners will make them feel more comfortable.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Someone has concerns about your plans -- perhaps your mother or boss. This person may be overreacting, and yet there is a kernel of truth in their worry. You are wise to try to see your scene from this person's perspective.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 11). Your social stars are on the rise. This month, you light up rooms, live parties and top guest lists. Changes in your household make things run smoothly in June. Take advantage of stellar educational opportunities in August. A friend opens a new world for you in October. You'll get carried away with a great project. Pisces and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 33, 50, 11 and 35.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "Holiday, I wanted to wish my celebrity crush a very happy birthday. He is Cory Monteith, and I am in love with him -- as much as you can be in love with someone you've never met. Do you think we'd be a good match? He's a Taurus, and I'm a Scorpio. I've read that Taurus and Scorpio do not make a good match, but I don't care. I think someday we will meet, and there will be a spark. Do I sound ridiculous?"

Unlike some astrologers, I don't really believe in bad matches. Every time we relate to others, we learn something. Sometimes the lessons

are difficult, and we are made stronger and better by those connections. Sometimes the lessons are breezy and casual, and with those lessons we learn to relax and enjoy life. I encourage you to use astrology as a tool for learning about others, not to limit your social horizons! Cory Monteith is a Taurus with many different influences in his astrological chart, which may be why he appeals to people from all parts of the zodiac. His natal Jupiter is in your sign -- Scorpio. So if he were to meet you, he would likely feel that there was something lucky and good in the connection.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Taurus actor Cory Monteith is convincing and charming as singing quarterback Finn Hudson of "Glee." But what many fans of the television show (affectionately called "Gleeks") want to know is: Is he dating Taylor Swift? The two would make a compatible couple, as his natal moon in Capricorn matches up with her Mercury in Capricorn, making him a terrific listener and an understanding friend.

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

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Bird Poop:

Safer locations for kestrels to raise young

Facing into the wind with wings spread and body tilted slightly upward, she seemed to hang in the air from an imaginary string. To maintain a desired elevation above the ground, she occasionally flapped, and then spread her wings again. Searching the man-made rocky bluffs as she hovered, she finally detected the movement she sought. Suddenly, with wings pulled back, she dove toward her intended prey.

With her foot tightly grasping a lizard that had ventured out to sun, she quickly took flight toward the north and her aerie. Passing over the creek and interstate, she rose above the noise below. Orchestrated by the different units and their processes, the cacophony of a throb-

bing giant was ignored by her desire to feed her young.

Disappearing into the metal maze of structures, she swerved upward past steps and railings until arriving at a sheltered site for her nest. In one fluid motion, she slowed her momentum, gripped the edge of the nest and dropped the reptile among the fledglings-to-be.

Excited by their enthusiasm at her arrival, she readily tore the lizard's flesh to offer to the gaping mouths. Having only temporarily quenched their appetites, she left again to search for food.

"If I hadn't looked down, I'd walk right past it," the caller related as he described his walk through one of the units. Telling me the little hawk had just stood and stared at him, the employee said he didn't want "the little fella" to get in any chemicals. "I reached down and picked him up."

Looking at my records before driving to the refinery, I easily remembered it was often



Courtesy photo

These young American kestrels await a parent's return. Fearless in defense of their nest and young, a parent will readily chase away a red-tailed hawk if necessary.

in May when American kestrels first ventured away from their nests at the plant.

Tempting their offspring with food, parents encouraged the fledglings to fly from one structure to another.

Learning the ways of a raptor, the little falcons were soon away from the refinery to learn to hunt for insects and small rodents.

After putting the fledgling in a carrier, I advised the man there could be more. Eager to alert the other shifts, the employee included our phone number.

Three days later, two more kestrels were found. Similar to the first, they had wandered from the nest, tired in their efforts to fly and landed in one of the units.

With the next call came number four.

In many species, both genders look similar, whether juvenile or adult. With these kestrels, even in their fledgling plumage, the male sibling resembled its father, while the females had the coloration and patterning of their mother.

Taking this feminine trio and their brother

to the Eos Sanctuary in Midland, we knew the kestrels would hone their flying skills and become self-feeding and avid hunters.

When released, their lives would depend upon their ability to adapt to the changing seasons and available food sources, such as small reptiles, mice, birds and insects.

