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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY

APRIL 30, 2013



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HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Austin attorney Charles R. Kimbrough addresses those attending a hearing Monday on proposed regulations to deal with the growing oil boom in Howard County.

Boom draws concerns over water, other issues at hearing

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Water seemed to be the topic of choice Monday morning, as the Howard County commissioners court held a public hearing on a number of proposed regulations designed to address the housing boom in the county created by the ongoing boom in the oil field.

While no one spoke against the changes, concerns regarding a regulation that

"It's not a matter of 'if they come' at this point. The oil business is coming and there are plenty of people out in the county who are looking to capitalize on it."



—County Judge Mark Barr

would have any operator of a RV or mobile home park serving more than 14 water users designated as a public

water source drew questions from several people in the

See **HEARING**, Page 3

Body ID'd

Death apparent accident; foul play is not expected

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Human remains discovered Sunday in a ravine east of the Walmart SuperCenter have been identified as a Big Spring man who was reported missing by family members early this month, according to law enforcement officials.

The remains were identified as 32-year-old Michael Birmelin of Big Spring, according to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department.

The announcement was made Monday during a press conference at the Troy M. Hogue Joint Law Enforcement Center.

"An autopsy was performed this morning on the remains discovered Sunday," Everett said. "On April 3, Birmelin was reported as missing by a family member. The autopsy revealed that he had suffered a broken back and broken ribs believed to be from a fall

See **DEATH**, Page 3

Day of Prayer program will be held Thursday

By **BILL McCLELLAN**
 Managing Editor

Crossroads area residents are invited to participate in a brief National Day of Prayer program at noon Thursday on the third floor courtroom of the Howard County Courthouse.

The emphasis will be on praying for the country, community and individual needs, but especially for rain.

"Pray for rain. Pray for rain. We just really need rain," said Kathryn Wiseman, Howard County justice of the peace.

Thursday's event will be a simple one.

"We are going to meet for prayer," said Wiseman. "Ironically, most of the people in leadership roles in the community will be gone. So this is a layman's prayer event, you might say."

Those who will be saying a few words during the program include Pastor Michael Willard of Cornerstone Church;

What: National Day of Prayer program.

Where: Third floor courtroom Howard County Courthouse.

When: Noon Thursday.

Chaplain Joel Miller with the Chaplain's Emergency Service; and Tommy Sullivan, Howard County Volunteer Fire Chief.

U.S. Rep. Randy Neugebauer will not be in attendance but said of the National Day of Prayer, "On this day, people of all faiths are encouraged to pray for our nation; a tradition that traces its roots to the first call to prayer in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation."

Wiseman said Thursday's program is expected to last around 30 minutes and will close with the Lord's Prayer.

Former Big Spring woman killed in crash

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

STEPHENVILLE — A two-vehicle car crash Sunday afternoon on U.S. Highway 281 on the outskirts of Stephenville, Texas, claimed the lives of four people, including a former Big Spring resident who was attending Tarleton State University.

Kimberly Genice Peacock, 19, a sophomore animal science major at the college and former Big Spring resident,

was pronounced dead at the scene of the tragic accident, according to reports from the Stephenville Empire-Tribune.

Peacock was traveling in a pink Volkswagen Beetle driven by her friend and classmate, 18-year-old Courtney Smalley of Lipan, at the time of the accident. Both girls were members of the Phi Mu Sorority, according to college officials.

According to police reports,

the women were traveling south on U.S. Highway 281 when their vehicle veered into the oncoming lane, striking a Mercedes occupied by Matthew Keith, 29, and Audrey Keith, 26, of Searcy, Ark. The two were in the Carlton area to attend a wedding and visit Matthew Keith's parents, family members told the Empire-Tribune.

The accident was reported at approximately 4:30 p.m. According to emergency

responders, CareFlight air evacuation was called to the scene; however, all four victims were pronounced dead.

Peacock's mother, Valorie Hoard, said her daughter was born in Big Spring and later moved to the Dallas and Fort Worth area, where she attended school.

Services for Peacock are pending with Holy Trinity Catholic Church of Big Spring.

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Obituaries

Patsy Kay Daniels



Patsy Kay Daniels, 64, of Big Spring died Saturday, April 27, 2013, at her residence. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, May 1, 2013, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Dr. Randy Cotton, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 30, 2013, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

She was born Jan. 27, 1949, in Artesia, N.M., and married Jimmie Daniels on Sept. 20, 1967. He preceded her in death Nov. 19, 2007.

Pat started her career as a beautician at the young age of 16 years when she entered beauty school. She found her passion in life and, after a few years, became part owner of Quita's Hair Fashions. Over the next 30-plus years, this became a place where ladies found a true friend who completely put others before herself and were exposed to the tangible love of Jesus Christ.

After a lengthy illness, Pat retired and closed the doors. Her only thought was for "the girls" who worked for her. She loved them like family. Her encouragement and loving ways will be missed by all who knew her. She was a member of Trinity Baptist Church.

She is survived by one son and daughter-in-law, Brad and Kara Daniels of Big Spring; three sisters, Sue Bradbury and husband Gary, Sharon Grant and husband Keith, all of Big Spring and Ann Rogers of Kentucky; one brother, Ralph Thorp Jr. and wife Beverly of Austin; three grandchildren, Caleb, Abbie, and Colin Daniels; one brother-in-law, Melvin Daniels and wife Marie of Big Spring; several nieces and nephews; and a host of friends.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents, Ralph and Bonnie (Swafford) Thorp; one sister, Linda Howard; and one nephew, Dwayne Bradbury.

The family suggests memorials be made to Trinity Baptist Church, Building Fund, P.O. Box 1448, Big Spring, Texas 79721-1448.

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

Paid obituary

Norman 'Bill' Wallace



Norman "Bill" Wallace, 95, of Big Spring died Sunday, April 28, 2013, in a local nursing home. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 1, 2013, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Derrick Looney officiating. Interment will follow at Ackerly Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 30, 2013, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

He was born April 28, 1918, in Jacksonville, Texas, and moved to Sylvester as a child where he grew up. The family then moved to Pumpkin Center, Texas, north of Lamesa, where they lived until 1940 when they moved to Ackerly. He farmed in Ackerly until his retirement.

While in high school, he played football and basketball, ran track and was on the FFA National Dairy Judging team. He received a scholarship at Texas A&M for football, but due to his father's health he had to stay home and help run the farm.

Norman served on the Ackerly school board, volunteered at the Big Spring State Hospital Chalet for many years and was very active in the American agricultural movement in 1979 until 1980. He loved traveling, fishing and camping with his wife and children.

Survivors include one daughter, Mary Ann Talbott and husband David of Big Spring; one son, Phil Wallace and wife Barbara of Lubbock; 11 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Glenda Fay Wallace; one daughter, Brenda Davis; and his parents, Thomas Lee and Vinnie Wallace.

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

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NEXT CLINIC VISIT 5-2-13

Police blotter

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

- ROBIN ARRENDONDO CERVANTES, 40, of 110 N.W. Fourth St., was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.

- TAMMY LOCKHART COKER, 36, of 1106 W. Third St. Apt. 11, was arrested Monday on a warrant for contempt of court – disobedience of a court order.

- STOLEN VEHICLE was reported in the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.

- ASSAULT was reported in the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.

- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1400 block of Tucson.

- THEFT was reported in the 2600 block of E. 25th Street.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 80 inmates at the time of this report.

- TAMMY LOCKHART COKER, 36, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of contempt of court – disobedience of a court order.

- ROBERTO ENRIQUE MARTINEZ, 38, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a Broward County, Fla., warrant for fugitive – leaving the scene of a crash with injuries (driving under the influence).

- JOHNNY JORGE RODRIGUEZ JR., 23, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the Martin County Sheriff's Office on a charge of bail jumping – failure to appear.

- SHAWN ROGERS, 33, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the Sterling County Sheriff's Office on a Midland County warrant for theft with two previous convictions.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of E. 15th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

- TRAUMA was reported in the 1600 block of Nolan. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

- Big Spring and Snyder Parkinsons Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month. This is a group for all Parkinson's disease patients, spouses and caregivers. For more information about the support group or about Parkinson's Disease, contact Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-0942.

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

- VA Alcoholics Anonymous support group, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Veterans Healing Center.

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

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

WEDNESDAY

- "A Journey to a New Normal," a grief support network, meets from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at 602 S. Main. For information, call 263-5999.

