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TUESDAY

MAY 22, 2012



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Visits Wednesday

Neugebauer to host town hall

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Area residents will have the opportunity to sound off to their congressional representative Wednesday afternoon.

U.S. Rep. Randy Neugebauer (R-Lubbock) will participate in a variety of activities Wednesday, capped by a town hall meeting set for 2:30 p.m. at Howard College's Hall Center for the Arts.

The meeting will follow the structure of past events Neuge-

bauer has hosted — the congressman will give a brief legislative update, then open the floor for questions from the public.

Past town hall meetings have been dominated by discussions about hot-button topics such as taxes or the budget deficit, but questions will not be limited to issues



Neugebauer

See **VISIT**, Page 3

County : Road and bridge hire on tap

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners moved one step closer to hiring a new road and bridge administrator during a special meeting Monday morning, as the court looks to fill the position, which has been open since late March.

Commissioners met Monday in executive session to discuss two

candidates, both of which County Judge Mark Barr described as extremely well qualified.

"We met in executive session and decided which out of the two candidates we wanted to offer the position to," Barr said. "We met with the candidate and made the offer, at which time he asked for a day to discuss the matter with

See **COUNTY**, Page 3



Courtesy photo
Big Spring High School senior Ashtyn Payne won third place in the National Congressional Art Competition for the 19th Congressional District of Texas. Her multimedia painting titled, "Texan's Past" will hang in Congressman Randy Neugebauer's Big Spring office for the next 12 months.



Flores stepping down as HC provost

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Goodbyes and hellos will figuratively highlight this month's Howard College trustees' meeting.

Trustees are expected to accept the resignation of Provost Javier Flores and greet his replacement when they meet in the Tumbleweed Room at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Dr. Flores, who is resigning



Flores

after 13 years with HC, has accepted the position of vice president for student affairs and enrollment management at Angelo State University in San Angelo. During his time in Big Spring, he has served as dean of students, vice president of student affairs and interim provost at SouthWest Colle-

What: Howard College trustees' meeting.

Where: Student Union Building Tumbleweed Room.

When: 12:30 p.m. Wednesday.

giate Institute for the Deaf, before becoming HC provost two years ago.

College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks said Flores will be

missed.

"Javier has done a great job for the Howard County Junior College District," Sparks said. "He certainly made his mark here. We will miss him, but certainly wish him well in his new post."

Assuming Flores' duties will be a familiar face on the Big Spring campus — Director of Correctional Studies

See **HOWARD**, Page 3

Quilt questions spark huge response

By **AMANDA MORENO**
Staff Writer

One local resident was none the wiser when she sent in a letter to Reminisce Extra magazine.

Margaret Wise, who just turned 79 in March, was doing some cleaning and stumbled upon an unfinished flower blanket. However, the directions for making the little yellow flowers that make up the blanket were misplaced over the years and Wise couldn't recall how to make the rest.

"I had the cardboard picture that came with the instructions and the little blue plastic round used to make the flowers, but I didn't

have the directions and couldn't remember how to make the rest," Wise said.

With a push from her children, the goal of finishing the blanket was set. She knew if she was going to finish it, she was going to need directions. In hopes of finding a set of directions she sent a letter to Reminisce Extra.

"The letter came out in the Reminisce Extra March edition and since then I have received a wonderful surprise," Wise said. "I have received a tremendous response."

When she says tremendous response, she is referring to the more than 200 responses

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Obituaries

Jack H. Jones Jr.

Jack H. Jones Jr., 53, of Big Spring died Monday, May 21, 2012, in a Midland hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 23, 2012, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. David Dawson and the Rev. Donita Lea officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 22, 2012, at the funeral home.

He was born Dec. 19, 1958, in Big Spring, Texas, and married Kenda Born on Feb. 2, 1979, in Big Spring, Texas.

Jack graduated from Big Spring High School in 1977. He had worked for Western Container and at Big Spring State Hospital before opening his own business, Jaguar Bearing Supply. Jack served on the board of Crime Stoppers, was active in Little League Baseball for 15 years and was a member of the Big Spring Custom Car Club.

He was a member of First United Methodist Church of Coahoma and served as a lay leader.

Survivors include his wife, Kenda Jones of Big Spring; one daughter, Anna Jones of Big Spring and her fiancé William Vanderzyden; one son, Jacoby Jones and wife Chelsey of Levelland; his mother, Mary Jones of Big Spring; his paternal grandmother, Alvenia Messimer of Big Spring; one sister, Sherri Kinsey and husband Terry of Big Spring; five grandchildren, Ashton Beach and Kendal Jones, both of Big Spring, Micah Jones, Trinity Jones and Jacob Jones, all of Levelland; his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Allan and Terri Born of Coahoma; and three nephews, Brice Born of Coahoma, Justin Born of Lubbock and Chad Born of Midland.

He was preceded in death by his father, Jack H. Jones Sr.; and a nephew, Shane Savell.

The family suggests memorials be made to American Cancer Society, c/o Carolyn Brooks, P.O. Box 2121, Big Spring, Texas 79721-2121.

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

Paid obituary

Gene Laroy Leonard

Gene Laroy Leonard, 65, of Big Spring died Friday, May 18, 2012, at his residence. Private family services will be held at a later date.

He was born Dec. 3, 1946, in Tucumcari, N.M. He owned and operated Steeple Jacks for 15 years and then was a crane operator for Cathey Construction. He retired in 2009 due to ill health. He lived in Howard County for most of his life.

He is survived by two sons, Gene Leonard II of Fredericksburg and Justin Leonard of Big Spring; one daughter, Sonya McAvey of Sun Ray, Texas; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; two sisters, Charlotte Oaks of Boerne and Tammi Murphy of Amarillo; and one brother, James Leonard of Washington.

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

Doris Brewer

Doris Brewer, 90, of Midland died Monday, May 21, 2012, in a Midland nursing home. Graveside funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, May 23, 2012, at the Evergreen Cemetery Chapel with Larry Henderson officiating.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 22, 2012, at Gilbreath Funeral Home.

She was born Nov. 15, 1921, in Plainview, Texas. Survivors include one son, Tom Brewer and wife Cherry of Midland; two grandchildren; one great-grandson; one sister, Dorothy Henderson of San Angelo; three brothers, Hubert Gregg of Texas, Glenn Gregg of California and Lee Gregg of Canada; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Alvis Brewer; and three brothers, Revis Gregg, L.C. Gregg and Pete Gregg.

Arrangements under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Louis C. Ramirez

Louis C. Ramirez, 80, of Big Spring died Monday, May 21, 2012, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Marjorie E. Bentley

Marjorie E. Bentley, 89, of Carrollton, formerly of Stanton died Saturday, May 19, 2012, in a Ft. Worth hospital. Her services are pending with Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton.

Mary E. Grandey

Mary E. Grandey, 91, of Big Spring died Tuesday, May 22, 2012, in a local nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

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

- CHASITI CODI MCDANIEL, 27, of 1426 E. Sixth St., was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction.

- THEFT was reported: In the area of Moore School Road. Near the intersection of County Rd. 48 and FM 2230.

- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 4200 block of Hamilton.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 61 inmates at the time of this report.

- ANSELMO ARRENDONDO VEGA, 18, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility, failure to appear (three counts), no driver's license and assault – family violence.

- REBECCA YVONNE ROBLES, 31, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

- JUAN ANGEL MADRID, 26, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the BSPD on an Austin parole warrant.

- FRANKLIN LA MARR CURTIS, 46, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- HORACIO SALGADO, 39, was arrested Monday by DPS on Andrews County warrants for fugitive arrest – credit card abuse and fugitive arrest – theft.

- JOHN DAVID GAY, 30, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the BSPD on charge of assault causes bodily injury family member.

- AVERY MARAE BROOKS, 18, was booked into the county detention center Saturday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for curfew violation, no driver's license when unlicensed, expired motor vehicle inspection certificate no driver's license when unlicensed.

- LACEY NICHOLE LEE, 18, was booked into the county detention center Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication (under 21).

- BLAKE RYAN LYLE, 30, was arrested Saturday by HCSO on a charge of driving while license invalid with previous conviction/suspension/ without final restitution driving while license invalid.

- LORI ANN WRIGHT, 48, was booked into the county detention center Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- ADAM CHARLES FLOWERS, 17, was booked into the county detention center Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of illegal smoking paraphernalia.

- ANGELA CELESTE DUGGER, 34, was booked into the county detention center Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with previous conviction/suspension without final restitution driving while license invalid.

- PABLO PEREZ GONZALES, 49, was booked into the county detention center Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- KRISTAL KAY HENDERSON, 26, was booked into the county detention center Sunday by the BSPD on charges of fail to identify fugitive intent give false information, capias/no drivers license, capias/driving while license invalid, capias/fail to maintain financial responsibility, capias/violate promise to appear (three counts).

- JESUS RAMIREZ, 51, was booked into the county detention center Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of assault (physical contact), revocation of probation-DWI third or more, capias DWI third or more.

- MARK VERHOEVEN, 20, was booked into the county detention center Sunday by BSPD on a charge of harassment.

