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VOLUME 107, NUMBER 121

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Ag complex gets \$1 M boost

G.C. Broughton Foundation continues to fund state-of-art facility at Howard College

By **CINDY SMITH**
Special to the Herald
The G.C. Broughton Foun-

ation is taking its support of the Howard College agriculture program to the next level, announcing its most

recent gift of approximately \$964,000 to continue development of the G.C. Broughton Ag Complex.
The donation will bring the total cost to \$2.1 million for the entire complex.
The most recent gift will fund the construction of the Phase III education building and a Phase II air conditioning enhancement within the

Agriculture Complex on the Big Spring campus.
The Phase I agriculture pavilion was funded by the G. C. Broughton Foundation in the fall of 2010 and was completed and put to use in the summer of 2011.
A groundbreaking ceremony took place in September 2011 for the Phase II show barn and that facility re-

mains in the early stages of construction. The show barn will include an enclosed formal show barn and pens.
"Words do not describe how excited we are about this latest development in the G.C. Broughton Ag Complex," said Dr. Cheryl T. Sparks, president of Howard College.
See **FUNDING**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

Work continues on Third Street as crews work to complete water line replacement. The work has been taking place in stages over the past few weeks with some lane closures during working hours.

City council race emerges

McDonald files to replace wife Gloria in District 4

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

It appears a last-minute candidate for the District 4 seat on the Big Spring City Council will produce the only contested race of this year's local municipal election.
Bobby McDonald — local businessman and husband of incumbent District 4 Councilwoman Gloria McDonald — filed to run for the seat late Monday afternoon, according to officials with the city of Big Spring.
"It was the last few minutes of the ball game, and either I was going to file to run or no one was going to file," McDonald said. "Gloria has been a great leader over the years and she's tried to persuade the leadership to look at different avenues, and that's

exactly what I plan to do. We need growth in our city.
"Many of the members of our city council haven't involved themselves in trying to grow our city, and that's something we desperately need right now. They are simply trying to cut the tax rate. Yes, we need to lower the tax rate, that's an issue we certainly need to work toward. However, growth needs to be our first concern."
McDonald will face local resident Loretta Farquhar for the seat in the May 12 election.
Farquhar said if elected she will concentrate on the city's infrastructure.
"I moved away from Big Spring for many years, and

Dance to a different drummer: sponsors sought for powwow

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Native American dancers from all over the region will pit their skills against one another April 21-22 during the eighth annual Big Spring Powwow, but before the drum circles get under way, event coordinators say sponsors are needed to help make the cultural show a success.
"Donations and sponsors are what keep the powwow going each year," said Richard "Indio" Lesser, event coordinator for the Big Spring Powwow Committee. "It



costs anywhere from \$8,000 to \$10,000 to put it on each year, so donations are always a huge help, even if it's just a

few dollars here and there. Our local businesses, who help sponsor the event, are also a huge part of what we do. We'll be taking business sponsors right up until about a week before the powwow, so it's not too late to show your support for this great event."
Lesser said sponsorships allow local businesses — and residents — to show their support for the annual event, which aims to educate the community on Native American culture.
"Businesses can sponsor for a minimum donation

Late filers crowd school board races in Crossroads area

By **AMANDA MORENO**
Staff Writer

Mondahy was the cutoff for filing for school board elections. Each of the area school districts seemed to have an influx before the deadline arrived with each of the ballots gaining quite a few names.
Coahoma Independent School District has three positions — all at large — up for election this year. Brian Moore, school board president, Jody Reid and Alan Wright hold the positions up for election. All three incum-

bents filed for re-election and three more names will be added. Leslie Tindol, Gerald King and Paul Lewis will also have their name on the ballots. Coahoma's early voting will take place at the county courthouse in Big Spring starting April 30.
Big Spring ISD has three positions — District 2, District 3 and District 4 — up for election. Incumbents Maria Padilla, District 2 and Tony Kennedy, District 4, will be

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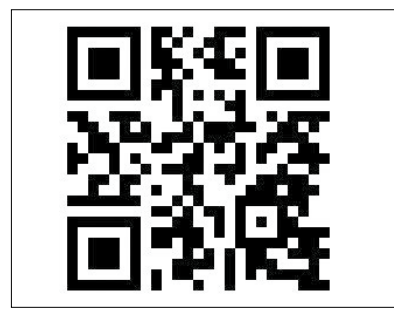


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See **SPONSORS**, Page 3



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Obituaries

Toni Barron Choate



Toni Barron Choate, 73, of Midland, Texas, died March 3, 2012, at her residence. Services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 10, 2012, at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad, Big Spring. The Rev. Barbara Kirk-Norris of St. Mary's, Fr. Tom Finne of Christ Church of Midland and the Rev. Katie Churchwell of Washington, D.C., will officiate. A reception will immediately follow the service in the Parrish Hall until 4 p.m.

Visitation will be at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Big Spring on Friday, March 9, 2012, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Toni was born Nov. 27, 1938, in Lamesa, Texas, and married Wade Choate on Jan. 17, 1959, in Big Spring. She was a lifelong resident of Big Spring before moving to Midland in 2005. She was a graduate of Big Spring High School. She was a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church before moving to Midland, where she was a member of Christ Church of Midland.

Toni is survived by her husband, Wade Choate; one son, Kyle Choate of Midland; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and one brother, Jerry Barron and wife Carlene of Seabrook, Texas.

She was preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Melody Ann Cook; and a granddaughter-in-law.

The family suggests memorials to the Heritage Museum of Big Spring, 510 Scurry St., Big Spring, TX 79720; Midland Hospice, P.O. Box 2621, Midland, TX 79702; the American Cancer Society; or a favorite charity.

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

Jimmie Franklin Elliott

Jimmie Franklin Elliott, 83, of Stephenville died Sunday, March 4, 2012, at Arlington Memorial Hospital in Arlington. Services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, March 9, 2012, at Harrell Memorial Chapel under the direction of the Rev. John D. Shugart with burial to follow at Hanson Cemetery.

He was a member of Proctor Baptist Church. He was born May 28, 1928, at Bertha Monroe to George Washington Elliott and Bertha Viola Monroe Elliott. He was preceded in death by two wives, Peggie L. Hale and Helen Chambers; four brothers; and two great-granddaughters.

Survivors include two daughters and sons-in-law, Sulynn and Bill Bledsoe of Arlington and Laura June and Tim Tinsley of Signal Mount, Tenn.; two sons and daughters-in-law, Jimmy Travis and Blanche Elliott of Austin and Daniel Hale and Kenna Elliott of Arlington; two stepsons, J.L. Chambers and Charles Chambers; three stepdaughters, Sherry Chambers Fleenan, Cathy Cambers Baker and Debra Chambers Wooldridge; eight grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and a sister, Louise Steele of Dublin, Texas.

He was an oil field contractor and spent much of his life in the Big Spring and Permian Basin area.

Ioma T. Shaw

Ioma T. Shaw, 82, of Big Spring died Monday, March 5, 2012, in a Midland hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Corrections

A headline in Monday's edition of the *Herald* indicated the Kiwanis Club annual pancake supper will be held Saturday. That is incorrect. The supper will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Friday in the Howard College cafeteria.

A cutline on Monday's front page on the *Herald* listed a girl and man as Cara Morgan with her father, Mark Morgan at the Rotary Club Kids Fishing Tournament. In fact, pictured are Avey Nuno with her father, Jaime Nuno.

Police blotter

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

- YSA RUBIO, 51, of 621 Sgt. Paredez, was arrested Monday on a warrant from another agency.
- EDWIN LEE MATTHEWS, 49, of 1311 W. Second St., was arrested Monday on charges of possession of a controlled substance (two counts) and no driver's license - when unlicensed.
- ROBERT LEE ALDRIDGE, 54, of 1006 Baylor, was arrested Monday on warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility and expired registration.
- MATTHEW MENDOZA, 32, of 1104 Blackmon Ave., was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid - no insurance.
- THEFT was reported in the 3900 block of Parkway.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.

Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 68 inmates at the time of this report.

- EDWIN LEE MATTHEWS, 49, was booked into the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of possession of a controlled substance (two counts) and a municipal warrant for no driver's license.
- YSA RUBIO SR., 51, was booked into the county jail Monday by the BSPD on Williamson County warrants for failure to appear and failure to appear - child support.
- ROBERT LEE ALDRIDGE, 54, was booked into the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of issuance of a bad check and municipal warrants for expired motor vehicle license plate and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- MATTHEW MENDOZA, 32, was booked into the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 2500 block of Hunter Medical. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1400 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

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.