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

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

THURSDAY

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

- Spring Tabernacle Ministries has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and



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Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Wed 5/1	Thu 5/2	Fri 5/3
98/64 Partly cloudy skies. Near record high temperatures. High 98F. Winds S at 15 to 25 mph.	93/47 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the upper 40s.	65/40 More clouds than sun, windy. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the low 40s.
Sunrise: 7:00 AM Sunset: 8:26 PM	Sunrise: 6:59 AM Sunset: 8:27 PM	Sunrise: 6:59 AM Sunset: 8:28 PM



Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	92	64	pt sunny	Kingsville	87	70	pt sunny
Amarillo	94	56	sunny	Livingston	83	62	pt sunny
Austin	84	65	pt sunny	Longview	84	63	mst sunny
Beaumont	80	65	t-storm	Lubbock	94	57	pt sunny
Brownsville	86	71	pt sunny	Lufkin	86	63	pt sunny
Brownwood	91	65	pt sunny	Midland	96	64	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	82	70	pt sunny	Raymondville	88	70	pt sunny
Corsicana	83	64	mst sunny	Rosenberg	82	65	pt sunny
Dallas	86	66	mst sunny	San Antonio	84	67	pt sunny
Del Rio	94	71	pt sunny	San Marcos	85	65	pt sunny
El Paso	94	63	sunny	Sulphur Springs	85	63	mst sunny
Fort Stockton	97	62	sunny	Sweetwater	94	63	windy
Gainesville	83	62	mst sunny	Tyler	85	65	mst sunny
Greenville	83	62	mst sunny	Weatherford	84	63	mst sunny
Houston	81	66	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	87	64	windy

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	76	58	cloudy	Minneapolis	45	34	rain
Boston	65	44	sunny	New York	65	48	sunny
Chicago	79	54	pt sunny	Phoenix	92	62	sunny
Dallas	86	66	mst sunny	San Francisco	78	58	sunny
Denver	33	24	snow	Seattle	56	37	sunny
Houston	81	66	pt sunny	St. Louis	83	60	pt sunny
Los Angeles	75	59	pt sunny	Washington, DC	70	51	sunny
Miami	83	73	t-storm				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Wed 5/1	Thu 5/2	Fri 5/3
10	10	10
Very High	Very High	Very High

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, 0 with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m. until noon and again at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.. The classes take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.

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

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- Big Spring Refinery
- Phillips Sperry
- Magnolia Pipeline Co.
- Pure Oil Co
- Standard Oil Co.
- Coltex Refining
- Morgan Knef Power Plant
- El Paso Natural Gas
- Leona Lee Corp.
- Odessa Butadiene Co.
- Southwestern Portland Co.
- Shell Oil
- Compressor Station
- Tube-Kote Inc.
- Amoco Productions Co.
- South Fullerton Gas Plant
- Andrews Gas Plant
- Kirby West
- Martinpool Gasoline Co
- Midland Farms Gasoline Plant.

* This is a partial site list. If you feel you have been exposed to asbestos please feel free to attend or call.

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State briefs

Water fund bill dies in Texas House

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A plan to transfer \$2 billion from the Rainy Day Fund to create a water infrastructure bank failed Monday because the author broke a parliamentary rule about when such a bill could be considered.

The error was pointed out by House Democrats who were frustrated that the Republican-controlled Legislature was ready to spend the Rainy Day Fund on water projects, but not on restoring funding cut from public education.

Earlier Monday, Gov. Rick Perry had called on lawmakers to tap the Rainy Day Fund to create the State Water Infrastructure Fund to meet the state's water needs. The fund would have established a bank to help state and local authorities build \$53 billion in water projects over the next 50 years.

Perry, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and Speaker Joe Straus all said financing the state's water plan was their top priority at the beginning of the legislative session in January. The measure appeared to have little opposition until tea party activists and the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a right-wing think tank, came out in against it.

"There is nothing more important to Texas than having the water needs addressed. I think we have a once in a lifetime opportunity to put into place a funded water infrastructure bill that will ensure future generations that they will have the water they need," Perry said Monday. But conservatives rejected that notion.

"The Texas Legislature should live within its means just like every Texan must," said Chuck DeVore, the foundation's vice president for policy. "And so it should only spend the general revenue it has available."

Mayor says blast-damaged Texas town will rebuild

WEST, Texas (AP) — The mayor of a Texas town devastated by a deadly fertilizer plant explosion says he expects the community to rebuild and he'll do the same.

West Mayor Tommy Muska said Tuesday that his hometown of about 2,700 has received donations from across the country since the April 17 accident.

Investigators are trying to determine what sparked the blast that leveled the West Fertilizer Co. plant, left 14 people dead and damaged dozens of structures.

Muska says town officials are seeking state and federal assistance. He says the community is strong, resilient and "it will come back."

Man charged with trespassing at Dallas Love Field

DALLAS (AP) — A man has been charged with trespassing after allegedly driving on an airport taxiway and being arrested in a secure hangar at Dallas Love Field.

Dallas County jail records show 36-year-old Ruben Martinez Jimenez was being held Tuesday on \$250,000 bond. Jimenez was booked early Monday several hours after being arrested for being at a general aviation site without permission.

A Dallas police report says Jimenez appeared to be in emotional distress Sunday night. He drove into the secure area when a guard opened a gate to inquire what the man wanted. Police say no passenger aircraft were threatened by the suspect's actions.

Defense attorney Jeffrey Boncek (BAHN'-sek) says he planned to meet with his client Tuesday and would seek lower bond on the misdemeanor charge.

Lufkin woman gets 25 years for burning ex-roommate

LUFKIN, Texas (AP) — An East Texas woman has been sentenced to 25 years in prison for splashing her ex-roommate with gasoline and starting him on fire in a dispute about rent.

A judge in Lufkin on Monday sentenced 45-year-old Michealle Boston of Lufkin over the November 2011 incident. A jury in February convicted Boston of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon causing bodily injury.

Investigators say Anthony Hamilton suffered second-degree burns.

The Lufkin News reports Boston and Hamilton were renting his deceased mother's home but he moved out when he fell behind in the payments. Prosecutors say the two argued over some property

he left behind.

Hamilton testified that he and Boston occasionally used drugs together and that he had been smoking PCP on the night he was burned.

New Boston chief ousted in city council vote

NEW BOSTON, Texas (AP) — An East Texas police chief who's been with the force more than 40 years has lost his job in a city council no-confidence vote.

The New Boston City Council voted unanimously Monday night to remove police Chief Kerry Pinkham.

Pinkham, who's been chief of the New Boston Police Department for more than 20 years, says he received a letter last week from Mayor Johnny Branson about the special meeting. Pinkham says he had no indication why council members lack confidence in him.

New Boston council members who voted 5-0 to remove the chief cited drug problems in the city of about 4,600. Councilman Joe Dike says some citizens complained about police not responding on time or sometimes not at all.

The city attorney couldn't immediately be reached for comment Tuesday.

Closings set in Texas courthouse shooting case

GALVESTON, Texas (AP) — A jury in Galveston is to hear closing arguments in the capital murder trial of a Houston man charged with fatally shooting a 79-year-old bystander outside a Southeast Texas courthouse.

Bartholomew Granger is accused of killing Minnie Ray Sebolt last March. Granger faces life in prison without parole or the death penalty if convicted Tuesday. Prosecutors want the 42-year-old former truck driver and rapper on death row.

Authorities say Granger shot Sebolt to death outside the Jefferson County Courthouse in downtown Beaumont as he tried to shoot his daughter. Granger has acknowledged that he fired at his daughter and ran over her with his truck because she testified against him in a case in which she accused him of sexual assault.

DEATH

Continued from Page 1

from a 50-foot ledge above the ravine, landing on large rocks."

Everett said the autopsy showed no other injuries to the victim and there were no signs of another party being

present at the time of the fall.

"Although the investigation continues, at this point there are no signs of foul play," Everett said. "It remains unknown why the victim was in that location."

Birmelin's body was discovered Sunday when law enforcement officers attempted to arrest a local woman — 32-year-old Misty Dawn Clay-

ton — near Walmart on a theft charge. According to Everett, officers chased Clayton into the ravine, located south of the SuperCenter, apprehending her approximately 300 yards southeast of the department store.

"Upon searching the area where the arrest was conducted, officers also located the decomposing remains of

a male subject," Everett said. "Investigators were notified and responded (but) due to the state of the remains, officers were unable to positively identify the victim."

"During the investigation into the unattended death, it was found that the female suspect (Clayton) had also stolen property from the pocket of the victim (as of-

ficers approached). She has been charged with theft from a corpse; however, there is nothing to indicate she had any knowledge or was involved in Birmelin's death."