As he reached maturity, the male would intensify in coloration. A rusty patch atop a bluish-gray crown would lead to the two black stripes down the sides of his white face. His rusty and barred

back would help to highlight his slate-blue wings that tapered toward his blackish primaries. Underneath, his buff to pale-rust belly and sides would be enhanced by black spots. A rufous tail with a broad black band with white tip would complete his outfit.

Seen from above, the females, when finally mature, would appear rusty-colored with blackish barring on their wings, back and tail. From below, the falcons would have shades of buff highlighted with cinnamon to brown streaks. As they fanned their tails in flight, a black band at the end would be obvious. While their heads resembled that of the male, the colors were not nearly as vivid.

Remembering the little "sparrow hawks" from some 19 years ago, we are grateful the old towers that provided nesting sites no longer exist. The generations that followed were able to find safer locations for raising their young.

For the employees who had a chance encounter with the smallest of falcons, however, it was a moment of holding a quick and dashing raptor.

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

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

Parent's Corner:

Yes, indeed, children do always have an answer

I've discovered, through the years, that kids are extremely quick when it comes to answering questions and often their answers are tremendous, as well as very humorous.

I came across some typical kids' remarks the other day that I would like to share with you. A teacher was teaching a geography lesson and asked Maria to go to the map and find North America.

"Here it is," she exclaimed.

"The teacher then commented, 'Correct. Now class, who discovered America?'"

The class responded, "Maria did."

Then there is the story of Little Johnny who was working his math on his paper on the floor.

When the teacher questioned why he was doing that, his answer was, "You told me to do it

without using tables!"

Once a teacher said, "Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile?'"

Glenn responded, "K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L"

The teacher said, "No, Glenn, that's not right!"

Glenn answered, "Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it."

A teacher asked Donald to tell her the chemical formula for water to which he replied, "H I J K L M N O."

The teacher asked, "Donald what are you talking about?"

He said, "Well, yesterday you told us that water was H to O."

A second-grade teacher inquired, "Hannah, name one important thing we have today that we didn't have 10 years ago."

She quickly replied, "Me."

A third-grade teacher asked Jane to start a sentence using "I."

Jane thought for a moment then began. "I is..."

"No, no Jane," the teacher admonished. "Always start a sentence by saying I am."

Jane started again, "I am ... the

ninth letter of the alphabet."

After hearing the story of George Washington and how he not only chopped down his father's cherry tree but also admitted it, the teacher questioned, "Now do you know why his father didn't punish him?" Little Scottie replied, "Because George still had the axe in his hand."

The fifth-grade teacher said, "Pete, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brothers'. Did you copy his work?"

"Oh no," Pete responded. "It's the same dog."

Now the one that really stunned the teacher came when she asked, "What do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?"

A very astute ninth grader responded, "A teacher."

Leave it to the kids, they always have an answer.

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



DARRELL RYAN

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Justice Is Sometimes Blind

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A J
♥ 6 4 3 2
♦ 7 6 5 4
♣ 10 7 3

EAST

♠ 9 6 5
♥ K 10 8 5
♦ 10 8 3
♣ 6 5 4

SOUTH

♠ 4 3
♥ A Q J
♦ A K Q
♣ A K J 9 8

The bidding:
South West North East
2♣ Pass 2♥ Pass
2NT Pass 3NT
Opening lead — king of spades.

entry to dummy. Quite reasonably, he led dummy's ten of clubs and let it ride. Had the finesse succeeded, South would have had 10 tricks without the aid of a heart finesse. As it was, though, West grabbed the queen of clubs and peeled off five spades to set the contract two tricks.

Another South player, after a series of bids too gruesome to record, wound up in six notrump. Again the king of spades was led, and again declarer took the ace.

Here, though, South had no good reason to finesse in clubs. Even if the finesse succeeded, he could not come close to making 12 tricks. So he decided to play for a combination of minor miracles as his only chance to bring in the slam.

At trick two, he led a heart to the queen. After this held, he cashed the A-K of clubs, dropping the queen and at the same time establishing dummy's ten as an entry. With everything going just as the doctor ordered and 12 tricks assured (assuming East had the heart king), declarer now went after a 13th trick.

He played the A-K-Q of diamonds, establishing dummy's seven, crossed to the ten of clubs and cashed the good diamond. Then, adding insult to injury, the heart finesse was repeated, giving South all the tricks!

