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BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY
 MAY 14, 2014

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Outgoing councilman Glen Carrigan, right, is presented a plaque of appreciation for representing the city of Big Spring by Mayor Larry McLellan on Tuesday. See other photos, Page 3.

City keeping eyes out for water thieves

Series of fines being put in place

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

Theft of water service is becoming a cause of concern in Big Spring, and city officials are taking steps to put a halt to the practice.

During their Tuesday meeting, city council members passed the first reading of a new ordinance authorizing a wide range of fines for anyone who tampers with their water service within the city limits.

Big Spring Utility Manager Eddie Castillo said the problem of water theft has been around for years, but has seen a recent upswing to the point where staff is discovering four or five new cases a month.

Typically, offenders either disable or destroy the water meter at the juncture of the city's water line and the residence in question, then

"The vast majority of our water customers pay their bills and, unfortunately, they are also paying for people who steal water."

—Donald Moore, city finance director

install a "jumper" tube to access free-of-charge water.

Officials said the city is currently about \$1 million behind on water revenue compared to two years ago. While all that cannot be blamed on theft — water conservation efforts have also played a part — the problem has become

See **WATER**, Page 3

INFRASTRUCTURE WOES

As developers wait, city ponders water, sewer lines, zoning for northern sector

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

The northern sector, the northwest corridor — whatever you want to call it, is a place of great interest to both developers and Big Spring city officials.

The sector, which covers a roughly fan-shaped area spreading west and south from Highway 87 to Interstate 20, was a central topic of discussion during Tuesday's meeting of the Big Spring City Council.

Developers are very interested in the area as the site for all sorts of uses, ranging from light industrial to restaurants to hotels and homes. City Manager Todd Darden said those projects will add millions of dollars to the city's tax rolls.

Getting the area ready for all that development is the main concern facing city officials.

Simply put, the city does not have adequate infrastructure, mostly in the area of water and sewer lines, or zoning regulations on the books to allow major development of the sector to begin.

Therefore, city officials are taking an approach that is equal parts patience and urgency.

The patience comes in the form of a 90-moratorium on the issuance of building permits

in the sector (except for a small strip of land along Interstate 20 which has been deemed ready for development). This will give officials time to make sure their ducks are in a row, so to speak, before major development begins.

"This will give us time to review the master plan (which is being revised) and hold

See **CITY**, Page 3

Rave Run series to take off Friday

Herald Staff Report

Beginning its fourth year, the Scenic Mountain Midnight Rave Run takes place Friday in Big Spring State Park.

Participants take on the mountain in the three-race series, which continues June 13 and Aug. 8. Runners can participate in one, two or all three races. There is a discount for signing up for all three. T-shirts are included.

Each run begins at 11:55 p.m. Runners are asked to show up at 11:30 p.m. or earlier to check in. Registration will be available at the park Friday evening.

Teen brings anti-bullying message, concert to Goliad

By **ANDREIA MEDLIN**
 Staff Writer

"No one has the power to ruin your day."

That's the anti-bullying message singer/songwriter Lizzie Sider hopes to convey to her fans.

Goliad Elementary was treated to a free concert by Sider Tuesday. The 15-year-old is originally from Florida and was a victim of bullying. With the support and guidance of her parents, Lizzie decided to use her singing talent to help others feel better about themselves.

What began as a local campaign soon blossomed into a nation-wide tour and being listed as one of The Examiner's top 5 new female country singers.

"I was bullied in elementary school," said Sider. "Because of that, the issue is close to my heart." Sider is now being home schooled, but within the first year she soon came up with a plan.

"I wanted to do something significant," Sider explained. "Originally we were going to do this for two weeks in California, just to see how it would go. Two months later, we were in Florida and then one day I said 'Lets go to Texas.'"

Not knowing what to expect has led Sider to perform at 250 schools three times a day.

"It's been taxing, but we are doing a great thing."

See **BULLY**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Andreia Medlin
Singer/songwriter Lizzie Sider delivered an anti-bullying message to students at Goliad Elementary School on Tuesday. Currently on a nation-wide school tour, Sider treated the students to a free concert Tuesday. Sider is listed as one of the top five female country newcomers by The Examiner.

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Obituaries

Lupe Aleman "Chita" Fierro

Lupe Aleman "Chita" Fierro, 91, of Barstow, formerly of Big Spring, Texas, died Monday, May 12, 2014, in a Pecos nursing home. Vigil services will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 14, 2014, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Thursday, May 15, 2014, at Holy Trinity Catholic Parish. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

She was born April 6, 1923, in Big Spring and married Frank Fierro Sr. He preceded her in death April 27, 1970. She loved to garden and cook.

Survivors include two daughters, Sylvia Ormon of Irving and Sandra Muniz and husband, Adolfo of Barstow; four grandchildren, Marlina Fierro Reese, Shannon Ormon, Dana Fierro Rieland and Tommy Ormon Jr.; six great-grandchildren; and two great-grand-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, Fidencio and Lupe Garcia Aleman; and two sons, Ismael Valdez Jr. and Frank Fierro Jr.

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

Paid obituary

Police/Sheriff/EMS

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

- MIGUEL BELARMINO GONZALEZ, 33, of 906 E. 12th St., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of fictitious operator/drivers license in possession.

- DAVID WAYNE HOLSENBECK, 45, of 1401 S. Runnels, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant from another agency.

- MIGUEL ENRIGUEZ JUAREZ, 25, of 1604 Settles was arrested Tuesday on a warrant from another agency.

- RICQUEL KARISSA MITCHELL, 28, of 1301 S. Birdwell Ln., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of burglary of a vehicle and two warrants from another agency.

- LOUD PARTY/NOISE was reported at the 900 block of E. 12th St.

- THEFT was reported at the 3600 block of W. Highway 80, the 2300 block of Scurry, the 900 block of E. 14th St., the 700 block of 17th St. and the 1700 block of E. 3rd St.

- CREDIT/DEBIT CARD ABUSE was reported at the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.

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

- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported at the 6200 block of N. Service Rd.

Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 82 inmates at the time of this report.

- DAVID WAYNE HOLSENBECK was booked by BSPD on charges of bail jumping and fail to appear.

- MIGUEL ENRIQUE JUAREZ was booked by BSPD on charges of bail jumping and fail to appear.

- KARISSA RICQUEL MITCHELL was booked by BSPD on motion to revoke probation for possession of controlled substance less than 1 gram - two counts and burglary of a vehicle.

- MIRANDA MARIE MARTINEZ was booked by BSPD on a charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor.

Fire/EMS

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

Benito Hilario Jr.

Benito Hilario Jr., 58, of Big Spring died Tuesday, May 13, 2014, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Shirley Jean Rhea

Shirley Jean Rhea, 68, of Odessa, died Sunday, May 11, 2014, at her residence. Funeral services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

- MEDICAL call reported at the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One patient transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL call reported at the 400 block of N. Gregg. One patient transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL call reported at the 2700 block of N. Birdwell Ln. One patient transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

- Noon - The Just For Today Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets in Room 3 at Spring Creek Fellowship, 501 Birdwell Lane.

- 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 kerrirosenbaum9488@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 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.

- Circle of Hope, a Celebrate Recovery group, meets at 6:30-8 p.m. at Spring Creek Fellowship, located in the College Park Shopping Center. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery program dealing with life's hang-ups, hurts and habits, covering many areas. Circle of Hope group is a ministry of Spring Creek Fellowship. For further information, contact Dale at 432-270-8462.

- Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at Baptist Temple Church Fellowship Hall, 400 E. 11th Place. Open meeting at 7 p.m.

- The Young and the Breastless of Big Spring meets every first Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at

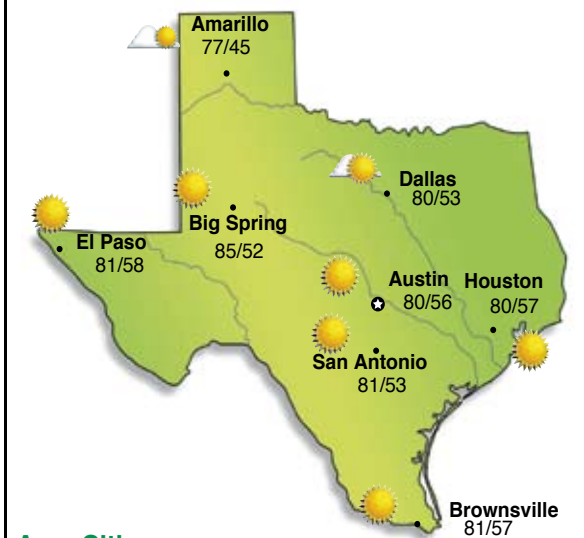
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Thu 5/15	Fri 5/16	Sat 5/17	Sun 5/18	Mon 5/19
85/52	93/59	95/61	100/63	100/64
Mainly sunny. High near 85F. Winds SW at 10 to 20 mph.	Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the upper 50s.	Plenty of sun. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the low 60s.	Abundant sunshine. Highs 98 to 102F and lows in the low 60s.	Windy with a few clouds. Highs 98 to 102F and lows in the mid 60s.
Sunrise: 6:48 AM Sunset: 8:37 PM	Sunrise: 6:48 AM Sunset: 8:38 PM	Sunrise: 6:47 AM Sunset: 8:38 PM	Sunrise: 6:46 AM Sunset: 8:39 PM	Sunrise: 6:46 AM Sunset: 8:40 PM



Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	84	54	mst sunny	Kingsville	83	54	sunny
Amarillo	77	45	pt sunny	Livingston	80	51	sunny
Austin	80	56	sunny	Longview	77	51	mst sunny
Beaumont	79	56	sunny	Lubbock	82	47	mst sunny
Brownsville	81	57	sunny	Lufkin	80	51	sunny
Brownwood	83	50	mst sunny	Midland	84	53	sunny
Corpus Christi	79	60	sunny	Raymondville	82	56	sunny
Corsicana	78	52	mst sunny	Rosenberg	80	55	sunny
Dallas	80	53	mst sunny	San Antonio	81	53	sunny
Del Rio	86	57	sunny	San Marcos	81	55	sunny
El Paso	81	58	sunny	Sulphur Springs	75	52	t-storm
Fort Stockton	84	56	sunny	Sweetwater	84	53	mst sunny
Gainesville	77	50	mst sunny	Tyler	77	53	mst sunny
Greenville	76	51	mst sunny	Weatherford	80	51	mst sunny
Houston	80	57	sunny	Wichita Falls	81	50	pt sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	66	48	rain	Minneapolis	54	35	rain
Boston	72	61	cloudy	New York	71	62	cloudy
Chicago	54	40	rain	Phoenix	91	62	sunny
Dallas	80	53	mst sunny	San Francisco	83	58	sunny
Denver	64	46	rain	Seattle	81	59	pt sunny
Houston	80	57	sunny	St. Louis	64	42	t-storm
Los Angeles	98	72	sunny	Washington, DC	82	67	t-storm
Miami	85	74	t-storm				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Thu 5/15	Fri 5/16	Sat 5/17	Sun 5/18	Mon 5/19
11	11	11	11	11
Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme

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

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Brooklyn's Deli in the Spring Town Plaza. This is a support group for breast cancer survivors.

FRIDAY

- 7 p.m. - The Just For Today Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets in Room 3 at Spring Creek Fellowship, 501 Birdwell Lane.

