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SWCID eyeing milestone

April 10 event to mark college's 35th anniversary

By JULIE BASS

Staff Writer

This year, in April, the SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf (SWCID) will be celebrating their 35th anniversary. In honor of the anniversary, and to raise awareness for the school, there will be a “SCWIDFEST” with lots of free activities so that people of the community have a chance to explore the campus and bond with the faculty and students.

This year’s theme is “Hand in hand: bringing communities together.”

“We live here, we are a part of the community. A lot of people here do not know about the school, and we would like to bring awareness to everyone.” said Karen Bearden, Interpreter and member of the SWCIDFEST committee.

The festivities will kick off Friday, April 10, 2015 at 6 p.m. with a rattlesnake show and an ice cream social at the SWCID campus (located at 3200 Avenue C). Campus tours can be arranged for those interested in learning more about the school. Also, pictures of the items that are up for auction will be available to start the bidding for the silent auction.

On Saturday, April 11, the activities will be taking place at the Dora Roberts Community Center at Comanche Trail Park. There will be booths set up from various vendors, outdoor activities and tournaments. The auction will conclude on Saturday at 5 p.m. The evening will end with several special events planned,

See **SWCID**, Page 3

Let's go for a ride



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

The carnival is coming to town: Bennett’s Amusements, a New Mexico-based company, will have its carnival open for business Thursday-Saturday at the Howard County Fairgrounds. The county fair association will receive 25 percent of the profits earned during the run.

Carnival to provide trial run of sorts for upcoming county fair

BY LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

The carnival is coming to town and hoping to make a very good impression on the public.

Bennett’s Amusements, a New Mexico-based, family-owned company, will be open for business Thursday through Sunday at the Howard County Fair Barns.

It’s a sort of try-me-out-for-size affair for both Bennett’s Amusements and the Howard County Fair Association, which is hosting the four-day event.

According to Fair Board member Suzanne Markwell, the association has been shopping around for carnivals for the annual county fair and Bennett is interested in touring more in Texas. Both thought a test run would be the

See **RIDES**, Page 3



INDEX

Comics	13
Classified	9-12
Features	5-7
Obituaries	2
Opinion	4
Sports	8,14

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Senate, House GOP differ on Medicare approach

By ANDREW TAYLOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans are putting down a marker with their budget blueprint, one day after the House GOP unveiled a 10-year plan that boosts the military, makes deep cuts in social programs and targets President Barack Obama’s laws on health care and financial reforms.

Slated for release Wednesday afternoon, the GOP senators’ companion measure contains greater cost cuts to Medicare — \$431 billion over the coming decade, which matches Obama’s savings if not his policies — but doesn’t call for the dramatic transformation of the program for future beneficiaries that House Republicans are pushing.

“Deficits will soon shoot up dramatically if Washington doesn’t start making more common-sense choices today,” said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. “The reality is, our country still has many tough fiscal challenges to confront.”

The House plan reprises deep cuts to social programs such as Medicaid, food stamps and student loans as well as a controversial plan that would transform Medicare into a voucher-like program for seniors joining in 2024 or later. They would receive a subsidy to purchase health insurance on the private market.

To meet their promise to balance the budget within a decade, Republicans propose cutting \$5.5 trillion from a federal budget that’s on track to total \$50 trillion over that period. More than \$2 trillion would come from repealing health care coverage provided by Obama’s health care law.

Budget Committee Chairman Tom Price, R-Ga., said the GOP plan would “result in a government that’s more efficient and effective and accountable — one that frees up the American spirit ... to do great things and to meet great challenges.”

The latest House budget plan opened to mixed reviews from GOP defense hawks and brickbats from Democrats.

“Let’s just be honest and say we’re adding this much money to the deficit,” said Rep. Raul Labrador, R-Idaho, referring to an ongoing effort by GOP leaders to fix the flawed Medicare payment formula without fully paying for it.

The House plan also would account for almost \$1 trillion in higher tax revenue over a decade by assuming the expiration of popular tax breaks — known collectively in Washington-speak as tax “extenders” — such as for research and development. Republicans also promise to eliminate \$1 trillion or so in so-called Obamacare taxes such as a looming tax on high-end “Cadillac” coverage but assume unspecified tax increases to make up for the revenue loss.

The nonbinding measure sets broad goals on spending cuts and taxes but requires follow-up legislation. Republicans also promise to eliminate \$1 trillion or so in so-called Obamacare taxes such as a looming tax on high-end “Cadillac” coverage but assume unspecified tax increases to make up for the revenue loss.

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See **GOP**, Page 3



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Obituaries

Obituaries

Robert Edward Wernsman Jr.



Former *Big Spring Herald* Editor and Publisher Robert Edward Wernsman Jr. was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, Texas Tech University professor, mentor and friend. After fighting cancer for more than 15 years, he passed away at home on March 15, 2015, his family at his side.

He was born to Robert and Lola Wernsman on Oct. 9, 1952, in Prague, Neb. He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Peg, and survived by his sisters, Joanne, Tracy and Beth. Robert earned his bachelors degree from Peru State College and his masters from Northern Arizona University.

He went on to a long career in the newspaper industry, including several years at the *Big Spring Herald* in the 1980s and 1990s.

He taught for the Texas Tech University College of Media and Communication for 20 years. He was

recognized with the University Student Housing Professing Excellence Award and the President's Excellence in Teaching Award.

Robert also leaves behind his children and their spouses, Aaron and Scottie Wernsman, Kate and John Yoho, Rachel and Kurt Karg. In 1997 he married his best friend and the love of his life, Dr. Marijane Davis Wernsman. He was blessed to be loved and welcomed by her children and their spouses, Ben and Shawna Davis and Brandy and Rolando Rodriguez. To his many grandchildren, Abigail, Zoë, Konnor, Kendall, Jack, Lauren, Luke, Reese, Aidan, Aubrey, Brooklyn and Carter, he was "BobBob," consummate storyteller, playmate and confidante.

A celebration of life service was held on Tuesday, March 17 at 3 p.m. at Lake Ridge Chapel and Memorial Designers at 6025 82nd Street in Lubbock.

Those who were unable to attend can access a live streaming broadcast at www.memorialdesigners.net. The service was recorded and can be accessed there for 90 days. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Texas Tech scholarship being set up in his memory.

Paid obituary

Ron Logback



Ron Logback died peacefully on March 13, 2015 in Cypress, Texas, at the age of 75. A memorial service to celebrate his life will be held on Saturday, April 4 at 1 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Big Spring. The memorial service will be officiated by Pastor Bill Ivan and long-time neighbor, Tom Koger.

Ron is survived by his wife of 53 years, Sandra; son, Derek Logback and wife, Michelle of Cypress, son, Tal Logback and wife, Stephanie of Helotes; daughter, Amber Skinner and husband, Marc of Beaumont; and seven grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents, Ivar and Edwina Logback, and his brother, Jimmy, all from Antonito, Colo.

Ron Logback was born on Feb. 13, 1940, in Antonito, Colo. He graduated from New Mexico State University in 1962 with a bachelor's degree in education. He married Sandra Debusk, his college sweetheart, in 1961. After coaching and welcoming all three of their children in El Paso, Texas, he moved

his family to Big Spring, in 1975 where he would be a resident for 37 years. Ron served as a teacher, coach, athletic director, and retired as the assistant business manager of Big Spring Independent School District. He and his family were long time members of the First United Methodist Church.

Ron was a part of an undefeated football team at New Mexico State that won the 1960 Sun Bowl in which he was quite proud. Through the years, he has remained close to his team members and friends. He served as a determined coach and enjoyed woodwork and making crosses with Sandra in their retirement. Ron was passionate about his family that adored him greatly. He was a generous and kind man who loved serving others in his community. He was selected as the Big Spring Man of the Year in 2004. He was a dedicated member of their church family, as well.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to research on Alzheimer's or the First United Methodist Church in Big Spring — Maintenance or Missionary. The family would like to thank hospice for their efforts and care.

Klein Funeral Home, 9719 Wortham Blvd. Houston, Texas 77065. (832)678-3900.

Paid obituary

Debbie Joyner



Debbie Joyner, 62, of Odessa, died Saturday, March 14, 2015, in an Odessa hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. Thursday, March 19, 2015 at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring.

The family will receive friends starting at 2 p.m. Thursday, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Big Spring.

Debbie was born Feb. 27, 1953, in Basin, Wyo. She moved with her family to Big Spring where she graduated from Big Spring High School. She married Patrick Joyner Sept. 13, 1971, in Big Spring.

Debbie was a loving wife and a wonderful grandmother who had a deep faith in God that she passed on to her family. Some of her final words to her family and friends were "Stay close to God, even in the

hard times, He will never fail us."

Debbie is survived by her husband, Patrick Joyner of Odessa; four sons, Chad Joyner and wife, Candice of Odessa, T.J. Joyner and wife, Traci of Glen Rose, Wayne Joyner and wife, Amanda, and Cody Joyner and wife, Crystal, all of Odessa; eight grandchildren, Brooklyn, Londyn, Ryan, Peyton, Tyson, John Patrick, Jay, and Blake; two brothers, David Shryack and wife, Traci of Stanton, and Bart Shryack and wife, Laurie of Leander; one sister, Kim Johnson and husband, Bobby of Aledo; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Richard and Chiquita "Quita" Shryack.

The family suggest memorials be made to the Walnut Springs Baptist Church, P.O. Box 268, Walnut Springs, Texas 76690 where her son T.J. is pastor.

