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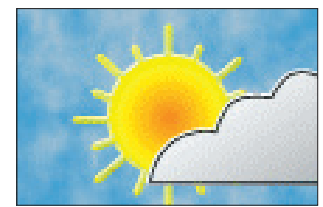
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BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY

MAY 12, 2011



VOLUME 106, NUMBER 139

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Letter carriers to bring home the bacon

By **AMANDA MORENO**
 Staff Writer

Area post offices and the West Texas Food Bank are joining together to collect food, in order to help those in need. Saturday, mail carriers will pick up

bags of food placed by mailboxes, as part of the National Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive put on by the National Association of Letter Carriers.

"This is our largest food drive of the year," Earl Graham, food resource coordinator for the West Texas Food

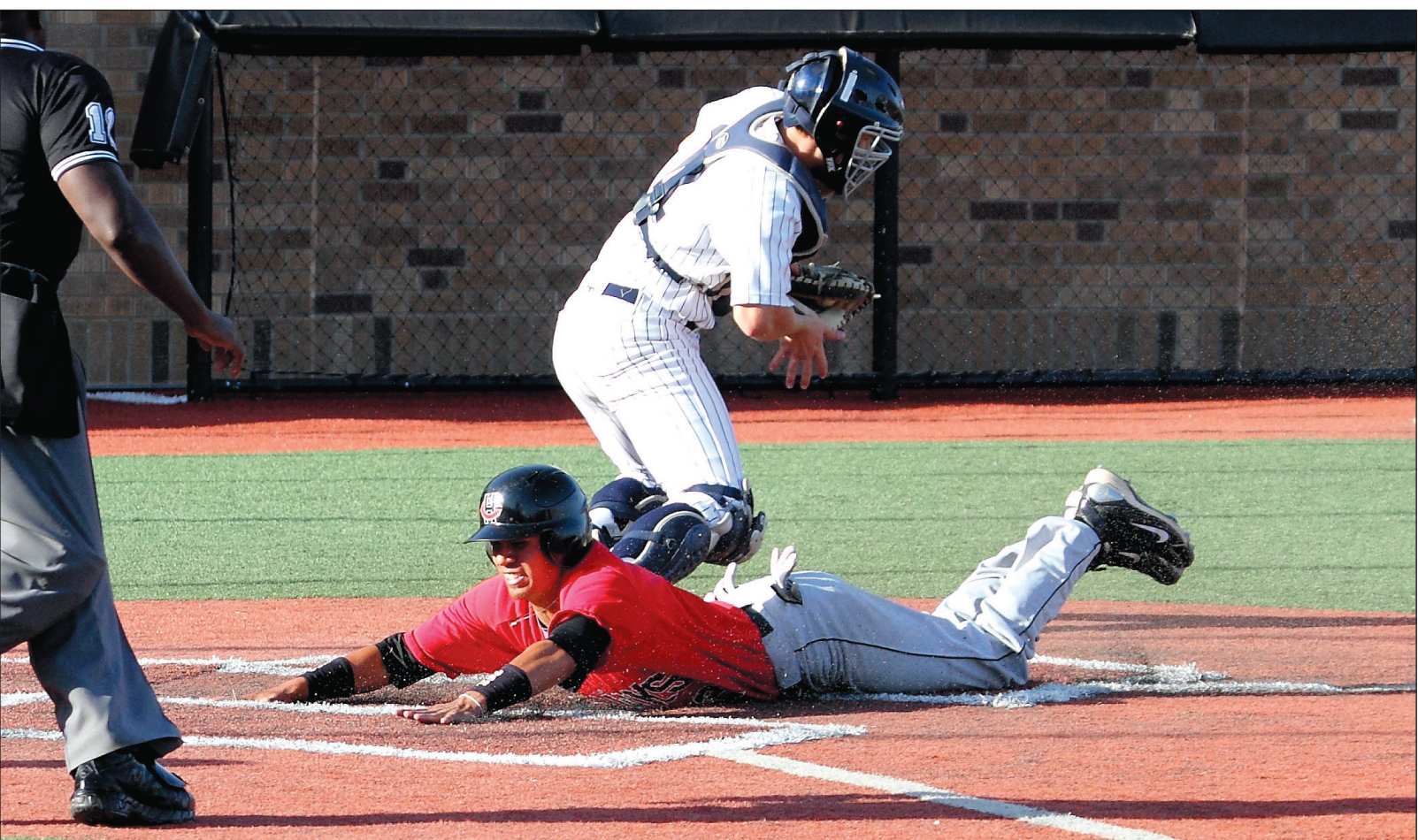
Bank, said. "Our largest collection of food comes from the post office more than any other source."

The drive continues to get better each year, according to Graham. The donations have continued to grow the last couple of years. Last year, the drive collected 85,601 pounds of food,

an increase of 30 percent from the year before. The previous year they were able to improve their collection by 50 percent.

"We help 170 agencies and there is just never enough food,"

See **HUNGER**, Page 3



PLAYING FOR A CROWN

HERALD photo/Tony Claxton
Howard College's Victor Guerra slides in safely at home Wednesday as the Hawks defeated Grayson County College, 18-7. The Hawks were to take on Grayson's Vikings at 1 p.m. today at Dan Law Field in Lubbock to see which school advances to the NJCAA College World Series. See Page 7.

The Coahoma Choir Kids' Spring Concert will be held at 7 p.m. tonight in the school cafeteria. There is no admission charge. For more information, call 394-5000 ext. 200.

Fair promises to be bigger and better

By **AMANDA MORENO**
 Staff Writer

After a year off, the Howard County Fair is back, and according to organizers, will be bigger and better.

The Howard County Fair is coming back this year and will run for three days, Sept. 29, 30 and Oct. 1. Vendors and the carnival will be open from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the Howard County Fair Barn.

"We are going to try three days this year instead of the usual four days," Derek Wash, treasurer of the Howard County Fair Association, said. "We are trying to accommodate our vendors a little bit better and, hopefully, get more of them out here."

Wash said that previously the fair had run four days, but vendors were finding it hard to be on-site considering it started during the week.

See **FAIR**, Page 3

TEACHER OF THE YEAR



HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno
Beccie Helsley, Washington Elementary fourth grade teacher, is presented with her Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award from Bo Clawson and Paul Moran of the Staked Plains Lodge 598.

Helsley is best of the best

HERALD Staff report

Washington Elementary School fourth grade teacher Beccie Helsley was honored with the MiraBeau B. Lamar Outstanding Teacher Recognition Award Thursday afternoon.

Helsley has been a teacher for the past 39 years. She has taught 33 years for the Big

Spring Independent School District and 29 of those years at Washington Elementary.

The teacher of the year award is awarded each year to one teacher from the district and is decided by a nomination process. This is the first year that a teacher at Washington Elementary has received this award.

"I nominated Mrs. Helsley because of the fabulous teach-

er she is," principal Dalia Benavides said. "She still has students coming back after all these years to thank her for what they learned from her."

As for the surprise of the award, Helsley is more than appreciative.

"I have never received anything like this," Helsley said. "It's one of the best honors that I've ever had."

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Obituaries

Charles J. Parker



Charles J. Parker, 61, of Cedar Creek died May 10, 2011. Services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 14, 2011, at Marrs Jones Newby Funeral Home with burial to follow at High Grove Cemetery in Cedar Creek. Visitation will be held from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday, May 13, 2011, at Marrs Jones Newby Funeral Home Chapel.

Charles was born March 15, 1950, in Big Spring.

He is survived by his wife Patricia of Cedar Creek; daughter, Melissa O'Neal of Alexandria, Va.; brothers, Jerry, John and wife Donna Parker of Taylor and Dennis Parker; sister, Karol Sue and husband William Shields of Novice; and a stepson, Joshua Smith of Pflugerville. Charles is also survived by two grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents.

Please visit www.Marrs-Jones-NewbyFuneral.com for Charles' life story.

Arrangements under the direction of Marrs-Jones-Newby Funeral Home of Bastrop.

Glennie Cain

Glennie Cain, 89, of Stanton died Wednesday, May 11, 2011, in a Midland nursing home. Her services are pending with Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton.

Take Note

All Coahoma High School alumni are invited to an all-school reunion on July 23. This year's program will focus on CHS music, to include honoring anyone associated with former CHS bands, choirs, musical groups, etc. Please help spread the word by sharing this information with any CHS alumni among your family/friends. The Reunion Planning Committee is meeting every other Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Coahoma Dairy Queen. Contact Joyce York Baumann at 432-816-1588 or Patti Lee Meeke at 432-267-6688 for additional information, or with mailing addresses for CHS alumni. Addresses can also be e-mailed to Harold Aberegg at aberegg66@gmail.com.

West Texas Opportunities will be having its community meeting at 2:30 p.m. Monday in the Howard County Library. Guest speaker will be Tony Marquez of Crossroads Consulting Services. For more information, call Connie Baca, center director, at 267-9536.

Fridays are live band dance nights at Big Spring Senior Center, 1901 Simler. Senior adults are invited to an evening of fellowship (and good exercise) from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. each Friday. Cost is \$6 per person. For more information or to find out what band is playing, call the Senior Center at 432-267-1628.

The Salvation Army has funding for Texas Military Personnel now serving or has served in Iraq or Afghanistan. The military member or their family member may apply at 811 W. Fifth St. or call 267-8239. The grant is funded by the TRIAD Fund of Permian Basin Area Foundation.

The HCV Section 8 waiting list for the Big Spring Housing Authority is open. The authority is accepting new applications. The office is located at 201 NE Seventh in Big Spring.

Mobile Meals is in need of volunteers to deliver meals to the homebound elderly in Big Spring. If you can donate at least one hour a week, call Macaria Cantu at 263-4016 and leave a message.

Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. Thursdays 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.

Big Spring Band Boosters meet the second Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the BSHS Band Hall. All band parents are welcome.

Police blotter

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

- GARY JOSEPH LIMONES, 30, of Odessa, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction.

- CLINTON AARON MUSE JR., 60, of 700 Ohio, was arrested Wednesday on charges of possession of a controlled substance, expired driver's license and failure to appear.

- DONALD GREY MCCOMMONS, 71, of 1404 Lexington, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

- TONYA FOWLER BARRICK, 40, of 605 Dealy Rd., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

- DAVID REY GONZALES, 40, of 404 N.E. 10th St., was arrested Wednesday on a warrant from another agency.

- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1600 block of Settles.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 75 inmates at the time of this report.

- GARY JOSEPH LIMONES, 30, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

- EUFEMIO ORTIZ JR., 19, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of unauthorized use of a vehicle.

- CLINTON A. MUSE JR., 60, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance and municipal warrants for expired driver's license and violation of a promise to appear.

- ALEXANDRA ELIZABETH BROWN, 21, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a Randall County warrant for bond forfeiture — theft by check.

- GARY LEE SCOTT, 61, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for evading arrest.

- DONALD GREY MCCOMMONS, 71, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

- TONYA RENE BARRICK, 40, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

- DAVID R. GONZALES, 40, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on an Austin warrant for violation of parole.

- KARISSA RICQUEL MITCHELL, 25, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on municipal warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility (four counts), driving while license invalid (two counts), violation of a promise to appear (three counts) and no driver's license.

- RUSSELL CHANCE RAYMOND, 17, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 300 block of Veterans Blvd. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 3600 block of Highway 80. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 2300 block of Roemer. One person was transported to SMMC.

