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BIG SPRING HERALD



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VOLUME 102, NUMBER 171

TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2006

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

Armed robbery investigation continues

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The investigation into an aggravated robbery that took place in the 800 block of Interstate Highway 20 Monday night continues, as local law enforcement search for the lone gunman responsible.

According to Sgt. Tony

Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department, the robbery took place at approximately 10 p.m. at the Exxon service station on the northwest corner of the I-20 and U.S. Highway 87 intersection.

"A Hispanic male entered the store and walked straight to the register," said Everett. "At that

point, he produced an unknown type of handgun and pointed it directly at the clerk, demanding money from the register.

"The clerk complied, giving the assailant all the money in the register, after which the subject fled the store, heading west."

Everett said the perpetrator was described as a Hispanic

male, in his late 30s to early 40s, heavy set with tattoos on his arms. The suspect is believed to have been wearing black pants and a black shirt.

No injuries were reported as a result of the robbery and the amount of cash taken has yet to be determined, according to Everett.

According to police records,

no arrests have been made as a result of the crime. Anyone with information regarding this crime is encouraged to contact the BSPD at 264-2550.

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

Officials ponder joint law facility, cost unknown

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

It could be August before a new county jail — or at least the price tag associated with the proposed facility — begins to take shape, according to county officials.

County Judge Ben Lockhart once again opted to table the issue of financing the proposed facility during commissioners' Monday morning meeting, saying it could be as late as August before enough information to approach the subject can be gathered.

"We can't very well go forward on financing this project until we know what it's going to cost," Lockhart told the court.

According to officials, the part of the design process that has slowed the project down considerably over the past month is whether or not to build a joint law enforcement center that will house a jail, the Sheriff's Office and the Big Spring Police Department.

Project architect Phil Furqueron said a recent meeting between city and county officials should give city council members a better idea whether they want in on the project.

"There were a couple of councilmen there and a couple of commissioners, along with the mayor," said Furqueron. "We basically went over the last layout we had with everyone and showed them how the building worked. We showed them the adjacent areas and how all the different areas relate. Then we defined the common areas that would be shared by the city and the

county. "We reviewed some of the probable costs that would be associated with building it, and there

See **JAIL**, Page 3A

Petition said of no merit

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

A petition being circulated around Howard County to prevent commissioners from using certificates of obligation to finance a new jail will amount to nothing more than a suggestion, according to County Attorney Mike Thomas.

The petition, which was started by local resident Frank Parker and others concerned about the issue, cannot force Howard County Commissioners Court to put the matter of financing a new jail facility to a vote if the court decides to use certificates of obligations, according to Thomas.

"It's my opinion that this petition will do nothing more than represent the opinion of a number of people in the county," said Thomas. "It can be presented to the commissioners as a point of reference, but it cannot force an election if the commissioners

See **PETITION**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Steve Salinas, a crew leader with the city of Big Spring's Public Works Department, works to repair a busted irrigation line at the entrance to Comanche Trail Park.

Finances looking up for county; employees are asking for raises

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners say the tax rate in the county could see a slight decrease during the coming fiscal year, thanks to nearly \$200 million more in estimated values compared to 2005.

Brett McKibben, chief appraiser for the district, estimated values are up to \$1.425 billion in Howard County, compared to estimates of \$1.241 billion in 2005.

With the commissioners court currently eyeing the effective tax rate — which would bring in the same revenue as last year's rate —

the estimate, if on target, could mean lower taxes for everyone.

"This simply effects our tax rate, and you can well imagine," said Commissioner Bill Crooker. "The tax rate would most likely decrease with that amount of increase in estimated values. I hope the \$200 million will hold for us, I really do. We, as a county, could use a financial break."

Commissioner Jerry Kilgore said the increase in estimated values comes as a welcome break for the county, although it will have little or no effect on many of the costly issues the court is struggling with.

"We're looking at an increase in

estimated values of about \$200 million, which should allow us to decrease the tax rate because of the effective tax rate," said Kilgore. "It won't necessarily help the situation with the jail because it will only be for this year, and we won't see any increase in revenues, just a decrease in the tax rate."

"We're trying to hold things down because so many of our fund balances have decreased," he added. "We're probably going to have to build up as much as we possibly can in those balances. We know we have to start that process of getting

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CHORUS REHEARSALS

It's not too late to join rehearsals and become part of the chorus for Pops in the Park, Big Spring's large Independence Day celebration which takes place July 3 at the Comanche Trail Park Amphitheater.

Rehearsals will be held from 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. the next three Tuesdays — tonight, June 20 and 27, and Thursday, June 29, at the First United Methodist Church's Garrett Hall. The church is located at 400 Scurry.

Those who want to participate are encouraged to attend all rehearsals if possible. For more information, contact Keith Graumann, symphony conductor, at 267-1626, 263-5943 or 213-0645.

AFTER HOURS THURSDAY

Elrod's Furniture, 2309 Scurry, will host a Business After Hours from 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 15.

Business After Hours is a program sponsored by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce specifically designed to encourage networking and to showcase sponsors.

Elrod's is celebrating 80 years in business.

Door prizes will be available. There is no charge to attend. Merchants are encouraged to exchange business cards during the event.

ROVE WON'T BE CHARGED

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top White House aide Karl Rove has been told by prosecutors he won't be charged with any crimes in the investigation into the leak of a CIA officer's identity, his lawyer said Tuesday, lifting a heavy burden from one of President Bush's most trusted advisers.

Attorney Robert Luskin said that special prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald informed him of the decision Monday, ending months of speculation about the fate of Rove, the architect of Bush's 2004 re-election. Fitzgerald has secured a criminal indictment against Vice President Dick Cheney's former chief of staff, I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, but no one else.

JAIL

Continued from Page 1A

would be some other considerations for cost such as insurance, maintenance, debt service and things like that. It was a very basic meeting to try to get everyone speaking the same language."

Furqueron said the ball is now in the city's court.

"The city officials said they are going to go and study the information and then present it to the council so they can all decide what their position is going to be in relation to a joint law enforcement center," said Furqueron. "Once they make a decision, we can decide how we're going to progress from here with the county."

Commissioner Jerry Kilgore, who attended the meeting between city and

the county representatives, said much was accomplished, but the final decision from the city will still have to come from the city council.

"We have it to a point where we can go to the second phase, where the architect draws up some plans," said Kilgore. "To move to the second phase, we have to know whether the city wants to be part of it. The mindset at the meeting seems like they will have to take it back to the full council and approve this."

"What we're looking at is we would actually build the building and they would pay us a lease for so many years. They would actually own that property and would pay their percentage of what they would be using and part of the joint facility."

Kilgore said it is important to remember both entities are only in the preliminary phase of this project.

"Of course, this is just preliminary," said Kilgore. "They (city representatives) think they want to be a part of this. If they approve it, then the architect can proceed with the next phase and get it ready to go up on a bond election. And I will repeat that. It will go up for a bond election."

Despite Kilgore's assurance the issue would be put to a bond election — a decision that has already seen support from commissioners Gary Simer and Emma Brown, as well as Lockhart — not everyone is buying it.

Local resident Frank Parker, who has been involved with the jail issue since it surfaced nearly two years ago, said the probability of the project not taking a corporeal form before August is part of a conspiracy to keep the issue from the voters.

"They're putting this thing off until

August for only one reason," said Parker. "That is so they can say it's too late to get it on the November ballot, and therefore they have to issue certificates of obligation. We know what they're doing."

"I don't see that," said Commissioner Bill Crooker. "I'm doing all I can."

Kilgore said he's not aware of any attempts to drag the issue past the Aug. 29 deadline to call for a bond election, saying Parker is simply "full of it."

"I really don't know where he is coming from on this anyway," said Kilgore. "There's never even been mentioned that we would use certificates of obligation in open court. I don't know what he's trying to do, unless he's just trying to get things ready to defeat the bond election. To me, they're all worked up over nothing because it's not happening."

PETITION

Continued from Page 1A

decide to use certificates of obligation to finance the jail."

Thomas said the situation brewing between Parker and the commissioners court is nothing new to the legal system. While serving as city attorney for Big Spring, Thomas said a similar situation had to be decided by the state government.

"They basically said the council could not be forced one way or another with the petition," said Thomas. "They were very clear on it, and this situation with this petition is very similar."

Parker, on the other hand, disagrees with Thomas' position.

"It's a petition to require the county —

when it finances this jail or whatever it turns out to be — to submit it to the voters," said Parker. "Under the statute, if 5 percent of the registered voters sign this petition, it has to go to the voters. They can't issue certificates of obligation without taking it to the voters."

"We've known that you could do this (petition) for a long time," he added. "It's part of the very statute that authorizes issuing of certificates of obligation. And if everyone signs it... If 90 to 95 percent of the people sign it, they want to vote on it. We almost have enough today. It takes about 900, and we're nearly there. We may even already be there, for all I know."

Despite Parker's staunch opposition to the use of certificates of obligation to fund a new county jail facility,

Commissioner Jerry Kilgore said the petition is a waste of time and paper.

"Maybe he knows something I don't know," said Kilgore with a laugh. "I could just say they're full of it. There's never been any discussion on it (certificates of obligation). I don't understand where he (Parker) is coming from. It's only in their imagination unless they know something I don't know, and I've been on this court for quite a while, and it has never been discussed."

Kilgore, who has supported holding a bond election on the matter for some time now along with commissioners Gary Simer, Emma Brown and County Judge Ben Lockhart, said he simply can't see the court voting in favor of certificates of obligation.

"I don't know where you'd get the votes on the commissioners court for them. They just aren't there," said Kilgore firmly. "Someone's wasting a lot of effort and other people's time if they think this is going to come down to certificates of obligation, because it's just not going to happen."

