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TUESDAY

JUNE 28, 2011



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Fire, heat threat won't deter Pops

All precautions are being taken, committee assured

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Pops in the Park is going to keep its pop this year, officials have decided.

Organizers for the Sunday celebration held an emergency meeting Monday to address fire safety issues surrounding the \$40,000 fireworks display and decided that the event will go on as originally planned.

Jan Hansen, chairman of the Pops organizing committee, said all necessary steps

will be taken to make the fireworks show as safe as possible.

"Our fire chief, fire marshal and the chief of the volunteer fire department have all assured us they are prepared and ready to address anything that could come up," Hansen said. "We will have fire department units on hand, the fireworks will be shot off at a designated area and no

See **POPS**, Page 3B



HERALD file photo

In an emergency meeting Monday, Pops in the Park board members decided to include the fireworks display at this year's event, which is scheduled for Sunday evening.

County OKs new precinct borders

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners took their first step in the process of redrawing precinct lines, approving a proposed plan on a unanimous vote Monday morning.

Commissioners had three proposed redistricting plans to choose from, two of which were presented approximately two weeks ago by Bob Bass, an attorney with Allison, Bass and Associates — the law firm currently contracted with to assist area agencies in the process of redistricting.

"Of the two proposals, the second one best met our needs. However, it needed to be tweaked," Sandra Bloom, Howard County Elections Administrator, told commissioners during the meeting. "So we made the necessary changes to the second proposal, which eventually became proposal No. 3."

Precinct 1 Commissioner Emma Brown was not present for the meeting.

Bloom said both Bass and herself felt the third version of the project would best serve county residents.

"This proposal (No. 3) meets all of the concerns we discussed. In fact, it actually brings numbers more in-line than the second proposal did," Bloom said. "The third proposal addresses all of the concerns we had, and during the public hearing received no objections from the public."

According to Bass, the recent census has shown a number of changes in population throughout the county, all of which have to be addressed to meet federal requirements.

"Redistricting takes place after every census," Bass told the court. "We have to look at the existing political boundaries and divide the population — not including inmates being housed in the prison — which is 29,810, by the four precincts, which gives us a target population for each precinct of 7,453."

According to Bass, Precinct 1, represented by Brown, is underpopulated by 529; Precinct 2, represented by Donnie Baker, is overpopulated by 488; Precinct 3, which is represented by Jimmie Long, is underpopulated by 876; and Precinct 4, which is represented by John Cline, is overpopulated by 915.

See **COUNTY**, Page 3B




HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

An early morning tractor trailer fire at mile marker 174 today caused a section of Interstate 20 to be shut down for about 30 minutes. According to Howard County Volunteer Fire Fire Department Chief Tommy Sullivan, the 5:30 a.m. fire was caused by a mechanical failure which spread through the cab of the truck and eventually engulfed the trailer as well. The driver of the tractor trailer — identity unknown — was the only person involved in the accident. He received no serious injuries, according to Sullivan.

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Redistricting made easy for Howard College board

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

There's at least one governmental entity not sweating through a protracted redistricting effort this year.

While Howard College single-member districts will be subject to the once-a-decade redistricting like other area entities, you won't see officials working extra hours solving the problem.

That's because, simply put, they've let others do that work for them.

"Our single-member districts follow the same boundaries as (Howard) County commissioners," College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks

said. "So whatever the county adopts in this area is what we will, also."

Four of the college's seven trustees are elected from single-member districts, while the other three are elected at-large.

Meeting Monday, college trustees learned that redistricting will likely not bring any major changes to the college's boundary lines.

"County commissioners met and approved a redistricting plan (Monday) morning," said County Election Administrator Sandra Bloom, who addressed the trustees. "As far as we can tell, it will not greatly effect your single-

member districts."

Bloom said the new trustee district lines will reflect changes in the county's demographic make-up.

"Our lines have moved a little to the west," she said. "It's nothing drastic, it's just designed to reflect shifts in our total population and to maintain our minority balance."

College officials will send any proposed boundary changes to the U.S. Department of Justice for formal approval later this summer.

Contact Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

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Obituaries

Bobby Gene Fishback



Bobby Gene Fishback, 54, of Forsan died Monday, June 27, 2011, at his residence. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, June 30, 2011, at the First Baptist Church of Big Spring with Derrick Looney, pastor of Forsan Baptist Church, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 29, 2011, at the funeral home.

Bob was born Oct. 26, 1956, in Big Spring to William and Ella Bea (Lynch) Fishback. He graduated from Coahoma High School in 1975 and was active in the band. He attended West Texas State University from 1975 to 1978 and received a bachelor's degree in music education.

Bob married Jeanine Weber on March 24, 1979, in Hooker, Okla. He started his band directing career at Coahoma High School and was there for three years. He then moved to Forsan in 1982 and served as the band director for the next 15 years. He was currently serving as technology director at Forsan Independent School District.

In addition to his wife Jeanine, survivors include one son, Jerrod Fishback and wife Amanda of Tyler; one daughter, Megan Fishback of Australia; three grandchildren, Victoria, Ella and Benjamin Fishback; his mother, Bea Fishback of Coahoma; two brothers, Billy Don Fishback and wife Cecil of Brownwood and Benny Ray Fishback and wife Susan of Coahoma; four nephews, Chase, Chris, Justin and Adam Fishback; and a host of dear friends.

Bob was preceded in death by his father, William Albert Fishback, on Feb. 7, 2009.

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

Paid obituary

Harvey Dick Harmon

Harvey Dick Harmon, 49, of Big Spring died Sunday, June 26, 2011, at his residence. No services are planned at this time.

Harvey was born Dec. 28, 1961, in Fort Worth. He was a lifelong resident of Big Spring and served in the U.S. Navy in Norfolk, Va. He pursued various interests until he became medically disabled.

Survivors include one son, Harvey Dick Harmon Jr. of Odessa; one sister, Kenda Heckler of Andrews; fiancée, Janell Baker of Big Spring; and two cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur Dick Harmon and Frances Joye Minchew.

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

Police blotter

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

- JENNY MARIE LYON, 36, of 2911 W. Highway 80 Apt. 256, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.

- RITA BALDWINHOTELLING, 49, of 903 Abrams, was arrested Monday on warrants for possession of a dangerous drug and theft – more than \$50 and less than \$500.

- FEDERICO HOWARD SALGADO, 61, of 607 Caylor, was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction.

- PHILLIP JON ROSE, 28, of 1614 E. 15th St., was arrested Monday on a warrant for disorderly conduct – fighting.

- JOHN RANDALL OHARROW, 57, of 702 W. 18th St., was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.

- MARISA OLIVAS, 29, of 1419 Wood, was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction and two warrants from another agency.

- THEFT was reported:
In the 100 block of S. Austin.
In the 1100 block of N. Lamesa Highway.
In the 1100 block of Stanford.

Sheriff

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

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 79 inmates at the time of this report.

- JEREMY JAMES BALIOS, 29, was arrested Monday by DPS on a charge of assault causing bodily injury.

- ALBERT RAY BUSTAMANTE, 17, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of delivery of marijuana.

- ANDRES REYES PERCHES III, 17, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of marijuana – more than two ounces and less than four ounces.

- RITA HOTELLING, 49, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of theft of property and possession of a dangerous drug.

Mary K. Rattan

Mary K. Rattan, 91, of Midland died June 17, 2011. Visitation will be from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the Ellis Funeral Home Chapel on Tuesday, June 28, 2011.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 29, 2011, at St. Paul Methodist Church in Midland. Arrangements are under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home of Midland. Condolences can be made at www.ellisfunerals.com.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 6/29	Thu 6/30	Fri 7/1	Sat 7/2	Sun 7/3
106/77 Sunny skies. Very hot. High 106F. Winds S at 10 to 20 mph.	104/75 Sunshine. Highs 102 to 106F and lows in the mid 70s.	102/73 Sunny. Highs 100 to 104F and lows in the low 70s.	99/73 Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the low 70s.	101/74 Mostly sunny. Highs 99 to 103F and lows in the mid 70s.
Sunrise: 6:42 AM Sunset: 8:57 PM	Sunrise: 6:43 AM Sunset: 8:57 PM	Sunrise: 6:43 AM Sunset: 8:57 PM	Sunrise: 6:43 AM Sunset: 8:57 PM	Sunrise: 6:44 AM Sunset: 8:57 PM

Support Groups

TUESDAY

- Special Parents for Special Children support group meets the first Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at Elbow Elementary. Contact Kerri Rosenbaum at 432-816-3320 or kerriroosenbaum9488@msn.com

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

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

- PHILLIP JOHN ROSE, 28, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a municipal warrant for disorderly conduct – fighting.

- MARISA OLIVAS, 29, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of violation of a promise to appear, no driver's license and driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

- FEDERICO H. SALGADO, 61, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

- JOHN RANDALL O'HARROW, 57, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- JAY FRANK OLIVAS, 21, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of criminal trespass with a deadly weapon and public intoxication.

