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TUESDAY

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VOLUME 106, NUMBER 190

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HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno
 After being closed for several months, Elrod's opened its doors to the community for the company's Furniture Warehouse Liquidation Sale this morning. The selection included furniture for every room. Pictured are a group of people claiming tags for their selected pieces to make their purchase. Elrod's is located at 2309 Scurry St.

Big Spring native to be laid to rest

Garcia killed in Afghanistan

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer



Staff Sgt. Garcia

Funeral services will be held Wednesday in Louisiana for a Big Spring native who was killed in action in Afghanistan. U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Michael "Mickey" Jonathan Garcia, 27, was killed July 4 during an attack on his unit in Wardac Province, Afghanistan.

Garcia, an explosive ordnance disposal specialist in the Army, was assigned to the 63rd Ordnance Battalion, 52nd Ordnance Group (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), 20th Support Command (CBRNE), Fort Polk, La. at the time of his death, a Department of Defense release stated. He was on his third tour of duty in the Middle East, having previously served twice in Iraq.

He was born Aug. 1, 1983, in Big Spring to David and Mary Ann Garcia and grew up in Bossier City, La. After graduating from high school there in 2001, he attended Louisiana Tech University before joining the Army in 2004.

As an EOD specialist, Garcia was tasked with making safe unexploded ordnance, improvised explosive devices, chemical, biological and nuclear ordnance and weapons of mass destruction.

He earned several decorations while in the service, including the Bronze Star Medal; Bronze Star medal with valor device, Purple Heart Medal (third award), NATO medal and Army Commendation medal.

He is survived by a son, his father and five brothers and sisters. Funeral services with full military honors will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday in Shreveport, La.

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

Weekend shaping up to be a fun, full one

By AMANDA MORENO
 Staff Writer

It's time for another packed weekend, Big Spring. A screening of "Ghostbusters" downtown by the Big Spring Film Society as well as live music and a comedy act will be taking place Friday and coincide with Under West Texas Skies.

News West 9 will be broadcasting live from Big Spring for their 4, 5, 6 and 10 p.m. newscast.

According to Debbye ValVerde, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce executive director, there will also be food and other vendors located downtown during Under West

Texas Skies. "At this time we have met our limit on food vendors, but we are still needing other vendors. We are looking for people with arts and crafts, sandals or any other kind of unique, interesting items to sell," ValVerde

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54414 79720

Aggie fundraiser set Friday, Saturday

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer

Consider it a two-day celebration of all things Aggie. The Howard County A&M Club will hold its 12th annual scholarship fundraiser Friday and Saturday and organizers promise a variety of events for the fans of the maroon and white of Texas A&M.

Money raised during the two-day event will go toward funding scholarships for Howard County students attending the university.

"We currently support nine students with 15 endowed scholarships," said Corey Green, an organizer of the event. "We hope to add two more endowed scholarships this year."



Former Texas A&M head football coach Jackie Sherrill will be a special guest of the Howard County A&M Club during its 12th annual scholarship fundraiser Friday and Saturday.

Attendees will get to meet said. The two-day affair kicks current football glory, Green off Friday at 6 p.m., when

former A&M Head Coach Jackie Sherrill, who led the Aggies to a string of national rankings and bowl appearances, and the 12th Man Kick-Off Team will be the featured guests at the "Old Army Night" meet-and-greet event at Moss Creek Ranch, 1601 S. Moss Lake Road. Hors d'oeuvres will be served, and persons attending the event will be able to get autographs and have their pictures taken with Sherrill and the team.

Cost is \$25, Green said. Persons can sign up at www.12thmankot.org/old-armynight

Sherill and current A&M quarterback Ryan Tannehill from Big Spring will be the special guests at a four-man

See **AGGIES**, Page 3A

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Police/Sheriff/EMS

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

- JESUS CERVANTES JR, 29, of 3619 Connally St., was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- LORENZO DELUNG WESLEY, 34, of 601 N. Scurry St., was arrested Monday on a charge of evading arrest/detention, assault: family violence threat or offensive touch.
- ROBERT RUBEN SANCHEZ, 47, of 1023 Stadium Avenue, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- SCOTT RANDALL WHITLOW, 33, of 1407 1/2 Settles St., was arrested Monday on a charge of assault — aggravated with deadly weapon.
- SAMMY FERRELL, 49, of 509 N. Johnson St., was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- BURGLARY OF HABITATION was reported in the 1100 block of E.

16th Street.

- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 400 block of NW 11th Street.
- ASSAULT was reported in the 500 block of S. Aylesford Street.
- In the 300 block of E. 13th Street.
- In the 700 block of Pine Street.
- THEFT was reported in the 500 block of W. Sixth Street.

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 67 inmates at the time of this report.
- LLOYD CALVIN SOLES JR, 43, was arrested Monday by DPS for revocation of probation and imposition of sentence, possession of marijuana.
- LORENZO DELUNG WESLEY, 33, was transferred to the county jail Monday by BSPD on charge of assault class C family violence, evading arrest detention.

- JOSHUA BASURTO, 18, was arrested Monday by HCSO, on a charge of revocation of probation and imposition of sentence fail to identify.
- JESSE DEAN CONTRERAS, 25, was arrested Monday by HCSO on a charge of unauthorized use of a vehicle.
- ROBERT RUBIN SANCHEZ, 46, was transferred to the county jail Monday by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- SAMMY FERRELL, 49, was transferred to the county jail Monday by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- SCOTT RANDALL WHITLOW, 33, was transferred to the county jail Monday by BSPD on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.
- DAVID EUGENE MANRIGUEZ, 51, was transferred to the county jail Monday by BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana less than two

ounces.

- GLORIA K. LUNA LOZANA, 43, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana less than two ounces.

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 3300 block of Auburn. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported at Third and Goliad. Service refused.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 200 block of Johnson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Hwy 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2700 block of Larry. One person was transported to SMMC.

Take Note

• Big Spring resident Matt Fowler was involved in a vehicle accident June 20 and is listed in critical, but stable condition at Odessa Medical Center. He has undergone two procedures and two surgeries, with more to come. The family is in need of assistance with medical expenses. They ask for anyone wanting to help to send donations to P.O. Box 3315, Big Spring, 79720, Attn: Angela Morrow. The family extends its gratitude for all gifts.

• The Texas Department of State Health Services, 501 Birdwell Lane, Suite 28B, will be offering "Back to School" immunizations from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, July 25 through Wednesday, July 27. Bring your child's immunization record. If you have the letter your child received from school, bring that also. No immunizations will be available July 18 through July 22. Normal immunization hours, Monday through Wednesday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., will resume Aug. 1.

• 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.

• 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.

• 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.

