Straight from The Horse's Mouth

Laura St. John

Dreams. Struggle. Inspiration. Pushing the limits. Beating the clock. It's what sport is about. It's what life is about.

Although I know little about winter sports I watched a lot of the Vancouver Olympics. Ever since seeing gymnasts Olga Korbut in '72 and Nadia Comaneci in '76 I have been hooked on the personal stories of sacrifice, heartbreak and persistence. Who was not reduced to tears by skater Joannie Rochette's performance after losing her mother days before? My heart swelled with pride even, because I am married to a Canadian. They did a good job of promoting the kindness and generosity of those from the Great White North.

It is a rare occasion when the world takes time out to put aside the rancor of international struggle and celebrate some of the best of humanity. Sport a perfect vehicle. It parallels daily life and business as well, on every level. It is a way of unifying people across the lines of class, culture and race. Whether it's pursuing a dream, overcoming challenges, pulling together to achieve greatness, appreciating the spirit of competition, knowing what it means to be an underdog, dealing with loss, winning with grace, losing with dignity, coming back from injury, etc.; learning and understanding how to handle any of these situations contributes to building perhaps the most important thing anyone looks for in a partner, employee, boss or friend – character. Character counts. It matters. And it's just one of the many things you can truly develop through sport.

The lessons learned through sport give us perspective and teach us how to handle adversity. They provide us with cues on how to deal with whatever life or business throws our way. At some point in each of our lives, we will face adversity in both our professional and personal lives. When we do, we will need our friends, family and faith more than ever. We need our "teammates." They help get us through and we must do the same for them.

Do not assume that Olympian aspirations are only for those at the pinnacle of their field. Business success or a gold medal on the podium is simply the accumulation of millions of tiny moments when the difficult choice is made to endure. Every day we can choose an easy short cut or make the sacrifice needed to push ahead. The common thread we share with Olympians is that we have the same number of moments available to us. There they go now...tick tock tick tock.

Tales from WannaBea Farm

Joyce Stark

Disappearing Squirrels

I once lived in a city with a beautiful courthouse surrounded by old, moss laden, oak trees filled with squirrels. The benches scattered around were always full of older, retired people and young mothers with their children, feeding the squirrels with peanuts bought from the peanut vendor located by the courthouse door. Every day the lawn would be full of people sitting on the benches, feeding the squirrels, while the children ran around trying to catch them. Now even though they were ALMOST tame, they were still very wary and would not let you touch them.

One bright morning one of the old men commented that there didn't seem to be as many squirrels as there had been. People started looking around and sure enough, the square just didn't have the squirrel populace that it had in the past. Where were the squirrels? Nobody seemed to know what had happened to them.

The city brought in the animal control officers to check it out but they couldn't find a reason for the decline. They looked for dead squirrels, thinking that maybe there was a disease that was killing them off. No bodies were to be found, but something had to be happening to them.

They called in an expert from the state agricultural department. He came and captured some of the squirrels and ran tests on them trying to find an answer. All the squirrels were very healthy. So what on earth was happening to the squirrels?

The mayor had always enjoyed watching the squirrels from his office window as it seemed to help him think when he had a particular problem. Standing there at his window one sunny, spring day he noticed an elderly woman limping into the square. "She's getting so old", he thought, as he watched her pushing her walker ahead of her. She was one of the regulars and had been coming every day now for several years ever since her husband had died, and he had watched her as her health had steadily declined.

The old lady eventually found her favorite bench and settled in, sitting her purse on one side of her and laying her tote bag on the other side of her. The mayor continued to absent mindedly watch her as she removed what looked like a large rock from her tote and placed it next to her purse. She then began to meticulously arrange her tote bag with the snap-lock handles opened and facing the front of the bench.

"What on earth is she doing?" he asked himself. Giving her his full attention now, he watched as she placed a few peanuts just inside the mouth of the tote bag and then began luring a squirrel closer and closer, a peanut at a time until the now unwary squirrel was in the bag. Snapping shut the bag; she grabbed the rock and knocked the fat, little squirrel in the head.

The astonished mayor turned and ran down the stairs and caught up with the woman as she was putting her rock into her purse and preparing to leave. When she realized the was caught, she started crying, explaining to the mayor that her poor husband had always kept them supplied with fresh game and fish but now he was dead and she didn't have enough money to buy meat, and even if she had the money she didn't like store bought meat as much as fresh game. She couldn't hunt as her old hands were so arthritic that she couldn't hold the gun steady, much less pull the trigger but she could wield that rock and have her squirrel stew.