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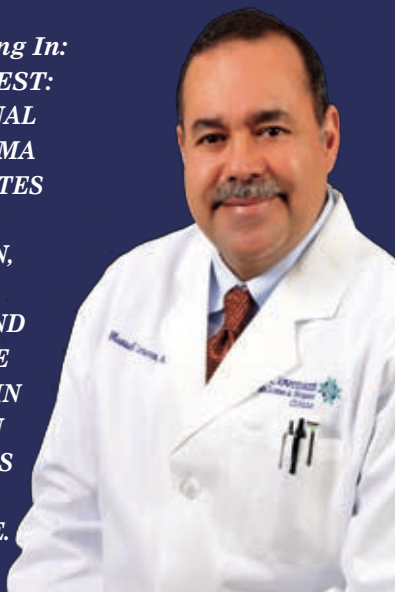
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► Take Note

• Sharon Chancy, campus curriculum coordinator at Bauer Elementary School, and her family lost their home and all their possessions to the wildfire that swept South Mountain on the evening of June 20. A fund has been established at the Big Spring Education Federal Credit Union to assist the family as they recover from this loss. To help, call 432-263-8393 or come by the FCU at 1110 Benton.

• A medical fund has been established at Big Spring Education Employee FCU for Maurine Pittman, who has been diagnosed with leukemia. She and her husband Gale are both off without pay at this time and may be for quite a while. Maurine is at Baylor Medical Center in Dallas at this time. To donate to the fund, call 432-263-8393 or come by the FCU at 1110 Benton.

• The Salvation Army is holding its annual fan drive and is in dire need of fans. Community members can donate new or used fans. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Donations can be made at the main office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

• A reception for Michael Adams, who has served 33 years in law enforcement, including 25 as Stanton chief of police, will be held from noon to 2 p.m. Friday, July 8, in the Stanton Church of Christ Fellowship Hall at 210 N. St. Mary in Stanton. The public is encouraged to attend.

• The Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) is an independent national nonprofit dedicated to helping distressed homeowners navigate financial challenges and avoid mortgage foreclosure. If you want to stop foreclosure and are in need of foreclosure help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now. The Homeowner's HOPE hotline is a counseling service provided by HPF to work with you to find a solution to your problem. HPF can provide counseling free of charge, in English and 170 other languages, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Free free foreclosure help, call the hotline.

• Scenic Mountain Medical Center is making some infrastructure repairs inside the Yellow Rose Café and has decided to close the eatery until the work has been completed.

• Coahoma High School alumni are planning an all-classes' reunion on Saturday, July 23 at Coahoma Elementary. Registration is from 9-10 a.m., followed by visiting, a short business meeting, a fund-raising auction, lunch, and a program honoring CHS Music Through the Years (band, choir, special singing and/or musical groups, etc.). Alumni with musical talents are encouraged to bring instruments or music to provide a couple of songs for attendees. Alumni are also asked to bring items for the auction. Please RSVP for the lunch (barbecue by Hog Heaven) and mail checks to: Coahoma Alumni Association, POB 488, Coahoma 79511 by July 1. Cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 for children age 8 and under. The Stampede has been reserved for additional visiting that evening for all CHS alumni from 6:30-11 p.m. Music from the 50s, 60s and 70s will be played, and food and sodas provided. For questions, contact any CHS Alumni Officer: Joyce York Baumann at 432-816-1588 or jefnjoyce@yahoo.com; Rose Thixton Teeler at 432-393-5267 or at jr-teeler@yahoo.com; Barbara Ballard Reilly at 432-263-7808; or Cindy Parrish Klaus at 432-466-1298 or cindyrklaus@gmail.com.

• Fridays are live band dance nights at Big Spring Senior Center, 1901 Simler. Senior adults are invited to an evening of fellowship (and good exercise) from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. each Friday. Cost is \$6 per person. For more information or to find out what band is playing, call the Senior Center at 432-267-1628.

• Big Spring High School Class of 1981 will have its 30-year reunion Sept. 30-Oct. 1. For information, contact Mark Warren at 903-283-3326 or 903-843-5927, or e-mail mwarren@etex.net

• The Salvation Army has funding for Texas Military Personnel now serving or has served in Iraq or Afghanistan. The military member or their family member may apply at 811 W. Fifth St. or call 267-8239. The grant is funded by the TRIAD Fund of Permian Basin Area Foundation.

• Mobile Meals is in need of volunteers to deliver meals to the homebound elderly in Big Spring. If you can donate at least one hour a week, call Macaria Cantu at 263-4016 and leave a message.

• Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. Thursdays at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.

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

• Legal Aid of Northwest Texas is accepting appointments from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

• Big Spring and surrounding counties are in critical need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

• HATS (Hope After The Sadness), an American Cancer Society Resource Room is available at First Methodist Church. This center provides information and valuable resources for those affected by cancer. This HATS ministry, established in memory of the late Rev. Dr Shane Brue, maintains a room with free hats, wigs and head coverings available for check-out by those dealing with hair loss due to cancer treatment. Other services and resources are also available. Contact the "Hat Lady," Marci Lykken at 267-2915 or the local ACS office at 432-683-6375.

• Road to Recovery, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer

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

• All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue has an account set up with Big Spring Salvage at 3608 N. Hwy. 87 for all types of metals and aluminum cans. Please tell them that your donations are for All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is also still taking weight circles off of all Purina brand dog foods. Send your Purina Weight Circles, to A.C.S.&R. at P.O. Box 871, Coahoma 79511. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is still accepting old and used cell phones and ink jet cartridges, for drop off locations in Big Spring and Coahoma, call Melanie at 267-7387.

• Christ Community Fellowship is collecting infant car seats and carriers. These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreciated.

• New Life Ministries Church of God In Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information.

• The Pet Patrol helps locate lost pets and owners of found pets. To volunteer or for more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 267-PETS (7387).

• Do you have a minute? An hour? How about making a difference in someone's life? Become a hospice volunteer. One hour a month can make a difference. Whether it visiting a patient, or working in the office, or helping with a craft, you can make a difference. We can work around your schedule. If interested, please call Michelle Coutermarsh, at Compass Hospice, 263-5999 or apply in person at 1003 E. FM 700 in Big Spring.

POPS IN THE PARK SCHEDULE
Sunday, July 3

5 p.m. - Gates Open at Amphitheater

5 p.m. - Food and Novelty Booths Open

6 p.m. - Performance by The Fab 4 Beatles tribute band

7:45 p.m. - Welcome and announcements

8 p.m. - Symphony and Flag Ceremony

9:25 p.m. - Video presentation recognizing servicemen & women

9:45 p.m. - Fireworks display

POPS

Continued from Page 1

people or vehicles will be allowed in that area ... Every precaution has been taken."

Two circumstances that could cause officials to cancel the display are high winds — Hansen said there will be no fireworks if winds exceed 25 mph — and if firefighters are called off to battle a blaze somewhere else.

With the extremely dry conditions brought on by drought, Hansen said she understands the sentiment expressed by some area residents to curtail the fireworks display this year, but believes the planned precautions and the presence of firefighters have adequately addressed those concerns.

"We try to be very diligent as far as any decision we make regarding the fireworks display," she said. "We feel like we're prepared ... and we want

everyone to have a safe, fun Fourth of July — and we want them to celebrate it with us."

Another area of concern for Pops organizers is helping people keep cool in temperatures expected to exceed 100 degrees Sunday.

"It's going to be hot and people need to be concerned about their own safety," Hansen said. "We don't want a lot of cases of sun stroke or heat stroke out there."

Hand fans will be issued to

everyone entering the Comanche Trail Amphitheater and Hansen encouraged everyone attending the event to bring an umbrella or other covering to protect themselves against the sun. In addition, misting fans will be placed at various spots and paramedic crews will be on hand to treat any heat-related cases.

Contact Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1

Under the third proposal, Bloom said the plan would have Precinct 1 over the 7,453 target by just 19 residents,

while Precinct 2 would have a deficit of 21 residents. Precinct 3 will be 128 residents under the target population, while Precinct 4 will have 129 more than the target.

"This proposal keeps Precinct 1 — which is

the minority precinct — in good shape with the voting age and current population," Bloom said. "We don't see any problem with this proposal passing with the Department of Justice."

According to County

Judge Mark Barr, the next step for the county in the redistricting process is to draw new lines for the justices of the peace.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-

7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

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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.

Bill McClellan
Managing Editor

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

Steve Reagan
Staff Writer

Amanda Moreno
Staff Writer

Thomas Jenkins
Staff Writer

ADDRESSES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Plainview, 78703
Phone: (806) 288-0387

• BARACK OBAMA

President
The White House
Washington, D.C.
20500

• KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

• **KEL SELIGER**
State Senator
Texas 31st District
401 Austin, Suite 101
Big Spring, 79720
Phone: (432) 268-9909

BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL

TOMMY DUNCAN,
MAYOR — Home:
517-4070; Office:
264-2350.

TERRY HANSEN —
Home: 263-2616;
Work (Howard
College): 264-5000.

MANUEL RAMIREZ JR
— Home: 268-9692;
Work (VAMC): 263-7361.

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— Mobile: 816-3923

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HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MARK BARR, COUNTY
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Office: (432) 517-0707.