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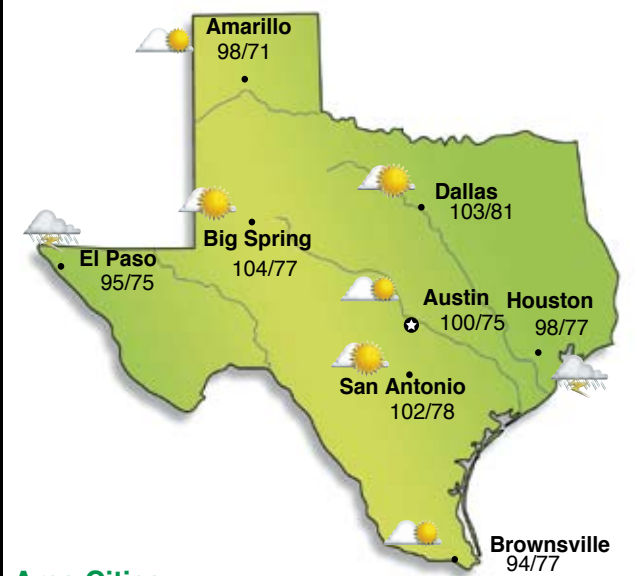
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Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast				
Wed 7/13	Thu 7/14	Fri 7/15	Sat 7/16	Sun 7/17
104/77 Sunshine. Very hot. High 104F. Winds SSE at 10 to 20 mph.	106/78 Mainly sunny. Highs 104 to 108F and lows in the upper 70s.	106/78 Sunny. Highs 104 to 108F and lows in the upper 70s.	105/76 More sun than clouds. Highs 103 to 107F and lows in the mid 70s.	103/76 Abundant sunshine. Highs 101 to 105F and lows in the mid 70s.
Sunrise: 6:49 AM Sunset: 8:54 PM	Sunrise: 6:49 AM Sunset: 8:54 PM	Sunrise: 6:50 AM Sunset: 8:54 PM	Sunrise: 6:51 AM Sunset: 8:53 PM	Sunrise: 6:51 AM Sunset: 8:53 PM

Texas At A Glance



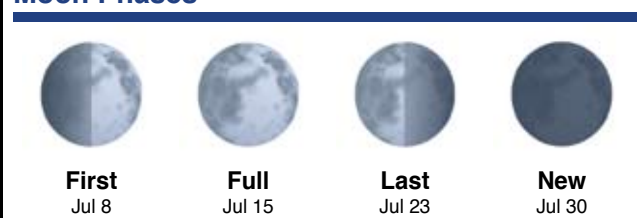
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	104	80	sunny	Kingsville	98	74	pt sunny
Amarillo	98	71	pt sunny	Livingston	103	74	t-storm
Austin	100	75	pt sunny	Longview	101	78	t-storm
Beaumont	96	76	t-storm	Lubbock	100	74	pt sunny
Brownsville	94	77	pt sunny	Lufkin	104	75	t-storm
Brownwood	105	78	sunny	Midland	103	78	mst sunny
Corpus Christi	95	77	pt sunny	Raymondville	98	76	pt sunny
Corsicana	101	78	mst sunny	Rosenberg	97	76	t-storm
Dallas	103	81	mst sunny	San Antonio	102	78	mst sunny
Del Rio	103	80	mst sunny	San Marcos	99	75	mst sunny
El Paso	95	75	t-storm	Sulphur Springs	100	79	pt sunny
Fort Stockton	100	75	windy	Sweetwater	103	78	sunny
Gainesville	101	78	mst sunny	Tyler	101	77	pt sunny
Greenview	100	78	mst sunny	Weatherford	103	79	sunny
Houston	98	77	t-storm	Wichita Falls	106	78	pt sunny
Miami	89	79	t-storm				

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	96	74	t-storm	Minneapolis	80	63	pt sunny
Boston	85	61	mst sunny	New York	87	67	sunny
Chicago	76	60	pt sunny	Phoenix	102	74	mst sunny
Dallas	103	81	mst sunny	San Francisco	57	51	pt sunny
Denver	82	61	t-storm	Seattle	66	55	rain
Houston	98	77	t-storm	St. Louis	87	71	t-storm
Los Angeles	72	60	pt sunny	Washington, DC	95	70	mst sunny
Miami	89	79	t-storm				

Moon Phases



AGGIES

Continued from Page 1A

golf scramble starting at 8 a.m. Saturday at Comanche Trail Golf Course. Cost is \$75 per person (carts not included).

Cash prizes will be awarded and lunch will be provided by Buffalo Country Fina.

Contact Darlene Newton at 263-7969 to reserve a spot in the golf tournament.

At 2 p.m. Saturday, a five-stand skeet shoot will be held at the Bob and Jessica Price Ranch at 7500 E. Moss Lake Rd. Cost is \$150 per person. Call 517-0471 to reserve a spot for this event.

The highlight of the two-day event will be the annual dinner and auction, which begins at 6 p.m. Saturday at Moss Creek Ranch. A fajita dinner will be followed by a silent and live auction.

"We'll have lots of great items, including trips to Cabo San Lucas, Cancun, St. Petersburg,

Fla. and to Augusta, Ga. for practice rounds at the Masters Golf Tournament next April," Green said. "We'll also have signed memorabilia from many greats, including Nolan Ryan, Roger Staubach, Earl

Campbell, John David Crow, Arnold Palmer and many others."

Green said local sponsors have donated several items for the auction, including metal art figurines from Southwest Tool, arrangements and

gift baskets from Faye's Flowers and jewelry items from Karat Patch and Blum's Jewelers.

For more information on the fundraiser, call Green at 213-2967.

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The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.
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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.
USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811
BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$8.85 monthly; \$95.58 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$14.58 monthly Howard; \$18.33 elsewhere.

Support Groups

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

WEDNESDAY
• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 & 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

THURSDAY
• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

• Spring Tabernacle Ministries has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m. and noon, each lasting an hour.

The classes take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.

FRIDAY
• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

• Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-centered recovery program, is held at Cornerstone Covenant Church, 706 E 12th St. at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call at 264-0015 or visit www.cccbigspring.org

SATURDAY
• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY
• Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 7 p.m.

WEEKEND

Continued from Page 1A

said. There is still time to reserve a space for a booth downtown for Friday. The cost per booth is \$25. Details can be obtained by calling or stopping by the chamber.

"During Under West Texas Skies, there will also be a chance to preview the bands who will be playing at West Fest the following day," ValVerde said.

The weekend continues to roll Saturday with WestFest kicking off at 11 a.m. and going until the last band leaves the stage at the Comanche Trail Park Amphitheater. There is no charge and those attending will be able to hear numerous local and area bands.

"It's going to be a weekend where there are people in town and it's going to be a weekend when people want to stay in Big Spring and businesses want to be open," ValVerde said.

In addition to Under West Texas Skies and West Fest, there will be

the Golden Ticket Giveaway and a Gregg Street Cruise, both on Saturday.

"The cruise is open to any business that wants to promote themselves, but we want to make it clear it's not a parade, it's simply a cruise," ValVerde said.

Any business is welcome to take part in the cruise. Participants should meet at the chamber by 9:30 a.m. Saturday to line up. The cruise will begin at 10 a.m., go south along Gregg Street, around the VA Hospital and back north on Gregg.

