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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**TUESDAY**

APRIL 14, 2015



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## Council to consider I-27 resolution

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
 Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council is expected to lend its support to efforts to bring Interstate 27 south to Howard County when it meets at 5:30 p.m. today in council chambers, located at 307 E. Fourth St. The council will consider first reading of a resolution calling for extension of Inter-

state 27 through Big Spring and asking state transportation officials to conduct a new feasibility study on the matter. Several local officials have long agitated for bringing I-27 through this area, perhaps none longer or more persistently than District 4 Councilman Bobby McDonald, who See **COUNCIL**, Page 3

*"The future of a Ports to Plains route from Canada, through the U.S. into Mexico ... with an interstate-designated route through Big Spring is an exciting economic possibility."*  
 Bobby McDonald  
 Big Spring city councilman

**What:** Big Spring City Council.  
**Where:** Council chambers, 307 E. Fourth.  
**When:** 5:30 p.m. today.

## Fire destroys vacant school

**Herald Staff Report**  
 An old aerosol can was the cause of a fire that destroyed the gym of the old Midway school gymnasium Monday, according to officials with the Howard County Volunteer Firefighters. Volunteer firefighters were called to a structure fire around 11:30 a.m. on Midway road by Midway RV Park. "The manager of the park was conducting a controlled burn inside the building," said HCVFD Chief Tommy Sullivan. "He had been doing controlled burns for about a year in the building. That caused the flooring and the walls to dry out and the room to be filled with soot. Someone had thrown an old aerosol can and the fire exploded the can, which sprayed liquid on the walls. That was just like throwing gasoline." Sullivan added the structure was fully engulfed within three minutes, causing firefighters to take a defensive stance. "We stood back and sprayed water from afar," he said. "Big Spring Fire Department

crews stood by the north side. One travel trailer and a car took heat damage." Mother Nature herself didn't seem to be in a cooperative mood also, as a thunderstorm moved into the area about 2 p.m. but waited to dump rain until after the fire was out, Sullivan said. "There was a rouge tornado that came down about halfway off of Flat Top mountain, west of Signal Peak mountain," he said, adding firefighters then prepared to evacuate quickly in case the tornado moved their way. No injuries were reported but the old gym of the school was a total loss. Sullivan requested anyone planning to conduct a controlled burn to contact the volunteer fire department or the Howard County 9-11 office to let the department know in advance. The building was once an elementary school in Sand Springs but has been closed since the 1960s and now sits vacant. The property is now owned by Midway RV Park.



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan  
**Fire destroyed the old Midway School building on Midway Road Monday morning.**

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HERALD Photo/JulieBass  
**Kayden Christian, Melissa Daniels and Malachi Daniels picked up trash at the corner of Marcy and Coronado drives during the Trash Off Saturday.**

## Almost 200 participate in Trash Off

By **JULIE BASS**  
 Staff Writer  
 Almost 200 people participated in the Keep Big Spring Beautiful Trash Off Saturday. Alon USA, which donated the hot dogs for the midday lunch at the Heart of the City Park, had 48 participants and collected more than 2,200 pounds of trash. GEO, which had 38 participants — two of them being wardens — collected trash along Midway Road. The GEO group raked in seven truck

See **TRASH**, Page 3

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Courtesy photo/Don Rodgers

An oriole stops off in Don Rodgers' back yard to grab a snack from the Big Spring resident's bird feeder Sunday afternoon.

## Take note

- Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous will hold a 4th Anniversary Celebration, Saturday, May 9, 2015, from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. The event will include food, fun and fellowship along with multiple speakers throughout the day.

The group meets at Spring Town Plaza (near Attitudes Hair Salon, down from Bealls).

- The time period to transfer into the Forsan ISD system as a student for the 2015-2016 school year has begun. Students entering grades pre-kindergarten through fifth grade must have their transfer application to the school by May 29. Students in grades sixth through 12 have until July 30. Guidelines, timelines and applications are available at each Forsan ISD campus.

- SOS — Save Our Symphony. The Big Spring Symphony Association needs funds to help pay off debts occurred in this past symphony season.

Contributions can be made to the Big Spring Symphony, P.O. Box 682, Big Spring, Texas 79721 or can be directly deposited to the symphony's account at Western Bank, 607 S. Scurry St. For more information, contact Symphony President Suzanne Markwell at 214-256-1674.