- DAYNA LOZANO, 27, was booked into the coun-

sudoku






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

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

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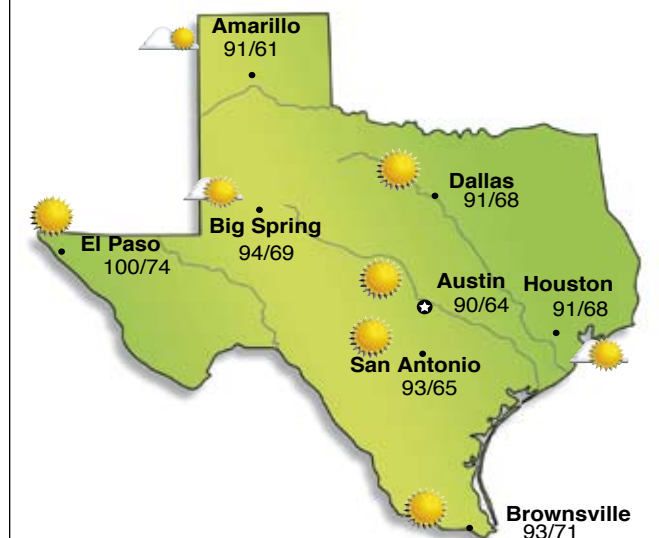
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 5/23	Thu 5/24	Fri 5/25	Sat 5/26	Sun 5/27
 94/69 A few passing clouds, otherwise generally sunny. Hot. High 94F.	 103/70 Mainly sunny. Highs 101 to 105F and lows in the low 70s.	 103/70 Mainly sunny and windy. Highs 101 to 105F and lows in the low 70s.	 100/71 Windy with times of sun and clouds.	 95/69 Windy with a mix of sun and clouds.
Sunrise: 6:44 AM Sunset: 8:42 PM	Sunrise: 6:43 AM Sunset: 8:43 PM	Sunrise: 6:43 AM Sunset: 8:43 PM	Sunrise: 6:42 AM Sunset: 8:44 PM	Sunrise: 6:42 AM Sunset: 8:45 PM

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Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	92	68	mst sunny
Amarillo	91	61	pt sunny
Austin	90	64	sunny
Beaumont	91	68	mst sunny
Brownsville	93	71	sunny
Brownwood	93	68	mst sunny
Corpus Christi	91	70	sunny
Corsicana	89	66	sunny
Dallas	91	68	sunny
Del Rio	94	69	sunny
El Paso	100	74	sunny
Fort Stockton	94	69	sunny
Gainesville	89	66	sunny
Greenville	88	64	sunny
Houston	91	68	mst sunny
Kingsville	94	68	sunny
Livingston	91	64	mst sunny
Longview	88	63	sunny
Lubbock	91	64	t-storm
Lufkin	92	65	sunny
Midland	95	70	mst sunny
Raymondville	93	68	sunny
Rosenberg	91	68	mst sunny
San Antonio	93	65	sunny
San Marcos	91	64	sunny
Sulphur Springs	88	65	sunny
Sweetwater	93	67	pt sunny
Tyler	89	63	sunny
Weatherford	90	67	mst sunny
Wichita Falls	92	67	mst sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	80	60	t-storm
Boston	69	58	rain
Chicago	70	47	sunny
Dallas	91	68	sunny
Denver	90	57	mst sunny
Houston	91	68	mst sunny
Los Angeles	80	61	pt sunny
Miami	82	74	t-storm
Minneapolis	84	62	sunny
New York	72	64	rain
Phoenix	104	73	sunny
San Francisco	66	52	sunny
Seattle	53	48	rain
St. Louis	79	58	sunny
Washington, DC	79	66	t-storm

ty detention center Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief between \$500 and \$1,500.

- DALE ANTHONY ROGERS II, 35, was booked into the county detention center Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of violate protective order bias/prejudice.

- CHASITI CODI MCDANIEL, 27, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with previous conviction/suspension without final restitution.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was reported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was reported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson. One person was reported to SMMC.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

High-Class Defense

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

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

WEST
♠ A 9
♥ J 4
♦ 9 7 4
♣ A K 10 9 5 2

EAST
♠ 10 3
♥ 9 8 5 3
♦ 10 8 6 3 2
♣ 7 4

SOUTH
♠ K J 7 6
♥ A 7 2
♦ K Q 5
♣ Q J 6

The bidding:
South 1 NT West 2 ♣ North 3 ♣ East Pass
3 ♣ Pass 4 ♣

Opening lead — king of clubs.

A good part of the skill in card play consists of establishing tricks that do not exist naturally. For a prime example, consider this deal where it might seem that declarer can easily make four spades. His only losers appear to be two clubs and the ace of trumps. Yet the contract went down one, and South could do nothing to prevent it. East-West's perfect defense was more than South could cope with.

West led the king of clubs, and East signaled with the seven to encourage a club continuation. West continued with the ace of clubs, on which East played the four and South the jack.

It was not difficult for West to conclude from the bidding that East had started with the 7-4 of clubs rather than the Q-7-4. South could not have had a 15- to 17-point opening notrump bid without the queen of clubs.

West therefore led a third round of clubs. Declarer ruffed with dummy's queen — he would have gone down immediately had he ruffed with the eight — and led the deuce of trumps to his jack.

West took the jack with the ace and returned yet another club. South did the best he could do under the circumstances by discarding a heart from dummy, but East, cooperating fully, ruffed with the ten of spades.

This well-aimed uppercut put South out of commission. He over-ruffed East's ten with the king, but in the process, West's nine of trumps became the setting trick. And so, even though the spade nine had not seemed at all significant at the start of play, it eventually became the instrument of South's undoing.

Tomorrow: First things first.
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QUILT

Continued from Page 1

from all but four of the 50 states. "I have not only received directions on how to make the blanket, but I have also received looms, extra copies of the patterns and several notes from people just looking for a friend or someone to share their story with," Wise said. "I had no idea that nearly every lady in America has made one of these Afghans and some, like me, have never finished one."

Most of the responses have come from Texas, but several have also come from Pennsylvania, Ohio and Wisconsin. One letter even came from Canada.

"I never imagined I would receive this many responses," Wise said. "But, now that the responses are in, I guess it's time to get to work on finishing the blanket."

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

- YMCA is looking for childcare help for summer camp. Summer camp will start May 29. Those wanting to apply for childcare help must be over 18, have high school diploma or GED, know first aid and CPR, must pass drug test and background check and FBI print. For more information, contact Rosie Franco at 267-8234. YMCA is located at 801 Owens.

- An account has been established at Wells Fargo Bank to help defray medical cost for Brittney Phillips Smith. Brittney will be undergoing a kidney transplant in San Antonio on June 14. Brittney is a graduate of BSHS and is the daughter of Karan and Gary Phillips. All donations and prayers will be greatly appreciated.

- Every Friday night from 7:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. is dance night at the Senior Citizen Center. The cost is \$8 per person.

- Dr. Clipper Strickland will be the guest speaker at the next Visual Awareness Support Group set for 5:30 p.m. May 24, at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad St. Dr. Strickland will speak on the topic of diabetic retinopathy. VASG is a support group to provide

Take note

assistance to individuals who have poor or deteriorating vision. It is the goal of this group to provide, through education, a sense of hope to people who have vision problems and help them, their care givers, families and friends cope with vision loss. Call 263-2501 for more information or email us at: eyeassocoone@crcom.net

- An account has been established at American State Bank to help defray medical expense for Brad "Ghost" Ugstad, a local resident who was severely injured in a motorcycle accident. All donations will be appreciated.

- Mobile Meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you can donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.

- Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St., has a brief, inspirational message before giving away food and clothing on Thursday mornings. It's a great way to work off community service and get help, too. Be there at 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and get two for one plus a rehab meeting.

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1

his family. We expect to hear back from him sometime today, at which time the court will make the announcement."

Until then, however, Barr said he and the rest of the commissioners court would be keeping the identity of the candidate under wraps.

"He's currently employed elsewhere and he needs time to give notice," Barr said. "Also, we don't want to be premature about this. There is always the chance he

might come back and decide not to accept the position. So we'll wait until everything is official before we announce who it is."

Howard County has been without a road and bridge administrator since Eddy Jameson, who was with the county for 18 years, was dismissed from the position in late March. The decision to dismiss Jameson was made by a unanimous vote of the court following an executive session concerning the matter.

Barr declined to discuss the specifics of the dismissal following the March meeting, say-

ing only the working environment between management and employees in the department had become very dysfunctional. Despite the dismissal, Jameson remained eligible for retirement benefits and received thanks from the court for his many years of service to the county.

Also during Monday's meeting, commissioners held a budget workshop in an effort to prepare the county's financial plan for the coming fiscal year.

According to Barr, the budget process is moving along smoothly.

"We've finished con-

ducting interviews with the department heads, so we're in the process of going through and looking at what everyone has requested and what we can provide," Barr said.

Barr said one challenge that will face the court — not only in this year's budget, but for at least several years to come — will be the financial drain county road maintenance will place on the government entity.

"As most people know by now, the boom in the oilfield has caused a tremendous increase in truck traffic in the county, specifically on our

county roadways," Barr said. "There's simply no way, at the rate things are going right now, we can keep up with the amount of wear and tear that's happening."

"One of the things we're looking at in the coming year's budget is a pretty hefty increase in the road and bridge budget."

"We're going to have to do something. We're already looking at some possible ways to finance these repairs through permits, but even that is up in the air right now."

Even with an increase in the road and bridge budget, Barr

said the problem facing the county concerning much-needed maintenance on its county roads isn't one that will be addressed in a single year.

