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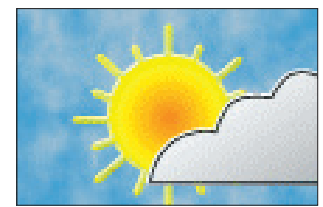


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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY

MARCH 8, 2011



VOLUME 106, NUMBER 82

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Hatchet attack leaves 1 critical

Herald Staff Report

A Big Spring man remains in critical condition in a Lubbock hospital after suffering cuts to the upper part of his body Sunday night.

Fifty-four-year-old Joe Rios Jr. was airlifted to University Medical Center in Lubbock following an altercation in the 2300 block of Warren.

Big Spring police officers were called to 2307 Warren at approximately 9:25 p.m. Sunday where they found Rios standing by his vehicle in the street.

According to a police report, Rios had severe cuts on his face, back and shoulder areas. He advised officers he had gone to the residence to get clothes for his daughter.

In the report, police noted Rios had been assaulted by a known white male wielding a hatchet-type object and possibly a knife. The suspect was

See **CRITICAL**, Page 3A

Petition delivered

If deemed valid, it would prompt city term limits election in May

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Concerned Citizens Council Vice President Steve Campbell presents City Finance Director Perry Walker with a petition Monday calling for an election to determine whether there should be term limits for the mayor and city council members.

Representatives of the Big Spring Concerned Citizens Council submitted a petition to city officials Monday in an effort to prompt a city-wide vote on term limits for members of the city council.

Steve Campbell, spokesman for the CCC, turned the petition over to City Finance Director Peggy Walker Monday afternoon.

"We've submitted the petition, which had 59 pages and 740 names," Campbell said. "We started on the petition right after the holidays, about the second week in January."

"The proposed amendment calls for the men and women of the Big Spring City Council to serve no more than two consecutive terms in an office. They would have to sit out for two full terms before they would be eligible to serve in that particular seat

See **CITY**, Page 3A

Teacher's love for children, history, benefits others

By **AMANDA MORENO**
Staff Writer

Sometimes the gifts keep coming, even after a person's gone.

Clarine Brown recently passed away, but the marks she was leaving weren't over. In her will and testament, she instructed that substantial donations were to be made

to specific charities throughout West Texas. One of those charities was the Heritage Museum of Big Spring.

"Mrs. Brown was constantly changing her will," Cory McDowell, an attorney in the Estate Planning and Probate section of Cotton, Bledsoe, Tighe and Dawson, said. "She was often touched by stories from different organizations

and felt that she needed to contribute to them."

Brown, who resided in Midland, designated \$10,000 to the museum here.

The contribution was mailed June 28, 2010.

The Heritage Museum aims to collect and preserve items of cultural and historical significance to Big Spring and West Texas, according to its

website. All the items in the museum are available for use for research and education of the area's citizens.

"We are so honored that Mrs. Brown was culturally minded and thought of the museum in her planned giving," Nancy Raney, museum director museum, said.

"Donations like this mean everything to us; they are

the difference in keeping our doors open or closed."

According to Raney, the money will be used for special event programming so the museum can continue to bring special programs to the area community.

Mrs. Brown married Big Spring native George Brown

See **BROWN**, Page 3A

Lawmakers call for eliminating driver surcharges

AUSTIN (AP) — Lawmakers are considering eliminating a program that requires those charged with offenses including driving while intoxicated and failure to have insurance to pay state surcharges.

Nearly 60 percent of those with the surcharges — about 1.2 million drivers — are unwilling or unable to pay

See **SURCHARGES**, Page 3A



Clothes are strewn from a SUV which overturned on the south service road of Interstate 20 this morning. No reports of injury had been received as of press time on the one-vehicle accident, which was being investigated by law enforcement and emergency medical personnel.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan



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Obituaries

Thomas 'Tommy' Weaver



Thomas (Tommy) Weaver, 85, of Big Spring went to his final home in heaven Friday, March 4, 2011. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside services with military honors will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Texas State Veterans Cemetery at Abilene with the Rev. Craig Wascom, of First Assembly of God Church, officiating.

Tommy was born May 29, 1925, in Stanton to Mary and Robert Weaver. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the United States Navy from Nov. 25, 1942, until May 31, 1946. Tommy retired from Cosden Refinery in 1982 after 30 years of service.

After his retirement, he worked for Big Spring Independent School District as a security guard for five years until his illness. His hobbies were carpentry and spending time with his animals. Tommy married Faye McGary on Aug. 23, 1961, in Lovington, N.M. They would have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this year.

Tommy is survived by his loving wife, Faye Weaver of Big Spring; daughter, Debara Parker of Palestine; son, Larry Barber of Arkansas City, Kan.; 13 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild, including five that he helped raise, Jessica, James, Syble and Sylvia, all of Palestine, and Brook of Sand Springs.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one son, James Barber; one granddaughter, Delana Barber; one brother, Robert Weaver; and one sister, Margaret Wilkerson.

Pallbearers will be Willie Hogan, Marcus Hogan, Nick Wright, Eric Stiff, Floyd McGary, Sylvia Parker and Clarence Long.

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

Paid obituary

Stormee Kay Nix



Stormee Kay Nix, 31, of Big Spring died March 5, 2011, from a car accident. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 10, 2011, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Alan Wallace, pastor of Peoples Fellowship Church of the Nazarene, Lubbock, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, 2011, at the funeral home.

Stormee was born Jan. 3, 1980, in Big Spring.

She is survived by her husband, Michael Alexander; two sons, Keagan Earls and Kason Alexander, both of Big Spring; one daughter, Kylee Alexander of Big Spring; her mothers, Anne Nix and Teresa Brockman, both of Big Spring; her sisters, Jeannie and husband Russ Rutledge, Shari Beall, Shawna and husband Bubba Parrish, Tina and husband Eddie Earls and Karla Nix, all of Big Spring, and Shari Mintz of Iraan; her brothers, Ray and wife Dana Nix of Big Spring and Jerry and wife Texana Mintz of Iraan; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Mike and Pam Jones; her sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Kimberly and husband Jesse Barrera, Tashia Alexander, Jolie Jones Dehoyos and husband Aaron Dehoyos; as well as numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her father, L.G. Nix; grandparents, Ray and Jonnie Faye Maxwell and Lela and Dub Nix; and brother-in-law, Bobby Beall.

The family requests in lieu of flowers, donations to be made to their favorite charity.

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

Opal Evelyn Mealer



Ms. Opal Evelyn Mealer, 90, of Big Spring passed away Monday, March 7, 2011, in Big Spring. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, March 10, 2011, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. R.T. Havener, retired Assembly of God minister, officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, 2011, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

Ms. Mealer was born March 18, 1920, in Paris, Texas, and married Robert Odell Mealer on April 29, 1936, in Ellijay, Ga. She came to Big Spring in 1929 and attended Big Spring schools. She was a member of First Assembly of God in Big Spring for 75 years.

Ms. Mealer worked at Miss Royale from 1970 to 1987. She then worked as a cashier at Herman's Restaurant for 12 years before retiring.

She is survived by four children, Zeldia and Charles Odom of San Antonio, Norma Lee of Big Spring, Preston and Linda Mealer of Pearland and Bobby and Sharon Mealer of San Antonio; two sisters, Vita White of Dickinson and Juanita Bryant of Odessa; 10 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and 10 great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert, on Oct. 3, 1983; her parents; and brothers and sisters, Agnes Altom, Dorothy Miller and Tutor, Herman and Fred Wilkerson.

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

Maurice 'Mo' Bennett

Maurice "Mo" Bennett, 70, of Big Spring died Monday March 7, 2011, in Midland. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Police blotter

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

- FRANK FIERRO JR., 63, of 603 N.W. Fifth St., was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- MICHAEL WAYNE GOMEZ JR., 17, of 2703 Carol, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- NATIVIDAD ZAMORA CEBALLOS, 32, of 2617 Fairchild, was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction.
- LYNDON TRENT FRALEY, 51, of 1425 E. Sixth St. Apt. 6, was arrested Monday on a charge of failure to yield the right-of-way to an emergency vehicle.
- MANUEL RAMOS, 22, of 806 Creighton, was arrested Monday on warrants for violation of school rules (four counts), failure to appear (two counts) and a warrant from another agency.
- JOSE FLORES RODRIGUEZ, 46, of 1609 Harding, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- JOHNNY JOE RODRIGUEZ JR., 18, of 2618 Hunter, was arrested Monday on a charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor.
- KIMBERLY MARIE CASTILLO, 27, of 1000 Howell, was arrested Monday on a charge of theft - shoplifting.
- JAVIER HORACIO POLENDO, 42, of El Paso, was arrested Monday on a charge of theft - shoplifting.
- ASSAULT was reported: In the 2600 block of Albrook Drive.
- In the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.
- THEFT was reported in the 200 block of W. FM 700.

Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 75 inmates at the time of this report.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 3/9	Thu 3/10	Fri 3/11	Sat 3/12	Sun 3/13
73/38 Mainly sunny. High 73F. Winds N at 10 to 15 mph.	79/49 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the upper 40s.	86/49 Mainly sunny. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the upper 40s.	82/52 Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the low 50s.	81/55 Mostly Cloudy. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the mid 50s.
Sunrise: 7:04 AM Sunset: 6:50 PM	Sunrise: 7:03 AM Sunset: 6:50 PM	Sunrise: 7:02 AM Sunset: 6:51 PM	Sunrise: 7:00 AM Sunset: 6:52 PM	Sunrise: 6:59 AM Sunset: 6:52 PM

• NATIVIDAD CEBALLOS, 32, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

• CRAIG ANTHONY SHIPMAN, 55, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated.

• LYNDON TRENT FRALEY, 51, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to yield the right-of-way to an emergency vehicle.

• LIBERTO HEREDIA JR., 51, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the Glasscock County Sheriff's Office on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• MANUEL RAMOS, 22, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of bail jumping - failure to appear and municipal warrants for violation of school rules (four counts) and failure to appear (two counts).

• JOSE JOSEPH RODRIGUEZ, 46, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• SHANECKA MARSHAE LYNE EVANS, 17, was arrested Monday by DPS on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

• JAVIER HORACIO POLENDO, 42, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.

• JOHNNY JOE RODRIGUEZ JR., 18, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of minor in consumption of alcohol.

• KIMBERLY MARIE RUIZ, 27, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.