Commissioner Bill Crooker, the lone supporter of certificates of obligation on the court, said the petition Parker is attempting to pull together represents only one side of the story.

"It's my feeling that any petition coming from the citizens relative to this jail is only an expression of their interest," said Crooker. "To me, personally, it's just an indication of one group's feelings on the subject and doesn't hold any validity from the standpoint that we have

to take any action as a commissioners court. It's just a census, one might say, of the opinions of our citizens in our community. How many citizens do we have? We have about 17,000 registered voters in this community. Are they going to get a majority of the voters in this town to sign the petition? No. So this is just a small segment of our community."

Crooker said there are advantages of using certificates of obligation, making them a valid option for the court to consider when it comes to financing a new jail facility.

"To go the route of certificates of obligation, it reduces the time and cost of an election," said Crooker. "The citizens have elected us as their representatives. We're in the best position to know what needs to be done and

the information necessary to construct a law enforcement center and a new jail. And we just cannot afford, in my books, to have this election voted down. Then where are we? What do we do if it's voted down?"

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Carolina Trevino, 74, died Saturday. Virgil Services will be at 7:00 PM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 AM Wednesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.
Ernie Kerr, 41, died Sunday. Graveside services will be at 3:00 PM Wednesday at Coahoma Cemetery.
Gayla Batie, 47, died Sunday. Graveside services will be at 2:00 PM Friday at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 11:00 until 12:00 Noon Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

a little bit extra because of these unforeseen expenditures we always seem to have."

Commissioners examined the numbers during their Monday morning meeting, in addition to looking at some budgetary issues as they begin their preliminary budget workshops.

Requests for increases in department budgets came from all three justices of the peace offices. Bennie Green, justice of the peace for Precinct 1, Place 1, put in requests for increases in education and professional dues, as well as for books, totaling just more than \$500. Quail Dobbs, justice of the peace for Precinct 2, requested a \$500 increase in the utility fund for his Coahoma office.

Katherine Wiseman, justice of the peace for Precinct 1, Place 2, requested a \$200 increase in her education and professional dues budget, as well as pay raises for herself and her staff.

"I asked for a schedule of full-time elected officials, and I am on the bottom of the pay scale for that," said Wiseman. "I would also like to address the fact that we make almost \$5,000 less than any of the full-time elected positions. It's true that we do weddings, but the most I've ever made by doing weddings during a year is \$1,800."

"I think this is an inequity," she continued.

"I don't think it's right. Our pay scale needs to be closer to the rest of the elected county officials. I notice that most of the others make around \$41,000."

Wiseman told commissioners there is also a serious situation brewing concerning clerks.

"I had Carla from the Texas Workforce Network send me the facts on this, and our clerks' starting pay is at the very bottom of the scale," said Wiseman. "Our justice court clerks, are like the

administrative assistants in municipal court, and are responsible for receiving cases and setting them up... and I'm asking that my clerk, and one clerk from every JP court, be designated as a deputy one, which would give them a higher pay scale."

Commissioners also heard a request from District Clerk Colleen Barton, who is asking the court to consider a 20 percent pay raise for her position. County Clerk Donna Wright also asked

commissioners for an increase in her budget that would bolster its \$2,250 travel fund to \$2,500.

Howard County Tax Assessor Kathy Sayles also requested a boost in her annual budget, asking the court to consider a pay raise for the employees in her department.

Commissioners also heard requests from County Election Administrator Sandra Bloom, who requested a paper shredder for her office.

"This is the first of the preliminary meetings on the budget," said Kilgore. "We'll go over this and digest it, then we'll most likely take it to an individual level in a different session and make increases and decreases."

A meeting has been set for 1:30 p.m. Thursday, during which County Judge Ben Lockhart said he and the court will examine more budget requests, including those from Sheriff Dale Walker and County Librarian Hollis McCright.

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*Dollar amounts are approximate
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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
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OUR VIEWS

Petition on funding for new jail seems premature at best

Another contentious situation seems to have developed concerning Howard County commissioners' plans to build a new jail, as a group of concerned citizens have begun circulating a petition aimed at forcing the commissioners court into holding a bond issue election, rather than issuing certificates of obligation to finance construction of the proposed facility.

While County Attorney Mike Thomas says the petition will amount to nothing more than a suggestion and cannot force commissioners to put the matter of financing construction of a new jail to a vote, there are those like local resident Frank Parker, one of those involved in the petition effort, who disagree.

Both possess arguments that lend credence to their respective stances.

Thomas notes the current petition drive is very similar to a situation the city of Big Spring faced when he served as city attorney.

On the other hand, Parker is correct in noting that the state statute which provides for the use of certificates of obligation to finance projects by political subdivisions of the state does, indeed, indicate at a petition signed by 5 percent of the registered voters could force an election before the certificates could be authorized.

To our way of thinking, however, the petition drive simply creates additional controversy in what has already become much more divisive in our community than it should.

In fact, the developing petition flap seems little more than a tempest in a teapot.

To date, only one member of the Howard County Commissioners Court has indicated preference for using certificates of obligation to finance construction of a new jail.

The other four members of the court have indicated they would rather use a bond issue to finance the project.

Commissioner Jerry Kilgore stresses that there has never been any discussion concerning the use of certificates of obligation. Kilgore, along with Commissioners Gary Simer and Emma Brown, as well as County Judge Ben Lockhart, have all indicated their desire to hold a bond election.

Kilgore said he simply can't see the court voting in favor of certificates of obligation, and says those involved in the petition drive are "wasting a lot of effort and other peoples' time if they think this is going to come down to certificates of obligation, because it's just not going to happen."

What's more, commissioners still do not know exactly how much money they're going to need to build a new jail, or whether or not the city of Big Spring will opt to join in the effort for construction of a joint law enforcement center.

Until those matters are decided, arguing over the method of financing a new jail is simply putting the cart before the horse.

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

• Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.

• Sign your letter.

• Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.

• We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.

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

• Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.

• Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Please direct our lives today, Lord.

Amen

Al Gore's convenient fiction

In "A Streetcar Named Desire," character Blanche DuBois depended on the kindness of strangers. In the newly released film, "An Inconvenient Truth," Al Gore depends on their forgetfulness.

Just 10 years ago, Gore told the Democratic National Convention that after his sister Nancy's needless death in 1984 from lung cancer, he committed himself "heart and soul into the cause of protecting our children from the dangers of smoking." In his new film, Gore again dredges up his sister's death and how it led his once tobacco-growing family to turn away from tobacco.

After the DNC speech, reporters with memories intervened. America learned that contrary to his rhetoric, in 1988 Gore campaigned as a tobacco farmer who told his brethren that "all of my life," I hoed it, chopped it, shredded it, "put it in the barn and stripped it and sold it." The year his sister died, Gore helped the industry by fighting efforts to put the words "death" and "addiction" on cigarette-warning labels.

For years, Gore supported Big Tobacco in other ways. You could call the above "inconvenient" facts — that you won't see in the movie.

Let me be clear: The problem with Gore is not that he is a hypocrite. The problem with Gore is that he has no idea he is not Lancelot. He has this scary ability to block out any facts that make him less than a perfect, selfless

eco-hero, and in his need to present himself as the world's savior, he'll say anything — no matter how hysterical.

There is a pattern here. In his book, "Earth in the Balance," written after he lost his first White House bid in 1988, Gore warned that the next generation might experience "a decade without a winter," that deforestation could create damage for "tens of millions of years" and that the automobile presented a cumulative global threat "more deadly than that of any military enemy we are ever against likely to confront." (I'll write on the film's bad science in another column.)

Gore tells his movie audience that he was mystified that, after he sponsored congressional hearings on global warming, Washington did not instantly change how it addressed environmental issues.

Then, the film cuts to a personal vignette of loss, lest moviegoers notice that Gore himself did not change the Washington culture from the White House. After listening to Gore talk about his decades crusading on global warming, you might expect the movie to highlight his many achievements as vice president and designated chief nerd on the environment in the Clinton administration. Instead, the movie essentially air-brushes out Gore's eight years on Pennsylvania Avenue.

(Gore does refer to his role negotiating the Kyoto global warming pact in 1997. He does not mention that 95 senators, including John Kerry, had voted for a resolution that announced the Senate would reject any treaty that exempted developing nations — but Gore agreed to exempt them anyway. So

Clinton never dared to ask the Senate to ratify it.)

Here's another propaganda element. Average automobile fuel efficiency hit a 19-year low under Ronald Reagan. President Bush has raised fuel standards more than Clinton-Gore. But Gore wants to lampoon the man who defeated him in 2000. So he shows his audience one of his trademark charts, this one comparing U.S. automobile fuel efficiency with other countries. The chart begins in the year 2002 — it has to, because Bush performed better than Clinton-Gore.

The post-2000 Gore has changed one angle of his green message: In "Earth in the Balance," Gore warned that "sacrifice, struggle and a wrenching transformation of society" would be necessary to save the planet. Even if a "miraculous technology" was able to cut per-capita greenhouse gas emissions in half, he wrote, Washington still would have to raise taxes on gasoline, electricity and heating oil.

No more. In 2006, Gore tells moviegoers that, as dire as the situation may be, the changes needed to avert global warming would not be onerous, except maybe for some greedy corporations. His prescription, he argues, would be good for the economy, and create wealth and jobs. Sacrifice? Struggle? Wrenching transformation? Forget that. Fighting global warming will be good for your bottom line.

How convenient.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunder@sfchronicle.com.

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BILL CROOKER — Home: 263-2566.

GARY SIMER — Home: 263-0260; Work (Ponderosa Nursery): 263-4441.