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Yes, let's let government start controlling our medical costs

"Centralizers," a conservative wrote disapprovingly in Reason magazine, "say that the responsibility for making tough decisions about how to keep health care costs under control ought to be made by enlightened, well-intentioned policy elites." I don't know. These "elites" beat the heck out of corporate interests trying to sell me treatments I don't need or whose results can be duplicated at far lower cost.

Author Peter Suderman was touting "consumer-driven health care." When people use their own money to buy health care, the theory goes, they are more careful about costs.

One model for consumer-driven health care is a health savings account paired with a high-deductible insurance policy. The HSA lets people sock away pre-tax dollars to be spent on medical needs. What's not used that year can be invested for future health care costs. Should some super-expensive medical condition arise, the insurance plan kicks in (after the large deductible is met).

Sounds promising ... but. In reality, HSAs don't do much to control costs because the big spending occurs in the serious cases, after traditional insurance has taken over.

When trying to sell "priva-

tization" to a wary public, conservatives often imply that government smarties look down on the little guy. Sure enough, Suderman accuses the elites of believing that "individuals cannot be trusted to make prudent decisions about their own health expenses."

Whoa. Now I can be "trusted" to shop for the lowest price. But how would I know whether Dr. Discount is a skilled practitioner or that a cheaper treatment would be equally effective? The person who must be trusted is the doctor, not the consumer. If my doctor say, "I don't like your indigestion, you need an endoscopy," do I don a white jacket and say, "Doc, shouldn't we try Tums first?" I would not.

Aha, say those who would strap consumers into the medical cockpit: You will have all the information you need to second-guess your doctors. It will be on the Internet. Great. Let's treat stomach polyps with apple cider vinegar. (That's what they say at www.earthclinic.com.)

What patients and doctors need is a U.S. government website run by an enlightened, well-intentioned policy elite that studies various treatments for the same condition and compares their performance. That's how we can find effective, less costly care.

This is the point of comparative effectiveness research, and guess what? Republicans hate it. Information-wise, their backers in the medical-industrial complex want only their advertisers to stand between you and their products. For a sampling of the

passions, almost-GOP presidential candidate Mike Huckabee called comparative effectiveness research "the poisonous tree of which death panels will grow."

It's ironic that many of the strongest supporters of consumer-driven health care are opposed to comparative effectiveness research," Peter Orzag, former director of the White House Office of Management and Budget, told me. "Regardless of your vision, you need comparative effectiveness research."

One need not be a genius, or even an enlightened elite, to guess that once this information is out there, most payers will not shell out \$50,000 for a course of chemo that produces no better results than an older kind costing \$10,000. And here's where elements of consumer-driven health care can actually work:

Say the patient insists on getting the \$50,000 treatment because it takes two hours less. The insurer (be it government or private) pays \$10,000, and the patient comes up with the \$40,000 difference. Thus, consumers have the freedom to obtain whatever expensive regimen they want, but others don't have to subsidize their extravagant care.

For most of us, however, "consumer-driven health care" will mean that when the doctor says go get an MRI, the consumer drives himself to the clinic.

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.

What was Chris Wallace driving at?

I was disappointed that Chris Wallace asked Michele Bachmann whether she is a flake, but Wallace's behavior is hardly the most important issue involved. What he was trying to get at is another matter.

It is no secret that a good number of people regard Bachmann as a loose cannon who is given to gaffes and hyperbole. And it's not just Bachmann.

Indeed, there is an enormous elephant in the room of GOP presidential politics, which is that despite their individual popularity, both female contenders, Bachmann and Sarah Palin, are dismissed in many circles as cartoon characters.

I'm the last person who wants to inject identity politics into any equation, but I can't help but wonder what role, if any, their gender may be playing here — not just that they're females but also that they're attractive ones.

Though I doubt these are major factors for most people, they are for some. In fact, a number of females have suggested that other women react negatively to Palin — and presumably to Bachmann, as well — specifically because they are women.

In other critics I detect a type of soft sexism leading to a stronger reaction to their gaffes than to, say, Obama's. They regard their mistakes (or supposed mistakes) as disqualifying while casually overlooking far worse errors from the Harvard-educated Obama. Bachmann and Palin are panned as inexperienced and lacking gravitas despite their records and accomplishments, and Obama is treated as a heavy-weight despite his miserable record and voluminous verbal blunders.

But much bigger factors driving the media narrative against Palin and Bachmann than their female attractiveness are their common personal and ideological characteristics. They are

both fearless, combative, energizing and unqualified conservatives. Don't get me wrong; they are two very different people, but these shared qualities make them especially contemptible to the left and to certain elitists on the right.

Bachmann and Palin happen to be among the most conservative of the GOP field, and leftists and elitists routinely cast conservatives as a dozen fries short of a Happy Meal. They consider Reagan conservatives — just as they regarded Reagan in his day — dangerous extremists and insufficiently nuanced for prime time.

Those who pull no punches in challenging the Beltway dogma that got us into this calamity are quickly shunted aside by the elites. But they are adored by mainstream Americans, who are unencumbered by the numbing realities of Washington that prevent far too many career politicians from taking immediate action to reverse our nationally suicidal course.

So if you think Palin, Bachmann and other such candidates sound exercised and frustrated at times, you should be grateful because that is precisely how they ought to sound.

We should be far more concerned with those who are taking this national nightmare in stride. Where are their hearts?

The fact is that both Bachmann and Palin are far more qualified and dispositionally equipped to be president than Barack Obama. Both have acquitted themselves very well in debates; Palin has a very impressive executive record, with plenty of gravitas (see "The Undeclared"), and Bachmann has powerful academic credentials.

I realize that some conservatives believe that Palin and Bachmann are unelectable or not particularly qualified for one reason or another. But even here, I think we are allowing the liberal media to control the narrative.

Who can seem electable after the media get done savaging them? And what mainstream conservatives do the media not

savage? Conversely, look at how they treat the Republican candidates who pay homage to global warming and other leftist pieties. Why are they always deemed electable?

We must reject the conventional wisdom that in general, only a centrist can be elected. But this is especially true of 2012, when all bets are off because we are facing an unprecedented national crisis that has been given to us by the very politicians accepted by the conventional wisdom as bursting with presidential DNA.

The voters are smart enough to know that centrism won't save this nation. If elected, a centrist Republican would not only fail to energize the base; he most likely wouldn't do what it will take to reverse this crisis.

If anyone should be worried about his extremism, it's Obama, yet we hear nothing about that from the media or the elites. Despite their cover-up, the world's worst-kept secret is that Obama is a disaster and is in deep trouble with the electorate.

Finally, for those who persist in misjudging Obama as unrivaled in mental acuity, please consider that you are using the wrong yardstick. In electing a president, wisdom and sound judgment are vastly more important than raw intelligence.

All of the GOP candidates have more than enough intelligence to serve as chief executive, far more common sense and wisdom than Obama, and an incomparably better handle on the steps necessary to preserve the republic and the willingness to take them.

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney. His latest book, "Crimes Against Liberty," was No. 1 on the New York Times best-seller list for nonfiction for its first two weeks. Follow him on Twitter @davidlimbaugh and 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.



FROMA HARROP



DAVID LIMBAUGH

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A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

All is not lost, Lord, when we walk with You.

Amen

Mother Nature evicts a woodpecker

Every time the woman came out her front door, it stopped. Patiently waiting while she moved her sprinkler to another part of the yard, it did not resume its arduous task until she had crossed the porch and entered the house.

Scraping and pounding, the small black and white bird then continued chiseling a quarter-sized hole in a large limb. Its pecking and hacking at the inner lining was endless.

If the woman could have watched the excavation process, she would have noticed the worker had made significant progress. Half the length of its body was now inside.

Soon the sounds were muffled. The homeowner would have no idea the bird had tunneled downward some six to 18 inches. When it had felt the depth was adequate, it cleared a large hole at the bottom for a future nest site.

As it had labored to remove the debris created by its efforts, the bird was often coated with dust and tiny specks. Fortunately, bristle-like feathers protected its nostrils. Able

to withstand the shock to its skull from the constant pounding, the woodpecker had used its hard, pointed bill to create a new home.

As the woman watered her flowerbeds in the relative cool of June mornings, she would have heard nothing. Since the activity of construction had ceased, incubation by both parents had begun at the bottom of the tunnel.

Weeks passed. Then, while on vacation, the homeowner missed the numerous trips to and from the hole as the parents fed their nestlings. To watch the young turn into inquisitive fledglings to see them at the entrance as they viewed the outside world.

Listening to the evening news upon her return, the woman heard the proverbial warning of high winds. "There goes our chance for a shower," she thought.

The next morning she was once again tending to her flowers and the watering of her yard.

A movement in the shrubbery alerted her to the presence of a young bird.

After she called to say a bird had blown out of its nest and she had it, I asked the woman to describe it. "It has red on top of its head and weird feet," she replied.

"Each foot has four toes, two forward, two backward," she continued. "And long, curved

nails," she added. Telling her I thought she had a woodpecker, I explained in order to move upward and around tree trunks and limbs, the bird needed such a configuration. The shorter of the back toes could turn at a right angle and help the bird cling to bark.