- TRAUMA was reported in the 1500 block of E. 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

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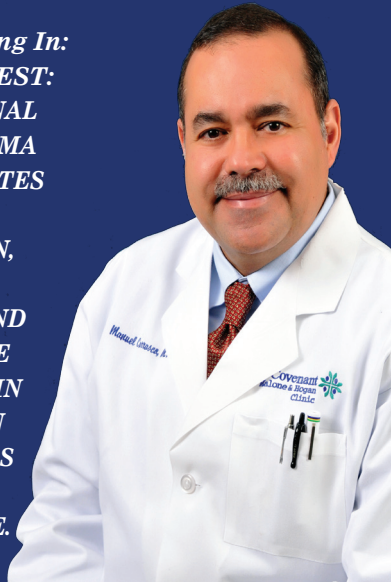
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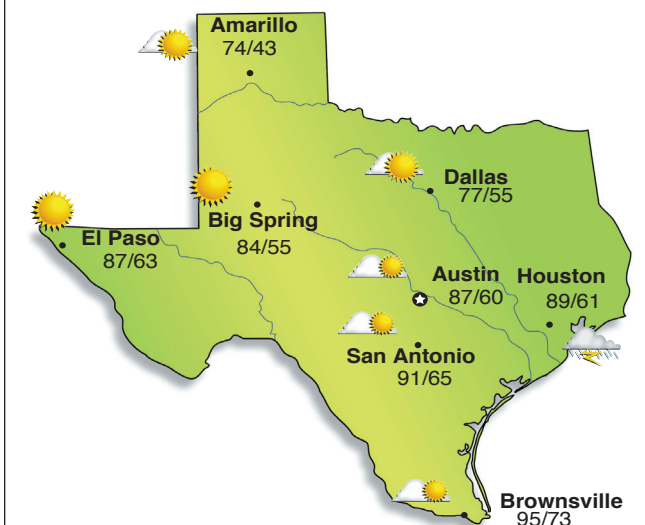
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Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Fri 5/13	Sat 5/14	Sun 5/15	Mon 5/16	Tue 5/17
84/55 Mainly sunny. High 84F. Winds NNE at 10 to 20 mph.	84/55 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the mid 50s.	83/57 Sunshine. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 50s.	86/59 Plenty of sun. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the upper 50s.	87/62 A few clouds. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the low 60s.
Sunrise: 6:50 AM Sunset: 8:35 PM	Sunrise: 6:49 AM Sunset: 8:36 PM	Sunrise: 6:48 AM Sunset: 8:37 PM	Sunrise: 6:48 AM Sunset: 8:37 PM	Sunrise: 6:47 AM Sunset: 8:38 PM

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Ablene	81	53	sunny	Kingsville	95	68	pt sunny
Amarillo	74	43	mst sunny	Livingston	87	56	t-storm
Austin	87	60	pt sunny	Longview	79	55	pt sunny
Beaumont	88	61	t-storm	Lubbock	78	47	sunny
Brownsville	95	73	pt sunny	Lufkin	87	57	t-storm
Brownwood	85	56	sunny	Midland	84	58	sunny
Corpus Christi	91	68	pt sunny	Raymondville	96	71	pt sunny
Corsicana	77	54	mst sunny	Rosenberg	89	61	t-storm
Dallas	77	55	mst sunny	San Antonio	91	65	pt sunny
Del Rio	94	66	sunny	San Marcos	88	60	mst sunny
El Paso	87	63	sunny	Sulphur Springs	74	54	pt sunny
Fort Stockton	85	58	sunny	Sweetwater	83	53	sunny
Gainesville	74	49	mst sunny	Tyler	79	54	pt sunny
Greenville	74	52	mst sunny	Weatherford	77	52	mst sunny
Houston	89	61	t-storm	Wichita Falls	77	50	mst sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	85	62	t-storm	Minneapolis	58	46	cloudy
Boston	63	46	cloudy	New York	68	55	pt sunny
Chicago	72	50	t-storm	Phoenix	95	70	sunny
Dallas	77	55	mst sunny	San Francisco	61	50	mst sunny
Denver	65	42	sunny	Seattle	65	49	pt sunny
Houston	89	61	t-storm	St. Louis	76	56	t-storm
Los Angeles	71	58	pt sunny	Washington, DC	71	58	rain
Miami	88	74	t-storm				

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Officials: Bin Laden eyed small cities as targets

KIMBERLY DOZIER

AP Intelligence Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Though hunted and in hiding, Osama bin Laden remained the driving force behind every recent al-Qaida terror plot, U.S. officials say, citing his private journal and other documents recovered in last week's raid.

Until Navy SEALs killed him a week ago, bin Laden dispensed chilling advice to the leaders of al-Qaida groups from Yemen to London: Hit Los Angeles, not just New York, he wrote. Target trains as well as planes. If possible, strike on significant dates, such as the Fourth of July and the upcoming 10th anniversary of the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Above all, he urged, kill more Americans in a single attack, to drive them from the Arab world.

Bin Laden's written words show that counterterrorist officials worldwide underestimated how key he remained to running the organization, shattering the conventional thinking that he had been reduced through isolation to being an inspirational figurehead, U.S. officials said Wednesday.

His personal, handwritten journal and his massive collection of computer files show he helped plan every recent major al-Qaida threat the U.S. is aware of, including plots in Europe last year that had travelers and embassies on high alert, two officials said. So far, no new plots have been uncovered in bin Laden's writings, but intelligence officials say it will take weeks, if not months, to go through them.

They described the intelligence to The Associated Press

only on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk publicly about what was found in bin Laden's hideout.

The records show bin Laden was communicating from his walled compound in Pakistan with al-Qaida's offshoots, including the Yemen branch, which has emerged as the leading threat to the United States. U.S. officials have not shared any specific evidence yet that he was directly behind the attempted Christmas Day 2009 bombing of a Detroit-bound airliner or the nearly successful attack on cargo planes heading for Chicago and Philadelphia, but it's now clear that they bear some of bin Laden's hallmarks.

He was well aware of U.S. counterterrorist defenses and schooled his followers how to work around them,

the messages to his followers show. Don't limit attacks to New York City, he said in his writings. Consider other areas such as Los Angeles or smaller cities. Spread out the targets.

In one particularly macabre bit of mathematics, bin Laden's writings show him musing over just how many Americans he must kill to force the U.S. to withdraw from the Arab world. He concludes that the smaller, scattered attacks since the 9/11 attacks had not been enough. He tells his disciples that only a body count of thousands, something on the scale of 9/11, would shift U.S. policy.

He also schemed about ways to sow political dissent in Washington and play political figures against one another, officials said.

The communications were in missives sent via plug-in

computer storage devices called flash drives. The devices were ferried to bin Laden's compound by couriers, a process that is slow but exceptionally difficult to track.

Intelligence officials have not identified any new planned targets or plots in their initial analysis of the 100 or so flash drives and five computers that Navy SEALs hauled away. Last week, the FBI and Homeland Security Department warned law enforcement officials nationwide to be on alert for possible attacks against trains, though officials said there was no specific plot.

Officials have not yet seen any indication that bin Laden had the ability to coordinate timing of attacks across the various al-Qaida affiliates in Pakistan, Yemen, Algeria, Iraq and Somalia.

HUNGER

Continued from Page 1

Graham said.

The West Texas Food Bank provides assistance to 22 counties. In Howard County the food bank provides food to Isaiah 58, Christ Community, Salvation Army and St. Vincent de Paul food banks.

"The donations collected here will benefit the Salvation Army," Junior Landin, food

drive coordinator for Big Spring, said.

The main distribution location is in Odessa, but other sites are located in Alpine and El Paso.

"Last year alone, we distributed 9 million pounds of food and the year before we distributed 6 million," Graham said.

The mission of the food bank is to eliminate hunger through the distribution of food and essential groceries through a network of

community and faith-based organizations. To find out more about the food bank and the food drive visit www.helpstampouthunger.com or call the food bank at 432-580-6333.

"We are asking those who want to take part in the food drive to make sure food is placed next to their mailbox or on their porch where the carrier can see it."

If for some reason you don't want to leave the food by the mailbox, Landin said to call the

post office and see if a carrier can come and pick up the donation.

"There are lots of people out there with no work, no or little food and this is a good way to help them," Landin said.

Any non-parishable food items will be accepted. Canned goods, pasta, bottled juice, cereal, rice and more are accepted. However, it is suggested that no glass containers or expired food be donated.

"If they are unable to get the food by the mailbox this Saturday, carriers will still pick up donations next Saturday as well," Graham said. "We will take all the donations that we can get because we are always in need of them."

As an added incentive, Big Spring residents can take cans to Taco Villa between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. According to Landin, for every two cans donated at Taco Villa, a free bean burrito

to is received.

"We have been doing this for the past 15 years and we will continue to do this food drive," Landin said. "This is a great way to help feed the hungry and we encourage everyone to participate."

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com

FAIR

Continued from Page 1

Employees were taken away from their jobs to work the fair booth and some owners were having to shut down their businesses to be at the fair.

"We are trying to get more interactive booths out this year," Wash said. "We want more booths to where people can shop and browse items and, in turn, we hope that will encourage more people to come out."

Indoor and outdoor vendors are always needed for the fair. Indoor booths for three days are \$175. Those interested in having a booth at this year's fair should contact Terri Blackshear at T. Blackshear Interiors by calling 714-4757.

On top of the arts and crafts and food vendors, there will be a tractor pull, the usual Saturday night entertainment, petting zoo, domino tournament and more. There will also be a kids contest for those up to 8 years old and the queen's contest for high school and college-age girls from surrounding counties.

"We are hoping to bring back all the usual attractions and more, as long as everything works out," Wash said.

The Saturday night entertainment is still in the works, as are many more details, but according to Wash this year is going to be bigger and better than pre-

vious years.

"Having this past year off, we were able to take a step back, get out of the rut we were in and reassess where we need to be," he said.

This year, the association brings new members, volunteers and some new ideas. Opening night will be a time of giving back to the community. Partial proceeds will benefit a charity.

"We are going to give back to the community through the money that we make Thursday night," Wash said. "If we can get people out there then we can give back to the community."

There was a lot of hostility about the fair not happening last year, but Wash said there simply was no other choice. Howard County is one of the last remaining small town fairs, but with the lack of participation and support from

the community, the revenue was not there to keep it going, he said.

"It got to the point where they were just going to the carnival. They were coming straight through, bypassing the vendors and going to the carnival. That's not what we want," he said. "We want it to be a fair for everyone."

This year is going to be a trial and error assessment. The association is hoping that community support will be back up and the fair continues to generate support and eventually grow.

"If we can get people out here then we can begin to bring bigger and better things to our fair," Wash said. "The best thing anyone can do for this year's fair is to come out, support the vendors and bring everyone you know."

Final plans are still in the works, but there is no doubt about it, the

Howard County Fair will be here this year, according to Wash.

"We are going to give it everything we have and hope it works," Wash said. "We are back with a more enthusiastic attitude and we are looking to give Howard County the fair that it deserves."

To find out more information or learn how to contribute, contact president of the Howard County Fair Association Janeice Barnes at 432-353-4434.

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com

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VOTE FOR PERFORMANCE
Big Spring's debt burden is low at \$764 per person, according to Standard and Poor's (a national rating agency). It is vital that the tax burden be kept at a rate the community can support, while maintaining essential services and providing for future growth in the city.