THURSDAY

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

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

| Wed 3/7 | Thu 3/8 | Fri 3/9 | Sat 3/10 | Sun 3/11 |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| 81/60 A few clouds early, otherwise mostly sunny. Warm. High 81F. | 71/37 Clouds giving way to sun. High in the low 70s and lows in the upper 30s. | 55/37 Chance of showers. High in the mid 50s and lows in the upper 30s. | 57/39 Few showers. High in the upper 50s and lows in the upper 30s. | 70/48 Times of sun and clouds. High in the low 70s and lows in the upper 40s. |
| Sunrise: 7:06 AM Sunset: 6:49 PM | Sunrise: 7:04 AM Sunset: 6:49 PM | Sunrise: 7:03 AM Sunset: 6:50 PM | Sunrise: 7:02 AM Sunset: 6:51 PM | Sunrise: 7:01 AM Sunset: 6:52 PM |

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Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

| City | Hi | Lo | Cond. | City | Hi | Lo | Cond. |
|----------------|----|----|----------|-----------------|----|----|-----------|
| Abilene | 77 | 63 | pt sunny | Kingsville | 81 | 70 | windy |
| Amarillo | 77 | 34 | pt sunny | Livingston | 77 | 65 | cloudy |
| Austin | 75 | 65 | windy | Longview | 77 | 65 | rain |
| Beaumont | 75 | 67 | cloudy | Lubbock | 78 | 46 | mst sunny |
| Brownsville | 82 | 70 | pt sunny | Lufkin | 79 | 66 | rain |
| Brownwood | 77 | 65 | windy | Midland | 82 | 56 | mst sunny |
| Corpus Christi | 76 | 70 | pt sunny | Raymondville | 84 | 69 | windy |
| Corsicana | 74 | 64 | rain | Rosenberg | 75 | 69 | pt sunny |
| Dallas | 73 | 65 | rain | San Antonio | 76 | 66 | cloudy |
| Del Rio | 79 | 65 | pt sunny | San Marcos | 76 | 66 | cloudy |
| El Paso | 79 | 43 | windy | Sulphur Springs | 73 | 64 | rain |
| Fort Stockton | 88 | 51 | windy | Sweetwater | 79 | 61 | pt sunny |
| Gainesville | 69 | 61 | cloudy | Tyler | 76 | 64 | rain |
| Greenville | 71 | 62 | rain | Weatherford | 70 | 62 | cloudy |
| Houston | 75 | 69 | pt sunny | Wichita Falls | 71 | 61 | cloudy |

National Cities

| City | Hi | Lo | Cond. | City | Hi | Lo | Cond. |
|-------------|----|----|-----------|----------------|----|----|-----------|
| Atlanta | 65 | 49 | cloudy | Minneapolis | 37 | 21 | mixed |
| Boston | 56 | 42 | sunny | New York | 60 | 46 | sunny |
| Chicago | 62 | 39 | windy | Phoenix | 57 | 39 | pt sunny |
| Dallas | 73 | 65 | rain | San Francisco | 63 | 42 | sunny |
| Denver | 35 | 19 | sn shower | Seattle | 49 | 35 | mst sunny |
| Houston | 75 | 69 | pt sunny | St. Louis | 70 | 56 | rain |
| Los Angeles | 63 | 44 | sunny | Washington, DC | 66 | 48 | mst sunny |
| Miami | 80 | 71 | rain | | | | |

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HEAVY MACHINERY

Work continues on water line replacement in downtown Big Spring.

HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno



FUNDING

Continued from Page 1

“When construction is completed on all three phases, we are certain this will be the premiere agriculture education facility in the area.”

The complex sits between the east side of Memorial Stadium and the west side of Foundation Softball Field on the campus of Howard College.

Broughton, born and raised in Big Spring, began farming as a young man on his family farm north of Big Spring and lived his life dedicated to the industry he loved. He was a self-made man, developing his farm into a large operation that spanned seven counties.

Broughton also served as a member of the Howard College Foundation Board. He established his foundation in 1983 in order to continue

the educational building, Howard College has visions of reaching out and increasing involvement in agricultural based initiatives and partnerships with organizations such as the Texas A&M Extension office.

“We are indebted to the G.C. Broughton Foundation for their generous financial commitment to our agriculture program and to the future development of ag related initiatives for our community,” said Cash Berry, assistant professor and director of the HC Agriculture Program. “This is a great day for our agriculture community and we are proud to be a part of it.”

Cindy Smith is in charge of public relations at Howard College. She can be contacted at csmith@howardcollege.edu or www.howardcollege.edu

With the addition of

SPONSORS

Continued from Page 1

of \$50,” Lesser said. “That guarantees their name will be in the program. Also, area residents who would like to make a donation — no matter how much it is — are very much appreciated, as well.”

The annual event, which features Native American dance competitions as well as vendors from all over the state and region, is something the local committee looks forward to each year,

Lesser said, but you might be surprised to learn just how much others are looking forward to the show, as well.

“The vendors are very excited about coming back to Big Spring. Many of them have been returning ever since the first couple of years the Big Spring Powwow has been held,” Lesser said. “A lot of them compare this powwow to a family reunion. That’s how much they look forward to seeing one another. I think that really says a lot about the hospitality of our community and the Big Spring Powwow

itself.”

For those who think the powwow is a religious ceremony and might be apprehensive about attending, Lesser said those worries are completely unfounded.

“The powwow is a social event and there is no Native American religion involved; there will be no medicine men and no ceremonies,” Lesser said. “A powwow is a wonderful experience; the drums alone will lift your heart and make your feet want to dance.”

“Dancing has always been a

big part of the Native American culture, as it has in many cultures. Most people think of war dances or rain dances. However, Native Americans dance for many reasons — a good hunt or harvest, marriage or childbirth, or just for the fun of it. These dances would last for days.”

If music and dance aren’t quite enough to interest you, Lesser said shopping might just do the trick for most Crossroads residents, as vendors will be offering a number of items and treats.

“The vendors will be selling

all kinds of Native American wares, from jewelry and art to food, like the traditional fry bread,” said Lesser. “There will also be a silent auction, so it should be a lot of fun for everyone in the family.”

For more information about the powwow, contact Lesser at 432-935-0125 or visit the Powwow Committee’s website at www.powwowbigspring.net

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

CITY

Continued from Page 1

when I moved back, I was just so disappointed with the state the infrastructure was in,” Farquhar said. “I want to be on the city council responsible for repairing the infrastructure. Also, I believe any big ticket items need to go before the voters. I believe they need to have the final decision.”

Farquhar also pledged to be a one-term council member.

The District 2 seat, currently held by Manuel Ramirez Jr., who did not file to run for re-election, drew only

a single candidate, as local resident Carmen Moreno Harbour will run unopposed in the election.

The District 6 seat, held by Councilman Terry Hansen, who also declined to file for re-election, drew a lone candidate. Marvin Boyd, owner of Boyd’s Auto Glass, will go unopposed in the May contest.

In the city of Stanton, a rather eventful filing period will likely mean a rather quiet municipal election season, as several seats up for grabs in the Martin County seat will go to unopposed candidates in May.

Mayoral incumbent

Justin Burch will likely win his first full term in the office, as he goes unopposed. Burch has served approximately a year as mayor of Stanton, stepping in for former mayor Tommy Haislip, who vacated the office to move to Houston in 2011.

The at-large seat on the council — vacated by Burch in 2011 when he assumed the position of mayor — will also be assumed by an unopposed candidate, as incumbent Danny Fryar — who has served in the capacity since assuming duties in 2011 — is the lone name on the ballot.

Similar stories hold true in Districts 2 and

3, as incumbents Michelle Kidd and James Jenkins go unopposed in seeking re-election in the May contest.

It’s not all a done deal in Stanton, however.

The District 1 seat on the council, currently held by Ronnie Christian — who has decided not to seek re-election — drew a pair of candidates before filing closed. Stanton residents Jim Smith and Brian McHenry will battle it out in the Stanton City Council’s lone contested race this May.

In Coahoma, it looked like the small city might not have to hold an election in May until a number of last minute filings Monday afternoon.

The seats up for election in the Coahoma races include those currently held by Linda Luce, Paulette Lindsey and Zach Johnson. Until late Monday afternoon, Lindsey was the only incumbent to file to run for re-election, joined by newcomers Billy Sullivan and Dan Shelburne to fill the three vacant seats on the council.

However, before the close of business Monday, both incumbents — Luce and Johnson — filed to have their names placed on the ballots, as did local construction contractor John Mulkey.

Now, instead of three candidates running unopposed, it appears the

city will have six candidates vying for three seats on its city council, according to officials with Coahoma City Hall.

Early voting in this year’s municipal elections is slated to begin April 30 and end May 8, according to local election officials.

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

ISD

Continued from Page 1

running for re-election in the three-year term positions. Ken McIntosh, who was appointed to fill a vacancy in District 3, will be running for re-election for the remainder of the unexpired two-year term. Other names on the ballot for District 2 are Ed Ware and Pat Deanda. Early voting will take place starting April 30 at the courthouse.

Forsan ISD has two at-large positions, held by Lewis Boeker and Misty Rhoton. Incumbent Boeker has filed for re-election. Other names appearing on the ballot will be Chris Olson and

Beckie Wash. Wash was appointed to the board last month to fill a spot left vacant by Derrick Looney. The position will be for an unexpired two-year term, while the other positions will be for three-year terms. Early voting will begin April 30 at the courthouse.

Stanton ISD has four positions up for election. District 2, a single person district, held by Ramino Reyes; District 6, at large position, held by James Jones (Pinky); District 7, at large position, held by Danny Ireton and District 3, a single member district, held by Jason Phillips. District 3 will be up for a two-year unexpired term while the other

spots will be three-year positions. Incumbent Reyes will be running for re-election in District 2 and incumbent James (Pinky) Jones will also be running for re-election in District 6. Marty Graham has placed his name on the ballot for District 7. Jeremy Louder and Jason Phillips will be on the ballot for the unexpired two-year term for District 3. Early voting will take place starting April 30 at the Election Administrator Central Office located at 110 W. School Street in Stanton.