As we said, life — and in particular, life at the bridge table — isn't always fair.

Tomorrow: The art of signaling.

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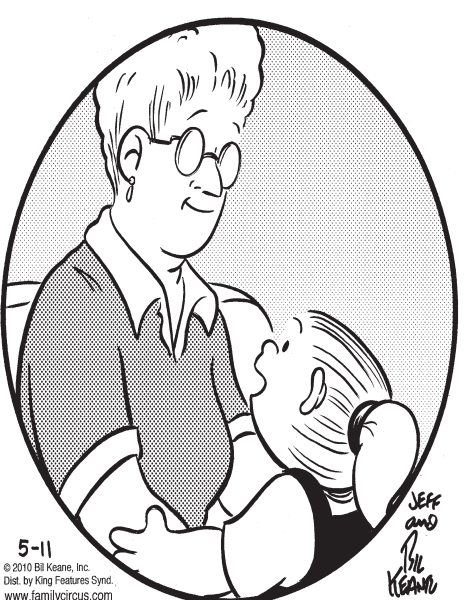
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:AM	Morning Good Morning West Texas	Tu Desayuno Alegre	Shepherd's Chapel	News CBS 7 Morning News	Muy Buenos Dias	Business (34) News	Married... Married... Saved	Alewine Moody	(Off Air)	The Daily Buzz	Paid	Paid	Paid	Angel	BET Inspiration	Phineas Movers	Mike and Mike in the Morning	SportsCenter
6:AM	Good Morning West Texas	¡Despierta América! (SS)	Feldick Life	Levántate	Today	Married... Saved	Chumney Upd	Moody	Arthur	Paid	Paid	Paid	Angel	Handy	Mickey			SportsCenter
7:AM	Good Morning America		Copeland Paid	The Early Show		Married... Saved	Martha Curious		Martha	J. Meyer	Paid	Paid	Comfort	Charmed	Wendy Williams	Agent		SportsCenter
8:AM			Hatchett			Married... Saved	Light of the Southwest		Super Dinosaur	Steve Wilkos Show	Overhaul	CSI: Crime Scn	Charmed	The Mo'Nique	Handy			SportsCenter
9:AM	The 700 Club	¿Tiene Razón?	The People's Court	Live Regis & Kelly	Pecados Ajenos	Married... Saved	Light of the Southwest		Sesame Street	Payne	Overhaul	CSI: Crime Scn	Supernatural	Jamie F.	Jungle	ESPN First Take		SportsCenter
10:AM	The View	Casos de Familia	Ellen DeGeneres	The Price Is Right	Frijolito	Married... Saved	Light of the Southwest		Clifford	Cosby	Overhaul	CSI: Crime Scn	Supernatural	Game	Tigger			SportsCenter
11:AM	Paid	Pecadora (SS)	Judge Paid	Young & Restless	La Favorita	Married... Saved	Light of the Southwest		Word	Cosby	Overhaul	CSI: Crime Scn	Las Vegas	Chris	Wizards of Waverly Place	ESPN First Take		SportsCenter
12:PM	All My Children	Atrevete a Soñar	Judge	News Bold	Doña Barbara	Married... Saved	Light of the Southwest		Organic	Paid	Overhaul	CSI: Crime Scn	Las Vegas	Movie: American Violet, Alfre Woodard	have	Best of 1st & 10		SportsCenter
1:PM	One Life to Live	Tormenta	Judge Mathis	As the World Turns		Married... Saved	Light of the Southwest		Ciao Italia	Steve Wilkos Show	Overhaul	CSI: Crime Scn	Cold Case	Movie: American Violet, Alfre Woodard	Montana	Best of 1st & 10		SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



"MIND IF WE STAY WITH YOU TILL IT STOPS?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



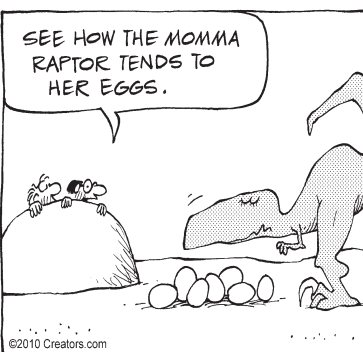
"Know what, Grandma? I even enjoy doing nothing with you."