VOTE FOR EXPERIENCE
I have represented District 3 on the Big Spring City Council for nine years. I have faced and resolved many problems in the past and have the experience to deal with them in the future.

I ask that you re-elect **Jo Ann Staulcup**. You are the person who can elect me to continue serving you and I will certainly appreciate your vote.

Pd. Pol. Ad By Jo Ann Staulcup, Treasurer

AN ENCOURAGING WORD



By Eddy Pitchford

Some people have the gift of discouragement. They relish in pointing out the thorns on life's roses. They can sap energy out of a room quicker than you can say, "Gloom, Despair and Agony."

Other folks make lemonade out of life's lemons and for good measure, cheerfully sweeten everybody else's sour lemons. These individuals are not oblivious to difficulty and pain; they are simply aware of the big picture and choose to focus on solutions rather than problems.

"Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another..."
(I Thessalonians 5:11)

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Bill McClellan Managing Editor	Ron Midkiff Publisher	Steve Reagan Staff Writer
Amanda Moreno Staff Writer	Thomas Jenkins Staff Writer	

OUR VIEWS

Make your voice count: Vote!

Early voting is over, but you still have one more chance to cast that ballot.

Saturday the polls will open for 12 hours. From 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Voters should be sure to bring their voter registration card or picture ID.

Big Spring and area residents will be able to cast their vote in the District 1 and District 3 elections and on the issue of term-limits.

During early voting more than 750 local residents took to the polls and made their voice count.

The proposed term limits have become a hot topic in the Crossroads area during the past several months, as the charter amendment — which was spawned by a local petition — will either be approved or rejected by voters.

The amendment would prevent council members from running for re-election after serving two consecutive terms, according to City Attorney Linda Sjogren.

"Councilmembers may run for any other position than the one they currently hold if their term is expiring or if they are within the last year of their term, without sitting out a term. Council members cannot be elected to fill a vacancy (unexpired term) in any position on the council within six years of having served in any position on the council."

Voters are also being asked to decide the fates of the District 1 and District 3 seats on the city council.

District 1 Councilwoman Stephanie Horton is set to defend her seat on the council from challenger Marcus Fernandez in the May 14 municipal elections, while the race for the District 3 seat has drawn three challengers, as incumbent Councilwoman Joann Staulcup will attempt to beat out challengers Shannon Thomason, Glenn Carrigan and write-in candidate Oscar Velasco.

In Stanton there will be a city council at large election with Justin Burch going against Mark Sunday. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Martin County Election Center.

As far as school board elections, Coahoma will be the only school having an election. With one board member stepping down there is one spot for a two-year unexpired term that is open. Gerald King and Craig Ferguson will be facing off for that seat. Elections will be at the community center in Coahoma.

Saturday is your last chance to voice your opinion. Take the opportunity and let your voice be heard.

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.
- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

When we study Your word, Lord, we learn valuable information for our life.

Amen

Realizations come whether it be sun or cloud-filled days outside

Even on the gloomiest, cloud-filled, chilling day, there is a ray of sun that breaks through.

Realizations can be made no matter what. The gloomier and gray filled the day, the better the realization it seems. Answers that you've been searching for break through and become more apparent than ever. Answers that you never wanted to hear and tried to avoid at all cost come bursting through.

Answers good and bad and those you never thought you'd see, but answers in their own right, nonetheless.

There comes a point where all the chaos begins to fall into formation and a calm feeling begins to take over. You may not know the exact moment, but not long after it happens it becomes very apparent. The feeling that tells you that you've truly found yourself. The feeling that life can truly begin.

Nothing comes easy, at least if it's worth it, but once it does come up the journey doesn't seem all that bad. Once realizations start happening and you reach that point of understanding; everything makes sense.

The heartache, the pain, the uncertainty... even the anger makes sense.

Like the saying goes, "In time everything will make sense." When that time comes everything will be clear and you will understand. Maybe that's the way it's supposed to be. We aren't supposed to have all the answers right now. If we had all the answers right now they wouldn't be useful to us.

The happy moments may seem far and few between, but in the end those are the moments that will continue to mean so much. Once the big picture is in focus the hardships are easier to bear. When the realizations finally happen the negatives turn into

something positive. If it wasn't for the pain and the trouble, you wouldn't have the strength and determination that you gained.

The relationships that came to an end and caused so many tears and cracks, in the heart and soul make sense. It becomes easier to understand the reason they had to end and the benefits of them ending. It becomes easier to accept. Even though you may have loved that person then, in the end, you were two different people who didn't belong together past that point.

Two people will either grow together or they will grow apart. Once the growing apart begins to take place, the chances of ending back up at the same place again become slim. Even though love may never fade it will never be the same as it was. We want different things at different points in our lives.

People grow and are supposed to grow, but just because you love someone doesn't mean you two will grow together. The growth will happen the way it should, in the direction it should. Even if you try and stop it and continue to hold on, if it's not meant to be it won't ever be.

Growing apart may be painful and hard to accept, but it doesn't have to be. There can be a positive side if you open yourself to it. Be open to the realization you need to grow, for you, and you are supposed to change. Fighting back the change only hinders the possibilities that are yet to come.

Everyone remembers their first love and the feeling that accompanied it. Everyone tries to hold onto that first love, but very rarely does it happen. There are those few that are the exception to the rule, but the rest have to continue their search. It would be nice to be able to hold onto those first time feelings, but just imagine if we did. Imagine how much we would miss.

It's just like that first job that leads you to your career. It may be a job you feel comfortable in, it may be easy and fitting, but imagine how much could be missed if you didn't allow your-



AMANDA MORENO

Making an exception for Osama bin Laden; I'm glad...

I don't like to exult in the death of people, not even people I don't like. I think it's bad form.

I'm making an exception in the case of Osama bin Laden, however.

From the point of view of a comfortable middle-class American (which I certainly am), he was evil incarnate — a ruthless mass murderer who inspired the massacre of thousands of innocent men, women and children without a trace of remorse. He was our implacable enemy and I'm glad he is dead.

To many on the other side of reality, however — a stateless Palestinian or an aggrieved Arab nationalist — he was a great hero.

This was no tin-pot dictator lining his pockets with money stolen from the Arab people, after all.

No, he was a rich kid, a billionaire's son, who forsook the easy life to dedicate himself and his fortune to returning the Islamic world to its former glory. His worldview called for accomplishing this by crushing Israel, driving Western "Crusaders" from Muslim soil and resurrecting an Islamic caliphate that harkened back to the Middle Ages.

There are many street-corner imams in the Middle East who want the same things, but they don't have what Osama bin Laden had:

Money, which he spent to finance paramilitary operations and training centers around the world.

9-11. If the War on Terror is really a war, then Sept. 11, 2001, marks one of the most brilliant and successful military attacks in the history of warfare.

In a single stroke, an army of less than two-dozen barely trained troops, armed mainly with box cutters, brought the world's greatest military power to its knees.

It wasn't merely that the attack took the lives of nearly 3,000 Americans.

Nor, astonishingly, that it utterly destroyed the most iconic symbol of our capitalist system.

It wasn't even that it struck a blow at the very citadel of our military might.

It was that it attacked our self-confidence and delivered a blow to our sense of well being from which we have yet to recover, a decade later.

Many Americans now find themselves insecure and nervous in the presence of people who look like they might be Muslims.

We allow ourselves to be subjected to all manner of indignities at airports in the name of security.

We go to war without hesitation and spill endless blood and treasure in an attempt to ensure it won't happen again.

We are afraid as once we were not, not even in the darkest days of World War II when the Nazi monster threatened us.

self new opportunities. Firsts are great starting places, but they are never intended to be final resting places.

We would miss the chance to know how much pain we can take and how much better it can be the next time those feelings come back around. We would miss the opportunity to grow and experience different relationships. So many opportunities are cut out once the end of the journey is reached.

Reaching the end of the journey may be the main goal, but the process doesn't have to be a burden. There is nothing that will ever compare to the first time feeling of love, happiness, or any first time feelings, but it doesn't mean the preceding times won't be better.

Having someone by your side doesn't mean you will never be alone, it simply means you have someone there. It is possible for two people to fight the change and remain together just for the company and still have something missing.

Being alone doesn't mean you are by yourself. Sometimes when we are by ourselves we are in the best company. However, holding onto the first times and not allowing yourself to grow is limiting.

You not only limit the bad; you limit the good. Holding those first times close may make for a great way to never lose the memories, but it's a surefire way to not make any more. Memories can only get us so far and the way they take us is never forward.

Hold the first times close, enjoy them, but let them remain where they should—in the past. Take the step and move forward, with your memories in your pocket. When the time is right let the memories go and accept new ones. There is so much more to learn and experience—don't limit yourself.

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com

That was what bin Laden accomplished, his life's work. If he wasn't the mastermind of the 9-11 assaults, he certainly was its animating force. And that is why I'm glad he's dead.

Will his demise end the Global War on Terror? I very much doubt it. But he was the global face of terrorism and, as such, a powerful symbol. That symbol is no more.

Certainly, there will be retaliation. But you can't fight a war by being afraid of retaliation.

I was much amused by the response of many Republican presidential candidates to bin Laden's assassination. They praised the work of our troops, of course, but it was hard to find the name of President Obama in their statements. It was as though the troops had done it all on their own, without leadership.

As much as they would have it otherwise, Barack Obama is the President of the United States and our commander in chief. He deserves full marks for his leadership. He made his Republican rivals look like the pipsqueaks they are. Just a few days before, he had taken the air out of the "birther" movement by releasing his long-form birth certificate, proving to all who respond to proof that he's a natural-born American.

It was a bad week for Republican politicians. It was a good week for the rest of us.

OtherWords columnist Donald Kaul lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan. www.otherwords.org

Casual Cooking with Kris



KRIS SOLIZ

Welcoming readers to my world. Where I enjoy simple, sometimes quick, but always delicious meals.

This week's recipe is inspired again by "I don't have anything thawed out," "don't feel like cooking much" and "I'm not real hungry." Can you relate?

Recently, my husband was on night shift and I wasn't real hungry, and when I feel like that I usually have two go-to meals which are either cereal or box mac and cheese.

I was out of cereal. The mac and cheese sounded good, but I wanted some source of meat such as ham or something to

add and I knew that I didn't have such. Then I remembered two uncooked hamburger patties I had thawed out and had not used yet, so my mind went to work on how I would like it to taste.

I prepared the mac and cheese as directed and cooked my meat patties in a different pan at the same time and this is what I came up with. Nothing fancy, but tasty and you could add corn to the meat mixture if you wanted. I just sat down and ate it by itself, but you could serve it with a veggie of choice and some good bread.

Mexi Mac and Cheese

- 2 boxes of mac and cheese w/ powdered cheese
- 2 thawed hamburger patties or 1 lb of ground meat

- 1 can of Rotel menudo dry seasoning mix
- garlic powder
- onion powder

1/2 stick of butter
milk

Cook the mac and cheese according to directions. Meanwhile, break up the meat in a skillet and cook until browned and cooked through. Add several shakes of all three dry ingredients, mix well. Add slightly drained can of Rotel and mix well. Keep warm. Drain the noodles when done and place the pot back on the burner without the noodles. Add the butter and a splash of milk and both packs of dry cheese. Stir well and add more milk if needed, to make it more saucy. Warm that to a slight boil and turn off the heat, place the noodles into the cheese sauce and stir gently. Combine both cheesy noodles and meat mixture and chow down.