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

Paid obituary

Priscilla Romo Hernandez



Priscilla Romo Hernandez, 44, of Midland died on March 15, 2015. The family will be accepting guests from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Midland. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2015 at Mid-Cities Community Church in Midland. Interment will be at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 21, 2015 at Greenwood Memorial Park in Fort Worth, Texas.

Priscilla was born on Oct. 27, 1970 in San Antonio, Texas to Adelia and Alejandro Romo. She graduated from Thomas Edison High School with the class of 1989 in San Antonio before receiving her associates degree from Howard College. On Aug. 21, 1999, Priscilla married Ruben Hernandez in San

Antonio. The majority of her career was spent at Midland Classical Academy. She was a member of Mid-Cities Community Church.

She is survived by her husband, Ruben Hernandez; two children, Elyssa and Diego Hernandez; father, Alejandro Romo; mother, Adelia Romo; three brothers, Alejandro Homar Romo, Onezimo Romo and Alejandro Homero Romo; three sisters, Cindy Ortiz, Lourdes Noemi and Amy Devine; father-in-law, Joe Hernandez; mother-in-law, Maria Hernandez; two brother-in-laws, Robert Hernandez and Richard Hernandez; sister-in-law, Rosalynn Petrutsas; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in honor of Priscilla Hernandez to Midland Classical Academy, 5711 Whitman Dr, Midland, TX 79705, ATTN: Robin Long.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory — Midland. Online condolences may be made at www.npwelch.com.

Support Groups

THURSDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.
- Spring Tabernacle Ministries has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m. until noon and again at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.. The classes take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.
- Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you

don't want to. Flexible payment options.

- Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at Spring Town Plaza (inside the mall, across from the movie box office, next to Sears). Open meeting at 7 p.m.
- A Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder support group meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the VA Medical Center Veteran's Healing Center.

FRIDAY

- 7 p.m. — The Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at Spring Town Plaza (inside the mall, across from the movie box office, next to Sears).

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Glenn Strickland

Glenn Strickland of Midland, formerly of Big Spring, passed away March 10, 2015. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, March 19, 2015, at Christ Church Anglican, 5501 N. Midkiff Road.

Local 5-Day Forecast

Thu 3/19	Fri 3/20	Sat 3/21	Sun 3/22	Mon 3/23
				
73/54 Cloudy early with partial sunshine expected late. High 73F.	85/52 Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the low 50s.	67/48 Cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the upper 40s.	70/49 Chance of afternoon showers. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the upper 40s.	82/52 Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the low 50s.
Sunrise: 7:52 AM Sunset: 7:56 PM	Sunrise: 7:51 AM Sunset: 7:56 PM	Sunrise: 7:50 AM Sunset: 7:57 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 7:58 PM	Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 7:58 PM

AmericanProfile

CELEBRATING THE AMERICAN SPIRIT

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- ABEL VIGIL, 29, of 1510 W. County Road 52, was arrested on warrants for failure to appear, possession of drug paraphernalia and a warrant from another agency.
- ALEX SANDO RUIZ, 20, of 2744 Westbrook Ave., Fort Worth was arrested on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid from previous conviction.
- KARRI DAWN TINDOL, 42, of 2001 Morrison Drive was arrested on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- SCOTT VEIL AUTRY, 32, of 1625 Sunset Dr. Apt. 2502 was arrested on a charge of manufacturing/delivery of a controlled substance, more than 1 gram but less than 4 grams.
- MINOR ACCIDENT was reported in the 1000 block of E. 12th St.
- DISTURBANCE was reported in the 1800 block of S. Monticello St.
- THEFT was reported in the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.
- HIT AND RUN was reported in the 200 block of W. FM 700.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 74 inmates at the time of this report.

- ALEX SANDRO RUIZ, 20, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with previous conviction/suspension.
- KARRI DAWN TINDOL, 42, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- VICTORIA HANNABASS, 26, was booked by the HCSO on a bench warrant.
- SHANNON LEE CALLAHAN, 41, was booked on Reagan County warrants for sexual offender duty to register in 90 days and driving while intoxicated.
- SCOTT VEIL AUTRY, 32, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of manufacturing/delivering a controlled substance, more than 1 gram but less than 4 grams.
- JOSEPH RYAN CHAPA, 20, was booked by the BSPD on warrants for failure to report change of address and failure to appear.
- RAUL JOE AGUILAR III, 26, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief, more than \$500 but less than \$1,500.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Take note

• Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Health Fair is scheduled for April 11 at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum from 8 a.m. until noon. Admission is free. There will be health screenings, demonstrations, car seat check up, bike rodeo and more. For more information, call the chamber at 432-263-7641.

• 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.

• The Big Spring Symphony Board of Directors meets every second Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the symphony office, 808 Scurry Street

• The All-School CHS Reunion date has been scheduled for Saturday, July 25, 2015. This year's focus will be on recognizing and honoring Coahoma ISD teachers from throughout the years.

• Home Hospice is in need of volunteers of all

ages. The organization is requesting volunteers to sit with patients, make items for patients and help with office work. Volunteers set their own hours. For more information, contact Sherry Hodnett at 264-7911 or 432-213-0150.

• Crossroads Hospice needs volunteers for patient care. Contact Eva at 263-5300.

• A hungry child cannot learn. Food2Kids - Big Spring was created to provide nutrition for hundreds of children who do not get a substantial meal on the weekends. F2K began last November and this volunteer program now serves more than 300 children weekly. Once the need has been identified, F2K fills a sack of food to send home each Friday during the school year. You can help. Volunteers are needed and donations can be sent to Food2Kids - Big Spring, P.O. Box 1641, Big Spring 79721. Find us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/Food2Kids

• Order of the Eastern Star Big Spring Chapter 67 meets the third Tuesday of each month at 219 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Lodge meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Jimmy Ruth at 270-7263.

• Staked Plains Masonic Lodge No. 598 meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. (dinner is at 6 p.m.) at 219 ½ Main St. All Masons are welcome.

• The Crossroads Young Marines is taking applications for another boot camp. For more information, call 432-517-4791. Young Marines welcomes boys and girls ages 8 to 18 who are still attending school.

• The Big Spring Senior Center dance is open to all ages. No alcohol or smoking. Our parking lot is now well lit, and we are handicapped-accessible. Cost is \$8 per person.

• Victim Services is a non-profit independent community-based program serving victims of all violent crime, including, but not limited to, assault, sexual assault and domestic violence. Victim Services advocates are available 24 hours of day, 365 days a year. If you can commit to 30-hour training, an interview process and a background check, we need you.

For more information, call Linda Calvio at 432-263-3312.

GOP

Continued from Page 1

licans have consistently voted for its cuts in the abstract but haven't in many cases even drafted bills that would implement its most controversial cuts, much less try to pass them.

While promising balance by 2024, the GOP plan is likely to increase spending next year as Republicans prevent cuts in Medicare payments to doctors and

work their way around tight Pentagon spending limits.

The blueprint by Price would add about \$15 billion to Obama's request for overseas operations and would allow \$21 billion more if matched by offsetting spending cuts. That didn't sit well with deficit hawks, who say it doesn't guarantee enough money for the Pentagon, whose core budget essentially faces a freeze for the third year in a row with the return of automatic

budget cuts known as sequestration.

"This is a very serious issue. We can't address it through funny money in the budget. There needs to be an increase in the baseline number and I hope the Budget Committee hears that message," said Rep. Michael Turner, R-Ohio. "Obviously they're going to have difficulty trying to put together the votes for a budget that underfunds defense."

Senate Republicans, aides said, won't follow

the House's example and add to Obama's \$58 billion request for military operations and diplomatic efforts in the overseas war on terrorism as a way to skirt tight budget limits on the Pentagon.

Price is also replicating Rep. Paul Ryan's approach to cutting Medicaid and food stamps by proposing to transform them from federal programs into wholly state-run programs that receive lump sum funding from the government.

Ryan, R-Wis., was the previous Budget Committee chairman.

Cuts to Medicaid would exceed \$800 billion, said Rep. Chris Van Hollen of Maryland, top Democrat on the Budget Committee, who noted that more than half of Medicaid funds pay for nursing home care for the elderly poor.

Senate Republicans will propose greater flexibility for states to run Medicaid but not the lump sum approach of the House.

SWCID

Continued from Page 1

which includes a dance from 8 p.m. until 10 p.m.

On Sunday, the com-

munity is invited to share church service at the SWCID campus in the Maddox Student Center starting at 9:30 a.m. A continental breakfast will be served and the service will be

interpreted.

"Anyone wanting to donate items for the auction or set up a booth for Saturday can contact one of the committee members. And all activities for this week-

end are free of charge" said Bearden. The contact information is: klbearden@howardcollege.edu, jgreen@howardcollege.edu, or canderson@howardcollege.edu.

Contact Staff Writer Julie Bass 263-7331 ext 232 or email life@big-springherald.com

RIDES

Continued from Page 1

best way for each group to get to know each other and also gauge the public's interest in the carnival.

"We encourage the public to come out and check them out," Markwell said.

Entrance to the carnival is free. However, in order to ride the amusement rides, an armband is needed. The cost is \$15 for armbands on Thurs-

day; \$20 on Friday; and \$25 on Saturday and Sunday.

The carnival will open from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Thursday and Friday; and 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. or later Saturday and Sunday.

The Howard County Fair Association will receive 25 percent of the profits earned during the run.

If the both parties find a mutual liking, Markwell said, Bennett's Amusement will return to West Texas during the annual Howard

County Fair, which is set for Sept. 24-26.

According to its Facebook site (www.facebook.com/bennettsamusement), the company has been in business for 38 years.

Contact Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234.

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Heritage Museum of Big Spring



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Opinion

“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.