Don't ever underestimate a little old lady!

This story does have a happy ending though. When some of the members of a local hunting club found out about her they decided to keep her in venison, rabbits, squirrel and fish year round. She never went hungry again.

BOB BOWMAN'S EAST TEXAS

A LOOK AT HISTORIC PLACES, PEOPLE AND EVENTS

Fire lookout towers

Long before the Texas Forest Service started using airplanes to spot forest fires, men climbed to the highest pine tree they could find, preferably one sitting atop a hill.

Fire spotting trees were seldom effective, especially when winds swayed the pines, causing some spotters to become sick.

So the Forest Service began building metal lookout towers at strategic locations in the forests. Fire spotters then had to climb long stairways before they reached cabs at the top of each towers.

The towers were more effective, but teenagers on a lark were prone to climb the towers, too. Some threw items on cars traveling on nearby roads.

Next, the Forest Service turned to an even better way to spot fires--by airplanes which could fly higher, go anywhere the pilot pleased, and had mobile connections with ground forces who could move faster to fire sites.

Today, the planes are still flying--and some of the old lookout towers are still standing, but are rarely used. Mostly, they're relics of another era and one has become a part of the Texas Forest Museum at Lufkin, surrounded by a logging train and other memorabilia from sawmills and logging camps.

The 100-foot tower at Lufkin has also been altered to prevent access by would-be climbers, but a lookout cab once used on another tower is displayed inside the Museum's main building.

Towers such as the one at Lufkin were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1936 and used from the thirties until they were phased out in the l970s.

The Lufkin tower, which was moved from its site near Conroe in 1976, is part of an array of early equipment used by the forest products industry, including a 1908 locomotive and tender, a 1902 caboose made by the Angelina & Neches River Railroad, a steam log-loader which could pivot on its railroad car,
a 1946 log truck, a 1950s road grader, a railroad depot from Camden in Polk County, and a derrick car used by a railroad to handle bridge timbers.

Some lookout towers can still be found throughout East Texas, such as near Bethany on the Texas-Louisiana line, near Mount Enterprise in Rusk County, at Love's Lookout north of Jacksonville, and beside U.S. 69 at Central north of Lufkin.

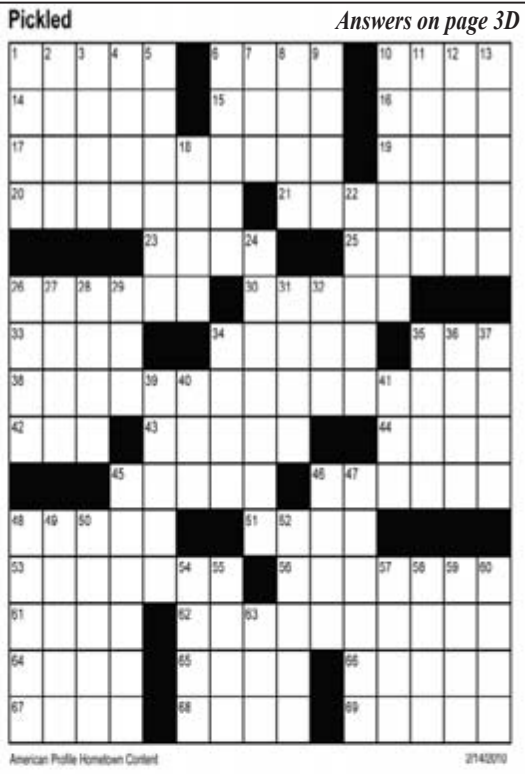
Sudoku Puzzle #1727-M

Answers on page 3D

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

Pickled

Answers on page 3D



ACROSS

1. Politico Thurmond
6. Out of harm's way
10. Fat unit
14. Tara surname
15. Nudge forward
16. Mortgage option, for short
17. Russian art treasure
19. "In memoriam" item
20. River crosser, perhaps
21. Churchill's V, for one
23. Marx instrument
25. Bewhiskered swimmer
26. Modern video gear
30. Printer's proof
33. Post-mark currency
34. Bother greatly
35. NYC sports venue
38. Hard to grasp
42. Kiltie's topper
43. "__ Irish Rose"
44. 1/640 square mile
45. Sign of a dying fire
46. Knitted blanket
48. "Forever" item first sold in 2007
51. Yemen's capital
53. Spa treatment
56. Metallic marble
61. Just sitting there
62. Misleading lead
64. Three-__ sloth
65. Sunburn spray additive
66. Alpha's opposite
67. Pulls a boner
68. Stoogian ammo
69. Went carefully