Lessons for Duke University

Now that Duke has reinstated its lacrosse program, the university may hope to finally put some part of this chapter behind it. According to the latest statistics, while more students applied to Duke this year than last, fewer would-be freshmen are choosing to attend. Who could blame them, given the stream of terrible publicity that has come out of Durham?

The university's decisions in the wake of the spring incident seemed to take a bad situation and consistently make it worse. First, the university ignored the charges, then it overreacted; first it did nothing, then it seemed to turn on its students. The question is: How did a smart school manage to blow it so badly, and what can be learned from its mistakes?

What happened at Duke certainly could have happened at a lot of other places, if not everywhere. It's about young men and alcohol, which is a combination you find almost everywhere. There are train wrecks waiting to happen and people looking the other way, across this country.

Duke's first mistake, once the wreck happened, was to assume that the district attorney would address the problem and that it would go away there. This is a typical reaction for a university to take.

Universities are hopelessly conflicted with respect to sexual assaults committed by their stu-

dents. As with other wrongs, universities are potential disciplinarians. But unlike other cases, they are also potential co-defendants, which means that they worry that anything the university does to discipline the student could be used against it in an action brought by the victim, making universities reluctant to say or do anything that acknowledges guilt.

And thus comes the tendency to do nothing and hope the whole thing goes away. Who can blame them?

The more universities do in the way of sanctions, the more young men will insist on due process — and who wouldn't, if you're potentially going to be branded as a rapist? Moreover, the universities are generally the deepest pockets in these triangles, which means that anyone looking for someone to sue looks for them.

So most universities' first response, when there is a complaint of sexual assault, is to suspend the student from school so as to protect the victim's right to go to classes, and leave everything else to the district attorney.

In this case, that protected no one. The boys lose a year in school, because the case will not be tried until next year. That might be justified, if it allowed the alleged victim to attend classes without fear of running into her assailant. But here, the alleged victim is at another school entirely — so suspending the boys doesn't help her, and only hurts them.

The lacrosse team got suspended, and its coach fired. But then the team backers founded their own support group, complete with a

high-priced Washington lawyer whose job — whether he did it or not — seemed to be to trash the victim in order to exculpate the team members. Maybe that helped turn the tide. Maybe it just made the fight look dirty.

What were the parents supposed to do? What would you do if it were your kid? That's always the question. What if the kids really were innocent? Who knows? Once it happens, there are no good answers.

Because of the inherent conflicts, universities will always find themselves thrust into no-win situations by these cases. They are the ultimate self-insurers of the train wrecks. Their only salvation is prevention.

That means, finally, stepping up to the alcohol question. It's not about drinking or not drinking.

It's about abuse of alcohol. This is not about having a beer or two. This is about the excessive, abusive culture of drinking, and what role universities have for fostering it, cultivating it or tolerating it.

This girl may or may not be telling the truth. But a bunch of guys in a house drinking to excess, and two exotic dancers, is not something Duke University wants to add to its recruitment brochures, even if that's all that happened.

So this year there will be a code of conduct for the lacrosse team. They will be the model ones. The last shall be first. They might as well clean up their acts. Everyone will be watching.

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SUSAN ESTRICH

Bird Poop

The lull between baby seasons tempted us to make a quick trip to the mountains of West Texas.

Nearing Monahans, we could see a black spot ahead, next to the shoulder of the Interstate.

It moved. Unable to determine what it was, we started slowing our vehicle in case the animal decided to cross the highway. No more movement was detected until we were nearly even with it.

"We'd better go back and get it away from the road," said Art. "I'm not sure that vulture can fly."

As we approached the bird, it slowly started walking north toward the railroad tracks. Not anticipating a rescue job on our brief vacation, we had no gloves, net or carrier. Running between creosote bushes and prickly-pear cactus, the vulture would spread its wings as if ready to take flight. Then it seemed to remember it couldn't fly.

After crossing the railroad tracks, it headed for the barbed wire fence some 50 feet away. Hoping to catch the bird before it gained open land, we managed to maneuver it into a large, dense creosote.

Because the bird could not figure a way out of the bush, I had time to extend my arms, drop to my knees and grab the vulture from the back. It heaved, vomited, retched, gasped and finally had no more to expel.

The worse was over. As I raised the bird from his entrapment in the creosote, his legs and feet became quite active. It was difficult to hold such a heavy, wiggling creature.

Walking back to the vehicle, Art and I began to appreciate what a predicament the vulture had. With no road kill for miles, the bird had kept walking in hopes of finding something to eat.

The desolate countryside offered no food, water or shelter. During our chase and the walk back, our feet had felt the warmth of the crusty earth and tiny rocks.

The desert absorbed the heat readily and radiated even more.

On the passenger side, I placed the bird between my feet, head pointed away from me.

With both hands I held it while Art drove in to Monahans.

Not finding a box for the bird, we went to Pecos and were successful in getting one large enough for the vulture. Once inside his box, the raptor settled down.

Stopping in Marfa, we bought a food supplement from a veterinarian and sirloin steak. Since vultures will "up chuck" almost anything you force-feed, we squirted supplement in his throat. It slid down before the bird could figure out what we had done.

Staying down, the food gave him a boost of energy toward his recovery.

With friends living near the Rio Grande, we had a readymade bird motel for our sudden guest. Our examination of the vulture's wings told us that one wing had two hard knots, which were indicative of calcification around a break. Otherwise, the bird appeared healthy and hungry. For two days, while we hiked and enjoyed the scenery, our friends fed the vulture sirloin and any road kill they could find.

He ate every bit of it. On our way home, we decided to stop in Balmorhea for lunch. Walking back to the car, we noticed that "Interstate 20" was sitting on top of the back seat.

The vulture seemed to enjoy watching the cars drive by. Once again, I had to catch him and put him in his box. He seemed insulted that he could not ride unfettered.

At the wildlife center, we learned that the vulture had broken his wing twice. The first break had healed properly. The second break meant that the bird was non-releasable and would spend his days in the company of two other vultures.

Years later I met a volunteer who loved to work with vultures. He thought they were much smarter than most birds. I thoroughly agreed with him from first hand experience. "I-20" was sharp enough to thumb a ride, dine on steak, and never work another day of his life.

Bebe McCasland is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.



McCASLAND

Happy news is always being made. It's just that we're so riveted by the fearful news that we tend not to notice. Mercury and Uranus harmonize in such a way as to make fortunate twists of fate the most interesting thing to report. The awareness of life's joys creates more of them, so applaud often!

ARIES (March 21-April 19). As a warrior of the zodiac, one of your missions is to protect. Be the eyes and ears for people who aren't paying attention. If you get the sense that something just isn't right, act on it!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your ability to bring out the best in others progresses your own goals by leaps and bounds. Money in the mail will help with the recent expenses you've incurred.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The stars provide a looking glass through which you can view your personal life with sparkling clarity. You'll figure out exactly what's missing and also see a creative way to fill the void.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Life provides challenges, but like a body-builder who is determined to become freakishly strong, you might pile on too much weight. To avoid getting hurt, be judicious about how far you push yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Even as you read this, part of your mind is busy resolving the crisis you're "so over." The key is in being able to see your new self - that person who is beyond the situation and grateful for the lesson.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You don't ask for much. A beautiful view would be nice - and something to look forward to. Since you're so low maintenance now, it should be easy for loved ones to satisfy your needs.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What you desire is adventure and discovery. What you get is reassurance and familiarity. It's strange how that worked out. Maybe you're sending signals you're not aware of. Ask for the honest opinion of a Cancer.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When the boss is away, your job becomes

play. An element of friendliness and good cheer is very positive for your work environment, but you can still be trusted to deliver results, and that's key.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There is palpable chemistry between you and that certain someone. Things seem to unfold as though they were meant to be. However, you're very much in control of the process.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're in the mood to shop, not only for "stuff," but also for people who have the potential to add something to your life. Get the right price. Love doesn't have to cost your heart so much.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're at a fork in the road. One way requires much patience and waiting, the other immediate action. When unsure, it's better to choose to do nothing until you're sure. When it's right, you'll know.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Just because your dream sounds far-fetched to people whom you respect, that's no reason to abandon it. Use your common sense, but allow your creativity equal say. The two aren't mutually exclusive.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "Is there a particular sign that is good with money or more likely to be successful? I'm sick of dating men with so many money problems."

The sun sign Taurus is often associated with good business sense and financial know-how because it rules the second house of the zodiac wheel pertaining to money and material possessions. Taurus is a fixed earth sign, giving those born under this sign a stable and mature nature, an important quality when looking for a good provider. Their fixed nature makes them reliable, and they often enjoy establishing a comfortable home where they spend much of their free time. Capricorn, another earth sign, is also associated with success. Symbolized by the moun-

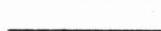
tain goat climbing upward, Capricorn is always striving to reach a higher position. They are often work-oriented people who strive to get to the top of their field and be the best at what they do. Those with Mars in Capricorn are often considered workaholics. There are many characteristics that make a person successful. Be honest with yourself from the start, look for warning signs, and you may avoid dating disappointing men.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: From TV's "21 Jump Street" to cinema's "Pirates of the Caribbean," and everything in between, actor

Johnny Depp has never lost touch with his inner heart-throb. No matter what role he plays, Depp draws us in and mesmerizes us with an incandescent charisma. I predict more family fare from Gemini Depp as he realizes the importance of choosing roles that appeal to his own two children.

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HOLIDAY MATHIS



Contract Bridge

More About Probabilities

Table with 4 columns: South, West, North, East. It lists card holdings for a hand and the bidding sequence.

Let's see how the odds apply to this deal. Assume you're declarer and West leads a club against your four-heart contract. Obviously, you are sure of five trump tricks, three diamonds and one club. This comes to only nine tricks, but there is a chance for a 10th trick if the diamonds are divided 3-3. However, this offers only a 36 percent chance, not a particularly appealing prospect.