The Golden Ticket Giveaway winners will be posted at the 27 participating businesses Saturday.

"There is a complete list of participating businesses at each of the registration sites," ValVerde said. "People need to remember though just because they sign up at one place does not mean it is where they will win a prize from. Their ticket could be a winner at any of the participating businesses. It's a scavenger hunt and they just

have to go look and see if they won."

According to ValVerde, this is a great weekend for local businesses to promote themselves and get people into their stores who may never have walked in otherwise.

For more information on how to obtain a booth at Under West Texas Skies or to find out more about the Golden Ticket Giveaway, contact the

chamber at 263-7641.

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

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EDITORIAL

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-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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Strauss-Kahn case is not about what people seem to think it is

The twisting rape case against former International Monetary Fund chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn has set off a whirlwind of journalistic creativity. Commentators are whipping a couple of broken eggs into a grand soufflé of sweeping statements about the United States, France and their peoples. The facts still point to a violent sexual encounter between Strauss-Kahn and the African immigrant who accused him of attempted rape in the Manhattan hotel where she cleaned rooms.

The woman turns out to be a bit more complicated than the pious Muslim whom The New York Times described last month as "an unassuming and hardworking single mother," who was "born in a mud hut" and "raised to respect authority." Apparently, the woman consorted with a known drug dealer, lied to immigration officials about having been gang-raped in Guinea, fibbed about her finances, cheated on her taxes and, after the arrest of Strauss-Kahn, apparently phoned her jailed boyfriend to say in her native language: "Don't worry, this guy has a lot of money. I know what I'm doing."

None of this means that she wasn't sexually attacked by this French politician, known for pushing himself on women. But her inconsistencies haven't

helped her credibility.

As the wheels of justice grind on, let's consider what the case is not about.

It is not about whether the French do or do not like Americans. It is not about Americans taking liberties with French pride, which some do, but so what? I don't care for the tabloid rats' excessive piling on, but I happen to like the First Amendment, which protects free speech.

Franco-American passions change like March weather on the prairie. And we are talking about approximately 387 million opinions, most of them not based in central Paris or Manhattan, where the media workers do most of their interviewing.

The story is not about a flawed American justice system, which, in this case, performed well. With solid evidence of rough sex and a plausibly distraught "victim," the arrest of Strauss-Kahn was proper, especially since he was about to leave the country. After the woman was found to be less than pure, the Manhattan district attorney disclosed the information, damaging his case and subjecting himself to scorn. Cyrus Vance did what he had to do.

Interesting also how a woman conning various government agencies would underestimate the New York City police. She clearly never suspected that they tapped jailhouse phone calls or would find someone who spoke the Fulani dialect.

The inevitable "Guineans Fear Repercussions" headline is a classic page-filler implying that the U.S. public turns against

ethnic groups when one member does something bad. Rarely happens. However, there should be repercussions against those who abuse our system for granting asylum.

Meanwhile, growing doubts about the woman's veracity do not automatically give Strauss-Kahn full victim status. Before the contradictions were revealed, Strauss-Kahn's friend, celebrity intellectual Bernard-Henri Levy, was already foaming in The Daily Beast that the "degradation of a man whose silent dignity couldn't be touched was not just cruel, it was pornographic."

Strauss-Kahn owes his friend big-time, because "silent dignity" is not a term many would apply to a man famous for groping women. In 2008, Strauss-Kahn apologized for an affair with an underling at the IMF who said she was coerced into sex. And a female French journalist is now accusing him of attempted rape.

Here's what the case is about: One prominent Frenchman with a reputation for mistreating women has a sexual clash with one Guinean woman known to play the angles. Use this to cook up broad cultural generalizations, if you must. But the facts would make it a small-bore "he said, she said."

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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FROMA HARROP

Fascism is not conservatism

Someone recently emailed and asked me to rebut the claim that fascism is a right-wing system.

I have given this question considerable thought over the years; even when I was in college, liberals routinely smeared conservatism as a fascist political ideology. Indeed, how many times have we heard the mantra that communism and Nazism represented the two extremes of the political spectrum, left and right, respectively? This never made sense to me, as I knew that conservatism championed political and economic liberty and that communism and fascism were the direct antithesis of these.

I am thankful that my friend Jonah Goldberg has written the definitive work on this subject and set the record straight, in his scholarly and entertaining "Liberal Fascism." I strongly recommend it.

But let me share some thoughts I've developed over the years as to how the misunderstandings on these terms evolved, points which may or may not be addressed in Jonah's book.

Both communism and Nazism are evil totalitarian systems characterized by enormous power in the central government. It's true that in theory, Karl Marx predicted the eventual withering away of the state and the "dictatorship of the proletariat," when the people would rule, which was sheer fantasy because it was based on grossly erroneous assumptions about human nature, as history would repeatedly demonstrate.

But no one can deny that communism, in practice as well as theory, is a form of socialism, as evidenced, among other things, by the Soviet Union's proud self-identification as a "socialist republic." Likewise, Nazism and fascism, by definition, are socialist systems, with the state owning or controlling the major

means of industry and production.

But there are differences in these systems, and I think these differences, along with historical reasons so well chronicled in Jonah's book, contribute to the left's soft identification with one and strong rejection of the other.

Apart from being centralized political systems, Nazism and fascism were nationalistic, patriotic and militaristic. Some have even said they were religious, but I see little authentic evidence of that. The Soviet system was more international in its orientation, being driven less by national fervor and more by world expansion. I'm not disputing that Hitler and Mussolini were expansionist, as indeed they were, but the Soviets were more focused on making communism a global system and diminishing the role of the nation-state in comparison with Nazism and fascism.

But there's something even more telling.

Communism, as conceived by Marx, was based on the perceived class struggle. Marx envisioned that the "workers of the world" would unite against so-called capitalist oppression. Marxism was thoroughly materialistic and rooted in class warfare. Nazism was probably not so virulently anti-capitalist — at least in terms of its ideological emphasis. It was more racially and nationally driven.

So where does that leave us? Well, today's liberals see themselves as champions of the "working man" and enemies of corporate interests and the wealthy. Their political lifeblood is class warfare on behalf of the "working man" (read: labor unions). Redistributionism is at the heart of their philosophy.

When those on the left today call conservatives "fascists" or liken Bush to Hitler, they are betraying their contempt for what they perceive to be excessive nationalism, patriotism and militarism on the part of conservatives. But there's a darker side to their thinking. The left's worst-kept secret is that many liberals believe — or

would at least like the electorate to believe — that conservatives are racist. So there you have it. Conservatives are nationalistic, jingoistic and racist. Point, set, match. They're fascists.

But it's as divorced from reality as it is sinister. Conservatives are driven by liberty and a healthy skepticism for centralized government. They aren't enemies of the federal government but believe it ought to be limited in its powers and scope, as contemplated and designed by the Constitution. They are the opposite of racists, aspiring to colorblindness and equality of opportunity and rights for everyone. We will proudly accept, however, the charge that we are nationalistic, patriotic and firm believers in American exceptionalism.