"Regardless of how much of an increase we make this year, this isn't a problem that's going away anytime soon," Barr said.

"It's going to take multiple years to address this issue and get our county roads back into shape," he added.

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

HOWARD

Continued from Page 1

Terry Hanson. Hanson (not to be confused for college vice president Terry Hansen) will assume the title of Executive Dean for

the Big Spring area; the title of provost is being retired, Sparks said.

Aside from directing correctional studies for the district, Hanson also has headed the workforce training program at Howard and has served on the district's administrative cabinet

for several years.

"Terry has served as our leader for correctional studies for several years and has done a great job for us in that capacity," Sparks said. "He has the necessary background to assume these new leadership duties ... and he'll do a

great job."

In other business Wednesday, trustees will consider:

- Updates on construction of the new agriculture complex and water wells, the search for a new SWCID provost and preliminary work on the district's next bud-

get.

- Bids and catalog and handbook changes.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

VISIT

Continued from Page 1

dominating the headlines, said Lisa Brooks, manager of Neugebauer's Big Spring office.

"Basically, it's a Q and A. It's a chance for people to have their congressman's ear," Brooks

said. Other stops on Neugebauer's visit Wednesday include:

- Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, where the congressman will present a U.S. flag in honor of the center's 50th anniversary at 10:30 a.m.

- Neugebauer will address the weekly meeting of the Big Spring Lion's Club at noon in Howard College's Cactus Room. The Lions

are opening the meeting to the public; a catered lunch will cost \$6.

- At 1:15 p.m., the congressman will meet with Big Spring Independent School District officials and tour Goliad Elementary, one of four new campuses being constructed within the

district.

For more information on Neugebauer's visit, contact Brooks at 264-0722.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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.50 Off Per Child
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EXP. 5/31/12

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8288

Barney Lee Echols, 98, died Saturday. Graveside services with Military Honors will be at 11 a.m. today at Trinity Memorial Park.

Vernon Parnell, 71, died Saturday. Graveside services with Military Honors will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Gene Laroy Leonard, 65, died Friday. Private family services will be at later date.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we concentrate on becoming spiritually fit through Your love, Lord.

Amen

Mental illness doesn't include grief

We moderns seem determined to suppress all unhappiness with one exception: grief. The intense sadness following loss of a loved one still occupies a warm spot in our culture. We want that pain protected from the deadening analgesics of pharmaceuticals.

That explains the American Psychiatric Association's decision to retreat from a plan to categorize ordinary grief as an adjustment disorder. Some wanted to classify a response to significant loss — deep sadness, insomnia, poor appetite, inability to concentrate, crying — lasting more than two weeks as a depression rather than normal grief, drawing fire from both mental-health professionals and ordinary folk.

The proposal to "medicalize" grief arose as the association was updating the bible for identifying conditions of the mind, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. Insurers use DSM criteria for deciding whether to cover mental health services. This and other suggestions to expand the definition of mental illnesses were controversial: They could boost health care spending considerably and/or shortchange the care of those with serious conditions. But that's another story.

Diagnosing bereavement as

depression, even though the two have much in common, seemed dehumanizing. Grief is widely seen as a natural reaction to a part of the human condition most of us will experience. Anyone who has lost a sibling, spouse, child, parent or good friend knows that two weeks ain't nothing. Therapists have long advised patients that rather than avoiding the pain of grief through overwork or other distractions, one has to "go through it." As the English hymn writer William Cowper said over two centuries ago, "Grief is its own medicine."

Our culture has inflated the causes of grief perhaps too enthusiastically in recent decades. It used to be uniquely tied to the death of a beloved. Now it covers other kinds of loss — of one's health, a marriage, a job. These are all painful events, but one can learn to work around physical impairment, communicate with an ex-spouse or get another job. Death is a permanent thing.

That's not to dismiss the value of counseling following a death or the other aforementioned losses. It's just that framing failure to snap back from bereavement in a matter of weeks or even months as a mental disorder seems really off the mark.

Religion may understand the nature of this beast better than the scientists. Catholics hold masses for the dead and wakes, a vigil over the body of the deceased. Different churches use different liturgical colors for funerals. In the Episcopal

and other churches, the color is white. Jews insist on immediate burials, but may practice shiva, whereby friends and relatives gradually help the grief-stricken back into society. They cover mirrors. Hindus in mourning cover all religious pictures. Muslims offer prayers for the forgiveness of the deceased.

Victorians observed elaborate rules for somber dress, which lighten as time goes on. In her 1922 classic, "Etiquette," Emily Post offered over a dozen pages of instructions, from drawing the blinds in the sick room immediately after death to the proper mourning clothes for the country in summer.

What all these rituals do is wrap mourners in the comfort of deep tradition, making the loss seem part of a natural cycle. And they provide company to those in pain. Of course, a therapist can also offer that human support and perspective while keeping a medical eye on the aggrieved person's health.

And that's about it. This is something science cannot cure. It's not strep throat. Grief is painful, but it's also precious. Once again, the most effective way to get through it is to go through it.

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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Not same-sex marriage, stupid

People have asked what Obama could possibly have been thinking to announce the final step in his "evolution" in favor of same-sex marriage right after another state resoundingly rejected the notion and despite the fact that most Americans oppose it.

Whether or not Joe Biden forced Obama's hand on the issue, which I doubt, there is little question that Obama was going to make the announcement. The only question was when.

Many assume he decided to do it before the election to increase his fundraising among Hollywood liberals and other leftists. But all the funds in the world might not help if you are going to campaign on policies that are unpopular with the voters. So what gives?

The question isn't how popular same-sex marriage is; it's what percentage of people will pick their presidential candidate based on Obama's announced change in position.

Everyone paying attention knew already that Obama favors same-sex marriage, and his actions — which should speak louder than his words — have strongly supported it, as his Justice Department has been at war against states outlawing the practice. Only certain trusting and naive people believed Obama when he said he was evolving — as opposed to pretending to oppose same-sex marriage for political reasons until he decided to make his announcement.

But his announcement did embolden and energize the LGBT community and its strong advocates.

It looks as though it sparked an increase in his fundraising, at least for now, and it is likely that it will help intensify his turnout among social liberals and other strong leftists.

What about the downside? How many people did he alienate with this move?

Well, some are saying that

he threw the black community under the bus in favor of his gay constituency. But I'm betting Obama is banking on the fact that it will take a lot more than that to keep blacks from voting for him. So he took a calculated and probably minimal risk there.

How about non-black Democrats who still consider themselves social conservatives? Obama's militant support of abortion didn't alienate too many of them and neither will this.

There are two main voter blocs whose votes will be strongly influenced by social issues: those social conservatives and social liberals for whom social issues are the most important issues.

Those numbers may be substantial when you include the abortion issue, which drives Christian conservatives on the right and feminists and other women, among others, on the left.

But they shrink greatly when you just include those whose votes will be determined primarily by the same-sex marriage issue. Those who oppose same-sex marriage strongly enough to base their vote on Obama's stance on it are already entrenched for or against him, irrespective of his announcement.

Ultimately, he probably lost very few votes but gained much in fundraising and voter intensity.

Most people, even most social conservatives, are going to vote primarily on economic, budgetary and debt issues.

Here, Obama has no positive record to run on, so he will try to change the subject, obfuscate and use Alinsky tactics to turn his conventional class warfare into an all-out nuclear affair.

He'll portray Republicans as fat cat 1 percenters and their enablers and as people who don't care about the poor, the sick, or clean air or water.

They have theirs, so they don't care about those who don't.

He'll continue to play the race card and to promote his manufactured GOP "war against women" to paint Republicans as sexists. Likewise, with the help of the old media, he'll depict Republicans as bigots and ho-

mophobes for their opposition to same-sex marriage.

He'll claim that the economy is steadily recovering because of his policies — never mind that it's the slowest recovery in decades — and he'll say that though much work remains to be done, that's only because the "mess" Bush bequeathed "him" was worse than he thought and because selfish, obstructionist Republicans have prevented him from doing more.

This self-styled uniter will do everything in his power to make Republicans appear to be against everything that's good, compassionate and reasonable — health care, entitlements, the environment, gays, blacks, women and the downtrodden — and for everything that's evil, such as insurance companies, corporations, banks, Wall Street, the privileged, private jet owners and torture.

Mitt Romney will be caricatured as Obama's poster boy for conservative privilege, elitism and heartlessness. We're already seeing it with Team Obama's Bain Capital attack ads and it's only May.

The way I see it, Romney will be fine as long as he resists the temptation to go soft on Obama and provided he doesn't allow Obama to set the campaign narrative by making this an election over who cares the most — as opposed to whose policies would be best for America and the American people.

This election should be about Obama's record and how Romney would radically alter the disastrous course on which Obama has set America.

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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FROMA HARROP



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Kid Scoop FIT & FUN

Fettuccini Fitness
Get together with a parent or some friends and try these pasta-inspired exercises. It's silly fun!

Guy Fieri's Cooking with kids Pastabilities!

LET'S DO THIS!
Work on this page with a parent. Cooking together builds creativity and confidence!

Just about everybody loves pasta. With tons of different shapes, it even looks fun! And pasta dishes are a great opportunity for the whole family to work together to create a knock-it-out-of-the-park meal!