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• TED CRUZ U.S. Senator B40B Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510-4305 Phone: 202-228-0462	BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL
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• GREG ABBOTT Governor State Capitol, Room 2S.1 P.O. Box 12428 Austin, 78711 Phone: 512-463-2000	
• DREW DARBY State Representative Texas 72nd District P.O. Box 2910	

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- 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 e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com or mailed to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

DAILY PRAYER

May we remain diligent about reading Your word, Lord, for our life.

Amen

13 isn't unlucky, it's just a number

If you're "lucky" enough to be reading this you have survived a relatively rare event — consecutive months which contained Friday the 13th.

I don't want to be the bearer of "bad news," but November will also have a Friday the 13th, making it the third one for 2015. This is as high as it can go for a given year and last occurred in 2009.

Any common year that starts on a Thursday will feature three Friday the 13ths. Don't concern yourself needlessly because, according to the Gregorian calendar, Friday the 13th is actually more likely to occur than Tuesday the 13th or any other day of the week. Over the course of 4,800 months, Friday the 13th has happened 688 times, with Sundays and Wednesdays being closest at 687.

A fear of Friday the 13th is instilled in up to 21 million people living in America, according to Donald Dossey, the founder of the Stress Management Center and Phobia Institute. This results in people being afraid to leave the house, rely on air travel or even get out of bed at all on Friday the 13th. As a result, between \$800 million-900 million is lost in business on the day.

People who harbor a Friday the 13th superstition suffer from a fun little thing called triskaidekaphobia, or fear of the number 13. Superstitions retain surprising power today. Next time you're in a hotel, gaze at the elevator buttons — chances are you'll find no 13th floor.

Some surgeons won't operate on days they associate with bad luck. And weddings? From carrying the bride over the threshold to donning a bridesmaid's dress, nearly every nuptial rite is rooted in age-old superstition.

Now, lest you think me among the above referenced millions, I assure you I am not. I don't believe in blind luck, good or bad, so I don't mind walking under a ladder, stepping on a crack, sneezing, or spilling salt. And I couldn't care less what color the cat is that crosses the road ahead of me. And since I wake up on the same side of the bed every

morning that's never been an issue either.

Other than the replacement expense involved, it doesn't bother me to break a mirror and I've just simply never had any sensible occasion to open an umbrella indoors. Of course, I do wear my San Antonio Spurs watch every game day, but since they've lost plenty of times with it ticking faithfully on my left wrist, I'm guessing I could do them just about as much good by strapping on a pair of Converse All Stars and hitting the court with them.

I am unashamed to say I have never had even a miniscule temptation to waste time watching any of the 12 Friday the 13th movies, so I have no concern for Jason at all. Truthfully, I feel sorry for people who have allowed their minds to embrace superstitious ideas that have no rationale at all. Superstitions are really just persistent irrationality and they have the power to cause sensible people to act in unfortunately destructive ways.

One way to overcome your superstitious beliefs is to learn where they come from to begin with. For example, did you know that the belief that it's bad luck to walk under a ladder came from the idea that it was dangerous to walk in an area where work tools are likely to fall?

In "Extraordinary Origins of Everyday Things" (Harper, 1989), the scientist and author Charles Panati wrote, "In 18th-century London, when metal-spoked waterproof umbrellas began to become a common rainy-day sight, their stiff, clumsy spring mechanism made them veritable hazards to open indoors. A rigidly spoked umbrella, opening suddenly in a small room, could seriously injure an adult or a child, or shatter a fragile object. Even a minor accident could provoke unpleasant words or a minor quarrel, themselves strokes of bad luck in a family or among friends. Thus, the superstition arose as a deterrent to opening an umbrella indoors."

Spilling salt has been considered unlucky for thousands of years. It was originally nothing more than a concern for the value of salt. Around 3,500 B.C., the ancient Sumerians first took to nullifying the bad luck of spilled salt by throwing a pinch

of it over their left shoulders. This ritual spread to the Egyptians, the Assyrians and later, the Greeks.

The superstition ultimately reflects how much people prized salt as a seasoning for food. The etymology of the word "salary" shows how highly we value it. According to Panati: "The Roman writer Petronius, in the Satyricon, originated 'not worth his salt' as opprobrium for Roman soldiers, who were given special allowances for salt rations, called salarium, the origin of our word 'salary.'"

Many cultures agree that black cats are powerful omens, but do they signify good or evil? The ancient Egyptians revered all cats, black and otherwise, and it was there that the belief began that a black cat crossing your path brings good luck.

During the Middle Ages, people in many other parts of Europe held quite the opposite belief. They thought black cats were the "familiar," or companions, of witches, or even witches themselves in disguise, and that a black cat crossing your path was an indication of bad luck a sign that the devil was watching you. This seems to have been the dominant belief held by the Pilgrims when they came to America, perhaps explaining the strong association between black cats and witchcraft that exists in the country to this day.

But why is 13 unlucky? Is there any statistical proof to support the superstition? "No data exists, and will never exist, to confirm that the number 13 is an unlucky number," said Igor Radun of the Human Factors and Safety Behavior Group at the University of Helsinki's Institute of Behavioural Sciences in Finland. "There is no reason to believe that any number would be lucky or unlucky."

I agree with him and the Apostle Paul, who said in 1 Timothy 4:7, "Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness." (ESV)

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

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

Marijuana bill lost in smoke

Last year, Congress passed an amendment that barred the Department of Justice from using federal dollars to prosecute medical marijuana dispensaries in states that have legalized them. Last week, three senators proposed a measure to clean up the federal-state medical marijuana mess once and for all.

Sens. Cory Booker, D-N.J., Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., and Rand Paul, R-Ky., introduced their Compassionate Access, Research Expansion and Respect States Act, which should draw support from the right and left. Why? First, it would reclassify marijuana from a Schedule I drug to a Schedule II, granting recognition that marijuana has legitimate medical uses, a sop to the left. Second, it would direct the federal government to stop prosecuting dispensers in states that have legalized marijuana for medical use — a states' rights emphasis that should draw GOP votes. The measure also would allow cannabidiol imports to help patients with epilepsy and seizure disorders — the folks who need medical marijuana the most — and allow Veterans Affairs doctors to prescribe medical marijuana. Booker sees his legislation as a matter of "common sense, fiscal prudence and compassion."

For decades, Congress wouldn't move on medical mari-

juana because D.C. pols thought of advocates as goof-offs who just want to get high. They didn't see the legitimate medical benefits. Then, two years ago, CNN physician-reporter Sanjay Gupta looked at the issue anew and found that cannabis could help children with life-threatening seizures. Medical marijuana has been used to treat people with epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, brain tumors and post-traumatic stress disorder without the serious side effects often associated with prescription drugs.

From San Francisco, the CARERS Act looks like a political slam-dunk. It has bipartisan support. Already 23 states have legalized medical marijuana, which puts momentum on the "yes" side.

"It stands a good chance of moving because it's so bipartisan in nature," said Bill Piper, the Drug Policy Alliance's man in Washington, D.C. But: "The hard part is going to be getting it through committee." Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, opposes the bill.

Will Grassley allow the bill to come to a vote? "The committee is unlikely to take up a bill in the near future that remakes these laws so broadly," spokeswoman Jill Gerber answered. She added that Grassley "is looking at ways to lift any unnecessary barriers" to scientific research into marijuana-based medicines to treat epilepsy and other conditions affecting children.

There are 11 GOP and nine Democratic senators on the committee. I see three R's who

could vote yes; Mike Lee of Utah and Ted Cruz of Texas support states' rights, and Jeff Flake of Arizona voted for similar legislation in the House. Maybe I'm wrong. Maybe there are more.

That would put Sen. Dianne Feinstein in the middle. Other committee Dems are very likely to vote yes. On the one hand, Feinstein and Grassley often work closely on drug war issues. On the other hand, Feinstein does represent California. Her office told me DiFi is still reviewing the legislation.

Which leads to my final question: Would President Barack Obama sign the CARERS Act? Advocates believe that the White House could have and should have made marijuana a Schedule II drug years ago but didn't. The administration has been behind the curve. "Everyone pretty much believes that" Obama is not really for current federal marijuana laws, said Marijuana Majority Chairman Tom Angell, just as many believed Obama supported same-sex marriage back when he said he was against it. "I wouldn't be shocked to see him evolve on this issue the same way he did for marriage equality," Angell mused. "Maybe all we need is for Joe Biden to say that marijuana should be legal."

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



EDDY PRINCE



DEBRA SAUNDERS

Check this out: What’s at the library

We have some Westerns for your reading pleasure. “Lost Gold” (LP W BAL T) by Todhunter Ballard. Both stories are about young women who either have inherited a gold mine or have a map showing where a large amount of gold was hidden.

Both must decide who to trust to retrieve the gold and/or run the mine, who are trustworthy men and who won’t take advantage of their gender.

“Mark of the Hunter” (M WES C) by Charles G West is the story of revenge, which is a meal best eaten cold. Cord Malone was 12 when he saw his parents murdered and his home burned to the ground by the dirty dog that killed his family. Rescued by his Uncle Jesse, Cord had to wait to adulthood until he could track the murderer Levi Creed. The trail was long cold, but Cord was determined to find him.

William W. Johnstone along with J.A. Johnstone has a series called “Bad Men of the West.” One of the worst is John Wesley Hardin. His story is told in “Forty Times a Killer!” (LP W JOH W).

The library has received a load of ‘Dummy’ books.

I will just give you the title and call numbers and then you can decide which one you would like to check out.