Liberals can definitely identify with communism, as indeed they have through the years, as in their glorification of the Soviet Union in years past and their romanticizing of communist dictators, such as Cuba's Fidel Castro. But they also have far more in common with fascism than conservatives do, given their penchant for centralized governmental power and too much state control over business and industry, as we've seen most strikingly under President Barack Obama.

As political theory and actual practice throughout history demonstrate, both communism and fascism are left-wing political and economic ideologies — as far as they can be from the right wing of the spectrum.

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.

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A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

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Amen

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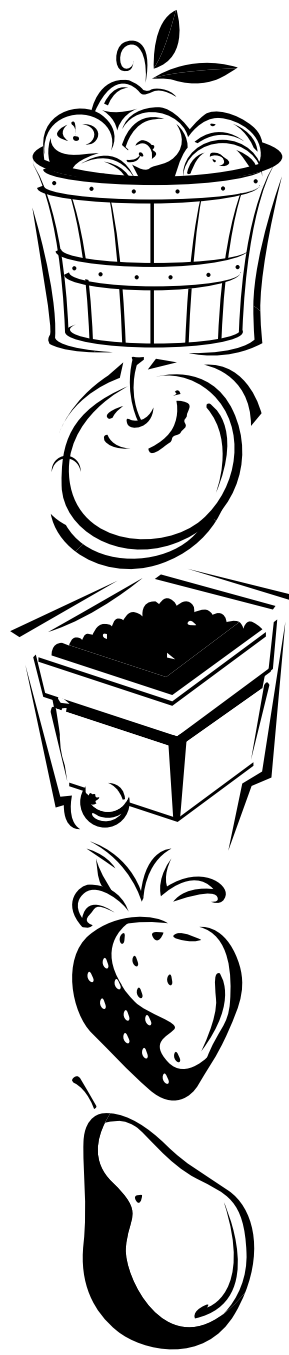
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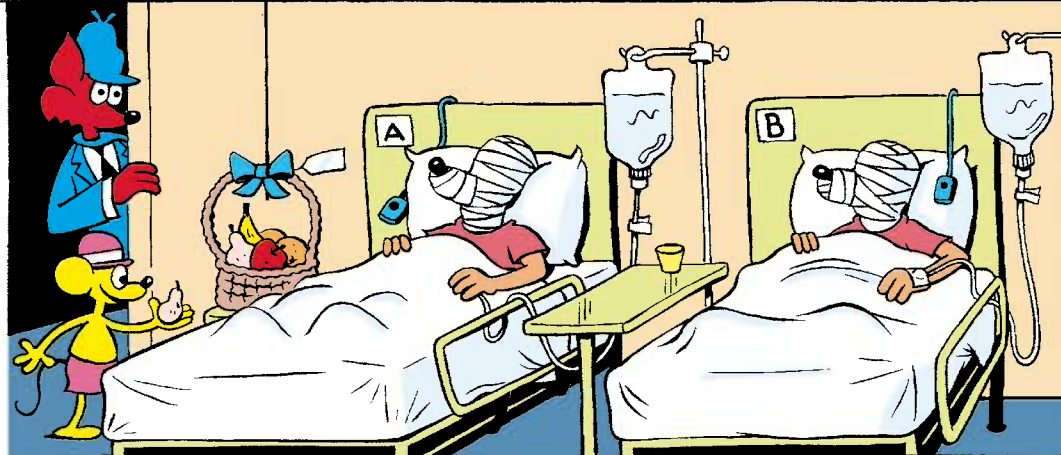
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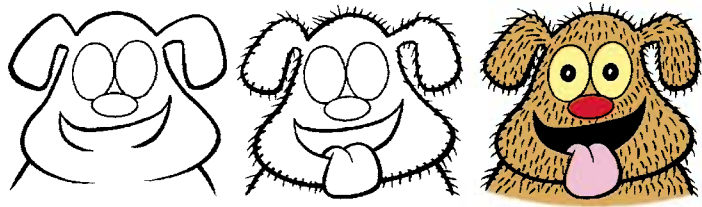
BY BOB WEBER JR.

An escaped prisoner dashed into the hospital to hide. Slylock Fox and Max Mouse are searching the building. Slylock suspects that the cunning convict is in this room. What evidence led Slylock to that conclusion?



HOW TO DRAW a happy dog

WEBER 7-10



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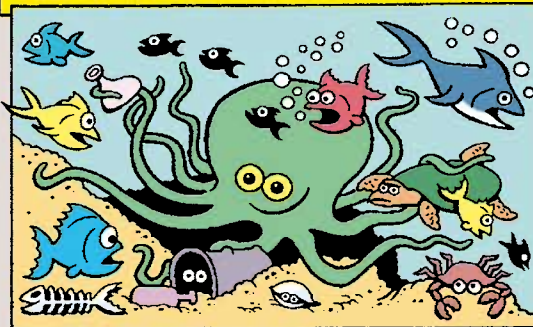
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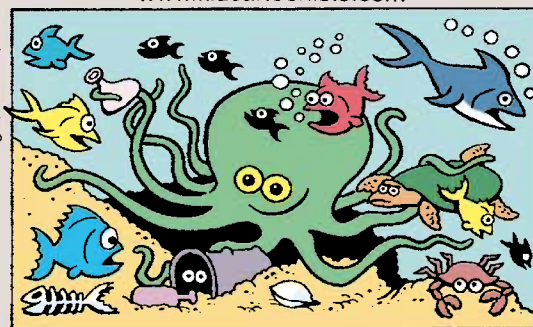
- 1) UDISQ
- 2) ISCYRAFH
- 3) SFAHTSRI
- 4) LERADANASM

Answer - (1) Squid (2) Crayfish (3) Starfish (4) Salamander

Find six differences between these panels.



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Tiny victims of the drought

Reading recently of the possibility that parts of Texas were in a 30-year drought cycle, and appreciating La Nina's hesitancy to release its torrid grip, brought to mind the relentless summer of 1994. The desperation of wildlife caught in that sweltering environment was reinforced with each delivery of fledglings.



BIRD POOP
BEBE
MCCASLAND

Weakened by dehydration and hunger, some were victims of their parents' plight in

trying to find life-sustaining insects.

Others depended upon almost non-existent rodents.

The surreal atmosphere was affecting generations to come.

With the ring of the doorbell came another handful of wiggling feathers. In spite of their need for help in surviving their first summer, the youngsters used the last of their strength to protest captivity.

Huddled in a shoebox atop the damaged remains of a nest, a light gray trio with dark wings blinked as the lid was removed. Before the feistiest member could jump over the edge of the container, I caught it. Turning it

over enabled me to see its faint yellow belly and its black tail bordered with white.

Safely back inside, the bird and its siblings, in their juvenile plumage, were a pale rendition of their parents.