- The Howard College Dance Department will stage concerts at 7:30 p.m. April 24-25 at the Hall Center for the Arts. General admission is \$5; students and faculty tickets are \$3. To make reservations, call 432-264-5161.

- For information on Garrett Parrish's condition, or to post messages of support, visit his Facebook page (#GPSTRONG). Parrish was seriously injured in a recent sledding accident.

- An account has been set up at Wells Fargo Bank for Briana Mendoza to help with medical cost. Briana was recently diagnosed with cancer.

# Police use of stun guns eyed in wake of killings TRASH

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Before a bystander's video led to his murder charge and firing, North Charleston Police Officer Michael Slager said he killed a fleeing suspect in a traffic stop after a struggle over his Taser.

Along with other worrisome aspects of the shooting of Walter Scott, Slager's attempt to subdue him with a stun gun points to a policing paradox that has civil rights advocates alarmed.

Promoted as tools to avoid lethal force, stun guns can sometimes become part of a deadly equation. The Associated Press found at least seven other fatal shootings of black men by police in confrontations involving stun guns in recent years.

These immobilizing weapons are useful, but can give officers "a really false reassurance that you have more control over a situation than you do," said Eugene O'Donnell, a former New York City police officer who now teaches at the city's John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Slager was charged with murder and fired from the North Charleston Police Department after a bystander's iPhone video captured him shooting a fleeing Walter Scott in the back after failing to subdue him with a Taser.

"Officers need to be spending more time de-escalating situations, instead of resorting to the use of this very convenient tool," said Emma Andersson, a

staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union. "The jury's still out on whether or not it's lethal force, but it's not nothing; it's very dangerous."

Stun guns have become an extremely common policing tool, deployed in more than 15,000 U.S. law enforcement and military agencies, according to a 2011 National Institute of Justice report. TASER International Inc. says it has sold more than 800,000 of its devices to law enforcement agencies, which have used them more than 2.3 million times in the past 20 years.

The overall record shows Tasers are "safe, effective and accountable," said Steve Tuttle, a spokesman for the Scottsdale, Arizona-based company.

"But it's not a magic bullet. ... There is no magic bullet."

Stun guns can save lives by enabling officers to subdue people without serious injuries, although the ACLU and Amnesty International say hundreds have died from the shocks alone.

The device's makers counter that Tasers are safe against otherwise healthy targets if not used repeatedly.

Still, the potential for deadly consequences has prompted many law enforcement agencies to strictly limit how officers use them. Stun guns "should be used as a weapon of need, not a tool of convenience," say guidelines developed in 2011 by the U.S. Justice Department.

Continued from Page 1

loads of trash, dropping off more than 100 bags.

The Big Spring VA team had 23 members who gathered 69 bags in four hours.

Out of the 194 people who were official participants, almost 50 were under the age of 18. Together, collectors put in 164 man-hours in the effort of making Big Spring a more beautiful place.

"We are very thankful to everyone who participated in the event" said Lisa Brooks, President of the KBSB Committee.

Pat Simmons, one of the founders of Keep Big Spring Beautiful, said Alon USA and Sid Richardson are partners in the Trash off, but the Big Spring Federal Correction Institution is planning to join them in the future and had participants out there over the weekend.

## COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

will be stepping down when his term ends next month.

"Today, Big Spring faces a different kind of potential — that of acquiring another inter-

state highway to cross its Interstate 20," McDonald stated in a letter earlier this month. "The junction would lift Big Spring to a status of about No. 6 in Texas alongside select other cities that currently have interstate crossroads — those being

Amarillo, Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio and El Paso.

"The future of a Ports to Plains route from Canada, through the U.S. into Mexico and Mexico's west coast deep water seaport (to compete with Los Angeles) with an interstate-designated route through Big Spring is an exciting economic possibility," McDonald added. "But Big Spring will have to work as an involved, committed community for it."

In other business, the council will consider:

- A grant application for the purchase of fire department equipment.
- Authorizing the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages at the Mi Familia Pavilion at Andries Park.

- Improvements to the wastewater treatment pump station.

- Lighting at the McEwen Family Aquatic Center.

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

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Ann King, 82, died Thursday. Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Thursday at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Lee Turner, 82, died Saturday. Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Trinity Memorial Park.

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## Creative Coloring

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## THIS DAY IN...



## HISTORY

- 1524: GIOVANNI DA VERRAZZANO REACHES NEW YORK HARBOR.
- 1937: DAFFY DUCK MAKES HIS DEBUT.
- 1970: THE APOLLO 13 SAFELY SPLASHES DOWN AFTER A FLIGHT THAT COULD HAVE ENDED IN DISASTER.