For students, we have “Trigonometry for Dummies” (516.24 STE M) by Mary Jane Sterling and “Chemistry for Dummies” (540.712 HAT H) by Heather Hatori. Business people may be interested in “Quickbooks 2014 for Dummies” (657.904 NEL S) by Stephen L. Nelson, “Business Plans Kit for Dummies” (658.401 PET S) by Steven D. Peterson and we have “Grant Writing for Dummies (658.152 BRO B) by Beverly A. Browning.

On some different subjects: “Writing a Novel and Getting Published for Dummies” (808.3 GRE G) by George Green; “Medicare for Dummies” (368.426 BAR P) by Patricia Barry; and “ASVAB for Dummies” (355.007 POW R) by Rod Powers. On medical information: “Adrenal Fatigue for Dummies” (616.45 SNY R) by Dr. Richard Snyder and “Glycemic Index Diet for Dummies” (613.283 RAF M) by Meri Raffetto.

We also have “Everything” books: “The Everything Budgeting Book” 332.024 STO T) by Tere Stouffer; and “The Everything Guide to Codependency” (616.85 SOW J) by Jennifer J. Sowle.

While not a dummy or everything guide, here

are a couple of books to consider if you want to learn how to write. “The Book on Writing: The Ultimate Guide to Writing Well” (808.02 LAR P) is by Paula LaRocque, one of America’s premier writing coaches.

Her book contains 25 chapters in three sections: a dozen essential guidelines to good writing, from short sentences, to value of using a conversational tone; how to tell a story, how to build suspense, describe things, etc.; and finally a handbook writing mechanics such as grammar usage, punctuation and so on — everything you forgot in school!

I feel sure you have seen books touting apple cider vinegar as the ‘cure-all’ for all ills and for only \$19.95 plus shipping and handling, you can find out the secret of this ordinary kitchen staple.

The library can save you money! Come check out “Apple Cider Vinegar for Health” (615.323 BRA B) by Britt Brandon for 100 amazing uses for apple cider vinegar.

It promises to be another potentially dangerous wildfire season.

I still remember looking at the hill to the south and seeing it burn just like a volcano dripping lava down the hill at night.

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with a home inventory? Are your property insured? Is there a firebreak around your home? How can you evacuate? Does your family know where to meet?

All of this is something you must think about and plan for and Soles’ book will guide you in accomplishing those tasks.

I know I sound like a gloom and doomer, but the next book is important, too. “Build the Perfect Survival Kit” 9613.69 MCC J) is by John D. McCann and his book is designed for the average person to have kits for three scenarios: adventure, sport and travel. It is very thorough in what you should have and how

you can customize a kit to your specific area.

This column solely reflects the opinion of me and not that of Howard County Library. You can find us open Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; our internet/video room closes a half-hour early. We are open on Saturday, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.; our internet/video room closes at 1:30 p.m. In case of bad weather, do call to see if we open late or close early. We are located at 500 S. Main Street; phone is 432-264-2263, fax #432-264-2263; our website is wtls.tsl.state.tx.us/howard-county.

Hollis McCright is Howard County librarian.

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AMS DEPLOYMENT, AMS SURCHARGE, AND NON-STANDARD METERING SERVICE FEES FILED WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS

On January 23, 2015, Sharyland Utilities, L.P. (Sharyland), a regulated electric transmission and distribution company, filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC or Commission) a Request for Approval of an Advanced Metering System (AMS) Deployment, AMS Surcharge, and Non-Standard Metering Service Fees. The docket number and style of this application are Docket No. 44361, Sharyland Utilities, L.P.’s Request for Approval of an Advanced Metering System (AMS) Deployment, AMS Surcharge, and Non-Standard Metering Service Fees.

Sharyland is seeking approval from the Commission for its AMS deployment plan pursuant to P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.130 and the Commission’s order in Application of Sharyland Utilities, L.P. to Establish Retail Delivery Rates, Approve Tariff for Retail Delivery Service, and Adjust Wholesale Transmission Rate, Docket No. 41474 (Jan. 23, 2014). Sharyland is also seeking approval of non-standard metering fees pursuant to P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.133. Sharyland also requests approval of the AMS surcharges for recovery of the reasonable and necessary costs which Sharyland will incur under its deployment plan pursuant to P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.130(k).

If approved, Sharyland’s AMS surcharges will go into effect on July 1, 2015. The AMS surcharges will apply to electric service to residential customers and non-residential customers, other than those who have interval data recorder (IDR) meters or take unmetered service. The AMS surcharges will be billed to the retail electric providers (REPs) providing retail electric service to such customers in Sharyland’s service areas. The costs recovered through the AMS surcharges will be reviewed by the Commission in a reconciliation proceeding to be held in the future on a schedule to be determined by the Commission. Sharyland has proposed the following AMS surcharges:

Residential	\$3.17
Secondary Small	\$3.25
Secondary Large	\$4.60
Primary	\$3.52

Furthermore, P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.133 allows a customer to choose to receive electric service through a non-standard (non-advanced) meter and authorizes Sharyland to assess fees to recover the costs associated with providing the non-standard metering service from a customer who elects to have a non-standard meter. The following fees will only affect those customers that refuse installation of an advanced meter or any other retail customer who requests non-standard metering service:

Non-refundable, one-time up-front fees	
Advanced meter with disabled communication:	\$114.95
Existing meter that meets applicable accuracy standards:	\$167.04
If commercially available, an analog meter that meets applicable meter accuracy standards:	
Digital, non-communicating meter:	\$190.12
Recurring monthly fee	
During amortization period:	\$39.91 per month
After amortization period:	\$23.24 per month

If you have questions about PUC Docket No. 44361, please contact Bridget Headrick at Sharyland at (512) 721-2668.

A copy of the application is kept at Sharyland’s office at 1807 Ross Avenue, Suite 460, Dallas, Texas 75201 and at the office of Sharyland’s legal representative, Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP, at 600 Congress Ave., Suite 2000, Austin, Texas 78701, (512) 721-2700 (Telephone), (512) 721-2656 (Facsimile).

Persons who wish to intervene in the proceeding or comment upon the action sought, should mail their requests to intervene or their comments (along with 10 copies of your letter) to: Public Utility Commission of Texas, Central Records, Attn: Filing Clerk, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. The deadline for intervention in this proceeding is March 9, 2015, and the Commission should receive a letter requesting intervention no later than that date. Further information may also be obtained by contacting the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136.

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How to create an eggs-traordinary Easter feast

(Family Features) Brighten up your Easter feast with unique flavor twists to refresh traditional dishes like ham and deviled eggs. And don't forget the decorations — it's easy to create vibrant centerpiece using eggs dyed in the hottest seasonal shades.

"We've developed easy tips to dress up your table, from the ham to the centerpiece," said Mary Beth Harrington of the McCormick Kitchens. "An orange glaze can bring new flavor to the classic ham, while food color can be used to make a variety of spring-inspired egg dyes to feature in Easter table décor."

For more Easter dinner recipes and egg dyeing ideas, check out www.McCormick.com and visit McCormick Spice on Facebook and Pinterest.



Use food color to create custom egg dyes you won't find in a kit. Visit McCormick.com for seasonal color combinations inspired by the Pantone Spring "Fashion Color Report" as well as simple directions to create an egg-cellent floral centerpiece.

Orange Glazed Ham

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 1 hour 45 minutes

Servings: 24

- 1 bone-in spiral-cut ham, about 10 pounds
- 1 cup orange marmalade
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Mustard, ground
- 1/2 teaspoon McCormick Garlic Powder
- 1/4 teaspoon McCormick Black Pepper, Ground
- 1/4 teaspoon McCormick Cloves, Ground

Preheat oven to 325°F. Place ham on side in roasting pan. Mix marmalade and spices in small bowl until well blended. Brush 1/2 marmalade mixture over ham, gently separating slices so mixture can reach middle of ham. Cover loosely with foil.

Bake 1 hour, basting occasionally with pan drippings. Remove foil. Brush with remaining marmalade mixture. Bake 45 minutes longer. Serve ham with pan drippings.

Tip: Pair spices like ginger or chipotle with fruity jams and preserves to balance out saltiness of ham. Cherry Bourbon, Apricot Pineapple Chipotle or Lemon Ginger are easy flavor combinations your guests will love, and are all available on McCormick.com.



Smoky Deviled Eggs

Prep time: 10 minutes

Servings: 6

- 6 hard-cooked eggs, peeled
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 teaspoon McCormick Mustard, Ground
- 1/2 teaspoon McCormick Paprika, Smoked
- 1/4 teaspoon Lawry's Seasoned Salt
- 2 slices bacon, crisply cooked and crumbled

Slice eggs in half lengthwise. Remove yolks; place in small bowl. Mash yolks with fork or potato masher.

Stir in mayonnaise, mustard, smoked paprika and seasoned salt until smooth and creamy. Spoon or pipe yolk mixture into egg white halves. Sprinkle with crumbled bacon.

Refrigerate 1 hour or until ready to serve.

Tip: Deviled eggs are a snap to customize once you create the base of egg yolks, mayonnaise and ground mustard. Try adding chili powder, red pepper and cumin for a Southwest variation or dill weed and parsley for a Dill Mustard version.

Easy Lemon Daisy Cupcakes



Prep time: 30 minutes

Cook time: 20 minutes

Servings: 18

- 1 package (2-layer size) white cake mix
- 1 tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons McCormick Pure Lemon Extract, divided
- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, softened
- 2 tablespoons sour cream
- 1 package (16 ounces) confectioners' sugar
- 10 drops McCormick Yellow Food Color
- 18 large marshmallows
- Decorating sugar
- Jelly beans
- Green sprinkles

Prepare cake mix as directed on package, adding 1 tablespoon of lemon extract. Spoon into 18 paper-lined muffin cups, filling each cup 2/3 full. Bake as directed for cupcakes. Cool cupcakes on wire rack.