As members of the Tyrant Flycatcher Family, these western kingbirds had been found after a night of high winds. During the previous week, they had fledged, or left their home, only to have it follow them to the ground sometime later.

A conglomeration of the castoffs of nature and man, the nest had been interwoven with twigs, weed stems, feathers, dryer lint, string and cellophane from cigarette packages.

It was a miracle the threesome had not become entangled in the structure.

When I asked for any information about the flycatchers, the couple who had delivered them said they had observed the birds as nestlings. After the kingbirds left their treetop home, they continued to watch their progress.

Then they described the young flying in tandem behind a parent.

When it elevated, the birds followed the upward motion. Landing on the grass under a tree, the parent had been quickly joined by her three offspring.

As they waited to be fed, the adult kingbird had carefully and quickly pecked a cicada and given each young-

ster a portion.

The remainder she saved for herself.

Then the parent had taken flight again to a live oak across the street.

In close pursuit, the young had followed the adult into the safety of a canopy of leaves.

Having bragged about the success of the threesome, the couple noted the last two days had been different.

Not seeing the youngsters fly as often and noticing the absence of parents, they wondered if it was time for their young to find food on their own.

While moving a sprinkler in their front yard the previous evening, the husband had noticed one of the kingbirds standing under a tree. It did not fly as he approached.

After telling his wife about it, they decided to look for the other two.

Against a side fence they found the second bird. Both had seemed as if in a trance. Although upright, they were not responding to movement or noise.

Desperate to find the third kingbird, they searched the back yard. Underneath a lawn chair on the porch stood the exhausted sibling.

Gathering the trio and placing them in a laundry basket in their utility room, the couple felt they could at least give the kingbirds a safe resting place for the night and a respite from the heat. As they started to leave, the



Courtesy photo

As fledglings, Western kingbirds are eager to be fed. As adults, in defending nesting territory, they will chase and peck in flight, hawks, vultures, grackles and any other birds seen as a threat to their young. Seldom seen and hidden by gray feathers on the top of their heads is a reddish-orange streak that is acquired as they reach maturity.

husband turned and voiced what all three of us were thinking, "Day before yesterday was 108 degrees. Yesterday was 113. Makes you wonder how many more birds are down."

In a few days the miracle of water and insects had transformed the listless kingbirds into rowdy, active beings.

Although they would fly from one end of their enclosure to the other, they were not fully weaned from having food provided for them. Self-sufficiency, the ability to catch insects in flight or grab them from the ground, would come through an

association with other kingbirds at the wildlife center in Lubbock.

Having experienced the worst of the drought of the early 1950s was a prelude to '94 and our current situation. Dehydration and starvation were and are a reality that not only depletes species.

Denied the pleasure of an association with the beauty of the avian world, we have so many questions and only nature has the answers.

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

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A little boy's lunch with God

I read a story recently by Jim Nasium I thought you'd enjoy. Some stories are just too good to pass up.

It seems a little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and a six-pack of root beer and he started his journey.

When he had gone


about three blocks, he saw an elderly man who was sitting in the park just feeding some pigeons. The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the man looked hungry, so he offered him a Twinkie.

The man gratefully accepted it and smiled at the boy. His smile was so pleasant that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a root beer. Again, the man smiled at him. The boy was delighted!

They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word. As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave, but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the man, and gave him a hug. The man gave him his biggest smile ever. When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the



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RYAN

Continued from Page 6A

look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? God's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

The elderly man also returned to his home. His son was stunned by the radiant joy and look of peace on his face and he asked, "Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I ate Twinkies in the park with God." However, before his son responded, the old man added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

People come into our lives for a reason, whether for a season, or a lifetime. We should learn to appreciate them and embrace them all equally.

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

Aging boomers straining cities

By LAURAN NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK — America's cities are beginning to grapple with a fact of life: People are getting old, fast, and they're doing it in communities designed for the sprightly.

To envision how this silver tsunami will challenge a youth-oriented society, just consider that seniors soon will outnumber schoolchildren in hip, fast-paced New York City.

It will take some creative steps to make New York and other cities age-friendly enough to help the coming crush of older adults stay active and independent in their own homes.

"It's about changing the way we think about the way we're growing old in our community," said New York Deputy Mayor Linda Gibbs. "The phrase 'end of life' does not apply anymore."

With initiatives such as using otherwise idle school buses to take seniors grocery shopping, the World Health Organization recognizes New York as a leader in this movement.

But it's not alone.

Atlanta is creating what it calls "lifelong communities." Philadelphia is test-

ing whether living in a truly walkable community really makes older adults healthier. In Portland, Ore., there's a push to fit senior concerns such as accessible housing and zoning policies.

Such work is getting a late start considering how long demographers have warned that the population is about to get a lot grayer.

"It's shocking how far behind we are, especially when you think about this fact — that if you make something age-friendly, that means it is going to be friendly for people of all ages, not just older adults," said Margaret Neal of Portland State University's Institute on Aging.

While this fledgling movement is being driven by non-profit and government programs, New York aims to get private businesses to ante up, too.

Last year, East Harlem became the city's first "aging improvement district." Sixty stores, identified with window signs, agreed to put out folding chairs to let older customers rest as they do their errands. The stores also try to keep aisles free of tripping hazards and use larger type so signs are easier to read. A community pool set

aside senior-only hours so older swimmers could get in their laps without faster kids and teens in the way.

On one long block, accountant Henry Calderon welcomes older passers-by to rest in his air-conditioned lobby even if they're not customers.

"It's good for business but it's good for society," too, he said.

The size of the aging boom is staggering. Every day for the next few decades, thousands of baby boomers will turn 65. That's in addition to the oldest-old, the 85- to 90-somethings whose numbers have grown by nearly one-third in the past decade, with no signs of slowing.

By 2050, 1 in 5 Americans will be seniors. Worldwide, almost 2 billion people will be 60 or older, 400 million of them over 80.

That's almost always viewed as a health issue, preparing for the coming wave of Alzheimer's, or as a political liability, meaning how soon will Social Security go bust?

"We think this is something we should be celebrating," says Dr. John Beard, who oversees the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly

Cities. "They need to live in an environment that allows them to participate."

In East Harlem, a yellow school bus pulls up to a curb and 69-year-old Jenny Rodriguez climbs off. The bus had already dropped a load of kids at school. Now, before the afternoon trip home, it is shuttling older adults to a market where they flock to fresh fruits and vegetables.

Rodriguez usually goes shopping on foot, pulling along a small cart. It can be a hike. Supermarkets aren't too common in this lower-income part of the city, and there's less to choose at tiny, pricier corner bodegas.

More than 200 times, school buses have taken older adults from senior centers to supermarkets in different neighborhoods. It's just one of a variety of initiatives begun in 2009 by the New York Academy of Medicine and the city's government to address the needs of older residents. Already, they're showing results.

A city report found the number of crashes has dropped at busy intersections in senior-heavy communities where traffic signals now allow pedestrians a few more seconds to cross the street.