Fortunately, there's a much more attractive alternative. About all it depends on is finding the trumps divided 3-2, a 68 percent probability.

Accordingly, you win the club and ruff a club with the queen. Next you cash the ace of trumps and lead the three to the nine. When both defenders follow suit, you know the trumps are divided 3-2.

You then ruff another club, cross to the queen of diamonds and ruff the jack of clubs with your last trump, at which point you have taken seven tricks. A diamond to the ace allows you to draw West's remaining trump with the jack, and the king of diamonds constitutes trick number 10.

This line of play enables you to score six trump tricks instead of the obvious five. More importantly, it makes you about a 2-to-1 favorite, while if you draw trumps and rely solely on a 3-3 diamond division, the odds are nearly 2-to-1 against you.

Tomorrow: Eliminating the risk factor.

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Big Brother knows I was recipe surfing

Or, what the government is doing while trying to define 'illegal and inappropriate'

It's funny how the word "terrorism" can suddenly evoke cooperation and quell the masses when it comes to government surveillance.

In a radical departure from earlier statements — that's a fancy way of saying one thing and doing another — Attorney General Alberto Gonzales has said that requiring Internet service providers to save records of their customers' online activities is necessary in the fight against terrorism.

Gonzales and FBI Director Robert Mueller privately met with representatives of AOL, Comcast, Google, Microsoft and Verizon last week and said that Internet providers — and perhaps search engines — must retain data for two years to aid in anti-terrorism prosecutions, according to multiple sources familiar with the discussion who spoke on condition of anonymity Tuesday.

Gonzales' acknowledgment represents a departure from earlier statements that emphasized how mandatory data retention would help thwart child exploitation. Child exploitation, terrorism... Hey, what's the difference, right?

In a speech last month at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Gonzales said that Internet providers must retain records to aid investigations of criminals "abusing kids and sending images of the abuse around the world through the Internet."

If data retention becomes viewed primarily as an anti-terrorism measure, recent legal and political spats could complicate the Justice Department's efforts to make it standard practice.

But hey, it's for the kids, right? Wait, I mean it's for the terrorists, right? They look so much alike, with their little toy Uzis and need for bloodshed.

After recent reports that AT&T has opened its databases to the National Security Agency, Internet and telecommunications

executives have become skittish about appearing to be cooperating too closely with the federal government's surveillance efforts.

In addition, the positive publicity that Google received during its legal dispute with the Justice Department over search terms has demonstrated to Internet companies the benefits of objecting to government requests on privacy grounds.

Then again, do I really care if Big Brother knows I was looking for a recipe for hollandaise sauce last Thursday night? Good question.

A suburban Chicago teenager is facing felony harassment charges for threatening the life of a school official on MySpace.com.

OK, that sounds plenty serious. I mean, death threats in this day and time? Circle the wagons!

According to law enforcement officials, the 14-year-old allegedly posted the threat on the social-networking Internet site at the beginning of the school year, but it wasn't discovered by school officials last week.

The teen was charged with felony harassment through electronic communications, referred to the juvenile court system and released into his parents' custody, Ferrelli said. The school district is also investigating.

Am I the only one who sees the giant hole in the middle of this? This kid is being prosecuted for a threat he made almost a year ago? Sure, he broke the law. And I doubt the statute of limitations in Chicago is going to save him, but doesn't this just sound wrong?

I'm trying to picture myself cruising the blogs at Myspace and finding something nearly a year old where some 14-year-old kid is talking smack. Uh, do you figure he's forgotten about it by

now? Geez. "It's pretty new to us," said Todd Colvin, assistant superintendent of Oswego Unit School District 308. "It's something schools are all going to have to deal with."

Yeah, in a more timely fashion, I hope! I'm putting this guy in for a Darwin Award.

Of course, as with all things these days, the story doesn't end with the prosecution of a lone kid. Last month, another suburban Chicago school district decided students would be held accountable for what they post on Internet blogs and social-networking sites.

Starting next year, all students in extracurricular activities in Community High School District 128, which includes Libertyville and Vernon Hills high schools, must sign an agreement that evidence of "illegal or inappropriate" behavior posted on the Internet could be grounds for disciplinary action.

At Big Spring High School, students who go out for extracurricular activities have to submit to random drug testing. Apparently, in Chicago, they have to give up their right to free expression.

And I'd love to know who is going to decide what's "illegal and inappropriate" in these matters. Maybe we can get the government guys who are going to be monitoring the Internet to decide, as soon as they're done examining my recipe habits.

The University of Advancing Technology (UAT) in Phoenix, Ariz., is marketing its new Network Security program as a way to get a degree in hacking.

That's right, a degree in hacking. Go figure.

The school is drawing the interest of geeks who use Windows, Linux, and Macintosh, according to UAT's IT manager Raymond Todd Blackwood, and even a

few who want to go to the dark side of network security.

Hackerdegree.com's Web page looks like a non-Windows desktop with a few terminals open, inviting the curious to learn more about fighting "cybercrime," "cybertheft," and even "cyberterrorism."

It serves as an advertisement and info site that links to the main site at uat.edu. However, the site works only with Internet Explorer, and won't display anything but the Flash animated masthead if you're using any other browser.

I guess I'll just take my Firefox and go home!

"That's an old site," said Blackwood. "We're working on redesigning now and we're investing a ton of money into building an amazing Web site that will work with all browsers."

According to several students, black hat-types are attracted to enroll in the network security program at UAT, but most are eventually outed by other students who detect their bad intentions.

After they're reported, the administration bars them from any shady cracking activities on campus. Some would-be evildoers are convinced to become "white-hats" once they see that there is good money to be made as a legitimate security guru.

The student I spoke with told me that he sticks with Windows design because a "bigger audience equals a bigger paycheck," but that the school offers options for those who want to work with Linux.

Blackwood and a group of students recently completed a program called the Phoenix War Driving research project, in which teams of assessors looked for unsecured and "default settings" wireless networks in the suburban areas of Phoenix.

"Initially we wanted to find out how much wireless connectivity had grown, but we quickly found out that watching

it grow wasn't such a big deal. There was an incredibly high number of unsecured access points," said Blackwood.

The project found 168,000 of them, according to Blackwood, and now is in the process of teaching residents of the surrounding communities how to secure their networks to reduce the chances of unwanted access. "We've reached about 300 people in the areas surrounding

Phoenix," Blackwood says.

Thomas Jenkins, a South Carolina transplant still fumbling through a case of Texas culture shock, is a Staff Writer for the Big Spring Herald by day and rock guitarist for local band Rustic Circle by night. Contact Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com



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Tuesday, June 13, 2006

IN BRIEF

HC sets girls summer basketball camp dates

Howard College women's basketball head coach Earl Diddle and assistant coach Eric Rodewald will hold one more summer basketball camp at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The final camp — a position and shooting camp — will begin Monday.

For more information, call 264-5043 or 816-4327. Pre-registration is also encouraged.

Coahoma sets date for ragball tourney

The 2006 annual Coahoma Ragball Tournament has been set for June 23-25 at the Coahoma softball park.

The tournament will have signups at 5 p.m. June 23.

There will also be a chance for organization fund-raisers. To sign up for a booth, call Sara Fontana at 268-3728. The deadline for booth space is June 21.

For more information on the ragball tournament, contact Patric Robinson at 432-393-5622 or Randy Clanton at 432-393-5338.

HC sets boys summer basketball camp dates

The Howard College men's basketball coaching staff and players will be conducting two camps this summer and both camps will take place in July.

For more information, call 264-5040. Enrollment is limited.

BSGSA to hold ragball tournament

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association (BSGSA) will be having its annual co-ed ragball tournament June 30 and July 1 at the Roy Anderson Complex.

The cost of the tourney is \$110 per team and each team will play at least six games.

Interested participants can register at the complex between 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. June 30. The first game starts at 7 p.m.

For more information, contact Ron Shafer at 432-213-3747.

Coahoma baseball summer camp set for middle of June

Coahoma head coach Brad Harman has set his annual baseball camp for June 19-22 at the Coahoma High School baseball field.

The camp will run from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each day and will cost \$75.

Pre-registration is encouraged, but participants may register on the first day of camp. The camp is for ages 9-18, but current high school students at Coahoma may not participate.

For more information, contact Harman at 810-4259.

Area all-stars lead Permian Basin to victory

Chesworth's hit ties game, Conley's sac fly wins it in seventh

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

ABILENE — Coahoma senior Liz Conley's sacrifice fly in the seventh inning last Thursday sent the Permian Basin softball all-stars to a 5-4 win over the Big Country all-stars in the 5th annual West Texas All-Star Classic played at Abilene Christian University's Wells Field.

The Permian Basin went up 3-0 in the first inning of the game. Midland's Ashley Pyle knocked in two runs in the inning and Coahoma senior Sarah Dunn scored a run.