GUYS RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Rockin' with PASTA

TURKEY FETTUCCINI
Recipe Courtesy Guy Fieri

Prep Time: 20 min
Cook Time: 10 min
Serves: 2



STUFF YOU'LL NEED:

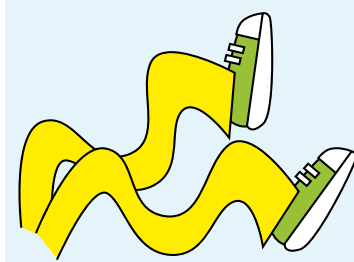
- 2 tbsp olive oil
 - 1/4 red onion, cut into strips
 - 1/2 tsp minced jalapeno
 - 1 tsp minced garlic
 - 5 oz turkey breast, cooked, sliced
 - 4 oz heavy cream
 - 1 tsp fresh lemon juice
 - 1 tsp chopped cilantro leaves
 - 9 oz fettuccini pasta, cooked
 - 2 tsp grated Parmesan
- For garnish:
• 2 lime wedges
• 2 sprigs cilantro
• 2 tbsp diced Roma tomato
• 1 tsp freshly ground black pepper

Heat a sauté pan on a high heat, add olive oil, onion, jalapeno and sauté until it is translucent. Add garlic and continue to sauté for two minutes. Add turkey, lightly mix the ingredients, taking care not to break the turkey up too much.

Add cream, lemon juice and cilantro to pan. Toss together, then add pasta, and toss ingredients while adding Parmesan cheese.

Nest pasta on a plate. Pour the sauce over the pasta. Lay the lime wedges and sprigs of cilantro on top and sprinkle with diced tomatoes and crack pepper around the rim of the plate.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow written directions.



Wet Noodle Walk

Pretend that you're a cooked noodle trying to walk 100 yards. Wobble forward and backwards on your wiggly pasta legs!



Bowtie Jump

Start with your hands overhead and feet together. Then, jump and extend your feet and arms (like a jumping jack) to make a bowtie shape. Repeat 20 times.



Penne Pasta Roll

At the park, lay down on the grass with your arms against your sides and your feet together like a piece of penne pasta. Roll as fast as you can, as far as you can. Race against some friends to see which pasta can go fasta!

Standards Link: Physical Education: Use a variety of basic and advanced movement forms.

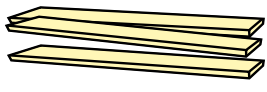
Kid Scoop-doku

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

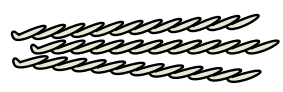
F	A	M	I	L	Y
I	L				
A	I				
	A	F			
	F				
M	Y				A

THOUGHT PUZZLER KNOW YOUR NOODLES!

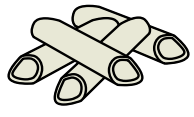
Pasta noodles come in a wild variety of crazy shapes. How many of these do you recognize? Do the math to test your noodle knowledge!



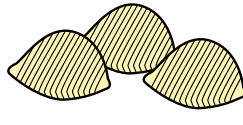
5 + 4 + 8



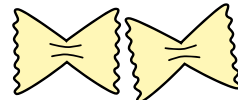
3 + 10 + 7



4 + 4 + 8



7 + 8 + 6



9 + 2 + 7



18 + 2 + 3

20 = FUSILLI (Fu - Zee - Lee)

21 = CONCHIGLIE (kon - see - glee)

18 = FARFALLE (Far - Fall - ay)

16 = PENNE (pen - nay)

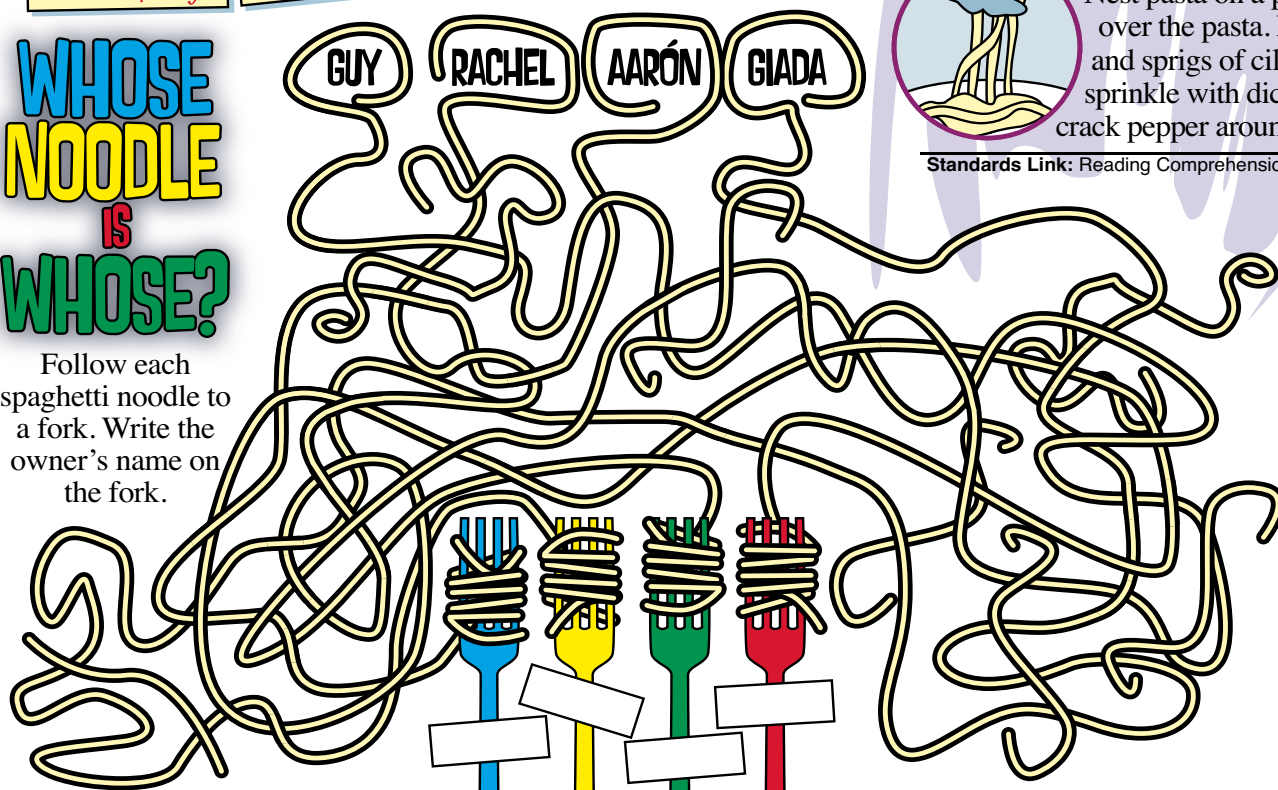
23 = MACARONI (ma - ca - row - nee)

17 = FETTUCCINI (Feh - Two - chee - nee)



WHOSE NOODLE IS WHOSE?

Follow each spaghetti noodle to a fork. Write the owner's name on the fork.



Standards Link: Visual Discrimination: Hand-eye coordination.

Extra! Extra! Food for Thought

Look through the newspaper for articles about food. List them in these categories: Grains, Meats, Veggies, Fruits and Dairy. Which category made the news the most? Do this again tomorrow and compare.

Standards Link: Thinking/Reasoning: Find similarities and differences in text.



Kids: Send us a picture, video or story about cooking pasta with your family for possible publication on Guy Fieri's Cooking With Kids site (cwkfoundation.org) Send to: kidscook@kidscoop.com

Kid Scoop Table Talks

Mealtime is a chance for families to talk about things that are interesting. Here's tonight's topic:

How does cooking together with your family make you feel? Do you think eating together as a family is important? Why or why not?

Double Double Word Search

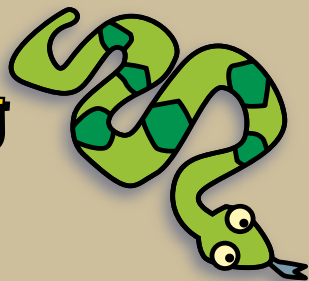
- JALAPENO
- RECIPE
- FUSILLI
- ONION
- CRAZY
- PASTA
- SAUTE
- GUY
- WILD
- GRATED
- FORK
- PAN
- FOOD
- DAIRY

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

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

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

What do you get by mixing snakes and pasta?



Use the code to discover the punch line!

A = 8 | E = 33 | G = 17 | I = 16 | L = 22 | N = 30 | P = 4 | S = 24 | U = 21
D = 19 | F = 2 | H = 29 | K = 11 | M = 14 | O = 26 | R = 15 | T = 5 | W = 28

24	4	8	17	29	33	5	5	16	5	29	8	5	28	15	8	4	24
16	5	24	33	22	2	8	15	26	21	30	19	8	2	26	15	11	

For more ideas about cooking with kids, visit www.cwkfoundation.org

Write On!

A Really Twisted Tale

Write a crazy story about the day you started twirling the world's longest noodle onto your fork!

Bird Poop: Victims of the drought

Last week a fast moving shadow on the driveway announced that a migratory return had been successful. As long, pointed wings carried it upward, our glance followed one member's silhouette over the treetops to another part of the neighborhood.

Every May seemed incomplete until they arrived. Prompting memories of another encounter with the specie, our chance sighting outside meant one of our favorites was back.

