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New 'Life' for Runnels

Life Church has big plans for historic campus

By **AMANDA MORENO**
 Staff Writer

For several years the old Runnels Junior High building sat vacant, but now it has new life pouring in. Big Spring Independent School District decided to sell the property a few years ago to Life Church, and in the process, the building found not only a new owner, but a renewed purpose.

The winning bid —which included 10 acres and all five buildings on the property – was awarded for \$10,000.

"We understand there are many people in the community who have a special place in their hearts for this building and want to be a part of preserving its history."

Kami Collins

"It was our story that got the bid for us. Once the school district heard what we were wanting to do with it, I think it really helped because we were not the highest bid," Kami Collins, wife of Life Church Pastor Clint Collins, said.

Renovations on the building began in July 2008 with the old gymnasium. After the bid was awarded, the church had 13 weeks

to get the building ready for use. Phase one of the renovations included creating office space, an infant nursery and a sanctuary.

"We were on a limited time frame because we had to get out of our other building," Pastor Collins said.

The second part of phase one included the renovation of the east wing, bottom floor of the main school building. The official opening took place last August and includes the children's wing and



The former Runnels Junior High has been undergoing renovations since 2008 when it was purchased by Life Church. Future plans include a family life center which will be open to the community.

HERALD photos/
 Amanda Moreno

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Atmos rate plan draws city's ire

Council likely to deny utility's increase request

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

The city of Big Spring is expected to tell Atmos Energy to head back to the drawing board when it comes to rate increases, as the multi-city steering committee involved in the most recent reviews will issue a full denial to the natural gas company.

The Big Spring City Council will consider first reading of a resolution denying Atmos Energy Corporation West Texas Division's fourth annual rate review mechanism filing; permitting the company to establish a regulatory asset for new depreciation rates which may

What: Big Spring City Council meeting.
Where: Council chambers, 307 E. Fourth St.
When: 5:30 p.m. Tuesday.

be considered in a system-wide rate filing; requiring the company to reimburse cities' reasonable ratemaking expenses; adopting a saving clause; determining that this resolution was passed in accordance with the requirements of the Texas Open Meetings Act; declaring an effective date;

and requiring delivery of the resolution to the company and the steering committee's legal counsel.

According to Peggy Walker, finance director for the city of Big Spring, the full denial will force Atmos to reconsider the rate increases it is asking for and make a new presentation during its annual system-wide rate review.

"Full denials don't happen often, but there are at least two cities served by Atmos that are getting much lower rates than we are," Walker said. "That's simply not fair business."

Walker said the next round of negotiations between

Atmos Energy and the cities it serves isn't likely to be as productive for the steering committee or the cities it serves.

"A new asset depreciation class will certainly give them more leverage going into the full, system-wide rate review," Walker said. "We will basically have to start the process all over again, but the likelihood of getting out with a full denial again is very, very low."

Tuesday's meeting is expected to get under way at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, located at 307 E. Fourth St. For more information call 264-2401.

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Obituaries

Robert 'Kent' Cearley



Robert "Kent" Cearley, 68, of San Angelo died Friday, July 22, 2011, at his residence. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 26, 2011, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Elwin Collom, pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church, officiating. Interment will follow at Coahoma Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Monday, July 25, 2011, at the funeral home.

Kent was born Nov. 25, 1942, in Graham, Texas, to Roy and Katie (Grisham) Cearley. His family moved to Coahoma where he grew up and graduated from High School. Kent became a Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper in the early 1970's.

He then tried his hand a hauling cattle cross-country. Kent was in the oilfield all of his working life. He became a drilling consultant and his career took him all over Texas, to several other states and even to Indonesia. Kent was a 32nd degree Mason and a member of the Robert Lee Lodge.

Kent loved people. He was someone that you never forgot. A boss once said of him that, "He works a room like a politician." He wanted to know all he could about the people he met and made everyone feel special. He will be greatly missed.

Survivors include his wife of 38 years, Bonnie (Knowlton) Cearley of San Angelo, with whom he shared many great adventures; two sons, Mark of Oklahoma and Kelly and wife Donna of Colorado City; two granddaughters, Brandie Lucero and husband Robert of Roswell, N.M., and Cheyanne Cearley and Kevin Ruth of Colorado City; two grandsons, Coby Hand of Colorado City and Joe Dean Hand of Stamford; seven great-grandchildren and was expecting one more in September; one sister, Shirley Ditto of Big Spring; and two brothers, Jim Cearley of Big Spring and Ted Cearley of Port Allen, La.