TxDOT continues seal coating

ABILENE — A contractor for the Texas Department of Transportation will begin seal coating several roadways in Howard County Monday and will continue through next week.

The following highways are being treated:

- I-20 from one mile west of Moore Field Road to the city limit sign west of the
- SH 176 bridge
- I-20 Business from SH 350 to I-20 east of Big Spring

Week of May 16

- I-20 Business from I-20 west of Big Spring to Presidio Street
- FM 700 from US 87 to the I-20 north service road (week of May 16)
- FM 700 from I-20 Business to US 87

All work should be completed within a few days, weather permitting, Mary Beth Kilgore, Abilene District public information officer, said.

The Howard County work is part of a larger job to seal coat roadways throughout the 13-county Abilene District. The project was awarded to Lipham Construction Co., Inc. of Aspermont for \$6.6 million in state and federal funding.

TxDOT's engineer overseeing the project is Mike Molter, P.E., Snyder Area engineer. His construction manager is Jimmy Marquez and Kenneth Williams will serve as the project's chief inspector.

As always, TxDOT asks drivers to use caution when traveling through work zones.

Unease in Delta as flooding spreads

SHELIA BYRD

Associated Press

RENA LARA, Miss. (AP) — Officials in a small town are trying to assure its 500 residents they are doing what they can to shore up the levee to protect them from the swollen Mississippi River.

"It's getting scary," said Rita Harris, 43, who lives in a tiny wooden house in the shadow of the levee in Rena Lara. "They won't let you go up there to look at the water."

The uneasiness is being felt all along the poverty-stricken Delta as oozing floodwaters from the Mississippi River and its tributaries spilled across farm fields, cut off churches, washed over roads and forced people from their homes Wednesday.

Some used boats to navigate flooded streets as the crest rolled slowly downstream, bringing misery to low-lying communities. About 600 homes have been flooded in the Delta in the past several days as the water rose toward some of the highest levels on record.

The flood crest is expected to push past the Delta by late next week.

Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour urged people to get out if they think there is even a chance their homes will flood. He said there is no reason to believe a levee on the Yazoo River would fail, but if it did, 107 feet of water would flow over small towns.

"More than anything else, save your life and don't put at risk other people who might have to come in and save your lives," he said.

Much farther downstream, Louisiana officials were awaiting an Army Corps of Engineers decision on whether to open the Morganza spillway to take the pressure off the levees protecting Baton Rouge and, downstream, New Orleans and the many oil refineries in between. Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal said Wednesday that residents who would be affected by the spillway opening should assume it will open and should plan to get out of the way.

Crews were using water-filled tubes to bolster levees protecting downtown Baton Rouge, where minor flooding could occur. Sandbags were being placed along a portion of New Orleans' French Quarter riverfront, though the city isn't expecting a major impact from the flood. The river could be closed to ship traffic at New Orleans if it rises too high.

The Mississippi Delta, with a population of about 465,000, is a leaf-shaped expanse of rich soil between the Mississippi and Yazoo Rivers, extending about 200 miles from Memphis,

Tenn., to Vicksburg, Miss. Along the way are towns whose names are familiar to Civil War buffs, aficionados of the blues, and scholars of the civil rights era: Clarksdale, Greenwood, Greenville and Yazoo City.

While some farms in the cotton-, rice- and corn-growing Delta are prosperous, there is also grinding poverty. Nine of the 11 counties that touch the Mississippi River in Mississippi have poverty rates at least double the national average of 13.5 percent, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The governor said the state is asking local officials to get in touch with people who might have no electricity and phones and thus no way to get word of the flooding.

"It's a tiny number, but we have to find them," Barbour said.

Late Wednesday, President Barack Obama signed a disaster declaration for 14 counties in Mississippi because of the flooding. Housing and home repairs will be covered and low-interest loans to cover uninsured damage will be available.

In Greenville, Liz Jones, who is unemployed, lives on the second floor of a housing project and worries what might happen in the event of a levee break. She has no means of transportation.

"I got a baby and my mama. I don't know what we'd do about food and clothes and stuff," she said.

In Hollandale, one of the small rural towns in the Delta the governor warned might flood if the levee breaks, 62-year-old nursing home worker Geraldine Jackson fretted about what to do if she and her husband have to leave their red-brick house, where pieces of the roof have broken off and the white trim is peeling.

"I have relatives, but all my relatives live in the Delta, and the water's going to get them too," she said. "I'm just real messed up."

Swollen by weeks of heavy rain and snowmelt, the Mississippi River has been breaking high-water records that have stood since the 1920s and '30s. It is projected to crest at Vicksburg on May 19 and shatter the mark set there during the cataclysmic Great Flood of 1927. The crest is expected to reach New Orleans on May 23.

Even after the peak passes, water

levels will remain high for weeks, and it could take months for flooded homes to dry out.

About 600,000 acres of cultivated row crops could flood, mainly winter wheat, corn, soybeans, cotton and rice, said Andy Prosser, spokesman with the Mississippi Department of Agriculture. Even if the levees hold, the state expects to lose \$150 million to \$200 million worth of

crops, the governor said. Mississippi's catfish farmers could also be wiped out if the Yazoo floods their ponds and washes away their fish.

Many of the victims of the slowly unfolding disaster are poor people living perilously close to the water.

In the Memphis, Tenn., area, where the Mississippi crested Tuesday just inches short of the 1927 record, many of the flooded dwellings were mobile homes and one-story brick or wood buildings in low-lying, working-class neighborhoods unprotected by floodwalls or levees.

Maria Flores, her husband, Pedro Roman, and their four children

ended up in a church shelter in south Memphis — some 20 miles from their trailer in the Millington area of Shelby County.

They lost a trailer in last year's flood, and it happened to them again this year.

Flores, who works as a baby sitter, and Roman, an unemployed day laborer, did not have disaster insurance and suspect their trailer is a total loss.

At the shelter, they were receiving clothing and three meals a day and were sleeping on air mattresses in a room with 20 other people.

Flores said she stopped going to work because it was too far and she could not afford the gas. Roman seemed almost paralyzed by the uncertainty.

"People who have money have a better chance of getting back on their feet than poorer people," Flores said. "That's our problem."

Swollen by weeks of heavy rain and snowmelt, the Mississippi River has been breaking high-water records that have stood since the 1920s and '30s.

DEMANDING ACCOUNTABILITY!

I have a few questions I would like to get some answers to. If I were to buy some electronics at a dirt cheap price from a stranger one day and later the police came to my house and arrested me for Possession of Stolen Property, could I claim ignorance and the charges against me be dropped? In other words could I claim that "I did not know" the property was stolen and the charges against me be dropped? I think not. So why does it seem like our Mayor Duncan, want to claim ignorance after he got caught with his hands in the cookie jar?

This is the same man that after being elected to the office of mayor spouted out some arrogant remark about him not needing any training and in fact he already knew everything he needed to know to run the office of mayor. Seems to me that he claimed to be knowledgeable and maybe smart too. Well why claim ignorance now? If the buck stops with you then you should do the honorable thing and resign, that is if you are an honorable man.

Now for the others that violated the same laws. Mr. Fernandez is he also claiming ignorance but he is now citing that he really is not in violation of anything but that the Texas Election code is the one in violation of the constitution. Seems to me that this man is attempting to change the rules/laws to suit him. He is now trying to divert attention from the real issue and that is that he violated the Texas Election Code and not the other way around. All three, Duncan, Fernandez, and Carrigan were caught with their hands in the cookie jar and now should be held accountable and not allowed to claim ignorance and get a "do over", no one else in life gets a "do over" so why should you three get one now. All of you three signed that document stating "I am aware of the restrictions in title 15 of the Election Code on contributions from corporations and labor organizations" and you should not get a pass now. No sir!

Paid for by a Concern Citizen for Accountability
Tony Marquez

222034

sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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Six ways to pamper pets

Pets are an important component of a household.

The American Veterinary Medical Association estimates that 63 percent of all households in the United States feature one pet or more.

Today's pets are genuine members of the family, and pet parents want to do as much as they can to pamper their cats, dogs, birds and small mammals.

Dogs, cats and other pets are acquired through a number of methods.

Statistics indicate that most pets come to families from friends or acquaintances for free or low cost.

According to the National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy, 10 to 20 percent of cats and dogs are adopted, while only 2 to 10 percent of animals are purchased from a pet store.

Individuals who want to go above and beyond in their treatment of pets frequently push pampering to the limits.

Some people treat dogs and cats as if they were children, with all

of the same benefits.

Thousands of dollars a year may be spent being sure these animals live the high life. Whether this has any benefit on the animals' well-being is debatable; the fact remains that individuals spend quite a few dollars caring for their pets.

Those who want to take pampering to new levels can consider these ideas.

1. Pet treats: While the occasional catnip or dog bone is a nice idea, there are entire bakeries designated to whipping up gourmet delights for pets.

Many feature organically grown food items that are human-grade. Cakes, cookies and the like can be purchased that fit with the specific diet and tastes of the pampered pet.

2. Doggie daycare: Why leave the pooch home alone when he or she can hang out with other tail-wagging friends?

There are a number of businesses that now cater to the canines and offer fun activities and socialization for

dogs who would otherwise be latch-key pups.

Some daycare centers offer accommodations that mimic home, such as cozy couches and quiet corners in which to curl up.

Furthermore, they enable dogs to catch up with their friends, a necessity when Mom or Dad won't let them log onto Facebook.

3. Home away from home: Instead of sending pets to a boarder when individuals are on vacation, people are choosing to take pets along.

Road and Travel magazine has reported that many pet parents — approximately 78 percent of them — often take to the roads or the skies with their pets in tow.

There are many pet-friendly accommodations, and travelers have been known to compare amenities and regulations when choosing a hotel/motel for their trips.

4. Pet birthday parties: One in four pet parents in the U.S. have admitted to cele-

brating their pets' birthdays, according to Best Friends Pet Care.

Some go as far as hosting a birthday party in honor of the birthday pup or kitty. Some pet sitters and daycare centers actually will host pet parties where other animals can be invited to celebrate.

Pet parties are growing in popularity and

can be quite lucrative considering the millions of pets currently in the country.

5. Spa treatment: From lapping in a heated pet pool to receiving a massage, some pet owners treat their favorite friends to relaxation treatments.

Gone are the days of a simple bath and haircut at the local groomer. Today's dogs and

cats can receive massages, aromatherapy and acupuncture while enjoying additional resort-like amenities.

6. Spending time: Of course, one of the easiest ways to pamper a pet is simply to spend time and devote attention to the animal. After all, most animals are content with some love and affection from their owners.

ADOPTION

Katy, Lucky and Muffin are available for adoption at the Big Spring Animal Control Shelter.

According to the BSAC, Muffin, a small, adult, male, Shih Tzu Mix, is a shy and very sweet dog. He is available until May 24.

Lucky is a small, young, male rabbit who is very sweet and will be available until Monday, May 16.

Katy is around two years old and is sweet and playful, according to the BSAC. She is an adult, female Labrador Retriever mix. She will be available for adoption until Friday.