When the woman said she had a difficult time chasing and catching the bird, I asked how long she had had it. "Long enough to put it in a cage," she replied.

Most likely it was a ladder-backed woodpecker. In our area year-round, the species is both beneficial and entertaining.

Its long, sticky tongue easily catches ants, aphids, caterpillars, flies and the larvae of moths and wood-boring beetles. To watch it start at the base of a tree, spiral around the trunk while climbing upward, then cling horizontally to a limb while its back is to the ground, is to watch nature's acrobatic wonder. Finally, after reaching the top of the tree, it flies to another and repeats the performance.

Driving to the other side of town gave me a few minutes to consider what the woman had told me. "Blown from the nest, hard to catch, in a cage."

Inside her home, the confined woodpecker was frustrated and starting to damage its

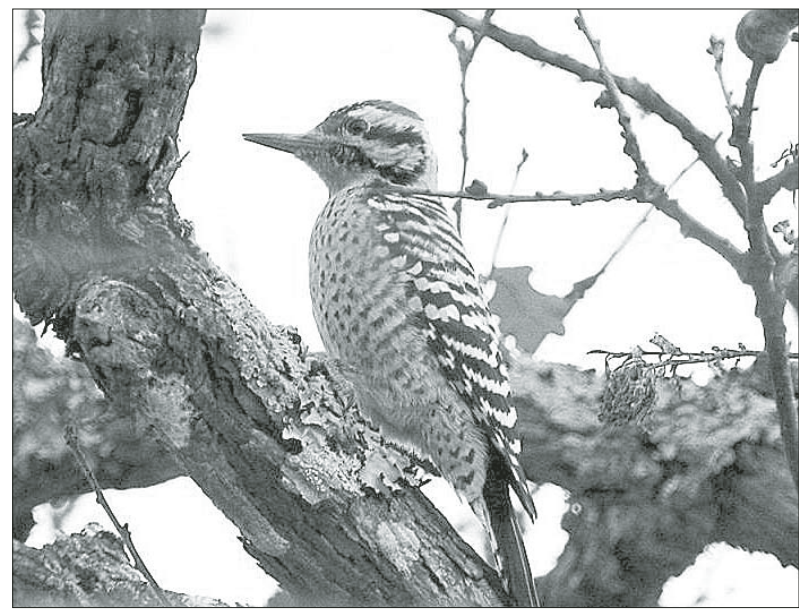
feathers. After reaching inside the enclosure, several attempts were made before catching the elusive youngster.

Its black back, enhanced with white bars, suggested a ladder in appearance. Spotted with white, its black wings gave an illusion the zebra coloration continued. Even its black tail had outer feathers that were barred. Compared to its striking black and white striped face, its lower parts were an almost dirty white, with blackish spotting on its sides and breast. An emerging red cap indicated it was a male.

Placed on a branch in a familiar tree, the ladder-backed woodpecker worked its way toward the trunk.

Scooting up to the next branch, it continued ascending the old growth tree. By the time I joined the woman on the porch, the youngster had attracted the attention of its parents.

As cavity dwellers, the woodpecker family would have sought to create a nest inside a



Courtesy photo

A year-round resident of the southwest, the ladder-back, also known as the "desert woodpecker," is often found in canyons and stands of mesquite. To remain upright on the side of a tree, the bird uses its pointed tail feathers as props while its long, strong toes with curved nails grip the bark.

limb or trunk of a tree. Their offspring would not have blown out of what is considered a conventional nest.

Frightened and threatened by human intervention, the woodpecker had evaded capture for nearly half an hour. Chasing it after discovering it hidden in a shrub, the woman learned how fledglings, and even some juveniles, hide and wait for their parents to bring food.

Such a robust evasion

of capture was essential to its health and preservation.

Since woodpeckers are rarely kept in captivity, it needed to be returned to nature as soon as possible. In this instance, only a momentary pause was inflicted on a centuries-old process.

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



BIRD POOP

BEBE McCASLAND



PARENT'S CORNER

DARRELL RYAN

It's not easy being green

I have recently read quite a bit about "going green" in the things we do. However, I would like to share the article that made me understand why we need this green movement.

It went like this: In the line at the store, the cashier told the older woman she should bring her own grocery bag because plastic bags weren't good for the environment. The woman apologized to her and explained, "We didn't have the green thing back in my day." The clerk responded, "That's our problem today. The former generation did not care enough to save our environment."

She was right — that generation didn't have the green thing in its

day. Back then, they returned their milk bottles, soda bottles and other bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled. But they didn't have the green thing back in that customer's day.

In her day, they walked up stairs, because they didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. They walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time they had to go two blocks. But she was right. They didn't have the green thing in her day.

Back then, they washed the baby's diapers because they didn't have the throw-away kind. They dried clothes on a line, not in an energy gobbling machine — wind and solar power really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes

from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that old lady is right; they didn't have the green thing back in her day.

Back then, they had one TV or radio in the house — not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief, not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen, they blended and stirred by hand because they didn't have electric machines to do everything for you.

When they packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, they used a wadded up old newspaper to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, they didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. They used a push mower that ran on human power. They exercised by working so they didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But she's right; they didn't have

the green thing back then.

They drank from a fountain when they were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time they had a drink of water. They refilled their writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and they replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But they didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a

See RYAN, Page 6A

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National, world news in brief

Records show nuke plants were designed for 40 years, now talk of century life span

ROCKVILLE, Md. (AP) — When commercial nuclear power was getting its start in the 1960s and 1970s, industry and regulators stated unequivocally that reactors were designed only to operate for 40 years. Now they tell another story — insisting that the units were built with no inherent life span, and can run for up to a century, an Associated Press investigation shows.

By rewriting history, plant owners are making it easier to extend the lives of dozens of reactors in a relicensing process that resembles nothing more than an elaborate rubber stamp.

As part of a yearlong investigation of aging issues at the nation's nuclear power plants, the AP found that the relicensing process often lacks fully independent safety reviews. Records show that paperwork of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission sometimes matches word-for-word the language used in a plant operator's application.

Also, the relicensing process relies heavily on such paperwork, with very little onsite inspection and verification.

After convictions, ex-Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich to face very real prospect of prison

CHICAGO (AP) — Stunned and nearly speechless after hearing the verdicts against him, former Illi-

nois Gov. Rod Blagojevich will wake up Tuesday to the stark reality that he is likely headed to federal prison within months, leaving behind his wife, two young daughters and comfortable home in a leafy Chicago neighborhood.

A jury convicted him Monday on 17 charges, including trying to sell or trade President Barack Obama's old Senate seat and attempting to shake down executives for campaign cash. The convictions carry a combined maximum prison sentence of around 300 years, but legal experts say a federal judge is likely to send him away for around a decade, give or take a few years.

An irrepressible Blagojevich had said before the retrial began that he refused to even contemplate the prospect of prison. But red-eyed, his face drawn and frowning, he hurried out of the courthouse after the verdict was read.

The broke and impeached ex-governor told reporters that he and his wife, Patti, "have to get home to our little girls and talk to them and explain things to them and then try to sort things out." His two daughters are 8 and 14.

Uncharacteristically, the 54-year-old Democrat had little more to say, adding only that he was stunned by the verdict.

White House insists economy, not politics, on Obama's agenda at aluminum factory in Iowa

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama will tout manufacturing as a key to America's economic success during a trip to Iowa, as he seeks to counter criticism of his policies by Republican presidential candidates who have descended on the state.

The trip Tuesday is Obama's first to Iowa since announcing his re-election campaign earlier this year. The White House insists the stop will be about the economy, not politics, though staffers are emphasizing Obama's ties with the state that jump-started his presidential bid with a victory in the 2008 caucuses.

"Iowa is clearly a special place for the president," White House deputy communications director Jen Psaki said. "He spent a significant amount of time there and really got to know a lot of people across the state when he was running."

Obama will tour Alcoa Davenport Works, an aluminum-producing factory, then speak with workers. The White House says the company's products are exported around the world, and are produced by highly skilled workers who earn wages higher than the national average.

The stop is part of Obama's effort to promote job creation in the midst of an economic slowdown that has reduced hiring and weakened his job approval standing with the public. After last month's weak unemployment report showed an uptick in the jobless rate to 9.1 percent, the White House is warily eyeing the release of fresh jobs numbers Friday.

Blaze nears northern N.M. nuclear lab as concern grows over spot fires near homes

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. (AP) — Firefighters worked through the night hoping to put out spot fires erupting ahead of a wildfire in the mountains above the northern New Mexico town that is home to a government nuclear laboratory.

"That's the biggest threat we have right now to homes in the community," Deputy Los Alamos County Fire Chief Mike Thompson said late Monday of the fires that left hillsides above the town of Los Alamos glowing.

The ominous orange was visible at night from deserted Trinity Drive in Los Alamos, from which 12,500 residents were evacuated.

The evacuation was so calm and orderly that there wasn't even a traffic accident, Police Chief Wayne Torpy said.

A crew that had been working at the Arizona wildfires took over efforts at the New Mexico fire Monday, about 18 hours after the blaze started. It has quickly grown to 44,000 acres — or 68 square miles — and ignited a spot fire on lab property.