HAGAR

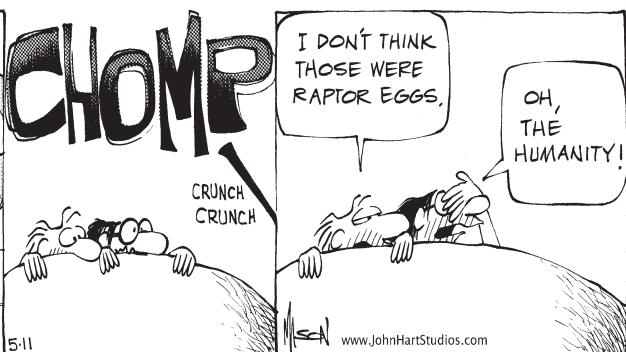


DO YOU REALIZE ALL THAT POUNDING IS GIVING THE QUEEN A TERRIBLE HEADACHE?!

BC

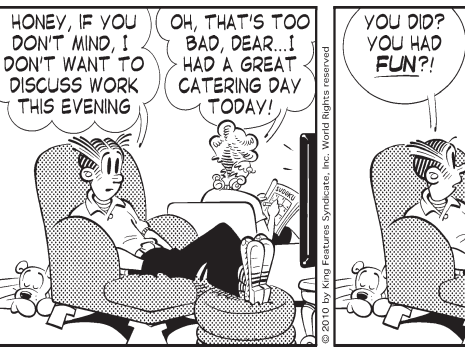


SEE HOW THE MOMMA RAPTOR TENDS TO HER EGGS.

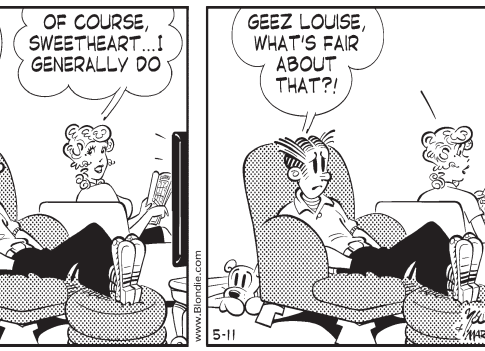


I DON'T THINK THOSE WEEF RAPTOR EGGS. OH, THE HUMANITY!

BLONDIE

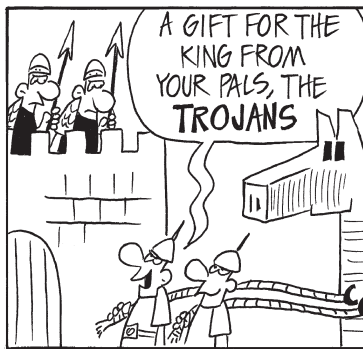


HONEY, IF YOU DON'T MIND, I DON'T WANT TO DISCUSS WORK THIS EVENING.



OH, THAT'S TOO BAD, DEAR... I HAD A GREAT CATERING DAY TODAY!

WIZARD OF ID

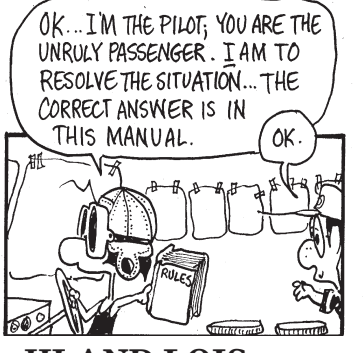


A GIFT FOR THE KING FROM YOUR PALS, THE TROJANS

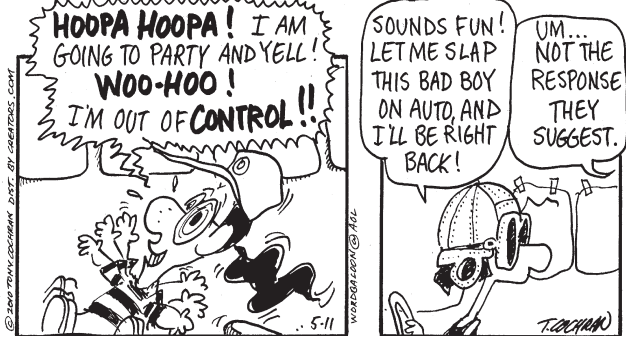


TELL THEM THANKS BUT NO THANKS. IT'S NOT REALLY MY TASTE

AGNES



OK... I'M THE PILOT, YOU ARE THE UNRULY PASSENGER. I AM TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION... THE CORRECT ANSWER IS IN THIS MANUAL.