For frosting, beat cream cheese, butter, sour cream and remaining 2 teaspoons lemon extract in large bowl until light and fluffy. Gradually beat in confectioners' sugar until smooth. Stir in food color until evenly tinted. Frost cooled cupcakes.

To decorate cupcakes, cut each marshmallow crosswise into 5 slices. Sprinkle 1 side of each marshmallow slice with decorating sugar. Arrange 5 marshmallow petals on top of each cupcake to resemble daisy, pressing marshmallows into frosting. Place jelly beans in center of petals. Garnish with sprinkles.



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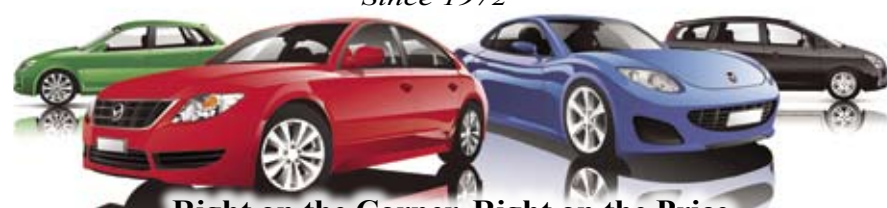
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Don't let failure derail your plans for success

Did you ever get discouraged when you were trying to get something done and everything seemed to go wrong? We have all been in that position at one time or another in our life and we must keep in mind that some kind of failure always occurs before success.



DARRELL RYAN

The majority of mistakes are unavoidable. Any time we are trying something new, we can expect to make mistakes and we must continue to tell ourselves that making mistakes is not really a problem. The problem develops when we do not learn from those mistakes. I heard a comment once that went like

this: "You want to know the difference between a master and a beginner? The master has failed more times than the beginner has even tried. Behind every great piece of art is a thousand failed attempts to make it, but these attempts are simply never shown to us."

If we are afraid of failure then we probably won't ever be successful. Our thought process must advise us that because we are not successful now does not mean it will never happen. Sometimes things have to go very wrong before they can be right.

We must keep in mind that being successful is taking action and being consistent.

Anyone can obtain success; it's within our reach. What we have to do is to think about one thing we've been successful at in the past. It doesn't matter what it is, it can be playing a sport or a musical

instrument or even a video game; just something we've done and had success.

Always keep in mind that success breeds success, and we must learn the skills at whatever we are doing. It will take time and we must continue to be consistent with our skills development and eventually things will start working out.

The important thing to remember is that we must take action. If we do not take action, we will not be successful. Someone once said, "I can't win the lottery if I don't buy a ticket!" Taking action is buying the ticket.

One step in the right direction is worth 100 years of thinking about it.

If we're not taking action because we don't know where to start, then we need to start anywhere, which is better than not starting at all.

The old proverb says

it plainly: A journey begins with the first step. We all desire to be successful and we are all successful in one thing or another. It is so important that we call to mind the areas in which we have achieved, and know that success is part of

who we are.

We have achieved, and we will continue to achieve — it's a mental concept we must develop.

Les Brown once said, "Accept responsibility for your life. Know that it is you who will get you where you want

to go, no one else. The only thing that stands between you and your dream is the will to try and the belief that it is actually possible."

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

Odds and ends

Ikea nixes massive hide and seek games at Dutch stores

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Ikea has a message for people wanting to converge on its stores for giant games of hide and seek: Go play someplace else. The phenomenon has taken off online in the Netherlands where a whopping 19,000 people signed up to a Facebook group promoting a game at Ikea's Amsterdam branch next month. Another 13,000 signed up for a game in the Ikea store in the city of Utrecht.

But the Swedish retail giant has bad news for folks wanting to hide among its room-like furniture displays: The numbers signing up are getting out of hand and the events have been blocked.

"We have contacted these pages on social media and humbly asked them to have their hide and seek games somewhere else," Ikea spokeswoman Martina Smedberg in Sweden said Tuesday.

Ikea doesn't want to be a spoilsport, but safety comes first.

"In general we are happy that our customers are playful and want to have fun together with

friends and family," Smedberg said. "But unfortunately this hide and seek phenomenon has reached proportions where we can no longer guarantee the security of those who are playing or our customers."

Woman charged with killing hunter's falcon to save duck

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho (AP) — An Idaho woman faces charges after authorities say she beat a hunter's falcon to death with a beaded scarf after seeing the bird of prey take down a duck.

Patti MacDonald, 60, of Hauser, was charged with a misdemeanor count of beating or harassing an animal, the Coeur d'Alene Press reported.

Authorities say MacDonald fractured the skull of the 8-year-old falcon named Hornet on Jan. 7. The duck also died and was being stored as evidence, Idaho Fish and Game said.

Hornet's owner, Scott Dinger, said MacDonald should be charged with killing a protected species.

He said he was about 500 yards away when Hornet made a successful attack and landed with the duck. He said

he was approaching the spot then he saw a red Jeep Wrangler pull up to the side of the road, and Hornet flew away but appeared injured.

Dinger said the woman told him she beat the bird, which had been with humans since the day it was hatched.

"So they don't really know they are falcons," Dinger said. "That was probably a part of his undoing, because you could walk up to him and he wouldn't fly or try to get away."

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Let the Madness begin

Science shows fans can't resist the underdog

EDDIE PELLIS

AP National Writer

If you got that warm-'n-fuzzy feeling the weekend Lehigh beat Duke or the year N.C. State socked Phi Slama Jama or the time Butler almost did it, you are not alone.

The science shows, again and again, that we can't resist pulling for the teams called the Anteaters (that's UC Irvine). Or for the UABs of the world to upend the UCLAs.

For the time-tested crowd pleaser, the No. 12 seed, and for anyone else with the label 'underdog' when March Madness rolls around.

About a dozen studies over the past 25 years have shown, in one way or another, that we, as sports fans, are inexorably drawn to the team with the odds stacked against it.

"It's the prominent narrative in sports," said Nadav Goldschmied of University of

San Diego, who collaborated on one of the studies.

This penchant runs counter to almost everything else we're wired to think. Scientific studies show people want to be associated with success and that our self-esteem grows when we're part of the "in" crowd. Walk one well-dressed job candidate through the door, then follow him up with a schlub, and the studies show the majority of us favor

the person who appears more attractive, almost regardless of their credentials.

But take that same dynamic into a sporting contest, where it's a scraggly No. 14 seed against a polished No. 3, and the perceptions change.

One of Goldschmied's studies had people watch a basketball game between two relatively unknown European teams after reading different write-ups about the rivalry.

One group was led to believe Team A had won the last 15 meetings; the other was led to believe Team B had won all those games. Who they rooted for tilted based on who they considered the underdog.

Furthermore, in both cases, the team perceived as the underdog was viewed as the team giving more effort with less ability.

See **SCIENCE**, Page 14

SMU's Brown makes first tourney since '88 title run

DALLAS (AP) — Larry Brown discovered something about his new iPhone when SMU finally ended its two-decade NCAA Tournament drought.

"I didn't realize how many text messages it would accept, so that kept me kind of busy," the 74-year-old Hall of Fame coach said.



Brown

Maybe the texts will keep on coming.

While the Mustangs are back in the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1993, Brown returns to the Big Dance for the first time since leading Kansas to a national title 27 years ago.

"I hope it's like it was in '88," Brown said, before quickly trying to divert the attention from him to the SMU players, who weren't even born then.

"At my age, I enjoy every day. I don't think about the NCAA personally," he said. "I think about our seniors, and what they've been through and now they get this opportunity. I think about last year, that Sunday, just how disappointed we were."

Ah, yes. Brown's disappointment at the Mustangs being left out last season after a loss in the American Athletic Conference quarterfinals is well known.

After winning the conference regular-season and tournament championships to leave no doubt about an NCAA berth this season, the Mustangs (27-6) are the No. 6 seed in the South Region. They play Thursday in Louisville, Kentucky,

See **BROWN**, Page 14



Corbin Kaufusi (44) of the Brigham Young Cougars boxes out Sebastian Saiz (11) of the Mississippi Rebels during the first round of the 2015 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament at University of Dayton Arena in Dayton, Ohio Tuesday.

First Four:

Hampton earns date with mighty Kentucky; Ole Miss rallies in second half to down BYU

RUSTY MILLER

AP Sports Writer

DAYTON, Ohio — Let this be a lesson to the 64 NCAA Tournament teams yet to take the floor: A quick start means a lot. A great finish is even better.

Reginald Jackson was at his best early and late to lead Hampton — just 12-17 and headed nowhere 12 days earlier — to a 74-64 wire-to-wire victory over Manhattan in a matchup of 16 seeds on Tuesday night at the First Four.

In the nightcap at the University of Dayton Arena, BYU led by 17 at half but Mississippi regrouped

in the second half behind Stefan Moody, outscoring the Cougars 25-0 off turnovers in a stunning 94-90 win.

"Welcome to March Madness," said Rebels coach Andy Kennedy after his team went from down-trodden to a second-round matchup with Xavier in exactly 20 minutes. "This was a tale of two halves."

The Rebels (21-12) move on to a date with sixth-seeded Xavier on Thursday in Jacksonville, Florida, on Thursday afternoon.

Meanwhile, the Hampton Pirates, who have won five in a row just to get to

the .500 mark, now get to play mighty Kentucky, No. 1 overall, 34-0 on the year and chasing history.