For more information on these and other pets, call 432-264-2372 or visit petfinder.com



KATY



MUFFIN



LUCKY

Hints from Heloise: Help for houseplants

Dear Readers: HOUSEPLANTS can be a beautiful and healthy addition to a home. Here are some hints for taking care of them:

- If your plant starts to lose or have spots on the leaves, these generally are signs of a bigger issue. Try moving the plant to a different location and providing it with different lighting. Sometimes just moving from one window to another in a house makes all the difference.
- Don't water plants too much or too little. A good way to tell if your plant



HELOISE

needs to be watered is to use your finger. Push your finger 1/4 inch down in the soil to check if it's dry. Also, if the plant (pot and all) is light when picked up, it's time to water. If you notice that after watering, leaves turn yellow or there is still water in the bottom of the drainage plate days later, you may be overwatering.

- Make sure to inspect plants for bugs and general health before you buy. Check the underside of the leaves so you don't bring pests into your house!

— Heloise

EASY FASTEN

Dear Heloise: When sorting clothes to wash, be sure to fasten the hooks on bras. This step prevents them from getting "hooked" on another article of clothing, plus you don't have to worry whether or not you've worn the bra after they are put in your lingerie drawer. — Cora W., Bryans Road, Md.

NEW TOOTHBRUSH

Dear Heloise: If you can't remember to change

out your toothbrush as often as you should, an easy way is to just buy new toothbrushes when you buy a new tube of toothpaste. — Jo Ellen Keller, via email

Depending on the size of toothpaste you buy, this may work. The American Dental Association does recommend replacing your toothbrush every three to four months, which probably is past the amount of time it takes most to run out of toothpaste. — Heloise

CLEAN SHOWER REVISITED

Dear Heloise: I read your recent hint titled "clean shower." A better solution to rinsing off shower tiles is to go to a large hardware store and purchase a diverter valve, which easily attaches to the little pipe that the shower head is attached to.

Then buy a hand-held shower hose and head, reattach the fixed head, and you now have the best of a fixed head and a hand-held shower sprayer. All you do is press a button on the diverter device. It's so easy, and it can be used each time after you take a shower. — Roye M. in Wichita Falls, Texas

SAFE FOOD

Dear Heloise: I recently ate out at a restaurant, and when I asked the server to wrap up the leftovers, he returned with a container, on the outside of which he had written the name of the entree and today's date. A simple thing, but very clever. — Renee Hoffman from California

Send a money-saving or timesaving hint to Heloise, P.O. Box 795000, San Antonio, TX 78279-5000, or you can fax it to 1-210-HELOISE or email it to Heloise(at)Heloise.com. I can't answer your letter personally but will use the best hints received in my column.

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Out of Sight, Out of Mind

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A J 10 7 5 2
♥ J 5
♦ 4 2
♣ 9 6 3

WEST
♠ K 8 6 3
♥ 10 9 8 4
♦ 5
♣ K 10 8 4

EAST
♠ Q 9
♥ 7 6 3 2
♦ J 10 7 6 3
♣ Q J

SOUTH
♠ 4
♥ A K Q
♦ A K Q 9 8
♣ A 7 5 2

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

Opening lead — ten of hearts.

Some hands lend themselves much more readily to a mistake by declarer because the correct play is not self-evident.

Consider this deal where West leads a heart against three notrump. The contract seems easy to make, so South wins with the queen and starts to play diamonds. But after he cashes the A-K and West shows out, declarer finds himself in a very uncomfortable position.

What a moment earlier had seemed a certain nine or 10 tricks has abruptly changed to only eight tricks.

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

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

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The man to beat

BSHS's Menefield is seeking more gold at state

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

What do you do after you've won it all? You try to win it all again, of course.

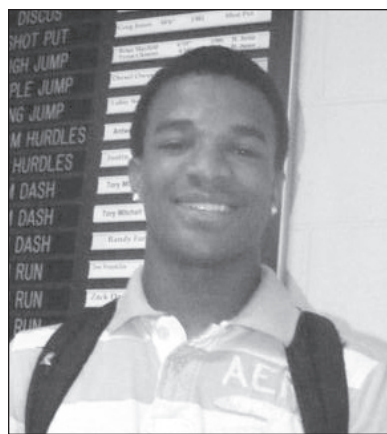
One year after winning gold at the Texas state high school track meet, Big Spring High School senior Mike Menefield will try to duplicate the feat when he competes in the Class 3A triple jump and long jump at the state track meet Friday in Austin.

Menefield will be considered the man to beat in the triple jump, as his regional meet-winning distance of 49 feet, 6.5 inches is the best

among all 3A state qualifiers. In the long jump, he will be a bit of an underdog, but that was the case last year, also — and he came within a half-inch of winning the gold medal in that event.

Needless to say, expectations are high.

"He has that jumping ability, and he has speed to go along with it. That's pretty rare," said BSHS boys' track coach Mitch Woodard. "The best thing about him is that he's willing to put in the work, and he's been that way ever since he was a freshman. You know he'll try to do everything you ask him to do."



Menefield

This will be Menefield's third straight trip to the state track meet. After missing out on any medals his sophomore

year, he won gold (in the triple jump) and silver (in the long jump) in 2010.

Menefield said all that past experience on the state stage should be a big advantage.

"The first time I went to state, I was nervous, but now I've got a lot more familiarity with the process. I'm going in calm and relaxed, and I'm not going to let anything get in my way."

Despite his ability and statewide reputation, he almost didn't get a chance to defend his triple jump state title.

"At this year's regional track meet, I scratched on my first two attempts," Menefield

said. "There was a lot going through my mind when I lined up for my last attempt, but I just blocked everything out and everything just kind of slowed down."

Menefield, who hopes to walk on at Texas Tech University this fall, admits the thought of his high-school career coming to a close is bittersweet.

"Of course, I'm going to miss it," he said. "This is my last year in high school ... and I've had a some great experiences in sports. It's kept me on my feet. I've had some great times here."



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Howard College's Derrick Bleeker lays down a bunt in Wednesday's 18-7 Region V Baseball Tournament win over Grayson County College. The Hawks were to take on the Vikings in the tourney championship game at 1 p.m. today.

Region V Baseball Tournament

at Texas Tech's Dan Law Field
Format: Double elimination

Sunday's Games

First round

Game 1: New Mexico Junior College 5, Temple College 2

Game 2: Howard College 11, Weatherford College 10

Game 3: Grayson County College 8, Midland College 8

Game 4: McLennan Community College 10, Clarendon College 3

Monday's Games

Loser's bracket

Game 5: Weatherford 11, Temple College 3, Temple College eliminated

Game 6: Midland College 12, Clarendon College 1

Winner's bracket quarterfinals

Game 7: New Mexico Junior College 5, Howard College 1

Game 8: Grayson County College 1, McLennan Community College 0

Tuesday's Games

Loser's bracket quarterfinals

Game 9: Howard 14, Midland 13, 13 innings.

Game 10: Weatherford 9, McLennan 2.

Winner's bracket semifinal

Game 11: Grayson 3, New Mexico Junior College 2, 11 innings.

Loser's bracket semifinal:

Game 12: Howard 6, Weatherford 1, 15 innings.

Wednesday's Games

Loser's bracket championship

Game 13: Howard 10, New Mexico 5.

Region V Championship

Game 14: Howard 18, Grayson 7.

Thursday's Game

Region V Championship

Game 15: Howard vs. Grayson, 1 p.m.

They're back

Howard's Hawks overcome adversity, exhaustion to reach championship game

Herald Staff Report

LUBBOCK — Win or lose today, Howard College Coach Britt Smith can finally say his Hawks are doing what he has been wanting them to do all season long — they are playing as a team.

"This is probably the biggest team effort we've

had all year," he said this morning, hours after his Hawks upended Grayson County College 18-7 to force a winner-take-everything championship game in the Region V Baseball Tournament. "It took a lot of adversity to get them to do it, but they have really come together."

Howard was to take on

Grayson at 1 p.m. today at Dan Law Field on the Texas Tech University campus. It's been a long road to the title game for the Hawks, who had struggled, beating Weatherford 11-10 in the opener, falling to New Mexico 5-1, then defeating Midland 14-13 in 13 innings and Weatherford again 6-1 in 15 in-

nings before Wednesday's 10-5 victory over New Mexico — setting the stage for the matchup with Grayson last evening.

"Our kids are exhausted. Just exhausted," said Smith. "If they can muster enough energy, they have one more game with Grayson to win it all. We are be-

hind the 8-ball. Basically, Grayson has played four games and our guys have played eight (with the extra innings). But our kids have been re-

ally competitive. They don't want the season to end."

Grayson had given up

See **HAWKS**, Page 12

Forsan in playoff action all weekend

Herald Staff Report

Forsan's Lady Buffs take on Alpine in the Class 2A regional quarterfinals at 6:30 p.m. Friday at Odessa High Field near Ratliff Stadium.

Game 2 of the best-of-three series is scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday at the same location. Game 3, if necessary, will follow 30 minutes after the completion of

Game 2.

Winner of the series will advance to the regional semifinals.

Meanwhile, Forsan's boys go up against Bushland in a best-of-three baseball area game at 7 p.m. tonight at Lubbock Cooper. Game 2 of that series is set for noon Friday with a third game set 30 minutes after, if necessary.

Agreement on sale of Astros nears

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston businessman Jim Crane is close to finally owning a baseball team, nearing a deal to purchase the Astros.

Owner Drayton McLane said in a phone interview Wednesday that the team has been negotiating with Crane's group "for several weeks," but that no contracts have been signed. He said the deal could be reached next week, but the process could take longer.

Crane, who founded a Houston-based logistics company in 2008, is the chairman and chief executive officer of Crane Capital, a private equity fund company.

He would not comment on the reports of the impending sale, according to a spokeswoman at his office at Crane Capital.

Before striking it rich in business, Crane was a pitcher at Central Missouri, a Division II school near Kansas City. But he's struck out on three attempts to buy teams in the last three years.

He first approached McLane about buying the Astros in 2008, but McLane turned him down. A year later, he was in the running to buy the Chicago Cubs, but fell short again.

Last summer, an investment group led by Hall of Fame pitcher Nolan Ryan beat out a group led

by Crane and Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban to buy the Texas Rangers for about \$593 million.

Crane's group appears to be the front-runner this time, although McLane said nothing is set.

"Nothing has been signed," McLane said. "When you're negotiating something as complex as purchasing a major-league sports franchise, there are a lot of details. None of those details have been agreed upon, so there's no agreement to report."

McLane purchased the team in November 1992 for about \$117

See **ASTROS**, Page 12

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Garage Sales

4 FAMILY Yard Sale: 4208 Theo Street, Saturday 8:30-? Furniture, clothing, shoes, purses, toys, TV, home deco., and lots more.

BACKYARD SALE: 1404 Robin, Friday & Saturday 8-5. Queen size wooden headboard frame, women's clothes, household items and lots of etc.....

CHURCH GARAGE Sale. 605 E. 13th. Saturday only! 8:00a.m.-? Lots of misc. items, Also will have Homemade Tortilla, Burritos & Menudo.

YARD SALE

ESTATE SALE- 2705 N Birdwell. Lane-Furniture, TVs, dishes, pots and pans, home décor, exercise equipment, sewing machine, knitting machine, craft items, table saw, radial saw, drill press, lots of old tools, handyman supplies, recliner lift chair, wheelchair, walkers, shower chair, crutches, old records and music, Christmas decorations and much, much more. Everything in house and barns must go! Saturday only 8am-2pm

GARAGE SALE: 704 Tulane, Saturday 8:00am-??? Adult & kids clothes, some furniture, household items and lots of misc.