Exactly a year ago, Odessa Animal Control had called. Having described a medium-sized bird of prey as not flying, an officer had ended our conversation by saying, "It's a blue falcon."

Although our trip to their facility was time consuming, possible recovery of an avian life was worth it. In an isolated room, separate from the facility's ever-constant traffic, waited a thin, lethargic raptor. Instead of having a falcon, the employee had rescued a Mississippi kite.

The effects of one of the worst droughts in Texas history had already claimed numerous victims. Without moisture to encourage growth, our spring had been devoid of wildflowers, hummingbirds, and insects. Raptors, found in life threatening, weakened conditions, had succumbed to the absence of rodents.

Without available food sources, this adult kite was suffering from dehydration and starvation. Too weak to fly any further, it had landed and was at the mercy of the environment.

Once home the bird of prey was kept on liquids for a while. Since dehydration affects the body's ability to digest food, its normal diet of large insects, mice and liz-

ards would have to be delayed.

Soon, the kite became more resistant to being tubed as it responded to supplements with energizing effects. Turning its light gray head with dark eye patches to follow my every movement, the raptor struck repeatedly my gloved hands with its extremely quick feet and small, sharp talons.

Wrapped in a towel to thwart its angry outbursts, the bird glared relentlessly at me with its colorful red eyes. Those orbs relayed a "Hands Off" message at every feeding.

Each time the kite was placed back in its carrier, we appreciated even more its striking appearance. Its soft, darker gray body was quite a contrast to its bold, charcoal colored wing parts and tail. Hopefully, it could regain its gliding and soaring abilities that had, and would, make it an aerial champion again.

Finally, the raptor began to tolerate the introduction of solid foods. We delivered it to Gail Barnes of NightWings in Lubbock. The severity of its having been grounded would temper its release from rehab.



The Mississippi Kite's name is derived from the area of the United States where it was first documented, and its soaring abilities. From Kansas across to South Carolina and downward through the Gulf States, the raptor is a handsome summer hawk with its ash colored head, gray body, charcoal colored tail, red eyes, and yellow legs.

Courtesy photo

In her large and long flight cage facility, the Mississippi kite could strengthen its muscle tone and agility. Exercise would be a prelude to acquiring once again the ability for sustained flight.

When Gail called to describe the kite's rapid progress, we were reminded of other members of its specie hunting in different neighborhoods around town. For a moment, the long winged birds would seem stationary in a summer sky.

Then, with half closed wings, they dropped swiftly down toward a tree, only to sail upward immediately at almost the same speed.

Over and over, they would seem to be attacking the trees. In one instance, as a

kite approached a tall pine and was close to impacting the needles, a cicada darted from its hiding place and was quickly grabbed by the bird's talons.

Flying off with its food clutched in its foot, the kite pecked at the insect with its bill while in flight. After eating the most delicate part, it dropped the rest.

Another, with a grasshopper in its grasp, had flown to the top of a telephone pole to dine. After pulling off the insect's wings and legs, the bird had quickly devoured its catch.

The following week, a call from Gail described the kite's release. Grateful for its recovery, we could imagine it once again sailing in broad

circles.

The often-used adage, "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet," seemed to be appropriate for the "blue falcon."

Although misnamed, the departing kite had exemplified the officer's colorful description of a particular bird of prey.

Riding summer thermals, soaring, and then migrating, it would ultimately rendezvous with other members of its specie for a winter gathering in South America. Its legacy would be fulfilled.

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

Kaizen: If it ain't broke, make it better

In a recent administrative meeting, we were introduced to the Japanese word, Kaizen, which really captured my attention. By definition it means "continuous improvement." This differs from the American concept of "if it ain't broke don't fix it" to the concept of "if it's used, improve it; if we don't, we won't be able to compete with those who do."



PARENT'S
CORNER
DARRELL RYAN

Continuously, it involves many small-step improvements rather than one

continuous improvement means a never-ending effort to expose and eliminate root causes of problems. Usually,

overwhelming innovation. From a Japanese perspective, continuous improvement is the basis for their business culture.

Continuous improvement is a philosophy which permeates the Japanese culture, seeking to improve all factors related to their businesses, on an ongoing basis. It involves everyone, management and labor, in finding and eliminating waste.

The concept was actually introduced to the Japanese by Americans following World War II, but improved upon in the Japanese system. Most notable is the Toyota Production System.

Most Japanese people are, by nature or by training, very atten-

tive to detail and feel obligated to make sure everything runs as smoothly as possible, whether at work or at home. This attitude enhances the functionality of kaizen.

The driving force behind kaizen is dissatisfaction with the status quo — no matter how good the firm is perceived to be, it can be better. Standing still will allow the competition to overtake and pass any complacent firm. Organizational performance can improve from knowledge gained through experience. Lessons learned from mistakes mean those mistakes are less likely to be repeated, while successes encourage workers to try the same thing again or continue to try new things.

In order for continuous improvement to be successful, the organi-

zation must learn from past experience and translate this learning into improved performance.

Kaizen requires all employees in the organization be involved in the process. Every employee must be motivated to accept kaizen as a means by which the organization can achieve a competitive advantage.

All involved must push continually, trying to make improvements in every area.

Japanese companies have been very successful with the use of teams composed of workers and managers. These teams routinely work together on problem solving. Moreover, the workers are encouraged to report problems and potential problems to the teams; their input is as important as that of management.

In order to establish a

problem-solving orientation, workers should receive extensive training in process control, quality improvement and problem solving. Workers are trained to spot problems that interrupt, or have the potential to interrupt, the smooth flow of work through the system. When such problems do occur, it is important to resolve them quickly.

Through kaizen, or continuous improvement, firms are able to produce better products and services at lower prices, thus providing greater customer satisfaction.

In the long term, the final product will be more reliable, of better quality, more advanced, cheaper and more attractive to customers.

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

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Big Spring High School's Reba Smith signed a letter of intent to attend Sul Ross State University to play tennis Monday at the Athletic Training Center. Smith was also a member of the band for four years. She plans to major in elementary education.

Courtesy Photo

Rodgers named to FCA squad

Big Spring High School's Toby Rodgers, son of Jimmie and Misty Rodgers, has been chosen to participate in the 13th annual Fellowship of Christian Athletes Myrle Greathouse All-Star Classic, to be held Saturday, June 2 in Abilene.

Rodgers was one of 134 area student athletes selected for the game which benefits the Big Country Area Office of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Representing about 50 area schools, the rosters for the North and South squads were announced at a press conference in February at Beltway Park Baptist Church in Abilene.

The participants were nominated by their head coaches for the game which features schools from an approximate 100-mile radius of Abilene covering 36 counties.

Representatives from Class A-5A will comprise the teams. The athletes will report for two-a-day workouts beginning Wednesday.

The organization would like to thank local businesses for sponsoring the event including Bargainmart, Sid Richardson, Carbon Black, Robertson Mechanical and Ponderosa Apartments.

Eight hurt after OKC playoff shooting

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Authorities say eight people are hurt after shots rang out in Oklahoma City as thousands of people left the NBA playoff game between the Thunder and the Los Angeles Lakers.

Emergency Medical Services Authority spokeswoman Lara O'Leary says seven people were taken to a hospital with gunshot wounds after the melee Monday night. She says a pregnant woman was

also taken to the hospital after she was assaulted in the scuffle.

O'Leary says the pregnant woman and six of the gunshot victims are in good condition Tuesday morning. One person is in critical condition.

Police Capt. Dexter Nelson said a scuffle erupted Monday night in a crowd of people walking toward the Bricktown district, a popular nightlife area, and that it quickly turned ugly.

Little League Calendar

TODAY

Minor League

- Rangers vs. Dodgers, Roberts, 5:30 p.m.
- Cubs vs. Rockies, Garrett, 5:30 p.m.
- Pirates vs. Diamondbacks, Hollis, 7:30 p.m.

Pee Wee League

- Orioles vs. Phillies, Hollis, 6 p.m.

Pony League

- Pirates vs. Angels, East, 7 p.m.
- Rangers vs. Forsan, West, 7 p.m.

Major League

- Athletics vs. Astros, Roberts, 7:30 p.m.
- Rangers vs. Cubs, Garrett, 7:30 p.m.

To submit a calendar item, please call 263-7331, ext. 237, or e-mail sports@bigspringherald.com

Rangers roughed up by Seattle

TIM BOOTH

AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — When the game was over, Yu Darvish felt the need to apologize.

The latest challenge in his season-long education of pitching in the majors did not go well.

"I wasn't able to go deep in the game as a starter should," Darvish said through a translator.

Ichiro Suzuki and the Seattle Mariners chased Darvish after just four innings in his shortest start of the season, and the Mariners rolled to their fourth straight win in a 6-1 victory over the Rangers on Monday night.

Seattle became the first team Darvish (6-2) had to face a second time, and for the second time he struggled to solve the Mariners. The Japanese rookie

labored through 96 pitches and a season-high six walks, failing in his bid to become the first seven-game winner in the majors.

Only Seattle's inability to take advantage of a bases-loaded situation in the fourth kept Darvish's line from being worse. He was inconsistent and, combined with a Seattle lineup that knew his penchant for being a bit wild, it added up to the worst outing of an otherwise brilliant two months so far.

"The early part of the game I was OK with my command," Darvish said. "But somewhere in the middle when I really needed to throw a strike, I struggled to get a strike."