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

SATURDAY

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

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<p>2004 Nissan Sentra Sedan Automatic.</p> <p style="color: blue; font-size: 24px;">\$7,950</p>	<p>2008 Expedition XLT "Low Mileage."</p> <p style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">We Finance</p>	<p>2007 Mustang GT California 80K. "Sporty."</p> <p style="color: blue; font-size: 24px;">\$16,950</p>	<p style="font-size: 10px;">252526</p>

BULLY

Continued from Page 1

Sider explained. "I didn't know how exciting it would be and the connection is so strong with the students."

The performer's message fit right in with the school's anti-bullying campaign, according to school counselor, Richard Cypert.

"We try to teach the students the difference between bullying and peer conflict," Cypert explained. "We explain why some people bully others — that it is often because they feel bad about themselves and want others to feel as bad as they do, that they see other people doing it and want to belong to a clique. We teach them that becoming a bully doesn't happen overnight. We teach them that it takes courage to want to be different, to go their own way and to not want to belong to a crowd like that."

Anti-bullying programs such as BUG and BRAG provide positive reinforcement for students who show good behavior.

Sider is slated to receive the Peter Yarrow Hate Braker Hero Award May 19. For more information on her, visit her website at lizziesider.com

To contact Andrea Medlin, call the Herald at 263-7331.

TUESDAY IN PHOTOS



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Municipal Judge Tim Green, right, congratulates new District 1 Councilman Raul Marquez Jr. after administering the oath of office during Tuesday's city council meeting.



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Big Spring Mayor Larry McLellan, left, presents outgoing District 1 Councilman Marcus Fernandez with a plaque of appreciation Tuesday evening.



HERALD photo/Andrea Medlin
Singer/songwriter Lizzie Sider performs at Goliad Elementary Tuesday.



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
New District 3 Councilman Justin Myers, left, recites the oath of office during Tuesday's city council meeting.

CITY

Continued from Page 1

public hearings on it," said Gordon Browning, a city planner contracted by Big Spring. "This moratorium would only effect the northern sector — 98 percent of the city is still open for business."

The 90-day figure is not set in stone, either, Browning said. The city could have the revised master plan in place before then.

Once the zoning ordinances are in place, both city officials and developers are anxious to get things going. To make sure there is adequate infrastructure in place, the city council authorized a three-prong approach:

- First, the council authorized Darden and his staff to negotiate to see if developers would be willing to help pick up some of the costs of putting in infrastructure. Those developers would be reimbursed in the form of future tax rebates.
- Secondly, the council

authorized Mayor Larry McLellan to open negotiations with the Big Spring Economic Development Corp. with an eye toward having the EDC pick up some of the infrastructure costs.

- Lastly, the engineering firm of Freese and Nichols will be contracted to conduct a study on the feasibility of having the city levy impact fees

on developers. Those fees would be assessed based on the impact the development would have on city infrastructure — simply put, the bigger the impact, the higher the fee.

"We are also looking at other sources of private funding," Darden said. "There's several funding mechanism in place. The problem is

the timeline — timing is crucial."

Or, as McLellan put it: "These developers were ready yesterday."

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

WATER

Continued from Page 1

more noticeable.

City Finance Director Donald Moore said the problem has increased partly due to staff shortages — the city literally did not have enough meter readers on hand to catch irregularities. With the water department now fully staffed, however, officials want to put a stop to the thievery.

"This is about fairness," Moore said. "The vast majority of our water customers pay their bills and, unfortunately, they are also paying for people who steal water."

At his urging, the council approved a set of fines ranging from \$100 to \$600 to help deter people from tampering

with utility equipment. In addition, City Attorney Linda Sjogren said violators could be subject to criminal charges, as well.

The council also approved raising the fee for water meter tests from \$25 to \$125.

"That increase only applies after the city has checked for water leaks on the city side of the meter," Moore said. "If the customer still believes there is a problem with their meter, that's

when we'll charge for the meter test."

In other business Tuesday, the council:

- Welcomed new members Raul Marquez Jr. and Justin Myers. Marquez and Myers won spots on the council in Saturday's municipal election and presented plaques to outgoing council members Glen Carrigan and Marcus Fernandez..
- Approved annexing the rights-of-way along the planned U.S. 87 reliever route.
- Permanently tabled plans to turn portions of Lancaster and West Second streets in the vicinity of Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center into one-way traffic. The council did approve, however, a resolution closing the alley between Gregg and Lan-

caster to through traffic from Second to Third.

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

sudoku
ANSWERS

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

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Benito Hilario, Jr., 58, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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Opinion

My own sort of Bucket List

The Bucket List” is a 2007 American comedy film that chronicled the adventures and exploits of two terminally ill men, portrayed by Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman, on their road trip with a wish list of things to do before they “kick the bucket.” Leah and I watched the movie a couple of years ago, even though Nicholson is her least favorite actor, and I admit the concept was interesting, maybe even fascinating.



EDDY PRINCE

Sure, I’ve thought about a lot of things through the years that I would love to do, places I’d love to go, people I’d like to meet, and things I’d like to experience. But to make a list was a new concept which I had never considered before this film. I still don’t have an official “bucket list,” but I am getting close to that age where I may want to give the whole idea a little more thought. Planning, after all, is important they say. But how and where does one start to make a list dealing with such a serious subject that doesn’t seem frivolous or just plain silly? Isn’t this eerily akin to looking inside someone’s soul, seeing what they really think about or what makes them tick? Honestly, it’s quite scary to open oneself up to the snickers, or even criticism that is sure to come when the innermost desires of a person’s heart is exposed.

But since I’m such a free spirit and usually couldn’t care less what the critics have to say, I think I’ll wade out into these waters because there are indeed some things I would really like to do before I cross the Jordan.

I can’t say I have given this much deep and meditative contemplation so don’t judge me too harshly if you feel my list is trivial or that I don’t place proper priority on the things you think I should. After all, you can make your own

list, you know. Forgive the snide attempt at self-preservation, but I do have feelings you know.

So, in rambling fashion and not necessarily in order of importance, here is a partial list of my pre-death longings.

I want to walk where Jesus walked. I want to travel throughout the Holy Land, visiting as many of the significant places I have studied about in scripture as possible, experiencing their majesty and sensing the powerful spiritual reality that occurred on each spot. In association with this one, I want to learn so much more about the Bible than I know now. You know, kinda like studying for a final exam.

I want to travel all over Europe. I have been given numerous opportunities through the years but have so far been unable to accomplish this dream. I want to see many countries and experience their culture, architecture, sights, food and the native peoples.

I want to watch all of my grandchildren do something that is important to them. Our oldest granddaughter Morgan, who lives in North Carolina, is an award-winning gymnast and I want to attend a meet. Our only grandson so far, Jackson, has amazing hand-eye coordination for a 5 year old and I can’t wait to watch him play sports.

I want to do something so astounding for my wonderful wife that it blows her away. Maybe something as simple as a real honeymoon. The first one, 42 years ago, was a joke so I figure I owe it to her. I want whatever it is to be so special that she will be thrilled and know how very much I love her. I’ll update you when I can figure out something big enough to fill the bill.

I want to meet Beegie Adair. I have met a few celebs in my lifetime, although I am not a “star chaser” by any stretch of the imagination. But this wonderful jazz pianist who is in her late 70s is so amazing that I would love to hear her play in person. Oh, and I want an autographed picture of me with her that I can hang in my office.

I want to learn to dance. Not the way Leah and I do at home sometimes, but dance like Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly. I want to know where I’m really supposed to put my feet so that we can glide across the ballroom floor with class and elegance. By the way, I own a tux, so that’s a good start.

Even though I play a number of musical instruments, I would love to play a brass instrument, preferably a trumpet. Now, don’t encourage me too much on this one, because I doubt seriously that I am up to the challenge, simply due to the fact that I would only be satisfied if I could play like Chris Botti.

I want to really make a genuine, serious difference in someone’s life.

I want to tell everybody I have ever met in my entire life that I am sorry if I ever offended, hurt, or even disappointed them. I really would love an opportunity to ask every single one of them to forgive me.

I want to have the resources to help a lot of people who genuinely need it. I would like to have the ability to provide needed housing, food, clothing and shelter for hurting and needy folks.

I want to be more organized and never procrastinate. I’ll get around to that one later.

I would like to drive several hundred miles on Route 66 in a ’67 GTO with the top down.

I want to make more people smile, or even laugh. I won’t care if they’re laughing at me or with me. I just want to bring them joy.

Keeping it in proper perspective; “Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity (make it count), because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.” — Ephesians 5:15-17 NIV

You may not agree with anything I’ve said, but I column as I see ‘em.

Eddy Prince is senior pastor at Grace Fellowship Church of God in Big Spring. He can be reached by email at pastor-prince@msn.com.

Angry white men — aka journalists

A poll released last week reported that 7 percent of American journalists say they are Republicans. The survey also found that the news force is aging, having a median age of 47. And 62 percent of journalists are men. A mere 8.5 percent of full-timers are minorities. Less than 1 in 4 are “very satisfied” with their job. In short, the profession that dubbed the Republican Party a refuge for “angry white men” is teeming with angry white men.

The irony here is wasted on the ink-stained-wretch community.

Indiana University has conducted this survey of more than 1,000 journalists every decade since 1971, so it measures change in the industry. The 2002 survey reported that 18 percent of journalists identified as Republicans. At 7.1 percent last year, America’s newsrooms housed a lower percentage of Republicans than San Francisco (8.4 percent).

No wonder conservatives don’t trust the media.

Professors Lars Willnat and David Weaver also recorded the lowest showing of journal-

ists who called themselves Democrats since 1971, when it was 35.5 percent. Now 28 percent say they are Democrats; half say they are independent; and 15 percent say they are “other.”

Bernie Goldberg, a former CBS reporter who is now with Fox News, thinks many of the self-identified “independent” journalists are liars who “know better than to tell the truth and tell the pollsters who they really are.” I suspect that Goldberg is onto something. Though surveys have found more ideological diversity in newsrooms outside the Beltway, a 1996 Freedom Forum poll of Washington correspondents found that 89 percent said they had voted for Bill Clinton in 1992.

I’ve known colleagues to be rather defensive on the issue of liberal bias.

It couldn’t be that like Ivy League faculties, liberal editors tend to hire people who dress, think and vote as they do. No, there must be a more noble reason that liberal journalism self-replicates.

I’ve heard it before: Journalists are smarter than other people, so of course they’re liberal. (That’s right; we’re so clever that we work in a shrinking industry.) Or: Liberals are drawn to journalism because they question authority.

Problem: When groupthink

prevails, the hive swarms best when presented with the scent of weakness in an outside authority. When a story makes Republicans look stupid, it inevitably becomes a big story everywhere. Think Todd Akin’s dim-witted “legitimate rape” remark in 2012. It was big news across the country.

In modern journalism, diversity is supposed to be as holy as accuracy. Editors flock to workshops that help them hire ethnic minorities, members of the LGBT community and other groups deemed to be disadvantaged. Makes sense. Newsroom staff should look not like the faculty lounge but like America.

But when it comes to politics, it’s a different world. Sure, on occasion I’ve seen organizations troll for a conservative for balance — for a particular page or function — but there is no industry effort to rebalance the newsroom to make it think more like America. Angry white males are an insular bunch.