• SHELBY DON REEVES JR., 19, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on a charge of possession of marijuana - more than four ounces, less than five pounds.

• JOSHUA KENT SANDERS, 19, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on a charge of possession of marijuana - more than four ounces, less than five pounds.

• LOGAN EARL JOSEF ROSE, 28, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

• NATHAN PRESCOTT RICHARDSON, 22, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• VICTOR RAYMOND DOMINGUEZ, 34, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of McDonald. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of W. Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the 184 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20. Service refused.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 4000 block of S. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

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HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

A two-vehicle accident occurred around 5 p.m. Monday on south Highway 87. The accident caused traffic to be stopped for a short time. Emergency medical services responded and provided assistance to the driver of one of the vehicles.

CITY

Continued from Page 1A

again. However, if the council member wanted to serve in a different district or as mayor, they could run for that office at the end of their two terms.”

A similar amendment to the Big Spring Municipal Charter — championed by Mayor Tommy Duncan — was discussed and voted down by the Big Spring City Council earlier this year.

“The only difference between what the charter committee presented to the council and what we’re proposing is the number of terms someone would have to sit out before being eligible to run for that seat again,” Campbell said. “The amendment the council voted down called for council members to sit out one term before being eligible again, while this amendment sets it at two terms.”

Walker said work to verify the signatures on the petition will begin soon, as the March 14 deadline to add the matter to municipal elections slated for May looms on the horizon.

“We’ve requested a list of voters from the Howard County elections

administrator, and as soon as we have that we’ll begin verifying the signatures on the petition,” Walker said. “We go through each one individually because there are certain things required for it to be a valid signature. It has to be dated, and the date it was signed has to be within 180 days.”

“We’ll go through and count the number of signatures that are valid, and if there are a minimum of 5 percent of the total number of registered voters in Big Spring, we’ll take it to the city council. March 14 is the last day to call for a May election, so we have to get the signatures verified and have 72 hours to post notice for a special meeting of the council.”

Walker said she and her staff will be double checking the signatures to make sure the count is accurate.

“The process is a bit tedious. You have to go through the list and determine if they live inside the city limits and are they eligible to sign this petition?” Walker said. “Are they a registered voter? There are people who live here who are not currently registered.”

“As soon as we have the list from the county

we’ll focus all of our attention on this petition. If we need to call people in to help, that’s what we’ll do. We’ll have two teams working on this, that way there won’t be any mistakes. If one team says a name isn’t on the list and the other team finds it, we can flag that signature and double check it. We don’t want any mistakes coming out of this. The individuals that signed this (petition) feel this is something they really want to take to an election and let the voters decide, and this office will make every effort to make sure it is done right.”

Campbell said the CCC is still waiting for the city’s charter amendment committee to make a recommendation on the issues of initiatives and referendums, which the city council has yet to weigh in on. However, should the council decide to nix those amendments, he and his fellow members will be ready to form a petition to take them to the voters.

“The city’s (charter amendment) committee is still looking at proposed initiatives and referendums,” he said. “Until that committee presents it to the city council and see what

the city council decides to do with it, we didn’t want to (work on a petition). That way we avoid a potential situation where there are two amendments and referendums — one from the city committee and one from a petition — on the ballot. I think it could get really confusing if that happened.

“We’re still waiting to see what the committee recommends to the city council with initiatives and referendums. If it never gets presented or if it’s voted down by the city council, we’ll continue (with a petition) for initiatives and referendums. We want people to understand that we’re not trying to force our will on anyone. It’s certainly not like that. We just want the citizens of Big Spring to have the chance to vote on this issue.”

Walker said the exact number of signatures needed will be established once her office receives the list of registered voters from the county. The verification process is expected to take several days to complete.

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

SURCHARGES

Continued from Page 1A

and owe the state more than \$1.1 billion.

The surcharges are part of the Texas Driver Responsibility Program. The Senate Criminal Justice Committee recently called for the program to be eliminated, calling the increasing number of drivers who are unlicensed and uninsured because of it “unacceptable.” Drivers who refuse to pay lose their licenses.

The Texas Department of Public Safety, under orders from the Legislature, began offering an amnesty program in January that allows delinquent drivers to settle up and get their licenses back by paying 10 percent of the amount they owed.

The Texas Driver Responsibility Program was approved by the Legislature in 2003 to raise money for highways and trauma care, but no money from the program has ever gone to highways because of a lack of payments, and trauma centers have received

only a fraction of what was intended.

DWI offenses carry the biggest surcharges — \$1,000 a year for three years on the first conviction and \$2,000 a year if the blood alcohol content is twice the legal limit. No car insurance and an invalid license draw a \$250-a-year surcharge for three years. Surcharges must be paid in addition to regular fines assessed for those violations.

“These surcharges are not changing behavior, not being collected and are creating a new class of criminals each day by adding to the 1.2 million unlicensed and uninsured drivers in the state,” the Senate committee said in a report to the Legislature.

Two other states that tried similar surcharge

programs abandoned them because of the huge number of drivers who would not pay.

The panel says conviction rates in Texas have decreased and dismissal rates have increased every year since the program was launched. DWI cases are now regularly prosecuted in courts as reckless driving, obstruction of highway and public intoxication, as defendants try to avoid the surcharges resulting from a DWI conviction.

This has led to a significant jump in caseloads in the courts.

“At the current statewide trial capacity,

it would take 16 years to dispose of these cases, if they all demand a trial,” the committee noted in its report.

Legislation to eliminate the program has been authored in the Senate by John Whitmire, D-Houston, chairman of the criminal justice committee, and in the House by Leo Berman, R-Tyler.

In the meantime, the amnesty program will run through April 7, offering 713,444 drivers who are delinquent in their surcharges a chance to settle up by paying 10 percent of the amount owed on all surcharges — up to a maximum of \$250.

BROWN

Continued from Page 1A

in 1940. At the time, she was a school teacher and eventually retired in 1983.

“Clarine had many interests, had a great sense of humor and was quite a character. She loved to read history with an emphasis on Texas history,” James Tom wrote of Mrs. Brown. “While she was planning her will Mrs. Brown expressed ‘great concern’ for schools and children in need.”

McDowell said it wasn’t unusual for Brown to receive a letter from an organization, which would lead her to research and usually make an inclusion in her will. After doing her research, she would often include the original letter from the organization and a letter explaining why she wanted to include them in her will.

“She was a teacher for many years,” McDowell said. “She had an interest in helping out with worthwhile causes dealing with education and history.”

Nearly all of the designated contributions were education or historical based, including libraries, high schools and churches. Brown did not have children of her own, but she loved children and wanted them to benefit from her estate, according to McDowell.

There was a portion of the funds left over, after the designated contributions, which was to be distributed to charities on the discretion of Brown’s executors, James Tom and Bob Dawson. After careful consideration they decided that the money would be presented to

the Permian Basin Area Foundation.

“The donation established four geographic funds to benefit Andrews, Ector, Howard and Midland counties,” McDowell said. “We wanted to do something that would not only honor Mrs. Brown, but also support the communities she loved.”

The Permian Basin Area Foundation received a \$1 million gift March 3, \$250,000 of which will be used to fund the Clarine and George Brown Memorial Fund for the Howard County Community, which was the last major gift from Mrs. Brown.

“Mrs. Brown was a great lady and I hope that she serves as an inspiration to others in a position to leave a lasting legacy,” McDowell said.

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Betty Lou Benson, 77, died Friday. Graveside services were at 2 p.m. today at Trinity Memorial Park.

Thomas H. Weaver, 85, died Friday. Visitation will be from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Texas State Veterans Cemetery at Abilene.

Catherine Green, 94, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Maurice “Mo” Bennett, 70, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

CRITICAL

Continued from Page 1A

not at the scene when officers arrived and no arrests have been made in the case, Lonnie Smith, police chief, said this morning.

Rios was taken to scenic Mountain Medical Center where he was stabilized before being airlifted to Lubbock.

The investigation is continuing, Smith said.

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R.D.

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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.

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- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
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 - Sign your letter.
 - Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
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A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

When we feel like the world is pulling us in several directions, Lord, may we go in Your direction. Amen

Reckless, quixotic fantasies

At what point do environmentalist liberals become accountable for the results of their policies instead of their allegedly good intentions? Why isn't President Obama held accountable for his ideologically based interference with lower oil prices?



DAVID LIMBAUGH

Obama has repeatedly shown his willingness to use his executive authority discriminatorily to implement his preferred environmental policies. On the presidential campaign trail, he bragged that he would ensure that any company that built a coal-fired plant would go bankrupt. By charging coal-powered plants "a huge sum for all that greenhouse gas that's being emitted," he would "generate billions of dollars that we (could) invest in solar, wind, biodiesel and other alternative energy approaches."

He also made no secret of his intention to pressure Americans into driving hybrids or into taking alternative means of travel entirely. His transportation secretary, Ray LaHood, arrogantly boasted that the administration would "coerce people out of their cars." In justifying the administration's push for public mass transit options, LaHood said, "We have to create opportunities for people who want to ride a bike or walk or take a street-car." Obama's ill-conceived and cost-prohibitive high-speed rail proposal is similarly fueled by this obsession.

Have we detected any concern by the administration about the economic impact of all of this? Then again, how often do environmentalist zealots concern themselves with economic realities?

Research has shown, for example, that if the United States were to adopt the Draconian cap-and-trade policies urged by the administration, it could cause a loss in gross domestic product of

\$9.4 trillion by 2035 and increase each family of four's share of the national debt by \$115,000. Never mind that the policies would have a trivial impact on future concentrations of greenhouse gases and have no meaningful impact on global temperatures, even by 2100.

Not that we need more proof, but we might recall Obama's lawless defiance of a federal court order blocking his moratorium on offshore drilling — a moratorium that would further exacerbate our lack of domestic oil production, our dependence on foreign oil and the high price of oil to the American consumer. The unmistakable lesson is that such is the myopic zealotry of environmentalists like Obama that they would implement policies virtually guaranteed to harm our economy significantly, even when they offer no promise of appreciable environmental benefits.

It is doubtlessly this factual backdrop that led Mississippi Gov.

Haley Barbour to accuse the Obama administration of favoring a run-up in gas prices to prod consumers to buy more fuel-efficient cars. Barbour cited Energy Secretary Steven Chu's comment that a gradual increase in gasoline taxes could coax consumers into dumping their gas guzzlers and finding homes closer to where they work. Higher gas prices, according to Chu, could force investments in alternative fuels and spur us to embrace "cleaner energy sources."