Another firefighting team was expected to arrive Tuesday because of the potential for the blaze to more than double in size.

Greece faces general strike before vital parliament vote on new austerity package

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Workers across Greece walked off the job Tuesday at the start of a 48-hour general strike as lawmakers debate a new round of austerity reforms, which must be passed if the country is to get crucial bailout funds.

More than 5,000 police were to guard Athens' city center, as thousands of protesters hold a rally outside Parliament, chanting anti-austerity slogans. Another demonstration is scheduled to start later in the morning.

Everyone from doctors and ambulance drivers to casino workers and even actors at a state-funded theater are set to join the two-day strike or hold work stoppages for several hours.



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Elderly woman has to remove diaper for airport pat-down

DESTIN, Fla. (AP) — A gravely ill 95-year-old woman had to remove her wet diaper at an airport so that she could be patted down by security screeners and nearly missed her flight, her daughter said Monday.

During the pat-down, Transportation Security Administration inspectors found a mass on Lena Reppert's upper thigh, her daughter Jean Weber said.

The mass was a hard spot on the diaper that had become heavy and concentrated in that place because it was wet. Reppert, who is in a wheelchair, had to be patted down because she couldn't go through a scanning machine,

and the TSA agents said they could not search the diaper while she was still wearing it, Weber said.

Reppert couldn't board a June 18 flight from Northwest Florida Regional Airport in Fort Walton Beach to Detroit until she was cleared by security, Weber said. Reppert, who has leukemia and had been living in the Florida Panhandle, was returning to her native Hastings, Mich., where she wants to be buried.

Weber, a waitress, said she was told the diaper would have to be removed so the agents could finish their pat-down. They had not packed any extra dia-

pers in their carry-on because her mother has never needed backups before.

"She had to remove them," Weber said. "She would not be cleared with those Depends on."

TSA officials said the agency's inspectors did nothing wrong and followed proper procedure. Spokesman Nick Kimball also said the officers did not force Reppert to remove the diaper.

"While every person and item must be screened before entering the secure boarding area, TSA works with passengers to resolve security alarms in a respectful and sensitive manner," Kimball said.

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RYAN

Continued from Page 5A

24-hour taxi service. They had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And they didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza joint.

But isn't it sad, the current generation laments how wasteful the old folks were just because they didn't have the green thing back then and hadn't even thought of it. Does make you wonder, doesn't it?

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



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News in brief

Inmate escapes from Walker County Jail

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — An inmate awaiting a new trial after his 2006 murder conviction was overturned has escaped from a Southeast Texas jail and is believed to be armed.

The Walker County Sheriff's Department says Trent De'Ray Archie was held on a drug charge when he knocked down an unarmed guard and fled early Tuesday from the jail in Huntsville, about 60 miles north of Houston.

Chief Deputy Butch Davis told The Associated Press that an unidentified personal apparently left Archie a car, with a gun in the vehicle. Davis did not immediately provide a license plate number.

Some historic buildings coming down in San Benito

SAN BENITO (AP) — A hurricane-damaged former police station and jail in a South Texas city will be demolished for safety reasons.

San Benito Mayor Joe Hernandez says it's about time that the buildings came down.

City commissioners recently reviewed the project to demolish the structures, along with the city's first airport hangar and sewer holding tanks from the 1920s.

Hurricane Dolly damaged the old police station's roof in July 2008. The Valley Morning Star reported late Monday that Assistant City Manager Chuck Jalomo says it probably would cost more to clean up the moldy building than to rebuild. The structure has been closed for more than a decade.

Legislature expected to take up final items

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Legislature is expected to take up the two most essential items of the special session.

Both the House and the Senate are expected to make final votes Tuesday on a fiscal matters bill that will maintain school funding and one that will revamp a hurricane insurance program. Gov. Rick

Perry first called the special session to pass these two bills 29 days ago.

The school funding bill will formalize the \$4 billion cut in education spending and how it will be spread across school districts. That is necessary to balance the state budget.

Dallas County commissioners to meet after FBI search

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas County commissioners were scheduled to meet as usual Tuesday, one day after the FBI searched the office of a six-term commissioner, his top assistant and the home and office of a political consultant.

Public access was limited Monday to the downtown building where the commissioners meet, a structure formerly known as the Texas School Book Depository, after law enforcement personnel and vehicles were seen outside the office of John Wiley Price.

The commissioner said he didn't know the reason for the search.

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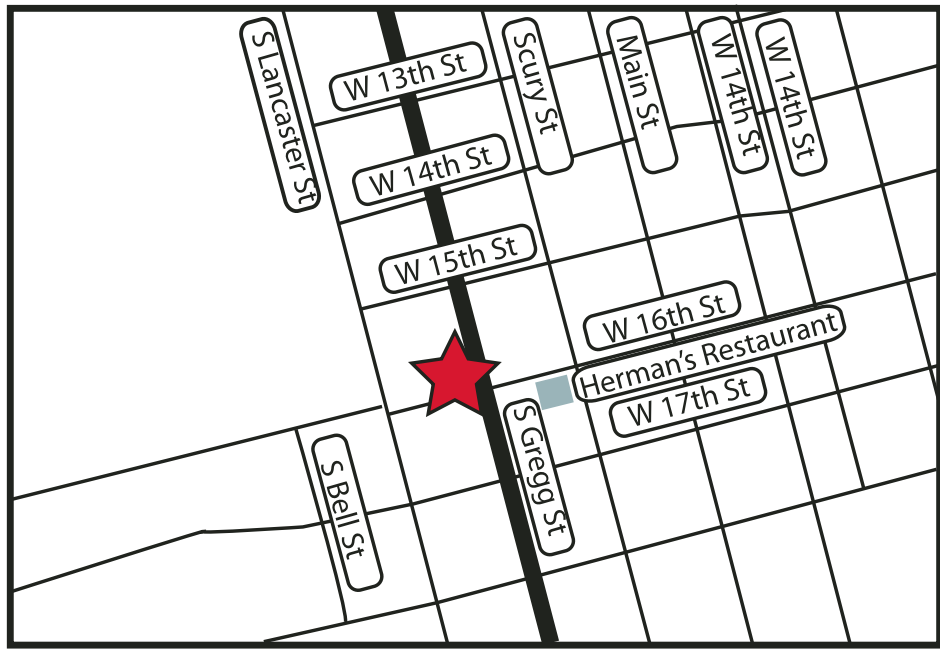
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Forsan and Coahoma prepare for season

By **ROBERT GRIFFIN**
Sports Editor

With football still officially months away, things are already heating up in District 2-2A. Coahoma, which went 7-4 last year, looks for a repeat, possibly an improvement this season. Coach Trey Gardner's Bulldogs will be led by Tanner Ruiz, last year's offensive MVP. And, by the way, the experts are picking him to retain that title and lead the Dogs back into the playoffs.

Running back Sheigh Cravens is also expected to be a beast in the backfield again in 2011. Look for these two players to really light up the scoreboard.

Meanwhile, Texas Football Magazine does not seem to have as much respect for the Forsan Buffaloes, picking them to finish fifth out of the seven teams in the district.

This is interesting when you consider two of the three stat leaders returning are from For-