While Darvish was darting around the strike zone, the Rangers were getting shut down by Felix Hernandez, who made a strong statement after consecu-

tive rough starts. Hernandez held the top offense in baseball to one run in eight innings, allowing only Mitch Moreland's homer in the eighth.

Hernandez (4-3) allowed six hits, struck out seven and walked two. Moreland's shot was the only offensive highlight for the Rangers, who have homered in 15 straight games.

"Attack and just throw strikes," Hernandez said. "If you get behind against this lineup, it's a problem."

The game was a chance to see how Darvish would handle facing a team the second time around. While he was off to a solid start — subtract the five runs in the first two innings against the Mariners in his debut and his ERA since then is 1.94 — all

See **RANGERS**, Page 12

Texas rookie to play in PGA British Open

PLANO, Texas (AP) — PGA Tour rookie Harris English shot a course best and International Finals America qualifying record 60 and easily qualified for the British Open on Monday.

English shot a 63 in the afternoon in the par 70 Queens Course at Gleneagles Country Club, just outside of Dallas, for a 123 total, to snag one of the eight available spots for the Open from July 19-22 at Royal Lytham & St. Annes in England.

The 60 was the lowest 18-hole qualifying score since the R&A began holding qualifying in the United States in 2004. Records were incomplete if it was the lowest 18-hole score ever shot in British Open qualifying.

"It was a very relaxing round. I just lost track on what I was doing," said English, whose best PGA Tour finish was a tie for 16th in Mayakoba, Mexico, earlier in the year. "It's pretty amazing."

He had eight birdies and one eagle on the par 5 10th hole in his record morning round, plus seven birdies in the afternoon.

See **ROOKIE**, Page 12

Streaking Spurs flirt with history

PAUL J. WEBER

AP Sports Writer

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Eighteen wins in a row, and eight more victories to go.

That says it all about how the San Antonio Spurs are steamrolling through these playoffs at a pace that is flirting with NBA history, even if they are saying as little about it as possible.

"We don't have any secret. We don't even think about it," Spurs guard Tony Parker said.

There's plenty for everyone else to mull.

Like whether these Spurs — some 13 years after winning their first of four championships — actually might be the best version yet. Game 1 of their first Western Conference finals since 2008 will be at home Sunday against the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Sweeping the Clippers last weekend put San

See **SPURS**, Page 12

Astros, Norris down Slumping Chicago

KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — The way Bud Norris has been pitching lately, the Houston Astros figure scoring two runs will be enough when he's on the mound.

So when they scored seven in the first three innings on Monday night, the Astros were pretty confident they were headed for a win.

Jason Castro and Chris Johnson each hit three-run homers and Norris threw seven scoreless innings to give the Astros an 8-4 victory over the slumping Chicago Cubs.

Castro's home run came in the second inning and Johnson added his in the third, to hand the Cubs their season-high seventh

loss in a row.

"It's kind of comforting knowing Bud's on the mound, because we know if we get a couple of runs, Bud's probably going to make that stick," Johnson said.

Jed Lowrie homered for the second straight game, hitting a solo shot in the seventh inning to give the Astros three homers in a game for the second time in three games.

Norris (5-1) allowed five hits with eight strikeouts in seven innings. He has allowed just one earned run in his four-game winning streak.

The 27-year-old, who is in his fourth major league season, believes this is the best stretch

See **ASTROS**, Page 12

Magic can Van Gundy

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — For months the Orlando Magic have been trudging through the aftermath of a preseason trade request by Dwight Howard that sapped the life out of the franchise as internal team issues quickly affected the product on the floor.

Now after easily one of the most tumultuous seasons in their history, they made the first in what promises to be a huge offseason shake-up

The Magic fired coach Stan Van Gundy on Monday and agreed to part ways with general manager Otis Smith, severing ties with two of the architects of one of the most successful runs in franchise history.

Smith and Van Gundy's relationship with Howard was the centerpiece of drama the team faced all season and following their second straight first-round playoff exit.

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CHURCH SECRETARY position available at First United Methodist Church. The successful applicant must possess strong relational skills and provide a warm welcome on the phone and in person. The person in this position must be well organized and possess the ability to multi-task. Computer skills are a must, including skills in word processing and desktop publishing. Background check required for this full-time position. To apply, please send letter of application, resume, and references to 400 Scurry Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720 or email methodistbill@earthlink.net.

CUSTODIAN for Private School and also part-time **MAINTENANCE** person needed. Must pass background checks. Apply at 118 Cedar Road.

PARKPLACE RETIREMENT Living is hiring! We're looking for a team player who is enthusiastic and outgoing. This position is rotating shift work which could involve weekends, midnights, days and evenings. Duties include facilitating activities, housekeeping, and kitchen work, etc. Must be able to multitask and be active. Apply in person at 501 W. 17th Street.

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Comfort Keepers is seeking kind, caring & personable individuals to provide non-medical in-home care to the elderly. Full & Part time positions available and weekends. Flexible schedule. CNA's preferred but not required. Must have Own Transportation. Please apply at Texas Workforce Solutions.

Interim Homecare & Hospice: Our growing Hospice agency is seeking position in the Big Spring area. Community Liaison/ Marketer. Experienced preferred. Fax your resume to (432)618-0307 or come by the office to fill out an application at 1031 Andrews Hwy., Ste 200, Midland, TX. EOE.

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THE 118TH Community Supervision & Corrections Dept. is accepting applications for a part-time Community Service Coordinator. Duties include transporting and supervising defendants as they complete their community service. Must have a high school diploma or GED as well as a driver's license and be willing to work weekends. Applications are due 5-29-12 and may be picked up at 315 Main, Suite B.

THE GLASSCOCK County Sheriff's Office has an immediate opening for a Deputy. Must be a licensed Peace Officer in the State of Texas and must by TCLOSE certified and have minimum of 3 years experience. Email resumes to kayla.roberts@co.glasscock.tx.us mail them to GCSO PO Box 239 Garden City Texas 79739 or fax them to 432-354-2325.

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If you're highly impressionable and susceptible to the enchantment of pretty words, velvety banter and infomercials, you may be in for some trouble. The Gemini moon says the smooth operators just got smoother. The good news is that it's avoidable. Let the phone go on ringing, put in some ear buds and freeze the credit cards in a block of ice.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Extend an invite, as it will be exceedingly lucky for you to do so now. Convenience will play a big part in whether or not your invite is accepted, so factor the geographic desirability and time of day into your proposal.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You may not be able

Tomorrow's Horoscope

to smoothly say what's in your heart, but if you write it out, you'll come to an interesting conclusion. Three pages is the magic number. At the end of the third page, a clear direction begins to form.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll be in a position to give a VIP what he or she is asking for. Unfortunately, close doesn't count. It has to be exactly right. So check and double check to make sure you've covered every detail.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Whatever you take on, be early. Your fortunes will be augmented when you're the first on the scene, an initial adopter of technology and ideas, or the one who arrives to the meeting before everyone else.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your personal integrity prevents you from pushing anything on others that they do not need, even if this is what your family, boss or company wants you to do. Your honesty may cost you a sale, but it will win you a customer.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your responsibilities have you wound tight. That's why your favorite

people are the ones who can diffuse the tension by making you laugh. Steal relaxation wherever you find it. Everything is going to be absolutely fine.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have fantastic ideas. Don't be afraid to speak up. Instead of asking others what they'd like to do, putting the responsibility on them, come up with three stellar options and pitch them with a smile.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You love enthusiasm, and yet you are also aware of the dangers. High-pitched emotion can cause distortions of reality; the truth gets stretched, and promises are overblown. So you reserve the right to keep your cool.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your creativity is not an exhaustible resource. You're hooked up to an endless source. Your job is to keep the channels open, clearing out restrictive thoughts and limiting patterns on a regular basis.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A gift will land in your hands. This is not the return of good karma or a reward for hard work. The only

reason this blessing comes to you is because it wants to belong to you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The most attractive people in the world are the ones who know themselves. Embracing so-called "faults" turns them into advantages. Maybe the very thing you've been trying to hide is your ticket to success.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Unfortunately, good enough won't be good enough. This is the kind of day when you have to go above and beyond the call — or don't bother going at all.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 22). You'll appreciate the opportunity this year affords. You have stellar ideas, and you'll love it when you get the chance to try them out. Your friendship circle widens in June. Someone you adore will extend a juicy invitation in July. Seize a sensational job offer in August. You'll reach a milestone in September and celebrate big. Pisces and Sagittarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 10, 22, 39 and 18.

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The Colorado River Municipal Water District and Garney Companies are soliciting General Contractor, Subcontractor and supplier participation including those that qualify as SWMBE's for the following: Bid Package 8 Raw Water Supply Well Sites North Well Field for the Ward County Water Supply Expansion Project. Bid Documents available on May 24, 2012 at <https://team.garney.com/4378> Bid Deadline is June 7, 2012 at 3:30 p.m. Bids will be received at CRMWD 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, TX 79721-0869. For more information contact Marcus Grace at (816)536-6485 or email mgrace@garney.com Garney Companies, Inc. is an Equal Employment/Opportunity Employer. #7378 May 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and June 1, 3, 4 & 5, 2012

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: My brother and sister and I had an amazing childhood.

Our parents stressed the importance of hard work and education. The three of us got advanced degrees, and my sister and I entered the workforce after graduation.