HOOPA HOOPA! I AM GOING TO PARTY AND YELL! WOO-HOO! I'M OUT OF CONTROL!!

HI AND LOIS



WOOF! WOOF! WOOF! WOOF! WOOF! WOOF!



YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO WAKE UP AT THE SOUND OF SEVEN WOOF!

This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, May 11, the 131st day of 2010. There are 234 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On May 11, 1910, Glacier National Park in Montana was established.

On this date: In 1502, Christopher Columbus left Cadiz, Spain, on his fourth and final trip to the Western Hemisphere. In 1647, Peter Stuyvesant arrived in New Amsterdam and became governor of New Netherland. In 1858, Minnesota became the 32nd state of the Union. In 1935, the Rural Electrification Administration was created as one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs. In 1946, the first CARE packages arrived in Europe, at Le Havre, France. In 1950, President Harry S. Truman formally dedicated the Grand Coulee Dam in Washington state.

In 1960, in the wake of the U-2 incident, President Dwight D. Eisenhower defended intelligence-gathering activities as "distasteful" but necessary, saying "no one wants another Pearl Harbor."

In 1973, charges against Daniel Ellsberg for his role in the "Pentagon Papers" case were dismissed by Judge William M. Byrne, who cited government misconduct.

In 1985, 56 people died when a flash fire swept a jam-packed soccer stadium in Bradford, England.

In 1996, an Atlanta-bound ValuJet DC-9 caught fire shortly after takeoff from Miami and crashed into the Florida Everglades, killing all 110 people on board.

One year ago: Defense Secretary Robert Gates named Lt. Gen. Stanley McChrystal the top military commander in Afghanistan, replacing Gen. David McKiernan. Five U.S. troops were shot and killed at a mental health clinic on a Baghdad base; the shooting suspect, Sgt. John M. Russell, is awaiting trial.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Mort Sahl is 83. Rock singer

Eric Burdon (The Animals; War) is 69. Actress Shohreh Aghdashloo (SHOH'-reh ah-DAHSH'-loo) is 58. Actress Frances Fisher is 58. Country musician Mark Herndon (Alabama) is 55. Actress Martha Quinn is 51. Country singer-musician Tim Raybon (The Raybon Brothers) is 47. Country musician Keith West (Heartland) is 42. Cellist Perttu Kivilaakso (PER'-tuh KEE'-wee-lahk-soh) is 32. Actor Jonathan Jackson is 28.

Thought for Today: "No idea is so antiquated that it was not once modern. No idea is so modern that it will not someday be antiquated." — Ellen Glasgow, American author (1874-1945).

Answer to previous puzzle

ARTS	REP	SHARP
BOAT	SODA	LOSER
YULE	POUT	OUTDO
STOPWATCH	GROSS	
SENSOR	STAG	
	REAP	ONLAND
CROWD	SAME	ALOE
BABA	DARES	SANE
ECOL	OPTS	ESSES
REELIN	YARD	
	CLEF	AIRACE
ATOLL	OVENTIMER	
SOLOS	REST	SPAR
PIECE	TAPS	ELSE
STOKE	SLY	SEED

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Untrue
 - 6 In addition
 - 10 Exam grade
 - 14 In the lead
 - 15 Slightly moist
 - 16 Woodwind instrument
 - 17 Bond investor's statistic
 - 20 A few
 - 21 Vocal
 - 22 Iron entryways
 - 23 Scattered, as seeds
 - 25 Lounge around
 - 27 Longs (for)
 - 30 Don't leave
 - 31 WWII-era president
 - 34 Perform very well
 - 35 Kilt wearer
 - 36 Margarine
 - 37 Order to a complainer
 - 40 Makes a mistake
 - 41 High-fiber cereal
 - 42 Feeling nervous
 - 43 __ Francisco, CA
 - 44 Chick's chirp
 - 45 Six-person band
 - 46 Informal greeting
 - 47 Attend
 - 48 Airline employee
 - 51 Southwestern necktie
 - 53 Aide: Abbr.
 - 57 Somehow
 - 60 And others: Abbr.
- DOWN**
- 1 Thumbs-down votes
 - 2 Where Cincinnati is
 - 3 Be abundant
 - 4 Employees on commission
 - 5 Peculiar
 - 6 Deck out
 - 7 The Dalai __
 - 8 Tiny dot on a state map
 - 9 Make a choice
 - 10 End of a fable
 - 11 Slightly
 - 12 Learning method
 - 13 Door openers
 - 18 Pulls along behind
 - 19 The __ Duckling (Andersen story)
 - 24 Merely
 - 26 Courtroom ritual
 - 27 Thumbs-up votes
 - 28 Something additional
 - 29 Squirrel meal
 - 30 Throw out
 - 31 Spark producer
 - 32 Thickly packed
 - 33 Thesaurus author
 - 35 Convinced of
 - 36 Small airplane
 - 38 Follow instructions
 - 39 News story
 - 44 Bread with a pocket
 - 45 Any day now
 - 46 Coyote calls
 - 47 Necklace part
 - 48 Verse writer
 - 49 A big fan of
 - 50 Tilt
 - 52 Eat __ eaten (law of the jungle)
 - 54 "Get away from here!"
 - 55 Ship out
 - 56 Cedar or sycamore
 - 58 Many mos.
 - 59 Spanish cheer