I think Barbour has a point, especially in view of Obama's attitude and energy policies. But we needn't get bogged down in this ongoing debate over whether Obama sets out intentionally to harm the economy or even to raise gas prices. We must, however, hold him accountable for his damaging policies, irrespective of his intentions.

On that note, The Heritage Foundation argues that Obama's policies are indeed making gas prices higher. This week, the price of a barrel of crude oil surpassed \$100 for the first time

since September 2008. Heritage acknowledges that Middle East turmoil has had an impact, but long before this chaos, experts were predicting \$4-a-gallon prices by the summer and \$5-a-gallon gas by 2012 because of "increased oil demand worldwide."

So what's the obvious solution? Well, increasing domestic oil production comes to mind. But the administration has done just the opposite — to the direct detriment of the American people.

Both Chu and White House press secretary Jay Carney have insisted that the remedy is to develop alternative energy sources to decrease our dependency on foreign oil. That's just peachy in theory and something to continue to explore for the long run. But in the short run, it is a reckless, quixotic fantasy — a tilting at windmills.

Windmills, incidentally, are not the answer. Heritage experts argue that wind and solar energy sources are miniscule and "entirely irrelevant to gasoline supply in the transportation sector." The administration's other alternative sources of energy, such as corn and electric cars, "won't help a bit." Corn-based ethanol produces less energy than gasoline, "contributes to food price increases, costs taxpayers \$4 billion to produce 2 percent of the total gasoline supply, and has dubious environmental effects." Electric cars are "prohibitively costly and environmentally suspect."

Wake up, folks. Regardless of Obama's intentions, his energy policies are, at best, grossly negligent and irrefutably damaging to Americans and our economy.

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney. His new book, "Crimes Against Liberty," was No. 1 on the New York Times best-seller list for nonfiction for its first two weeks. To find out more about David Limbaugh, please visit his website at www.DavidLimbaugh.com. To read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

It's time: Public workers come to join the new reality

Too bad the showdown with public employee unions has come to this, however long in the making. One can be pro-union and still feel a growing resentment at these workers' ability to set their own dream retirement benefits as the private sector's were being amputated. Not that they are to blame. They got what they could — it's the American way — though they overplayed their hand by resisting honest efforts to reform government, schools above all.



FROMA HARROP

The public workers respond that rather than race to the bottom, others should rise to their level. But the difference between them and others is that they got to fire their employers at the ballot box. Their payoff came in the form of future goodies that wouldn't hit the taxpayers until the politicians were long gone. Hence, retirements at age 50 and gold-plated health coverage for life.

"Do you know how much of our retirement plan we are funding ourselves?" an aggrieved teachers union official asked. To which I replied, "No, I don't know, but I happen to be funding 100 percent of mine."

Public employees are fighting to keep their old-fashioned defined-benefit plans, which have all but disappeared in the private sector. Such plans

promise to pay a set amount to each qualified retiree. If the investments can't keep up with the promises, the employer must make up the difference — in the case of government workers, the taxpayer.

Private-sector workers are now in defined-contribution plans, such as 401(k)s. These are self-funded through pre-tax deductions from the employees' paychecks. The workers usually decide how much money goes in and choose an investment strategy. If they don't contribute enough, or their investments go south, then tough luck.

The employer may help by putting in some matching contributions, though many have stopped doing that.

Federal workers, by the way, have 401(k)-like options, for which the government still offers a generous match.

Most states have laws forbidding changes in pension plans of their current workers — something private employers do all the time. But Alaska and Michigan have moved to 401(k)-type plans for their new hires, and several others have created hybrid retirement systems.

It stuns to hear policy analysts still regarding public workers as a special class deserving special protections.

For example, Teresa Ghilarducci at the New School for Social Research argues that 401(k)s are a "bad deal" for taxpayers. "Dollar for dollar," she writes, "a traditional pension plan yields more pension benefits than do 401(k) plans because 401(k) management and investment fees are

three times higher."

First off, whose dollar is she talking about?

If public workers depended on 401(k)s for their retirement, taxpayers would be spending far fewer of theirs. Really, had traditional plans provided employers a better deal, the private sector wouldn't have frozen them years ago.

There are good arguments against the 401(k). The fees can be high, as Ghilarducci notes, though they can be minimized by putting the money in a low-fee index fund.

Alicia Munnell, formerly on the Council of Economic Advisers, points out that private-sector workers tend to put too little money in their 401(k)s, and many will face a threadbare retirement.

Thus, she concludes, they are useful but not an alternative to defined-benefit plans for the public sector.

To this I ask, what makes public workers a species apart from everyone else? If 401(k)s are flawed and need fixing — or another way to provide for retirement is superior — shouldn't the remedy be available to all American workers?

There's no need to demonize government workers. But it's time they joined the rest of us in the new reality. If they don't like it, well, neither do we.

To find out more about Froma Harrop, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1861:** THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA ADOPT THEIR CONSTITUTION.
- **1888:** THE BLIZZARD OF 1888 TAKES PLACE, AFFECTING THE EAST COAST OF THE U.S. AND CAUSING MORE THAN 400 DEATHS.
- **1993:** JANET RENO IS SWORN IN AS THE FIRST FEMALE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.



THIS PERSON IS THE
PATRON SAINT OF IRELAND.

ANSWER: ST. PATRICK



Gaelic

relating to the
language of Scotland
and Ireland

*How they
SAY that in...*

ENGLISH: Luck

SPANISH: Suerte

ITALIAN: Fortuna

FRENCH: Chance

GERMAN: Glück

**Did You
Know?**



MANY PEOPLE WHO
AREN'T OF IRISH
DESCENT STILL
CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

**GET THE
PICTURE?**



Can you guess what
the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CABBAGE

SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

BY BOB WEBER JR.

Slick Smitty parked his car in a "No Parking" zone. Other cars were there and already had parking tickets on their windshields. Smitty was not issued a ticket, even though a traffic officer observed his car parked illegally. What action did Slylock Fox see Slick Smitty take that caused the officer to ignore the car but ultimately brought Smitty to court?



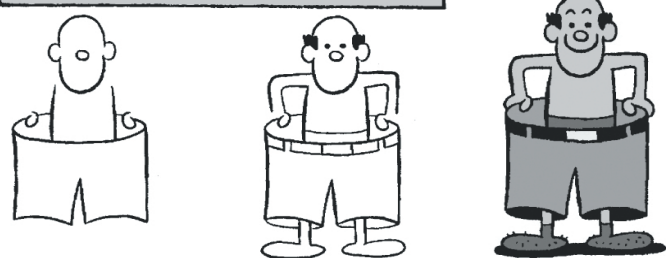
Solution -- Slick saw Smitty take a ticket from another car and place it on his own to give the appearance that his car had already been ticketed.

Find six differences between these panels.



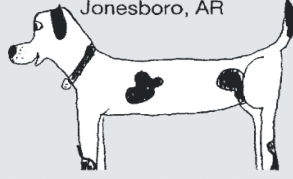
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HOW TO DRAW a man on a diet



YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Elizabeth, age 9, of Jonesboro, AR



Submit your drawings at www.kidcartoonists.com

Which one of these animals does not live in South America?

- 1) Sloth
- 2) Aardvark
- 3) Squirrel monkey
- 4) Giant anteater

Answer -- 2) The termite-eating aardvark lives on the grasslands of Africa.

Answer -- Candle, string, cat, girl's hair, hat and balloon.

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

National, world news in brief

Obama allows new military trials at Guantanamo after 2-year ban; could include 9/11 suspects

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama's decision to resume military trials for detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, will open the door for the prosecution there of several suspected 9/11 conspirators, including alleged mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed.

Obama's order, which reverses his move two years ago to halt new trials, has reignited arguments over the legality of the military commissions, despite ongoing U.S. efforts to reform the hotly debated system.

But fierce congressional opposition to trying Mohammed and other Guantanamo detainees in the United States left Obama with few options. And it forced him to reluctantly retreat, at least for now, from his promise to shut the prison down.

A handful of detainees have been charged in connection with the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on America, including Mohammed. But the charges were dismissed following Obama's decision to halt military commissions in January 2009.

Administration officials declined Monday to discuss the potential prosecution of Mohammed or the other detainees. But Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said Guantanamo is a safe location for such a trial.

Libyan warplanes launch fresh airstrikes on rebel positions around key oil port

RAS LANOUF, Libya (AP) — Libyan warplanes launched at least three new airstrikes Tuesday near rebel positions in the oil port of Ras Lanouf, keeping up a counteroffensive to prevent the opposition from advancing toward leader Moammar Gadhafi's stronghold in the capital Tripoli.

There was no immediate word on casualties, and an Associated Press reporter who witnessed the strikes said they did not appear to hit any fighters. On another front, a witness said Gadhafi loyalists

have recaptured Zawiya, the city closest to Tripoli that had fallen into opposition hands. The witness, speaking to The Associated Press by phone, said Gadhafi's tanks and fighting vehicles were roaming the city 30 miles (50 kilometers) west of Tripoli and firing randomly at homes. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he feared reprisal.

Gadhafi's regime has been using its air power advantage more each day to check a rebel advance west toward Tripoli on the main highway leading out of the opposition-controlled eastern half of the country. The heavy use of air power underlines the vulnerability of the rebel forces as they attempt to march in open terrain along the Mediterranean coast and could prompt world powers to impose a no-fly zone over Libya to deny Gadhafi that edge.

The United States and its NATO allies edged closer Monday to formulating a military response to the escalating violence in Libya as the alliance boosted surveillance flights over the country and the Obama administration signaled it might be willing to help arm Gadhafi's opponents. Europe, meanwhile, kick-started international efforts to impose a no-fly zone.

The winter that wouldn't quit: Late-season wallop buries or floods parts of New England

BOSTON (AP) — A powerful storm stunned New England and northern New York with a late-winter wallop, burying parts of the region in more than 2 feet of snow, hampering efforts to reach a small plane that crashed after the pilot reported icing problems and dropping rain that swelled rivers and swept away houses.

The winter blast also stopped commuters in their tracks on ice-covered highways.

Maine officials said the plane, a four-seat Diamond DA-40, went down near the Canadian border Monday afternoon, killing one person and injuring another. State wardens had to use snowmobiles to respond to the area, where most of the logging roads hadn't been plowed, said Steve McCausland, spokesman for the Maine Public Safety Department. A Canadian search and rescue helicopter reached the site Monday night and airlifted the injured person to a hospital in Canada.