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

HEARING

Continued from Page 1

audience.

According to attorney Charles R. Kimbrough with Austin-based Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP, the county's approach to these types of regulations is very different from the way municipalities are allowed to make regulations.

"Not having these types of laws on the books in the past makes this a very significant step for the county," Kimbrough said. "It's important to remember Howard County is a county. It's not a city or municipality, which has the full power of self government. A city can basically do anything that does not violate state law. A county, on the other hand, can only regulate matters that are specifically authorized by the state's legislature."

"With these water issues, the county has a limited ability to regulate water issues. Those are governed by the local water conservation district and other bodies. In these cases, the county would have to

report these types of issues to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and turn it over to them."

One Howard County man expressed his desire to see the laws between RV parks and mobile home units more divided, saying the two have very different concerns.

Howard County Librarian Hollis McCright also asked several questions regarding the proposed regulations.

"I live next door to where an RV park is being constructed," McCright said. "Do these regulations call for any kind of fence around the property? I would think trash being caught by the high winds would be a concern. Also, what are the regulations on noise?"

According to Kimbrough, the regulations do not currently call for fencing around RV parks and nuisances such as noise or animals at large would be addressed in the same way they are now — by law enforcement.

Before retiring into an executive session aimed at allowing the commissioners court to discuss the questions

posed during the public hearing, County Judge Mark Barr told the audience the proposed regulations aren't meant to stop entrepreneurship in Howard County.

"We're not trying to tie anyone's hands so they can't make money. That's not what we're trying to do with these regulations," Barr said. "We just have to make sure we protect our current homeowners and their interests so this housing boom doesn't hurt Howard County instead of helping it. We have to approach this intelligently."

According to Barr, the commissioners court will likely consider the regulations in the next 30 days, giving area residents and homeowners a chance to once again share their concerns.

"This is a situation where we need as much input from the people as possible," he said. "We want them to come to these meetings and

let us know what their concerns are. That way we can try to address them and try to make these regulations work toward everyone's best interest."

Barr said the county is already seeing a staggering growth in these types of housing projects, which include RV and trailer parks.

"Just during our last regularly scheduled meeting, we had six requests for septic permits for these types of properties," Barr said. "It's not a matter of 'if they come' at this point. The

oil business is coming and there are plenty of people out in the county who are looking to capitalize on it."

As the supply for housing in the oil field continues to grow, so does the demand, according to Barr.

"They fill them up just as soon as they get them open," he said. "It's certainly not slowing down. If anything, it's picking up speed. Right now, it's anyone's guess what the total demand is going to look like once this boom gets into full swing. We'll just have

to wait and see."

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

sudoku
ANSWERS

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

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Bird Poop

A hummingbird goes to school

Yesterday's tests had been returned to each student. Times allotted for each subject had been closely met. All in all, her morning had functioned smoothly.

While the children were silently reading, the teacher glanced at her watch. Soon, until lunchtime, they would be under another's tutelage.

With about 15 minutes to go, she was startled by a collective gasp coming from the students. Not considering the consequences, a boy suddenly jumped upward, then quickly sat back down. The look on her face had quickly altered his plans.

Diving and ascending with amazing speed, a hummingbird had joined their pursuit of learning. Realizing she had to keep the children quiet and seated, the teacher was fearful of their stampeding to catch the bird. The resulting chaos could endanger it even more.

After motioning to a girl nearby, she hastily wrote a note for her to take to the office. Upon her return began the teacher's attempt to avoid mayhem in the making.

Telling her students that help would come for the bird, she decided to utilize her remaining class time for a lesson on hummingbirds. Not only did she keep the children entertained. Without their wiggles, or noise, the tiny creature rested longer between flights to and

from the windows on either side of the room.

When it was time for their next class, she had already prompted her students about leaving quietly, and in line. Her hope that the hummer would fly out the door as they left was not realized. Instead, the little bird seemed to prefer the slats in the blinds on the north array of windows.

Waiting for my arrival, the principal and janitor met me as I parked near the front entrance. After a brief introduction, the janitor escorted me to the classroom.

Familiar with the design for elementary schools of this vintage, I anticipated the heavy steel door. On the same side of the classroom would be narrow, rectangular windows located near the top of the wall. While a hummingbird would avoid the former, it would be attracted to the light afforded by the latter.

Across the room were windows that could bathe the classroom with natural light. Needing to darken the area for slide projections and reel-to-reel films, blinds and black shades had been installed.

In trying to reach the outside, the hummer was constantly flying toward sunlight that indicated the outdoors beyond. Bouncing against glass on both sides of the room was tiring and potentially dangerous. And even though we left the door open in hopes the black-chinned hummingbird would fly to freedom, it kept preferring the blinds and partially lowered shades.

While the teacher and janitor were positioned at either end of the classroom, I kept trying to reach the frustrated

bird. If it flew toward either one of them, they were to raise their arms in hopes of shepherding it toward the door.

"Do you think it came inside because of the cold nights we're still having?" inquired the teacher. "April is such a spastic month!"

In other years, we had received calls regarding hummingbirds that were alive, but unresponsive. It had made us grateful for nature's ability to save its own.

Having been cold long enough, the hummers had become torpid. This means of hibernation created lower respiration and circulation rates, and spared the bird a loss of vital body fat. Once offered a constant, warmer environment, it would revive and disappear in rapid flight.

Since I didn't think it had been that cold that long, my opinions were the black-chin could have been enticed by a color in the classroom; atop her desk were flowers brought from a student's yard. Or, in seeing the light from the windows, it had entered through the door, flown across the room, and discovered the rigidity of panes of glass.

"How much time do we have?" was answered with the fact that we were running out of options. Soon the children would return.

"Do you mind if I stand on top of the bookcases?" I asked. After clearing off the colorful displays, I now had

a slight advantage. Three to four feet in elevation, and room to move parallel with the windows, would allow me to reach higher and move faster.

After telling the teacher and janitor I was going to be listening for the hummer's location, I had the teacher partially close the blinds. As the bird buzzed behind this hindrance, I hoped to press it gently against the glass. Then it might be reached and pulled through the slats.

Eluding my plan on the first few attempts, the black-chin was tiring. Perched on the handle of one of the casement windows, it finally rested.

Barely seeing it enough to react, I was finally successful in isolating it from further flight. Once in hand, the bird and I descended from the top of the bookcase.

While still in the classroom, we all marveled at this tiny being and the beauty of its plumage. Taking it outside intensified its striking coloration and iridescent markings.

Green above, with a black

chin and upper throat, the male hummer had a small white spot behind each eye. Ruffling the lower part of its throat band, I used my finger to expose the metallic violet that is sometimes seen under certain light.

Seeing the students coming back to their classroom, we waited until the teacher had positioned them to watch the bird's release. After asking the janitor to close the classroom door to prevent another "rescue," we cautioned the children to be very quiet and still.

When I opened my hand, the black-chinned hummingbird stood for a few seconds as if transfixed. After a squeak that was almost inaudible, it left with a whizzing noise associated with flight. Easily clearing the roof of the school, the epitome of nature's infinite artistry gave the children a brief aerial display of its abilities.

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



Courtesy photo

While extracting nectar from the inner structure of flowers, black-chinned hummingbirds also seek the protein provided by tiny insects that often frequent a profusion of blossoms. Hovering, flying backwards or straight up and down, the hummer can even remain stationary while in the air. As it weaves its way through numerous trees and branches, a whistling noise announces its presence.

Parent's Corner: Our fate is in our control

We have all heard the saying "Today is the first day of the rest of our life," but how many times have we thought about it and focused on what it really means?

When we spend many days exhausted and unfocused, this leaves us considering ourselves not very productive, so thinking about what lies ahead can be far from inspiring. That's why it is so important to really think about today being a new beginning. That very thought should be powerful and motivating.

Instead of going about doing our usual things and thinking about our problems, we could be thinking about things we could do to benefit our future. There are some things we need to remember to assist us along this path of thinking.

We are in control of our words and the way and tone in which we choose

to say them. We know how the use of our words will influence others thoughts, perception and reaction toward us, which in turn can influence us in a positive or negative way. We are in control of our thoughts and how we think them and our actions and how we choose to act and react. That's really an exciting concept.

Yes, things come along that we do not control but our responses are fully in our control from what we say to what we do. We have that power.

What we decide to focus on and do today will affect our tomorrow either negatively or positively. If we focus on building and accomplishing posi-

tive actions today, we will be motivated to keep building through our accomplishment. We instinctively want to build on it more as it gets bigger.