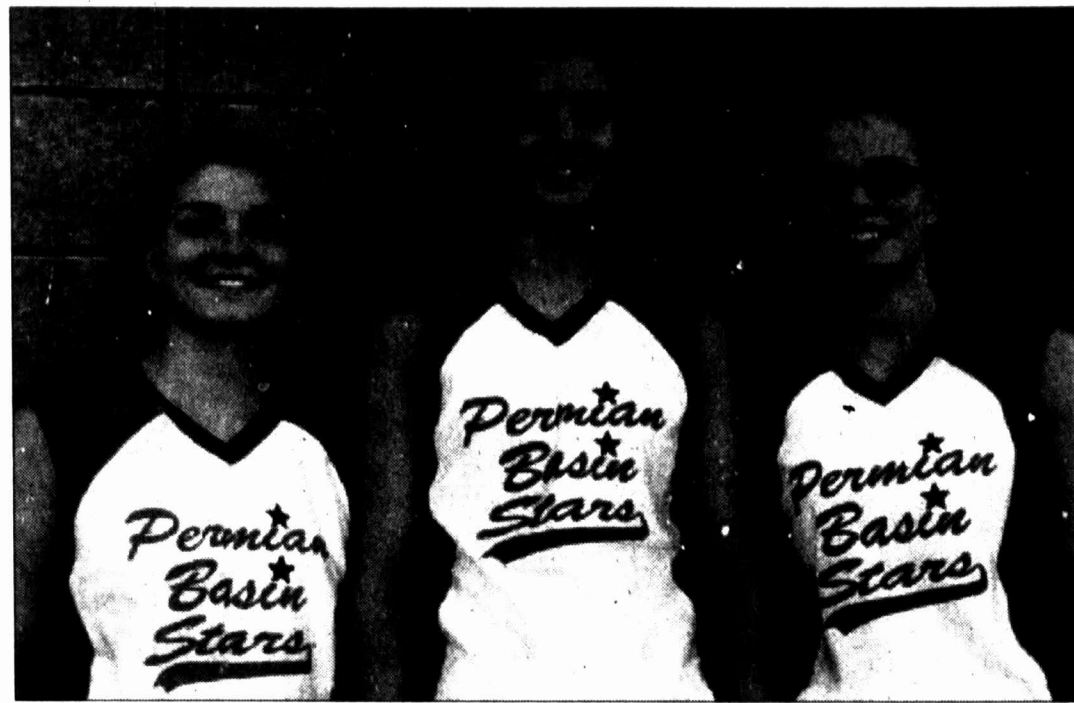
After the Big Country all-stars tied the game at

3-3 in the first inning and grabbed a 4-3 lead on an RBI by Clyde's Nicole Dodden in the second inning, the Permian Basin all-stars tied the game in the third with a bases-loaded RBI single by Big Spring's Krista Chesworth. Conley's sacrifice fly then won the game for the Permian Basin.

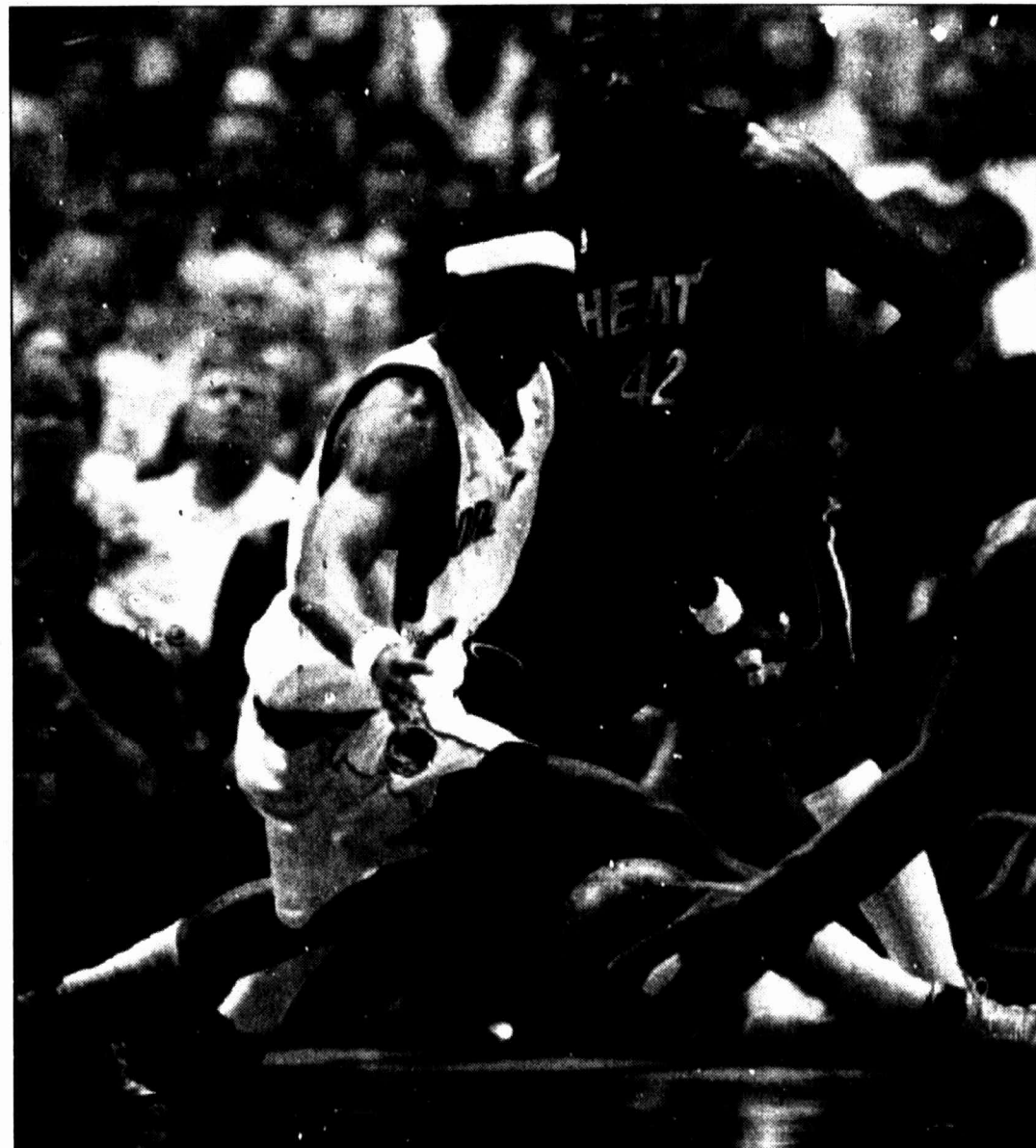
The senior all-stars from three teams — Coahoma, Eula and Clyde — were honored before the game.

Coahoma, Eula and Clyde all made the state tournament this year in Austin.

The Permian Basin all-stars also featured Big Spring's Mandy Walker and Magen Watton and Coahoma's Kali Roberts, Ashle New and Drew Wells.



Courtesy photo
Three members of Big Spring's softball team played in the 5th annual West Texas All-Star Classic Thursday. From left: Seniors Mandy Walker, Krista Chesworth and Magen Watton all helped the Permian Basin all-stars come from behind to take down the Big Country all-stars, 5-4. Chesworth tied the game at 4-4 in the third inning with an RBI single.



KRT photo/Paul Moseley, Fort Worth Star-Telegram
The Dallas Mavericks Josh Howard (left) scrambles for the ball against Miami Heat players Udonis Haslem, right, and James Posey (42) in the second quarter of Game 2 of the NBA Finals at the American Airlines Center in Dallas Sunday. The Mavs lead the best-of-seven series 2-0 and Game 3 will be played in Miami tonight beginning at 8 p.m.

Mavs head to Miami looking for NBA title

By TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

MIAMI — They've switched cities, and soon they'll change jerseys. Their gameplan, though, is likely to go untouched.

The Dallas Mavericks have already proven to be Texas tough at home.

On the road for the first time as finalists, the Mavericks are about to show if they are ready to be NBA champions.

With a defense that has somehow made Miami's giant center Shaquille O'Neal — the league's most dominant force — invisible, the Mavericks carry a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven series into tonight's Game 3.

"We've got to stay focused," Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki said. "We haven't really done anything. We won two games at home. We know they are a different animal at home. They are going to be obviously fired up."

The Mavericks will have three tries at American Airlines Arena to get the two victories needed to win the first world title in team history. And, they have good reason to believe they can get the job done.

Dallas had the league's third-best road record this season at 26-15, and the Mavericks are 6-3 on the road in these playoffs with their three series-ending victories all coming away from home, including a Game 7 victory in San Antonio.

"We're a confident team, but we know it's going to be a dogfight," Mavericks forward Josh Howard said. "They're going to be ready to compete. They're not going to go away."

Roughed up in Big D, the Heat are back in familiar surroundings. But unless they make some drastic changes — like maybe sinking their free throws — Shaq, Dwyane Wade and Co. won't be traveling again this season.

"We can't get down 3-0," guard Gary Payton said. "We have to focus on Game 3 and get that one."

By double-teaming O'Neal's every touch and congesting Wade's routes to the hoop, the Mavericks dominated Game 2, winning 99-85 to seize control of a series that has hardly been close.

So far, the Mavericks have been superior in every phase. They've displayed an overlooked depth, an unmatched perimeter game and have exuded absolute confidence in moving within two wins of a title.

They're playing as if they own it already.

To this point, the Heat have been, well, lukewarm.

O'Neal and Wade, the club's resident superstars, are out of sync and Miami's bench hasn't given them enough help. The Heat and their fans awakened Monday to an 0-2 deficit and a gloomy start to their work week as some southerly bands from Tropical Storm Alberto shrouded the city in a humid, depressing gray blanket.

Still, the prospect of a comeback — only the 1969 Boston Celtics and 1977 Portland Trail Blazers have recovered from an 0-2 hole to win an NBA title — remains a possibility, albeit a long one.

"We have been in situations like this before," Heat center Alonzo Mourning said. "We have been down. I'm confident we're going to find a way to get out of this."

The team's charter flight didn't arrive in Miami until 4 a.m., and the Heat didn't practice Monday. Instead, coach Pat Riley ran a film session to study what went wrong in Game 2.

Watching the remake of "The Omen" might have been less horrifying. For the Heat, there were plenty of scary sights:

— O'Neal, all 7-foot-1, 325 pounds of him, taking just five shots and scoring only five points — a career-playoff low. With Miami being embarrassed in the third quarter, O'Neal was replaced and spent the entire fourth quarter watching from the bench as Riley chose to rest him for Game 3.