Our brother, "Dennis," however, seems content to live with my parents, working a seasonal minimum-wage job.

He was unable to find employment when he graduated and has not bothered to look since. That was seven years ago.

My parents do not charge him rent. They cook for him and take him on weekend excursions.

They pay a portion of his student loan bills. Dennis doesn't seem to have any ambition to move forward. It has created a lot of resentment.

The last time I saw

Dennis, he made a snarky comment when I revealed that I was a month behind in my mortgage payment.

I was amazed at his nerve, and it resulted in no contact between us for almost a year. Resentment is also building toward my parents for continuing to allow him to mooch off of them.

They are now in their 60s and nearing retirement. They deserve better. And I admit that I'm a bit jealous that Dennis gets handed to him the same things my sister and I have to work so hard for.

I will be bringing my fiance to visit my parents for the first time, and we will be staying with them. I'm already dreading it. My fiance says to bite my tongue, that it's my parents' decision. But every time I see them, I notice how they have aged. Any suggestions?

Frustrated in Ft. Worth

Dear Frustrated: You need to follow your fiance's advice and bite your tongue. This is your parents' choice. The best you can do is be supportive of their needs, perhaps gently pointing out that they are crippling their son by allowing him to be so financially dependent. And perhaps stay somewhere else when you visit. Also consider that Dennis may have undiagnosed adult ADD or other psychiatric or medical problems that are interfering with his ambition. We feel sorry for him. When your folks are no longer around to enable him, he will be in serious trouble.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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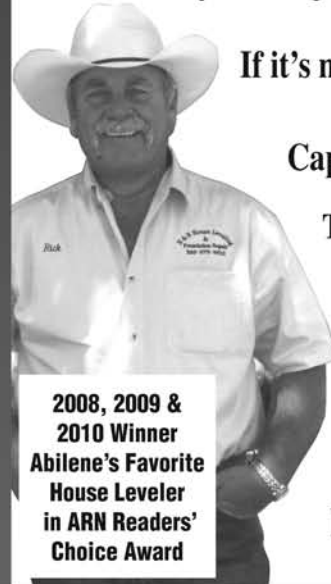
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5:PM	News ABC	La Mujer Notic.	Two Men CBS	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News King	King King	McDonald Uri Harel	Charlie Rose King	The Devil's Ride King	CSI: Miami	Ways Die 1,000 Ways to Die	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Shake It Shake It	NFL32	SportsCenter Spec.	
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Una Familia con Suerte (SS)	Big Bang Ent	News Ent	Caso Cer-rado	News Millionaire	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Alan Lee L. Moore	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld Seinfeld	CSI: Miami	Ways Die	Bones	Good	Around Pardon	SportsCenter Spec.		
7:PM	Dancing With Stars	Abismo de Pasión	American Idol	NCIS: Los Angeles	Una Maid en	America's/ Talent	Big Bang Upd	Civilization: The West and the Rest	Heart of Dixie	Deadliest Catch	Movie: Dirty Harry, Reni Santoni	Ways Die	NBA Basket-ball	Together Together	Jessie	E:60	NFL Live	
8:PM	Dancing With the Stars	La Que No	Simpsons	NCIS (DVS)	Corazón Valiente	America's/ Talent	Big Bang Light of the Southwest	Frontline	The L.A. Complex	Deadliest Catch	Ways Die	Repo	NBA Basket-ball	Together Together	ANT Farm	SportsNation	SEC Storied Spec.	
9:PM	News	Impacto	How I Met Raymond	News	Noticias Sin Senos no	News Jay Leno	Conan	Shepherd's Heart	Cops	The Devil's Ride	(15) Movie: Magnum Force, David Soul	Repo	NBA Basket-ball	Together Together	Jessie	SportsNation	SportsCenter	
10:PM	Nightline	Noticiero	Raymond	Letterman	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Conan	Upd	'Til Death 'Til Death '70s	Deadliest Catch	Ways Die	Repo	NBA Basket-ball	Together Together	Austin	SportsNation	SportsCenter	
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Hasta-Dinero	Law Order: CI	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Conan	Upd	World T. Smiley (Off Air)	70s	Ways Die	Repo	NBA Basket-ball	Together Together	Wendy Williams	Baseball Tonight	SportsCenter	
12:AM	Extra Paid	Mañana-Siempre	Raymond Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	(06) Today	Seinfeld	Light of the Southwest	South Pk	Deadliest Catch	Escape From L.A., Steve Buscemi	Ways Die	Inside the NBA	Movie: Cinderella, Whoopi Goldberg	Good	NBA	SportsCenter	
1:AM	Paid	La Jaula Par Ases	TMZ	Paid	Pelicula:				Homecoming	Deadliest Catch	Entourage	Entourage	Falling Skies	ANT Farm	ANT Farm	NASCAR	SportsCenter	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I HAD A PRETTY GOOD DAY. MOM CAN FILL IN THE DETAILS."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

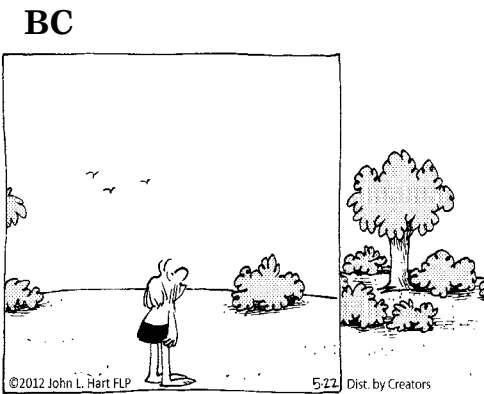


"Wait a minute, I hadn't even asked the question yet!"

HAGAR



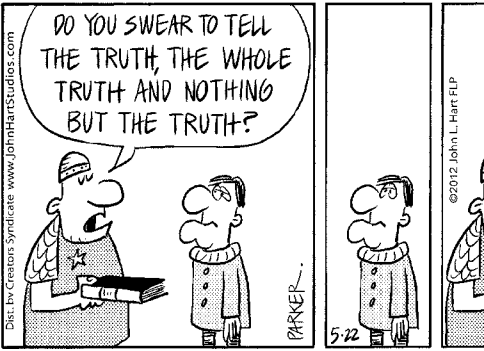
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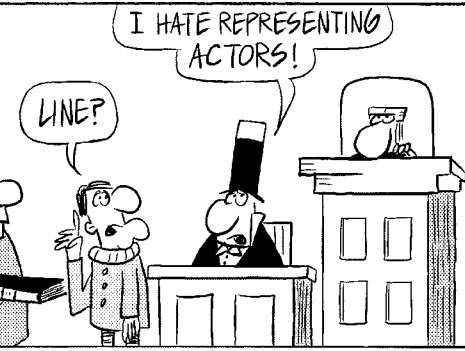
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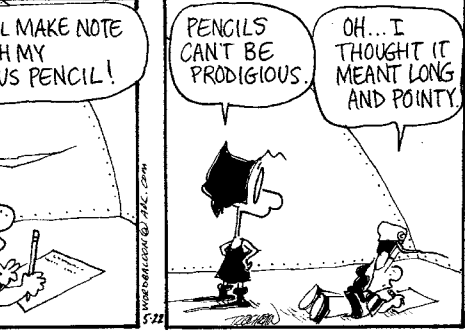
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THE OTHER COAST



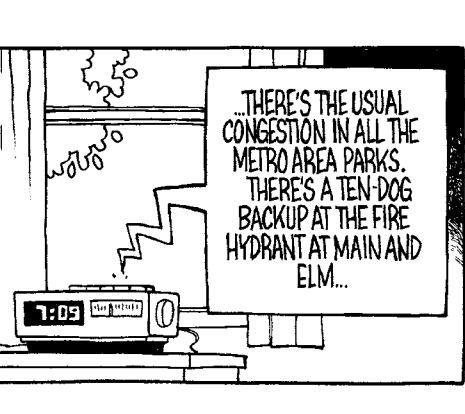
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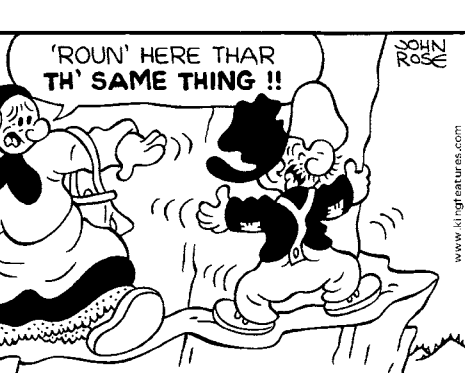
SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



HOW'S THE PATIENT, DOCTOR?



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, May 22, the 143rd day of 2012. There are 223 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 22, 1939, the foreign ministers of Germany and Italy, Joachim von Ribbentrop and Galeazzo Ciano, signed a "Pact of Steel" committing the two countries to a military alliance.

In 1947, the Truman Doctrine was enacted as Congress appropriated military and economic aid for Greece and Turkey.

In 1960, an earthquake of magnitude 9.5, the strongest on record, struck southern Chile, claiming some 1,655 lives.

In 1962, Continental Airlines Flight 11, en route from Chicago to Kansas City, Mo., crashed after a bomb apparently brought on board by a passenger exploded, killing all 45 occupants of the Boeing 707.

In 1968, the nuclear-powered submarine USS Scorpion, with 99 men aboard, sank in the Atlantic Ocean. (The remains of the sub were later found on the ocean floor 400 miles southwest of the Azores.)