Kent was very close and loving with his brothers and sister, talking to at least one of them daily. He was very proud of his children and grandchildren and was looking forward to seeing the good men and women they will become.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one grandson, Kolt Overton.

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

Paid obituary

Support Groups

TUESDAY
• Special Parents for Special Children support group meets the first Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at Elbow Elementary. Contact Kerri Rosenbaum at 432-816-3320 or kerriroosenbaum9488@msn.com

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

• Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207.

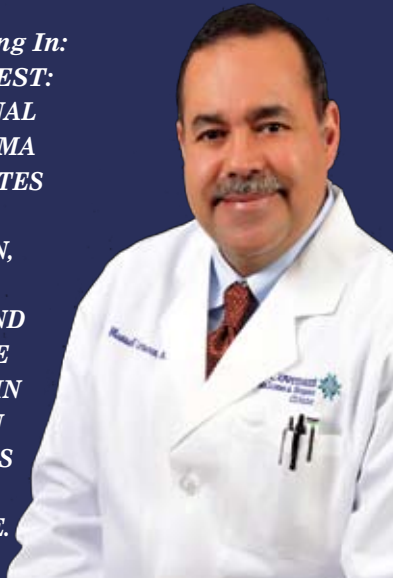
• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 & 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.



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Police/Sheriff/EMS

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 9 a.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. today:

- VICTOR GUTIERREZ, 34, of Planiview, was arrested Saturday on a charge of forgery of a financial instrument.
- JOSEPH HEATH GRIFFITH, 28, of 2609 Wasson Rd. Apt. 57, was arrested Saturday on a charge of disorderly conduct – exposing genitals/anus in public.
- ERNEST WILLIAM CLARK, 71, transient, was arrested Saturday on a charge of criminal trespass.
- ASHLEY CASSAREZ LUNA, 26, of Sweetwater, was arrested Saturday on warrants for theft, driving while license invalid, possession of marijuana – two ounces or less and a warrant from another agency.
- ANGEL VILLA, 37, of Sweetwater, was arrested Saturday on warrants for failure to identify – giving false information and a warrant from another agency.
- BOBBY L. PENA, 22, of 2300 Marcy Dr., was arrested Saturday on a warrant for driving while license invalid.
- TIMOTHY RAY ARVIEW, 30, of 805 Creighton, was arrested Saturday on a warrant for deadly conduct – discharge of a firearm.
- HENRY ELLIS TATUM, 31, of San Angelo, was arrested Sunday on a charge of assault – family violence.
- ALANA DIANE ZAMORA, 34, of 1005 E. 16th St., was arrested Sunday on a warrant from another agency.
- REYNALDO HERNANDEZ, 54, of 1502 Bluebird, was arrested Sunday on warrants for expired motor vehicle inspection certificate, accumulated items/weeds/rubbish and failure to appear.
- SHAYLON TOBIAS CERDA, 34, of 900 S. Aylesford, was arrested Sunday on a warrant for no driver's license – when unlicensed.
- DUSTIN RAY GOODMAN, 22, of Ackerly, was arrested Sunday on a charge of standing in roadway soliciting a ride.
- GILBERT ANTHONY GOLZALEZ, 33, of 1605 Tucson, was arrested Sunday on a charge of assault – family violence.
- CYNTHIA RODRIGUEZ GARZA, 42, of 610 N.W. Eighth Street, was arrested Monday on charges of public intoxication, defective turn signal lamps and failure to appear.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS was reported in the 1100 block of N. Lamesa.
- THEFT was reported:
In the 3700 block of Connally.
In the 800 block of W. FM 700.
In the 1700 block of E. Third Street.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 900 block of N. Lamesa.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported:

In the 2700 block of Ann Dr.

In the 1000 block of Main Street.

• ASSAULT was reported in the 2600 block of Fairchild.

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 78 inmates at the time of this report.

• ANTONIO PENA JR., 27, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for criminal mischief.

• GARY LEON JETTON, 57, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for possession of a controlled substance.

• DAVID LYNN DOW, 28, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of disorderly conduct – language.

• RAUL JOHN GARZA JR., 41, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on charges of indecency with a child – sexual contact (two counts) and a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated with a child passenger under 15 years of age.

• VICTOR GUTIERREZ, 34, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of forgery of a financial instrument.

• TONY BERNARD ANDERSON JR., was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of forgery of a financial instrument.

• ASHLEY DAWN WALTERS, 22, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of forgery of a financial instrument and a Lubbock warrant for possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.

• TIMOTHY RAY ARVIEW, 30, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of deadly conduct – discharge of a firearm.