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News in brief

White House talks continue

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama and GOP lawmakers, hundreds of billions of dollars short of their goal and seemingly trapped in inflexible bargaining positions, are struggling for agreement on \$2 trillion-plus in budget cuts as the price for maintaining the government's ability to borrow.

Lawmakers were asked to return to the White House for talks Tuesday afternoon after a 90-minute Monday session produced no

progress other than to identify the size of the gap between Republicans and Obama. Neither side showed any give that might generate hopes for a speedy agreement. Instead, Republicans again took a firm stand against revenue increases while Obama and his Democratic allies insisted that they be part of any equation that cuts programs like Medicare.

"I do not see a path to a deal if they don't budge, period," Obama said.

At the same time, the president turned up the pressure by announcing he won't sign any short-

term debt limit increases.

"We are going to get this done," Obama insisted during a news conference.

U.K. police face parliamentary grilling

LONDON (AP) — A legislative committee is questioning senior London police officers about why they didn't pursue a phone hacking investigation at the tabloid News of the World two years ago.

The newspaper was shut amid a flurry of public indignation over

allegations it hacked into phones, including that of a murdered 13-year-old.

Before Tuesday's hearing, opposition Labour Party legislators called for the resignation of John Yates, assistant commissioner of Metropolitan Police. He decided in 2009 that there was nothing more to investigate at the paper. Yates says he relied on advice from colleagues.

Report: Systems designed to catch fraud inadequate

MIAMI (AP) — The federal government's systems for analyzing Medicare and Medicaid data for possible fraud are inadequate and

underused, making it more difficult to detect the billions of dollars in fraudulent claims paid out each year, according to a report released Tuesday.

The Government Accountability Office report said the systems don't even include Medicaid data. Furthermore, 639 analysts were supposed to have been trained to use the system — yet only 41 have been so far, it said.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services — which administer the taxpayer-funded health care programs for the elderly, poor and disabled — lacks plans to finish the systems projected to save \$21 billion. The technology is crucial to making a

dent in the \$60 billion to \$90 billion in fraudulent claims paid out each year.

"I'm looking forward to hearing, someday, about major fraud scams discovered as a direct result of this integrated repository and the use of creative pattern recognition techniques implemented on top of it. Until we hear that story, the public is not getting value for money from these investments," said Malcolm Sparrow, a health care fraud expert at Harvard University.

Mediators unable to break deadlock on restarting talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and its partners in the international diplomatic "quartet" on the Middle East failed on Monday to reach agreement on how to restart Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, dealing a blow to urgent efforts to avert a looming confrontation at the United Nations over recognizing Palestine as an independent nation.

A senior U.S. official said a Monday night meeting between Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, E.U. foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov was unable to produce a unified statement on how to proceed. Such a statement had been a modest goal of the meeting.

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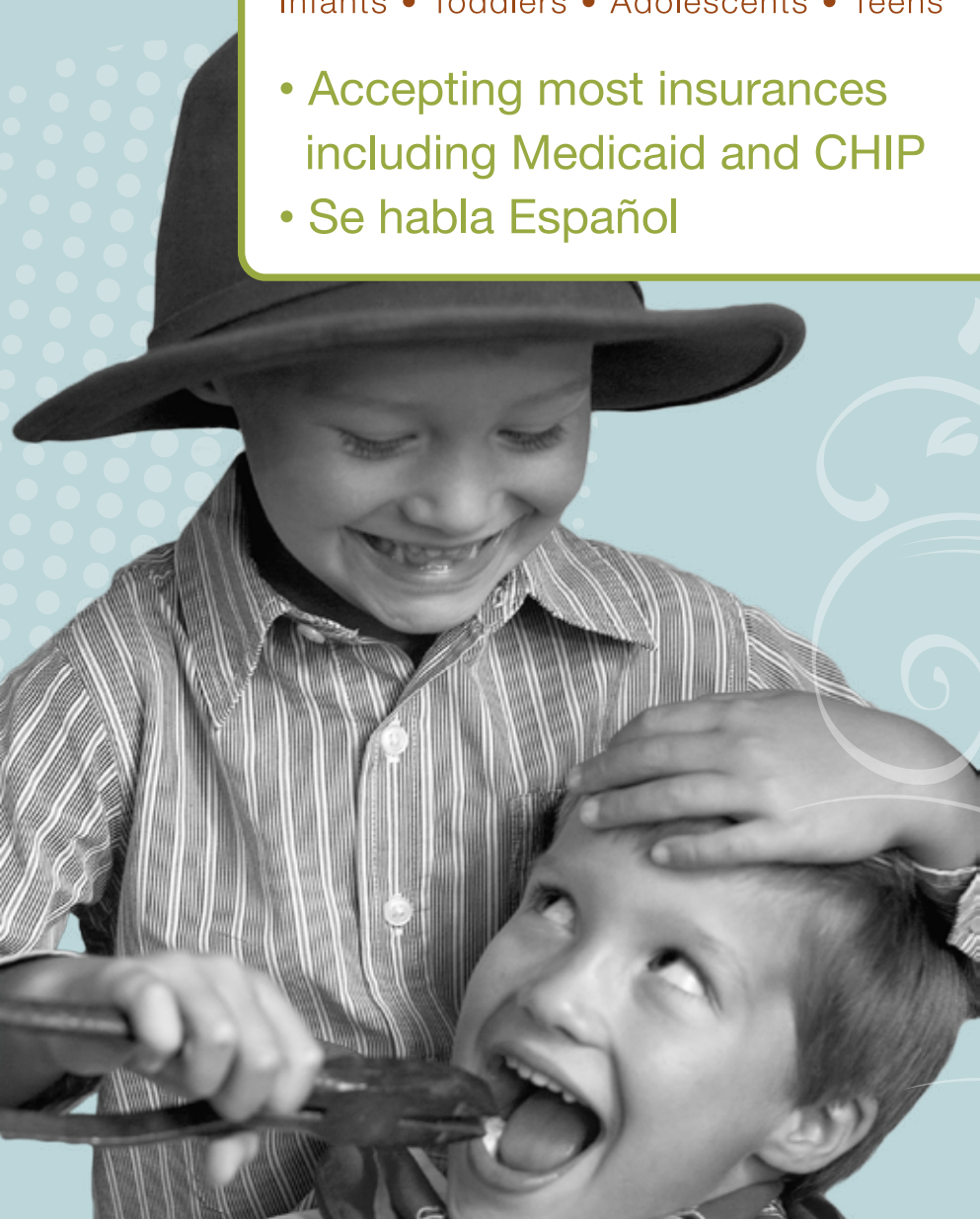
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Hobbs celebrates b-day with old team

By AMANDA MORENO

Staff Writer

For the majority of his 85 years, Johnnie Hobbs's love has been baseball, of course after his family.

Considering baseball has been such a big part of his life, it only make sense his 85th year was celebrated with the kids who held such a special place in his heart - his Coca Cola Colts.