"It's a heck of a mountain, you know what I'm saying?" said coach Edward Joyner Jr. "We know that. We're going to go and compete. And let the chips fall where they may."

For Hampton, Quinton Chievous added 15 points and 13 rebounds before leaving with a sprained ankle in the final minutes. He'll be a game-time decision for Kentucky, as will leading scorer and rebounder Dwight Meikle, also out with an ankle injury.

The Pirates (17-17) scored the first seven points, led by as many as 12 in the opening half and then, after Manhattan had rallied within a point, pulled away at the finish.

Shane Richards scored 17 points and Emmy Andujar 11 for the Jaspers (19-14), champions of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Tournament.

"You have to give Hampton credit," said coach Steve Masiello, who played four years at Kentucky and would have been a star in Louisville had his team won. "I know we're

See **FIRST**, Page 14

Motiejunas paces Rockets to win

HOUSTON (AP) — James Harden wasn't at his best on Tuesday night.

The Houston Rockets still got a win over the Orlando Magic thanks to contributions from across the lineup.

Donatas Motiejunas scored 23 points and the Rockets used a big run late in the fourth quarter to break open a close game and get the 107-94 victory Tuesday.

Harden, who is second in the NBA in scoring, went 4 for 14, but made eight free throws to finish with 17 points on a night

when six Rockets finished in double figures.

"That's the beauty of this team," Harden said. "You got five or six guys in double figures. That means the ball is moving around and that means guys are getting good shots. No matter if I struggle or not, we still win and that's a great thing."

A driving layup by Victor Oladipo got the Magic within two points with about five minutes left before the Rockets used a 13-0 run, powered by three 3-pointers, to

make it 107-92 with less than a minute remaining.

Orlando's only points in the last 4:40 came on a basket by Ben Gordon with about 40 seconds left.

Along with Motiejunas and Harden, Trevor Ariza (17), Josh Smith (17), Corey Brewer (13) and Patrick Beverley (12) also scored more than 10 points.

Orlando was up by 3 early in the fourth quarter when Houston went on a 9-2 run, capped by a one-handed slam by Smith, to take an 86-82 lead.

Knicks surprise Spurs in overtime

NEW YORK (AP) — The poor passing and sloppy shooting in overtime hurt, though the effort was more disappointing than the execution to Spurs coach Gregg Popovich.

"We didn't respect the game," he said. "We didn't respect our opponent. It was a pathetic performance, and I hope every player is embarrassed. Not because we're supposed to win the game, quote unquote, but it's about how you play the game."

The NBA's worst team played it better than its defending champions, and the New York Knicks surprised San Antonio 104-100 on Tuesday night.

Alexey Shved scored 21 points

and made the key defensive play in overtime for the Knicks, who became the first team in NBA history to enter a game this late in a season with a winning percentage below .200 and beat the defending champs.

"It's a special win for the team and a good win for the fans," Shved said. "They saw a great game today and I hope we will show a little bit more wins."

Rookie Langston Galloway had a career-high 22 points for the Knicks, who held the Spurs to just one basket in overtime. Lou Amundson finished with 12 points and a career-high 17 rebounds while playing tough against Tim Duncan.

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4	2	7	5	9	1	3	6	8
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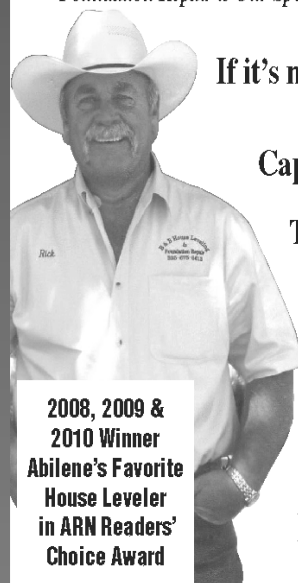
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Mercury and Neptune Conjunction

Do you consider yourself to be a spiritual person? If so, to what degree do spiritual pursuits impact your personal rituals, schedule and views?



HOLIDAY MATHIS

As Mercury and Neptune conjoin in the sacred realm of Pisces, you'll ponder such matters. Even those who do not consider themselves to be very spiritual may find themselves searching the heavens.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Finding the blessing in each circumstance is like hunting for ancient buried treasure. You don't even know what you're looking for, but whatever object you strike, it will pay to mentally dust it off and investigate further.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). What you want to happen will require vitality, bravery and honesty. You have it in you, and you're ready to

do the work it takes, mainly because you see the worthiness of realizing this goal.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You can't airbrush the present, but the past and the future can get as many touchups as you want to put on them. It's not a bad idea, either. A little glamorization won't hurt things.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Set down the weapons you use against yourself, as they will not be required today. Neither will the weapons you use on the rest of the world. The events will unfold peaceably if you let them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The socialites and the dilettantes can be good friends to have, but you also need a few people in your mix who are ready to get their hands dirty and go to the deeper level of an interest that will take work. This is what inspires you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When you're not given the advantage you would prefer, what you are given instead is the chance for an up-by-the-bootstraps story that will show you (and the world) just how resourceful you

are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Disinterest can be mighty effective in making others try harder for your attention. That's why you sometimes choose to deal reluctantly with something or someone you secretly can't wait to get involved with.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Unprepared? It's to your benefit. Today you're the perfect candidate to try a relaxed approach. Stay ready to use whatever resources show up in the moment (including your charm).

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The pursuit of pleasure won't result in pleasure. This is because you don't yet know what will bring you the most delight -- it's not the common or conventional thing. Today's pleasure will come out of service to another.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When the teller has to say "it's a joke," it's not a joke. You'll see right through lame humor and into the heart of a message. This is an opportunity for truth, and you'll use it to set things right.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be in a contemplative mood. When you have to speak, you'll do so with brevity and sincerity. Don't be surprised if this makes you the most interesting person in the room.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The reason you're not moving as fast as you want to is because your mind is burdened. The mental ball and chain strapped to your ankle has physical consequences. You also hold the key, though, so free yourself.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 18). Adventure, financial bonus and exciting relationships are featured through the next three months. You're prompt, and you prefer life events to meet you in that spirit. That's why the waiting you do in August and September may baffle you, but will ultimately turn out to be your biggest blessing of the year. Love signs are Gemini and Sagittarius. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 1, 3, 16 and 42.

UNUSUAL SPIRITUAL PRACTICES: The alignment of Mercury and Neptune in spiritual Pisces brings to question

the role of spirituality in our daily lives. Certain spiritual practices may seem unusual to you, but different religions, cultures and individuals connect with their higher power in different ways.

Digambara Jain monks do not own or wear any clothing. At all. Ever. They have but two holy possessions: a feather broom and a gourd for water.

In some Mormon denominations, adult devotees wear undergarments considered so sacred that even speaking of them publicly is considered offensive.

The Mevlevi Sufi Order practices "whirling" to honor God. Wearing felt hats and long flowing garments, participants enter a state of religious ecstasy by twirling until dizzy.

African sangomas believe that to harmonize the energy between the living and the dead, animal sacrifices must be made. Sangoma rituals also include chanting, drumming, dancing and potions.

Jehovah's Witnesses maintain their identity

and religious sanctity by adhering to many strict rules. The list of forbidden activities includes the celebration of any holiday including birthdays, wearing a beard, getting a blood transfusion, saying the words "good luck" and purchasing Girl Scout cookies.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Maroon 5 front man and coach on "The Voice," Adam Levine is a soulful Pisces born under a sultry Scorpio moon. With Uranus also in Scorpio, it somehow isn't surprising that the singer and his tattooed skin have been famously photographed in various states of undress. Scorpio lunar energy can be as raw and revealing as a love song and as bold as a provocative photo campaign.

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

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Annie's Mailbox ®

Dear Annie: I married "Oliver" 20 year ago, and we moved to a small Midwestern city where Oliver was offered a well-paying job. I'm impressed with my husband's "staying power" and am proud that he's been able to keep this job through thick and thin. However, his pay leveled out a few years ago, and he hasn't had an appreciable raise in many years. Our cost of living, however, has increased.

This is not an area where I can easily find a job in my chosen career. I've been fortunate to be able to work from home while raising our children, but the oldest will be out of high school in June. I've been unhappy here the entire time we've lived in this town. It's a declining

area, there is no job growth, and travel can be impossible in the winter because of the snow and ice.

I've tried to "grow where I'm planted," getting involved in the community and the school, but I'm dying on the vine. I've had enough. I want to move to a more vibrant area, a better climate, and a place where I have more employment options. Oliver, however, has no interest in relocating.

I want to be out of here within five years, when our youngest child finishes high school. But Oliver is a homebody and doesn't like change. We can't afford a second home or an annual winter vacation. If Oliver won't go, I'm considering leaving on my own. I've

put in my time, and he's had his career. When is it my turn? -- Stuck in the Midwest

Dear Stuck: You have five years to get Oliver ready for a change of scenery. Start to research areas that appeal to you and that also offer job opportunities for Oliver. Look into housing prices, cost of living and community organizations. Try to take at least one vacation in the area to see whether it meets your expectations. Then inform Oliver that this is where you would like to move and when. Bring it up every few months, showing him your "new neighborhood" and the things you will do there. Make it familiar to him, and he will be more amenable to going

there.

Dear Annie: I am a great-grandmother who left an abusive husband in the 1960s. My children were sexually abused by him. We have all been in counseling. I have uncovered intergenerational abuse in both my family and my ex-husband's family. Domestic abuse has also been found in the homes of my children and grandchildren.