• SHANNON BOUDREAUX, 40, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on municipal capias warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility, driving while license invalid, violation of a promise to appear (two counts) and no driver's license.

• ASHLEY CASSAREZ LUNA, 26, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of driving while license invalid (two counts), disregarding a stop sign, violation of a promise to appear (, bail jumping – failure to appear, theft and possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

• ANGEL VILLA, 37, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of failure to identify – giving false information and a Sutton County warrant for non-payment of child support.


• PHILLIP DALE MOORE, 27, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on an Austin parole warrant.

• BOBBY L. PENA, 22, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• ERNEST WILLIAM CLARK, 71, was

See **SHERIFF**, Page 3

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SHERIFF

Continued from Page 2

transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.

- ROBERT LEE AIKENS JR., 48, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on charges of theft of property and stealing/receiving stolen checks.

- ALANA DIANA ZAMORA, 34, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of bail jumping – failure to appear.

- HENRY ELLIS TATUM, 31, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of assault – family violence.

- REYNALDO HERNANDEZ, 54, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for accumulated items – first offense, violation of a promise to appear and expired motor vehicle inspection certificate.

- GILBERT ANTHONY GONZALES, 37, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of assault – family violence.

- SHALYON TOBIAS CERDA, 34, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a municipal warrant for no driver's license.

- DUSTIN GOODMAN, 22, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of solicitation by a pedestrian.

- JOSE LUIS OLIVAS, 38, was arrested Sunday on a Stanton warrant for burglary of a habitation.

- JACOB JAY AGUIRRE, 30, was arrested Sunday by the Martin County Sheriff's Office and transferred to the county jail on a Martin County warrant for delivery of a controlled substance.

- MARSHA DIANNE CARTER, 35, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of theft by check.

- TERRY LEE CARTER, 36, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of theft by check.

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

activity:

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 4200 block of Old Colorado City Highway. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of W. Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of S. Main Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of W. Marey. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 2600 block of Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of W. 24th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1100 block of Scurry. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 8600 block of CR 19. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of N.W. Second Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of W. 24th Street. Service refused.

- TRAUMA was reported in the 2700 block of Lynn. One person was transported to SMMC.

- TRAUMA was reported in the 8100 block of N. Service Road. Service refused.

- TRAUMA was reported in the 1700 block of Harvard. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported near the Interstate Highway 20 mile marker 194. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of W. Third Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

- TRAUMA was reported in the 200 block of Marcy. One person was transported to SMMC.

News in brief

Affidavit: Skate rink gunman had hit, berated wife

GRAND PRAIRIE (AP) — A woman shot dead by her estranged husband at a Texas skating rink had accused him of hitting her and threatening her with guns in the months before the shooting rampage that also felled four of her family members, according to court documents.

KTVT-TV in Dallas reported that Trini Do obtained a protective order last December against Tan Do but had it withdrawn earlier this year against a prosecutor's advice because she wanted to give him another chance. She had also sought a divorce in 2008 but withdrew that filing months later.

Police say 35-year-old Tan Do of Grand Prairie opened fire on his estranged wife and her family Saturday night at a birthday party for their 11-year-old son. Four other people were injured. Do shot and killed himself at the end of the rampage.

Investigators have cited the couple's ongoing marital problems and say they may have argued before the shooting. A public records search showed no criminal record for Tan Do.

Trini Do, 29, alleges a pattern of physical violence and threats in her request for a protective order. She said that they stopped living together in December after what she said had been their worst year together.

In early 2010, she said he fired a gun into the ceiling and threatened to shoot her because she had been contemplating divorce again, according to the documents.

San Antonio man accused of newborn son's death

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Authorities say a San Antonio man has been charged in connection with the death of his 2-week-old son who allegedly had been beaten.

The Bexar (bayr) County Sheriff's Office says 22-year-old Justin Janosik was jailed Monday on a charge of injury to a child, causing serious bodily injury.

Bond is \$100,000 for Janosik, who was arrested Sunday, hours after his son, Kaleb, was found unresponsive in the family's home. Autopsy results are pending, but a police report says the boy had bruises on his face and his back.

An affidavit says Janosik often cared for the baby while his wife was looking for work.

Jail records did not list an attorney for Janosik.

LIFE

Continued from Page 1

kitchen area.

Of course, the building itself has been a fixture in the Big Spring community since it was constructed in 1916. According to Kami, there have been numerous residents who attended school at Runnels who have expressed the desire to contribute to the renovations and shared their appreciation for the efforts of preservation.

"We understand there are many people in the community who have a special place in their hearts for this building and want to be a part of its history preservation," Kami said.