A PERSON WHO TELLS JOKES FOR A LIVING IS CALLED WHAT?

ANSWER: A COMEDIAN



## HUMOR

quality of being amusing

## How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Laugh
- SPANISH:** Reír
- ITALIAN:** Ridere
- FRENCH:** Rire
- GERMAN:** Lachen

## Did you know?



SOME RESEARCHERS THINK LAUGHTER CAN BE THE BEST MEDICINE, HELPING TO BOOST MOOD AND REDUCE STRESS.

## GET THE PICTURE?



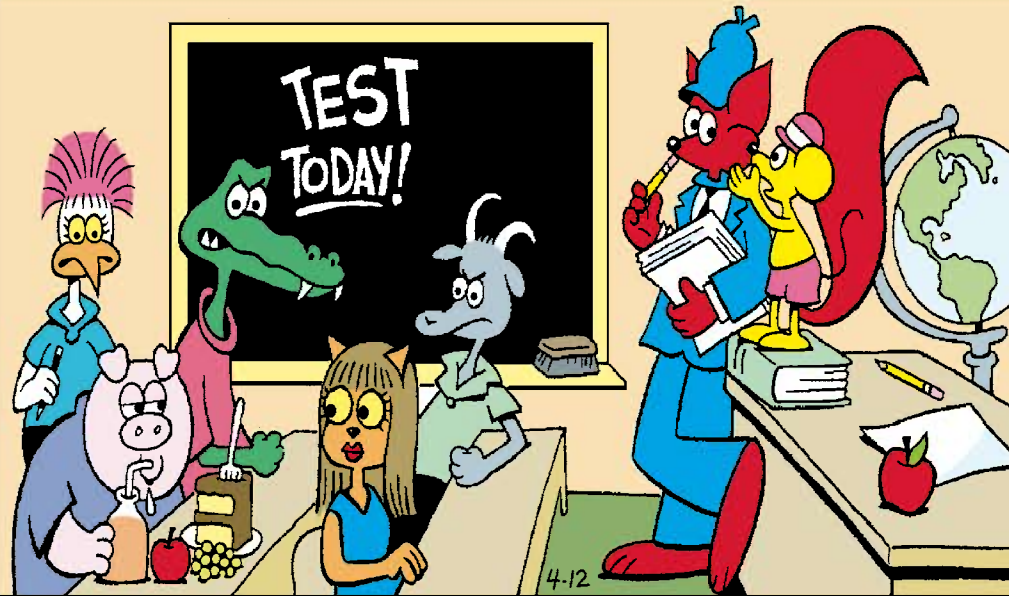
Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: FUNNY GLASSES

## SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

BY BOB WEBER JR.

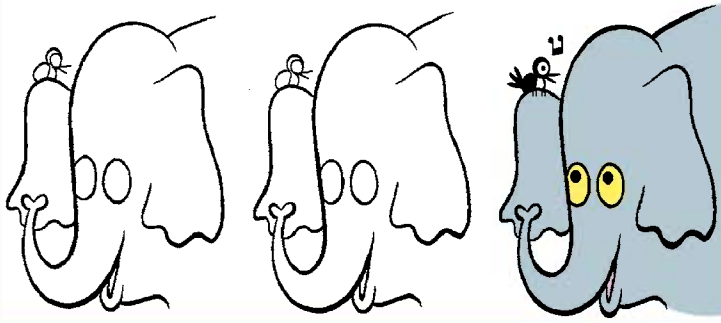
Max Mouse heard that a student took a copy of today's test from Slylock Fox's desk. Max told Slylock he thinks the sneaky student completed the test in advance. But Slylock gave out the test papers as planned. When he collected them, he knew which student turned in the stolen test. How?



Solution -- Slylock put a small pencil mark on each test paper. When one of the students returned a paper without the mark, Slylock knew the identity of the cheater.

## HOW TO DRAW an elephant

BOB WEBER JR + SR



## YOUR DRAWING



Today's terrific artist is Abigail, age 11

Submit your drawing to [www.kidcartoonists.com](http://www.kidcartoonists.com)

The average heartbeat rate of a human at rest is 70 beats per minute. What is the average for an elephant?