— Wade, perhaps still fighting the flu, went 6-for-19 from the floor, made four turnovers and was called for a technical foul.

— Forward Udonis Haslem left Dallas' arena with his left arm in a sling after landing awkwardly on his shoulder in the first half. X-rays revealed a strain and bruised shoulder. The team said Haslem is expected to play in Game 3.

Contreras too strong for Rangers

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON — Jose Contreras has already impressed the man who will select the American League's starting pitcher in the All-Star game next month.

It sounds as though White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen is ready to pick his stellar right-hander, who matched a franchise record Monday night by winning his 15th straight decision in Chicago's 8-3 victory over the Texas Rangers.

"It would be a great honor for me because everybody wants to be the best at his job. This is my job and I want to be the best," Contreras said through a translator. "But all I'm thinking about is the next outing."

Contreras (7-0, AL-best 2.62 ERA) had a nearly dominant eight-inning performance against the AL West-leading Rangers, striking out a career-high 11 without a walk. He threw 75 of 108 pitches for strikes, allowing three runs — all in a four-batter span — and six hits.

Contreras tied the franchise record for consecu-



KRT photo/Richard W. Rodriguez, Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Texas Ranger Jerry Hairston Jr. (left) and Ian Kinsler (right) congratulate catcher Rod Barajas after he homered in the fifth inning against the Chicago White Sox. The White Sox defeated the Rangers, 8-3, at Ameriquest Field in Arlington Texas Monday.

tive wins set by LaMarr Hoyt (1983-84) and Wilson Alvarez (1993-94).

Contreras' streak is also the longest in the majors since Minnesota lefty Johan Santana won 17 decisions in a row from July 2004 to April 2005, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

The next scheduled start for Contreras is Saturday at Cincinnati, the first of probably five more before the All-Star

See RANGERS, Page 8

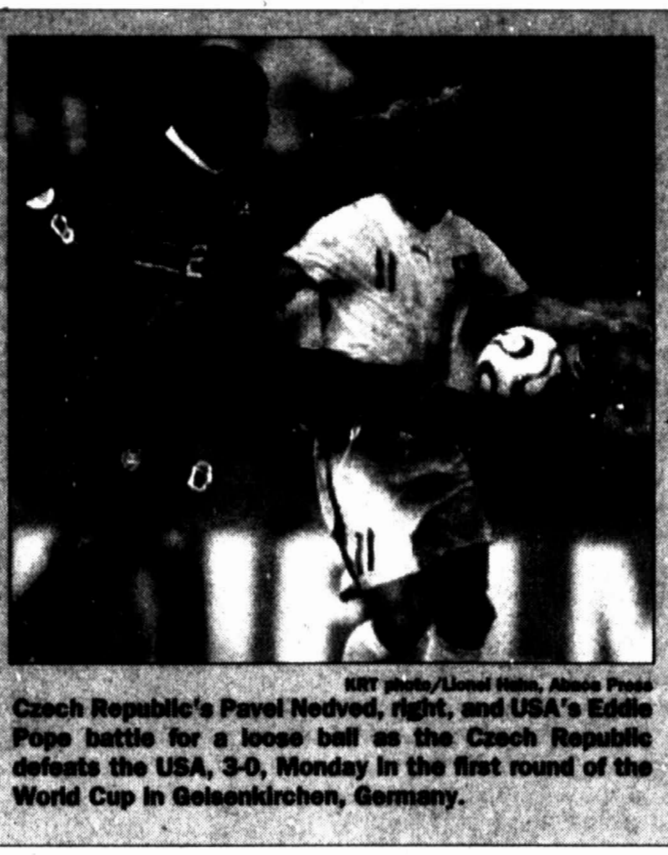
IN BRIEF

Rice finds way back to CWS after win over Sooners
HOUSTON (AP) — Josh Rodriguez homered and drove in five runs Monday, helping rally Rice to a 9-5 win over Oklahoma and a berth in the College World Series.
The Owls (55-11) took the deciding game of the best-of-three Super Regional series and will return to Omaha, Neb., for the first time since winning the national title in 2003.
The Owls turned a 4-3 deficit into an 8-4 lead in the sixth inning.
Rodriguez, who had a two-run homer in the first, put Rice ahead 5-4 with a bases-loaded single, and Joe Savery followed with a three-run home run.
Rodriguez's sacrifice fly in the seventh scored Rice's final run.
The Sooners (45-22) were looking to win an elimination game for the sixth time in this year's NCAA tournament.
Cole St. Clair (6-2) picked up the win in relief, allowing five hits and three runs with three strikeouts and no walks in 5 1/3 innings.
John Brownell (5-1) lost.
Rodriguez's opposite-field home run to right with two outs in the bottom of the first tied the score.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 7

Rangers. His splitter was diving and his slider was biting.
"The first at-bat, I had no chance," Texas catcher Rod Barajas said. "He'd throw a split in the 70s and then throw something in the 90s. He had us off balance."
Texas had only an infield single by Michael Young before its scoring spurt in the fifth inning. Contreras retired 10 of his last 12 batters after that.
Contreras retired his first 10 batters, with five strikeouts, before Young's infield single with one out in the fourth.
While the Rangers struggled against Contreras, Chicago started the game with five straight hits off rookie John Koronka (4-4) for a 3-0 lead.
The White Sox had seven hits their first time through the order.
Juan Uribe and Brian Anderson, the last two hitters (both batting under .200), started the second with consecutive hits before scoring to make it 5-0.
A.J. Pierzynski later drove in two runs for the White Sox. He grounded out in the fifth as the last batter to face Koronka, then led off the eighth with his third homer.
Brad Wilkerson had a one-out bunt single in the Texas fifth.
Then the bottom third of the order — which had struck out consecutively in the third — produced the runs.
Ian Kinsler doubled, Jason Botts hit a sacrifice fly and Barajas a two-run homer, his fifth.
Koronka allowed six runs and nine hits over 4 2-3 innings.



AP Photo/Lenal Hahn, AP Photo/Pavel Nedved, right, and USA's Eddie Pope battle for a loose ball as the Czech Republic defeats the USA, 3-0, Monday in the first round of the World Cup in Gelsenkirchen, Germany.

Steelers QB hurt in accident

• 'Big Ben' breaks jaw, nose following crash on motorcycle

By JOE MANDAK
Associated Press Writer
PITTSBURGH — Ben Roethlisberger has a lot more to worry about than playing quarterback for the Pittsburgh Steelers.
Roethlisberger was in serious but stable condition late Monday night after breaking his jaw and nose in a motorcycle crash earlier in the day.
Roethlisberger, the youngest quarterback to lead a team to the Super Bowl championship, was taken to Pittsburgh's Mercy Hospital, where he underwent seven hours of surgery.

It was not immediately known whether the accident would affect Roethlisberger's chances of playing this season.
Dr. Harry W. Sell, chairman of the hospital's surgery department, told reporters that four doctors operated on Roethlisberger for multiple facial fractures and that "all of the fractures were successfully repaired."
Doctors are unaware of any other serious injuries, but said Roethlisberger remained in serious but stable condition, according to Dr. Daniel Pituch, who led the team of doctors caring for the star player.

73rd Annual Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo

When: June 22-24
Where: Rodeo Bowl off FM 700 and Business 80 West
Time: Grand Entry starts at 8 p.m. Gates open at 7 p.m.
Parade: Thursday, June 22, 10th and Main
Dances: Friday night, Jody Nix and the Texas Cowboys (\$10 per person); Saturday night, Aaron Watson (\$15 per person). Tickets available at Wards Boot and Saddle
Teen Night: Thursday, June 22. There is a DJ dance after the rodeo. Free admission to the dance with a paid rodeo admission. No one over 19 years of age admitted.
Announcer: Mike Mathis, on horseback inside the arena.
Bullfighters: Travis Adams and Casey Wells
Specialty Act and Barrelman: Jim Bob Feller
Golf Tournament: Friday, June 23, at 8 a.m. at the Big Spring Country Club. \$50 per person and that includes a meal. Proceeds go to Justin Cowboy Crisis Fund.
Special Event: Mutton Bustin' each night. (\$20 entry fee) Call Diane Hofacket at 267-8041.
Ticket Prices: At Gate: Adults \$10, Children \$6. Presale: Adults \$8, Children \$4
Ticket Locations: Big Spring Chamber of Commerce, H-E-B, Wards Boot and Saddle, First Bank of West Texas, First Big Spring Banking Center, Wells Fargo, Citizens FCU and State National Bank.

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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. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

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Bedtime Stories

JUSTIN GOES TO THE PARK

Is there a park near you? Do you like the park? Do you know what a park might be? Please tell me what a park could look like. Are there any trees in your park? What kind of trees are in your park? Do you have oak trees? Do you have elm trees? Do you have pine trees? Can you tell me the names of more trees? What kind of trees do you have in your yard?
Do you have swings in your park? Do you like to swing on these swings? Does anyone ever push you on the swing, making you go higher and higher? Do you have a swing in your yard? Do you ever push your brother or sister on your swing and make them go even higher?
Do you have slides in your park? Do you know what a slide might be? Do you have see-saws in your park. Tell me what a see-saw looks like.