I am presently doing all I can to protect the great-grandchildren. My ex-husband is planning a trip to see the family, and I have warned all the parents not to leave their children alone with him and explained why. He may be 80, but he is still capable of offending. As loving grandparents, we

must do all we can to protect the children. The healing is long-term. -- BC Canada

Dear Canada: Your family seems to have had some major issues with abuse that have persisted through the generations. We are glad all of you have had counseling. You also are wise to protect the great-grandchildren from your ex-husband, even though such information is often difficult to convey and believe.

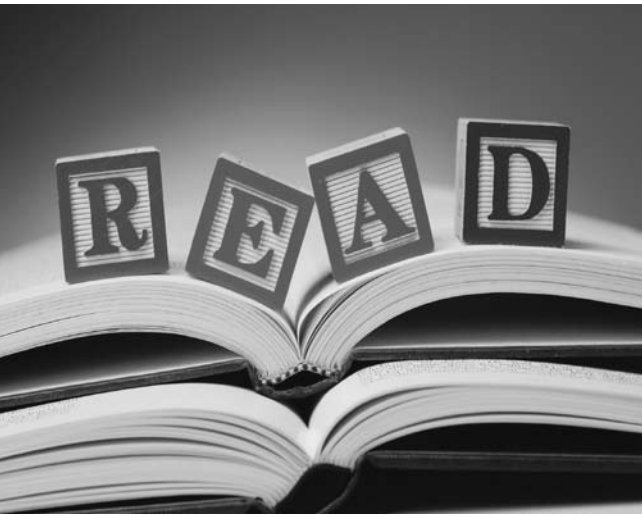
Dear Annie: Your answer to "Brokenhearted in Florida" was much too nice. I don't know what her circumstances were when she gave up her son, but to give up a child at age 4 is pretty harsh. Telling him he should

have contacted her sooner is just an excuse to avoid contact and is so cruel that I can't wrap my head around it.

It can take years to track down birth parents. "Brokenhearted" sounds like a cold woman without empathy. Maybe she deserves to feel a small bit of what her son has been feeling all these years. -- Stunned in Pittsburgh

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

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sudoku

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

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Hidden Asset

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ J 10 8 7 2
♥ K 9 7 6 3
♦ —
♣ 10 5 4

WEST
♠ 5
♥ Q 10 5 4
♦ A K J 3
♣ Q 9 3 2

EAST
♠ 4
♥ A J 8 2
♦ 10 8 7 5 4
♣ 8 7 6

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 9 6 3
♥ —
♦ Q 9 6 2
♣ A K J

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

Opening lead — king of diamonds.
Potential tricks come in all shapes and sizes, and in a variety of disguises. The secret to benefiting from them is to recognize their potential before it's too late to use them.

Consider this deal where North-South reached seven spades. After South's one-spade bid and West's takeout double, North jumped to four spades, indicating a weak hand with five or more trumps and distributional values. South showed slam interest by cuebidding clubs, and when North cuebid diamonds, guaranteeing first-round control of that

suit, South leaped to the grand slam. **Declarer ruffed** West's diamond lead in dummy and immediately embarked on a crossruff, hoping West had started with the A-K-x of diamonds, or that one opponent held A-x or A-x-x of hearts (a 1-1 trump split would also be needed in most cases). If so, a club could be discarded from dummy or his own hand on whichever red honor became established. Failing that, he could fall back on a club finesse.

After ruffing a heart in his hand at trick two, declarer ruffed a diamond, a heart, a diamond and another heart with the nine. When neither red ace fell, he cashed the ace of spades and ace of clubs, ruffed his last diamond and then led a club to the jack. West produced the queen, and South was down one.

Declarer's hope for a favorable lie in one of the red suits didn't go quite far enough. He should also have made allowance for the strong possibility that the opposing hearts were divided 4-4. To do so, he had to play a bit more carefully.

To take advantage of a 4-4 heart division, South must ruff the third round of hearts high. The nine of spades is then led to the ten, and a fourth round of hearts is ruffed. When both opponents follow suit, declarer ruffs his last diamond with dummy's jack and discards the jack of clubs on the heart king.

Tomorrow: Samson the giant-killer.
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5 :PM	News ABC	P. Luche Notic.	Two Men CBS	News CBS	Tele Noticiero	News News	Seinfeld Seinfeld	With Scholars	Scully Business	CHiPs	Dual Survival		Cops Jail	Supernatural	Keyshia Keyshia	Jessie Jessie	Around Pardon	SportsCenter
6 :PM	Jeopardy! Wheel	La Sombra del	Big Bang del	News Ent	Caso Cerrado	Newswest 9 at 6P	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Mani House	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H M*A*S*H	Dual Survival		Cops Cops	Supernatural	Keyshia	Dog Jessie	College Basketball	NBA
7 :PM	Middle Gold	Mi corazón es tuyo	Empire	Survivor	Los miserables (SS)	Myst-Laura	Big Bang Upd	Big Bang Dollars	Nature (DVS)	Griffith Griffith	Dual Survival	Movie: Above the Law, Henry Silva	Cops Cops	Grimm	Movie: Obsessed, Ali Larter	K.C. Liv-Mad.		NBA Basketball: Orlando Magic at Dallas Mavericks.
8 :PM	Mod Fam blackish	Hasta el Fin			Tierra de Reyes (SS)	Law & Order: SVU	Big Bang Big Bang	Big Bang Light of the Southwest	NOVA (DVS)	Heroes Twi. Zone	Dual Survival		Cops Cops	Grimm		Dog I Didn't	College Basketball	
9 :PM	Sound-Music	Que te Perdona	Mod Fam Mod Fam	CSI: Cyber	Dueños del Paraíso	Chicago PD	Big Bang Big Bang		Black Pharaohs	Cheers Cheers	Last Frontiersmen	Movie: Air Force One, Glenn Close	Cops Cops	Grimm	Single Ladies	Austin Liv-Mad.		NBA Basketball: Hawks at Warriors
10 :PM	News Jimmy Kimmel Live	Impacto	Noticiero Cleveland	News Letterman	Tele Titulares	News Tonight Show	Office Chevalme	Conan McDonald	HaYesod M:25	C. Burnett Perry Mason	Dual Survival		Jail Jail	Grimm	Keyshia Keyshia	I Didn't Dog	SportsCenter	
11 :PM	Nightline Extra	Contacto Deportivo	How I Met How I Met	The Late Late Show	Tierra de Reyes (SS)	Seth Meyers	Conan Upd		T. Smiley T. Smiley	McCloud	Last Frontiersmen	Movie: Ladder 49, Jacinda Barrett	Jail Jail	Supernatural	Wendy Williams (12:05) The Real	So Raven So Raven	SportsCenter	
12 :AM	Paid	Un Refugio	TMZ	Insider	Dueños del Paraíso	News	Cougar	Zola Lev.	(Off Air)		Dual Survival		Jail Jail	Supernatural	Lizzie Lizzie	NBA Basket	SportsCenter	
1 :AM	Paid	Alma P. Luche	Law & Order: SVU	Ent Paid	Pagado	(:07) Today	Movie: Ghosts of ...	Light of the Southwest		Gallery	To Be Announced		Jail Jail	Smallville	Xperiment One Mic	Cory Cory	NFL Live	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE

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This Date In History

24th president of the United States, Grover Cleveland, was born in Caldwell, New Jersey. In 1913, King George I of Greece was assassinated in Thessaloniki. In 1925, the Tri-State Tornado struck southeastern Missouri, southern Illinois and southwestern Indiana, resulting in some 700 deaths. In 1937, some 300 people, mostly children, were killed in a gas explosion at a school in New London, Texas. In 1940, Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini met at the Brenner Pass, where the Italian dictator agreed to join Germany's war against France and Britain. In 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Hawaii statehood bill. (Hawaii became a state on Aug. 21, 1959.) In 1962, France and Algerian rebels signed the Evian Accords, a cease-fire agreement which took effect the next day, ending the Algerian War.

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Newsday Crossword **PLANE GEOGRAPHY** by Melanie Miller Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Reduce drastically
6 Probabilities
10 Copper-coated coin
14 Candymaker Willy
15 Minestrone, for instance
16 Gung-ho
17 Be a cast member of
18 In this location
19 Persistently pesters
20 Baseball manager's aide
23 "The Red, White and Blue"
24 Lose traction
25 Lee of Marvel Comics
28 Gold ingots, e.g.
31 Cola-bottle size
35 Prof.'s degree, often
36 Tiny amount
37 Confident poker phrase
38 Meeting's agenda item
41 Put faith in
42 Naval lockup
43 Bit of body art
44 Pre-adolescent
45 Windshield coloring
46 Kids' room clutter
47 Kudrow of Friends
49 Scratch up
51 Chicken/egg dilemma
58 Picnic spoiler
59 Cajun veggie

DOWN

1 Heavy blow
2 ___ Ness monster
3 Prefix for virus
4 Slalom slope
5 Ranch workers
6 Worker safety org.
7 Performs
8 Undue pressure
9 Tiny dot
10 Mountie, for one
11 Rescue mission, for short
12 Nearby, in poems
13 Scores by QBs
21 Large monkey
22 Offshore drilling structure
25 Hockey or handball
26 Sent flying
27 Bewilder
29 Explosive-regulating agcy.
30 Synagogue scholar
32 Connect with
33 Opinion piece
34 Gets some down time
36 Amusingly unexpected
37 Self-conscious question
39 Cosmetic in a pencil
40 Vase with a pedestal
45 Fishing gear
46 Threefold
48 Sand bar
50 Going on, to Sherlock
51 Hourly pay
52 Add to the team
53 What fills sleeves
54 Large-scale
55 Clears (of)
56 Huffu mood
57 Golf pegs
58 Curtain holder

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SCIENCE

Continued from Page 8

“That’s just the story we tell ourselves,” Goldschmied said. “We don’t have to look too deep to figure it out.”