The storm pushed the seasonal snow total in notoriously wintry Buffalo, N.Y., an inch past 100. Burlington, Vt., registered its biggest March snowfall on record, at 25.8 inches as of Monday night. In southern New England, flooding closed roads and cut off neighborhoods as rain melted snow or fell on frozen ground with no place to drain but over-taxed rivers.

A mudslide in Greenfield, Mass., forced at least two families from their homes and buried cars, the Republican newspaper reported. In Newport, N.H., an adult and three children had to be rescued by boat when the Sugar River surrounded their home. The Housatonic River near Oxford, Conn., swept parts of two homes and two cars away, authorities said.

Female service members divorce at double the rate for men in the military

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two failed marriages were the cost of war for Sgt. Jennifer Schobey.

The breaking point in her first marriage came when her husband deployed to Afghanistan, the last in a long line of separations they had endured as they juggled two military careers. Schobey married another combat veteran, but eventually that union failed under the weight of two cases of post-traumatic stress disorder — his and hers. They are now getting divorced.

Separations. Injuries. Mental health issues. All are added weights to the normal strains of marriage.

For women in the military, there's a cold, hard reality: Their marriages are more than twice as likely to end in divorce as those of their male comrades — and up to three times as likely for enlisted women. And military women get divorced at higher rates than their peers outside the military, while military men divorce at lower rates than their civilian peers.

About 220,000 women have served in Afghanistan and Iraq in roles ranging from helicopter pilots to police officers. Last year, 7.8 percent of women in the military got a divorce, compared with 3 percent of military men, according to Pentagon statistics. Among the military's enlisted corps, nearly 9 percent of women saw their marriages end, compared with a little more than 3 percent of the men.

Car bombing in Pakistan's eastern city kills 20, wounds 100, officials say

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A car bomb outside a gas station in Pakistan's third largest city killed 20 and wounded more than 100 people on Tuesday, underscoring the reach of al-Qaida and Taliban militants in the U.S.-allied nation.

The blast badly damaged the station and an office of Pakistan's state-run airline in eastern Faisalabad city, though the initial target was not immediately clear. The district in the important industrial city is home to commercial, police and government buildings.

Islamist militants seeking to overthrow the government have bombed hundreds of police, army, commercial and civilian targets in Pakistan over the past three years.

Most have been in the northwest close to the Afghan border where the insurgents are at their strongest.

Tuesday's bombing apparently caused secondary explosions at the fuel station, adding to the destruction, Faisalabad police chief Aftab Cheema said.

TV footage showed piles of bricks, and chunks of twisted metal from cars strewn across the neighborhood. Rescue workers struggled to pull victims out of the rubble.

Police investigate whether East Coast Rapist suspect is to blame for unreported attacks

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — An unemployed truck driver already suspected of sexually assaulting more than a dozen women might be responsible for other attacks that were never reported, according to authorities investigating the so-called East Coast Rapist.

Aaron Thomas, who has been linked to attacks from Virginia to Rhode Island over the past dozen years, wore sunglasses and a baseball cap Monday in New Haven Superior Court in Connecticut in his first court appearance since he was arrested last week.

Prosecutor David Strollo said Thomas made incriminating statements to a marshal about his involvement in numerous rapes. Strollo said Thomas asked: "Why haven't you picked me up sooner?" and "What took you so long to get me?"

In Virginia, Fairfax County Police Chief David Rohrer said police continue to investigate whether Thomas, 39, might have been responsible for other attacks.

Asked about the sunglasses, Thomas' public defender, Joe Lopez said police may use identification procedures such as a lineup to see whether accusers can identify Mr. Thomas as their assailant.

sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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

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Question: Isn't Hospice a place?

Answer: No. Hospice is a service that brings care into your own home.

Question: What does Hospice provide?

Answer: Medication, equipment (such as oxygen) and supplies.

Question: When do you qualify for Hospice Care?

Answer: Most people get hospice care too late. **You can qualify as much as 6 months earlier!**

Question: Don't most people die at home?

Answer: 70-80% of Americans die in facilities. Hospice patients get their wish to die at home.

Question: Can Hospice patients die in a hospital?

Answer: **If the patient chooses to, the hospice staff will make the arrangements.**

Question: Will entering a Hospice make you die sooner?

Answer: Statistical studies show that **Morphine eases pain but does NOT shorten life.**

Question: Do patients admitted to hospice ever improve?

Answer: **Yes, some patients actually improve and in time, are discharged from hospice.**

Question: Isn't Hospice only for Cancer patients?

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Anger brews over pensions

By **GEOFF MULVIHILL**
Associated Press

When Erin McFarlane looks at public workers, she sees lucrative pension benefits she doesn't ever expect to get. And it makes her mad.

"I don't think that a federal employee or government employee is worth any more than anybody else who does their job and does it well," said the Slinger, Wis., woman. She's been working a couple of bartending jobs since January, when she was laid off from her job at a Harley Davidson plant after almost a decade.

She's not alone in seeing public servants as public enemies in some ways.

It's a case of pension envy.

For McFarlane, 36, it's part of a ubiquitous discussion, at the bars where she works and on Facebook. And it's the center of some of the biggest political battles playing out in state capitals across the country as governors say their

states can no longer afford the benefits that public employees have been promised.

Government workers in McFarlane's state have rallied for weeks against Gov. Scott Walker's efforts to take away many collective bargaining rights, saying that would amount to killing the middle class.

A USA Today/Gallup poll last month found show that Americans largely side with the employees, though about two in five that want government pay and benefits reined in.

At its heart, the issue is this: Some public workers get a sweet deal compared to other workers. And it's taxpayers who pay for it.

That's set off resentment in a time when economic doldrums have left practically everyone tightening their belts. Many people have found their tax bills rising even if their earnings haven't.

A half century ago, industrial jobs at car and

steel plants provided high salaries and rich benefits. But as manufacturing moved overseas, many formerly well-paid workers had to take lower-paying jobs. By the end of the Great Recession, the economic order was undeniably changed.

"It's the government sector worker who's the new elite, the highest-paid worker on the block," said David Gregory, who teaches labor and employment law at New York's St. John's University.

For instance, most non-uniformed public employees who have worked in New Jersey for 30 years with an ending salary of \$85,000 can look forward to retiring at 55 with an annual pension of about \$46,000. Working until age 60 and a salary of \$90,000 can bring a pension of \$57,000.

And many of the New Jersey's public-sector retirees have no or low premiums for their health insurance.

Handed over to proper authorities

Calls from a motel on that side of town didn't surprise the dispatcher. Over the years he had become accustomed to sending an officer to settle disputes and thefts of service. After her description of the problem, the motel manager urged the police to hurry.

Arriving at the scene this time, however, was an animal control employee. As he followed the manager to the outer edge of the parking lot, he then understood the urgent tone of her voice.

Between the last two cars stood a lonely creature oblivious to movement or sound. Staring straight ahead, it did not react to the officer's approach. To be run over by one of the patrons would have been a cruel way to end its life.

With gloved hand, he seized the bird. Unaccustomed to being handled, it struggled against his grip.

Once he had placed it inside a carrier, the officer returned to the shelter. Upon notifying us, he said he thought he had an injured hawk.

Entering the room isolated from the kennels, we noticed an adult Cooper's hawk near the gate of a carrier. Mousy-gray above and creamy-white with rufous barring beneath, the accipiter was a wintering hawk that preys upon smaller birds.

As we brought it out of the enclosure, the slender raptor flared its long, gray tail. Enhanced by blackish bars and tipped with white, it was rounded at the end. This offered a distinct, identifying feature.

Another wintering bird of prey that is similar in color, but smaller in size, is the sharp-shinned hawk. Its tail would be noticeable for being straight across at the tip.

While one of the Cooper's' orange-red eyes seemed to focus, the



Courtesy photo

Whether hiding in the dense foliage of trees, or maneuvering its way through limbs and branches with its tail as a rudder, the Cooper's hawk is a superb hunter. Patient and secretive, the raptor uses its short wings in a flapping, glide, flapping pursuit of unsuspecting prey.

other was half opaque in appearance. Assuming head trauma from its possibly flying into a window, we looked for

any other noticeable injuries.

Closely examining the rest of its head, we saw nothing else to indicate a severe impact. The somewhat darker, black cap and lightly streaked sides of its head had not been disturbed.

Once home, and after talking with Debbie Tennyson at South Plains in Lubbock, we began an anti-inflammatory treatment to reduce swelling.

The next morning we drove the Cooper's to the wildlife center.

Following veterinarian

procedures at that time, Debbie said she would continue the treatments for the next 10 days. If the swelling subsided, and vision returned, the Cooper's hawk might have a future release.

Having promised to share with the animal control officer, the outcome prompted a phone call. New to the job, he seemed to appreciate learning more about the hawk.

In the future, he might see such a winter migrant maneuvering around and through trees in pursuit of sparrows and doves. When citizens complained about hawks hunting at their back yard feeders, he could share with them that the birds thin, overabundant populations that would otherwise suffer due to excessive competition for food.

Knowing that the raptor also hunted for rabbits, squirrels, and mice, the officer thought folks should

BIRD POOP

By BEBE McCASLAND



welcome control of rodents. Then he shared the end of a conversation he had with the dispatcher.

When the call had requested that an animal control officer should proceed to the motel, no mention had been made that the problem involved a bird. After we had left, the newly initiated employee called the dispatcher. Describing his efforts, he shared the outcome as "Avian perpetrator captured, transported and handed over to proper authorities!"

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

A lesson from Coach Paul 'Bear' Bryant

I would like to share a story today, a little more lengthy than usual, but it's well worth the extra print. Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant told it from personal experience: "I had just been named the new head coach at Alabama and was off in my old car down in South Alabama recruiting a prospect who was supposed to have been a pretty good player, and I was having trouble finding the place. Getting hungry, I spied an old cinder-block building with a small sign out front that simply said 'Restaurant.'

"I pull up, go in, and every head in the place turns to stare at me. Seems I'm the only white fella in the place. But the food smells good, so I skip a table and go up to the bar and sit. A big ol' man in a tee shirt and cap comes over and says, 'What do you need?'

I told him I needed lunch and what did they have today?