- a) 200
- b) 120
- c) 60
- d) 30
- e) 15

ANSWER: (d)

## Spot six differences between these panels.



[www.facebook.com/SlylockFox](http://www.facebook.com/SlylockFox)



Answer --- Tree, mountain, rabbit, reel, hat and fin.

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# Bird Poop: You can't keep a good kestrel down

Before dawn, the convoy of light trucks left San Angelo. Heading south, each vehicle was equipped with Goodyear tires. The drivers maintained a strict 55 miles per hour.

Testing tires meant long days and endless terrain. Many a sunrise had been seen creeping over varied landscapes. With daylight, scrubs, trees, and distant hills were more noticeable.

About 20 to 25 miles south of Sonora, it happened. There was a sudden movement from the dried grasses near the edge of the highway.

As one driver was helpless to intervene, she realized the rising flight of a bird would take it in front of the truck ahead. It would be smashed by the front of the vehicle. Resigned to its ultimate fate, she couldn't help but be affected by its loss of life.

Soon, the trucks increased their speed to 75 miles per hour. Even as the driver adhered to the regimen of testing tires, she continued to think of the bird and how it had been left behind.

At a scheduled stop, she left her truck and walked toward the one ahead. With its driver, she went to the front of the vehicle.

Expecting the worse, neither driver saw any indication of feathers or other remains. Then a movement near the edge of the front of the truck caught their attention.

Dangling by one leg was the bird the woman had seen. A damaged area from a previous impact to the lower part of the front fender, the bumper, and area that surrounds a part of the headlight had caused a crack in the metal. In spite of having its foot caught, being buffeted by wind, and enduring the trauma caused by its



collision with the truck, the bird was still alive.

As another driver helped bend the confining metal enough to extract its foot, the woman helped by supporting the bird in her hands. Since her husband worked for Animal Control, she knew what to do next.

When Diane Tracy, our contact in San Angelo, received a cardboard box from the officer, she had already been forewarned. Apprehensive, she carefully opened it. Startled to see an American kestrel lying flat on its back, she thought it was dead.

After gently lifting it out of the box, she realized it was still alive. Quickly examining its leg, she thought it was amazing the kestrel had not broken its leg or foot.

Later in the day, when Diane called, she said she had let it rest, since it had been transported in so many ways. Then she had administered a medication to combat inflammation. Several hours passed before she allowed it to have liquid nourishment.

Although the kestrel had lived through its ordeal, we both wondered if it would

make it through the night. Internal injuries were a definite possibility. The only way I could imagine its surviving such an event was if its flight speed helped equalize that of the truck to lessen the impact.

The next morning, it was obviously sore and stiff. Diane let it rest on soft materials until it felt like standing. Realizing it would not have the strength to tear its food, she offered delicacies from the insides of mice. As she hand-fed the bird over several days, it progressed to accepting larger pieces.

The kestrel began to follow her every movement with his dark, black eyes. Typical in appearance, this male had a rusty patch on top of his bluish-gray crown. Two black stripes adorned the sides of his white face. A terra cotta color on his back was barred with black.

With his buff-colored belly adorned with black spots, and his rufous tail heightened by a broad black band ending with a white tip, he was a handsome dude. His slate-blue wings tapered toward his black primaries

that would hopefully some day give him the ability to fly again while seeking prey.

On the sixth day of his recovery, Diane noticed how "antsy" he had become. Restless, he was becoming anxious at being confined.

Placing a call to the Animal Control officer and his wife, she learned that the next day was another test run for Goodyear. "Will you be going by the same spot where the kestrel flew in front of that truck?" Diane asked. "Were there other kestrels in the area?" she continued.

When both answers were positive, Diane asked if the woman would take the kestrel back to the area for release. "It needs to be back where it came from," she said.

Because of the woman's early departure the next morning, they agreed that Diane would deliver the bird later that evening.

Since the kestrel would naturally be asleep as evening approached, it would spend the night with the couple and be taken in its box to the release site the following day.

A call later that afternoon

confirmed the successful release of the bird. Having seen another kestrel "down the road," the woman had allowed the survivor to come out of the box on his own. After only a few seconds, the smallest of falcons had once again claimed his place in the sky.

Upon my hearing of its release came thoughts of all the variables that had been in play for the bird's survival. The kestrel, known for its quickness of flight, could have been in a swoop toward the ground to snatch an insect. Its powerful shoulders had accelerated its rise upward.

How fast was it going as the truck approached? What was the distance between the vehicle and the bird? Had an updraft increased, decreased, or influenced where it was found?