Email Debra J. Saunders at dsanders@sfchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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“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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ADDRESSES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
Austin, 78768
Phone: 512-463-0331

• **BARACK OBAMA**
President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

• **TED CRUZ**
U.S. Senator
B40B Dirksen Senate
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4305
Phone: 202-228-0462

• **JOHN CORNYN**
U.S. Senator
517 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4305
Phone: 202-224-2934

• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**
U.S. Representative
19th Cong. District
1510 Scurry
Big Spring
Phone: 432-264-0722

STATE GOVERNMENT

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Governor
State Capitol, Room 2S.1
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, 78711
Phone: 512-463-2000

• **DREW DARBY**
State Representative
Texas 72nd District
P.O. Box 2910

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

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- 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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- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
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DAILY PRAYER

Let rain from the heavens fall on our faces,
oh Lord.

Amen



DEBRA SAUNDERS

News in brief

Explosion and fire at Turkish coal mine kills 205; more than 200 miners trapped underground

SOMA, Turkey (AP) — Rescuers desperately raced against time to reach more than 200 miners trapped underground Wednesday after an explosion and fire at a coal mine in western Turkey killed at least 205 workers, authorities said, in one of the worst mining disasters in Turkish history.

Energy Minister Taner Yildiz said 787 people were inside the coal mine in Soma, some 250 kilometers (155 miles) south of Istanbul, at the time of the explosion and 363 of them had been rescued so far.

“Regarding the rescue operation, I can say that our hopes are diminishing,” Yildiz said.

Turkey’s worst mining disaster was a 1992 gas explosion that killed 263 workers near the Black Sea port of Zonguldak.

As bodies were brought out on stretchers, rescue workers pulled blankets back from the faces of the dead to give jostling crowds of anxious family members a chance to identify victims. One elderly man wearing a prayer cap wailed after he recognized one of the dead, and police restrained him from climbing into an ambulance with the body.

Analysis: Tea party claims modest win in Nebraska GOP Senate race, but tougher tests await

WASHINGTON (AP) — The victory notched by tea party Republicans in the Nebraska Senate race was modest, but they’ll take it in a season that has yielded few bright spots so far.

Ben Sasse won the GOP nomination for the seat being vacated by Sen. Mike Johanns, R-Neb. Sasse was the closest thing to a tea party candidate in the three-man race, largely because he feuded last fall with Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, the epitome of establishment Republicanism.

But Sasse is hardly the out-of-right-field firebrand that some tea partiers cherish. A college president with degrees from Harvard and Yale, he worked for the U.S. departments of Justice and Health and Human Services. Those endorsing him ranged from non-mainstream players — including Sarah Palin and the Club for Growth — to well-established Republicans such as five-term Rep. Jeff Fortenberry and former Gov. Kay Orr.

Sasse, 42, had “visiting scholar status” at the Brookings Institution, the venerated left-of-center think tank near the White House.

Several factors make the Nebraska results rather weak tea for tea party celebrations. Sasse’s conservative credentials don’t differ greatly from his opponents’, especially Shane Osborn. Osborn had the conservative group FreedomWorks’ endorsement before it was switched to Sasse.

Ukraine set to launch discussions on decentralizing power under OSCE peace plan

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — A reluctant Ukrainian government agreed to launch discussions Wednesday on giving more powers to the regions under a peace plan brokered by the Organization for Security and

Cooperation in Europe, but it remains wary of engaging with pro-Russian insurgents who have declared independence in two eastern regions.

Ukraine’s prime minister, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, was to chair the first in a series of round tables set to include national lawmakers, government figures and regional officials in line with proposals drafted by the OSCE, a top trans-Atlantic security and rights group that includes Russia and the United States.

Russia has strongly backed the Swiss-drafted road map, but Ukraine has remained cool to the plan and U.S. officials view its prospects for success skeptically.

Ukraine and the West have accused Moscow of fomenting the unrest in eastern Ukraine, where pro-Russian insurgents seized administrative buildings, fought government forces and declared independence for the Donetsk and Luhansk regions after a controversial weekend referendum. The Ukrainian government and Western powers have rejected the referendum as a sham.

Speaking in Brussels Tuesday, Yatsenyuk thanked the OSCE for its plan but said Ukraine has its own plan for ending the crisis and said the people of his country should settle the issue themselves. He disclosed no details of that plan.

APNewsBreak: Pentagon OKs moving Chelsea Manning to civilian prison for gender treatment

WASHINGTON (AP) — In an unprecedented move, the Pentagon is trying to transfer convicted national security leaker Pvt. Chelsea Manning to a civilian prison so she can get treatment for her gender disorder, defense officials said.

Manning, formerly named Bradley, was convicted of sending classified documents to anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks. The soldier has asked for hormone therapy and to be able to live as a woman.

The request was the first ever made by a transgender military inmate and set up a dilemma for the Defense Department: How to treat a soldier for a diagnosed disorder without violating long-standing military policy. Transgender people are not allowed to serve in the U.S. military and the Defense Department does not provide such treatment, but Manning can’t be discharged from the service while serving her 35-year prison sentence.

Some officials have said privately that keeping the soldier in a military prison and unable to have treatment could amount to cruel and unusual punishment.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel last month gave the Army approval to try to work out a transfer plan with the Federal Bureau of Prisons, which does provide such treatment, two Pentagon officials said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak on the record.

Number of possible victims of pedophile teacher jumps, as FBI reports contacts from hundreds

The number of possible victims of a teacher suspected of drugging and molesting boys during a four-decade career at nearly a dozen schools around the world has risen sharply, with the FBI

saying hundreds of people have contacted it about the case.

Calling William Vahey one of the most prolific pedophiles in memory, the FBI had said that the teacher molested at least 90 boys whose photos were found on a memory drive stolen by his maid in Nicaragua.

But that figure appeared low after Special Agent Shauna Dunlap said Tuesday that the bureau has now “been contacted by several hundred individuals from around the globe wishing either to reach out as potential victims or provide information in the ongoing investigation.”

Dunlap said officials wanted as many people as possible to call or contact the FBI through its website in order to receive counseling and provide information about Vahey, who killed himself at age 64 after the evidence of molestation emerged.

Vahey taught at 10 schools on four continents and was one of the most beloved teachers in the world of international schools that serve the children of diplomats, well-off Americans and local elites. His case has rattled the community of international schools, where parents are being told their children may have been victims, and administrators are scurrying to close loopholes exposed by Vahey’s abuses.

Report: Children as young as 7 working on U.S. tobacco farms under often hazardous conditions

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — You may have to be at least 18 to buy cigarettes in the U.S., but children as young as 7 are working long hours in fields harvesting nicotine- and pesticide-laced tobacco leaves under sometimes hazardous and sweltering conditions, according to a report released Wednesday by an international rights group.

The Human Rights Watch report details findings from interviews with more than 140 children working on farms in North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia, where a majority of the country’s tobacco is grown. The group acknowledges that most of what it documented is legal under U.S. law but aims to highlight the practice and urge both governments and tobacco companies to take further steps to protect children from the hazardous harvesting of the cash crop that has built businesses, funded cities and influenced cultures.

“The U.S. has failed America’s families by not meaningfully protecting child farmworkers from dangers to their health and safety, including on tobacco farms,” said Margaret Wurth, children’s rights researcher and co-author of the report. “Farming is hard work anyway, but children working on tobacco farms get so sick that they throw up, get covered by pesticides and have no real protective gear.”

Children interviewed by the group in 2012 and 2013 reported vomiting, nausea and headaches while working on tobacco farms. The symptoms they reported are consistent with nicotine poisoning often called Green Tobacco Sickness, which occurs when workers absorb nicotine through their skin while handling tobacco plants.

The children also said they worked long hours — often in extreme heat — without overtime pay or sufficient breaks and wore no, or inadequate, protective gear.

Consumers losing doctors with new insurance plans

MIAMI (AP) — The first thing Michelle Pool did before picking a plan under President Barack Obama’s health insurance law was check whether her long-time primary care doctor was covered. Pool, a 60-year-old diabetic who has had back surgery and a hip replacement, purchased the plan only to find that the insurer was mistaken.

Pool’s \$352 a month gold plan through Covered California’s exchange was cheaper than what she’d paid under her husband’s insurance and seemed like a good deal because of her numerous pre-existing conditions. But after her insurance card came in the mail, the Vista, California resident learned her doctor wasn’t taking her new insurance.

Stories like Pool’s are emerging as more consumers realize they bought plans with limited doctor and hospital networks, some after websites that mistakenly said their doctors were included.

Before the law took effect, experts warned that narrow networks could impact patient’s access to care, especially in cheaper plans. But

with insurance cards now in hand, consumers are finding their access limited across all price ranges.

The dilemma undercuts President Obama’s 2009 pledge that: “If you like your doctor, you will be able to keep your doctor, period.” Consumer frustration over losing doctors comes as the Obama administration is still celebrating a victory with more than 8 million enrollees in its first year.

Narrow networks are part of the economic trade-off for keeping premiums under control and preventing insurers from turning away those with pre-existing conditions.

Even before the Affordable Care Act, doctors and hospitals would choose to leave a network — or be pushed out — over reimbursement issues as insurers tried to contain costs.

Insurance trade group America’s Health Insurance Plans says studies show the biggest factor influencing consumer choice is price. Insurers say that if consumers want low premiums, their choices may be limited.

Insurance companies also argue there’s

wide variation in what doctors and hospitals charge, with some increasing prices every year. Insurers say there’s little evidence that higher-priced hospitals or doctors are actually delivering better care.

Further complicating matters, the trade group says that doctors and health plans often renegotiate throughout the

year, meaning a doctor listed in a network at the time of enrollment may not be there a few months later.

Insurance agents Craig Gussin in San Diego and Kelly Fristoe in Texas helped dozens of clients switch plans just before the enrollment deadline when clients realized their doctors weren’t covered. Now, they’re struggling to

help clients who realized they were in that position after the March 31 enrollment deadline, when consumers are locked into plans for one year.

Gussin says that even after his mad-dash to make switches before the deadline, he still has a half-dozen clients who are stuck — and he expects the number to grow as more try to

schedule with doctors. He and other agents fear it will be one of their most serious issues in 2014.

“Everybody I talk to is having the same issue. It’s probably the number one item that we’re seeing right now,” said Gussin, who is petitioning Covered California for special enrollment status to help clients change plans.

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News in brief

Those displaced by Panhandle fire to return home

FRITCH, Texas (AP) — About 2,100 Texas Panhandle residents evacuated for days because of a wildfire are scheduled to return to their homes.

Texas A&M Forest Service spokesman Troy Duchneau (doosh-NOH) says residents of the Fritch area will be allowed back into the 4-square-mile evacuation zone around midmorning Wednesday.

The fire was 85 percent contained late Tuesday. Duchneau says residual fires comprise mainly hotspots within the area that's already burned.

At least 156 structures, more than half of them homes, have been destroyed by the fire that broke out Sunday.

Authorities have attributed the death of one person from an apparent heart attack to the fire. Further details haven't been released.

The area about 30 miles northeast of Amarillo is in the most severe drought stage after months of well-below-average rainfall.

Court halts execution over mental impairment claim

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — A federal appeals court halted a convicted Texas killer's scheduled execution Tuesday so his attorneys can pursue appeals arguing he's mentally impaired and ineligible for the death penalty.

Robert James Campbell, 41, would have been the first U.S. inmate executed since a botched execution in Oklahoma two weeks ago. He had two separate appeals, one claiming mental impairment and another that challenged the state's plan to use a drug for which it will not reveal the source, as was the case with drugs used in Oklahoma.

"I am happy. The Lord prevailed," Campbell said from a cell just outside the death chamber in Huntsville before being returned to death row at a prison about 45 miles to the east.

The drug secrecy issue was pending before the U.S. Supreme Court when the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals halted his punishment about 2½ hours prior to his scheduled execution. Campbell was set to die for killing a Houston bank teller in 1991.