In 1969, the lunar module of Apollo 10, with Thomas P. Stafford and Eugene Cernan aboard, flew to within nine miles of the moon's surface in a dress rehearsal for the first lunar landing.

In 1972, the island nation of Ceylon became the republic of Sri Lanka.

In 1981 "Yorkshire Ripper" Peter Sutcliffe was convicted in London of murdering 13 women and was sentenced to life in prison.

In 1992, after a reign lasting nearly 30 years, Johnny Carson hosted NBC's "Tonight Show" for the last time.

Today's Birthdays: Movie reviewer Judith Crist is 90. Singer Charles Aznavour is 88. Actor Michael Constantine is 85. Conductor Peter Nero is 78. Actor-director Richard Benjamin is 74. Actor Frank Converse is 74. Former CNN anchor Bernard Shaw is 72. Actress Barbara Parkins is 70. Songwriter Bernie Taupin is 62.

Answer to previous puzzle

CLAMS	CURL	ASIS
RATIO	ASIA	HIKE
ALVIN	RELY	ANNE
BASIN	STREET	KOD
ERS	THROWS	
ABBOTS	METEOR	
PLANS	FORE	TSK
TOTE	SLURS	AWAY
WHO	HENS	STILT
TURRET	DEEMED	
YOUTOO	TOE	
EBB	BUCKET	SEATS
SAGA	DONE	ARIES
EMIT	EVEN	WIDEN
SANE	DEES	SEEMS

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Boundaries
 - 6 Eastern European
 - 10 Pepper's partner
 - 14 "Someone's in the kitchen with ..."
 - 15 Story
 - 16 "I cannot tell ..."
 - 17 Wipe clean
 - 18 Military truant: Abbr.
 - 19 Stack
 - 20 December 31
 - 23 Winged cave dweller
 - 24 Chooses, with "for"
 - 25 Add nutrients to
 - 27 "Oh, rats!"
 - 30 Untrue
 - 32 Lincoln nickname
 - 33 Theatrical faint
 - 35 "For ... know ..."
 - 39 Not feeling very creative
 - 43 Help oneself to
 - 44 New England seafood
 - 45 E. Coast ocean
 - 46 Firm fact
 - 49 Big Apple baseballer
 - 51 Draws a bead on
 - 54 Andes Mountains country
 - 55 Links org.
 - 56 Fiction fan
 - 62 And
 - 64 Animal rights org.
 - 65 Catch in a trap
 - 66 Corner chess piece
- DOWN
- 1 Biblical garden
 - 2 In __ straits (desperate)
 - 3 Munch like a mouse
 - 4 Lenient with
 - 5 Meek
 - 6 Astronomer's discoveries
 - 7 Statutes
 - 8 Healing plant
 - 9 Luxurious fabric
 - 10 Maple syrup source
 - 11 Defendant's story
 - 12 Pale purple
 - 13 Molars and incisors
 - 21 When one might have a late lunch
 - 22 New USNA grad
 - 26 Street or avenue
 - 27 Foolish
 - 28 Start of a magician's cry
 - 29 Offend the nose
 - 30 V-shaped cut in wood
 - 31 __ about (roughly)
 - 34 Remove from office
 - 36 Plumbing problem
 - 37 Not punctual
 - 38 Castaway's home
 - 40 Complete collections
 - 41 Entrance hall
 - 42 "It seems to me ..."
 - 47 Was in charge of
 - 48 Perfect world
 - 50 Subtle distinction
 - 51 Not together
 - 52 Arctic dwelling
 - 53 Stoneworker
 - 54 Air Force One, for one
 - 57 Action word
 - 58 And others: Abbr.
 - 59 Statistics
 - 60 Historical periods
 - 61 Take a breather
 - 63 Approves

THIS JUST IN by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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69					70					71		

SPURS

Continued from Page 7

Antonio's winning streak among the 10 longest in league history — tied for fifth along with Michael Jordan's 72-win Chicago Bulls in 1996, among others. Eighteen straight victories is a franchise record, and getting to 19 would tie the 2001 Lakers for the record of longest winning streak in the postseason.

Yet with the Spurs facing another weeklong break until their next series — just as they had after sweeping Utah in the first round — Parker said before leaving Los Angeles that he won't pass the time weighing where this run is starting to stack up in the Tim Duncan era.

"Until we go all the way, I can't compare this team," Parker said.

Duncan, who's averaging 17.6 points and nine rebounds in the playoffs, at least acknowledged getting the same vibe as he felt during championship runs in 1999, 2003, 2005 and 2007.

But that's as much as he's willing to say.

"It feels a lot like some of the other championship teams. In saying that, we haven't done anything yet," Duncan said.

"We've won two rounds. We haven't done anything so you can't qualify,

or classify our team as anything other than that we've gotten this far."

That's not entirely true: these Spurs can be classified as a higher-scoring, better-shooting and more-balanced version of their four championship seasons.

San Antonio is the only playoff team averaging more than 100 points per game (102.5), and unlike in their previous championship runs, Duncan, Parker and Manu Ginobili aren't burdened with more than half the scoring load.

The Big Three are so far responsible for 46 percent of San Antonio's playoff points.

In 2007 and 2005, they accounted for at least 62 percent.

"We're a deeper team," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "It's good to face your problems. We knew we had to get younger. Kawhi (Leonard) and (Danny) Green made us a lot younger. It's been a process these last couple of years to get these younger kids. With any championship, we have never gone into a playoff thinking we can get it done. We go in with appropriate fear."

Forward Stephen Jackson, who won with the Spurs in 2003 and rejoined them at the trade deadline this season, said despite the changes the energy feels the same. "This year reminds me of when I was here last time," he said.

ROOKIE

Continued from Page 7

Fred Couples' 62 in 2005 was the previous course record.

English, 22, said he was unaware of his record score until his caddy told him after making another birdie, his seventh, on his closing hole with a 20-foot birdie putt.

"It certainly was a nice surprise," English said.

Also qualifying for the Open was England's Greg Owen, who shot 66-61-127 and Canadian

Stephen Ames who shot a morning 69, but rebounded with an afternoon 61 for a 130 total.

For Owen, it will be an emotional homecoming as he grew up in Nottingham, 90 minutes south of Lytham.

"I haven't been home in a long while and it will be nice to see my family and for them to see their grandchildren," he said.

Owen played in the 2001 Open at Royal Lytham where he tied for 23rd.

American Justin Hicks (67-63-130) and Argentina's Andres

Romero (67-63-130) also qualified.

There was a four-way playoff for the final three spots between Americans James Driscoll (66-65-131) and Bob Estes (66-65), Scotland's Russell Knox (65-66) and Sweden's Daniel Chopra (64-67). Estes made birdie on the first playoff hole to qualify for his 11th British Open. Chopra and Driscoll made pars on the second playoff hole while Knox was eliminated.

Among those missing out was two-time U.S. Open champion Lee Janzen (65-71-136).

ASTROS

Continued from Page 7

of his career.

"I'm definitely in a rhythm right now," he said. "I've been working really well with Castro. Things have been there for me and I just want to keep it go! Johnson hit a two-out single in the second inning before a walk by J.D. Martinez to set up Castro's

homer, which broke a 0-for-9 streak. His first home run of the season landed several rows up in the lower deck in right field, where a man wearing a Cubs shirt fell backward trying to catch it, to put Houston up 3-0.

It was Castro's first home run since July 19, 2010, also against the Cubs, and his three RBIs tied a career high set that day.

"It's been too long, so hopefully we can kind of break that trend," Castro said.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 7

of his starts were against teams seeing the Japanese star for the first time.

And Seattle had plenty of success — for two innings — when it saw Darvish for the first time back in April. The Mariners rattled Darvish for eight

hits and five earned runs that day, but the Rangers gave Darvish enough offense to make that first start a victory.

This time, Seattle had nearly as much offensive success — trading hits for walks — but the Rangers bats were getting silenced by Hernandez.

"If you don't get opportunities against (Hernandez), he knows how to take it to the house and tonight he took it to the house," Texas manager Ron Washington said.

Darvish's troubles started almost immediately. He walked Michael Saunders with one out in the first and Suzuki immediately ripped a shot over first base and down the right-field line. But instead of bouncing off the short wall in foul territory and into the outfield, the

ball hit and stayed at the base of the wall. Saunders scored from first and Suzuki strolled into third without a throw and an early lead for Hernandez.

Seattle gave Hernandez a bigger cushion in the third. With two runners on and one out, Suzuki sent a single into shallow center that scored Dustin Ackley from second. Saunders was aggressive and tried to go first to third on the hit, and instead jogged home when Josh Hamilton's throw from center soared over third baseman Adrian Beltre and into the Rangers' dugout on the fly. Rookie Jesus Montero followed with a sacrifice fly to deep center that scored Suzuki.

Darvish continued to struggle in the fourth, walking the bases loaded to start the inning. Ack-

ley's RBI single scored John Jaso, but Darvish got infield groundouts by Saunders and Suzuki and a strikeout of Kyle Seager to end the inning and limit the damage. Montero added an RBI double in the seventh off reliever Yoshinori Tateyama, who was called up on Monday after Neftali Feliz was placed on the 15-day disabled list.

Darvish had pitched into at least the sixth inning of all eight of his previous starts.

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