Diane had only one thought of its good fortune: "It was a miracle!"

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

## A bit of ancient (i.e., your parents') history

Many of the younger generation do not quite understand what we mean when we answer certain questions as we do. For instance, my son asked me recently, "What was your favorite fast food when you were growing up?" All I could answer was that we didn't have fast food when I was growing up, all the food was slow. "C'mon Dad, seriously, where did you eat?" he asked.



DARRELL RYAN

"It was a place called 'at home,'" I explained. "Mom cooked every day and when Dad got home from work, we sat down together at the kitchen table, and if I didn't like what she put on my plate, I was allowed to sit there until I did like it."

With this comment he started laughing, so I didn't tell him the part of how I had to ask permission to leave the table.

Here are some other things I would have told him about my childhood, but I figured he would never really understand: Some parents never owned their own house; they never owned a pair of Levis, or set foot on a golf course.

They never traveled out of the country, and many had never been in another state. And interestingly enough, they never even heard of a credit card or a debit card.

My family had only one car and my mother would drive my dad to work, then she would take me to school if the weather was bad.

If the weather was good I had to ride my bicycle that weighed about 50 pounds, and only had one speed, which was slow. Of course, with all that riding I built up my leg muscles and did get pretty good at attaining high speeds for a short distance.

We didn't have a TV in our house until I was

12, and it was black and white and wherever the story was filmed must have been at the North Pole because it was always snowing, or at least appeared to be, and the station went off the air at 11 p.m., after playing the national anthem, and it came back on the air at about 6 a.m. and usually that was a locally produced news and farm show, featuring local people.

I never had a TV in my room, and I never had my own telephone. We had a family telephone, and only one, and it was on a party line. Before you could dial, you had to listen and make sure someone wasn't already talking, and often times they were people you didn't

know. Usually, the party line was with four or five parties and those folks usually lived just down the street. We were not supposed to answer the phone unless we heard our special ring.

I remember when we got our first phone number and it was a four digit number. After all these years I can still remember our first number, and how the number was changed through the years.

Interestingly, pizzas were not delivered to our home, but milk was, and all newspapers were delivered by boys, and nearly all boys delivered newspapers.

Movie stars kissed with their mouths shut,

and a couple never got into bed together. There were no movie ratings because all movies were responsibly produced for everyone to enjoy viewing, without profanity or most anything offensive, and violence usually occurred between two cowboys, one in a white hat and the other a black hat. You always knew who the bad guy was.

These were the days when I grew up and a bit different than today, but would I go back? Well, as the saying goes, "I really don't think you can get there from here."

*Darrell Ryan is director of school safety for Big Spring Independent School District.*

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# Rain plays havoc with Steers' schedules

By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor

The Big Spring High School baseball and softball teams may have gotten their share of hits in this season, but it was Mother Nature that delivered the big hits in the area on Monday afternoon.

Heavy rains in the area yesterday forced Big Spring school officials to postpone their district baseball and softball games with Estacado, which were slated to be played at the BSHS fields.

According to the Big Spring

athletic department, both games with Estacado will be made up on Wednesday. The Lady Steers are penciled in to face the Lady Matadors beginning at 5 p.m. at the BSHS Softball Complex.

The Big Spring girls head into the game with plenty of momentum, especially after Mariah Sarmiento's stellar 3-hit gem against Lamesa last Friday.

Sarmiento did not allow an earned run en route to powering the BSHS girls to a convincing 19-1 rout of Lamesa in five innings.

In addition to a gem from Sarmiento, Big Spring also benefitted from a solid effort from the plate by Jaci Aguilar, Leah Burton, Cierra Martinez, Mia Oliva and Mercedes Ruiz.

Aguilar went 2-for-3 with a double in the game, while Burton tripled in her only official at-bat. Martinez and Oliva rocked the Lamesa pitching staff hard. Martinez went 3-for-3 and drove in three runs with a double and a home run.

Oliva went 2-for-3 from the plate, including a home run.

Ruiz drove in four runs in the contest. She went 3-for-4

with three doubles.

Shaylee Franks also did well, scoring three runs.

The Steers' varsity baseball team will also be action on Wednesday, playing at 7 p.m. at Steer Park.

The Steers come into the contest fresh off a 9-2 romp over Lamesa.

Big Spring, now 4-1 in district play, was keyed by a solid outing at the plate by catcher Matt Yanez. The BSHS senior went 3-for-4 and drove in a run.