Sands ISD will have three at-large positions on the ballot. Incumbents Tommy Staggs and Bill Barnes will be running for re-election. Amy Parker, who currently holds one of the positions up for election, has chosen not to file. However, Michael Wigington, Wes Higgins, Blayne Archuleta and Matt Snell will be running for election. Early voting will begin April 30 at the business office.

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NEXT CLINIC VISIT 3-8-12

EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

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First and foremost, tax the rich

Who've been going on and on about the need to raise taxes on the rich need to catch our breath. There's no need to reverse course, but also no obligation to totally love President Obama's approach for doing what we've been asking for. An explanation is in order.

One may brush off the usual charges of "class warfare" that follow any proposal to hike taxes on the affluent. But President Obama does not improve the atmospherics by constantly telling the public, "This is about them, not about you."

The Bush-era tax cuts have been disastrous for America's fiscal standing. The 2001 and 2003 tax cuts piled more than \$1.7 trillion onto the deficit over 10 years, according to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities. The two-year extension pushed by Obama will add another \$858 billion.

Obama's budget would end the Bush tax cuts for those with incomes of \$250,000 and up. That's fine, but an honest conversation with the masses is in order. It should focus on two realities: One is that the Bush tax cuts favored the rich royally, so ending them for everyone does hit the well-to-do more than we lesser

taxpayers. The other is that the added revenues from just raising taxes on the top incomes would not close the deficits, even with big spending cuts.

Obama also proposes taxing rich people's dividends as ordinary income, which is to say at the highest marginal rate (to be 39.6 percent next year if it goes back to pre-2001 levels). That's also fine. Dividends were taxed as ordinary income when Ronald Reagan left office. In the George W. Bush years, the rate was lowered to 15 percent.

But why further complicate the tax code with different rules for different income groups? If we want to treat dividends as ordinary income, let's treat everyone's dividends as ordinary income.

People who are not wealthy would end up paying less than those with top incomes, anyway.

Meanwhile, we can ignore the beef that dividend taxes are a tax on corporate profits that have already been taxed. For starters, many companies pay little if any of that corporate tax due to an arsenal of loopholes. Furthermore, the property or sales taxes we pay comes out of earnings that have already been subject to income taxes. The system is riddled with so-called double taxation.

At some point, Americans will have to engage in a grown-up discussion about a value-added tax, which is a kind of national sales tax. Critics on the right complain that it's a sneaky way

to fund government programs. Critics on the left grumble that it is regressive: It doesn't distinguish between rich and poor shoppers.

To the left we say, if it funds government programs for the middle-class on down, its end results are progressive. That's how Europe pays for its social safety net.

To the right we say, the VAT is a tax on consumption, not investment. That's how your hero Margaret Thatcher pulled off cutting income taxes without bankrupting Britain. As prime minister in the early 1980s, Thatcher raised the VAT to 15 percent from two rates of 8 percent and 12.5 percent.

Expecting Obama to share stern truths before the November election may be unrealistic. And getting a useful conversation going among Republican candidates — all of whom say they'd refuse \$10 of spending cuts for \$1 of new taxes — is impossible.

But one can hope that Obama will at least launch us on some baby steps toward understanding what must be done — considering a VAT, for example. And when talking about higher taxes, rather than saying "for the rich only," he should say, "The rich come first."

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.



FROMA HARROP



Rush: At the top of Liberty's spear

If you'll indulge me, I need to express this beyond my Twitter posts: I am proud of my brother, Rush, for his multiple sincere apologies to Sandra Fluke. I am not even slightly surprised that so many on the left refuse to accept his apology.

I think this entire incident is instructive. Rush is heartsick over the direction this country is going and that we arrived at a place where many people don't even bat an eye over the alarming development that our government is mandating insurance coverage — and forcing employers to pay for it even when they object on moral grounds.

But Rush issued written and verbal apologies, and those apologies were unequivocal. They were not phrased in the passive voice. They were not indirect, e.g., "I am sorry for the pain I've caused my family." They did not seek to blame others. They did not seek to avoid personal responsibility through use of the conditional, e.g., "I am sorry if I hurt your feelings." They were not phony; they were coupled with a discrete reaffirmation of his belief in the underlying principles that led to this sad episode in the first place.

That is, he did not say he is sorry for being a conservative and for standing up for the values he believes in. He had the courage to reaffirm those beliefs in a way that did not detract from his sincere apologies for the unfortunate words he used.

What is a much bigger story is that the left's primary interest here is not in protecting Fluke — in my humble opinion. Liberals are attempting to exploit this as another opportunity to destroy

Rush through a calculated, organized Saul Alinsky-type community organizing campaign to pressure and intimidate his advertisers into discontinuing their sponsorship of his show.

I am watching them operate on Twitter and other social networks, and their viciousness is palpable. They didn't want Rush's apology, which they absolutely refuse to accept. They want his scalp. And they've wanted his scalp for years because he is the most effective and influential spokesman for the conservative cause.

What I am observing is the most radical display of hate and intolerance that I've witnessed in years. It does not surprise me, but it is ironic that the very people who masquerade as exemplars of tolerance, civility and compassion have no room in their hearts for forgiveness.

We are facing an existential threat to our nation today in discretionary and entitlement spending.

We are experiencing an unprecedented assault on our Constitution and the God-given liberties it seeks to guarantee.

We were already spending unconscionable amounts of money, but President Obama has pressed his foot on the accelerator and taken us into crisis territory in three years. He has wasted trillions of dollars, resulting in a net loss of jobs. He has spent hundreds of millions on failed green projects that can't work, and instead of apologizing and changing course, he simply shrugs and demands money for more such projects.

In his most recent budget, he has projected for the fourth straight year a deficit in excess of \$1 trillion, and more outrageously reckless deficits as far as the eye can see. His budgets don't even pretend to rein in spending. And he makes no apologies for it.

Obama knows — neither he

nor the people with whom he surrounds himself are stupid — that we must restructure entitlements in order to have a chance for national financial survival, yet he hasn't even addressed the issue. Did you hear me? He hasn't even presented a plan to address the issue.

And please don't get me started about his horrifying gutting of the military and our defense capabilities, from our jet aircraft to our naval fleet to our missile defenses to our nuclear arms, at a time when our biggest potential rivals are all ramping up, from China to Russia to Iran — not to mention terrorists throughout the world.

We are in a war for the survival of the nation as we know it — as the greatest, freest, strongest, most prosperous nation in history. This is why we fight. When we step over the line, we apologize for having done so. But we do not apologize for the causes we are fighting for, and we must redouble our efforts to stay in this battle with all that is in us.

I repeat: I am proud of Rush for apologizing. I am equally proud of him for sticking to his guns on the underlying principles, because in this war, he has been at the tip of liberty's spear for years — and he remains so today. We march on.

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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- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

When we walk with You, Lord, we are on solid ground.

Amen

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Kid Scoop Together:

CHALLENGE YOURSELF!

Read today's Kid Scoop page, do the activities and then see if you can answer all of the questions below:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, GIRL SCOUTS!



Can you catch up with these Girl Scouts?

In 2010, the Boy Scouts of America _____ its 100th birthday. In 2012, Girl Scouts celebrate their 100th! There is a good _____ their birthdays are so close together. The founder of the Boy Scouts and the founder of the Girl Scouts were friends.

Scouting Gets Started

Colonel Robert Baden-Powell, a British military officer, came up with the idea of scouting as a way to show boys how to be good _____. His friend, Juliette Gordon Low, thought _____ was a great idea and she started a group for girls. At first, they were called Girl Guides.



First America, Then the World!

Juliette thought girls all over the world would enjoy being scouts. She left England and _____ for America, where she was raised. The first thing she did was to call upon a friend to help her start a Girl Guides group in Savannah, Ga. It was a big _____!

She then traveled from city to city, contacting friends she had met in her travels and _____ them in starting troops for girls. After that first year, she changed the name of the new _____ to Girl Scouts.

Replace the missing words.
ENROLLING SUCCESS ORGANIZATION SCOUTING
REASON CITIZENS CELEBRATED SAILED

Standards Link: Civics: Students understand why civic responsibility is important and know examples.

Making a Difference

In addition to learning skills, Juliette wanted her Girl Scouts to do service projects in their communities. When World War I began, Girl Scouts helped in hospitals and canteens.

After the war, Juliette's thoughts turned to maintaining world peace. "Why couldn't my Girl Scouts meet and understand girls from other countries?" she wondered.

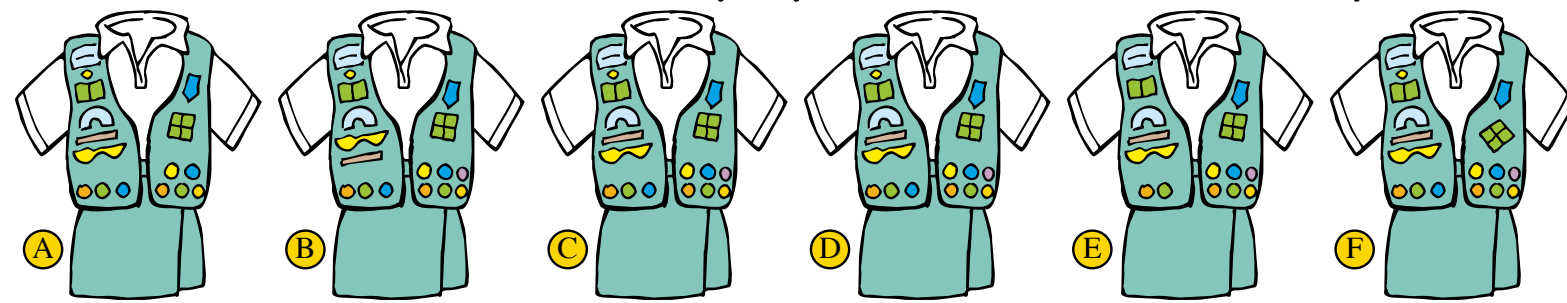
She set up "World Camps" where Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from all over the world could meet to promote peace and goodwill. That tradition still continues 100 years later!