SIGN HERE by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

THE OTHER COAST



THIS LOOKS COOL. WHAT DOES IT DO?



ABSOLUTELY NOTHING, BUT YOU'LL BE THE FIRST ON YOUR BLOCK TO OWN ONE.

SNUFFY SMITH



AUNT LOWEEZY, WHAT'S TH' DIFF'ERENCE 'TWEEN HARDWOOD AN' SOFTWOOD?

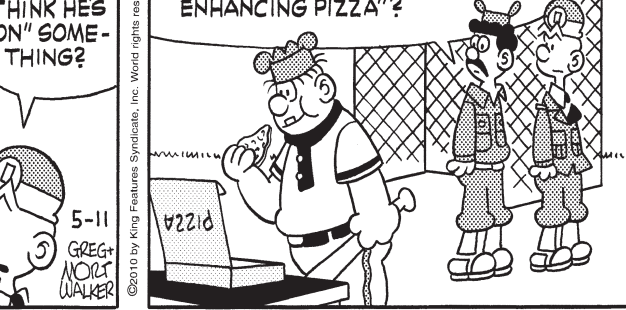


NOT A LICK IF N' IT LANDS ON YORE POOR LI'L PUNKIN-HAID !!

BETLE BAILEY



WHACK!! SARGE HITS THE BALL HARDER THAN ANYONE I'VE EVER SEEN!



DO YOU THINK HE'S "ON" SOMETHING?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
14					15				16					
17					18				19					
20					21				22					
			23	24				25	26					
27	28	29					30				31	32	33	
34							35				36			
37							38				39			
40							41				42			
43							44				45			
				46						47				
48	49	50					51	52			53	54	55	56
57							58				59			
60							61				62			
63							64				65			

5 dead, dozens injured as tornadoes hit Plains

TIM TALLEY
The Associated Press
NORMAN, Okla. — Violent storms that tore through the southern Plains killed five people and injured dozens more, leaving behind flattened homes, toppled semi-trailers and downed power lines.
Several tornadoes were reported in Oklahoma and Kansas on Monday as the storms moved through the area, dumping hail as big as baseballs, splintering mobile homes and leaving thousands of people without power.
“The kids and I got in the closet and prayed,” said Jamie Keyes, of Norman, an Oklahoma City suburb that is home to the University of Oklahoma. “I heard a hiss. It was like something was whistling very loud.”
Oklahoma Department of

Emergency Management spokesman Jerry Lojka said two people were killed in Oklahoma City and three were killed in Cleveland County, south of the city. Oklahoma City officials said the fatalities there involved a young boy who was hit by debris in his home and a man whose recreational vehicle flipped over on top of him. Details on the Cleveland County deaths weren't immediately available.
Officials reported that at least 58 others were injured — two of them critically — in a tornado outbreak that forecasters had been predicting since last week.
Emergency authorities in Oklahoma City urged residents to stay off the roads in affected areas Tuesday to allow rescue workers to search for survivors among the