He says, 'You probably won't like it here. Today we're having chitlins, collard greens and black-eyed peas with cornbread. I'll bet you don't even know what chitlins are, do you?' (small intestines of hogs prepared as food in the deep South)

I looked him square in the eye and said, 'I'm from Arkansas and I've probably eaten a mile of them. Sounds like I'm in the right place.' They all smiled as he left to serve me up a big plate.

"When he comes back he says, 'You ain't from around here then?'

"I explain I'm the new football coach up in Tuscaloosa at the University, and I'm here to find whatever that boy's name was, and he says, 'Yeah I've heard of him, he's supposed to be pretty good.' And he gives me directions to the school so I can meet him and his coach.

"As I'm paying up to leave, I remember my manners and leave a tip, not too big to be flashy, but a good one,

and he told me lunch was on him, but I told him for a lunch that good, I felt I should pay. The big man asked me if I had a photograph or something he could hang up to show I'd been there. I was so new that I didn't have any yet. It really wasn't that big a thing back then to be asked for, but I took a napkin and wrote his name and address on it and told him I'd get him one.

"I met the kid I was looking for later that afternoon and I don't remember his name, but do remember I didn't think much of him when I met him. I had wasted a day, or so I thought. When I got back to Tuscaloosa late that night, I took that napkin from my shirt pocket and put it under my keys so I wouldn't forget it. Back then I was excited that

anybody would want a picture of me. The next day we found a picture and I wrote on it, 'Thanks for the best lunch I've ever had.'

"Now let's go a whole buncha years down the road. Now we have black players at Alabama and I'm back down in that part of the country scouting an offensive lineman we sure needed. Y'all remember, (and I forget the name, but it's not important to the story), well anyway, he's got two friends going to Auburn and he tells me he's got his heart set on Auburn too, so I leave empty handed and go on to see some others while I'm down there.

"Two days later, I'm in my office in Tuscaloosa and the phone rings and it's this kid who just turned me down, he says, 'Coach, do you still want me at

Alabama?' And I said, 'Yes I sure do.' He says "OK, I'll come.'

"I say, 'Well son, what changed your mind?'

"When my grandpa found out that I had a chance to play for you and said I wasn't going nowhere but Alabama, and wasn't playing for nobody but you. He thinks a lot of you and has ever since y'all met.' he said. "Well, I didn't know his granddad from Adam's house cat so I asked him who his granddaddy was and he said, 'You probably don't remember him, but you ate in his restaurant your first year at Alabama and you sent him a picture that he's had hung in that place ever since. That picture's his pride and joy and he still tells everybody about the day that Bear Bryant came in and had chitlins

PARENT'S CORNER

By DARRELL RYAN



with him. "My grandpa said that when you left there, he never expected you to remember him or to send him that picture, but you kept your word to him and to Grandpa,

sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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Contract Bridge
By Steve Becker
The Percentage Play
South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ Q
♥ K 10 8 2
♦ J 8 4 3
♣ A Q 10 6
WEST
♠ A K J 10 9 7 4 2
♥ 9 5
♦ 9
♣ 8 3
EAST
♠ 6 3
♥ A 7 4
♦ Q 10 6
♣ J 9 7 5 2
SOUTH
♠ 8 5
♥ Q J 6 3
♦ A K 7 5 2
♣ K 4
The bidding:
South West North East
1♦ 4♠ 5♦
Opening lead — king of spades.
Usually, when a player makes a bid — or a series of bids — he is trying to describe his hand to his partner as accurately as he can. In doing so, though, he cannot help revealing his hand to the opponents at the same time. They also have ears, and they can't be stopped from listening in on what is intended as a private conversation.
As a result, both sides are frequently able to take advantage of knowledge gleaned from the adverse bidding. Thus, in the present case, West's four-spade bid gives South vital information that he can put to good use during the play.
Assume West leads the king of spades and shifts to a club. Since South must lose a heart, his sole problem is to escape a trump loser. If he plays normally — that is, if he cashes the A-K of diamonds — he will make the contract if the trumps divide 2-2 or either defender has the singleton queen.
However, with West marked by the bidding with seven or eight spades, he is far more likely to have one or no diamonds than to have two. If he has none, South is a dead duck whatever he does, so he should proceed on the assumption that West has a singleton. And if West does have a singleton, it is twice as likely to be the nine or ten as the queen.
Accordingly, declarer should win the club with dummy's queen at trick two and lead the jack of diamonds, planning to let it ride if East follows low. If East covers with the queen and West produces the nine or ten, South should return to dummy to take a diamond finesse.
In the actual hand, this method of play succeeds, and South makes the contract.
Tomorrow: Active defense.
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RYAN

Continued from Page 7A

that's everything. He said you could teach me more than football and I had to play for a man like you, so I guess I'm going to.'

"I was floored. But I learned that the lessons my mama taught me were always right. It don't cost nuthin' to be nice. It don't cost nuthin' to do the right thing, and it costs a lot to lose your good name by breaking your word to someone.

"When I went back to sign that boy, I looked up his grandpa and he's still running that place, but it looks a lot better

now. He didn't have chitlins that day, but he had some ribs that would make Dreamland proud. I made sure I posed for a lot of pictures; and don't think I didn't leave some new ones for him, too, along with a signed football. I made it clear to all my assistants to keep this story and these lessons in mind when they're out on the road.

"If you remember anything else from me, remember this. It really doesn't cost anything to be nice, and the rewards can be unimaginable."

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

What's the cutoff line?

Editor's Note: Hundreds of Ann Landers' loyal readers have requested that newspapers continue to publish her columns. These letters originally appeared in 1999.

Dear Ann Landers:

What wisdom, consolation or advice can you give parents in their 50s who have worked hard to achieve the American dream and



ANN LANDERS

have loved their kids and tried to give them the best world ever? We are also the unhappiest.

Many of our children are unemployed drop-outs, migrants, drifters, angry with the world, on drugs, hostile toward us and out of joint with society. How much and for how long should parents pay, in terms of self-recrimination, worry, disappointment and financial support? How can we enjoy the years that are left to us now that we have more money and fewer business pressures and are still in fairly good health?

It's heartbreaking to see our kids maladjusted, disoriented and unable to cope. We can't help but feel we are to blame. After all, they are our sons and daughters. We raised them. Where is the cutoff line? Do you have any answers? — *Meant Well Parents*

Dear Meant Well: To you and the thousands of other parents who are miserable because of "what you have done" to your children, I say this: Stop beating yourselves up. You did the best you could with the tools at hand — inexperience, clay feet, the works. No one knows why some chil-

dren turn out to be champions in spite of parents who provide precious little emotional nourishment, while other kids — who are loved, wanted, tenderly nurtured and have all the so-called advantages — turn out perverse, estranged and unable to cope.

I have come to believe in a genetic factor that has been ignored by many behavioral "experts." We all inherit our nervous systems, and if the nervous system is fragile, it places severe limitations on what a person can tolerate.

Certain individuals are born survivors. They can withstand life's harshest blows and emerge the stronger for it. Others crumble in the face of minor adversity. The same fire that melts butter can make steel strong.

And let us not overlook personal responsibility. I am sick of hearing children blame their parents for their messed-up lives.

People with all sorts of handicaps can and do make it in this demanding and competitive world.

For those who are hooked on drugs, there are drug-abuse centers with trained personnel — eager and waiting to

help. For individuals who need professional counseling, there are mental-health clinics. Self-help groups do a remarkable job — and they are free:

Alcoholics Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous, Recovery, Inc. The list is endless.

So, enough of this "you damaged me, now take care of me" nonsense. It's a cop-out. Parental guilt laid on by our kids is so thick you can cut it with a knife. It serves no purpose except to perpetuate financial and emotional dependence and create a climate of hostility, punishment and ultimate failure. God helps those who help themselves.

Forget to save some of your favorite Ann Landers columns? "Nuggets and Doozies" is the answer. Send a self-addressed, long, business-sized envelope and a check or money order for \$5.25 (this includes postage and handling) to: Nuggets, c/o Ann Landers, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. To find out more about Ann Landers and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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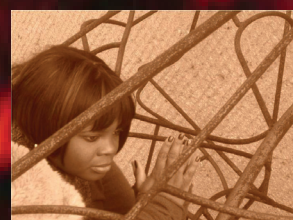
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Tech fires Pat Knight as coach

The Associated Press

LUBBOCK — Pat Knight sat in the Texas Tech locker room and lauded his bosses for the way they let him go after three disappointing seasons.

It was, after all, different from the way his famous father was ousted at Indiana more than a decade ago.

“It’s not an ugly situation,” Knight said. “I mean, we left on good terms. I’m glad it ended like that, especially after being part of the deal at Indiana. That was tough. But this is different. It’s business.”

Texas Tech fired Knight on Monday, ending a disappointing tenure for a coach who failed to lead the Red Raiders to the NCAA tournament after taking over for his father in February 2008. He will coach the Red Raiders at this week’s Big 12 tournament and then step down.

Knight said he was glad his dismissal came before the tournament because of all the potentially negative media chatter about a pending firing.

“It’s not just negative toward us. It’s negative to the university,” Knight said. “It’s not good, even for the guy that’s following ... that’s why I just told them, when they told me, ‘You’re not going to get another year,’ let’s just get it out there now. It worked out for the best.”

Knight is 50-60 in his first Division I coaching job and his third full year as head coach. He had only one winning season (19-16 in 2009-10) at Texas Tech.

Sitting in the coaches’ portion of the Tech locker room, Knight told The Associated Press the situation felt “surreal.”

“I would have loved to have another

“I would have loved to have another year to prove myself because of recruits we have coming in but I understand it’s all based on this year and stuff. You just got to move on.”

Pat Knight,
former Texas Tech men’s basketball coach

year to prove myself because of recruits we have coming in but I understand it’s all based on this year and stuff,” he said. “You just got to move on.”

Knight seemed to know he might be dismissed in comments about the Red Raiders program following a 71-68 home loss to Colorado on Feb. 23.

“We’ve lost seven games in the last minute,” he said then. “I’ve proven I can coach. I run a clean program, I don’t cheat, my players graduate and we have discipline. So if you don’t

want me here there’s going to be someone else that wants me.”

Knight met with Texas Tech president Guy Bailey early Monday and the announcement came a short time later. Bailey said it was time for a change.