The Steers blew the game open in the third inning

against Lamesa. They scored six times in the frame and never looked back.

The junior varsity Steers will lead off the day's action at 4 p.m. at Steer Park.

Softball and baseball weren't the only sports being affected by Monday's rainfall. The third round of the District 2-4A Golf Tournament was halted early on Monday as rain made the course at Shady Oaks Golf Course in Lubbock unplayable. The tournament was scheduled to resume this morning at 8 a.m.

# Angels hopes to visit with Hamilton

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Los Angeles Angels manager Mike Scioscia is hoping to see Josh Hamilton when the team travels later this week to Houston, where the slugger is rehabbing from right shoulder surgery after his self-reported relapse into substance abuse.

Scioscia said Monday that he would like to visit face-to-face with Hamilton to "see where everything is." While calling some aspects of the uncertain situation "very frustrating," the manager said the overwhelming feeling right now is concern for Hamilton.

"It just seems like as you try to get more clarity, it seems like it's getting foggier and foggier," Scioscia said. "So we'll see where this is and where this leads and just where Josh is. But first and foremost, we hope Josh is getting the help and support that he needs."

The Angels have a day off in Houston on Thursday before opening a three-game series against the Astros on Friday.

Angels owner Arte Moreno indicated last Friday before this team's home opener that Hamilton might not play for Los Angeles again. Hamilton is still owed \$83 million through the 2017 season.

Major League Baseball will not discipline Hamilton for his self-reported relapse after a ruling earlier this month by an arbitrator.



Tony Claxton photo (www.claxtonphotography.com)

## Rockhounds visit Washington ...

Midland Rockhounds' catcher Bruce Maxwell, left, and shortstop Chad Pinder took advantage of a stop at Washington Elementary on Monday to talk to students about the importance of school. The two minor league players were in town promoting the team as well as helping students gear up for upcoming tests.

# Michael Crabtree announces deal to join Raiders

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP) — The Oakland Raiders have agreed to a deal with free agent wide receiver Michael Crabtree.

Crabtree announced on his Twitter account that he is joining the Raiders and the team confirmed the signing later Monday night.

He will become a Raider six

years later than many people expected. Oakland passed on Crabtree in the 2009 draft even though he was considered the top-ranked receiver. The Raiders instead took the faster Darrius Heyward-Bey seventh overall, three spots before Crabtree went to the San Francisco 49ers.

Crabtree has proven to be the

better receiver than Heyward-Bey, who was cut after four ineffective years in Oakland. But his production has been limited in recent years by injuries and the Niners made little effort to keep him in free agency.

Crabtree had 68 catches for 698 yards and four touchdowns last season, when he had the sixth-lowest yards per catch of

any wide receiver at 10.3.

His best season came in 2012 when he had 85 catches for 1,105 yards and nine touchdowns, while helping San Francisco make it to the Super Bowl. But Crabtree tore his Achilles tendon the following offseason and was limited to 19 catches for 284 yards in five games in 2013.

# Rua out with heel fracture

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Texas Rangers left fielder Ryan Rua has a small fracture in his right heel, and right-handed reliever Lisalberto Bonilla is scheduled for season-ending elbow surgery.

Rua got his diagnosis during an exam Monday, three days after he came out of the team's home opener with what was called a sprained ankle. He will be in a protective walking boot for three weeks.

Bonilla will have Tommy John surgery Friday.

After opening the season on the 15-day disabled list, the Rangers transferred Bonilla to the 60-day DL on Saturday.

# Howard women to play WTC

The Howard College Lady Hawks will return to WJCAC play on Friday when they travel to Snyder to face Western Texas in a doubleheader, starting at 1 p.m.

HC is 35-10 overall.



Tony Claxton photo (www.claxtonphotography.com)

## Long loop ...

Howard College's Mace Perozak tosses a loop around the head of a steer during the team roping competition Saturday at the HC Rodeo. The HC rodeo team will return to action this weekend at the Ranger College Rodeo.

# Concussions lawsuit 'threatens' football

CHICAGO (AP) — The nation's first prep sports governing body to face a class-action concussions lawsuit has asked an Illinois judge to dismiss the suit, arguing that if it prevails, it could kill football programs statewide.

In its 16-page motion filed in Cook County Circuit Court, the Illinois High School Association, or IHSA, says it and its 800 member schools have been proactive about improving head-injury management for the 50,000 football players they oversee each year.

The motion calls the suit "a misguided effort that threatens high school football."