GARAGE SALE: 818 Scurry (St. Paul Lutheran Church), Saturday 8am-2pm. Too much to list!!!! Come See Us!!!!

GARAGE SALE: Friday & Saturday 7:30-? Corner of North 4th & Central (Coahoma). Scrapbook supplies, stroller, baby & toddler clothes, adult clothes, furniture, decorations, 4-wheel, fabric, toys and much more.

GARAGE/MULTI FAMILY Sale: 1602 Old Sage Road, Saturday 8-2. Gifts from foreign travel, household items, tools, equipment, items for men. No Junk- lots of good stuff.....

MOVING SALE All Must go! Lee's Rental & Storage, 1606 E. FM 700, Lots of Furniture. Friday only, 9:30am-12:30pm, or call 303-929-2712.

MULTI FAMILY Yard Sale: 206 Pine Road (Sand Springs), Saturday 8-? Lots of great stuff. Call (432)935-2524 for directions.

MULTI FAMILY Garage Sale: 2204 Carl, Saturday 8-12. Pre Teen clothing, lots of baby girl clothing, some baby boy clothing, baby furniture, head boards, household items, knick-knacks and lots more.

MULTI FAMILY Garage Sale: Saturday 8:00a-?, 415 Echols Drive, Coahoma. Fireplace Insert, Furniture, Edger, Mower, Home Interior pictures and Accessories, Dishes, Toys, Rugs, Clothes, Baby items.

Garage Sales

TWO DAY Garage/ Moving Sale: 3104 Mountain Shadow (Highland), Saturday 8:00-3:00 and Sunday 1:00-4:00. Kitchen and glassware, rugs, home décor, like new infant swing and seat, Medela breast pump, infant/ children's clothing, shoes, and toys, adult clothing and shoes, TV's, bicycles and much more!

YARD SALE: 1311 Virginia & 1309 Virginia, Saturday 8-12. Girls clothes, household items, knick-knacks and more. A little bit of everything. Come See!!!

YARD SALE: 2100 & 2205 Cecilia Street. Saturday 8am-? Clothes, toys, stove, pickup truck, power washer, tools, fabric, dishes, lots of misc. (No Early Birds).

YARD SALE: 2518 Ent. Drive., Friday & Saturday 8:00am-5:00pm. Men, women's & childrens clothing, knick-knacks, lots of misc.

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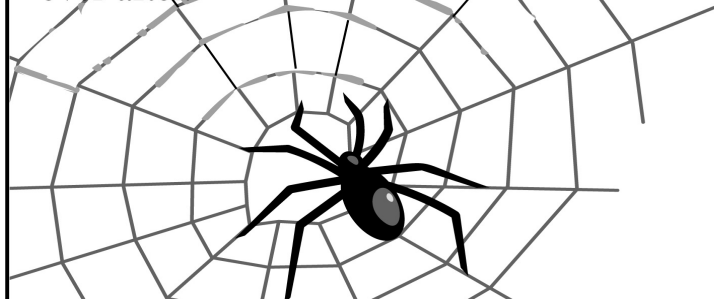
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HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If you don't know enough about a situation, it is only human to rely

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Legals

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals addressed to Mr. John Grant, General Manager of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, will be received at the office of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, P.O. Box 869, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79721, until 3:00 PM, Thursday, June 2, 2011 for the purchase of **Replacement Pipe for Inventory-Ivie Pipeline.**

At this time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bid received after closing time will be returned unopened.

This project consists of supply and delivery of approximately 544 linear feet of 53 and 60-inch diameter Bar-Wrapped Concrete Cylinder Pipe or Cement-Mortar Lined and Coated Steel Pipe in various pressure classes. Specifications are available and may be examined without charge in the office of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, P. O. Box 869, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79721 during normal business hours.

Inquiries may be directed to **Jim Coley, P.E., Senior Engineer,** telephone (432)2676341. #6989 May 5, 12 & 19, 2011

on your powers of assumption. Be superhuman instead. Research, ask questions, and until you get the whole story, refrain from judgment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). This is a crucial day in your plan to get ahead. Stay on track. Go to bed early tonight. The earlier you wake up tomorrow the more you'll accomplish by the end of the week.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Don't wait for inspiration to strike — it probably won't until you're halfway through with the project. Instead, act on the best idea you have. Get in motion, and you'll attract good fortune.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Record what's going on around you in whatever manner you have available. Later, you'll want to remember the bits of information exchanged, the way people spoke and the fashion of the day.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's something to be said for powering through a job, even when you're tired, bored and completely "over it." Push through the hurdles. Life looks different on the other side.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There is a confrontation you simply must have in order to get

to the next level of a project. You cannot avoid this, but since you're still not ready, you can postpone it for a little while longer.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Wear your favorite clothes before you go out shopping. You're likely to buy less when you realize that what you already have is better than what's on the shelves.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You are persuasive precisely because you're so clever. To make sure someone follows your advice, you first find out what action they want to take and then advise them to take it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your best is not going to be the same from moment to moment. You spend the day alternating between pushing yourself and relaxing your expectations. Always be kind to yourself. Never punish yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll get the job if you believe you'll get the job. The same goes for getting the attention of the object of your affection. Work on fortifying your faith in your ability to control your own destiny.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's someone close to you who will support you and cheer you on endlessly and unconditionally. This

person truly has no agenda and no expectation of ever being repaid for this pure encouragement.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Beliefs can be more addicting than substances. It is easy to get ensnared in an unhelpful thought pattern. That's why you must be vigilant about staying positive. Don't even go there.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 12). Extravagance is a relative term. This year you'll live larger than life, bound for excitement. You make your mark at work in June. July brings a connection that enlivens your social scene — someone may even steal your heart for the second or third time. Vacations are dreamy in August. You share a special connection with Libra and Aquarius people. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 26, 36, 31 and 4.

Communication Tips by Sign, Part One of Four: Uranus, Jupiter, Venus and Mercury are all in Aries now, lending maximum momentum to projects, especially for those who can communicate what they want. If you know a person's astrological sign, you can cater your message to maximum effect. Aries is a youthful sign that, like a child, has a way of saying things

that most other adults would agree shouldn't be said. These utterances are coming from an honest place and are not intended to harm. When communicating with Aries, a direct approach is often best. Aries can take the blunt truth and prefers that others lead with the main point of the communication instead of tiptoeing around it with formalities. Taurus responds well to sensory messages. Elaborating about the way things look, feel, taste and sound will make your message come alive in the bull's imagination. If your topic is dry, juice it up with sensual adjectives (itchy, sticky, crisp, velvety, sweet, etc.) to capture Taurus' attention. Gemini appreciates sharp wit. Incorporate humor into the message to hit a home run. The twins love complexities of language, though they still want the boiled-down version. They live, listen and talk by the Shakespearean dictum that "brevity is the soul of wit."

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.
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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: My wife recently had an affair. She told me she was in love with the guy and was going to leave me. Now she says she realizes he was only using her physically and she isn't interested in him anymore.

This affair ended last winter, and they had no contact for a while. Our marriage seemed to be mending. However, about six weeks ago, my wife grew more and more distant and had no interest in being intimate. I then discovered she was texting this same man. When I confronted her, she denied she was doing anything wrong. Now if I bring it up, she becomes angry and refuses to discuss it.

I have a problem with this. I feel her continued conversations with this man are a violation of my trust. She betrayed me

with this guy and claimed he was no longer a part of her life. Her justification is that she isn't, in fact, seeing him and has no interest in resuming their affair. She says she is completely committed to me.

I still am hurt by his attentions and her continued communication with him. This is becoming a very sore spot in our relationship, and I fear it may lead to a divorce. Am I wrong to feel this way? I love my wife and believe she loves me, but I find it almost impossible to trust her. Please help. — *Brokenhearted Husband*

Dear Broken: Your wife is still cheating. Whether or not she is seeing this man, she is still in touch with him, and that is an emotional betrayal. You are being far too accommodating. Tell her all

communication with this man must stop immediately and permanently. Anything else means she values that relationship more than her marriage. And please consider counseling — together or on your own.

Dear Annie: Our 35-year-old daughter, "Keri," stole one of our credit cards and ran up a bill of nearly \$30,000. She did this just after we signed for a new car for her — on which she has discontinued making payments.

Keri has a good job, and we don't understand where her money goes. My husband had to put off retiring this year in order to meet her obligations. He is afraid to cut her off, because each time we get into an argument about not being paid back, Keri threatens to keep us from seeing our grandchildren.

What can we do when she repeatedly promises to make good on these debts, but continues to fail? — *Heartbroken (Brokenhearted above) Couple in Indiana*

Dear Indiana: Keri uses the grandchildren as leverage because it works. Unless you want this situation to continue forever, you must be willing to call her bluff. (You might remind her that she stole your credit card and you can report her to the police.) Keri could benefit from talking to a credit counselor (nfcc.org), who will help her set up a budget she can live with. We also recommend Debtors Anonymous (debtorsanonymous.org). After all, you will not always be around to bail her out, and it's time she learned that (to avoid bail her out/figure it out).