And remember, nothing that happened in the past dictates what will happen in our future and where our life will end up, unless we let it. No one cares that yesterday may not have been that great and very little was accomplished, but we can make up for it and move ahead today. We can take charge of our thoughts, focus, and actions right now. We can think and do something positive to move forward today in our building for tomorrow.

We can stop focusing on what we didn't do and redirect our thoughts on what we need to do. We can get started on something for the future. But we have to decide we are going to do it, and start, not tomorrow, but today.

We are in control, not the person next to us or the one down the street. We know what we do today affects tomorrow. If we do nothing today,

then tomorrow will not change.

I read a story several years ago about some boys who wanted to outsmart Socrates. They decided to catch a bird, hold it in their hand and ask Socrates if the bird was dead or alive. If Socrates said it was dead they would release it and let it fly away. If he said it was alive they would crush it. Either way, he would be wrong.

They thought they had found the perfect way to outsmart the wise teacher. When they met Socrates on the street that morning they asked him the question. As Socrates looked at the boys he understood what they were doing so he replied, "Its fate is in your hands!"

And so it is with us. Today is the first day of the rest of our life. Our fate is in our control so we must choose our actions and reactions accordingly.

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



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News in brief

Syrian state TV says powerful blast rocks heart of Damascus

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — A powerful explosion rocked Damascus on Tuesday, causing casualties, Syrian state TV reported, a day after the country's prime minister narrowly escaped an assassination attempt in the heart of the heavily protected capital.

The nature of the explosion was not immediately clear but rebels fighting to topple President Bashar Assad's regime have increasingly targeted Damascus, the seat of his power. The large bombing, the second in as many days in the capital, seems to be part of the wider violence wracking Syria as the nation's conflict enters its third year.

Damascus residents said they heard a powerful blast and saw thick, black smoke billowing from behind a group of buildings.

Syrian TV said the blast occurred in the central district of Marjeh, although the target was not immediately clear. The TV aired footage of fire trucks at the scene in central Marjeh Square and firefighters trying to extinguish a blaze that engulfed several cars and a nearby building.

Marathon bomb suspect's defense team taking shape with some of the top names in the business

BOSTON (AP) — One lawyer won acquittal for a Saudi man charged with carrying three firecracker-like devices on a plane, arguing he was a victim of hysteria over airport security after the Sept. 11 attacks. Another has managed to avert death sentences for some of the highest-profile criminals of our time, including the Unabomber and the gunman whose rampage injured former Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

Together, they are staring down what may become their biggest chal-

lenge so far: how to defend the man authorities say helped plan and carry out the Boston Marathon bombings, an attack that killed three people, injured more than 260 and virtually shut down the city during an intense manhunt.

The team that will be led by Miriam Conrad, the chief federal public defender for Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island, got a major boost Monday with the addition of prominent San Diego lawyer and death penalty opponent Judy Clarke. Not that Conrad is considered any slouch.

"She is as tenacious as they come," said Joshua Levy, a former assistant U.S. attorney in Boston who has gone up against Conrad in federal court. "I always found her to be very smart and focused on whatever she perceived as chinks in the armor in the government's case. She would zone in on that."

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, 19, is charged with using a weapon of mass destruction to kill, a crime that carries a potential death sentence. He lies in a prison hospital after being wounded in a shootout with police as he and his brother made a getaway attempt. Tamerlan Tsarnaev, 26, was killed.

Generational change in Dutch royalty as queen abdicates and is replaced by son as king

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Willem-Alexander became the first Dutch king in more than a century Tuesday as his mother, Beatrix, abdicated after 33 years as queen.

The generational change in the House of Orange-Nassau gave the Netherlands a moment of celebration, pageantry and brief respite as this trading nation of nearly 17 million struggles through a lengthy recession brought on by the European economic crisis.

Visibly emotional, the much-loved Beatrix ended her reign in a nationally televised signing ceremony as

thousands of orange-clad people cheered outside. Millions more were expected to watch on television.

King Willem-Alexander gripped his mother's hand and looked briefly into her eyes after they both signed the abdication document in the Royal Palace on downtown Amsterdam's Dam Square.

Beatrix looked close to tears as she then appeared on a balcony overlooking some 20,000 of her subjects.

FDA will investigate added caffeine in foods after new caffeinated gum introduced

WASHINGTON (AP) — Looking for a new way to get that jolt of caffeine energy? Food companies are betting snacks like potato chips, jelly beans and gum with a caffeinated kick could be just the answer.

The Food and Drug Administration is closely watching the marketing of these foods and wants to know more about their safety.

The FDA said Monday it will look at the foods' effects on children in response to a caffeinated gum introduced this week by Wrigley. Alert Energy Gum promises "the right energy, right now."

The agency is already investigating the safety of energy drinks and energy shots, prompted by consumer reports of illness and death.

Michael Taylor, FDA's deputy commissioner of foods, said Monday that the only time FDA explicitly approved the added use of caffeine in a food or drink was in the 1950s for colas. The current proliferation of caffeine added to foods is "beyond anything FDA envisioned," Taylor said.

Israel carries out first deadly airstrike in Gaza since November truce; 1 Palestinian killed

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — An Israeli aircraft attacked a motorcyclist in Gaza on Tuesday, killing the rider and wounding two other people in the first deadly airstrike in the Palestinian territory since a truce was reached with Palestinian militants last November.

The Israeli military said the airstrike killed Haitham Mishal, whom it identified as a jihadi militant involved in the April 17 rocket attack on the southern Israeli resort town of Eilat.

But Ashraf al-Kidra, Gaza's Health Ministry spokesman, said Mishal was a Palestinian police officer.

In a statement, the Israeli military said Mishal "has been a key terror figure, specializing in weapons and working with all of the terror organizations in the Gaza Strip." It said he manufactured weapons and specialized in rockets and explosive devices that he sold to militant groups.

Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers en-

gaged in eight days of heavy fighting last November before reaching an Egyptian-brokered truce. Under the deal, Gaza militants pledged to halt rocket attacks on Israel, while Israel said it would halt a policy of assassinating wanted militants.

Outraged by sexual assault in military, lawmakers look to change justice system

WASHINGTON (AP) — Outrage over an Air Force officer's decision to overturn a jury's guilty verdict in a sexual assault case has Republicans and Democrats joining forces on ambitious legislation to change the military justice system.

On both sides of the Capitol, lawmakers have interpreted Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel's recent proposal to essentially strip commanding officers of their ability to reverse criminal convictions of service members as an opening to revise the decades-old Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Congress repeatedly has challenged the military's lack of resolve in fighting sexual assault in its ranks, an offense considered far more prevalent than the reported cases of 3,192 in 2011, the most recent figure available. Former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said that because so few victims report the crime, the real number is closer to 19,000 assaults.

Hagel acknowledged the problem earlier this month in announcing his proposal to eliminate the discretion of a commanding officer to reverse a court martial ruling, except for minor offenses, and to require a commanding officer to explain in writing any changes that are made.

The crime of sexual assault in the ranks "is damaging this institution. There are thousands of victims in the department, male and female, whose lives and careers have been upended, and that is unacceptable," the secretary said.

Court orders collapsed building owner's property seized; assets of factory owners frozen

SAVAR, Bangladesh (AP) — A top court in Bangladesh asked the government Tuesday to "immediately" confiscate the property of the owner of a building that collapsed last week.

A two-judge panel of the High Court also asked the central bank to freeze the assets of the owners of the five garment factories in the building. They said the money should be used to pay the salaries and other benefits of the workers.

The order came after police produced the building owner, Mohammed Sohel Rana, and the factory owners in court.

At least 386 people were killed when the illegally constructed 8-story Rana Plaza collapsed on April 24.

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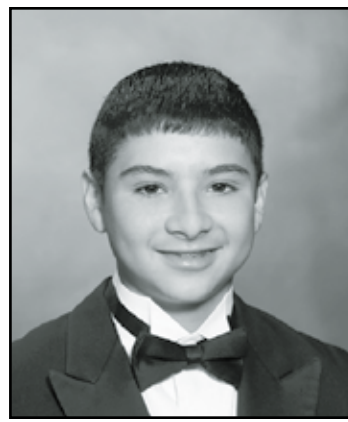
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Lady Steers open playoffs with 14-5 win

By **BRIAN MCCORMACK**
Sports Editor

ODESSA — An explosive, nine-run seventh inning broke a 5-5 tie Monday, as Big Spring shelled Fort Stockton, 14-5 to advance to the area round of the playoffs.

Offensive output was a concern for BSHS Head Softball Coach John Sparks as he prepared his squad for postseason play, but the Lady Steers responded when it was needed most.