Hold this page up to a mirror to read the mission of the Girl Scouts.

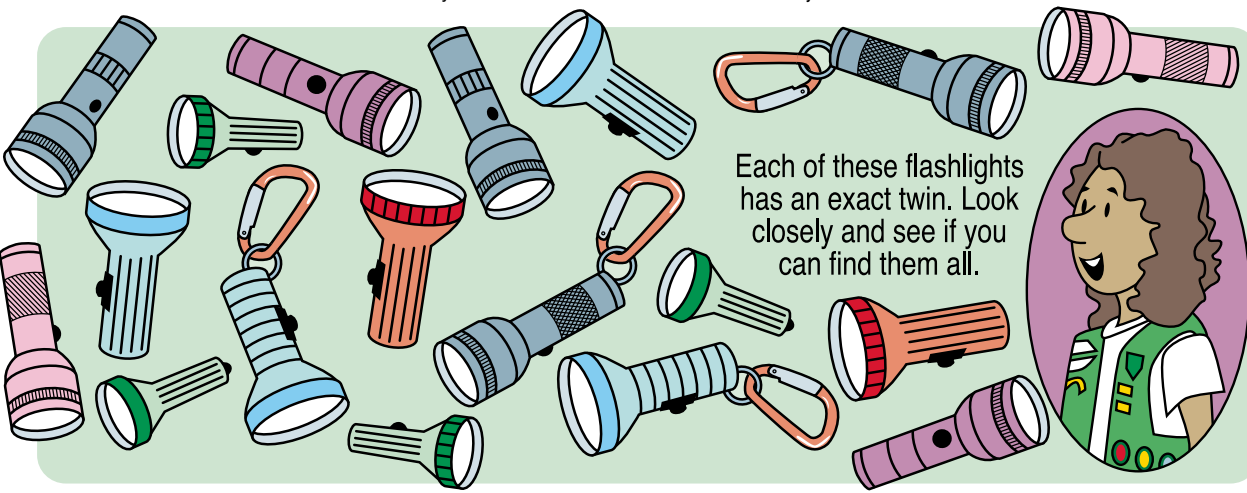
Who makes the world a better place?
Girls Scouts of America
to help build a better world

Uniform Uniforms

Look closely. Only two of these Girl Scout uniforms are exactly the same.



Standards Link: Visual Discrimination: Identify similarities and differences in common objects.



Each of these flashlights has an exact twin. Look closely and see if you can find them all.

Extra! Extra!

Find It!

Pretend your Scout Troop is hiking. In the newspaper, find:

- a healthy snack
- an action verb
- clothing to keep you warm
- adjectives that describe hiking

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Juliette Gordon Low had a nickname. Circle every 10th letter to discover her nickname. (Hint: The first level of Girl Scouts is called by her nickname.)

**RTWDSVBAYDPTBG
KXSWJATGDBV
WAQLIDCGTRZWP
JSGRTCSPBWCY**

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.



Get one of the earliest recipes for Girl Scout cookies to make with your family. Visit www.kidscoop.com/kids

Double Double Word Search

- ENROLLING
- CANTEENS
- MILITARY
- CITIZENS
- PROMOTE
- SERVICE
- FOUNDER
- GUIDES
- SCOUTS
- PEACE
- GIRLS
- FIRST
- HINT
- NEW
- IDEA

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

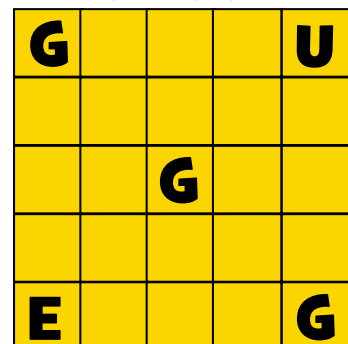
E T O M O R P S G S
C G S O U F N N Y R
S N I N I E I H R E
E E B R E L G I A D
R W S T L Z U N T N
V T N O I S I T I U
I A R D A D D T L O
C N Y E C A E P I F
E S T U O C S A M C

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Understand the main ideas and significant details of expository texts on topics of historical importance.

Kid Scoop-doku

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word GUIDE in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.



FROM THE **Kid Scoop** LESSON LIBRARY

www.kidscoop.com

Volunteering

Find volunteer opportunities inside your local newspaper in your area. Identify the value, both personally and to the community, of doing a "good turn" in this situation.

Standards Link: Civics: Understand the importance of volunteering as a characteristic of American society.



What is green and crawls through the grass?

ANSWER: A Girl Scout who has lost her cookie.

Write On!

Good Turn Daily

The Girl Scout slogan is "Do a good turn daily." Write about a good turn you did and how it helped that person.

Bird Poop: Waking up after a sleep

Warned of its blustery wrath, we could only hope the dust storm and blue norther would be the last rendition of our recent topsyturvy weather. After rattling windows, strong gusts sent people and animals scurrying for protection from stinging bits of sand.

During the night, the winds subsided. My walk to get the paper lying in the driveway the next morning caused me to notice roofs and lawns in our neighborhood covered with frost.

Although the forecasters had called for an abrupt lowering of the nighttime temperature, they had not correctly anticipated the severity of this event. Outside, it was 29 degrees.

Turning on the radio led to an update of our forecast. For the next three to four days, we could expect very cold days and freezing nights.

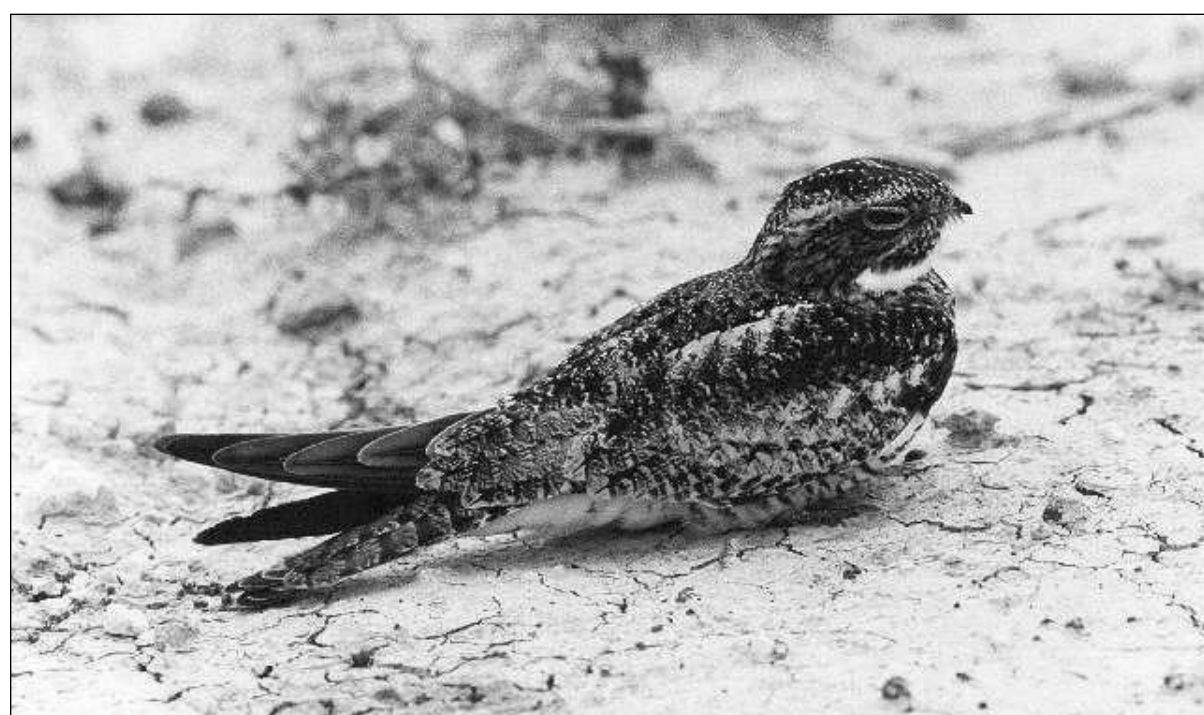
With any severe weather event came concern regarding migratory birds. On their way northward, dangerous winds and the absence of insects and flowers could wreak havoc with the success of their journey.

The first call came three days later. In the pump shop, at the refinery, one of the "pump doctors" described having discovered a bird in a corner of the long, metal building. Although it had looked as if it was dead, he realized it wasn't limp or rigid. It just didn't move. "It's colored like an owl," he continued.