"He has had such a positive influence on so many and he's still influencing people," Jack Bowen, All Stars Team of 1961, said.

Hobbs celebrated his birthday at the Dora Roberts Community Center Lake Room Saturday, July 9. During that time he was able to reminisce on old times,

catch up with former players and revisit the sport he loves so much.

"I was talking to him earlier and he was telling me how he still dreams about baseball. He still dreams about playing, coaching and everything else about the game," Bowen said.

Upon entering the celebration, former players were greeted with old photos, memorabilia and numerous plaques demonstrating the marks Hobbs has made not only on the lives of kids, but in baseball and the community.

"On top of being a good coach, he's a good man," Clint Caudill, Coca Cola Colts 1988-90 player,

See **HOBBS**, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

Former Coca Cola Colts reunited to celebrate Coach Johnnie Hobbs's 85th birthday at the Dora Roberts Community Center Lake Room. The players brought old photos, memorabilia and stories to share. Hobbs coached for more than 40 years in little league baseball. Pictured in the front row center is Johnnie Hobbs.

South Korea's Yeon Ryu wins U.S. Women's Open

COLORADO SPRINGS (AP) — They brought their games from South Korea to the U.S. Women's Open, knowing that success in their home country is great but America is where the real fame — not to mention money — is earned.

They lurked in the middle of the pack for the first two days, then made their move on the weekend — So Yeon Ryu and Hee Kyung Seo vaulting to the top of the leaderboard, tied after a 72-hole grind that felt much longer.

They played a three-hole playoff Monday, and when it was over, Ryu was the champion.

But their country — as it has often been in recent years — turned out to be the biggest winner.

"When I was started golf, Se Ri Pak won the U.S. Women's Open tournament, so this

tournament is really special for me," Ryu said, invoking the name of the 33-year-old, five-time major winner who pushed Korea to a new level in South Korea to the end of the 1990s.

After this win, her first major and first victory in the United States, Ryu became the newest candidate to be the next Se Ri.

Or maybe she'll be better.

She showed all kinds of possibilities over five grueling days at the Broadmoor, capping it off with a three-shot crushing of her rival in the playoff.

Starting on the 16th hole, Ryu had the final three holes in 2-under par, all but sealing it when she hit three perfect shots to the green on the par-5 17th and made the putt for a birdie while Seo dove into a bunker and had

to scramble for bogey.

For good measure, Ryu hit her approach on 18 to 4 feet for another birdie, which sparked a champagne-spraying celebration on the 18th green. Pak was among the South Korean contingent that ran out to douse Ryu in her glow-in-the-dark orange shirt and cap.

Great as that moment was, it was the birdie Ryu made on 18 that the hour earlier that was the defining moment of the tournament.

Trailing by one to an opponent who had closed out her round before darkness stopped play the previous night, Ryu stood behind her ball in the fairway, plumbed her 6-iron to her nose, then closed one eye to take dead aim at the 170-yard shot. She drew the shot uphill, over the lake and landed the ball 6 feet

from the hole. Moments later, she slammed the putt home to pull into a tie. She ended up with two birdies in the span of an hour on a hole that yielded only 28 over five days.

Certainly nobody can ever say Ryu backed into this title, won on a 7,000-yard course at an altitude of 6,400 feet that got hit by storms every day, turning it into a test of endurance and patience for some players and a sporadic series of starts and stops for others.

"It's never over 'til it's over, especially in these things," Cristie Kerr said. "People really want it, and that was a gutsy putt."

Kerr also had a chance. She came to the Broadmoor on Monday trailing by two with two holes to play, but couldn't convert a 12-foot putt from the fringe on 17 to make things interesting. She finished third

at 1-under par.

Angela Stanford birdied 16 to also give herself an outside shot. But she, too, made par on 17 and wound up even par and in fourth place.

That left it a match between the two South Koreans who have been doing their dance for the last few years, jostling for position on the tour back home, deciding whether a permanent move to America would benefit them most, taking turns in the headlines and on the winner's podium.

Seo appeared to be ahead coming into this tournament, breaking through on the LPGA Tour last year with a victory that sent her over to America full-time in 2011. She might have cemented her hold with a victory this week and she was poised for it

See **OPEN**, Page 2B

Fewer stars, less hitting expected at All-Star game

PHOENIX (AP) — Scoring in the first half of the season dropped to its lowest level in 19 years and the major league batting average shrunk to its smallest midseason figure since 1985, confirmation that the Steroids Era has ended and that a new Age of the Pitcher is taking hold.

There were 8.4 runs per game prior to the All-Star break, according to STATS LLC, down 6 percent from last year's 8.9 at the midpoint and 20 percent from the peak of 10.5 in 2000.

"The pitchers in the National League — it's crazy," San Francisco's

Pedro Sandoval said Monday, a day before the All-Star game. "We've got Roy Halladay, Tim Lincecum, Matt Cain, Cole Hamels and Cliff Lee."

It's not only scoring that's decreased. Many offensive measures dipped during the first three months of the regular season.

The major league batting average of .253 was down from .259 at last year's All-Star break. It hasn't been this low since at midseason in 26 years, since it sunk to .252 in 1985. A dozen years ago, at the height of the Steroids Era, it rose to .273.

Hits per game dropped to 17.2 from 17.6 last year, down from 18.8 in 1999 and 2000. Home runs per game declined to 1.8, down a tenth of a point from last year and an astounding 31 percent below the 2000 average of 2.6 at the break.

The major league ERA of 3.85 is down from 4.15 during the first three months of last season and more than a run below the 4.86 ERA when players broke for the 2000 All-Star game at Atlanta's Turner Field.

"It seems like a lot of guys are throwing a lot harder these days. It seems like every team has a couple guys throw-

ing 100," said Chicago White Sox slugger Carlos Quentin, who has 17 homers. "As a hitter, you embrace that challenge."

Hitters seem to be taking shorter strokes, not going for the fences. Strikeouts averaged 6.3 per game, down from 6.6 last year and a high of 7.7 in 2000.

"There's been a lot of young pitcher coming to the big leagues," Philadelphia's Placido Polanco said. "I think that makes a difference."

Quentin has another insight: The way some pitchers are being used has changed.

"There's a lot of guys

coming out of the bullpen that are good," he said. "You see a lot of guys that are converted from being starters to relievers, and all of a sudden they're throwing 95 and 96 out of the 'pen for one-plus inning. I feel like I've seen more of those guys of late."

Halladay, 11-3 with a 2.45 ERA, was to start for the National League, following Vides Blue, Roger Clemens and Randy Johnson as the fourth pitcher to make an All-Star start for both leagues. The Los Angeles Angels' Jered Weaver, 11-4 with a 1.86 ERA, was slated to open for the AL.

The AL won 12 straight All-Star games played to a decision before the NL's 3-1 victory last year in Anaheim. It was the first time the NL won since the All-Star game started determining home-field advantage for the World Series in 2003, and the Giants went on to beat the Texas Rangers in five games for the title.