Tied at 1-1 after a RBI double by Mercedes Ruiz sent Ayana Gomez home in the top of the second, Big Spring's lineup took charge in the top of the third.

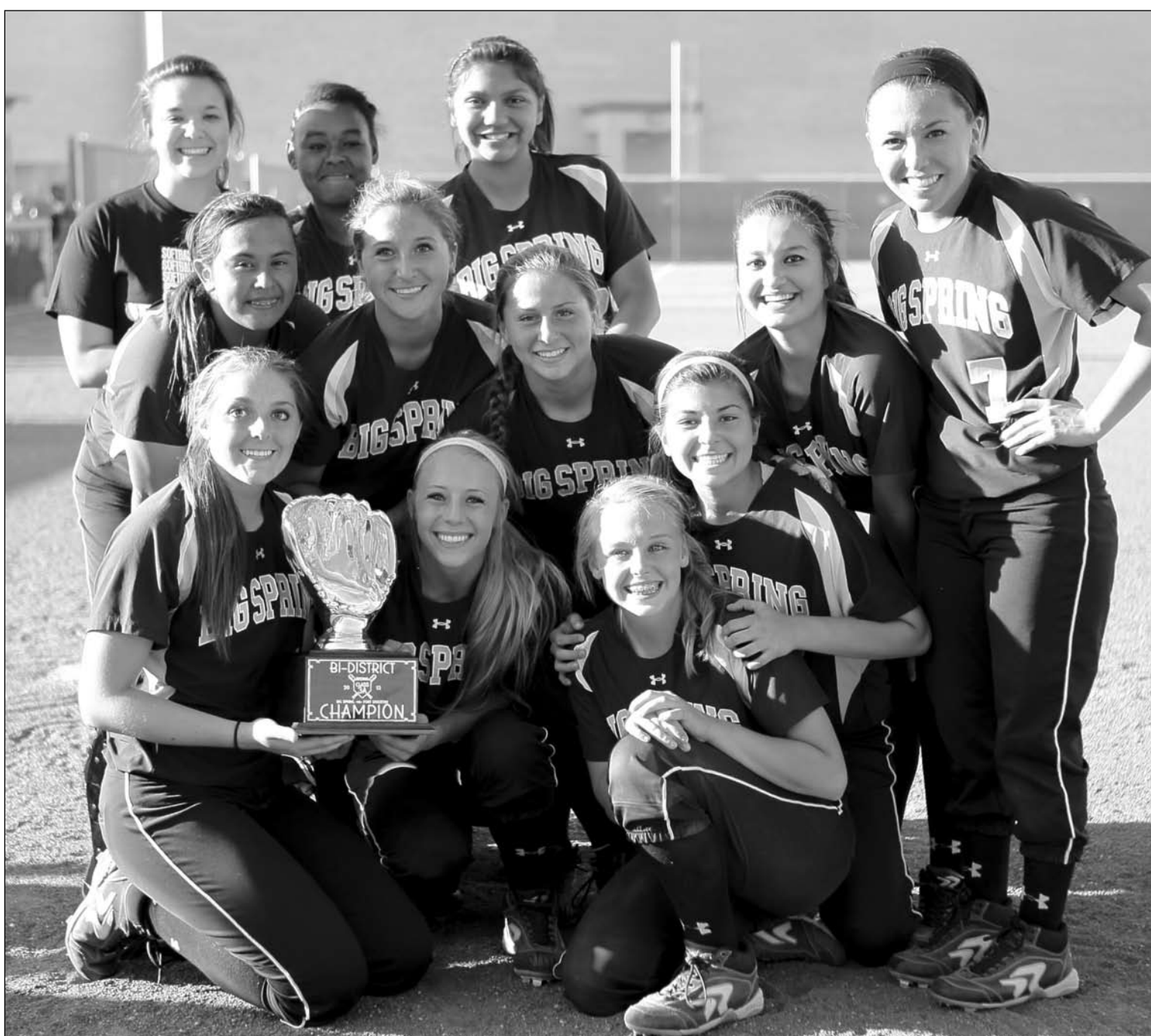
Lizzy Fleeson, Valerie Goodblanket and pitcher Logan Yarbar had back-to-back-to-back singles to load the bases with black and gold. Haley Dimidjian capitalized on the situation, belting out a single of her own and picking up three RBI. The Prowlers had Dimidjian caught in a rundown between first and second.

Dimidjian would make it safely back to first base, but not before all three base runners ahead of her scored, as BSHS took a 4-1 lead.

With Angelina Castillo in scoring position, Gomez laid down a RBI bunt to add another run before the inning came to a close.

Sparks credits his team for paying attention to the details and working as a unit to bring runs in.

"Small ball," Sparks explained. "It wins games for you. That's probably the best small ball game I've seen played in a long time. Our girls stepped it up. There were some innings that didn't work for us. I knew after scouting



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton/visit www.claxtonphotography.com
The Big Spring Lady Steers pose with the bi-district trophy after defeating Fort Stockton 14-5 to open the playoffs. Next up for BSHS will be Andrews in the area round.

See **PLAYOFFS**, page 7



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton/visit www.claxtonphotography.com

Four Howard College softball players (front row, from left), Amber Marlett, Micherie Korja, Megan Granado and Shelby Shelton signed with four-year universities Monday to continue their collegiate softball careers as teammates and staff looks on. The Hawks won their conference and will appear at the Region V championship tournament in Lubbock beginning Thursday.

'I'm gay': NBA player Collins breaks barrier

WASHINGTON (AP) — Last summer, NBA veteran Jason Collins considered joining an old Stanford college roommate, U.S. Rep. Joseph Kennedy III, at Boston's gay pride parade.

Collins eventually decided he shouldn't, because he wanted to keep his secret safe: For more than a decade as a professional athlete, he had remained silent about his sexuality, worried about what teammates, opponents, fans — the world, really — might think.

Then came the Boston Marathon bombings two weeks ago, which Collins says "reinforced the notion that I shouldn't wait for the circumstances of my coming out to be perfect. Things can change in an instant, so why not live truthfully?"

So after having, he explains, "endured years of misery and gone to enormous lengths to live a lie," Collins became the first active player in one of the four major U.S. pro sports leagues to come out as gay. He wrote a first-person article posted Monday on Sports Illustrated's website that begins: "I'm a 34-year-old NBA center. I'm black. And I'm gay."

See **GAY**, Page 12

Forsan freshman J.P. Stevenson bows out of state with semifinal loss

By **BRIAN MCCORMACK**
Sports Editor

COLLEGE STATION — The area's lone state tennis finalist — Forsan's J.P. Stevenson — was eliminated from competition Monday, but not before playing the best in Texas as a freshman and already surpassing his brother, tennis prodigy Kyle Stevenson, who was a two-time state finalist for Forsan before graduating last year.

Stevenson opened play at the Mitchell Tennis Center at Texas A&M University on Monday with a 6-4, 4-6, 6-1 win before dropping the semifinal to Mario Garza of Ben Bolt in two straight sets, 6-1, 6-1.

Forsan Tennis Coach Cory Richardson had hoped Stevenson could go all the way, but is pleased with the freshmen star's performance.

"J.P. has played for a long time," Richardson said. "He's been preparing for

his freshmen year and he's worked very hard. I'm proud of him, he's definitely put in the effort."

Richardson said Stevenson's level of play is rare for his age.

"It's not unheard of for a freshman to make it as far as he did, but it's not very common either."

The goal Richardson has set for Stevenson is lofty, but attainable — to win a state title before he leaves Forsan.

"That is the goal," Richardson said. "His future is bright. We played team tennis and he lost to some 2A and 3A kids, but since starting individual, he's only lost two matches. His only two losses could come to state champions. Hopefully, the experience he got will help him out next year."

Contact Sports Editor Brian McCormack at 263-7331.



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HOWARD SOIL and Water Conservation District #243 has a position open for a District Clerk in Big Spring. This is a part time position with flexible hours. The application period will remain open until May 15, 2013 or until the position is filled. For application and information call 432-267-1871, ext.3 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. daily.