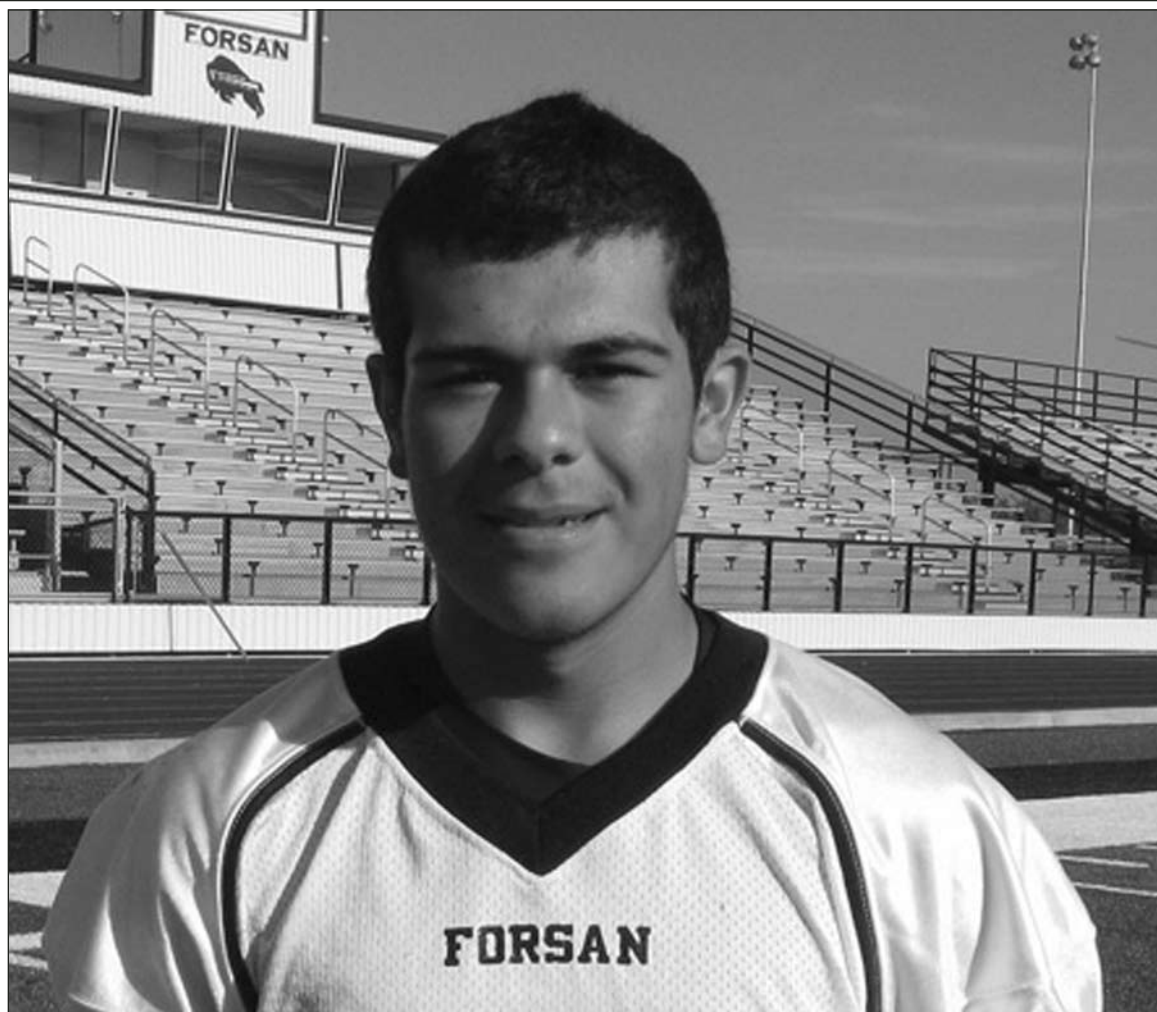
san. Quarterback Foster Burchett threw for 1,418 yards last year, with 14 completions reaching the end zone.

Ty Johnson had 1,320 total yards at running back and found paydirt 13 times.

But, it is a brand new year. If too much is based on last year's performance, then it truly does not look good for Forsan, who fell to Coahoma in their lone meeting last season 56-0. However, with the talent the team has on offense, Coach Jason Phillips' squad likes it can explode at any time and they are coming off of a 47-36 win in the season finale against Hawley.

This year, things could be a little different as linebacker Patrick Robles looks to make his senior year special.

Is it possible the 56-0 rout can be repeated? Of course it is possible, just not likely. Mark it on every calendar in the county. The two teams will square off Oct. 14 in Forsan.



Courtesy photo

Forsan's Patrick Robles hopes to make this season a little brighter for the Forsan Buffaloes. The linebacker is listed in Texas Football as a player to watch this year.

Gamecocks one win away from national championship

OMAHA (AP) — South Carolina's Christian Walker didn't know until a half-hour before the first pitch whether he would even be able to play in Game 1 of the College World Series finals.

After his adventurous run from first base to home in the 11th inning Monday night, the Gamecocks are one win away from their second straight national championship.

Two throwing errors

allowed Walker to score the tie-breaking run in a 2-1 victory over Florida that looked a lot like the Gamecocks' dramatic 13-inning win over Virginia on Friday.

Walker was determined not to miss it.

"I knew it was going to take a lot of pain for me not to play," Walker said. "For the last half of yesterday, I didn't think I was going to be able to."

Game 2 in the best-of-three finals between the

Southeastern Conference rivals is Tuesday night.

The Gamecocks won their 15th consecutive NCAA tournament game and 10th in a row in the CWS, both tied for the longest streaks all-time.

Like they did against Virginia, the Gamecocks (54-14) performed defensive magic late, throwing out two runners at home plate in the bottom of the ninth and another in the 10th.

"In close games like that you just try to keep fighting," said left fielder Jake Williams, whose perfect throw kept Cody Dent from scoring the winning run in the 10th. "You try to make the plays you can make and get someone to move them over and get them in. You've got to do little things in close games like that and hopefully come out in the positive. We've been able to do that."

South Carolina coach

Ray Tanner didn't put Walker into the lineup until after he saw Walker hit five home runs in batting practice. Walker is batting .355 to lead the Gamecocks.

Walker, who fractured his left wrist during his last at-bat Friday, singled up the middle to start the 11th — his second hit of the game. Florida catcher Mike Lunino threw into center field as Walker stole second. Walker took off for third and was award-

ed home after Bryson Smith's throw from the outfield bounced away from Dent and into the stands.

"The most frustrating thing is that we had opportunities to win this game and the team that beat us was ourselves," Florida's Brian Johnson said. "So we just have to come out tomorrow and get ready to play."

John Taylor (8-1) got the win and Matt Price,

See **CWS**, Page 2B

Supporters ask Obama to pardon deceased heavyweight

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional backers of a pardon for Jack Johnson, the world's first black heavyweight champion who was imprisoned nearly a century ago for his romantic relationships with white women, say his prosecution was racially motivated. Johnson made the same argument 90 years ago while in prison, records at the National Archives show.

In a March 25, 1921 letter to Attorney General Harry Daugherty, Johnson said the prosecutor in his trial made "flagrant appeals to passion, race hatred and moral infamies."

During his 10 months in

prison, Johnson sought parole, filed an application with the president seeking clemency, and wrote letters to the attorney general seeking early release. And he almost pulled it off, even though this was at the height of the Jim Crow era. Daugherty publicly raised the possibility of letting Johnson out a couple of weeks early, before announcing on June 28, 1921 — 90 years ago Tuesday — that Johnson would have to complete his sentence.

Now, under a black president and black attorney general, the Justice Department is against pardoning Johnson. In the last session of Con-

gress, both houses of Congress passed a resolution urging a pardon pushed by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., "to expunge a racially motivated abuse of the prosecutorial authority of the federal government." But President Barack Obama has not acted on it.

While Obama hasn't commented publicly on the matter, the Justice Department's pardon attorney told McCain and King that the DOJ's resources are best used for pardoning the living. Still, the lawmakers are making another run at the pardon this year.

On June 23, 1921, The As-

sociated Press reported that Daugherty was considering a pardon for the boxer in time for a heavyweight fight between Jack Dempsey and Georges Carpentier the following month. Eyeing a comeback, Johnson wanted to attend the fight, which would become the first \$1 million gate in boxing history.

"Mr. Daugherty said Johnson had been a model prisoner and a 'liberty bonus' has been suggested," the story reported. "The Attorney General declared he would not consider pardoning Johnson to enable him to attend the championship fight, but that, of course, if any clemency

was extended, Johnson's time would be his own."

But he changed his tune five days later. According to an AP account, the AG said that "considering the crime he did not feel that the parole privileges should be extended merely to allow Johnson to witness the world's title fight Saturday," even though he had said just a few days earlier that wasn't the reason he was considering letting Johnson out.

Johnson was hated by many white Americans, especially after retaining his title by defeating white boxer Jim

See **PARDON**, Page 2B

BRIEFS

Free junior tennis clinics

Free Junior Tennis Clinics will be held every Monday night from 5:30 to 6:30 at Figure 7. The cost is free and will be conducted by local coaches, players and pros.

Just bring a racquet (some will be provided to those who do not have one). Balls and water will be provided. For more information, call Dana Jones at 432-557-3831.

Howard County A&M Club westexags shootout July 16

A golf tournament with a four-man Sherrill scramble format will be held July 16 at the Comanche Trail Golf Course. The start time will be 8 a.m. The cost is \$75 per person (carts not included). Respond by July 1 to westexags@hotmail.com or by calling 432-263-7969.

Volleyball camp July 25-28

BSISD's volleyball camp will be held July 25-28, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. The camp is open to students in grades 3-8 for a fee of \$25. T-shirts can also be purchased for \$10. Call 432-264-3662 for informa-

tion.

Football skills lineman camp July 16

Coach Tony Johnson, former TCU line coach, will be hosting a one-day camp for linemen in Big Spring July 16. The camp, which will run from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m., will cost \$55 per player and is open to players 9-18 years-old.

For more information, contact Coach Johnson at 913-620-0167.

BSHS cheerleader ragball tournament July 8-9

Big Spring High School Cheerleaders will be having their ragball tournament at Roy D. Anderson Complex July 8 from 6 p.m. until midnight and July 9 from 8 a.m. until the last game is played.

To register contact Kelli Wash at 213-3206, Brandi Borchardt at 816-2334 or Val Robertson at 213-8315.

Registration deadline will be July 8 from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the complex. Fees are \$10 per person. Remember to get your receipt.

A full concession will be open.

DODGERS

Continued from Page 2B

“To date, LAD has remained current in its obligations,” Ingram wrote. “However, LAD is now on the verge of running out of cash, the results of a perfect storm of events.”

McCourt has taken out loans to stay afloat this season but his mounting financial problems were expected to balloon this week, when he owed tens of millions of dollars to meet payroll and other obligations.