wreckage of their homes.
Police Capt. Patrick Stewart said officers closed off four neighborhoods because gas leaks, downed power lines and debris on the ground had made conditions hazardous.
Oklahoma City Deputy Fire Chief Cecil Clay refused to rule out the possibility of finding more dead, but said conditions were tough for rescue workers early Tuesday.
“We have heavy fog (and) power lines down making it difficult to see all the hazards out there. We'll wait for more sunshine to resume our search.”
In Norman — Cleveland County's largest city with about 106,000 residents — Tim Tegeler checked out the damage to his windows, air conditioner and fence at his home. Tegeler, his wife, their daughters and their

pet fish had taken shelter in their laundry room until the storms passed.
“We saw it coming, but the best thing is my family's fine,” Tegeler said.
Neighbor Linda Sugg was picking up debris in her front yard.
“You could just hear stuff hitting the house,” said Sugg, who was in her home during the storms.
The storms left trailers crushed at a mobile home community in Slaughterville, Okla.
Near Seminole, about 60 miles east of Oklahoma City, at least two homes were leveled after a tornado went through, Emergency Management Director Ernie Willis said. The town's airport suffered extensive damage and several planes there were destroyed, he said.

Gov. Brad Henry said he would tour affected areas Tuesday.
The weather was expected to be more settled the day after the storm, said meteorologist Ty Judd with the National Weather Service in Norman.
“There is a chance of thunderstorms later this afternoon,” Judd said early Tuesday. “We're not looking at what we saw yesterday.”
Judd said a preliminary estimate counted 10 tornado touchdowns in Oklahoma Monday.
Oklahoma Gas and Electric reported more than 17,000 customers remained without power Tuesday morning, down from more than 34,000 late Monday. American Electric Power reported about 1,500 outages, down from more than 2,500.

Suspect in 1990 kidnap, rape in Texas kills self

GALVESTON (AP) — A suspect in the 1990 alleged abduction, rape and throat slashing of a Dickinson girl has been found hanged in his jail cell.
Galveston County sheriff's Maj. Ray Tuttoilmondo says 40-year-old Dennis Earl Bradford was found hanged early Monday in an apparent suicide. Tuttoilmondo says there were no signs of foul play and Bradford made a noose from bedding.
DNA evidence led to the October arrest of Bradford in North Little Rock, Ark.
Jennifer Schuett, who was 8 years old when she was attacked, says she is “shocked and disappointed” that Bradford resorted to suicide and she had wanted to face him in court.
The Associated Press does not normally name alleged sex abuse victims, but Schuett and authorities used her name in publicly discussing the case and she maintains a website.

The state comptroller's office says collections in the first eight months of the current fiscal year are nearly \$1.5 billion, or almost 12 percent, behind fiscal 2009.
Pitts said the hole is too deep to meet targets for the budget year that ends Aug. 31.
Members of the House Ways and Means committee in April reviewed tax exemptions as legislators who will convene in 2011 prepare for an estimated budget shortfall of at least \$11 billion.
Houston teacher on administrative duty after videotaped beating
HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston charter school has put a teacher on administrative duty after a videotape shows a student being slapped and kicked by the educator.
Principal David Jones of Jamie's House Charter School says he reviewed the camera phone video shot by another student. Jones says “there is no excuse for a teacher to behave in this way with a child.”
Jones, in a statement, says the school plans to fire the instructor.
KRIV-TV in Houston reports the video of the female teacher and the male sixth-grader was shot in late April. Other students can be seen watching the attack in a room. The 13-year-old boy ends up on

the floor.
The boy's mother says he suffered a black eye and other bruises.
The video has been turned over to Harris County sheriff's investigators.
Police: Principal left kids at hotel, went to bar
DALLAS (AP) — A middle school principal was placed on paid administrative leave Monday after she was accused of leaving her two young children in a downtown Dallas hotel room while she went to a bar, officials said.
Carla Westbrook-Spaniel, 44, of Arlington, was arrested early Saturday on suspicion of public intoxication after scuffling with a bouncer and police when she wasn't allowed into a nightclub because she didn't meet the dress code, Dallas police said.
Police learned during the arrest that the children, ages 3 and 4, were alone in bed in a nearby hotel, said Dallas police spokesman Sgt. Warren Mitchell.
Westbrook-Spaniel was being held in the Dallas County jail Monday on two counts of child endangerment, according to online records. There was no information about whether she had an attorney, said Dallas County sheriff's spokeswoman Kim Leach.