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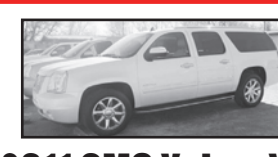
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Capricorn Lunar Leader

The Capricorn moon is a no-nonsense authoritarian. This lunar influence melds so nicely with the Taurus sun that compliance with all that's correct and productive seems mandatory. The powers that be are not always right, but as long as they are not blatantly wrong, you'll learn by following their dictates.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). In those moments when your attention goes to problems (or problem people), you are ignoring successes (or helpful people). Progress will occur faster when you focus on what's right in your world.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Greater self-control will be necessary in order to navigate today's many temptations. The saving grace is that if you muster up the willpower, you'll immediately be rewarded.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Yes, your responsibilities are many. But you don't have to

handle everything at once. Ordering your tasks by priority, size and timing will help you stave off negative thoughts and avoid feeling overwhelmed.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If you ask people to do things that do not come naturally to them, the process will be a struggle for both of you. Observe the strengths of others, and align your requests accordingly.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Don't underestimate how deeply people might fall in love with you. Your strange power over heartstrings is nothing to toy around with. It won't be fun to be loved much more than you love.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Just because something is legal doesn't mean it's moral, and neither are all illegal acts immoral. Use your judgment and heed your conscience, as well as your gut feelings.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll roll with what happens, not letting any single event deter you from your purpose. At the same time, you realize that it is more important to keep moving along than it is to arrive at any one destination.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Most vengeance is small-minded and shows

a lack of character. Noble people are also merciful people. If there are exceptions to the rule, they are few and far between.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your natural passion sometimes presents itself in the form of anger. You can avoid getting angry, though, by removing yourself from situations that have the potential to make you blow your stack.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your mountain-goat side will be activated. Just because you don't reach the highest peak today doesn't mean your climb was in vain. The altitude you achieve now will help you with tomorrow's climb.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). People show and interpret affection differently. What you recognize as genuine caring might not register with another person. Through trial and error, you'll figure out how best to communicate your love.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When you think of a certain person, conflicting emotions arise. To hold these tumultuous feelings inside takes complexity,

intelligence and a deep soul.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 30). You are talented and powerful. Honor your many gifts by paying attention to those who do the work you don't have to do. The efforts of outsiders allow you to grow and master your craft. By giving your loved ones what they need, you ensure your happy existence. Invest in a September vacation. Your love signs are Leo and Aquarius. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 8, 5, 6 and 9.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I recently visited some of my relatives only to find out that their political, social and religious beliefs are so far from my own that I have a hard time listening to their viewpoints without growing deeply agitated. How can someone I'm genetically close to be so ideologically distant? Do you have any advice for an opinionated Libra?"

Yours is the sign of diplomacy, dear Libra. If anyone can put on a nice smile, disseminate hugs and kiss babies, it's you. Unless your relatives plan to run for office against you, there is little reason for them to bring up a political agenda for you to refute. It wouldn't

hurt to remind them that politics and religion needn't be discussed in polite company. Better yet, remind yourself, and then stay out of it. And remember that in politics and in any other kind of conflict, debate or dance: It takes two to tango. If you don't engage, there won't be anything to fight for or against. Note: This doesn't make you weak or apathetic. It is a way of conserving your energy so that when it's time to fight for what you believe is right, you'll be ready.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Taurean humor is sharp and dry. Case in point: Johnny Galecki. Nerds everywhere know him as Dr. Leonard Hofstadter, the brainiac who bridged the worlds of geeks and girls in the hit television series "The Big Bang Theory." Those who enjoy a Christmas tradition that includes the 1989 Griswold family classic "Christmas Vacation" know Galecki as the young Rusty Griswold.

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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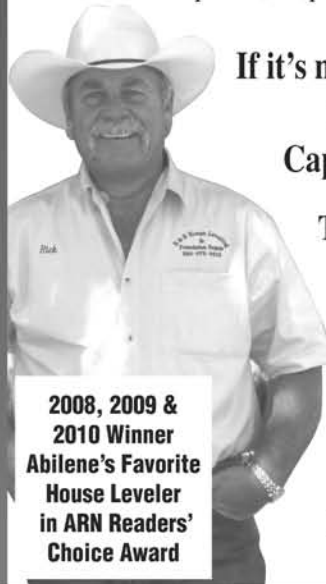
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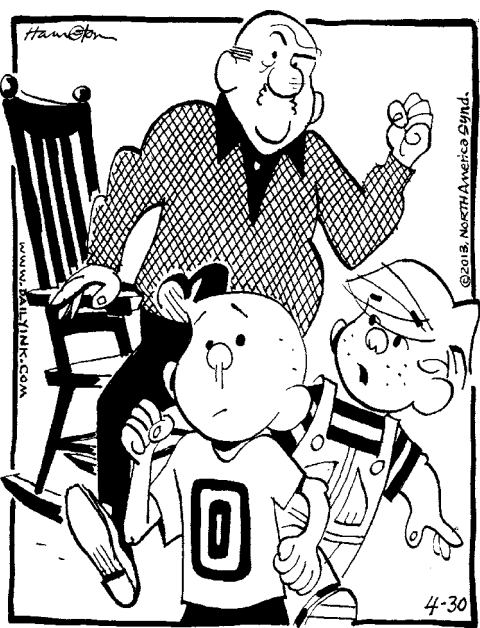


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5:PM	News	Casa	Two Men	News	Noticias	News	King	Justice	Charlie Rose	King	Dual Survival	Maria Pitillo	Auction	Castle	106 & Park:	Good	Around	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Notic.	Two Men	CBS	Noticiero	News	Seinfeld	A. Shelby	PBS News-	Seinfeld	Dual Survival	Auction	Castle	BET's Top 10	ANT Farm	Pardon	NFL Live	E:60
7:PM	Wheel	Corona de	Big Bang	News	Caso Cer-	News	Seinfeld	Door-Wis-	Hour	Rules	Dual Survival	Tenants	Tenants	Together	Dog	Austin	E:60	Audibles
8:PM	Splash	Porque el	Hell's	NCIS (DVS)	Pasión Prohi-	The Voice	Big Bang	Upd	The Dust	Hart of Dixie	Dual Survival	Tenants	NBA	Basketball:	Together	Movie: Ella	CrossFit	Bryce Begins
9:PM	Dancing With	Amores	New Girl	NCIS: Los	La Patrona	(SS)	Big Bang	Alewine	Bowl (DVS)	Top Model	Deadliest	Tenants	Game	Together	Game	Enchanted	Games	Bryce Begins
10:PM	Stars	Verdaderos	Mindy	Los Angeles	(SS)	(SS)	Big Bang	Light of the	Frontline	Cops	Africa	Tenants	Game	Together	Game	Phineas	CrossFit	Baseball
11:PM	(:01) 20/20	Qué Bonito	Simpsons	Golden Boy	El Señor	(:01) Ready	Laugh	for Love	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Africa	Tenants	NBA	Together	Austin	CrossFit	Tonight	Baseball
12:AM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Conan	Shepherd's	Charlie Rose	Rules	Dual Survival	(:01)	Ur. Tar	Basketball:	Game	Jessie	Audibles	SportsCenter
1:AM	Jimmy Kim-	Noticiero	Raymond	Letterman	De'siones	Jay Leno	Laugh	Ministerios	World	King	Africa	Tenants	Game	Together	Game	Good	Baseball	SportsCenter
2:AM	Nightline	Al Diablo	Law Order:	CI	La Patrona	(SS)	Jimmy Fallon	Conan	T. Smiley	'Til Death	Dual Survival	Tenants	Game	Together	Game	Wizards	Tonight	SportsCenter
3:AM	Extra	Zacatillo, un	Raymond	Ferguson	De'siones	De'siones	Conan	Upd	(Off Air)	'Til Death	Dual Survival	Tenants	Game	Together	Game	Wizards	Tonight	SportsCenter
4:AM	Paid	Fam. Guy	Insider	Paid	Paid	(:06) Today	Health	Office	Light of the	Browns	Dual Survival	Tenants	Game	Together	Game	Wizards	Tonight	SportsCenter
5:AM	Paid	Conducta	American	Ent	Paid	(:06) Today	Health	Office	Light of the	Browns	Dual Survival	Tenants	Game	Together	Game	Wizards	Tonight	SportsCenter
6:AM	Paid	Casa	TMZ	Paid	Paid	(:06) Today	Health	Office	Light of the	Browns	Dual Survival	Tenants	Game	Together	Game	Wizards	Tonight	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



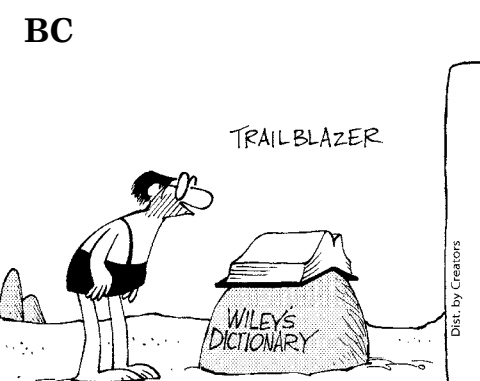
HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