"Campbell and his attorneys have not had a fair opportunity to develop Campbell's claims of ineligibility for the death penalty," a three-judge panel of the New Orleans-based court said. "In light of the evidence we have been shown, we believe that Campbell must be given such an opportunity."

That appeal contended Campbell wasn't mentally competent for execution because he has a 69 IQ. Courts generally set a 70 IQ as the minimum threshold. In 2002, the Supreme Court ruled mentally impaired people cannot be executed.

Drug boss bodyguard's trial in El Paso starts

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — A drug smuggling and murder trial for a man federal prosecutors say was a bodyguard to a now-dead Mexican drug cartel leader is scheduled to open Wednesday.

Prosecutors say Rigoberto Ruiz Alatorre was a bodyguard for Gabino Salas Valenciano. Salas was believed to have run the Sinaloa drug cartel's operations across the border from El Paso County until Mexican authorities killed him last year.

The murder charge stems from a 2006 shooting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The 36-year-old Ruiz has denied the charges and told the El Paso Times that he didn't know Salas was involved in drugs.

Court documents show jury selec-

tion is scheduled for Wednesday. The trial was delayed Monday due to evidentiary issues.

Protesters target Houston equal rights ordinance

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston City Council is scheduled to vote on a proposed ordinance to extend a city ban on discrimination against gay, lesbian and transgender citizens.

The ordinance to be voted on Wednesday is similar to one approved last year in San Antonio. That ordinance prompted a dispute between city officials and Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott. The Republican, who is seeking the governor's office, predicted a lawsuit over religious freedoms but hasn't said if the state will challenge that ordinance.

Opponents of the Houston proposal say it would infringe on their religious liberties to speak out against what they call the gay, lesbian and transgender lifestyle. But Mayor Anise Parker, who is gay, and other supporters say the measure would offer protections at the local level against all forms of discrimination.

Ex-schoolmate held in death of pregnant teen

PEARLAND, Texas (AP) — A Houston-area teenager has been charged in the killing of a 16-year-old pregnant ex-schoolmate after police determined he was the father of her unborn twins.

Pearland police on Tuesday night announced the arrest of the now-17-year-old suspect on a capital murder charge.

Investigators did not release the name of the juvenile suspect, who was 16 when Arrijana (ar-ee-AH'-nuh) Hill was discovered slain March 21 at her home. An autopsy determined she was stabbed and strangled.

Police did not immediately release a possible motive.

DNA analysis determined paternity of the unborn twins. Lt. Patrick Savage says lab results were needed to build a strong case.

Both teens attended Dawson High School in Pearland. The suspect in late March transferred to Pasadena Memorial High School, where he was arrested Tuesday.

Man charged in death of estranged wife's boyfriend

NASH, Texas (AP) — A Northeast Texas man has been charged with going to his estranged wife's home and fatally shooting her boyfriend.

Jail records in Texarkana show 34-year-old James Austin Friend was being held Wednesday on a murder charge. No attorney was listed for Friend, whose bond was set at \$1 million after he surrendered Monday to Cass County sheriff's deputies.

Nash police on Sunday night responded to reports of gunfire at a mobile home. Investigators say 31-year-old Larry Earl Gray Jr. was dead at the scene.

Nash police Chief Kelly Dial said Wednesday that Friend's estranged wife and several children were at the home but they were not hurt. Dial says police have no record of prior domestic disturbance calls at the residence.

Nash is about 5 miles west of Texarkana.

Dallas-area doctor convicted of health care fraud

DALLAS (AP) — A North Texas physician has been convicted of health care fraud in a \$3 million billing scam for unnecessary home services since 2006.

Prosecutors say Dr. Joseph Megwa of Arlington was convicted of con-

spiracy to commit health care fraud and three counts of health care fraud. He faces up to 10 years in prison on each count.

Megwa was also convicted of four counts of making false statements related to claims submitted to Medicare. Prosecutors say some home visits or house calls to patients were never made. The doctor faces up to five years in prison for each of those counts.

A jury in Dallas on Monday also convicted a home health care manager and registered nurse, Ebolese Eghobor of Grand Prairie, of conspiracy to commit health care fraud.

UT board convenes amid regent impeachment vote

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Embattled University of Texas System Regent Wallace Hall is returning to work after lawmakers this week found grounds to impeach him.

UT System regents are meeting Wednesday to consider tuition hikes. At the flagship Austin campus, administrators want to raise undergraduate tuition by about 2 percent and push the average semester cost past \$5,000.

It's the first board meeting since a bipartisan Texas House panel overwhelmingly voted Monday to pursue removing Hall as a regent. Hall was appointed by Gov. Rick Perry in 2011 and has come under fire for using the power of his office to investigate UT Austin President Bill Powers.

Prosecutors in Austin have also opened a separate criminal investigation into Hall.

Hall has denied breaking laws and argued that he was acting within his powers.

East Texas man, 60, dies when hit by lightning

NACOGDOCHES, Texas (AP) — Investigators say an East Texas man has died after apparently being struck by lightning while outside his home.

The Nacogdoches County Sheriff's Office on Tuesday identified the victim as 60-year-old Hank Wiederhold of Nacogdoches.

Sheriff Jason Bridges says Wiederhold's body was discovered last Friday in his backyard near a tree. The victim had a burn mark on his midsection.

Witnesses reported hearing a loud boom prior to Wiederhold being found dead.

Meeting to discuss Astrodome's future

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Astrodome's future will be the focus of an invitation-only meeting.

The Astrodome's fate has been in limbo since voters last year failed to approve a referendum that would have authorized up to \$217 million in bonds to convert the stadium into a

individuals to discuss recent developments about the Astrodome.

The meeting comes after a Texas Historical Commission advisory committee voted last month to recommend designating the Astrodome as a "state antiquities landmark." Such a designation could make it more difficult to tear down the Astrodome, as any proposals to alter or demolish it would have to be approved by the commission.

Astronaut puts space items up for auction

DALLAS (AP) — Astronaut Alan Bean is offering artifacts at a Dallas auction that were with him when he walked on the moon.

Items offered Wednesday by Heritage Auctions include a pen and scissors the Apollo 12 lunar module pilot used during his 1969 moonwalk, along with a cloth waist strap with traces of moon dust.

Heritage space memorabilia consultant Howard Weinberger says items that have been on the moon with an astronaut are "by far the most highly sought after and significant."

Bean was also offering other artifacts used in the lunar module or the command module, including a stainless steel timer.

The items are part of the Heritage's space exploration auction, which also includes a microform copy of the Bible flown to the moon's surface aboard Apollo 14.

S.C. sea turtle takes commercial flight to Texas

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — At least Eddie didn't have to pay for checked baggage.

The green sea turtle found floating off the South Carolina coast almost two years ago took a Southwest Airlines commercial flight to Texas on Tuesday to his new home.

Eddie was found floating off Edisto Island in August of 2012 and was taken to the Sea Turtle Hospital at the South Carolina Aquarium in Charleston. The juvenile turtle has a problem diving and cannot return to the wild.

Southwest Airlines donated a commercial passenger seat for Eddie and his crate. His new home is at the Sea Life Aquarium in Grapevine, Texas.

The South Carolina Aquarium treats about 30 sick or injured sea turtles a year. Eddie is the first to fly on a commercial flight.

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Thunder rally in final minute to stun Clippers

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Russell Westbrook finished off Oklahoma City's stunning comeback.

Clippers coach Doc Rivers said he never had the chance.

Westbrook scored 38 points and made three free throws with 6.4 seconds remaining, and the Thunder overcame a seven-point deficit in the final 50 seconds to beat Los Angeles 105-104 on Tuesday night and go up 3-2 in the Western

Conference semifinals.

"I think when you get a win like this it brings everybody closer," Westbrook said. "It lets you know you can't mess around. You have to take every moment, every play and go out and win the game."

The play that led to Westbrook's free throws is in dispute.

Kevin Durant made a 3-pointer, then Los Angeles' Jamal Crawford missed in close before Durant made a

layup with 17 seconds left. Westbrook stole the ball, and in a scramble, the Thunder got possession with 11.3 seconds to play, setting up Westbrook's play. The Clippers believed the ball went off Oklahoma City's Reggie Jackson, but the officials awarded the ball to the Thunder. After review, the play stood.

"Everybody knows it was our ball," Rivers said. "The bottom line is they thought it was a foul and they made up

for it. Let's take away the replay. We were robbed. It was our ball, whether it was a foul or not."

NBA crew chief Tony Brothers explained the call after the game.

"When the ball goes out of bounds, the ball was awarded to Oklahoma City," he said. "We go to review the play. We saw two replays. The two replays we saw were from the overhead camera showing down, and the one from un-

der the basket showing the same angle but from a different view. And from those two replays, it was inconclusive as to who the ball went out of bounds off of. When it's inconclusive, we have to go with the call that was on the floor."

The Thunder were more focused on what they did after the call. They can clinch the series Thursday in Los Angeles.

See **THUNDER**, Page 14

Court orders Pistorius get psych tests

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP) — Oscar Pistorius was ordered by a judge on Wednesday to undergo psychiatric tests, meaning that the double-amputee athlete's murder trial will be interrupted, possibly for two months.

The decision by Judge Thokozile Masipa followed a request for a psychiatric evaluation by the chief prosecutor, Gerrie Nel. The prosecutor had said he had no option but to ask for it after an expert witness for the defense testified that Pistorius had an anxiety disorder since childhood that may have influenced his judgment when he fatally shot his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp.

Masipa said the court would reconvene on Tuesday to decide on details regarding Pistorius' period of observation. The world-famous runner stood with his hands clasped in front of him in court as the judge explained her decision.

He could be acquitted if it's found that he was not criminally responsible for Steenkamp's shooting because of a mental illness. A mental disorder could also be used by his defense for a lighter sentence if he is convicted of killing Steenkamp. Legal analysts say the prosecution is in a strong position in the trial.

Pistorius will likely now be evaluated by a panel of psychiatrists for a period of 30 days at a government facility, although Masipa said it would be preferable that

he be an outpatient and return home each day after tests. The Olympian is free on bail after being charged with premeditated murder for Steenkamp's shooting death last year.

In a statement read on behalf of his family, Pistorius' uncle, Arnold Pistorius, said the ruling reaffirmed their confidence in the South African justice system.

"As a family, we are comforted by the thoroughness and detail of this judgment and Judge Masipa's commitment, using every avenue, to ensure a fair trial," Arnold Pistorius said.

In sending Pistorius, 27, for evaluation by experts, Masipa said the court was "ill-equipped" to properly assess the diagnosis by psychiatrist Dr. Merryl Vorster. The judge said it was important to assess his state of mind because of questions raised by the prosecution that Pistorius might argue he was not criminally responsible for the shooting because of his anxiety disorder.

"The accused may not have raised the issue that he was not criminally responsible at the time of the incident in so many words, but evidence led on his behalf clearly raised the issue and cannot be ignored," the judge said.

Pistorius says he shot Steenkamp by mistake in the pre-dawn hours of Feb. 14, 2013, thinking there was an intruder in his home. His defense has regularly pointed

See **TRIAL**, Page 14



Tony Claxton photo (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Howard College's Brandon Wagner tags out a Midland College runner during their Region V baseball tournament game in Lubbock Tuesday. Howard was eliminated from the tournament with a 6-5 loss.

Big Spring lands 8 on 4-3A all-district squad

By **TOMMY WELLS**
Sports Editor

The Big Spring Steers received their fair share of praise from the district coaches this season as they raced to the District 4-3A runner-up honors and a second straight berth in the Class 3A state playoffs.