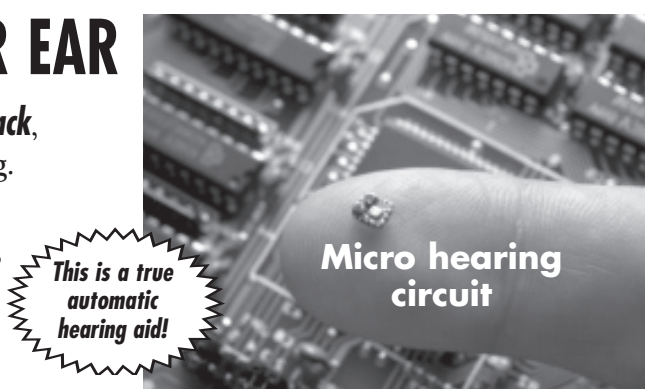
Austin legislative hearing on Texas budget woes

AUSTIN (AP) — A budget writer says Texas sales tax receipts in April rose by 1.4 percent over the same month last year.
But State Rep. Jim Pitts of Waxahachie says state revenues remain “well short” of predictions.
An update was expected Tuesday at an Appropriations Committee hearing in Austin.

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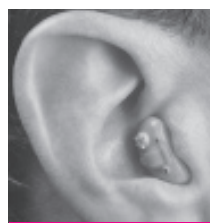


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Nation has high college remedial education rate

DAVIE, Fla. (AP) — Professor Derron Bowen teaches high school math to college students, patiently chalking equations on the board on basic arithmetic topics such as the speed of a driver on a 20-hour trip.

Bowen's class at Broward College in South Florida is for students who didn't score high enough on an entrance test to get into college-level math. In all, about two-thirds of students entering the community college need to take at least one remedial course in math, English or reading.

Nationwide, about a third of first-year students in 2007-08 had taken at least one remedial course, according to the U.S. Department

of Education. At public two-year colleges, that number rises to about 42 percent.

Education observers worry that the vast numbers of students coming to college unprepared will pose a major roadblock to President Barack Obama's goal for the United States to once again lead the world in college degrees.

"We don't get there from here," said Bob Wise, president of the Alliance for Excellent Education and former governor of West Virginia.

In October, the Education Department reported that many states declare students to have grade-level mastery of reading and math when they do not. In a 2007 ACT National Curricu-

lum Survey of college professors, 65 percent said their states poorly prepare students for college-level coursework.

The survey found that professors want students with stronger skills in specific areas, while high schools typically impart a less comprehensive understanding of a broad range of topics.

In his remedial math class in Florida, Bowen sees students who haven't been in school for a decade or more, but some haven't even had time to hang up their high school diplomas.

"How were they allowed to go through?" Bowen said. "I'm thinking, 'If I could have been teaching you back when you were 6, 7, you would be a powerhouse

today."

The Obama administration is pushing states to adopt tougher standards, and governors and education leaders across the country are working together to propose a uniform set of common standards. A first draft was released in March, and a final proposal could come this summer.

For others, the problem points to the need to develop alternative forms of job training for people who aren't academically inclined and are unlikely to finish college.

"We're telling kids you'll be a third-class citizen if you don't go to college," said Marty Nemko, an education policy consultant and author. "And colleges

are taking kids who in previous generations would not have gone to college."

Nemko favors an apprenticeship program similar to those offered in Finland, Japan and Germany.

That's a point that Daniel Paz, a student in Bowen's class, says he can relate to.

"College is not for me," said Paz, who graduated from high school last year and is considering a career in criminal justice. "It's something I have to do, but if there was another way, than I'd be doing something else."

Some students in remedial courses are older workers trying to jumpstart a new career. But a sizable amount are recent graduates who

performed well in high school: A 2008 study by the nonprofit Strong American Schools found that nearly four out of five remedial students had a high school GPA of 3.0 or higher.

The price of providing remedial training is costly. The Alliance for Excellent Education estimates the nation loses \$3.7 billion a year because students are not learning basic needed skills, including \$1.4 billion to provide remedial education for students who have recently completed high school.

"From taxpayers' standpoint, remediation is paying for the same education twice," said Wise.

Students who need remedial classes are also more likely to drop out: Those taking any remedial reading, for example, had a 17 percent chance of completing a bachelor's degree, according to 2004 Education Department data.

Advocates say the need for reform is urgent, pointing to studies that show more jobs in the future will require more education, and that people with less education have been hit with higher levels of unemployment.



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