DOWN

1. Like talc, on the Mohs scale
2. "There's gold in them __ hills"
3. Broccoli __
4. Assayers assay them
5. George's first lady
6. "Inside the Third Reich" author
7. "__ we there yet?"
8. Verne's circumnavigator
9. Decorate the perimeter of
10. Blue __ (Capri attraction)
11. Counter, in a debate
12. Full of zeal
13. Bishop's topper
18. __ rock (Bowie genre)
22. Somewhat, slangily
24. Penance recital
26. Buffalo Bill's Wild __ Show
27. Faulkner femme fatale __ Varner
28. Fedora feature
29. Radar gun wielder
31. JFK postings
32. Faux __ (boo-boo)
34. Ashtabula's lake
35. Branch of engineering: Abbr.
36. Blood fluids
37. Secluded valley
39. Argentine expanse
40. Slack off
41. Habitual complainer
45. War reporters, nowadays
46. Penny __ poker
47. Denmark's __ Islands
48. Clobber, bible-style
49. House of Henry VIII
50. "Inferiority complex" coiner Alfred
52. Urn filler
54. Suffix with rat or rattle
55. Prefix with pad or port
57. Witty Bombeck
58. Word in some epitaphs
59. "Bus Stop" playwright
60. "Jeepers!"
63. Anonymous surname

American Profile Hometown Content 2/14/2010

Dew ISD to host Scholastic Book Fair

TEAGUE, TX: Dew Elementary and Jr. High will host a Scholastic Book Fair on March 8-12, 2010 to help raise funds for library books and materials.

The theme of this year's fair is "Book Fair Diner: All You Can Read." The fair will feature specially priced books and educational products, including newly released books, award-winning titles, children's classics, interactive software and current bestsellers from various publishers. The Classroom Wish List program also makes it possible for those attending to purchase books requested by the teachers for their classroom libraries.

The Fair will be open each day from 7:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. The Fair will open from 7:45 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 11, 2010 for a special Family Night hosted by the DEW PTO. This special night will include a FREE Hamburger Supper beginning at 5:30 p.m..

Those attending may help build classroom libraries by purchasing books for teachers through the Classroom Wish List program.

Everyone is invited to come by the DEW Library and check out the Scholastic Book Fair. Your support of the school is greatly appreciated.

For more information please contact Rebecca Brewer, Librarian at DEW ISD at 903-389-2828.

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Community Calendar

The American Legion Post #335 will hold our monthly meeting on Saturday March 6th at 6pm. Our meeting is held at the Centerville municipal building located across from the Post Office. We would like to invite all veterans and their spouses to attend. We will be serving sandwiches, dips & chips and desserts. Please come and join us and learn what you can do to help not only our veterans but also our soldiers that are serving now. Anyone who would like further information on our organization you may send us an email to americanlegionpost335@yahoo.com.

A one-day AARP Driver Safety Program will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 18 at the Meals On Wheels/Palestine Senior Activity Center located at 200 N. Church St. in Palestine. The refresher course is designed for drivers 50 years of age and older, but is open to anyone. The cost of the course is $12 for AARP members and $14 for non-members. For more information, or to register for the class which will be held to 15 participants, please contact Leigh Ann Murff at 903-729-0255.

Join us Saturday, March 20 from 8-12 for the Dogwood Trails Kick-Off Dance featuring Shiloh at the Meals On Wheels/Palestine Senior Activity Center located at 200 N. Church St. Appetizers will be served but feel free to bring snacks to share. Coffee and tea will be provided. Cost is $8.00 per person or $15.00 per couple. This dance is open to the general public and we hope to see all of your there - old, young, everyone is invited! Call today and make your reservation - 903-729-0255.

Donate Your Prescription Eyeglasses! The Buffalo Lions Club has placed collection boxes to Recycle for Sight at the following locations: Citizen's State Bank, Pruitt Cleaners, Brookshire Brother's Pharmacy, Dr. Vicki Camp, Davis Feed, and Community National Bank. Remember, old glasses give new sight. For more information contact: Sight Conservation Chairman Jean Turner 936-349-2244.