One minor detail: It’s not always true.

Another study conducted by an Ohio State professor showed that

groups that felt they had more to lose actually tried harder, which basically tears apart the whole theory that the Lafayettes, Eastern Washingtons and Belmonts of the world will be laying more on the line this week than Kentucky, Kansas and Wisconsin.

In this study, college students were asked to perform a simple task,

and were told a group of students from another specific college was doing the same work.

In the studies where one of the competing schools was listed appreciably higher in the U.S. News and World Report college rankings, the students from that school completed about 30 percent more of the task — in short, they worked harder — than

when they were competing against a college ranked better or equal to theirs.

Conclusion: “The motivation gains were there when students felt their group’s superior status was threatened,” said the study’s co-author, Robert Lount of Ohio State’s Fisher College of Business.

For all our love of underdogs, there are a few

exceptions.

If a person has a specific rooting interest in a team — say the college they graduated from — they tend to favor that team, even if the team isn’t the underdog.

It helps explain a study that found when big-conference teams are seeded better in games against mid-majors in the tournament, the Vegas point spread for the

big-conference teams is inflated by an average of about two points a game.

“You look at the power conferences, and you see their following is much stronger than those of the smaller schools,” said the study’s co-author, Jim Lackritz, a statistics expert at San Diego State. “People put their money where their hearts are.”

FIRST

Continued from Page 8

all caught up in whether they had a losing record, (the fact that) they’re 68th and we’re 67. But they came out and played tonight.”

Moody scored 26 points and led Mississippi’s comeback from a 17-point halftime. The Rebels trailed until Moody led a 15-2 run midway through the second half. He hit a late 3-pointer that helped finish off the tournament’s first big comeback.

Kennedy said he made a couple of minor adjustments at the half and also asked his players to prove they belonged in the tournament.

“Definitely there was a sense of urgency,” Moody said of the half-time speech. “We could have come back out and it could have gotten worse. But AK challenged us and we responded.”

M.J. Rhett added 20 points for Ole Miss, including a pair of three-point plays and a dunk during the go-ahead run.

BYU (25-10) pulled off

the biggest comeback in NCAA Tournament history in Dayton three years ago, rallying from a 25-point first-half deficit to a 78-72 win over Iona. This time, the Cougars couldn’t hold the big lead.

“This game will sting for quite a while,” coach Dave Rose said.

Tyler Haws, BYU’s all-time leading scorer, had 33 points.

“We didn’t really have an answer for them defensively,” said Tyler Haws, who scored 33 for BYU. “And they just made plays in the second half.”

BROWN

Continued from Page 8

against UCLA (20-13), a team Brown took to the national championship game in 1980.

Asked what his emotions were when he realized the opening opponent was UCLA, Brown quipped, “I thought I coached everybody.”

This is Brown’s 40th season as a head coach, a resume that includes a record nine NBA teams among his 14 coaching jobs. He is the only coach to win both an NCAA championship and NBA title (2004 Detroit Pistons).

Brown is in his third season at SMU, which last won an NCAA Tournament game in 1988, the year of the coach’s national title with the Jayhawks before returning to the NBA with the San Antonio Spurs.

“I think he’s just proud of us as a team, fighting through adversity,” senior guard Ryan Manuel said.

“It’s just big for the school that we haven’t

been here in a long time. I think it just puts SMU back on the map as far as basketball.”

The Mustangs made it to the NIT championship game last season, after the bitter disappointment of being left out of the 68-team NCAA field. They never heard their name called while watching the NCAA selection show last March with more than 1,000 of their fans.

“It means a lot. It’s the same group that was sitting at Moody last year,” senior center Yanick Moreira said. “We’ve been talking about this the whole year since we came back. We just used that as a motivation for us.”

Not that everything has gone smoothly since

then.

Prized recruit Emmanuel Mudiay, a 6-foot-5 McDonald’s All-American point guard from the Dallas area, decided last summer to play professionally in China instead of at SMU.

Big man Markus Kennedy, named most outstanding player in the AAC tournament last week, missed the first 10 games of the season because of academic ineligibility.

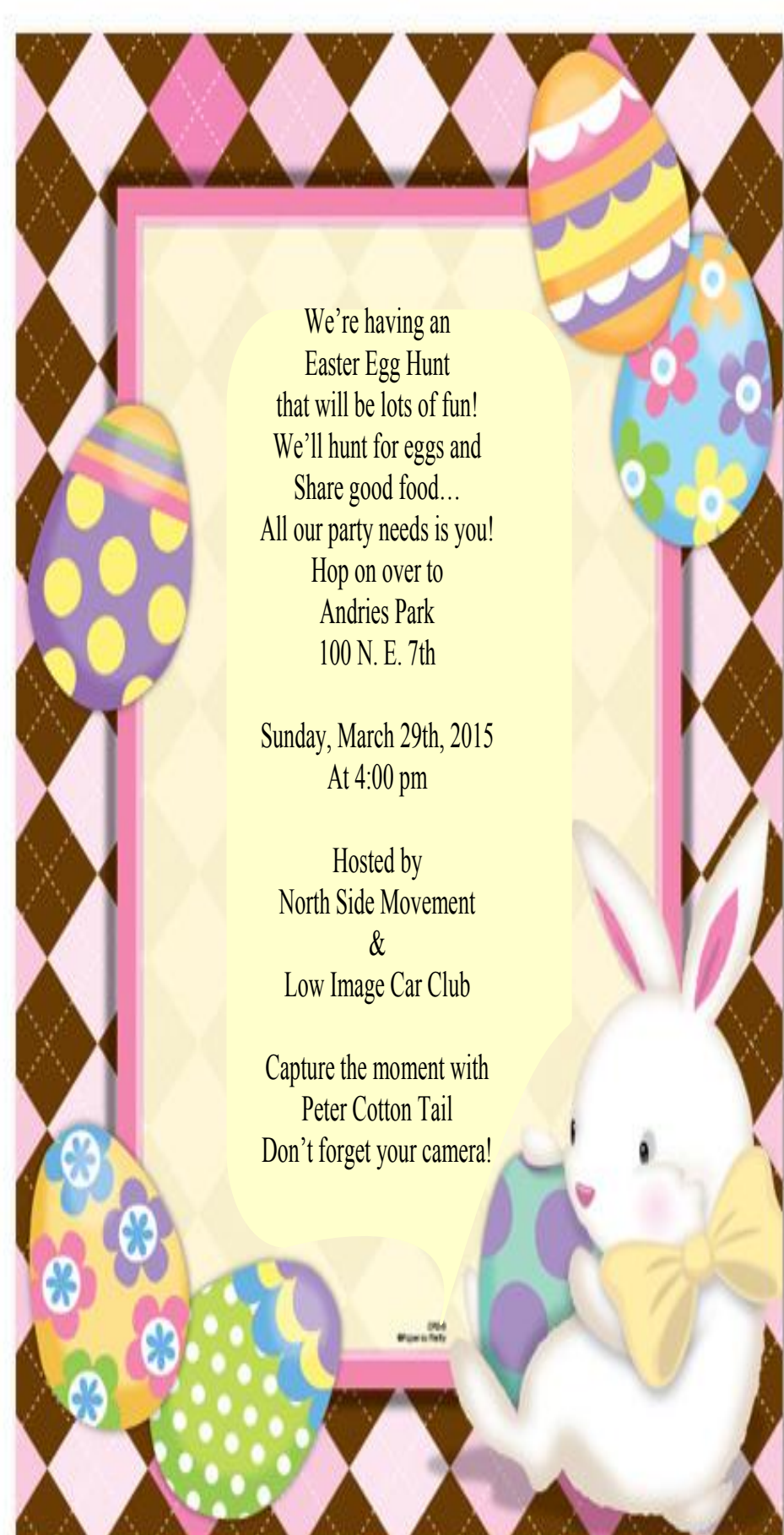
Xavier transfer Justin Martin left the team in January, not long before guard Keith Frazier was lost for the season because of academic issues.

“I don’t think any team’s been through as much adversity as this team,” Brown said.

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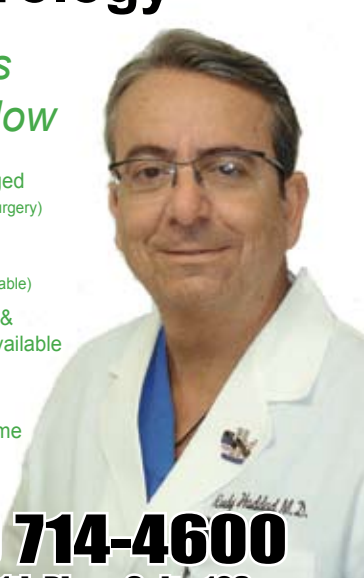
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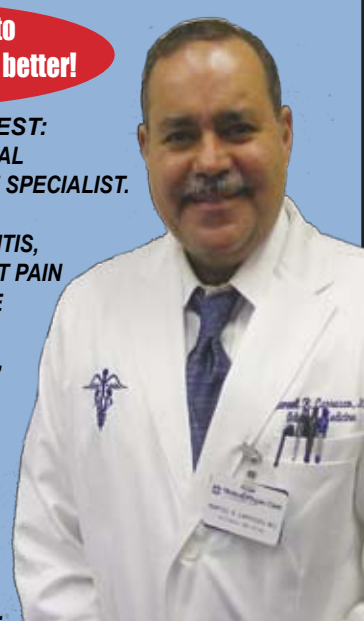
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