"Do the feathers make the



BEBE
McCASLAND



Courtesy photo

Often mistaken for an owl because of its large mouth, defensive hiss and grey coloration, the Common Poorwill rests on the ground or perches on a horizontal branch during the day. It is seen hunting during the evening and early morning.

bird appear to be a piece of old tree bark?" I asked. Enthusiastically, he replied, "Oh, yeah!"

Having actually found the bird two days before, he had thought it would revive and leave on its own. With the doors open a good part of the time, the man had made an assumption about the bird's departure.

Surprised that the noise of men working on pumps and other rotating equipment hadn't awakened the bird, the employee said he would take the bird to the main gate. "Just ask the guard for it."

As we drove up to the entrance and the uniformed employee, Art and I already had an idea of what the maintenance man had found. Inside a carefully wrapped towel was a Common Poorwill with mottled, soft grey

feathers.

To someone unaccustomed to handling birds, the plumage would have resembled that of an owl. If the man had seen it flitting about his neighborhood as it caught insects in flight, he might have thought the bird was a large moth.

With the advent of frigid weather, the poorwill's food source had suddenly vanished. As a means of fasting and surviving during a cold spell, the bird had started to hibernate in a state of torpidity.

Because it could lower its respiration, heartbeat and body temperature, it would use its inactivity to survive. This deep sleep, or torpor, would allow it to rest. With warmer weather, and insects plentiful again, the bird would awaken to a feast.

For five days, we allowed

the poorwill to do what nature had intended and waited on a favorable forecast. Daytime temperatures that would promote a burst of insect activity were a prerequisite.

When a forecast of several weeks of mild days and cool nights was announced, we started to warm the bird. For it to wake up with the sun's assistance was imperative. Once back in the wild, it would regulate its own existence if it encountered another blue norther and meager supply of insects.

Placing the poorwill in an open carrier, Art carried it to our back porch roof. The container would soon share the warmth from the early afternoon sun.

Taking turns, one of us watched for its departure. An hour passed. After another hour, we could see that the

bird had moved within the container.

Knowing it would leave at any second made the wait almost impossible. Suddenly, a blur through the door took flight.

Its short, broad wings easily carried it over our yard, the back lot, and to a neighbor's roof. As it basked in the sunshine, we wondered what it would do next.

After about 30 minutes, it took flight again. Heading eastward toward large Russian olive and elm trees, it displayed its unique ability to twist and turn as it enjoyed its new world. Swerving from side to side in agile maneuvers among the branches, it finally disappeared into the newly budding canopies.

To have held and worked with this marvelous aviator was memorable. Its large head and tiny beak masked a gaping mouth that was essentially a flying insect trap. In hand, its two ounces, mostly feathers, didn't seem so formidable.

Adorned only with a narrow white band across its throat, and white tips on its tail, it was drab on purpose. Its natural camouflage insured its survival, whether in a tree or on the ground.

Usually inactive during the day, the poorwill would take flight again as day darkened into night. In silent, graceful flight, it would dive, circle and climb in what Byron had described as a "night of cloudless climes and starry skies."

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

Comics tackle tough issues

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — There are wedding bells in Riverdale, but it's not Archie and Betty or Veronica. It's Army Lt. Kevin Keller and the physical therapist who helped him overcome his war wound — Clay Walker.

Meanwhile, in the comics pages, Gil is an 8-year-old boy being raised by his divorced factory-working mom, and Dustin is 23 and living at home, unable to find a job after graduating from college.

Comics have always been a portal for escapism and fantasy but have also labored to reflect a contemporary climate, a process that shows no signs of slowing whether it involves super villains, breast cancer or other complicated realities of modern life.

Writers and artists fold real-world events into their fictional worlds, blending boundaries to make readers not just laugh and escape, but also reflect and think.

"Comics have always been a reflection of our world," said Brendan Burford, comics editor at King Features Syndicate in New York. "People want to see a reflection and, chances are, if the reflection is something that rings through with their world, their life, their family and their friends, they can relate and laugh."

The title character in "Gil" is an elementary school student, slightly portly and always picked last for sports, who lives with his mom. He would love a nuclear family because it would mean he'd have superpowers.

"Growing up in a single-parent family during America's first 'Great Recession' wasn't always easy, but I look back on my formative years fondly," said cartoonist Norm Feuti, who debuted "Gil" in January and has based it, partly, on his own experiences.

He noted that with the national divorce rate rising, there are parents and kids who can probably relate to his title character, an 8-year-old quintessential underdog who lacks the latest toys or electronic gadgets.

"Gil is a very personal comic to me," Feuti said. "It's a celebration of the resiliency and indefatigable spirit of childhood."

In another strip, Dustin has finished college but is living with his parents, unable to find a significant job or afford his own apartment, experiences not uncommon among many recent graduates.

"It's humor therapy for people," said Steve Kelly.

PARENT'S CORNER

Running in circles, or the eight-foot blanket

Occasionally a story comes along that is just perfect for sharing and in these days when funds are difficult to find I thought you would enjoy this one.

It seems that it was a slow day in the small town of Pumphandle and the streets are deserted. Times are tough, everybody is in debt and everybody is living on credit.

It was at that perfect time a tourist visiting the area drives through town, stops at the motel, and lays a \$100 bill on the desk saying he wants to inspect the

rooms upstairs to pick one for the night.

As soon as he walks upstairs, the motel owner grabs the bill and runs next door to pay his debt to the butcher. The butcher excitedly takes the \$100 and runs down the street to retire his debt to the pig farmer. The pig farmer quickly takes the \$100 and heads off to pay his bill to his supplier, the local co-op.

The guy at the co-op doesn't waste any time and takes the \$100 and runs to pay his debt to the trucker who has been hauling his supplies to the up-state markets. The trucker, without hesitation, takes the \$100 and hurries to the hotel to pay his debt of an overnight while recently in between his routes. The hotel proprietor then

places the \$100 back on the counter so the traveler will not suspect anything. At that moment the traveler comes down the stairs, states that the rooms are not satisfactory, picks up the \$100 bill and leaves.

Now if you have stayed with this story you will have discovered that no one produced anything and no one earned anything. However, the whole town now thinks that they are out of debt and there is a false atmosphere of optimism and glee.

Now does this in any way resemble the status of our country today? It really reminds me of the story of the old Choctaw elder who was describing Daylight Savings Time. He said he didn't understand the concept at all because it was like taking an eight foot blanket, cutting off the bottom and sewing it to the top which has no effect on the length of the blanket.

It's still an eight foot blanket. These stories remind us of an individual running in circles, don't they? As someone once said, "The faster they go, the behinder they get."

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



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HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring shortstop Ambra Hill, left, tags out an Abilene Cooper baserunner during their game at the Big Spring ISD Softball Complex Monday. Cooper defeated the Lady Steers, 10-5.

Area roundup:

Hawks sweep McMurry

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

ABILENE — The Howard College baseball team improved to 16-2 for the season by sweeping a doubleheader with McMurry University Monday afternoon.

In Monday's first game, the Hawks broke open a tie game with three runs in the fifth inning, then held on for an 8-5 win. Dominic Moreno took the win in relief of Howard starter Ethan Carnes, and Nick Sawyer recorded the last four outs to earn the save.

Offensively, Howard's 12-hit attack was paced by Dexter Kjerstad, who belted a home run, and Jordan Allen, who added a double.

The Hawks were hyper-aggressive on the base paths, notching 10 steals, including

See HAWKS, Page 12

NFL bounties : Incentive system run amok

By HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Pro Football Writer

To Hall of Fame defensive back Ronnie Lott, the thousands of dollars New Orleans Saints players were paid under their bounty system from 2009-11 is not all that different from the helmet stickers handed out at lower levels of the game.

Little rewards for big plays are as much a part of football as runs and passes.

"I never played the game to take away somebody's livelihood. Have I hurt people? Yes. I got paid to

make interceptions. I got paid to cause fumbles. And I got paid to make big hits," said Lott, who was with the 49ers, Raiders and Jets during his NFL career from 1981-94.

"It goes back to when I was 10. Somebody said that if you did one of those things, you would get a sticker on your helmet. In college, they gave you that recognition if you did well," Lott said in a telephone interview Monday. "So, no. I'm not really surprised by it."

Nor, it seems, should anyone.

"The fact that guys in a football locker room would talk about and reward each other when they take one of their opponents out of the game — that's not surprising at all. That probably happens from the high school level on up. This is not an odd thing. Now the cash rewards and the coach approval? That formalizes it and takes it to another level," said Jay Coakley, professor emeritus in

"The fact that guys in a football locker room would talk about and reward each other when they take one of their opponents out of the game — that's not surprising at all. It probably happens from the high school level on up. This is not an odd thing. Now the cash rewards and the coach approval? That formalizes it and takes it to another level."

Jay Coakley
University of Colorado-Colorado Spring

See NFL, Page 12

Drivers insist they'll race at Texas speedway

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

SEBRING, Fla. (AP) — Several IndyCar drivers dismissed any notion of boycotting Texas Motor Speedway, and said the entire issue has been blown out of proportion.

"I want to stop all this nonsense discussion about boycotting. It's absurd, it's ridiculous and we are professionals and will race there," Helio Castroneves said on Monday, following the first day of spring training testing at Sebring International Raceway.

Texas track president Eddie Gossage reacted angrily last week to rumors that IndyCar's drivers had discussed skipping the June 9 race at Texas over concerns with how the fence is constructed. Gossage was bothered by a report two weeks ago that indicated the drivers had discussed boycotting the race, but hadn't come to that conclusion yet.