“I appreciate everything Pat has done for our university, not only as a head coach, but also throughout his career as an assistant,” Bailey said in a prepared statement. “I wish

See **KNIGHT**, Page 2B



HERALD Photo/Tony Claxton

Haley Dimidjian catches a pop fly in centerfield during the Big Spring softball team’s win over Greenwood on March 1. The Lady Steers are on the road today for a date against Abilene Cooper at 5:30 p.m. The Big Spring baseball team is at home today, with a matchup against Brownfield at 7 p.m. at Steer Park.

Rangers’ Moreland finally can slow down, learn at 1B

The Associated Press

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) — Mitch Moreland took a fast track from the minors to his major league debut and then the World Series after the Texas Rangers acquired Cliff Lee in the middle of last season.

The ace left-handed pitcher is gone, but the rookie first baseman who was the Rangers’ best hitter in their first World Series is still starting.

Though this spring things have finally slowed down and Moreland is finally getting a chance to really adjust after his whirlwind on-the-job training.

“He’s getting better, he’s starting to understand a lot more,” manager Ron Washington said. “We didn’t have a whole lot of time with him last year, we had to do a lot with him on the job. We did as much as we could during the season. Now we’ve got an opportunity to improve him and he’s improving.”

When the Rangers acquired Lee and reliever Mark Lowe in a six-player deal July 9 that sent first baseman Justin Smoak to Seattle, Moreland was an everyday outfielder at Triple-A Oklahoma City.

“When that happened, it definitely made an impact for me,” Moreland said. “As soon as Justin got traded, I started playing first (again). I knew I needed to be ready over there, just had to get back into that first base mindset. I think I played 11 games before I got called up.”

Smoak, another of the Rangers’ top prospects, had already played

70 games in the majors last season. Three weeks after the trade, Moreland made his major league debut for the AL champions. He started 41 of the last 61 regular season games (37 at first base, four in right field).

Moreland played more games in the outfield than at first base in his four minor league seasons.

Washington said Moreland has good reactions, and that numerous drills at first base this spring are helping “get him light on his feet, get in rhythm.” Another goal is to shorten up throws for a “guy coming from the outfield with a long arm action.”

During the playoffs last season, Moreland started 13 games at first base and played in 15 of the Rangers’ 16 games. He hit a team-high .348, including .556 with runners in scoring position.

“It was definitely a confidence builder,” Moreland said.

“He should be very confident. He hit some pretty good major league pitching,” Washington said. “If you can hang in there on that major league pitching and you’re not confident, something’s wrong.”

In the World Series against San Francisco, Moreland hit .462 (6 for 13) and was the only Texas player with a hit in all five games. In Game 3, he became the first left-handed hitter in major league history to hit a home run in the World Series off a left-handed pitcher after never before homering off a lefty in a regular-

See **RANGERS**, Page 2B

Morrow’s overtime winner pushes Stars past Kings 4-3

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Brenden Morrow was unsure whether Mike Ribeiro passed the puck to him, or whether he simply stole it from his Dallas teammate.

Morrow’s winning goal after that exchange left absolutely no doubt the Stars are resilient enough to contend with the best of the West.

Morrow scored 38 seconds into overtime, and the

Stars rallied from a late deficit for a 4-3 victory over the Los Angeles Kings on Monday night.

The Dallas captain collected what appeared to be a back pass from Ribeiro and eluded three Kings to score his 26th goal of the season for the Stars, who have won five of their past six and haven’t lost in regulation since Feb. 22.

“It showed huge character for us to come out and get that two points,” Morrow said of the Stars’ three rallies from one-goal deficits.

“This group has been good about that all year. Last year and in years past, it was something we wouldn’t be mentally tough enough to overcome. But now we just wipe those things away and try to steal the momentum on the next shift.”

Ribeiro had a goal and two assists, and Kari Lehtonen made 20 saves as the Stars put a strong finish on their third California road game in four nights.

See **STARS**, Page 2B

Sports in brief

Big Spring Girls Softball Association

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association will conduct sign-ups for girls ages 4 to 14 to play. Sign-ups are each Saturday through March 12 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall. The registration fee is \$80 with no fundraiser. It will cover the full uniform.

Late registration after March 12 is \$10 extra. For more information, contact Lucy Ramirez at 466-3670.

Coahoma girls softball sign-ups

Sign-ups are March 10-12, 17-19 and 24-26. Times for those days are 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and the

locations are the same.

The fee is \$60, no fundraiser. Shirts and shorts will be provided. There will be a tournament hosted for every age group. Call Billy Newton at (325) 207-2640 or (432) 394-4294 or Amy Overton at (432) 816-1968 for more information.

Chicano Golf Association

The association is hosting its individual tournament at 10 a.m. March 13 at Comanche Trail Golf Course. The deadline to register is 9:30 a.m. that day.

Ragball tournament

The tourney takes place from 6 p.m. to midnight

on March 11, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on March 12 and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on March 13. The cost for a team of 10 is \$100 or \$125 for as many as you want. This helps support the Big Spring Junior High School science trip. Contact Katrina Gonzales at 816-6752 for more information.

Chubby Abrego Scholarship Golf Tournament

This tournament begins 8 a.m. April 9 at Comanche Trail Golf Course. It’s a 4-man scramble, the cost is \$60 and that includes a meal. The tournament helps fund scholarships for Coahoma High School athletes. For more information contact Rocky McCullough at (432) 213-4868, DeLloyd Hooser at (432) 816-9051 or Gene Piercefield at (432) 816-1134. Prizes will be included.

Men's Caprock Report

There are only eight more weeks of bowling for the Men's Caprock League. The lead changes hands every week. In week twenty six The Real Deal recaptured the number one spot. The top seven teams are: 1st. The Real Deal with 52 points won and 20 points lost, 2nd. United Country with 52 points won and 20 points lost, 3rd. Culligan with 46 points won and 26 points lost, 4th. Frickin' Ten Pin with 44 points won and 28 points lost, 5th. Pollard with 42 points won and 30 points lost, 6th. The Veterans 42 points won and 30 points lost, and 7th. H&S Construction with 42 points won and 30 points lost.

Bowlers of the week are: Richard Rowden 221, 232, 236 games with a 679 series, Tony Shankles 225, 213 games with a 630 series, Michael Rowden 232 game with a 610 series, Daniel Mata 255 game, Mike Reyes 207 game, Tony Sarmiento 226 game, Fred Gutierrez Jr. 209 game, Chris Munoz 241, 212, 224 games with a 677 series, Flor-

encio Hewtty Jr. 206 game, Adrian Zarate 236, 218 games with a 625 series, Jay Woolf 214 game, Steve Barker 213 game, Junior Barber 231 game, Paul Johnson 207 game, Sam Gonzales Jr. 212 game, Eddie Gonzales Sr. 204 game, Tim Helmstetter 237, 216 games with a 611 series, Josh Helmstetter 235 game, Sammy Torres 244, 209 games with a 609 series, Claud Fryar 222 game, Luis Davila 201 game, Randy Nix 200 game, Don Ewing 255, 218 games with a 663 series, Ray Gutierrez 202 game, Eddie Gonzalas Jr. 245, 236 games with a 633 series, Charles Garcia 214, 279, games with a 680 series, Phillip Ringener 244, 248, 221 games with a 693 series, Blake Lance 203 game, Tony saldana 232, 202 games, Brain Whitford 219 game, Chris Joslin 200 game, Greg Clarke 212 game, Jimmie Wood 224, 223 games with a 627 series, Jeff Kellner 203 game, John Dodd 200, 247 game with a 637 series, Jackie Lecroy 215, 209 games with a 615 series, and Justin May 227 game. Good Bowling.

STARS

Continued from Page 1B

Trevor Daley and Jamie Benn scored tying goals for Dallas in the third period, with Benn getting a short-handed break-away goal with 14:40 to play.

With leading scorer Brad Richards sidelined by an apparent concussion, the Stars had lost five straight and were on the verge of irrelevancy before their current surge, which has put them right back into a tie for fifth place in the muddled Western Conference standings.

Los Angeles never trailed in regulation, and Dallas twice gave up goals less than a minute after tying the score. None of it stopped the Stars from sticking with it in the final stop of a four-game trip against every other team in the Pacific Division.

"It took a lot of grit," Dallas coach Marc Crawford said. "It's funny, because you usually don't get many opportunities against the Kings because they play solidly defensively. That's been our secret lately, too. We haven't given up many opportunities, but there were a few mistakes made tonight on both sides, and when you made the mistakes, they ended up being

on the sticks of guys that had something going."

Willie Mitchell, Justin Williams and Kyle Clifford scored for the Kings, who lost three of four to wrap up a six-game homestand. While the Stars seized an unlikely victory, the Kings felt they gave it away.

"We're a team that if we're going to make the playoffs, we're going to need to lock games like these down," said Williams, who earned his 400th career point with an assist. "We missed an opportunity to jump ahead of these guys in the standings. On the other side, we're going to make sure that that point isn't going to stop us from making the playoffs. We have a big road trip coming up, so we're going to have to have a big push."

Jonathan Bernier made 18 saves and Anze Kopitar had two assists for the Kings, still stuck in eighth place in the West. Up next is a four-game road trip, their final significant stretch away from Staples Center during the chase for their second straight playoff berth.

"The one-goal lead going into the third gave us a good position over a team in our division," Los Angeles coach Terry Murray said. "We should be able to shut that game down."

KNIGHT

Continued from Page 1B

him success and the best moving forward."

Knight played under his father at Indiana University from 1991-1995 and later worked as a scout for the Phoenix Suns. He was an assistant for the CBA's Connecticut Pride and was a coach in both the International Basketball Association and the U.S. Basketball League.

Pat Knight was also at Indiana and at Akron University before joining his father as an assistant at Texas Tech in 2001.

The elder Knight took the Red Raiders to the NCAA tournament, but the success didn't come as easily for his son.

Knight's team won just three Big 12 regular season games in 2008-09 — one

was against No. 9 Kansas — and he openly criticized officiating twice in a three-week span. The Big 12 slapped him with a public reprimand and a one-game suspension.

In 2009, Texas Tech took 10 wins into its Big 12 opener. But one of the five losses included a 111-66 rout at Stanford, the third-worst beating in school history.

Last season, the Red Raiders won just four regular-season conference games but got to the quarterfinals of the NIT, losing at Mississippi 90-87 in double overtime. At the beginning of the season, with six seniors on his squad, Knight said he didn't deserve a contract extension if he did not get the team to the NCAA tournament.

Going into the league tournament, Texas Tech is 13-18 overall and 5-11 in the Big 12. Associate head coach Chris Beard said he hasn't had much time to reflect on the firing.