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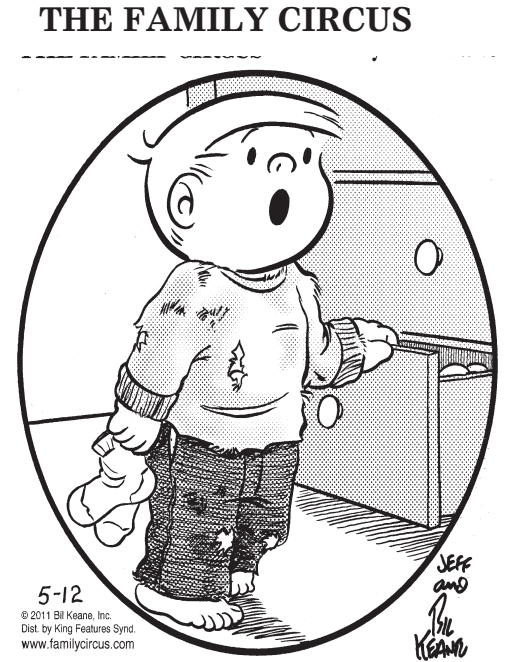
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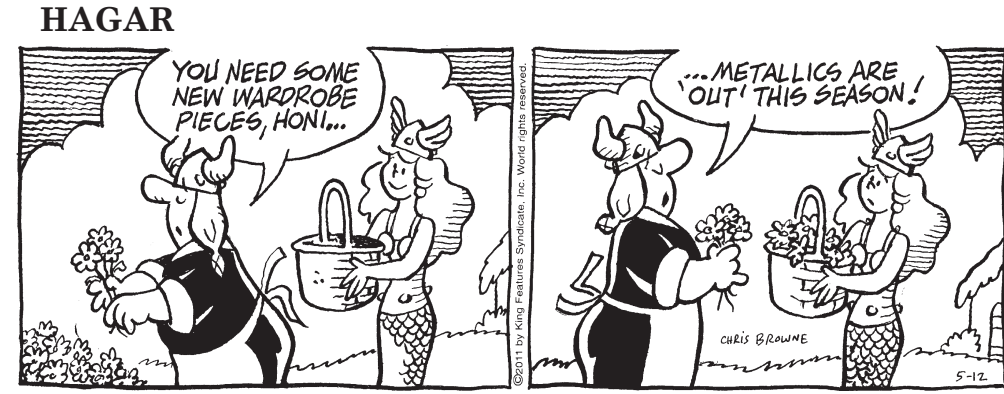
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5:PM :30	News ABC	Alma Notic.	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	Seinfeld	Israel	News	70s Show	Cash Cab	Movie: Rambo: First Blood Part II	Jail	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good	Nation	SportsCenter	
6:PM :30	Jeopardy!	Cuando Me	Two Men	News	Caso Cerado	News	King	Brad	Business	70s Show	Cash Cab	Jail	Bones		Shake It	Pardon			
7:PM :30	Wipeout	Teresa (SS)	American Idol	Big Bang	Aurora (SS)	Office	Movie: 50 First Dates, Rob Schneider	Upd Sid Roth	Daytrip	The Vampire Diaries	Deadliest Catch	Movie: The Perfect Storm, John C. Reilly	Jail	Movie: The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers, Liv Tyler	Fa. Affair	Phineas	College Softball	NBA Basketball	
8:PM :30	Grey's Anatomy	(:01) Private Practice	Bones	CSI: Crime Scene	Herederos-Monte	Office		Antiques Roadshow	Nikita	River Monsters	Deadliest Catch	Jail		Movie: Training Day, Scott Glenn	Deck	Baseball Tonight			
9:PM :30	(:01) Private Practice	Triunfo del Amor	Simpsons	The Mentalist	La Reina del Sur	Parks	Fam. Guy	Jews & Christians	Payne Browns	Swords: Life	Charlie Rose	MAN			Phineas	Baseball Tonight			
10:PM :30	Nightline	Noticiero	Raymond	Letterman	Titulares	Jay Leno		Dr. Denis	World	River Monsters	South Pk	MAN	(:02) Movie: 88 Minutes	Wendy Williams	Hannah	Baseball Tonight			
11:PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Para Volver a Amar	Law & Order: SVU	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Fam. Guy	Conan	Conan	Swords: Life	Trailers	MAN	(:45) CSI: NY	Wizards	NFL Live	SportsCenter			
12:AM :30	Extra	Destilando Amor	Raymond	Insider	Pagado	News		Lopez Tonight	Light of the Southwest	Influence Born	Overhaul'n'	The Killing	The Shield	Movie: Training Day, Scott Glenn	Suite Life	SportsNation	SportsCenter		
1:AM :30	Paid	Mujer Cero	King/Hill	(:37) Up to															



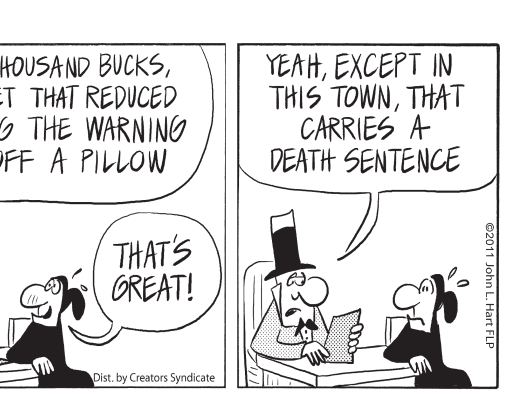
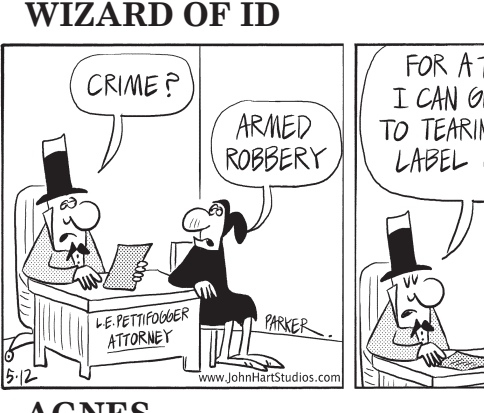
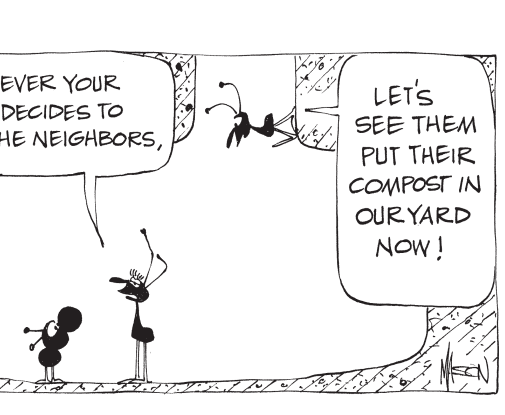
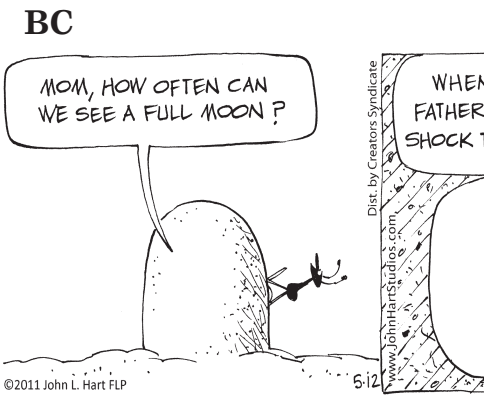
"If Mr. Wilson is ever on TV, we'll need a wider screen!"



"Mommy, which goes better with this outfit - blue socks or white?"



BLONDIE comic strip showing Blondie and Dagwood talking about a plumber.



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, May 12, the 132nd day of 2011. There are 233 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On May 12, 1937, Britain's King George VI was crowned at Westminster Abbey; his wife, Elizabeth, was crowned as queen consort.

On this date:
In 1780, during the Revolutionary War, the besieged city of Charleston, S.C., surrendered to British forces.

In 1870, an act creating the Canadian province of Manitoba was given royal assent, to take effect in July.

In 1930, Chicago's Adler Planetarium first opened to the public.

In 1932, the body of Charles Lindbergh Jr., the kidnapped son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh, was found in a wooded area near Hopewell, N.J.

In 1943, during World War II, Axis forces in North Africa surrendered.

In 1949, the Soviet Union lifted the Berlin Blockade, which the Western powers had succeeded in circumventing with their Berlin Airlift.

In 1958, the United States and Canada signed an agreement to create the North American Air Defense Command (later the North American Aerospace Defense Command, or NORAD for short).

In 1970, the Senate voted unanimously to confirm Harry A. Blackmun as a Supreme Court justice.

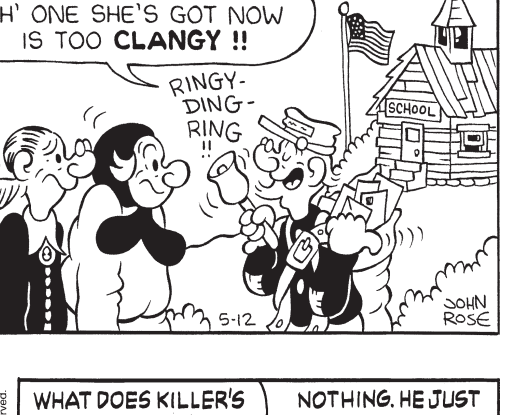
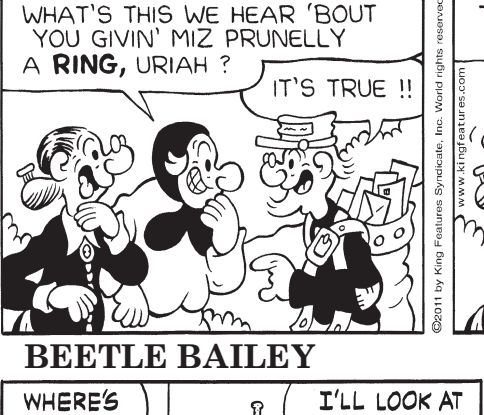
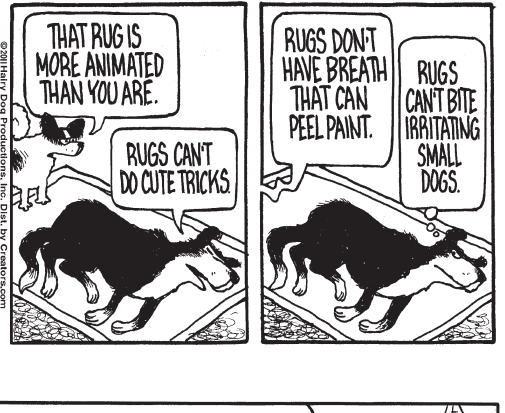
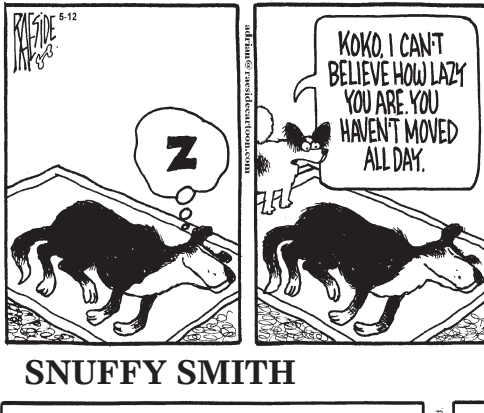
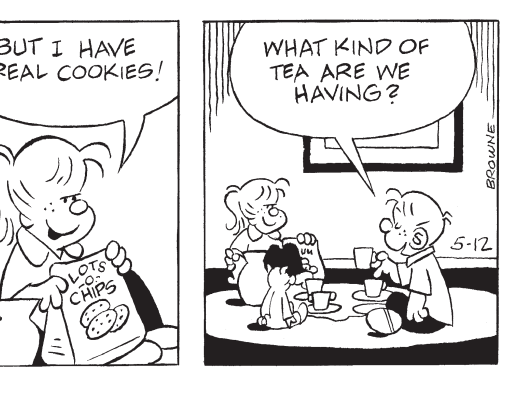
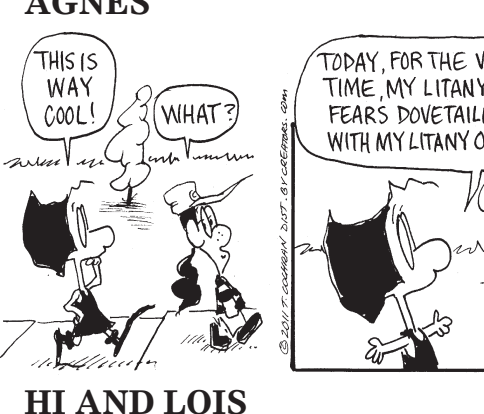
In 1978, the Commerce Department said hurricanes would no longer be given only female names.

In 1982, in Fatima, Portugal, security guards overpowered a Spanish priest armed with a bayonet who attacked Pope John Paul II. (In 2008, the pope's longtime private secretary revealed that the pontiff was slightly wounded in the assault.)