"Home field can be a very important component in winning the world championship," Weaver said. "So I think it's a great thing for the best players in the world to go out there and compete and work for that home-field advantage."

Briefs

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 more information.

Football skills lineman camp

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.

O.H. Ivie Reservoir public hunting permits July 15-Aug. 15

Applications for public hunting permits on the O.H. Ivie Reservoir wildlife management areas will be accepted by mail only, beginning July 15 and ending Aug. 15.

Permits will be limited and requests for information and application packets should be made by calling Colorado River Municipal Water District at 432-267-6341 or writing to:

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Big Spring Country Club 2-person low ball July 23-24

Big Spring Country Club is hosting a 2-person low ball tournament July 23-24. Entry fee is \$60 per player, plus golf cart.

The event will kick off to a shotgun start at 1 p.m. each day with a field that will be pre-flighted.

Entry fee will include barbecue, which will be served on the course both days.

For more information or to enter your team, call the pro shop at 432-267-5354.

Steer season tickets on sale July 18

The athletic department of the Big Spring Steers has announced the dates for season ticket sales. Those previously holding season tickets can purchase tickets for the 2011-2012 season July 18-Aug. 4 from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

New purchasers of season tickets can purchase their ticket books Aug. 8-Aug. 17 from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

The ticket books are \$25 and include all five home games.

For more information, contact Kay Cook at 432-264-3662

OPEN

Continued from Page 1B

Sunday night. She played 36 holes over 14 hours Sunday and finished both rounds in 3-under 68 to end regulation at 3-under 281. But there was one hiccup: A short putt that rimmed out on No. 17 when she was rushing to finish — a ball hit while the wind was whipping, leaving her uneasy as she stood over it. It left her at 3 under instead of 4 under and gave Ryu a glimmer of hope.

"I think one mistake yesterday on the 17th green, that's the one," Seo said.

Seo came to the course Monday knowing she might be able to collect the trophy without hitting a shot. She was warming up on the driving range when she heard a roar from the 18th grandstand. It was Ryu's approach shot.

"So, at that time, I was thinking about, 'Oh, the time is now.'"

She had to go out for three more holes and is 0-2 against Ryu in head-to-head playoffs. They also went three holes at the Chinese Ladies Open in 2009.

Seo was gracious in discussing the tournament and what it means for her country.

"I think they were cheering for both of us," she said. "So, yeah, I feel very happy that a South Korean player won this great, big tournament."

Ryu, who planned on finishing school back home before going to LPGA qualifying school, will cash a \$585,000 winner's check and have a ticket to join the American tour at her leisure.

This is Ryu's first major and her first LPGA victory. She joins Pak (1998), Birdie Kim (2005), Inbee Park (2008) and Eun Hee Ji (2009) on the list of South Korean U.S. Open champions.

Ryu now holds the lead in the much-watched contest to supplant Pak as the country's greatest player, though it figures this race — like the tournament they just finished — will be a marathon. Ryu is 21 and Seo just turned 25.

Fan barely escapes fall at home run derby

PHOENIX (AP) — The ball arching against Chase Field's bright lights, Keith Carmickle climbed up on a narrow table, leaned forward and lost his balance, momentum carrying him toward a 20-foot fall to a pool deck below.

Had it not been for the quick reactions of his brother, a friend and a handful of fans Monday night at Major League Baseball's All-Star Home Run Derby, Carmickle might have suffered the same fate as Shannon Stone, the Texas Rangers' fan who died Thursday night trying to catch a ball thrown into the stands.

"I thought: I've lived a good life," Carmickle said.

Seated in a small section of seats above the right-field fence, Car-

mickle, from Kingman, and his group had already grabbed home run balls by Robinson Cano and Adrian Gonzalez, and were looking to add another to their collection when Milwaukee's Prince Fielder came up in the second round of the derby.

Trying to snare a towering shot by Fielder, Carmickle stepped up onto a metal table about 18 inches wide and reached down for the catch. He missed the ball, which hit the wall several feet below him, and the momentum carried him forward, head-first over a short railing.

Carmickle was headed for a hard landing when his friend, Aaron Nelson, grabbed his legs and his brother, Kraig, grabbed him around the

arms. The crowd above and below gasping, Carmickle dangled briefly over a deck where a couple of cameras were positioned behind Chase Field's pool before his brother, Nelson and a few fans pulled him back to his seat.

The near miss was eerily similar to what happened to Stone, the 39-year-old memorialized in Texas earlier Monday after falling 20 feet to his death while trying to catch a ball thrown into the stands by Rangers outfielder Josh Hamilton.

"He tried to catch it, I grabbed his legs and his brother grabbed his arms," said Nelson, who, along with Kraig Carmickle, is from Chandler. "So when he went over the ledge, we pulled him back. He

wasn't going down, I was holding on."

The Carmickles and Nelson gathered themselves after the close call and let out a few shouts before breaking into high-fives. They relived the moment with a few of the fans around them, then again as they looked at photos taken by an Arizona Republic photographer, who had shots from behind of Carmickle standing on the table, then falling.

They spoke with security personnel a few minutes later and were allowed to remain in the game, with Carmickle putting his arm around a security guard who told him to be careful before he walked back to his seat.

"I stepped up on the table and I missed the ball," he said.

HOBBS

Continued from Page 1B

said. "He is someone you could always count on."

The one thing every player of Hobbs said, on top of him always having a plan, was he didn't stop coaching at the end of the season. His lessons and his love went beyond baseball.

"After leaving his team at the age of 12, I went on to play in the Pony League, for the Kiwanis, American Legion and even for the high school baseball team," David Agee, member of the first Coca Cola Colts team, said. "I remember even when I was older, he would be there at my games. I would be warming up and he'd be there offering me advice. He always gave good advice."

His grandson, Derek Hobbs and member of his final team, even had the honor of playing under his grandfather. On top of being Hobbs grandson, he (Derek) was also one of the father and son pairs he coached along the way.

"He wasn't afraid to get onto us, even if it was a problem for some of the parents," Hobbs said. "Because of him we learned discipline and we learned a lot of lessons that didn't just deal with baseball, but with life."

On top of learning how to swing a bat, catch a ball and all the other basic fundamentals, Hobbs taught the kids about hard work and integrity.

"We are even better off because of the time we spent on his teams, in life and in baseball," Hobbs said.

The only girl, Amanda Solis, to ever play for Hobbs agreed with the guys. Hobbs not only taught her about baseball, but he taught her lessons which have helped build her into a stronger person.

"He believed in me," Solis said.

That belief was demonstrated in the fourth inning of the national league.

"I was certain he was going to put one of the guys in and he put me in," Solis said. "to him, I was just as good as any of the guys. He had faith in me."

Having faith and belief in his players was something that came easy for Hobbs.

"I loved the game and I loved the kids," Hobbs said. "They were all my kids."

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- Benjamin Franklin, letter to Collinson, 1753

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