About \$20 million is slated for current and deferred compensation by Thursday, while more than \$18 million is required as a reserve to prefund money to be paid to players in 2012 under terms of the collective bargaining agreement, court documents show.

The bankruptcy filing lists assets of up to \$1 billion and debts up to \$500 million. The Dodgers are obligated to pay \$92.5 million in guaranteed player contracts, not including signing bonuses, and the team has nearly 300 full-time employees.

It also noted a \$67 million loan taken out against the parking lots at Dodger Stadium was set to mature Thursday. It was expected McCourt was going to refinance the loan.

Among the 40 largest unsecured claims, totaling about \$75 million, are former Dodgers slugger Manny Ramirez at nearly \$21 million; New York Yankees outfielder Andrew Jones at \$11 million; pitcher Hiroki Kuroda at \$4.4 million; shortstop Rafael Furcal at \$3.7 million; and the Chicago White Sox, who are owed \$3.5 million for outfielder Juan Pierre.

Selig said the Dodgers’ financial woes were “caused by Mr. McCourt’s excessive debt and his diversion of club assets for his own personal needs. We have consistently communicated to Mr. McCourt that any potential solution to his problems that contemplates mortgaging the future of the Dodgers franchise to the long-term detriment of the club, its loyal fans and the game of baseball would not be acceptable.”

McCourt blames his financing woes on Selig’s refusal to approve a multibillion-dollar TV deal, which would have provided McCourt with \$385 million up front and was vital to a binding settlement reached this month by him and ex-wife Jamie McCourt as part of their divorce.

NBA still at odds

NEW YORK (AP) — Commissioner David Stern agrees with his players: NBA teams need to do a better job sharing revenues.

They disagree over when that should happen, and what input the players should have in the system.

Players contend that a revenue sharing plan belongs in the new collective bargaining agreement. Owners say the plan is coming, but only after the CBA is settled.

“We’re of the opinion

that any shortfalls that they’re suffering, that they can be rectified through revenue sharing,” players’ association executive director Billy Hunter said last week. “And while we’ve had some discussions about revenue sharing, they have not disclosed to us an iota of what their proposed revenue sharing plan might look like, what the contribution would be coming from the owners of the respective teams, et cetera.”

Owners will be briefed

on both collective bargaining and revenue sharing Tuesday during a Board of Governors meeting in Dallas, with the CBA set to expire at the end of Thursday.

Owners and players then plan to meet Wednesday and/or Thursday, perhaps giving them one final chance to avoid a lockout.

The union would surely like details of the board’s revenue sharing discussion, but isn’t likely to get much.

“Whether or not that

would precipitate a move by us beforehand or whatever has yet to be seen,” Hunter said.

“But, yeah, we would definitely like to know and see it.

“We’d like to not only see it, but to incorporate it as far as the collective bargaining. It should be incorporated in the CBA.”

Not so, says Stern.

“We can’t make the final push on revenue sharing until we know what the yield or not of the labor deal is,” he said.

Coyotes back on the market

PHOENIX (AP) — A person close to the situation says Chicago businessman Matthew Hulsizer is out as a potential buyer of the financially troubled Phoenix Coyotes.

The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the matter, said Monday night that Hulsizer has withdrawn for good from talks with the city of Glendale over a new lease.

Hulsizer’s decision leaves no publicly identified potential buyer for the franchise, which was purchased by the NHL out of bankruptcy in the fall of 2009.

However, NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly said there are others in line to try to buy the team.

“There are ongoing negotiations,” Daly said in an email to The Associated Press. “While it is unfortunate that Matt has decided to go in a different direction, the city of Glendale has chosen to pursue an alternative structure with one or more potentially interested purchasers. We do not view this as a step backwards in the process. The situation has been moving in this direction for quite some time now.”

Glendale recently committed \$25 million for the second year in a row to keep the team playing at Jobing.com Arena for the upcoming season.

The Phoenix Business Journal first reported that Hulsizer had pulled out of the Coyotes deal.

Two representatives of

the city of Glendale didn’t immediately return calls seeking comment.

The withdrawal is the latest twist in a complicated saga that began when then-owner Jerry Moyes took the franchise into bankruptcy in May 2009 with a scheme to sell to Canadian billionaire Jim Balsillie, who would move the team to Hamilton, Ontario.

That plan fell apart under legal challenge from the NHL, which wound up being the only bidder for the team.

The club has struggled mightily financially since it was moved from Winnipeg in 1996.

Hulsizer eventually emerged as the leading candidate to buy the team and in prolonged talks hammered out a lease

agreement that would have the city paying \$100 million to the new owner for parking rights and arena operation.

The Goldwater Institute inserted itself into the debate and issued a series of caustic news releases and comments from its executive director Darcy Olsen.

sudoku

ANSWERS

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

POPS IN THE PARK

Sunday, July 3rd

Comanche Trail Amphitheater

Featuring Music By

The Big Spring Symphony And Chorus

Schedule Of Events:

5:00 P.M. ~ Gates Open at Amphitheater

5:00 P.M. ~ Food and Novelty Booths Open

6:00 P.M. ~ Performance by

The Fab 4 Beatles Tribute Band

7:45 P.M. ~ Welcome and Announcements

8:00 P.M. ~ Symphony Concert and

Flag Ceremony

9:25 P.M. ~ Video Presentation Recognizing

Servicemen & Women

9:45 p.m. ~ Fireworks Display

Presented By:

Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Big Spring Herald, Big Spring Symphony, City of Big Spring, GEO Corrections-Big Spring Correctional Center, HEB, Robinson Drilling of Texas,

“94.3” The Fuse -The Official Radio Station of Pops In The Park, K-Best 95.7 & KBST 1490, Weeks Broadcasting Inc. - KBYG 1400 AM & 106.3 FM - KXCS 105.5 FM

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What's the Difference?

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



Answers: 1. Bigger cloud 2. Missing sun 3. Birds in sky 4. Extra tree behind man 5. Shirt flowers lighter

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

• 1898: JOSHUA SLOCUM BECOMES THE FIRST PERSON TO CIRCUMNAVIGATE THE EARTH ALONE.

• 1950: THE UNITED STATES DECIDES TO SEND TROOPS TO FIGHT IN THE KOREAN WAR.

• 1954: THE FIRST ATOMIC POWER STATION OPENS AT OBNINSK NEAR MOSCOW, RUSSIA.

New Word

trek

long journey made on foot

ART FACT



THIS FRENCH IMPRESSIONIST ARTIST WAS BEST KNOWN FOR HIS LANDSCAPE PORTRAITS.

ANSWER: CLAUDE MONET

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Journey

SPANISH: Viaje

ITALIAN: Viaggio

FRENCH: Voyage

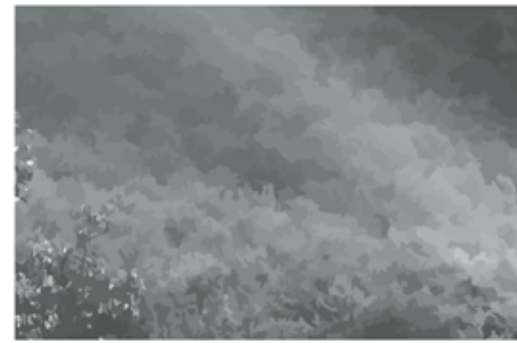
GERMAN: Reise

Did you know?

THE HIGHEST WATERFALL IN THE WORLD IS LOCATED IN VENEZUELA AND IS CALLED ANGEL FALLS.



GET THE PICTURE?



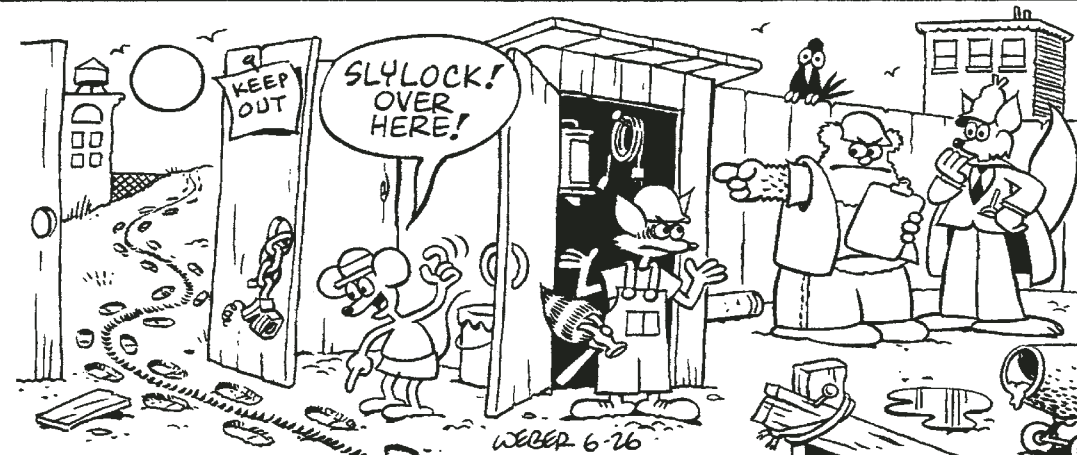
Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: RAINBOW

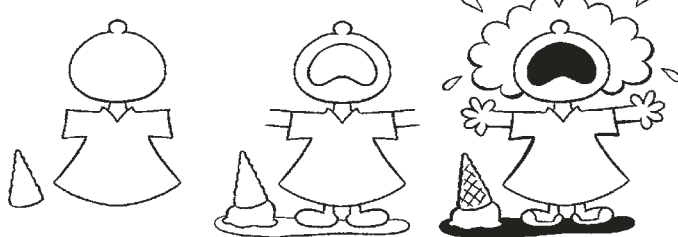
SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

BY BOB WEBER JR

Tools were stolen from a construction site. Max Mouse found footprints and a tire track, leading him to believe there were two thieves -- one walking and the other riding a bike. Even though Slylock Fox believes both tracks are related to the robbery, he suspects there was only one thief. Why?