They received even more earlier this week when the district's coaches released their 2014 all-district selections. As a team, the Steers racked up eight selections, including five on the first-team squad.

Adam Franco, Haegan Rodriguez, Brett Brorman, Hunter Hill and outfielder Anthony Godwin were all selected spots to the 4-3A first-team

squad after turnin in stellar performances this season.

Franco led the team in wins and strikeouts during the regular season. He did not pitch for the Steers in the postseason after being shut down late in the year due to precautionary measure after he suffered a strain in his throwing arm.

Wylie's Mac Mueller, Luis Carrasco and Sweetwater's J.P. Poe were the other first-team pitching selections.

Franco and Rodriguez were among the district top's hitters, as well.

Both, along with Brorman and slick-fielding infielder Hunter Hill, hit over .300 en route to helping Big Spring win seven straight games late in the season.

Godwin starred for the Steers, anchoring a talented outfield. The team's lead-off hitter, he was among the district's top base-stealing threats. He etched his name into BSHS history in the first game of the Steers' bi-district playoff matchup with Fort Stockton by reaching base all four at-bats by getting hit by a pitch.

Big Spring had two players selected to the second-team roster, including third baseman Gary Watkins and catcher Matt Yanez. Both played key roles for a BSHS squad that went 15-13 overall.

Designated hitter Matt Beal also earned all-district praise. He was selected to the honorable mention roster.

Buffaloes to face Winters on Friday

The Forsan High School Buffaloes will kick off their best-of-three regional quarter-final playoff series with Winters this Friday at Moffett Field in Snyder.

The first game of the series will be played at 8 p.m. Game 2 will be played on Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Game 3, if needed, will follow.

Forsan enters the playoff series with Winters on a offensive roll. Fresh off a 2-1 series win over Tahoka. In that series, the Buffaloes combined for 50 runs in their final two outings.



Herald photo

In the moment ...

Rays' outfielder Noah Rodriguez stares at the batter while making a play during his team's game against the Rangers last Saturday.

New Longhorns coach Strong makes stop in Permian Basin

(AP) Roy Williams met new University of Texas football coach Charlie Strong for the first time on Tuesday when Strong's statewide bus tour made a stop in the Permian Basin.

And Williams joked, "He came around the corner, and no wonder his last name is Strong. He looks like he can play fullback right now in the NFL."

But Williams, the former Permian and Longhorn star, was also impressed with how Strong has handled himself since being named to the job a few months ago and taking over for

longtime head coach Mack Brown.

Williams admitted he's a "Mack Brown guy," but he said he was certainly impressed by what he had done at Louisville and likes the future of Texas' program.

"Coach Strong is coming into a great situation, and if he turns things around and gets Texas back to where coach Brown took them, you can add his name to the list of Texas' great head coaches," Williams said. "From what he's done at Louisville, not only on the field but off the field. He's got it

headed in the right direction."

Strong is making an 11-stop tour across the state to introduce himself to Texas fans as he has already made stops in Fort Worth, San Antonio and Monday night in El Paso.

Tuesday night he was met with a capacity crowd at the Commemorative Air Force Hangar, as fans dressed in burnt orange had a chance to get an autograph from the coach or meet him personally.

Strong said he's received plenty of enthusiasm everywhere the tour has gone so far.

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Closure Moon

Your every breath is a re-creation. Each time you inhale, you are rearranging and recycling molecules made up of atoms that once belonged to another organism. Scorpio energy is the energy of transformation. This full moon in Scorpio is a chance to close the door to the old world and watch a new one form that couldn't exist without you.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll perform an amazing feat: You'll become an optimist even when you're not feeling optimistic at all. This you'll do in the spirit of generosity, and it will create a ripple of goodness.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You know well what you have to offer. That's why you're not so concerned about how seriously people are taking you. A happy-go-lucky attitude is good for love and for business, too.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It would be easy to handle business in the generic, impersonal sort of way it's usually handled, but you recognize the need each person has to feel special and give your personal touch instead.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Persistence will win out. What at first looks like rejection is more likely just a case of someone not

Tomorrow's Horoscope

understanding completely what you have to offer. Take the time and care to communicate clearly.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Ask for the action you want others to take. You'll either get it, or you won't, but you'll know where you stand, which is better than being unsure about it. Today, knowledge is power.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your social orientation will depend on your emotions of the moment. You follow the leader inside you and do as you feel, not as you're told. You won't be shy, but you'll be sensitive, reading each situation carefully.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When business doesn't follow the expected route, it's a good workout for your creativity. Surprises stimulate your imagination. This evening brings you a partner in fun, too.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Thoughtfulness counts for quite a lot. Don't feel like you have to make a huge gesture to be kind, though. The little things that let someone know he or she is in your heart and mind will mean the most.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If your desire could be manipulated by a dial, you would reach over and reset it to "less" today, thereby increasing your happiness and satisfaction tenfold.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Today your life will be like a camera with an endless memory card. If you don't like the way the picture looks, change the filter and take

another shot -- and another and another until you see beauty in it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Whether or not you believe in karma and the boomerang effect of good things, it is still worthwhile to occupy yourself with what you believe to be very good.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). One excellent thing to lose is your fear of losing. This moon helps you shed your fear and take a risk. Abandoning the need to be totally in control, you'll gain the outcome you dreamed of.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 14). The next six weeks will be both interesting and funny -- some of your friends won't believe the way your story is developing. By the end of June, a new order will have settled in, and you can focus once more on stashing away money for your big plan. Get team members in July. An agreement will be settled in September. Aquarius and Virgo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 18, 3, 33, 39 and 45.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: Continuing on the theme of dealing with financial worry and panic that started with a Leo's comment, "I wish I weren't so high strung. ... I cry every few hours and then feel guilty because so many people have it so much worse than I do. Do you have any advice for a Leo who can't calm down?"

See Monday and Tuesday for the first steps to processing and releasing anxiety.

4. When losses occur, the emotional body goes through a process not unlike the process that

your physical body goes through after being wounded. Healing takes time and has many stages. Things do not magically get better in one day. Adjust your expectations to allow for ups and downs, blips and bumps in the road.

5. Even though Leos like you tend to be extroverted and gregarious, they often react to hard times by cocooning into themselves. Even visiting with friends, driving or generally getting out in the world suddenly can seem scary. Withdrawing into your own little world may be a natural response, but it's a dangerous one. What is needed in hard times is a bigger perspective, not a smaller one. Try to face your fear and force yourself to engage in the activities that normally would bring you joy.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Happy 30th birthday to Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg, who years ago declared, "Helping a billion people connect is amazing, humbling and by far the thing I am most proud of in my life." The Taurus was born when the moon, Mars, Saturn and Pluto were all in Scorpio, the sign of transformation, suggesting that Zuckerberg will play many roles in his lifetime.

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

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I've been close friends with "Jane" for years. Recently, Jane said she feels I do not

listen or validate her problems but instead offer her unsolicited advice when all she wants to do is vent.

I apologized for not being a good listener. But, Annie, she complained to me that she is losing her job and her house and wants to leave her

husband. My "unsolicited advice" was that she seek counseling. Jane became angry and said she doesn't need counseling.

When Jane told me she needed to clean her garage but felt overwhelmed by the mess, I offered to help. I said we could do a few hours at a time and be done in a couple of months. She again became angry and said her plan was to hire strong men and have it done in a few hours.

The last time she "vented," she said her daughter, "Lilly," misses a lot of class because she has stomach problems, dizziness and keeps injuring her feet. Annie, I've never seen this girl

so much as limp, and when her mother isn't around, she's absolutely fine. When Lilly was

little, she told me she wanted to be a boy, and as a pre-teen, she dresses like one. She bullies other girls and often goes to school with dirty hair and has body odor. I work with troubled children and

families, yet when I suggested to Jane that Lilly's constant illnesses may be stress-related, she became defensive and said it was probably an ear infection.

Recently, a mutual friend who is a counselor confided to me that she thinks Lilly might have sexual identity issues.

How do I present this to Jane without her accusing me of attacking her? -- *Friend with Good Intentions*

Dear Friend: You can't. Jane is in denial about herself and her daughter. She also has made it quite clear that she doesn't want to hear your advice, suggestions or opinions. When she vents to you, simply nod

your head sympathetically. Anything more will get her dander up. The school should be paying attention to Lilly's constant illnesses and discussing the possibility of stress with Jane. You might bring it up to the school counselor.

Dear Annie: I live in a 55 and older community. At some of our events, the emcee thinks nothing of having a benediction ending with "in Jesus' name." The people here are a variety of different religions, and some are atheists. I have confronted the emcee, saying his prayer is inappropriate. I suggested that he say his grace at his own table and not subject the rest of us to his religious beliefs. Any other suggestions as to what I can do? I can't let this go. -- *Not a Christian*

Dear Not: It is inappropriate to give a specific religious blessing in a nondenominational setting. Either the blessing must go, or every group should be permitted to give its own version. You need to speak to whoever is in charge of arranging these events and ask that the practice be stopped. We understand that those who agree with this man's religious views see no harm in it, but it is terribly offensive to others. There is no

reason to create ill will in your community over something easily remedied.

Dear Annie: "Thought I'd Found the One" was dating a divorced man for three years. They traveled, spent weekends together and got along well, but he didn't want to live together.

My husband and I have been married for 15 years, and we've never lived together. We both were divorced and comfortable in our own homes and with our "alone" time. We find it a treat to see each other for midweek date nights, and we enjoy traveling and weekends together. Another couple we know just bought side-by-side condos. The commitment to each other doesn't have to mean being together 24/7. -- *L.*

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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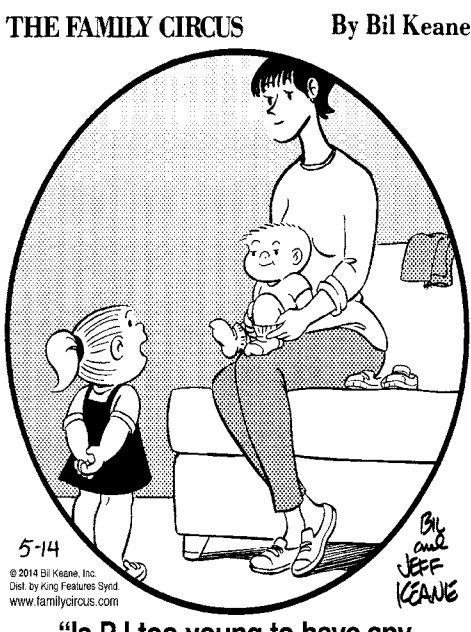