The filing is the first full response to the lawsuit — filed in November and slightly amended in January — that seeks court supervision over how high schools manage head injuries. The IHSA filed the response late Friday and provided a copy to The Associated Press.

The filing echoes IHSA Director Marty Hick-

man's previous comments that court-imposed mandates could make football prohibitively expensive for poorer schools, especially Chicago's public high schools.

Plaintiff attorney Joseph Siprut has said improving safety should help football survive, not lead to its demise. He said football is already in jeopardy because parents fearful of concussions are refusing to let their kids play, potentially drying up the talent pool.

Siprut, a Chicago-based lawyer, texted a brief comment Monday saying he looked forward to answering the IHSA arguments and to one day "working with the IHSA to craft a solution to the challenges posed by concussions."

College and professional football have faced a barrage of class-action lawsuits in recent years. But the one that names the IHSA as defendant is the first of its kind against a high school football governing body.



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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Mercury in Taurus

Anything worth having is worth working for. The effort involved in obtaining an item is usually reflected in its cost. Mercury leaves Taurus to focus in the realm of determined Taurus, the sign of money and appetite. It's a time to get down to the business of deciding what we want and the amount of effort we're willing to put into getting it.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

seriousness and have fun with your "at home" persona.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Be happy now. It may be as simple as commanding yourself to do it. Some days you are more amenable to your own suggestions than other days, and this is one of them.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). In order to succeed at an aim, you have to be in love with not only the aim, but also the process required to get to it. Today's information will get you closer to understanding the processes that you truly enjoy.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You've made some of your dreams happen, and others didn't work out -- but that's not the point. Some dreams are only good for getting you up, out and into the flow of life.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You are great with details, keeping people on track and understanding what needs to be done and the order in which it would be best accomplished. You'll be paid well for applying

these skills.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). People who say that anything can happen for those who are unrelentingly positive have as unrealistic a view of life as the nihilists who think life is essentially meaningless. Avoid both groups as you embrace the day's range of emotions.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Profound statements will be made in silence. It's your timing that will make the communication understandable to another person. You are especially adept at connecting with Cancer and Pisces people.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When you are moved by an event or touched by beauty, that's your soul speaking up. But it's not the only way your soul communicates. Today it speaks through your curiosity about a subject.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There's an overall sense that someone has to do something about the situation. The difference between you and the others involved is that

you pretty much assume that "someone" is you.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your posture, body language and clothing will send the message that you command respect even before you open your mouth to talk. If you needed a legitimate reason to go shoe shopping, let this be it.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). The faster you go the more mistakes you are likely to make. But going slow has costs, too. Your success will depend on a team of people whose strengths and weaknesses balance out.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 14)**. You'll gain supportive relationships as you pursue a new interest. It doesn't matter where you start on this project; it just matters that you do. Bad plans will lead to better ones. A major purchase in May will feel like a victory. Natural environments light your fire in July. Family will help you in business in September. Aquarius and Gemini people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 40, 49, 22 and 18.

**ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS:** "I'd like to be able to tell the future, as I imagine all that I could do with the knowledge. How can a Taurus become more psychic?"

For the sensual bull, your intuition will develop as you tune in to and test your various psychic channels. Think about channel surfing on your television and how some programs appeal to you more than others. One channel might hold no interest for you at all, and the next takes but a few seconds to pull you in. Well, this is similar to what happens with psychic channels. Finding the one that speaks to you will start your psychic journey.

For one who favors clairvoyance, psychic messages come in the form of mental pictures. A clairsentient is someone who is oriented to receive guidance in the form of a feeling. Do your thoughts seem to communicate with you with an actual voice or through music or other sounds? You may be experiencing clairaudience. If you've ever known information

on a subject you don't remember studying at all, you may be claircognizant.

It will be easier for you to open up and experiment when you come from a sense of curiosity, imagination and wonder, but it will be difficult for you to grow your intuition if you're too focused on personal gain.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** "Little Miss Sunshine" is all grown up, and Abigail Breslin will add the star-studded comedy/horror television series "Scream Queens" to her long list of upcoming movie projects. The Aries actress was born when the sun, Mars and Saturn were all in the sign of the warrior spirit. This much Aries energy in a chart spells one thing: fearless.

*If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to [www.creators.com](http://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](http://www.creators.com).*

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Annie's Mailbox

**Dear Annie:** Young people are ready, willing and able to tackle the world's most difficult challenges, and yet are vastly underrepresented as active citizens, decision-makers and problem solvers. We know that young people are uniquely suited to help solve problems if given the opportunity.