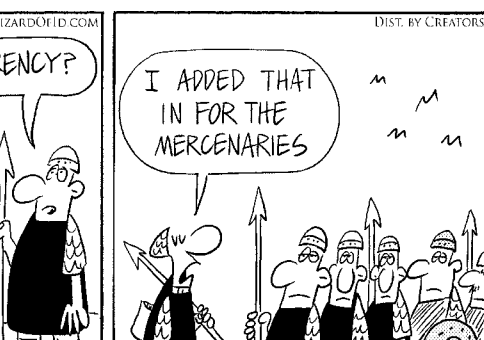
FORMAL JUNGLEWEAR



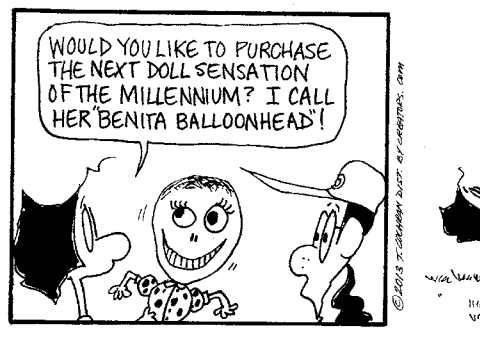
WIZARD OF ID



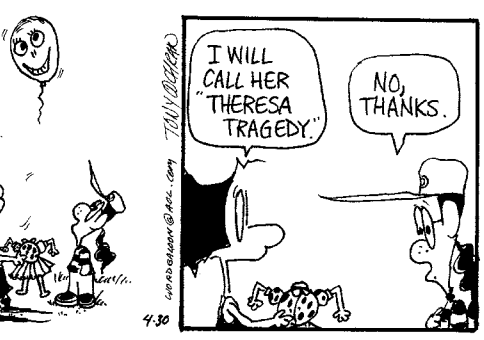
CURRENCY?



AGNES



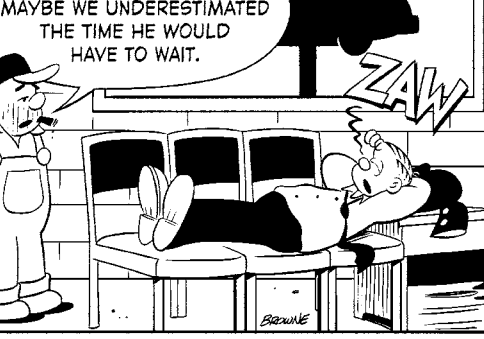
I WILL CALL HER "THERESA TRAGEDY."



HI AND LOIS



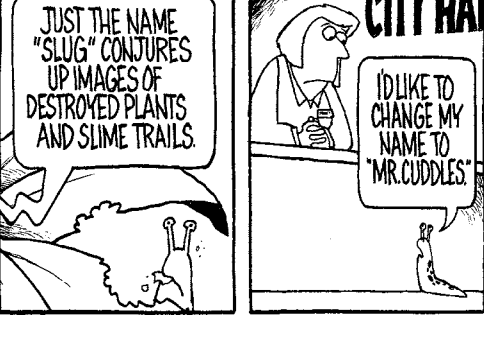
MAYBE WE UNDERESTIMATED THE TIME HE WOULD HAVE TO WAIT.



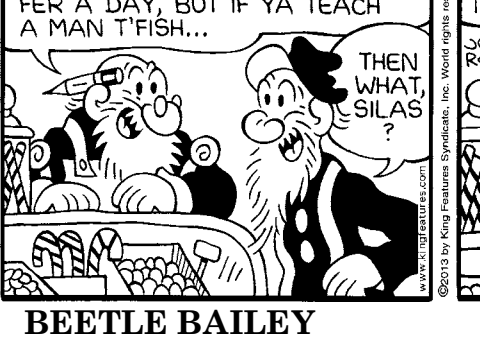
THE OTHER COAST



I HATE SLUGS. THEY'RE SLIMY, CREEPY GASTROPODS.



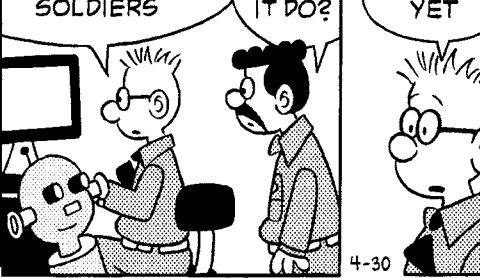
SNUFFY SMITH



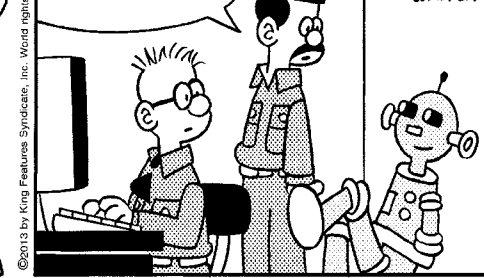
THEN HE'LL BUY EV'RY RUBBER WORM, TIN MINNOW AN' FANCY LURE IN STOCK !!



BETLE BAILEY



OH, HE'S A "BEETLE-BOT"



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, April 30, the 120th day of 2013. There are 245 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 30, 1973, President Richard Nixon announced the resignations of top aides H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman, Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst and White House counsel John Dean, who was actually fired.

On this date:

In 1789, George Washington took office in New York as the first president of the United States.

In 1803, the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France for 60 million francs, the equivalent of about \$15 million.

In 1812, Louisiana became the 18th state of the Union.

In 1863, the design of the Great Seal of the Confederate States of America was approved by the Confederate Congress.

In 1900, engineer John Luther "Casey" Jones of the Illinois Central Railroad died in a train wreck near Vaughan, Miss., after staying at the controls in a successful effort to save the passengers.

In 1938, a precursor to the cartoon character Bugs Bunny first appeared in the Warner Bros. animated short "Porky's Hare Hunt."

In 1939, the New York World's Fair officially opened with a ceremony that included an address by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1945, as Russian troops approached his Berlin bunker, Adolf Hitler committed suicide along with his wife of one day, Eva Braun.

In 1968, New York City police forcibly removed student demonstrators occupying five buildings at Columbia University.

In 1983, blues singer and guitarist Muddy Waters died in Westmont, Ill., at age 68.

In 1988, Gen. Manuel Noriega, waving a machete, vowed at a rally to keep fighting U.S. efforts to oust him as Panama's military ruler.

In 1993, top-ranked women's tennis player Monica Seles was stabbed in the back during a match in Hamburg, Germany, by a man who described himself as a fan of second-ranked German player Steffi Graf. (The man, convicted of causing grievous bodily harm, was given a suspended sentence.)

Today's Birthdays: Actress Cloris Leachman is 87. Singer Willie Nelson is 80. Actor Burt Young is 73. Singer Bobby Vee is 70. Movie director Allan Arkush is 65. Actor Perry King is 65. Singer Merrill Osmond is 60. Movie director Jane Campion is 59. Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper is 54. Actor Paul Gross is 54. Basketball Hall of Famer Isiah Thomas is 52. Country musician Robert Reynolds (The Mavericks) is 51.

Answer to previous puzzle

ELKS	SMASH	ABET
GAIN	METOO	BARE
OSLO	OCEAN	OBOE
SHOW	CAP	RAYON
PLEAT	GARB	
LABELS	PARDONS	
ARIAS	WHITE	NUT
TSK	SHONE	NRA
TOE	KEEPS	CHEST
ENHANCE	BOOTIE	
EXIT	STILL	
SPLIT	COWBOY	HAT
LIMO	CORAL	MICE
TITEM	UNTIL	EVEN
MATS	BEANS	NIEST

Newsday Crossword

LINE ITEMS by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

61 Cow's greeting

62 Pizza portion

63 Flag maker

64 Picnic invader

65 "We're off ___ the Wizard..."