All renovations to this point have been accomplished through donations and other church efforts, but in the near future, the Collins' plan on kicking off the Legacy Campaign, designed to collect funds in order to help with phase three of the renovation process.

"The building already holds a piece of history

in education and that is something we want to see continue," Collins said.

An upcoming phase of renovation will include the creation of a private school — grades kindergarden through 12th grade — and a Bible school or college on the top floor of the main building.

Phase three will include transforming the girls' gym into a family life center, an area the community can utilize. Plans include creating an area that can be used for birthday parties, reunions, gatherings and a place for kids to have fun.

"We are located in the heart of city and right in the middle of the community we are trying to reach," Pastor Col-

lins said. "We are wanting to create a place not only preserving the history of this building, but a place the entire community can enjoy."

Part of the family life center will be the inclusion of an indoor play system measuring 60 feet by 40 feet, standing seven tiers high. The system was purchased from Kenneth Copeland Ministries. The expected time frame for the next step in renovations is from six months to a year, depending on finances.

"There are lots of people personally invested in this building who want to help keep it alive and we are hoping through the Legacy Campaign we will be able to provide an opportunity for them to

do that," Kami said. "Through these renovations and creation of the school, we are providing the chance to build the legacy of the school for education."

To further protect the history within the building, there will be a room designated to the display of memorabilia from the old Runnel's school. The room will be set up as a museum and will include items such as old chalkboards — that were never erased from the final days of the school — desks and chairs, photographs and other items that were donated or left behind.

"This building will never fully belong to our church in our eyes ... it will always belong to the community," Pastor Collins and his wife

said. "We are trying to do things in the renovation process that will benefit the community and that is why with each step we have the community in mind."

The biggest expense has been in bringing the building up to code. Church officials plan to provide increased handicap accessibility to all levels of the facility.

A grand foyer will be constructed between the two front buildings and serve as a central hub. Elevators to the upper floors will be located within the foyer, as well as handicap accessible bathrooms.

Anyone wanting to take part in the renovation process, whether through monetary donations, supplies or volunteer hours, can contact

the church office at 263-7714 or visit the website at golifechurch.com.

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

News in brief

Boehner preparing debt limit, spending cut package

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bickering in public yet bargaining in private, congressional leaders are struggling for a compromise debt limit deal that avoids a market-rattling default in little over a week while cutting trillions in spending.

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, planned to meet with his chamber's Republicans on Monday to discuss the GOP's clash with President Barack Obama over extending the government's borrowing authority, which lapses on Aug. 2 — a week from Tuesday. There were widespread expectations in Capitol Hill that Boehner would unveil debt ceiling legislation by that session, if not earlier.

After meeting at the White House on Sunday with Obama and House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said bipartisan talks on a solution had collapsed because Republicans were insisting on only extending the debt limit for a short period. He said he was crafting a \$2.7 trillion package of spending cuts that would also push the government's borrowing authority through next year, a timeline that Obama and top Democrats are demanding.

Reid, D-Nev., called Boehner's forthcoming proposal "a nonstarter in the Senate and with the president." In a written statement, he said that it "would not provide the certainty the markets are looking for and risks many of

the same dire economic consequences that would be triggered by default itself."

As yet another day passed with the two parties unable to shake hands, the drama seemed certain to play out in nail-biting fashion. If the government's authority to borrow money isn't renewed by Aug. 2 — its current \$14.3 trillion limit has been reached — it won't have cash to pay all its bills. The administration and many others say that scenario would risk a first-ever federal default, with higher interest rates and other devastating effects cascading through the entire economy.

Norway gunman wants to appear in court in uniform

OSLO, Norway (AP) — The man who confessed to the twin attacks that killed 93 people in Norway will be arraigned in court Monday and has requested an open hearing for his first appearance so that he can explain his massacre to the public.

But prosecutors have asked that the court be closed to the public and media. It's clear from a manifesto Anders Behring Breivik published online to describe the planning and motivation of the attacks that he's looking for a platform for his belief that Europe must be saved from Muslim colonization; he has said that the killings themselves were "marketing" for the manifesto.

His lawyer Geir Lippestad told Norwegian broadcaster NRK that Breivik has requested to appear in a uniform during the hearing, but didn't know what kind. In the document, Breivik describes how he would turn the court appearance into theater.

Prosecutors have asked that the 32-year-old suspect be held for eight weeks, said Oslo District Court spokeswoman Irene Ramm.