Do you have picnic tables in your park? We all know what a picnic table looks like, don't we? Do you ever go on a picnic in your park? What do you like to eat when you are on a picnic?
Have you ever been to the park to see the trees and maybe even climb on one. Then swing on the swings, then push your brother or sister on the swing. And even let your mommie or daddy push you on the swing, making you go higher and higher. On that same day, did you slide on the slides, and see-saw on the see-saw? Did you ever do all this and have a picnic on the same day? What did you have to eat on that day in the park, when you had the picnic? That sounds like fun. Maybe you can do it again, soon!
This story is about a little boy named Justin. He loved the park, too. His mommie would take him sometimes, and his daddy would take him sometimes. Sometimes, both his mommie and his daddy would take him. Everytime he went, he loved his park.
There was only one thing that he did not like about his park. It did not have monkey bars. Do you know what monkey bars could be? If you do not know what monkey bars might be, ask the person reading this story to you to tell you. I'll bet that this person has swung on a monkey bar before.
Justin played and played on the big tree limbs and the swingsets. He even knew how to make himself

go higher and higher on the swing, with no one, pushing him. He always loved to play on the slides, too. He would run up, then slide down these slides for long periods of time. He would always find time to see-saw on the see-saw, too. He loved these things, but his park had no monkey bars. Justin had seen monkey bars before. It was a time when he was with his parents and they were on a very long trip. He saw the monkey bars in another park, far, far away from his home. But he was riding in a car when he saw them, looking from the car's window. He never had the chance to play on them. Never! But this is a bedtime story and you know all bedtime stories have happy endings. So does this one!

Justin played in the park near his home every time he had the chance, always wishing his park had monkey bars, and they never did, until Justin had already grown up into a young man.
Justin is grown now and he is married. He has a pretty wife, and two small children. Justin is also a very nice, successful businessman. He takes his children to the same park.

most is the monkey bars that Justin had built for the park. Yes, now the park has monkey bars! Children from all over the city come to play on these monkey bars that Justin built.
As I told you before, Justin never did get to play on monkey bars and he is too big now. But, he is loving them even more than he would have when he was little. Seeing his two children playing on the new monkey bars and having so much fun, was even better than doing it himself.
It is late now, and the park is closing down for the day. But it will open again tomorrow and all the children will be playing on Justin's monkey bars. But for now, the park is closed and Justin said to tell you, "Good Night."

Justin played in the park near his home every time he had the chance, always wishing his park had monkey bars, and they never did, until Justin had already grown up into a young man.
Justin is grown now and he is married. He has a pretty wife, and two small children. Justin is also a very nice, successful businessman. He takes his children to the same park.



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TUESDAY

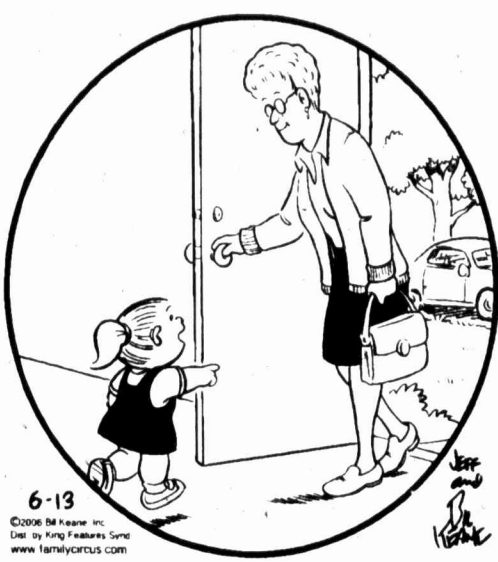
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	SCIFI (64) Science Fic.
6 PM	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Persegrina	King of the Hill The Simpsons	News Entertainment	La Tormenta	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond Raymond	Dr. Young John Hagee	News-Lehrer	Deadliest Catch		CSI Crime Scene Invstgtn	Without a Trace (CC)	Live (CC) BET.com	Phil of Future That's Raven	WNBA Basketball	Bonds on Bonds	
7 PM	Accordng Jim NBA Nation	Accordng Jim NBA Nation	La Fea Mas Bella	House (CC)	NCIS (CC)	Tierra de Pasiones	Fear Factor (CC)	Friends (CC)	Update Israel Marriage	Nova (CC) (DVS)	Deadliest Catch	Movie: The Man With the Golden Gun (CC)	CSI Crime Scene Invstgtn	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Movie	Movie: Cow Belles (CC)	String at Mystics	2005 U.S. Poker	Movie: Immortal (CC)
8 PM	NBA Basketball	NBA Basketball	Barrera de Amor	House (CC)	The Unit (CC)	Corazon Partido	Last Comic Standing	Sex and City Sex and City	Light of the Southwest	Frontline (CC)	Deadliest Catch		Movie: Tcp Gun	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)			Kickboxing Kickboxing	2005 U.S. Poker	
9 PM	Finals Game 3 - Mavericks at	Finals Game 3 - Mavericks at	Madre Vecnos	Becker (CC) Friends (CC)	Tuesday Night Book Club	Decisiones	Law & Order SVU	Sentfeit (CC)	Independent Lens (CC)	Dirty Jobs		45 Movie:	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Top Awards Show	American Dign	American Dign	Kickboxing Kickboxing	Baseball Tonight	ECW
10 PM	Heat News (CC)	Heat News	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Laura	News Tonight Show	Raymond Raymond	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	Dirty Jobs (CC)	The Spy Who Loved Me	Cold Case (CC)	Jame Foxx Jame Foxx	Zack & Cody That's Raven	Quite Frankly With Smith	SportsCenter	Movie: Hellraiser	
11 PM	Nightline Entertainment	Nightline Entertainment	La Hora de la Risa	King of the Hill Malcolm Mid	Letterman Late Late	Al Rojo Vivo	Late Night: Conan O'Brne Apex	Movie: Biblical Israel (CC) (DVS)	Sign Off	Deadliest Catch		CSI Crime Scene Invstgtn	The Closer (CC)	In Living Color In Living Color	Phil of Future Kim Possible	Postgame City Slam	(CC)	Hellworld (CC)	
12 AM	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Sonadoras	My Wife-Kids Divorce Court	Show The Insider	Mania Celeste Pagado		Update Israel Booker		Deadliest Catch	Broken Trail		NYPD Blue (CC)	Comcview (CC)	Sister Sister That's Raven	City Slam Stump Schwab	NBA Fastbreak Baseball	Twilight Zone	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I THINK THEY CALL IT KIDS' MUSIC 'CAUSE IT DRIVES GROWNUPS CRAZY!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Hi, Grandma! Does the candy in your purse make it too heavy for you?"

HAGAR



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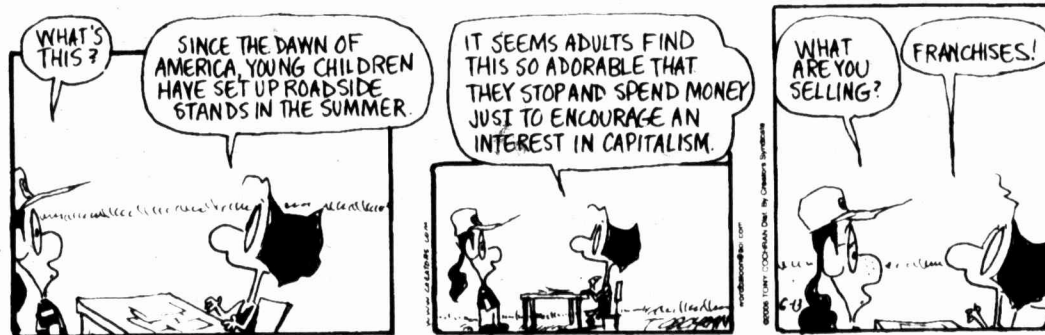
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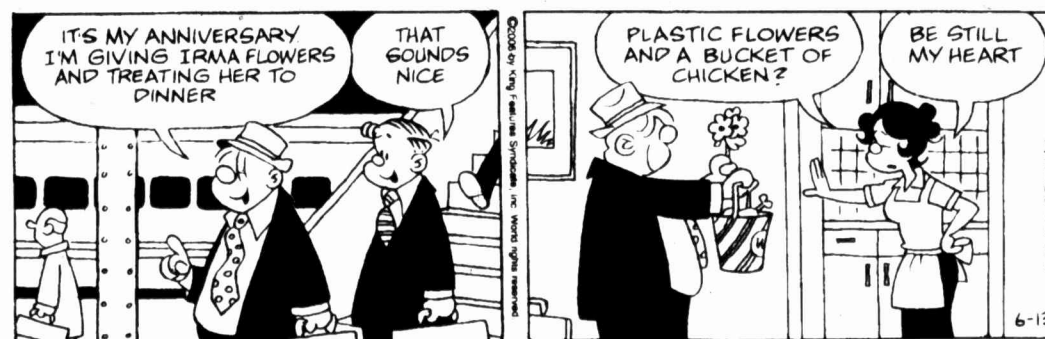
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AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, June 13, the 164th day of 2006. There are 201 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On June 13, 1966, the Supreme Court issued its landmark "Miranda" decision, ruling that criminal suspects had to be informed of their constitutional rights prior to questioning by police. On this date: In 1886, King Ludwig II of Bavaria drowned in Lake Starnberg. In 1888, Congress created the Department of Labor. In 1900, China's Boxer Rebellion targeting foreigners, as well as Chinese Christians, erupted into full-scale violence. In 1927, aviation hero Charles Lindbergh was honored with a ticker-tape parade in New York City. In 1935, James Braddock claimed the title of world heavyweight boxing champion from Max Baer in a 15-round fight in Long Island