DOWN

1 Study hard

2 Get a new mortgage, for short

3 Hertz competitor

4 Belgrade resident

5 Jacket arms

6 Congressional TV channel

7 Greek salad tidbit

8 Use a word processor

9 Capital of Russia

10 LINE of work

11 Salty drop

12 Statuesque

13 Small bills

21 Concealed

24 In those days

25 Stops up

26 Flood barrier

27 Deal negotiator

28 Top-of-the-LINE

29 Voyage

30 Cornfield birds

31 TV host Couric

32 Minor tiffs

34 Muffin variety

35 Rowboat need

38 Daybreak

42 Not quite a quarter after

44 Sharpshooter Annie

45 Moral wrong

47 Beauty parlor

48 Cockpit boss

49 Rough guess

50 Pulled apart

51 Take a crack ___ (try)

52 Doll's cry

53 Capital of Norway

54 "That's the way ___"

55 Pleasant

56 Nest location

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15			16				
17					18			19				
20					21			22				
				23				24				
25	26	27	28				29		30	31	32	
33					34	35			36			
37					38				39			
40					41				42			
43				44					45			
				46				47	48			
49	50	51			52				53	54	55	56
57					58				59			
60					61				62			
63					64				65			

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2013 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 4/30/13

GAY

Continued from Page 7

"I think the country is ready for supporting an openly gay basketball player," Collins told ABC's "Good Morning America" in an interview aired Tuesday morning.

Most recently a little-used reserve center for the Washington Wizards after a midseason trade from the Boston Celtics, the 7-foot Collins is a free agent who can sign with any team. He wants to keep playing in the NBA.

And he plans to be in Boston on June 8, marching alongside Kennedy at the city's 2013 gay pride parade.

"I didn't doubt for a second, knowing he was gay, that he would be the one to do it," Kennedy, a Massachusetts Democrat, told The Associated Press. "I've never known him to look for publicity, or to look for the spotlight, but given that no one else would raise their hand, I knew he would do it."

Added Kennedy: "I'm so proud of him. And I'm so proud to call him a friend."

Collins' announcement, nearly

two weeks after the Wizards' season ended, immediately drew praise and backing not only from pals, current and former teammates and coaches, the NBA itself, and a sponsor, but also from the White House. President Barack Obama called him — "he was incredibly supportive and he was proud of me," Collins told ABC — along with former President Bill Clinton, and athletes in various other sports.

"I certainly appreciate it, as a gay person. Any time you can have someone this high-profile come out, it's just so helpful, particularly to young

people. We've reached a tipping point," said Billie Jean King, a member of the International Tennis Hall of Fame who won 12 Grand Slam singles titles.

"We've got to get rid of the shame. That's the main thing," King said in a telephone interview. "And Jason's going to help that. He's going to help give people courage to come out."

In texts to the AP, Wizards guard Garrett Temple wrote, "I was surprised. I didn't know and I was right next to him in the locker room. It definitely took a lot of courage for him to come out. He was a great teammate."

PLAYOFFS

Continued from Page 7

Fort Stockton, they got down when the ball started going where it wasn't supposed to go

— the errors. They made errors with the small ball. So, that was part of the game plan coming in. That's how they got beat by Presidio."

Fort Stockton battled back, scoring four runs over three innings to

knot the game up at 5-5. It was beginning to look like a stalemate when the Lady Steers' broke the game open during their final at-bats.

Dimidjian led off the seventh with a single, Castillo reached on an error and Gabi Torres bunted to load the bases. Gomez followed suit and her bunt was bobbled by the Prowler pitcher, allowing her to reach first safely and Dimidjian to score. Ruiz connected for a two-RBI single and Makenzie Roberts picked up her first base hit of the

game to keep the bases loaded.

Up 8-5 with one out, Fleeson had a base hit, but Ruiz was thrown out at home for the second out. Goodblanket came through with a RBI single and Roberts scored on a wild pitch during Yarbar's at-bat.

Things were already out of control, but the Lady Steers kept piling it on.

Yarbar ripped a double, scoring Fleeson and Goodblanket. Dimidjian recorded her fourth RBI of the day with a double and Castillo added the

final run with a RBI triple.

The beleaguered Prowlers went down in order to end the game.

"It's a great thing to see these ladies bounce back like they did in the seventh inning and play ball like they did," Sparks added. "They're very capable. We didn't have many errors and that's the style of ball we're going to have to play from here on out."

The victory was sweet for the Lady Steers and one Valerie Goodblanket doesn't take for granted.

"We knew coming into this game, we couldn't get big-headed," Goodblanket said. "We couldn't sit there and tell ourselves 'Oh hey, we're in the playoffs, we can win any game we want'. The mindset was just play hard, play like we usually play and play calm. We were a little anxious because it was our first game, but once we had that first inning, we just calmed down and knew all we had to do was play ball."

Next up for the Lady Steers will be a best-of-three series against a strong Andrews squad.

But Sparks isn't intimidated.

"Can we beat

Andrews?," Sparks asked rhetorically, "You know what, we can beat anybody on any given day. That's the way we're going to start looking at it right now. We're having fun and if anybody gets in our way, we're going to give them a battle."

The Lady Steers will take the field against the Lady Mustangs on Friday at MUGGS Field in Midland. Game Two will be held Saturday at 1 p.m. and if necessary, Game Three will be held 30 minutes after Game One concludes.

Other area scores:

• Coahoma defeated Post, 8-3 to advance to area playoff round. CHS Head Coach Jill Bradshaw was unavailable at press time.

• Merkel defeated For- san, 11-6 in a tune-up game before the Buffaloes meet Van Horn in the bi-district round of the playoffs.

Contact Sports Editor Brian McCormack at 263-7331 ext. 237 or by e-mail at sports@big-springherald.com

Sudoku Answer on Page 3

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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Why Is He So Good to Me?

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 6 4 2
♥ 9 6 5 4 2
♦ 7
♣ Q 5 4 3
WEST
♠ 8
♥ A 8 7
♦ 9 8 6 4 3 2
♣ 10 9 7
EAST
♠ 9 7 5
♥ J 3
♦ A K J 10 5
♣ K J 2

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 10 3
♥ K Q 10
♦ Q
♣ A 8 6

The bidding:
East South West North
1♦ Dble 3♦ Pass
Pass 4♠

Opening lead — four of diamonds.
When declarer allows you to win a trick you're not entitled to win, you should react with deep suspicion and try to figure out why he is being so kind to you. East failed to do that in today's deal, and, as a result, declarer made a contract that could have been defeated.
East won the opening diamond

lead with the king and returned the jack of hearts, covered by the queen and ace. West returned a heart, taken by declarer with the king.

South now played the ace of trumps followed by the ten of hearts, ruffed by East. East exited with his remaining trump, but the contest was over. South won, led the spade three to dummy's six and discarded two clubs on the 9-6 of hearts to make four spades.

Declarer would have gone down one had East refused to ruff the ten of hearts, since South would eventually have lost two club tricks. Furthermore, it should have been evident to East that declarer's ten-of-hearts play was not a slip of the wrist but a calculated effort to develop an entry to dummy's 9-6 of hearts.

East should have reasoned that South could easily have drawn the missing trumps had he wanted to. East should therefore have concluded that if declarer was willing to lose a trump trick he didn't have to lose, it could not be in his side's best interests to ruff. This was one of those occasions when it would have paid to look a gift horse in the mouth.

Tomorrow: The pause that refreshes.

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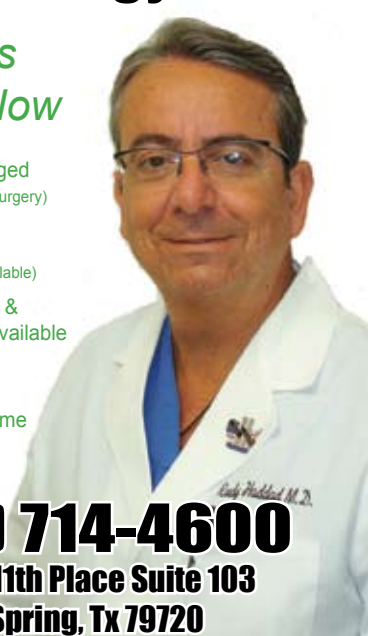
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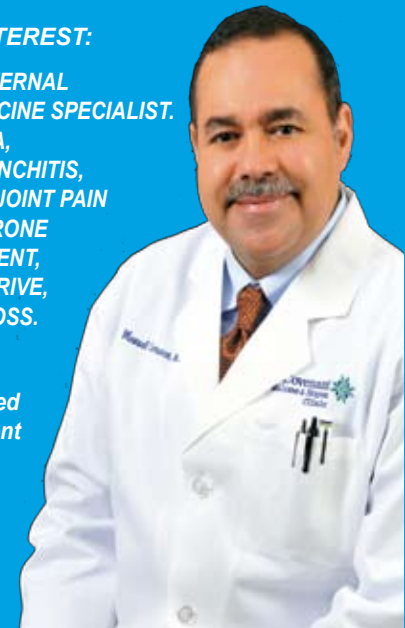
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