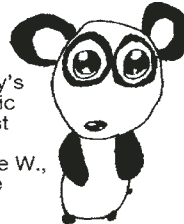


HOW TO DRAW a little girl crying



YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Christine W., age 8

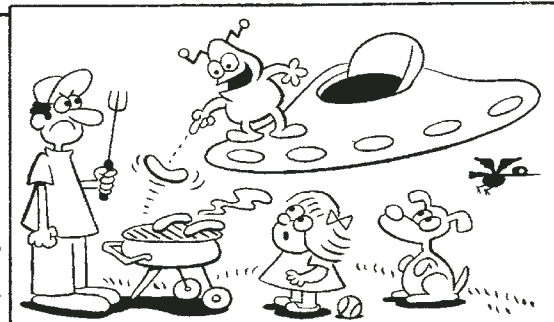


Submit your drawings to www.kidcartoonists.com

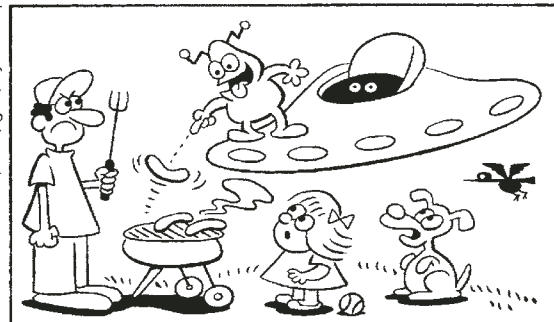
Which of the following correctly finishes the sentence: All spiders ...
a) have six legs.
b) spin silken threads.
c) grow teeth.
d) inject venom into prey.
e) can fly.
f) lay eggs.

ANSWER: (f) (d) (b) (c) (e) (a)

Find six differences between these panels.



www.kidcartoonists.com



Answer -- Smoke, bird, grill, eyes in spaceship, dog and tongue.

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

Tomorrow's Horoscope

The moon joins Venus and Mars in the realm of Gemini, opening the floodgates of information, which will be communicated in many ways. As the sun and Mercury, the messenger, are in Cancer, some of those ways are subtle and even psychic, but that doesn't make the information any less useful or practical. Believe in what you perceive!

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You care a great deal -- perhaps even more than is healthy for you or effective for the situation. Consider dialing it back. What would happen if you let go just a little? Trust in life's process.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You may not be entirely happy with the way you come across when the pressure is on. Give yourself credit anyway. You're being much too hard on yourself these days.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). At this point, it would be nice to have a friend to help you understand your life -- someone with objectivity, wisdom, emotional intelligence and a gift for gentle communication.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Some jobs take only a matter of seconds, and yet you still can't be bothered. That's because you're so focused on what matters to you now. You can always clean up the rough edges later.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your sense of self-worth will improve when you consciously decide to raise it up. Write down 10 things you like about yourself, and carry the list in your wallet. It's more valuable than money.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You are genuinely interested in others -- where they are coming from, their stories and what they know. So you don't think first about how it all applies to you; you just listen.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You will be somewhat disappointed in the

actions of those around you. They can't help that their perceptions are so different from yours, and they are only acting on what they know. Still, you feel the need to educate them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Do what makes you happy. When your heart sings, everything else in your life sways to the rhythm. Nothing beats the feeling. It's like you suddenly know why you were born.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You check in with people and let them know that you care about their happiness. If there's anything you can do to increase the satisfaction of those around you, you do it, and it doesn't feel like work to you at all.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll notice the needs and contributions of others, so mention what you see. Your comments will foster a mood of involvement and connection. There's a culture of caring that is building all around you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Fear is quite often self-preserving and lifesaving. So don't berate yourself for feeling afraid, even if others are not afraid of the same thing. Perhaps your wariness shows greater intelligence.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Most people are too focused on themselves to give you the praise and encouragement you so deserve now. It will boost your self-esteem to imagine what others would be saying if they were more perceptive and tuned in to you.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 28). You achieve a heroic level of maturity. You forgive the past and rewrite it to support the success story of your future. Through wisdom and discipline, you attain a goal in July. Romance is alive in August. Your social schedule is packed with fun in September. Invest in yourself in October. Financial gain comes in April. Aries and Pisces people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 50, 25, 2, 15 and 1.

ASTROLOGICAL

QUESTIONS: "Someone sent me a high school group photo on a social networking site. I went to 'tag' the others who appear in the photo and was very surprised to see that their names didn't come up on my list of friends. This is how I learned they had 'unfriended' me. I have no idea why. The two who 'unfriended' me are the most successful people in my graduating class, and I have been nothing but appropriately praiseful and congratulatory. They seem to still be friends with all of the others in our little group. It just seems so mean and uncalled for that grown adults would be so exclusionary, and I have no idea what I did to deserve it. I'm a Leo with a family, a career and a full life. That this bothers me so much is the most embarrassing part. But it just seems silly to approach them and ask them why, don't you think?"

Being excluded hurts, and when it has to do with people from your childhood, it hurts even deeper. Exact your revenge by becoming even more self-realized, internally strong

and successful in all the ways that matter most to you. Go get 'em, tiger! Er... I mean, lion!

C E L E B R I T Y PROFILES: Academy Award-winner Kathy Bates is having a ball playing the no-nonsense southern CEO Jo Bennett on the hit television series "The Office." Bates' Mercury in Gemini shows high intelligence and sharp wit. Mars in Virgo is about as hardworking as they come. Saturn in Leo indicates her most profound life lessons have and will be learned in show business.

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

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I'm a young woman who is living at home for the summer before moving away in the fall. Here's my dilemma: Several months ago, I excitedly arranged for my long-distance boyfriend to live with my family and get work nearby. Unfortunately, now that he's here, I find that I simply don't want to be in a relationship with him anymore. He hasn't done anything wrong. I'm just a different person from who I was a couple of years ago when we began dating. Now his little flaws that I so desperately convinced myself to overlook seem increasingly like deal breakers. I'm planning to give the relationship a few more weeks to make sure this isn't simply a phase, but

frankly, I don't expect my feelings to change. How do I handle this? I realize that hurting him is inevitable, but breaking up with him in the middle of the summer and making him move out of my parents' home could seriously undermine his efforts to pay for his own education.

What's even worse is that my friends and family are putting serious effort into accepting him into the family because they expect us to get married. I hate that they may form an attachment to someone I am now planning to break up with. I want to do the right thing and cause the least possible amount of hurt. Please help me, Annie. -- Hearts Don't Break Even

Dear Hearts: Don't worry about your friends and relatives. They will manage. But you do need to talk to your boyfriend as soon as possible and explain that the relationship isn't going to work out. Some pain cannot be avoided, so better now than later. Be as gentle as possible. Apologize for uprooting him. And, since his livelihood is currently dependent on his living arrangements, it would be gracious if your parents would allow him to stay temporarily while he looks for a place of his own. Offer to help him search. The fact that you are moving away in the fall will make this easier on both of you.

Dear Annie: I hope you will print my pet peeve so retailers will take notice.

No matter where I shop, no one knows how to properly give change. If I pay \$20 for a \$15.95 purchase, the change is handed to me in a pile of coins, bills and a receipt. I have to fumble to count it.

I cashiered many years ago. I would give the customer the nickel, saying, "And five cents makes 16," and then count out the remaining four dollars, saying, "Seventeen, 18, 19, 20." Most cashiers today can't add or subtract without the register to do the thinking for them. In addition, when the transaction is complete, I am told cheerfully, "Have a good one." Have a good what? Whatever happened to a simple, "Thank you, and please come again?"

And last but not least, why is the receipt so long?

Imagine how much paper could be saved if they skipped the surveys and advertising. -- Inger from N.H. who Hates To Shop

Dear Inger: One function of this column is to allow the readers to let off a little steam now and then. Hope you feel better.

Dear Annie: The letter from "Disappointed Grandmother" reminded me of a story I heard many years ago. Two elderly ladies were talking about gifts given to the grandchildren. Esther lamented that she had sent money to each of her grandchildren for Christmas and didn't get a single thank-you note. Paula proudly said, "Every one of my grandchildren came personally to thank me for their gift." At the look on Esther's face, Paula simply smiled

and said, "I didn't sign the checks." -- Michigan Grandma

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie-mailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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