"It's absolutely irresponsible of those drivers, and they deserve — because of the way they conduct themselves sometimes — they deserve where they stand now in the food chain of motorsports," Gossage told racing website Racin' Today in quotes that surfaced Friday.

That led IndyCar CEO Randy Bernard to issue a statement Saturday, insisting the series will be in Texas as planned in June.

Justin Wilson, who serves along with Dario Franchitti and Tony Kanaan as a driver representative for the series, said Monday a boycott was never even discussed. He said Texas was discussed briefly during a Feb. 13 driver meeting in Indianapolis, but the issues covered centered on both pack racing and the fencing at Texas.

Safety has been the dominant topic in IndyCar since two-time Indianapolis 500 winner Dan Wheldon was killed in the October season finale at Las Vegas Motor Speedway. Wheldon was killed when his car sailed into the fence in a 15-car accident, and his head hit a post in the fence.

The accident was a perfect storm of conditions, and a report on Wheldon's death found that the pack racing on a high-banked oval were two contributing factors.

Texas, which has hosted IndyCar for 15 consecutive seasons and is one of the biggest events on the schedule, is a high-banked oval, and its fence is constructed in similar fashion to the one at Las Vegas.

"All the drivers got together, and (Kanaan) explained the situation to them as to what could happen, as far as going back there to Texas and pack racing could happen," Wilson said Monday. "And he said missing that race is not an option. And not one person disagreed. We all 100 percent, all agreed."

Thunder rally late, down Mavs

By JEFF LATZKE

AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma City Thunder's top trio struggled to make shots all night.

With one final flurry, they were still able to keep rolling at home.

Russell Westbrook scored 24 points, Kevin Durant added 22 and the Thunder scored the final eight points to escape with a 95-91 victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Monday night and run their home winning streak to 13 games.

Durant, Westbrook and top reserve James Harden went a combined 16 for 49 from the field as Oklahoma City managed to pull one out without needing to make a basket in the final 2 minutes.

"The thing is with us, we've just got to continue to just keep playing hard no matter if we're making shots or not, and playing together on both ends," said Durant, who missed 12 of his 18 shots.

"It was a sloppy game but I'm glad we came out on top."

Westbrook answered Dirk Nowitzki's fourth 3-pointer of the final period by hitting one of his own from the right wing to get Oklahoma City within 91-90 with 2:25 remaining, and Dallas didn't score again.

Serge Ibaka hit two free throws with 46 seconds left to give Oklahoma City

the lead, and Jason Terry missed two shots down the stretch for the Mavericks.

Afterward, Dallas coach Rick Carlisle protested the call that allowed Ibaka to attempt the go-ahead free throws after Ian Mahinmi swatted his shot away.

"I'm in disbelief that there was a foul called on Mahinmi. I just watched the play five times. It's a block. That's it. That's an enormous play," Carlisle said in opening his postgame comments.

"Then Nowitzki gets hit on the arm at the other end and there's no call. I'm at a loss, so I apologize for that."

The Mavericks still had a shot to go back ahead and then another attempt at the tie, but Terry missed both times.

"We haven't really been sharp on our execution at the end of ball games and that's hurt us," said Terry, who scored nine of his 18 points in the fourth quarter. "Not a big concern because I know the type of team we are. We thrive in those situations."

"We've got to just keep clawing it out. Eventually it will swing our way and we'll pull these games out, but it's been a thorn in our side the entire season."

Nowitzki finished with 27 points but didn't touch the ball on a key possession when Dallas was down by two with 13 seconds left.

and forth with Kidd getting stuck under the basket before tossing it right back. Terry missed on a short jumper along the right baseline that would have tied it, and Westbrook hit two free throws to ice it after grabbing the rebound.

Terry said "that was definitely not the plan" and guessed that Kidd must have seen something in the defense that he didn't.

"I still ended up getting a pretty decent shot, I thought, under duress. But again, I ask for the ball in that situation and if I get another opportunity, I'm betting on myself to win," Terry said.

Carlisle said Kidd was wide open under the basket but Terry didn't see him in time.

"It just was a really unusual play but it never should have come to that," Carlisle said.

Harden had 16 points on 4-for-11 shooting and Kendrick Perkins grabbed a season-high 14 rebounds for West-leading Oklahoma City. Westbrook missed 14 of his 20 shot attempts.

"It happens like that some nights. We've just got to stay consistent with what we do defensively and everything will play out," Westbrook said.

The Thunder were held to their second-worst shooting performance of the season, at 38.2 percent.

"We gutted this one out, man," Durant said.

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Now that Venus has made herself at home in the luxury-loving sign of Taurus, she wastes no time making small talk and gets right to the point about what she wants and when she wants it — that is to say “now.” You may feel strongly about what you want now, as well, and will likely have to reason with yourself on the matter.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It will be an effort to learn a different way of solving a problem, but be adventurous. You can always go back to what's tried and true if the new way doesn't suit you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll have some alone time, and you shouldn't spend it all doing diligent and important work. Goof off. That's what good friends do together, and you're learning each day how to be a better friend to yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're laugh-out-loud funny. If the others aren't laughing, it's because your humor is too daring. But express it anyway, and then laugh all by yourself if you have to. It



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Tomorrow's Horoscope

will bring up the energy around you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your power drive is high, and you'll be irritated by anyone who tries to dominate you or give you unsolicited advice. You'll show competence in any group you join.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You are super-capable and you know it. You likely will have more energy than others, and you won't mind doing extra work. You may yield to the needs of your loved ones because it's the easiest thing to do.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You may be accused of being too rigid, but maybe that's a good thing. Being too flexible can lead to disorganization and a lack of self-discipline. Anyway, you'll get a chance to unwind a bit tonight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Competition and the struggle to get ahead will play a significant part in your life. You'll be better off for the pressure, though, which will bring out the best in you, as it usually does.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It may feel as though the day goes by without progressing your interests. But if you think about the effect your efforts will have in the long run, what you're

doing now is absolutely crucial.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You have your own ideas about how things should be done. You'll research and put your theories to the test until you're certain that you're right. Avoid contests with combative types.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). “Whatever” will prove to be a disempowering word. Better to decide on the particular “what” you want and let people know. This afternoon, you'll feel lucky. Act on it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There are aspects of your life that never seem to get the attention they deserve even though they really matter to you. Happiness is finding a way to spend time on one of these neglected areas.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll be highly motivated early in the day. The evening brings a bit of a slump. It will be the same tomorrow, so plan to get up early and do your best work in the a.m.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 6). You'll feel loved and will have an overwhelming sense of belonging. The next month brings a breakthrough in your financial sector, mostly

having to do with the high level of responsibility you display. Fun times in April may start a tradition that continues for the next decade. Strong love bonds form over the summer. Cancer and Taurus people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 1, 24, 31 and 18.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Pisces superstar Shaquille O'Neal has a gregarious personality to match his supersized athletic acumen, making him a force to be reckoned with whether he's acting, sports analyzing, rapping or producing. His natal chart is as diverse as his interests, with planets in eight different signs. The versatility of this planetary arrangement indicates balance, well-roundedness and widespread appeal.

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: My father is 87 years old and has congestive heart failure. I am the youngest of four siblings, two of whom live out of town. For some reason, everything falls on me.

We pay for a caregiver to come in for four hours a day, but she leaves at noon. My brother sometimes takes over until I get home from work, at which point I stay until my husband relieves me.

Then I go home to change clothes and return. I have not enjoyed the comfort of my own bed for a while. On weekends, my husband and I take care of Dad together.

When my two out-of-state siblings last came to visit, I told them this is too much for me and I have no time for myself or my family. One told me he didn't

care about my life, that all he cared about was Dad not being alone. I told him to ask the neighbor how many hours I am with Dad. He became angry and said that after Dad dies, he never wants to see me again.

I left my father's house and decided if that's the way it's going to be, I'll take the night shift and stay with Dad from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. every day, but no more.

If they want additional coverage, they'll have to do it themselves or pay for it. One of my brothers can fly here anytime he wants.

Dad doesn't know we argued, and I don't plan to tell him. I took care of my mother when she was ill and don't appreciate being treated this way. I think it's time everyone contributed their fair share. — *Hurting in*

Texas

Dear Hurting: Your siblings are being terribly unfair to you, but that's not uncommon in these circumstances. Can your other siblings contribute financially to extend the caregiver's time during the day?

Would it make sense to put your father in an assisted-living facility or let him move in with one of you?

You might also look into respite care so you and your husband can get a break. Check the National Family Caregivers Association (thefamilycaregiver.org) for resources and support.

Dear Annie: I read with interest the letter from “Troubled in Tallahassee,” whose supervisor is constantly interrupting her.

While your suggestions are helpful if her claims are true, I was surprised you did not mention that one reason why her supervisor interrupts might be to keep her on point. I have supervised many employees in my life, and it never fails that at least one employee in a group feels the need to prattle on endlessly about tedious details, sometimes totally unrelated to the topic.