1. Fifty percent of the world's population is under age 25.
2. Brain research tells us that young people are uniquely suited to solve problems if given the opportunity. They are wired for novelty (learning new things and creating new solutions), risk (trying things adults might not) and peer authority (kids listen to

other kids more than they do to adults).

3. Youth who are engaged as active community members are more likely to grow up to volunteer, vote and donate to charitable causes.
4. Today's social and environmental problems are immense; we need youth to be leaders and problem solvers today, not just the leaders of a distant tomorrow.

Please let your readers know about Global Youth Service Day, April 17-19. During this three-day event, held in the U.S. and around the world, we are asking that young people raise their voices, claim their place on our GYSD map and tell their

story. Together with their parents, teachers and friends, young people will begin their story of service and address unmet community needs. This event spotlights what youth are doing to make a difference. When given the opportunity, young people are great assets and resources to their communities, providing unique perspectives and skills.

For more information, readers can visit [www.ysa.org](http://www.ysa.org) and [www.gysd.org](http://www.gysd.org). You can also find us on social media at @YouthService on Twitter and YouthServiceAmerica on Facebook. Sincerely -- Steven A. Culbertson, president and CEO,

Youth Service America

**Dear Steven** Culbertson: Thank you for once again allowing us to mention Global Youth Service Day. Young people all over the world do such wonderful and helpful volunteer work, not only on this day, but every day of the year. Global Youth Service Day provides more opportunities for everyone to get involved. We hope all of our readers, young and old, teachers and students, will check out your website.

**Dear Annie:** "C.B. in New Hampshire" said people should write down their plans for their own funerals and not leave

family members guessing.

When my husband passed away, I was fortunate that our insurance covered his expenses. I didn't want my daughters to worry about me when my time comes. I had a CD that would cover my expenses. We went to the funeral home, and the director called the bank and had the CD turned over to an irreversible trust fund. It will accrue interest, and after all expenses are paid, any money left over will go to my daughters. Additionally, all of the decisions are made, from the vault to the obituary.

For anyone who can pre-plan and pre-pay for their funeral, it's a great

idea. My girls said it was the best present I ever gave them. -- Planning Ahead

**Dear Planning:** Such pre-arranged plans give children peace of mind. We wish more people would be willing to address this issue ahead of time.

*Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to [anniesmailbox@creators.com](mailto:anniesmailbox@creators.com), 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](http://www.creators.com).*

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Only One Right Play

North dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A 8 3  
♥ 9  
♦ A J 4  
♣ Q J 10 9 6 2

**WEST**  
♠ J 10 9 7  
♥ 7 6 5  
♦ Q 10 8 6  
♣ A K

**EAST**  
♠ 6 4 2  
♥ J 10 8 4 3  
♦ K 7 3  
♣ 8 5

**SOUTH**  
♠ K Q 5  
♥ A K Q 2  
♦ 9 5 2  
♣ 7 4 3

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

Opening lead — jack of spades.

the A-K of clubs. If declarer covers the ten with the jack, East wins with the king and returns the seven, allowing you to force out the ace. If declarer ducks the ten, so does East, and a low diamond continuation (on which partner plays the king regardless of what declarer plays from dummy) establishes the two additional diamond tricks you need to set the contract.

**Note, however,** that if you lead the six of diamonds at trick three, South plays low from dummy and makes four notrump.

**How can you know** that the ten of diamonds is the right play? Well, look at it this way: After studying dummy, you can count eight tricks for declarer — three spades, a diamond and four clubs — and, considering the bidding, he is sure to have a ninth trick somewhere in his hand if you simply stand pat and allow him to finish establishing dummy's clubs.

**Thus,** if you make the "safe" lead of the ten of spades, you will unintentionally, but surely, hand South the contract. Instead, you must attack immediately to have any chance of success, and declarer's only possible weak spot is diamonds. You therefore exploit this possibility, hoping to find partner with the king, while at the same time being careful to lead the ten in case South has the nine.

Tomorrow: A matter of priorities.  
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The Spider

During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper.

One day, he received a letter from a subscriber stating that he had found a spider in his paper and asked if this was an omen of good or bad luck.

Twain replied, "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good nor bad luck. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever after."



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sudoku

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

[www.sudoku-puzzles.net](http://www.sudoku-puzzles.net)