	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWTT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM	News ABC	Casa Notic.	Two Men	News CBS	Tele Noticias	News News	Seinfeld Seinfeld	With Scholars	Charlie Rose	Rifleman Rifleman	Marooned	Lindo	Bar Rescue	Castle (DVS)	106 & Park	Jessie	Around Pardon	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	De Que Te Quiero, Te Quiero (SS)	Big Bang	News Ent	Caso Cerrado	Newswest	Seinfeld Fam. Guy	Mani House	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H M*A*S*H	Dual Survival		Bar Rescue	NBA Basketball: Teams TBA.	Husbands	Liv-Mad.	SportsCenter	MLB Baseball: New York Yankees at New York Mets.
7:PM	Middle Suburb.	Lo Que la Vida	American Idol	Survivor	La Impositora (SS)	Revolution	Fam. Guy Upd	Big Bang Dollars	Nature (DVS)	Gilligan Gilligan	Dual Survival	Movie: Jaws, Richard Dreyfuss	Bar Rescue		Husbands	Movie: Tarzan	BS Report Sports.	2014 Draft Academy
8:PM	Mod Fam Nashville	Qué Pobres	Mod Fam	CSI: Crime Scene	Camelia La Texana	(:01) Chicago PD	Big Bang Deal With	Conan	Nazi Mega Weapons	Newhart Newhart	Marooned		Hungry Investors	NBA Basketball: Teams TBA.	Daddy's Little Girls, Louis Gossett Jr.	Good	NFL Live	Baseball Tonight
9:PM	News	Impacto	Arsenio Hall	News	Tele Titulares	News	Conan	Rik HaYesod	Charlie Rose	Twii Zone Perry Mason	Dual Survival	Movie: Jaws 2, Murray Hamilton	Bar Rescue		Husbands	Good	Olbermann	SportsCenter
10:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Familia-Suerte	How I Met How I Met	Ferguson	En Otra Piel (SS)	Seth Meyers	Conan	Holmes Chevalme	World	The Un-touchables	Marooned		Unfi Count	Inside the NBA	Wendy Williams	Good	Baseball Tonight	SportsCenter
11:PM	Extra Paid	Amorcito Corazón	TMZ	Insider	Camelia La Texana	News	Holmes	Zola Lev.		Gallery	Dual Survival	Movie: The Core, Delroy Lindo	Bar Rescue	The Mentalist	Queen Latifah	Shake It	NBA	SportsCenter
12:AM	Paid	Conducta Casa	Law & Order: SVU	Ent Paid	Pagado	(:07) Today	Movie: The Tuxedo, Ja-	Light of the Southwest		Alfred Hitchcock Hr.	Dual Survival		Bar Rescue	The Mentalist	One Mic	Deck	NASCAR	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



HAGAR



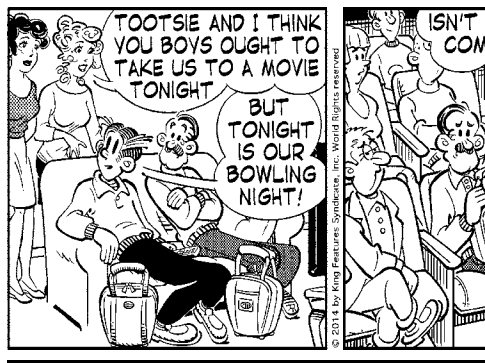
BLONDIE



TO ME, THE ONLY GOOD TOSSED SALAD IS ONE THAT'S BEEN TOSSED IN THE TRASH!

"Is PJ too young to have any good ol' days?"

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BC



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, May 14, the 134th day of 2014. There are 231 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On May 14, 1948, by the current-era calendar, the independent state of Israel was proclaimed in Tel Aviv. On this date: In 1643, Louis XIV became King of France at age four upon the death of his father, Louis XIII. In 1796, English physician Edward Jenner inoculated 8-year-old James Phipps against

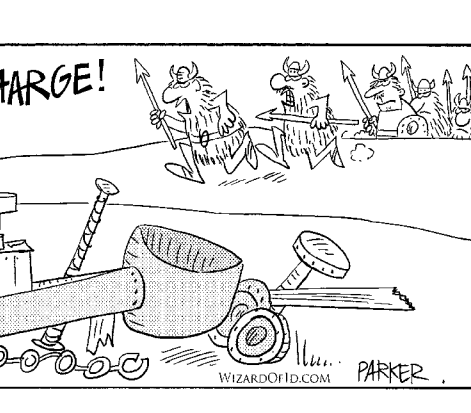
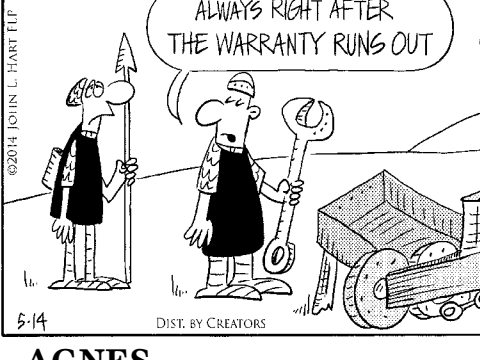
smallpox by using cowpox matter. In 1804, the Lewis and Clark expedition to explore the Louisiana Territory as well as the Pacific Northwest left camp near present-day Hartford, Illinois. In 1863, Union forces defeated the Confederates in the Battle of Jackson, Mississippi. In 1900, the Olympic games opened in Paris, held as part of the 1900 World's Fair. In 1913, the Rockefeller Foundation was founded in New York. In 1942, Aaron Copland's "Lincoln Portrait" was first performed by the Cincinnati Symphony

Orchestra. In 1961, Freedom Riders were attacked by violent mobs in Anniston and Birmingham, Alabama. In 1964, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev joined United Arab Republic President Gamel Abdel Nasser in setting off charges, diverting the Nile River from the site of the Aswan High Dam project.

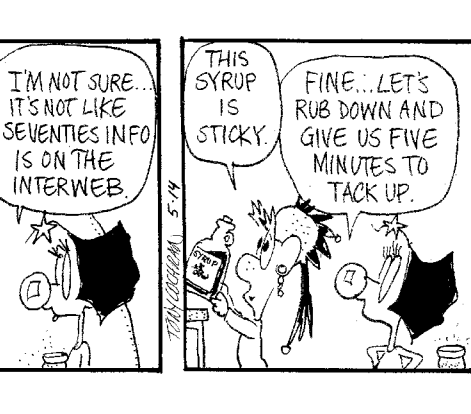
Answer to previous puzzle

TEMP	UTAH	BAGS
ICEIT	TUBA	ATIT
FORTY	USES	RELY
FLEAM	MARKET	GULL
	INN	ELAPSE
FORGET	SINAI	
AREA	ICON	GNOME
WEAR	CAROM	BUOY
NOMAD	RENO	ISLE
	GAMER	TINTED
SERENE	DIN	
LAOS	THRIFT	SHOP
ASTA	REED	ALONE
TELL	IRAN	CALMS
ELSE	COLT	TWEET

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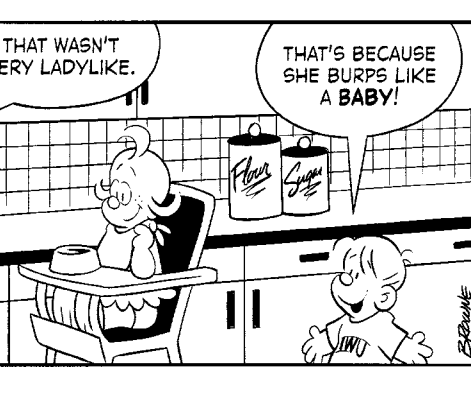
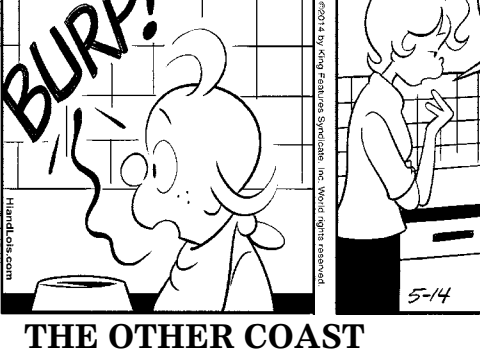
Newsday Crossword

EUROPEAN UNION by Lonnie Burton Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

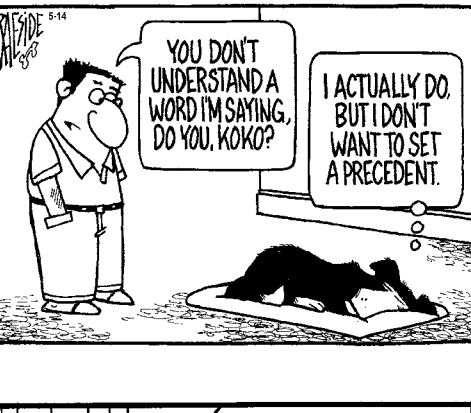
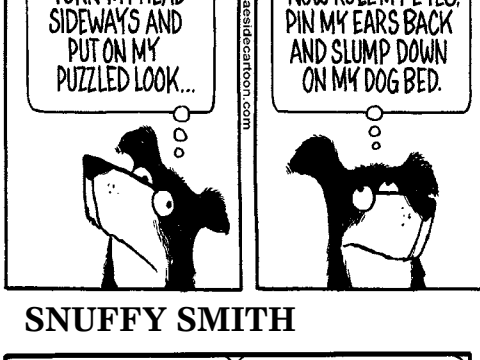
- ACROSS**
- 1 King or emperor
 - 6 Simpsons bar
 - 10 Make a wager
 - 13 Wipe clean
 - 14 Prefix for freeze
 - 15 Brown hosiery shade
 - 17 Former Eastern Bloc alliance
 - 19 Advance of money
 - 20 Whichever
 - 21 Sandwich shop
 - 22 Infant's ailment
 - 23 Ice-skating surface
 - 25 Cold War barrier
 - 28 Wise saying
 - 30 Raggedy doll
 - 31 Spelling contest
 - 32 Luau neckwear
 - 34 911 responder: Abbr.
 - 35 That lady's
 - 36 Boneless steak
 - 39 Historical periods
 - 41 Eisenhower's nickname
 - 42 Electrical resistance measure
 - 43 Baseball great
 - 44 Yahoo! rival
 - 45 Hydrant attachments
 - 49 French news magazine
 - 54 Viral Internet idea
 - 55 Prayer ends
 - 56 Potato alternatives
 - 58 Skill for a 34 Across
 - 59 Transgressions
- DOWN**
- 1 Prepare, as leftovers
 - 2 Muse of astronomy
 - 3 Voice box
 - 4 Double-curve letter
 - 5 Peruse
 - 6 Pancake syrup source
 - 7 Broadcasting now
 - 8 List-shortening abbr.
 - 9 Ride the bench
 - 10 In the basement
 - 11 "Green" product sticker
 - 12 Film promo
 - 16 Family members
 - 18 Fly trapper
 - 22 Situation Room channel
 - 24 Metric weights
 - 26 Mary's pet
 - 27 Opening words
 - 29 Guys
 - 33 Turn of phrase
 - 34 Compass pt.
 - 35 Athlete's TV greeting
 - 36 Actor Olivier
 - 37 Tulsa's loc.
 - 38 "Now I understand!"
 - 39 City on the Rio Grande
 - 40 Wandering around
 - 44 Beast of burden
 - 46 Out of danger
 - 47 Hire on
 - 48 Tranquil
 - 50 Miniature map
 - 51 1980s heavyweight champ
 - 52 Desert plants
 - 53 Medical insurance grp.
 - 57 Did laps in a pool
 - 60 39 Down clock setting: Abbr.
 - 61 Tic-tac-toe win
 - 62 Has permission to

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		
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	66				67				68		

HI AND LOIS



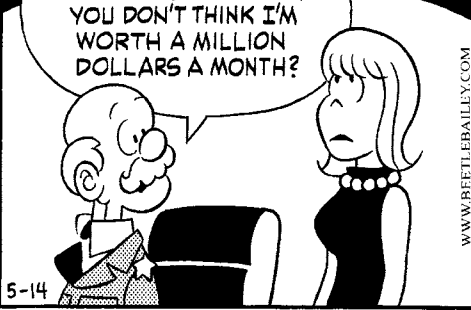
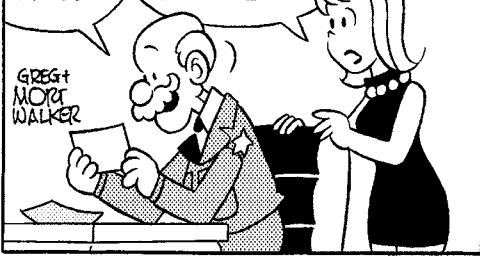
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



Scoreboard

BASKETBALL
CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS
(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)
Monday, May 5
Washington 102, Indiana 96
Clippers 122, OKC 105
Tuesday, May 6
Miami 107, Brooklyn 86
San Antonio 116, Portland 92
Wednesday, May 7
Indiana 86, Washington 82
OKC 112, L.A. Clippers 101
Thursday, May 8
Miami 94, Brooklyn 82
San Antonio 114, Portland 97
Friday, May 9
Indiana 85, Washington 63
OKC 118, L.A. Clippers 112
Saturday, May 10
Brooklyn 104, Miami 90
San Antonio 118, Portland 103
Sunday, May 11
L.A. Clippers 101, OKC 99,
series tied 2-2
Indiana 95, Washington 92
Monday, May 12
Miami 102, Brooklyn 96, Miami
leads series 3-1
Portland 103, San Antonio 92,
San Antonio leads series 3-1
Tuesday, May 13
Washington 102, Indiana 79,
Indiana leads series 3-2
L.A. Clippers at OKC, 9:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 14
Brooklyn at Miami, 7 p.m.
Portland at San Antonio, 9:30
p.m.
Thursday, May 15
Indiana at Washington, 8 p.m.
OKC at L.A. Clippers, 10:30
p.m.