I suggest you add to your advice the suggestion that “Troubled” trim down her responses to “just the facts, ma'am,” and rely on her supervisor to ask any questions if further information is needed. — *No Time for Nonsense in Imperial, Penn.*

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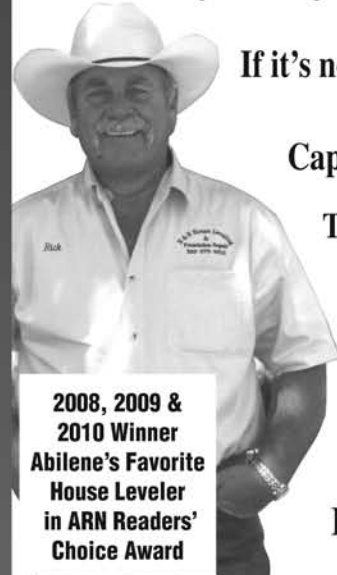
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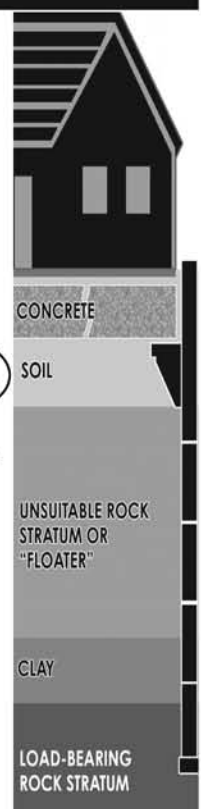
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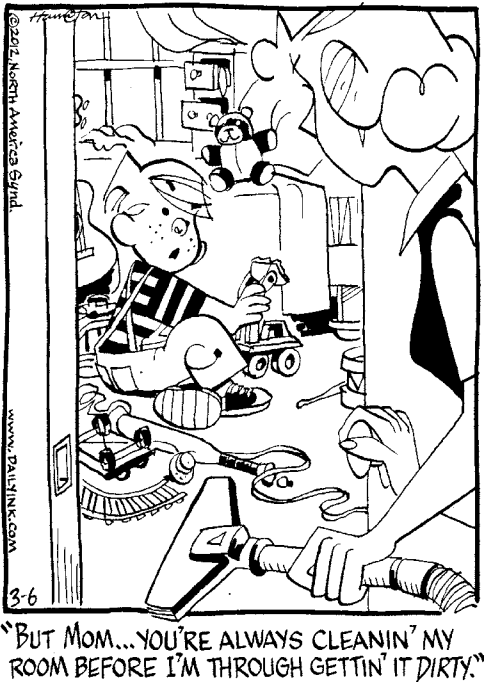


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| 6:PM 30 | Jeopardy! | Una Familia con Suerte (SS) | Big Bang | News | Caso Cer-rado | News | King | Alan Lee | PBS News-Hour | Seinfeld | Dirty Jobs | CSI: Miami | Ink Master | Bones | ANT Farm Austin | College Basketball | Women's College Basketball | |
| 7:PM 30 | Last Man Cougar | | Raising Daughter | NCIS (DVS) | Una Maid en | The Biggest Loser | Big Bang | Upd | Beatles Rocked | 90210 | All-Star Dealers | Movie: National Lampoon's Vacation | Ink Master | Movie: Law Abiding Citizen | Together Together Game | ANT Farm | College Basketball | College Basketball |
| 8:PM 30 | The River | El Talismán (SS) | New Girl | NCIS: Los Angeles | Flor Salvaje (SS) | | Big Bang | Alewine | American Masters | Ringer | To Be Announced | | Ink Master | Southland | Together Together Game | ANT Farm | College Basketball | College Basketball |
| 9:PM 30 | Body of Proof | La Que No | Simpsons | Unforgettable | Relaciones Pelit | Decision 2012 | Big Bang | Conan | Parks | Til Death | Beast Tracker | Movie: National Lampoon's Vacation | Ink Master | Southland | Together Together Game | ANT Farm | College Basketball | College Basketball |
| 10:PM 30 | News | Impacto | How I Met | News | Noticias | News | Conan | Chevalme | Tuesday Dr. | King | To Be Announced | Am Dig | Ink Master | CSI: NY | Together Together Game | ANT Farm | Basket | SportsCenter |
| 11:PM 30 | Jimmy Kimmel Live | Hasta-Dinero | Law Order: CI | Late | Decisiones (SS) | Late Night | The Office | Ministerios Vida | World T. Smiley | South Pk | Beast Tracker | Am Dig | Ink Master | Southland | Wendy Williams | Wizards | NFL Live | SportsCenter |
| 12:AM 30 | Extra | Mañana-Siempre | Raymond Fam. Guy | Insider | Pagado | News | Conan | Upd | Roseanne Focus 4 | Roseanne | All-Star Dealers | Am Dig | Ink Master | CSI: NY | Movie: John Q. James Woods | Good | NBA | SportsCenter |
| 1:AM 30 | Paid | La Jaula | American | Ent | Pagado | (:06) Today | Seinfeld | Alewine | Homecoming | Homecoming | Rampage! | Am Dig | Auction | Rizzoli & Isles | ANT Farm | Basket | SportsCenter | |

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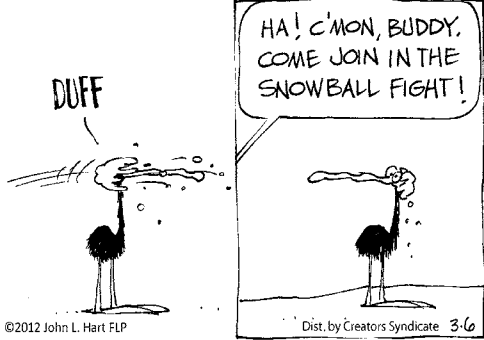
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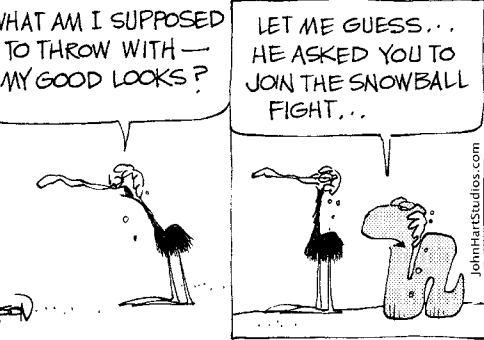
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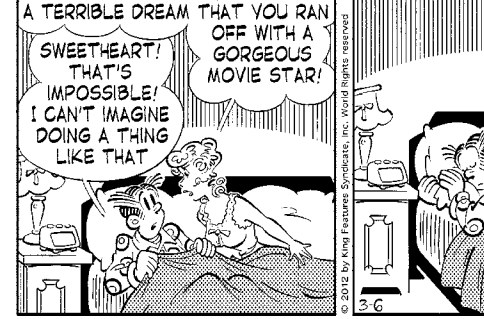
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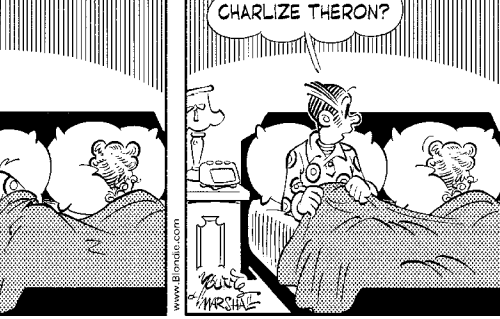
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THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



This Date In History

The Associated Press Today is Tuesday, March 6, the 66th day of 2012. There are 300 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 6, 1962, what became known as the Ash Wednesday Storm began pounding the mid-Atlantic coast; over a three-day period, the storm resulted in 40 deaths and caused more than \$200 million in property damage.

On this date: In 1834, the city of York in Upper Canada was incorporated as Toronto.

In 1836, the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, fell to Mexican forces after a 13-day siege.

In 1853, Verdi's opera "La Traviata" premiered in Venice, Italy.

In 1857, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Dred Scott v. Sandford that Scott, a slave, was not an American citizen and could not sue for his freedom in federal court.

Answer to previous puzzle

TABS ABETS BARS
AREA BERET UPON
LIEN RAISE SAGE
CARD COUNTER RUE
HAS ROSTER
GREED CHIDE
ALIVE BOON ASHY
FEDERAL REGISTER
TEEN CUPS ROARS
STIES DONTS
BYWORD SAN
AAH IRESTMYCASE
CLIP ACTAS LOAN
KITE I HAVE QVEN
SLEEP NOBEL AWLS