City, N.Y. In 1944, Germany began launching flying-bomb attacks against Britain during World War II. In 1967, President Johnson nominated Solicitor General Thurgood Marshall to become the first black justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1971, The New York Times began publishing the Pentagon Papers, a secret study of America's involvement in Vietnam. In 1986, Benny Goodman, the clarinet-playing "King of Swing," died in New York at the age of 77. Today's Birthdays: Artist Christo is 71. Artist Jeanne-Claude is 71. Magician Siegfried (Siegfried & Roy) is 67. Singer Bobby Freeman is 66. Actor Malcolm McDowell is 63. Singer Dennis Locorriere (Dr. Hook) is 57. Actor Richard Thomas is 55. Actor Jonathan Hogan is 55. Actor Stellan Skarsgard is 55. Comedian Tim Allen is 53. Actress Ally Sheedy is 44. "The Early Show" co-host Hannah Storm is 44. Rock musician Paul deLisle (Smash Mouth) is 43. Singer David Gray is 38. Rhythm

Answer to previous puzzle

R	A	T	E	V	A	I	L	D	A	W	N	S
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A	I	R	P	O	C	K	E	T	P	E	N	N
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E	T	A	T	A	B	L	O	V	E	S		
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S	I	R	E	N	E	A	T	M	E	E	T	

Newsday Crossword

WHAT'S YOUR SIGN? by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 Western resort lake
- 6 Arthur of tennis
- 10 Start of a play
- 14 Chopping down
- 15 Dread
- 16 Culinary artist
- 17 Sign at a park
- 20 Born Free lioness
- 21 Simpsons daughter
- 22 State-run game
- 23 Jurassic Park beast
- 25 Public transportation
- 26 Tied up, as a ship
- 29 One on commission
- 34 Kitchen cover-up
- 35 Texas city
- 36 Historical period
- 37 Sign on a street
- 41 Yoko
- 42 Conversation filler
- 43 Duck relatives
- 44 Says in another way
- 47 Wall Street worker
- 48 Regret
- 49 Writer of rhymes
- 50 Beard remover
- 53 Castle surrounder
- 55 Did-farming work
- 59 Sign on a vacant lot
- 62 Source of gold
- 63 Med.-school course
- 64 Give a sermon
- 65 Droops
- 66 Summer month
- 67 Maui and Kauai
- DOWN
- 1 Capture
- 2 Skating leap
- 3 Goes quickly
- 4 Working, as police
- 5 Swelled head
- 6 Attach securely
- 7 Complete collections
- 8 "Very funny!"
- 9 Before, to a bard
- 10 Crossword column heading
- 11 Informal talk
- 12 Exam
- 13 In that case
- 18 Escaped
- 19 Attach securely
- 24 Tear apart
- 25 Ink stain
- 26 City boss
- 27 Share one's views
- 28 Sandwich cookies
- 29 Gurus
- 30 Sore spot
- 31 Get married again
- 32 Wipe clean
- 33 Check writer
- 35 as an owl
- 38 Solemn ceremony
- 39 Fairy-tale meanie
- 40 Pillow stuffing
- 45 Sources of treasure
- 46 Mystical glow
- 47 Wizard of Oz dog
- 49 Celebration with invitations
- 50 Tachometer reading; Abbr.
- 51 Operatic solo
- 52 Pizazz
- 53 Restaurant reading
- 54 Whitish gemstone
- 56 Vocal
- 57 Diminutive ending
- 58 Easter-egg colorings
- 60 Mahal
- 61 Luau course

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65						66					67			

Wacky Facts

The holiday Juneteenth celebrates June 19, 1865. That's when Union Gen. Gordon Granger read President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation in Galveston, Texas, announcing the Civil War was over and the slaves were free. So far, only Texas has made Juneteenth an official holiday. *World Almanac for Kids*

KID NEWS

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Chatter Box

"In high school, my friends dared me to walk into the Speedo store at the (local mall), try some on and go out into the mall wearing nothing else. Security banned me from the place for six months. I snuck back in there early though — with sunglasses."
— *Jake Gyllenhaal, in Twist magazine*



In The News



CHERYL DIAZ MEYER/KRT

Study shows some schools are cutting out playtime

Recess is being eliminated in some of the nation's public elementary schools, figures from a new government report show.

The report was released this spring by the National Center of Education Statistics. It found that between 7 percent and 13 percent of elementary schools no longer have recess. With concerns over childhood obesity and academic demands growing, these numbers have some parents and educators worried.



GIMME A BREAK!

While recess remains on the daily schedule at most public schools, supporters of playtime worry that it is in danger of being sidelined. Without recess, they argue that kids will not get enough physical activity or down time with friends.

"(Recess is) a time for children to be imaginative, to show innovation on the playground," said Diane Larson, a mother of four in Tacoma, Wash.

Even the Cartoon Network has joined the debate, spending more than \$1.3 million to save recess. The cable network joined forces with the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) to launch the "Rescuing Recess" campaign.

The plan encourages children and parents to write letters to local and state school officials emphasizing the importance of giving kids a "break" from academic pressures during the school day.

An informal survey conducted by the National PTA shows that more than half of PTA leaders believe students are less disruptive and concentrate better in class when they have recess.

"The kids study all day, and they need some time for social activities," PTA President Wendy Logan said. "And those kids who struggle sitting the whole day — they're the ones who need it the most."

A NEW FOCUS?

Some school leaders say that recess is being replaced to put more focus on test preparation. Another reason recess might get bumped is to make time for other extracurricular activities such as music, art and physical education (P.E.).

Ninety-nine percent of public schools reported that P.E. was part of the curriculum. However, more than half of those schools only offer P.E. one or two days a week. In any case, some believe P.E. doesn't make up the free playtime recess offers.

— *Vickie Au*

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Laugh Lines

Knock-Knock. Who's there? Tire. Tire who? Tire gym shoes — you're about to trip!

What's the world's largest punctuation mark? The 50-yard dash!

What is the noisiest sport? Racquetball!

THE GREAT BOOK OF SCHOOL JOKES

Here comes the sun

By Martha Sheridan, The Dallas Morning News

Nothing symbolizes summer better than the sun. There's a lot to learn about our nearest star, which may seem calm and steady but is always changing. We gathered some fun facts and activities to help you celebrate the sun this summer. Just don't forget the sunscreen.

THE BASICS

Why do we need the sun? Its energy causes weather and seasons. The sun provides heat for oceans, air and land. It creates water vapor by evaporating water from lakes and oceans, which drops as rain or snow. And plants and animals can't survive without light and water.

SUMMER SOLSTICE

Summer officially arrives on June 21, the summer solstice. It's considered the longest day of the year because it has the most daylight hours between sunrise and sunset.

In the summer, the North Pole tilts toward the sun, so the Northern Hemisphere gets more sunlight. On the solstice, the North Pole is tilted the closest to the sun. On this day, the sun reaches its highest point in the sky.

To learn more, go to www.teacher.scholastic.com/researchtools/articlearchives/space/solstice.htm.

SHEDDING LIGHT ON INTERESTING FACTS

Informative graphics and images of the sun make visiting NASA's Sun-Earth Connection Education Forum online worth your time.

Want to know how big the sun is? According to the site, 100 Earths can fit across the sun. If the sun were hollow, you could fit more than 1 million Earths inside it.

You can also learn about the Lakota Sun Dance, a sacred four-day ceremony and gathering of thousands of people. During the ceremony people dance, sing and fast. When you say the native word for Sun Dance, what you are actually saying is "dancing in balance in the circle of light, looking carefully at the sun."

For more information go to ds9.ssl.berkeley.edu/viewer/flash/flash.html.

BRING THE SUN INDOORS

Here's how to celebrate the sun even while you're chilling out inside.

LISTEN: The right songs can put you in a sunny mood.

- "A Day in the Sun," Hillary Duff
- "Here Comes the Sun," the Beatles
- "Soak Up the Sun," Sheryl Crow
- "You Are the Sunshine of My Life," Stevie Wonder
- "Walking on Sunshine," Jump 5 or Katrina and The Waves

WATCH: Here's a handy excuse to stay home and watch TV. Just tell your parents you don't want to get sunburned.

- "Holiday in the Sun" (Warner, DVD release 2004): Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen vacation in the Bahamas. Rated G.
- "Race the Sun" (Sony Pictures Home Entertainment, DVD release 2002): Based on a true story, Halle Berry plays a new teacher in Hawaii who inspires her students to build a solar car and enter a science fair. Rated PG.

DO: Learn more on the Web.

- Go to www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/astronomy/. Check out the links under The Sun.
- Search for the sun at www.planet-science.com for links to quizzes and more.
- Plug into the How Stuff Works Web site: science.howstuffworks.com/sun.htm.

SOURCES: THE SUN BY ALLISON LASSIEUR (2000, CHILDREN'S PRESS); DARTMOUTH COLLEGE WEB SITE AND DALLAS MORNING NEWS RESEARCH

MAGGI MANNING/KRT

AN EYE ON SAFETY

With the sun, you can quickly get too much of a good thing. A hat, sunglasses, sunscreen and long sleeves help block harmful rays so you can stay outside longer. Have you ever been warned not to look directly at the sun? Some people might say the dangers are exaggerated, but don't put your vision at risk. And never look at the sun through a telescope or other magnification because it's not worth the risk of damage to your retinas.

SUNNY PARTY IDEAS

Why not build a party around the summer sun theme?

- Send out homemade sun-shaped invitations.
- For refreshments, stick with sunny colors. Consider lemonade, decorated cookies or cupcakes, deviled eggs, orange slices, carrots cut into coins, cantaloupe melon balls, quesadillas, round scoops of orange sherbet. For variations on the sun theme, serve sunflower seeds and sun tea.
- Play sun-theme music or videos, especially if it rains.
- Buy a sun-shaped piñata and fill it with candy in sunny colors.
- For an edible party activity, decorate sun-safe cutout cookies. To create shortbread boys and girls, add frosting and fruit-leather for shorts, sunscreen, T-shirt, sunglasses, sunhat and anything else that protects kids from the sun.
- Make suncatchers or dream up your own sun-theme craft.

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