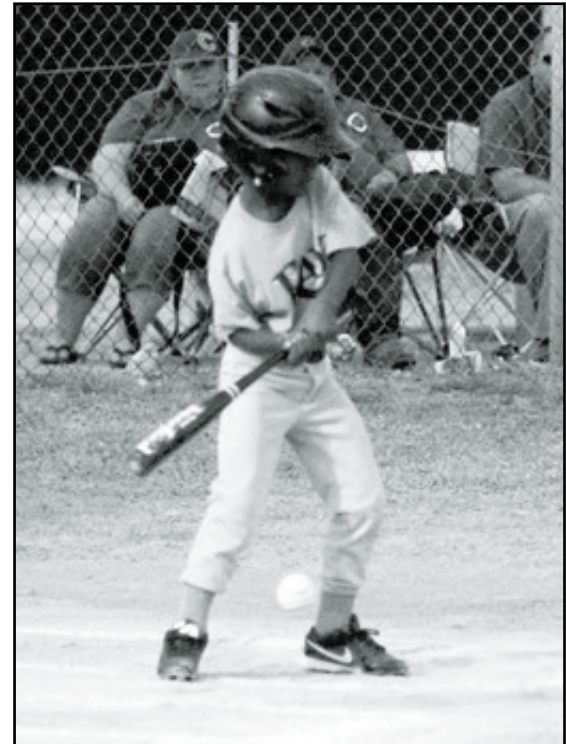
St. Louis	19	20	.487	6
Cincinnati	17	20	.459	7
Pittsburgh	16	22	.421	8½
Chicago	13	24	.351	11

West Division

San Fran.	25	14	.641	—
Colorado	23	18	.561	3
Los Angeles	21	19	.525	4½
San Diego	19	21	.475	6½
Arizona	16	26	.381	10½

Tuesday's Games
L.A. Angels 4, Philadelphia 3
N.Y. Mets 12, N.Y. Yankees 7
San Diego 2, Cincinnati 1
Kansas City 5, Colorado 1
Milwaukee 5, Pittsburgh 2
Chicago Cubs at St. Louis, late
Arizona 3, Washington 1
Miami at L.A. Dodgers, late
Atlanta at San Francisco, late
Wednesday's Games
L.A. Angels (Richards 3-0) at
Philadelphia (Burnett 2-2), 1:05
p.m.
Colorado (Chacin 0-1) at Kansas
City (Vargas 3-1), 2:10 p.m.
Washington (Fister 0-1) at
Arizona (McCarthy 1-6), 3:40 p.m.
Atlanta (Teheran 2-2) at San
Francisco (Bumgarner 4-3), 3:45
p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Tanaka 5-0) at
N.Y. Mets (Montero 0-0), 7:10
p.m.
San Diego (Kennedy 2-4) at
Cincinnati (Cueto 3-2), 7:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Liriano 0-3) at
Milwaukee (W.Peralta 4-2), 8:10
p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Hammel 4-1) at
St. Louis (Wacha 2-3), 8:15 p.m.
Miami (DeSclafani 0-0) at L.A.
Dodgers (Maholm 1-3), 10:10
p.m.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS —
Assigned LHP Buddy Bosers
outright to Salt Lake (PCL).
Optioned RHP Cory Rasmus to
Salt Lake. Recalled RHP Matt
Shoemaker from Salt Lake.
NEW YORK YANKEES —
Placed RHP Shawn Kelley on the
15-day DL, retroactive to May 7.
Recalled OF Zoilo Almonte from
Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL).
TORONTO BLUE JAYS —
Optioned INF Jonathan Diaz to
Buffalo (IL). Recalled OF Kevin
Pillar from Buffalo.
National League
MILWAUKEE BREWERS —
Placed 3B Aramis Ramirez on the
15-day DL. Optioned OF Caleb
Gindl to Nashville (PCL). Recalled
UT Elian Herrera from Nashville.
Reinstated OF Ryan Braun from
the 15-day DL.
NEW YORK METS — Recalled
RHP Jacob deGrom from Las
Vegas (PCL). Placed RHP
Gonzalez Germen on the 15-day
DL, retroactive to May 6.
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES —
Assigned INF Jayson Nix outright
to Lehigh Valley (IL).
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS —
Placed LHP Tyler Lyons on the
15-day DL. Optioned RHP Eric
Fornataro to Memphis (PCL).
Recalled LHP Sam Freeman and
RH Jorge Rondon from Memphis.
SAN DIEGO PADRES — Sent
RHP Casey Kelly to San Antonio
(TL) for a rehab assignment.
Activated OF Carlos Quentin from
the 15-day DL. Recalled RHP
Kevin Quackenbush from El Paso
(PCL).
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS —
Optioned OF Juan Perez to Fresno
(PCL). Reinstated LHP David Huff
from the 15-day DL.
American Association
AMARILLO SOX — Signed
LHP Brian Smith. Released LHP
Kevin Rogers and RHP Wes
Alsop.
FARGO-MOORHEAD
REDHAWKS — Traded 1B Chase
Burch to Sioux Falls for a player to
be named. Released RHP Henry
Mabee.
GARY SOUTHSORE
RAILCATS — Claimed RHP
Stephen Boughner off waivers
from Lincoln.
GRAND PRAIRIE AIR HOGS
— Released LHP Yuki Sakama
and RHPs Jakob Cunningham,
Kyle Wahl and David Teasley.
LAREDO LEMURS — Signed
RHP Sean Tracey and INF Josh
Scheffert. Released 1B Gerard
Avila.
SIOUX CITY EXPLORERS —
Signed RHP Ryan Mitchell.
SIOUX FALLS CANARIES —
Released LHP Mike Blake, RHP
John Holdzclom and INF Greg
Rohan.
ST. PAUL SAINTS — Signed
INF Devin Thaut and RHP Drew
Gay. Released RHPs Paul
Burnside and Dustin Klabunde
and OFs Buddy Sosnoskie and
Andy Henkmeyer.
WICHITA WINGNUTS —
Signed LHP Alex Hinshaw.
Released RHPs Michael Schlaet,
Nelson Curry and Erik Lambe;
INFs Chad Kruse and Jose
Roman; and C Mike McCarthy.
WINNIPEG GOLDFEATHERS —
Signed RHP Chase Johnson.
Released INF Amos Ramon and
RHP David Hatt.
Football
National Football League
BUFFALO BILLS — Released
OL Jamaal Johnson-Webb. Signed
DBs Deon Broomfield and Kenny
Ladler, LBs Darrin Kitchens and
James Gaines, DT Damien
Jacobs, CB Darius Robinson and
DE Bryan Johnson.
DALLAS COWBOYS — Signed
DT Chris Whaley, RB Ben Malena,
QB Dustin Vaughan and CB
Dashaun Phillips.



Herald photo.

Back in play ...
Mason Watson swings at a ball during his team's game during recent Little League play at the Roy Anderson Sports Complex. Pee Wee action will continue this Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m.

BASEBALL
American League
East Division

Baltimore	20	17	.541	—
Toronto	20	20	.500	1½
Boston	19	19	.500	1½
New York	19	19	.500	1½
Tampa Bay	16	23	.410	5

Central Division

Detroit	23	12	.657	—
Kansas City	19	19	.500	5½
Minnesota	18	19	.486	6
Chicago	19	21	.475	6½
Cleveland	18	21	.462	7

West Division

Oakland	24	15	.615	—
Los Angeles	20	18	.526	3½
Seattle	20	18	.526	3½
Texas	20	20	.500	4½
Houston	13	27	.325	11½

Tuesday's Games
Detroit 4, Baltimore 1
L.A. Angels 4, Philadelphia 3
N.Y. Mets 12, N.Y. Yankees 7
Toronto 5, Cleveland 4
Minnesota 8, Boston 6
Kansas City 5, Colorado 1
Houston 8, Texas 0
ChiSox at Oakland, late
Tampa Bay at Seattle, late
Wednesday's Games
Detroit (Verlander 4-2) at
Baltimore (Gausman 0-0), 12:35
p.m.
L.A. Angels (Richards 3-0) at
Philadelphia (Burnett 2-2), 1:05
p.m.
Colorado (Chacin 0-1) at Kansas
City (Vargas 3-1), 2:10 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Rienzo 3-0)
at Oakland (Milone 1-3), 3:35
p.m.
Tampa Bay (Odorizzi 1-3) at
Seattle (Maurer 1-1), 3:40 p.m.
Cleveland (Kluber 3-3) at
Toronto (McGowan 2-1), 7:07
p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Tanaka 5-0) at
N.Y. Mets (Montero 0-0), 7:10
p.m.
Boston (Doubont 1-3) at
Minnesota (Correia 1-4), 8:10
p.m.
Texas (Tepesch 0-0) at Houston
(Feldman 2-1), 8:10 p.m.

American Association
North Division
Pre-Season

Winnipeg	1	0	1.000	0
St Paul	4	1	.800	1
Fargo-Mhead	1	3	.250	1.5
Sioux Falls	0	2	.000	1.5

Central Division

Gary	0	0	.000	-
Sioux City	0	0	.000	-
Lincoln	0	0	.000	-
Kansas City	0	0	.000	-

South Division

Amarillo	0	0	.000	-
Wichita	0	0	.000	-
Laredo	0	0	.000	-
Grand Prairie	0	0	.000	-

Tuesday's Games
St. Paul 1, Sioux Falls 0
Wednesday's Games
No games scheduled

Texas League
North Division

Tulsa	20	18	.526	—
Arkansas	18	20	.474	2
Springfield	17	21	.447	3
NW Arkansas	15	23	.395	5

South Division

Frisco	25	13	.658	—
Midland	21	17	.553	4
Corpus Christi	19	19	.500	6
San Antonio	17	21	.447	8

Tuesday's Games
Frisco 5, Midland 4
Tulsa 5, Springfield 4, 1st game
Corpus Christi 6, SA, 5, 12
innings, comp. of susp. game
SA 7, Corpus Christi 4
Arkansas 4, NW Arkansas 3
Tulsa 9, Springfield 0, 2nd game
Wednesday's Games
NW Ark. at Arkansas, 12 p.m.
Corpus Christi at SA, 12:05 p.m.
Springfield at Tulsa, 1:30 p.m.
Frisco at Midland, 7:05 p.m.
Thursday's Games
Frisco at Midland, 8 p.m.
Springfield at Tulsa, 8:05 p.m.
Corpus Christi at SA, 8:05 p.m.
NW Arkansas at Arkansas, 8:10
p.m.