Newsday Crossword

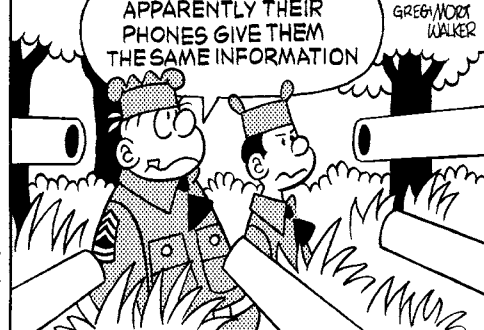
TAKE IT FROM ME by Sally R. Stein

- Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com
- ACROSS**
- 1 Mexican's emphatic assent
 - 5 ___ Strip (Mideast region)
 - 9 Rough guess
 - 13 Obama's vice president
 - 14 Is obligated
 - 15 Domesticated
 - 16 Mix together
 - 17 Dinghy propellers
 - 18 Beasts of burden
 - 19 Take a ___ (stop worrying)
 - 22 Surgeon's workplaces: Abbr.
 - 23 Navigation screen display
 - 24 Fidel of Cuba
 - 28 Scored 100 on
 - 30 Golf-club holder
 - 33 Pretentious
 - 34 Get ready for dinner
 - 36 Naples' nation
 - 38 Take a ___ (examine oneself critically)
 - 41 Lands surrounded by water
 - 42 Office note
 - 43 Helpful facts, for short
 - 44 Service charge
 - 45 Laddie's love
 - 47 Henhouse perches
 - 49 Roofing goo
 - 50 Admiral's organization: Abbr.
 - 51 Take a ___ (rest for a bit)
 - 60 No-guarantee condition
- DOWN**
- 61 Alphabetize
 - 62 Blue Cross competitor
 - 63 Hatching's home
 - 64 Outer limit
 - 65 Used as a seat
 - 66 Salty bodies of water
 - 67 Fortune teller
 - 68 Adam and Eve's home
 - 9 Walk heavily
 - 10 Metered vehicle
 - 11 Prayer-ending word
 - 12 Flex
 - 13 OPEC unit
 - 20 Look unhappy
 - 21 Half-diameters
 - 24 Where L.A. is
 - 25 Come out smelling like ___
 - 26 Swiped
 - 27 Little fella
 - 28 Fireplace residue
 - 29 High-school subject, for short
 - 30 Farm storage buildings
 - 31 Up in the sky
 - 32 Greek sandwiches
 - 35 24-hr. cash sources
 - 37 Threesome
 - 39 Koran studier's belief
 - 40 Telegraphic code inventor
 - 46 Stands up
 - 48 Having just gotten a hit
 - 49 Experiments
 - 50 Say out loud
 - 51 Sports spectators
 - 52 "Understood"
 - 53 Passport stamp
 - 54 Junction point
 - 55 Strongly suggest
 - 56 Perused
 - 57 Suffix for kitchen
 - 58 Of unknown authorship: Abbr.
 - 59 Topeka's state: Abbr.

BEEBLE BAILEY



GREENWOOD WALKER



NFL

Continued from Page 7

the sociology department at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.

"But we shouldn't be surprised at all that the football culture would give rise to someone wanting to take another player out, even if there weren't something extra on the line," Coakley added. "That's just obvi-

ous." Commissioner Roger Goodell summoned former Saints defensive coordinator Gregg Williams to meet with NFL investigators Monday to discuss whether he also offered bounties while working for other teams. Goodell was not at the meeting.

After the league made its investigation public Friday, Williams admitted to, and apologized for, running a bounty pool of up to \$50,000 over

the last three seasons, rewarding players for knocking targeted opponents out of games.

The league now wants to know whether Williams — who recently left the Saints to become defensive coordinator of the St. Louis Rams — ran a similar scheme while a head coach or assistant with the Titans, Redskins, Jaguars and Bills.

Current Redskins linebacker Lorenzo Alexander, who played under Williams in Washington, said a player could get rewarded for knocking a player out of a game with a clean hit, but only after the fact — not as a pre-planned "bounty."

Sometimes players wrote each other checks for such plays.

"It wasn't always Coach Williams" who paid up, Alexander said.

Several players described their profession as ripe for this to happen: a violent workplace with plenty of cash floating around.

"Everybody knows those things have been around. Some people just unfortunately got caught with their hand in the cookie jar," said Kyle Turley, an offensive lineman from 1998-07 for the Saints, Rams and Chiefs and one of hundreds of former players who are plaintiffs in concussion-related lawsuits against the league.

"It happens a lot on special teams, where they prey on those young guys — the 'expendables' as I like

to call them — who want some extra money or want to prove their worth so they can stick around longer," Turley continued.

Think of it as an incentive system run amok.

"A lot of business firms try that sort of thing, whether it's for rewarding high performance among employees or sales quotes or innovations," University of Chicago sports economist Allen Sanderson said. "This isn't all that much different, other than that it involves a little more pain and suffering."

Several players have said the Saints weren't the only team with such a system. Others have described extra cash doled out for interceptions or fumbles or

blocked kicks; that is against NFL rules, too. Turley recalled contributing to such funds himself, and described seeing an assistant coach — he wouldn't say who — open a briefcase and pull out wads of cash to toss to players after a victory.

"Every team had their deal," Turley said.

Al Smith, a Houston Oilers linebacker from 1987-96, said the biggest payout he ever collected from a player-generated bonus fund was "\$500 or something like that for a big hit. ... It was enough to go on a good date."

His position coach for his final three seasons? Williams. But Smith said that as far as he knew, Williams never contributed money to the Oilers' pool.

sudoku

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

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

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HAWKS

Continued from Page 7

five thefts by Brett Bell.

In the nightcap, Howard posted another late-inning rally, then time scoring eight runs in the final two innings to earn an 11-3 victory.

Austin Blunt, the third of four Howard pitchers, earned the win.

The Hawks were again effective at the plate, rapping out 13 hits, including home runs by Colt Bickertstaff, Brendan McCurry and Levi Scott.

"Coming off our conference opener, I'm sure we were ready to have a bit of a breather ... but McCurry forced us to play well, which was good," HC Coach Britt Smith said. "We did some good things offensively, though. It was good to see us pound out that many hits, instead of relying on the long ball like we did against Odessa (this past weekend)."

The Hawks return to action Monday when they face Galveston College in Houston. Game time will be announced later.

host their annual baseball tournament at Steer Park.

Cooper downs Lady Steers

On an ugly night defensively for both teams, the Abilene Cooper Lady Cougars broke open a close game in the sixth inning to take a 10-5 win over Big Spring in non-district softball action Monday night.

Combined, the teams committed 21 errors Monday, with the Lady Steers leading the way with 13 defensive miscues.

Despite all the errors, the lady Steers trailed by only a single run heading into the final inning. However, Cooper plated four runs in the top of the seventh to earn the win.

Logan Yarbar took the loss for Big Spring, which fell to 6-8 with the loss.

The Lady Steers return to action Friday at the Snyder High School tournament. They will face Baird, Lubbock Cooper and Seminole in first-day action.

Forsan downs Coahoma, 17-4

COAHOMA — The Forsan Buffaloes scored the game's first 13 runs, then cruised to a 17-4 victory over Coahoma in District 3-2A baseball action Monday night.

Offensively, the Buffs rocked Coahoma for 13 hits. Bryson Phillips and Matthew Mims each had three RBI, while Foster Burchett collected three hits.

The beneficiary of this offensive largesse was Forsan pitcher Payton Parker, who struck out three and walked one in three innings to earn the win with relief help from Burchett.

Caleb McAdams took the loss for Coahoma. "It was just great to start district play with a win," Forsan Coach Jason Phillips said. "Hopefully, it will help us get on a roll."

The Buffaloes return to action at 7 p.m. Friday when they host Lubbock Roosevelt. Coahoma travels to Denver City for a 7 p.m. game.

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 |

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Defusing a Threat

North dealer. East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ J 4
♥ A 10 8
♦ A 8 2
♣ A 8 6 5 3

WEST
♠ K Q 10 9 7 2
♥ 5 2
♦ J 6 3
♣ K 7

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

SOUTH
♠ A 8 6
♥ K Q 6 4 3
♦ K 9 7
♣ 10 4

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ 1 ♠
2 ♥ Pass 4 ♥

Opening lead — king of spades.
When declarer is faced with an immediate threat that cannot be averted, he should seek a way to minimize the risk. South tried to do that in today's deal, but he overlooked an option that offered him the best chance to save his contract.

West led the king of spades against four hearts after having overcalled with one spade. South won with the ace and returned a spade, planning to ruff his third spade in dummy. East, in the meantime, followed with the five and the three.

When West won the second spade with the queen and continued with

the ten, declarer saw that if he ruffed low in dummy, East might overruff. Since South could not very well afford to ruff with the ace, which would establish a trump trick for the defense, he decided to ruff with the ten, hoping West held the jack.

Unfortunately, East overruffed, and the defenders later scored a club trick and a diamond trick to set the contract.

The misfortune that befell South was really his own fault. He missed a relatively simple play that would have offered a far greater chance of success. Instead of trumping the third spade in dummy, he should have made West a present of the trick by discarding a diamond from dummy!

This maneuver solves two problems at once. It eliminates the threat of an overruff by East and at the same time eliminates declarer's diamond loser. In effect, South simply exchanges a potential heart loser for a certain diamond loser.

Once this countermeasure is taken, the defense is helpless. If West continues with a fourth round of spades, declarer can ruff (or overruff, if necessary) in his own hand, then play the A-K of diamonds and ruff a diamond before drawing trumps. His only losers in this case are two spades and a club. The result is exactly the same if West shifts to another suit after the ten of spades holds.

Tomorrow: The slam-double convention.

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Steers race past Brownfield

BROWNFIELD — The Big Spring Steers scored 11 runs in the first inning en route to an easy 14-2 run-rule victory over the Brownfield Cubs Monday evening.

Karsten Knudson had a bases-loaded triple to key the first-inning explosion, and then came home when Gunnar Kennedy tripled, as well.

"They just couldn't get us out," BSHS Coach Burt Otto said of the Steers' first inning. "They misplayed some fly balls. They're a young team and they're experiencing some growing pains, but it's like I keep telling the guys — keep putting the ball into play and anything can happen."

Garrett Stuteville struck out five and walked three in three innings of work to pick up the win for Big Spring, which improved to 4-7 with the win.

The Steers return to action Thursday when they

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