"Right now, we really are just con-

cerned about the players' well being, concerned about our families, make sure everybody's on the same page," he said on the Big 12 coaches' call. "That's all you can do. We're still the coaches here. We've got some guys we owe that to."

The Red Raiders, seeded 11th in the tournament in Kansas City, Mo., play No. 6 seed Missouri on Wednesday night.

Beard said Knight's possibly firing was never discussed with the players.

"I can honestly tell you there hasn't been a lot of sitting around wondering what's going to happen," Beard said. "Pat has been a great leader since he took over, and especially this year during a tough season. He's been a real backbone through this. It's been business as usual up until 9:25 this morning."

Bob Knight declined to comment, ESPN spokeswoman Keri Potts wrote

in an e-mail. In his comments Feb. 23, the younger Knight said he's never shied away from his famous pedigree.

"I'd have been smart if I'd just played baseball and never got into coaching," he said. "The two things I'm most proud of that I've done: I went to Indiana and played at Indiana, for my dad. And I took over for him here. So people can write and say whatever they want about me but the one thing they can't say is that I ever took the safe or easy way out."

Knight, who watched the attendance at home games wane in his tenure, said he leaves Texas Tech on an upbeat note.

"The people who did show up were great, so you can't look at the negative," he said. "I loved my 10 years here. It was great, a great chapter in my life. But I look forward to the next chapter basketball-wise. That's why I'm not down."

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

season or postseason game.

"Since I could walk, I wanted to be a professional baseball player," Moreland said. "Going to the post-season, being able to do all that in your first year, it was a great experience. I just try not to take it for granted."

Going into Monday night's spring training rematch of last year's World Series against the Giants, Moreland was hitting .412 (7 of 17) with two

homers and six RBIs in seven spring games.

Washington has made it clear that he expects Moreland to remain a regular in the lineup, even with plans for primary designated hitter Michael Young to play first base some and the acquisition of Mike Napoli, a catcher-first baseman-DH.

"Talk to the guys around him in the system every day, they talk about him having among the best makeups of anybody in the system," Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said. "Just a guy that kind of puts his head down, works hard, wants it bad, prepares, wants to improve."

The Rangers drafted Moreland in the 17th round

out of Mississippi State in the 2007 draft. He was at Double-A two years later, playing only a half-season there before beginning last season in Triple-A.

After being on baseball's biggest stage last fall, Moreland spent some time this offseason at home in Amory, Miss., the small town where his No. 16 high school jersey was retired.

"It was a lot of fun, just to go back and see the support you have from your hometown," Moreland said. "Everywhere I went, everybody was telling me how awesome it was to see me on TV, how good it was to see me back and that they were proud of me. ... It really puts everything in perspective."

Michigan high school basketball team honors fallen player with win

The Associated Press

HOLLAND, Mich. (AP) — In the end, it was a game that west Michigan's Fennville High basketball players knew would have made their fallen teammate proud.

The Fennville Blackhawks paid tribute Monday night to 16-year-old Wes Leonard on the eve of his funeral by continuing the undefeated season that Leonard had saved when he hit the game-winning shot last week before collapsing and dying.

The small community near Lake Michigan was to come together again Tuesday to remember the 6-foot-2, 215-pound teenager known for his athletic prowess in basketball and football before he died from a heart ailment.

The funeral service was to have a distinctly athletic flavor, a tribute to Leonard's love of sports.

The program, the cover of which featured a picture of Leonard wearing a white Fennville athletic jersey, was broken into segments labeled "first quarter," "second quarter," "halftime," "third quarter," "fourth quarter" and "final victory," and the service's responsive reading was entitled "Play the Way You Practice."

A large crowd, including more than 100 family members from out-of-state, was expected for the fu-

neral at Christ Memorial Church in Holland.

Fennville schools superintendent Dirk Weeldreyer said classes were canceled Tuesday throughout the district.

"We just didn't want anyone to feel conflicted about whether they should be at school or here," Weeldreyer said of the funeral. "We just felt it was important to be able to show our caring and concern for the family."

Leonard's absence overshadowed the Monday night game, which was moved from Lawrence to Hope College in Holland to accommodate a larger crowd. After the final buzzer sounded, his teammates hugged and cried.

"I think he was watching down on us," Fennville coach Ryan Klingler said after the 65-54 win over Lawrence in an emotional first-round state tournament game before a crowd of 3,500. "This is a game he'd have liked."

In tribute to Leonard, Fennville sent just four players onto the court before the opening tip. The fifth player took the court after a dramatic pause to wild cheering from the crowd.

Some players flashed Leonard's jersey number, "35" — holding up three fingers on one hand and five on the other — at moments before and during the game.

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The void-of-course Aries moon may be cause for false starts and vague expectations, giving the day an uncertain beginning. Then, like the cowboy hero riding into town in a spaghetti Western, the swash-buckling Taurus moon swoops in to save the day. What a difference a few hours (and clarity of purpose) can make.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You are bigger than your various roles in life, such as your job, family position and place within the community. An anchor of your identity may be temporarily uprooted, but this will not change the essence of who you are.

Real Estate for Sale

REDUCED!! GREAT Location. New Construction @ 507 Oak Glen- 3 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, in Highland South on approx. 1 acre. \$249,900. Call (432)816-3877 or (432)816-9215 for additional information.

Vehicles

2010 BUICK Lacrosse, 4 door, dark blue, full power, navigator system and sport wheel covers. 6,337 miles. \$26,500. Call (432)267-9510 between 9am through 9pm.

Legals

Notice of Application for Fluid Injection Well Permit Endeavor Energy Resources, L.P. is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Fusselman Gaskin Unit Lease, Well Number 1. The proposed injection well is located 2 miles West of Knott in the Gaskins (Fusselman) Field, in Howard County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 10445 to 10482 feet. LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792). #6905 March 8, 2011

Tomorrow's Horoscope

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Much of what comes your way will not appear to help your bottom line. However, it all contributes handsomely to your big picture. Accept the day's gifts graciously. They are meant for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Protect your comfort and health by spending additional time preparing and planning for the day. Note: You will be physically more sensitive than usual. Avoid oily, spicy foods.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There will be a redistribution of goods and services. Perhaps you lack something that your friend has plenty of — so ask for help. You have something your friend needs, too.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Sign up for a creative task. It will be easy for you to come up with bright ideas. You don't have to start from scratch, either. First look to the past to explore what has worked thus far, and then add your own twist.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Take a hard look at your beliefs about what your role is supposed to be in your family. Those ideas will have to expand and change to fit the new exciting era you and yours will be entering in the months to come.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What you shell out

for the sake of entertainment could be cut down substantially with a little creativity on your part. Ask loved ones for ideas, too. Go for maximum connection and closeness with a minimum expenditure.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There is much to do, and you can accomplish all of it if you put your mind to it. Avoid using your time in any way that could be considered passive or even debilitating.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You will get in better communication with your body. It is always talking to you, but lately you've been too busy or preoccupied to listen to its messages. Tune in for a boost to your health.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Someone says it can't be done. You'll be the first to find a way to prove them wrong. You will see past stereotypes, break the rules and do things in a way they have not been done before.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll spend a good amount of your energy on relationship building. This is done mostly by getting to know people — especially those you have already known for ages.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The child within you needs to break out and play. Arrange for an extended "recess." Better

yet, arrange for nothing. Spontaneously flee your tired scene in search of great fun.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 8). It's your year for promotion, and not just at work. You'll rise to new levels of energy, vitality, social prominence and romantic desirability. You'll be faced with a delicious dilemma. You'll add to your skill set in April. A kindred soul makes you laugh through the spring. August brings a windfall. You connect with Gemini and Cancer people on many levels. Your lucky numbers are: 38, 21, 24, 17 and 41.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I think I'm having an existential crisis. Here are the symptoms: Often when I look at people's activities as reported on their social networking profiles, I'm filled with intense rage. It seems everyone is having more fun than me. Then I'll read a magazine article and be infuriated by the subject of the article because she's more successful than me. I envy the neighbor's shoes, relationship and car. I burn with anger when anyone I know is promoted, has a new baby or goes on a good vacation. Is this a Saturn return? I was born July 5, 1969."

Since you've already been through your first Saturn return and your next one is more than a decade away, let's rule

that out. Your Mars in Sagittarius has been actively mixing and mingling with heavy hitters such as Uranus and Pluto, activating your envy buttons, and he has no plans to let up anytime soon. You can make the most of this transit by letting your jealousy inform you that it's time to get more fun, better shoes and a supportive relationship of your own. You wouldn't be envious if a part of you didn't know that you are capable of creating the very thing you covet.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Emily Osment began acting professionally at the ripe old age of 6. It is common for Pisces, the sign of old souls, to recognize a professional calling early in life. Her father and brother are actors, as well, paving the way and helping Osment avoid the pitfalls of show business. Her moon in Gemini indicates that Osment is a quick study with conversational flair and an eye for trends.

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.