National League
East Division

Atlanta	21	16	.568	—
Miami	20	19	.513	2
Washington	20	19	.513	2
New York	19	19	.500	2½
Philadelphia	17	20	.459	4

Central Division

Milwaukee	25	14	.641	—
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TRANSACTIONS
BASEBALL
American League
CHICAGO WHITE SOX —
Assigned RHP Maikel Cleto out-
right to Charlotte (IL).
KANSAS CITY ROYALS —
Placed INF Omar Infante on the
15-day DL, retroactive to May 7.
Selected the contract of INF Pedro
Ciriaco from Omaha (PCL).

Van Gundy to coach Pistons

DETROIT (AP) — Stan Van Gundy has agreed to a \$35-million, five-year contract to be the Detroit Pistons' coach and president of basketball operations, a person with knowledge of the details said.
Detroit gave Van Gundy the powerful combination of jobs on Tuesday, the person told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the deal had not been announced.
The deal was first reported by ESPN.com.
The Pistons announced in April that they were not renewing Joe Dumars' contract, ending his 14-year run as president of basketball operations.

Van Gundy is taking over a team that has Andre Drummond, one NBA's top young centers, and money to reshape its roster this summer.
Van Gundy has a 371-208 career record with the Orlando Magic and Miami Heat.

C-City to face Hawley in semifinals

The area's lone remaining high school softball team, the Colorado Lady Wolves, will return to action this weekend when they face the state-ranked Hawley Lady Bearcats in the regional semifinals in the Class 2A state playoffs.
Colorado City, the District 4-2A champion, enters the best-of-three series with a 25-10 record. Hawley comes in with an unblemished 34-0 mark.
The first game of the series will be played on Friday afternoon, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at San Angelo Central High School's softball complex.
The second game will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday. A third game will be played 30 minutes after the conclusion of Game 2, if needed.

Johnson says Sterling is living in 'stone ages'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — NBA Hall of Famer Magic Johnson says Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling has badly outdated views about minorities and is shockingly ignorant about HIV and AIDS for such a prominent public figure.
"He's living in the stone ages," Johnson said in an interview that aired Tuesday with CNN's Anderson Cooper, a day after Sterling made his first public comments since racist recordings emerged last month and earned him a lifetime NBA ban. "You can't make those comments about African-Americans and Latinos. You just can't do it."
In Sterling's interview with Cooper, Sterling repeatedly brought up the ex-NBA star's HIV and called him an unfit role model for children.
Johnson mostly avoided lashing back at criticism from Sterling, who at one point cut off Cooper's listing of Johnson's achievements to loudly say "He's got AIDS!" Johnson, who is HIV positive but does not have AIDS, said he

was surprised Sterling didn't make the distinction.
"Here's a man who you would think would be educated, and a man who is smart enough to build this type of wealth and own a team and have an incredible platform to change the world," Johnson said. "But he's doing it in a negative way."
Johnson is now a part-owner of the Los Angeles Dodgers and was once a part-owner of the Lakers.
"I came out like a man, I told the world," Johnson said of his famous public press conference announcing his retirement. "I didn't blame nobody else. I understood what I did was wrong. And I hope that I was able to help people."
Johnson, who said he has known Sterling since he first came to LA to play for the Lakers more than 30 years ago, said he didn't know how he got stuck in the middle of a situation that should have been a personal dispute between Sterling and V. Stiviano.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker
It Takes Two to Tango

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ J 10 8
♥ Q 10
♦ 9 8 5
♣ K Q 10 7 2

WEST
♠ 4 2
♥ K 9 7 4 2
♦ K 10 7 3 2
♣ 9

EAST
♠ A 7
♥ J 8 6 5 3
♦ Q 6
♣ A 8 4 3

SOUTH
♠ K Q 9 6 5 3
♥ A
♦ A J 4
♣ J 6 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1♠ Pass 2♠ Pass
4♠
Opening lead — nine of clubs.

There are many worthwhile conventions that enable a good defensive pair to score all the tricks to which they're entitled. Some players ignore these conventions, relying more on instinct than science, but that is a dangerous way to play the game.
Take the present deal, which features top-notch partnership defense. West leads a club, East winning dummy's queen with the ace. East, correctly diagnosing the lead as a singleton, returns the three of clubs, ruffed by West with the deuce.
East's return of the three, rather than just any club, is conventional. It says that, as between hearts and diamonds, he would prefer that West lead the lower-ranking suit next. (Had East preferred a heart return, he would have led the eight of clubs to ask for the higher-ranking suit.)
Accordingly, West leads the diamond three to East's queen and South's ace. Declarer plays a trump to dummy's jack and East's ace, and now East has a genuine problem.
If he thinks West has another trump, East should return a club; but if he thinks West has no more trumps, his best chance is a diamond return. With only his own 13 cards to rely on, East might easily go wrong and hand South the contract. But another convention, the trump echo, comes to his rescue.
West's ruff with the two of spades, followed later by the play of the four, denies a holding of three trumps. If West had started with the 6-4-2, for example, he would have ruffed the club at trick two with the four and later played the deuce to indicate possession of a third trump.
East therefore returns a diamond at trick five, and four spades goes down two. With a club return, South would wind up making the contract.

Tomorrow: Anticipating the unexpected.
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IN THE NEXT American Profile



- Inside this issue
- Take a hike: Expert tips for enjoying the great outdoors
 - Go, See & Do: Festivals, shows & events around the country
 - Reader recipe: BBQ beef sandwiches
 - What a crock: The slow cooker, then and now

American Profile

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.

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

Keuchel pitches 7-hit shutout, Astros blank Texas

HOUSTON (AP) — Dallas Keuchel pitched a seven-hitter for his first major league shutout, leading the Houston Astros past the Texas Rangers 8-0 on Tuesday night.

Keuchel (4-2) struck out seven without a walk. He gave up just one extra-base hit, a double by Adrian Beltre in the first inning, and

threw his second career complete game.

L.J. Hoes and Carlos Corporan each homered and drove in three runs.

The Astros were shut out 4-0 in the series opener, but jumped on Matt Harrison (1-1) for three runs in the second before he left with back stiffness. Hoes hit a two-run homer in the

inning.

They were up by four before a four-run fifth inning powered by an RBI single by Hoes and a three-run shot by Corporan.

The roof at Minute Maid Park was open to start the game, but it was closed during the eighth inning with a storm approaching.

It was the first Astros

game where the roof was both open and closed since 2006.

Houston was up by four before a four-run fifth inning powered by an RBI single by Hoes and a three-run shot by Corporan.

Texas slugger Prince Fielder was thrown out in the fourth, trying to stretch the first of two singles into a double

in the fourth. He was initially ruled safe, but Houston manager Bo Porter challenged the call and it was overturned.

Keuchel struck out the side in the second inning and was helped by his defense turning double plays in the third, sixth, seventh and ninth innings.

Designated hitter

Chris Carter, who entered the game batting just .168, had a season-high three hits, Jose Altuve tripled and doubled and rookie George Springer had an RBI and walked three times.

Hoes hit his first homer since opening day, a two-run shot to the Crawford Boxes in left field to give Houston a 2-0 lead in the second.

Gilbert eager to kick off NFL career at Browns' minicamp

The past few days have been quite the whirlwind for former Huntsville Hornet standout Justin Gilbert.

First he was selected eighth overall in the NFL Draft on Thursday night by the Cleveland Browns.

Then he flew to Cleveland for Friday's introductory press conference alongside fellow first-round draftee Johnny Manziel of Texas A&M.

On Saturday, he was back in Huntsville and approximately 200 of his closest family and friends were on hand to congratulate him for a get-together at the Texas Prison Museum Conference Center.

"I knew it was going to happen. I just didn't know about all of the cameras and media and stuff," Gilbert said of Saturday's party. "That kind of caught me offguard. There were more people than I thought was going to be here.

"I enjoyed (the NFL Draft experience). It was just the feeling of all of my hard work finally paying off. It was fun (in Cleveland). I got to meet the press there,

along with Johnny. He's a great guy and I'm glad to have him on my team. He's a competitive guy and I love the way he plays football."

From family members to friends, former coaches and old teammates, there wasn't a shortage of people wanting to show their pride for Gilbert.

"Just to see him accomplish something like that," said George Perry, who played varsity basketball and football at Huntsville High School with Gilbert. "I know it means the world for him and I'm just so excited for him.

"He was amazing in high school. I still look at some of his highlights now. His speed and the ability to move between traffic was amazing. He made it and I'm just happy for him. No matter what happens, he's still my friend."

Relatives and friends drove to Huntsville from all over the state in order to celebrate Gilbert and his achievements and filled the conference center to capacity throughout the affair.

"I'm overwhelmed," said Iwana Rolling, Gilbert's mother.

THUNDER

Continued from Page 7

les. "I've never seen a game like this with us," Durant said. "It just shows that you can never keep us down. We're going to fight until the end no matter what happens. We fought through it all and persevered through it all."

After the Thunder got possession, Westbrook was fouled by Chris Paul while shooting a 3-pointer with the Thun-

der trailing by two. Westbrook, who had missed a 3-pointer that would have won Game 4 in the closing seconds, welcomed the chance for redemption.

"I'm still upset about that shot that I missed in L.A. for the game, so tonight, I just tried to take my time, take a deep breath and knock 'em down," he said.

After the free throws, Paul drove to the hoop, but Jackson stole the ball from him, and time expired.

"Probably the toughest thing I've been through,

basketball-wise," Paul said.

"Everything that happened there at the end is on me. It was just bad basketball."

Durant scored 10 of his 27 points in the final 3:23 after shooting 3 for 17

through three quarters.

"Great players can have a bad shooting night, have a great three minutes and be the superstars that they are," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said. "He hung in there."

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Vera Bradley

TRIAL

Continued from Page 7

to his fear of violent crime as central to his case of a mistaken killing. Vorster, the psychiatrist testifying in Pistorius' defense, said he had generalized anxiety disorder and was "hypervigilant" and constantly feared being attacked.

The prosecution says Pistorius killed Steenkamp intentionally after an argument and prosecutor Nel said he didn't believe that an anxiety disorder played any role. But he said he had no option but to make the application on the basis of Vorster's diagnosis. In asking for the evaluation, Nel also may be pre-empting any appeal by Pistorius' defense, citing a psychiatric disorder, should he be convicted.

The chief prosecutor had previously referred to a period of 30 days for a psychiatric evaluation, the typical period for observation under South African law. Any panel of experts that assesses

Pistorius would take additional time to compile a report and submit it to the court. Legal analysts say the psychiatrists' report could take another month, raising the possibility of a two-month delay in the trial, which

started March 3 and is in its eighth week of proceedings.

Masipa noted that having Pistorius evaluated as an outpatient would be preferable as the referral was not meant to punish him.



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- * Jewelry By Mariana and Uno de 50
- * Collegiate Pictures
- * Inspirational Crosses
- * Towels and All Other New Home Decor Items

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