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall-of-Famer Yogi Berra is 86. Critic John Simon is 86. Composer Burt Bacharach is 83. Actress Millie Perkins is 73. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jayotis Washington is 70. Country singer Billy Swan is 69. Actress Linda Dano is 68. Musician Ian McLagan is 68. Actress Lindsay Crouse is 63. Singer-musician Steve Winwood is 63. Actor Gabriel Byrne is 61. Actor Bruce Boxleitner is 61. Singer Billy Squier is 61. Country singer Kix Brooks is 56. Actress Kim Greist is 53. Rock musician Eric Singer (KISS) is 53. Actor Ving Rhames is 52. Rock musician Billy Duffy is 50. Actor Emilio Estevez is 49. Actress April Grace is 49. Actress Vanessa A. Williams ("Melrose Place") is 48. Country musician Eddie Kilgallon is 46. Actor Stephen Baldwin is 45. Actor Scott Schwartz is 43.

Answer to previous puzzle

APES	DARED	AGRA
PETE	EVAD	TRIG
BROWN	BAGIT	BALE
SUNSET	ACH	EYES
	VOL	TRASH
NOWHERE	ONTAPE	
OTHER	TEENY	IRA
OTIS	RINSE	PROS
NET	LENDS	REESE
ERECTS	AMENDED	
	WADES	YEA
STAR	MAP	ELDERS
HOLE	BLACK	MAGIC
URLS	LOCAL	TATA
NESS	ENTRY	ADAM



Newsday Crossword

HARD COPY by Fred Jackson III
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Kitchen array
- 5 Goat-legged deity
- 9 Large chamber group
- 14 Lone Star State sch.
- 15 What's more
- 16 Proactive people
- 17 Pretty challenging
- 20 Stir to action
- 21 Headquarters
- 22 Does a cashier's job
- 23 Despicable one
- 25 Bowlers' org.
- 28 That LPGA player
- 29 Close tie
- 30 Asian capital
- 32 Roman hunt goddess
- 34 Dawn
- 35 Pretty challenging
- 38 Works on the web
- 39 Obliterate
- 40 Cuts back on
- 41 1/8 of a fluid ounce
- 42 Mensa measurements
- 45 Smartphone download
- 46 Lab doctors
- 47 Place for a concert
- 49 Like some news
- 52 Mickey Mouse's girlfriend
- 53 It's pretty challenging
- 57 Billiards player's concern

DOWN

- 1 Put in a corner, perhaps
- 2 "Now!"
- 3 Big game-show prize
- 4 Toledo's location
- 5 Knockoff
- 6 Boxing Hall of Famer
- 7 Ensign's org.
- 8 "Can't complain"
- 9 Wordsworth works
- 10 Make do
- 11 Chef's measure
- 12 Go wrong
- 13 Chiding sound
- 18 Sgt.'s superiors
- 19 Ordered for dinner
- 23 Oodles
- 24 Ready and vigilant
- 26 Town, so to speak
- 27 ___ carte
- 29 Sheltered waters
- 30 Brewski
- 31 View from Toledo
- 32 Humorist Barry
- 33 Currier's partner
- 34 Sixth-day creation
- 35 Disorderly stack
- 36 Noise-reduction devices
- 37 Annals of history
- 38 New Deal agcy.
- 41 Top-of-the-line
- 42 Natural, as talent
- 43 Brunch dish
- 44 Scavenger-hunt participant
- 46 It may move you
- 47 Old ___ (London theatre)
- 48 Become a member
- 50 Stare at
- 51 President Arthur's nickname
- 52 Not worth arguing about
- 53 File-folder feature
- 54 Small bill
- 55 Male turkey
- 56 Angle prefix

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Romo details Cowboys' players-run lockout workouts

McKINNEY (AP) — No coaches. No reporters. No fans. Just football.

Tony Romo and the Dallas Cowboys kind of like it that way. For now, at least.

With the lockout keeping NFL teams from their usual offseason practices, Romo has organized a series of workouts that have been attended by more than 40 players.

"Being back on the field, guys get their juices flowing a little bit," Romo said. "It not really work when you out there. You can tell when guys are running around, they enjoying it."

The sessions, which began last week, aren't just guys hanging out or throwing balls around. They are highly structured, with Romo watching the clock and blowing a whistle at the end of each drill so everyone knows to move on to the next one. There are walkthrough periods and specific plays to be worked on each day.

"It literally like we doing the same things we be doing at an OTA the tempo and everything," Romo said Monday. "I been around it long

enough that I have plenty of schedules laying around my house that I been able to use for the time frame. We at stretch for seven minutes. Bam, you go right into and go. We move right into the ball. And guys are going. You jump in and, boom, you in the next play. We pushing it. ... I can imagine other teams going quite to the extent of the team practices, and that exciting to us."

Players haven't said when or where they are gathering because they don't want anyone watching. Why be so secretive?

"It just doesn't benefit us in any way to be going out there and letting people (watch)," Romo said. "If we run a certain route and the defense busts on a play, and Jason Witten runs up the middle of the field and it looks like someone didn't cover him, then someone is to blame. ...

"We don't need that from outside influences right now. It just needs to be about us, and about improvement. I think sometimes when you bring media or people in to talk about it, then it kind of

adds (pressure). Now all of a sudden, guys would be doing things they probably don't need to be doing."

The Cowboys have a new defensive coordinator in Rob Ryan. While they still use a 3-4 front, his playbook is different from the one Wade Phillips left behind. The terminology is different, too, which is part of what players are learning.

Romo said there are times when the defense will stop and discuss a particular play to make sure everyone understands what to do. He said such breaks are easier to do at this kind of informal workout.

That level of detail shows the Cowboys aren't getting together strictly for bonding. Romo said they could go bowling if that was their aim.

"Personally I think it about sharpening skills and getting better," he said. "I think the bonding stuff comes with doing that."

Leadership, too.

Romo has often been criticized for not taking charge like many established quarterbacks do. This shows oth-

erwise, with the large turnout indicating he has plenty of followers.

Romo downplayed his leadership role, but mentioned several times that he relying on leaders at various positions to set a tone within their group.

"We need them to buy in to committing to being at this, No. 1, and also to being energized and passionate when they out there because it going to trickle down," he said. "That group then feels the need to be out there and the need to get better and to compete when we out there. We have a bunch of great guys, a bunch of leaders and people who are committed to doing this. I think it been a great offseason so far, it really has for us."

Romo said the new crop of draft picks has been invited. He said one or two guys were "making arrangements as we speak." He said veterans who haven't been there are also being urged to join them.

Dez Bryant is among those who attended. With no trainers there to monitor his recovery from a broken ankle,

Romo said teammates are making sure Bryant is careful.

"He competitive so he wants to be involved," Romo said. "If he gets tight or sore he goes off to the side and jogs. But when it feels good, he moves through some drills. But we not going to throw him into the fray yet."

As for Romo's recovery from a broken collarbone that kept him out of the final 10 games last season, he said that long been finished.

"By the end of the season it was almost completely healed," he said. "It probably took another three or four weeks to feel completely comfortable. But it a broken bone. It happens."

Romo spoke after failing in his latest bid to qualify for the U.S. Open golf tournament. On a windy day at a tough course, he shot a 9-over 81 in a local qualifying round.

"It disappointing, but this isn't football," said Romo, who reached the sectionals last year and had a chance to advance had he not bailed out to attend an offseason Cowboys workout.

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HAWKS

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just two runs in its previous three tournament games before taking the field against Howard on Wednesday. But that obviously didn't intimidate the Hawks, who scored in six of nine innings — racking up 23 hits — to defeat the Vikes.

The Hawks jumped to an early 2-0 lead on a two-out, two-RBI single from first baseman Chase Durham in the first inning. In the third, Howard went up 5-0. Tyler Collins doubled and came home on a Nathan Burns single. Designated hitter Landon Steinhagen, who had singled,

scored on a single from Durham, and Burns raced home on a single swatted by Derrick Bleeker.

Grayson tied the game on a five-run fifth inning, but Howard quickly answered in the sixth and took the lead for good. With two outs, Jordan Allen singled up the middle to score Rick Stover and Victor Guerra. Tony Calhoun then rapped a two-run homer for a 9-5 advantage. In the seventh, Durham tripled and scored on a fielder's choice by Stover.

Then in the eighth, Howard got insurance when, after Collins and Steinhagen singled, Collins scored on a fielder's choice by Burns. Durham then slammed a two-run homer to make the score 13-5.

Grayson added two runs in the bottom of the inning and Howard wrapped up the victory with a five-run ninth. Collins cracked a double to deep left center, scoring Allen, who had also doubled aboard, and Calhoun, who had been hit by a pitch. Collins

scored on a single from Steinhagen, who scored on a double by Burns. Bleeker followed with a single through the hole at shortstop, scoring Burns.

In a near perfect night, Durham had five hits on six at bats, including one home run. He accounted for five RBI.

Steinhagen and Collins had four hits each while Bleeker had three.

Brendan McCurry went 7-2/3 innings for the Hawks and was the game winner. He gave up eight hits and struck out nine batters. Clint Cooper picked up a save. He went 1-1/3 and gave up no runs on one hit.

Taking the loss was Garrett Powell, one of six pitchers who took the mound for Grayson.

In the afternoon game, Howard put together 17 hits to defeat rival New Mexico Junior College — a "payback" game for the Hawks, who had been defeated 5-1 Monday by the Thunderbirds. The Hawks opened quickly, scoring two first-inning runs. New Mexico came back to tie the game in the

second, and both teams scored three runs in the third.

The difference was the Hawks' defense. It didn't permit another run after the third inning as pitcher Michael Franco allowed just eight hits and struck out nine batters for the contest. In going the distance, he walked four and had to battle against four Hawk-committed errors.

Chase Rousseau was pegged for the loss. He pitched just one inning and gave up four runs on two hits. The Hawks faced four Thunderbird moundsmen, including Jose Samayoa, who they whacked for five runs on seven hits.

Center fielder Jordan Allen, second baseman Brendan McCurry and designated hitter Landon Steinhagen had three hits apiece for the Hawks. Tyler Collins had a single and a home run and Tony Calhoun and Rick Stover also had two hits each. Rounding out the Hawk bats were Nathan Burns and Victor Guerra with one hit apiece.

ASTROS

Continued from Page 7

million. He put the franchise up for sale in November and retained the New York investment firm Allen

and Co. to help him broker the deal.

Multiple media reports said McLane's asking price for the Astros is about \$680 million. A major selling point is the team's share in a new deal with the NBA's Houston Rockets to create a regional sports network that will begin airing Rockets games in 2012 and Astros games in the 2013 season.

McLane would not confirm the price figure or divulge other specifics.

"We're just not revealing any details until we get a deal done," he said.

McLane, who made his fortune running the family's wholesale grocery business, has been considering selling the team for at least two years. He said in November that the decision to fully commit to selling the team was based mostly on family considerations.

McLane is a fixture at Astros home games, sitting in the front row behind home plate. The franchise, play-

ing its 50th season, has reached unprecedented success with McLane as the owner, making the playoffs six times since 1997.

But Houston has finished with a losing record in three of the past four seasons, and attendance has dwindled as the team began rebuilding after the departure of its most recognizable stars. Jeff Bagwell and Craig Biggio were both gone by the 2008 season, and Houston traded pitching ace Roy Oswalt and five-time All-Star Lance Berkman in 2010.

After Wednesday's win over Cincinnati, the Astros were 14-23 and in last place in the NL Central.

McLane would not say if he plans to keep a minority share of the team after it's sold, but said he'll still attend games.

"I've owned the team for 19 years, so it's kind of like graduating from college," he said. "You develop a lot of emotion and friendships in the midst of what you're doing. It's a big part of your life."



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