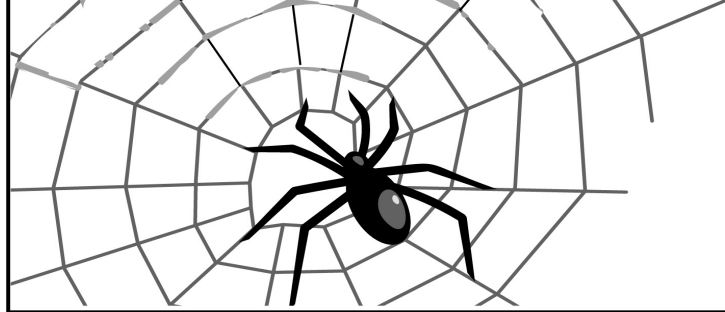
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The Spider

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

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

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



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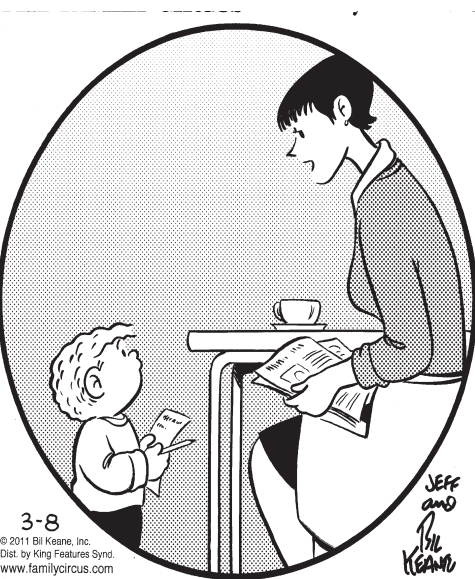
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5 :PM :30	News ABC	Alma	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	Seinfeld	Scrivner	World Business	Lyrics!	Cash Cab	Training Day, Scott Glenn	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Deck Deck	NASCAR		SportsCenter
6 :PM :30	Jeopardy!	Liena de Amor (SS)	Two Men Two Men	News	Caso Cer rado	News	King	McDonald	PBS News-Hour	70s Show	Pitchmen	Movie: The Punisher, Will Patton	Bones		Wizards	College Basketball	Women's College Basketball	
7 :PM :30	No Ordinary Family	Eva Luna (SS)	Glee	NCIS	Aurora (SS)	The Biggest Loser	Office	Chumney Cortes	American Masters	One Tree Hill	Dirty Jobs	Movie: GoodFellas, Joe Pesci	Movie: Con Air, John Malkovich	Together Game	Deck			
8 :PM :30	V	Triunfo del Amor (SS)	Raising Traffic	NCIS: Los Angeles	Herederos-Monte		Office	Light of the Southwest	House	Hellcats	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Swordfish, Halle Berry	Southland	Game	Wizards			
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10 :PM :30	News	Impacto	How I Met Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Conan	Brad Cortes	Charlie Rose	King	Dirty Jobs	Movie: GoodFellas, Joe Pesci	Southland	Wendy Williams	Hannah	Nation	NFL Live	
11 :PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Para Volver a Amar	Law & Order: SVU	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Lopez Tonight	Ministerio-Vida	World T. Smiley (Off Air)	South Pk	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Crocodile	Southland	Wendy Williams	Hannah	Nation	NBA	
12 :AM :30	Extra	Tontas Cielo	Paid	Insider	Pagado	News	Conan	Brad Cortes	Cops	American Focus 4	Auction	Movie: Crocodile	CSI: NY	2010 BET Hip Hop Awards	Wizards	NASCAR	SportsCenter	
1 :AM :30	Paid	Mujer... Cero	King-Hill	(:37) Up to	Empresa	Poker After Dark	Lopez Tonight	Light of the Southwest	Homecoming	Overhaul'n		Movie: Crocodile	Leverage	Suite Life	2010 Poker	SportsCenter		

DENNIS THE MENACE



"SORRY, YOU CAN'T HAVE A LICK, BOY. YOUR LICK IS BIGGER THAN THIS CONE."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I think you might want to ask for something for your birthday besides just superpowers."

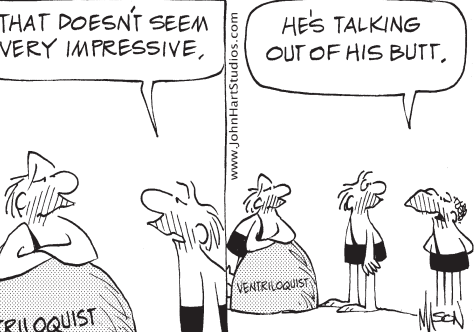
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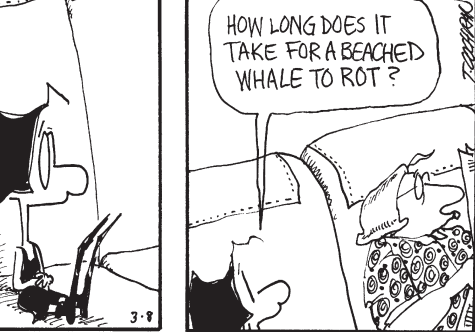
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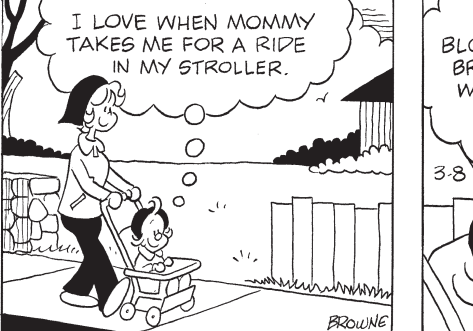
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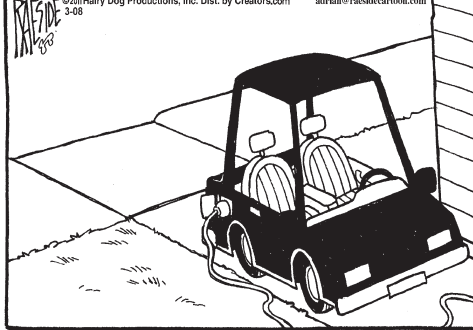
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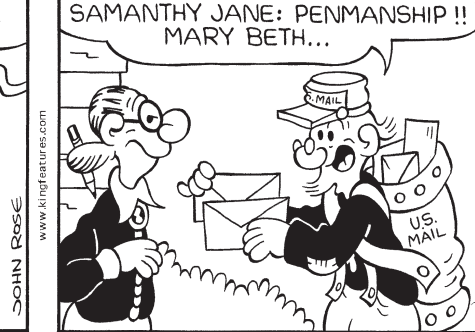
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, March 8, the 67th day of 2011. There are 298 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 8, 1862, during the Civil War, the ironclad CSS Virginia rammed and sank the USS Cumberland and heavily damaged the USS Congress, both frigates, off Newport News, Va.

On this date:

In 1782, the Gnadenhutten (jih-NAY'-duhn-huh-tuhn) massacre took place as more than 90 Indians were slain by militiamen in Ohio in retaliation for raids carried out by other Indians.

In 1854, U.S. Commodore Matthew C. Perry made his second landing in Japan; within a month, he concluded a treaty with the Japanese.

In 1874, the 13th president of the United States, Millard Fillmore, died in Buffalo, N.Y., at age 74.

In 1917, Russia's "February

Revolution" (so called because of the Old Style calendar used by Russians at the time) began with rioting and strikes in Petrograd. The U.S. Senate voted to limit filibusters by adopting the cloture rule.

In 1930, the 27th president of the United States, William Howard Taft, died in Washington at age 72.

In 1944, two days after an initial strike, U.S. heavy bombers resumed raiding Berlin during World War II.

In 1960, Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Richard M. Nixon won the New Hampshire presidential primary.

In 1965, the United States landed its first combat troops in South Vietnam as 3,500 Marines were brought in to defend the U.S. air base at Da Nang.

In 1971, Joe Frazier defeated Muhammad Ali by decision in what was billed as "The Fight of the Century" at Madison Square Garden in New York. Silent film comedian Harold Lloyd died in Beverly Hills, Calif., at age 77.

In 1988, 17 soldiers were killed when two Army helicopters from Fort Campbell, Ky.,

collided in mid-flight.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Sue Ane (correct) Langdon is 75. Baseball player-turned-author Jim Bouton is 72. Actor-director Micky Dolenz is 66. Singer-musician Randy Meisner is 65. Pop singer Peggy March is 63. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Jim Rice is 58. Singer Gary Numan is 53. NBC News anchor Lester Holt is 52. Actor Aidan Quinn is 52. Country musician Jimmy Dormire is 51. Actress Camryn Manheim is 50. Actor Leon (no last name) is 48. Rock singer Shawn Mullins (The Thorns) is 43. Actress Andrea Parker is 41. Actor Boris Kodjoe is 38. Actor Freddie Prinze Jr. is 35. Actor James Van Der Beek is 34.

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Answer to previous puzzle

ASIS	SHAM	MARSH
RUDE	HOLE	ABATE
CMON	ROOM	ARDOR
HOLDBUTTON	COARS	
	ABS	AWARE
SPOILS	CRIED	
CAROL	SHILL	MOM
ACEUPONES	SLEEVE	
MTS	ANISE	TUNES
	FRETS	NORUNS
HAIKU	CAD	
LAWN	PITAPOCKET	
ADAGE	RACK	RILE
BAKER	ANTI	ATMS
STERN	SKIN	BEST

Newsday Crossword

ON THE PLANE by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Atomizer output
 - 6 Touches on the shoulder
 - 10 Get together (with)
 - 14 Martini garnish
 - 15 Regulation
 - 16 Partner in war
 - 17 Sneaker ties
 - 18 Spoken exam
 - 19 Highway entrance
 - 20 Close behind
 - 22 And
 - 23 Country south of Can.
 - 24 Money owed
 - 26 Whittle down
 - 29 Not yet sched.
 - 32 Back-to-health treatments
 - 36 __ Baba (Arabian Nights character)
 - 37 Taco topping
 - 39 Like sundial numerals
 - 40 "Doesn't affect me at all"
 - 43 "Rumor has it ..."
 - 44 Reef material
 - 45 Numbered hwy.
 - 46 Like condensed milk
 - 48 Singer Orbison
 - 49 "On tap" order
 - 50 Nerd
 - 52 Place for 49 Across
 - 54 Horse-stopping shout
 - 57 Waiting offstage
- DOWN**
- 1 Unaccompanied
 - 2 Arrange in advance
 - 3 San Juan, Puerto __
 - 4 Wide street
 - 63 Typical TV-drama length
 - 64 Be concerned
 - 65 Foul smells
 - 66 Fascinated by
 - 67 At any time
 - 68 Source of much of English
 - 69 Mexican money
 - 70 Marsh plant
 - 71 Snow coasters
 - 5 Affirmatives
 - 6 Easy run
 - 7 Mystical glow
 - 8 Tartan pattern
 - 9 Vendor
 - 10 Long foot race
 - 11 Airline to Israel
 - 12 Shade sources
 - 13 Keyboard goof
 - 21 Evil personified
 - 25 Green-gem mineral
 - 26 Lose one's cool
 - 27 Luau greeting
 - 28 Gotten up
 - 30 Voting group
 - 31 In regard to
 - 33 Love, in Italy
 - 34 Stitch temporarily
 - 35 Scornful look
 - 37 "Yes __, Bob!"
 - 38 Spherical hairstyle
 - 41 Australian hopper
 - 42 Perhaps
 - 47 Frost remover
 - 49 Of weddings
 - 51 Rascal
 - 53 Mil. truants
 - 54 __ into shape (train)
 - 55 Sharpen
 - 56 Escape clauses
 - 58 Shade source
 - 59 Group of cattle
 - 60 Short memo
 - 61 Lattice pattern
 - 62 Tax-form IDs

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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