By speaking out, Strauss-Kahn accuser treads unusual path

NEW YORK (AP) — The hotel housekeeper accusing Dominique Strauss-Kahn of sexually assaulting her is telling her story publicly, she says, because she wants him behind bars. But it's hard to say whether her striking move will help or hobble her goal.

Nafissatou Diallo's decision to speak out in media interviews is an unusual and risky move for an accuser at this point in a criminal case, legal experts said.

It gives her an empowering chance to tell her side of the story as prosecutors weigh whether to press ahead with the case amid concerns they have raised about her credibility. But it also enshrines a version of events that defense lawyers could mine for discrepancies with her grand jury testimony or use as fodder for arguing that she was seeking money or public attention.

Unprecedented wave of drug patents ending

(AP) — The cost of prescription medicines used by millions of people every day is about to plummet.

The next 14 months will bring generic versions of seven of the world's 20 best-selling drugs, including the top two: cholesterol fighter Lipitor and blood thinner Plavix.

The magnitude of this wave of expiring drugs patents is unprecedented. Between now and 2016, blockbusters with about \$255 billion in global annual sales are set to go off patent, notes EvaluatePharma Ltd., a London research firm. Generic competition will decimate sales of the brand-name drugs and slash the cost to patients and companies that provide health benefits.

Top drugs getting generic competition

by September 2012 are taken by millions every day: Lipitor alone is taken by about 4.3 million Americans and Plavix by 1.4 million. Generic versions of big-selling drugs for blood pressure, asthma, diabetes, depression, high triglycerides, HIV and bipolar disorder also are coming by then.

Dem. leader Pelosi calls for ethics probe

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi has requested an ethics panel investigation of Rep. David Wu over a woman's reported accusation that she had an "unwanted sexual encounter" with the Oregon Democrat last year.

Pelosi issued a statement Sunday night calling on the Republican-led House's "Ethics Committee to initiate an investigation into the allegations against Congressman Wu."

Wu and Pelosi had a telephone conversation Saturday but neither politician has disclosed any details.

Despite calls for his resignation, Wu kept publicly silent Sunday. But The Oregonian posted a Washington-dated story on its website late Sunday with a senior Democrat official, who wasn't further identified, confirming to the paper that Wu said he would not resign but would complete his term and retire in 2012.

Couples wed on 1st day same-sex marriages legal

NEW YORK (AP) — From Niagara Falls to Long Island, hundreds of gay couples were married Sunday in joyous, long-awaited ceremonies as New York became the sixth and largest state to recognize same-sex marriage.

Dressed in formal suits and striped trousers, traditional white gowns and T-shirts, the couples began saying "I do" at midnight to the cheers and applause of family, friends and supporters.

"To us, we always felt married. But we didn't have equality," said Cindy Golden, just moments after saying her vows at the Manhattan city clerk's office and formally taking the name of her partner.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

West dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ J 10 8
♥ A Q 10 8
♦ A 10 2
♣ 8 6 2

WEST
♠ Q 9 5 4
♥ —
♦ 8 6 5
♣ A Q 9 7 5 4

EAST
♠ A K 6 2
♥ 6 5 4 3
♦ 9 7
♣ K J 3

SOUTH
♠ 7 3
♥ K J 9 7 2
♦ K Q J 4 3
♣ 10

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥
Pass 2 ♥ Pass 2 ♠
Pass 3 ♥ Pass 4 ♥

Opening lead — four of spades.

Advocates of light opening bids, who tend to live on the edge of many auctions, can point to this deal as proof of the effectiveness of their methods. The deal occurred in the semifinals of the 1999 U.S. International Team Trials.

Ralph Katz and Roger Bates reached four hearts on the bidding shown. Katz's one-club opening on a balanced 11-point hand effectively kept East-West out of the bidding, allowing Bates and Katz to reach their lay-down four-heart game unimpeded. Along the way, Bates threw in a psychic two-spade call for good measure, and the duo wound up plus 420.

At the other table, the opposing North, Chuck Burger, passed in second seat, enabling East, Peter Weichsel, to open one diamond (Weichsel and Alan Sontag, his partner, were playing Precision Club) on his 11-point hand. This led to the following competitive sequence that ended with Weichsel-Sontag reaching four spades:

West North East South
Pass Pass 1 ♦ 1 ♠
2 ♣ 2 ♦ Pass 2 ♥
2 ♠ 3 ♥ 4 ♣

With trumps breaking normally, 11 tricks were there for the taking, giving Sontag-Weichsel a score of 650 points. Combined with the 420 points gained by their teammates at the other table, this gave them a pickup of 14 IMPs in a match they eventually won by 29.

Tomorrow: The prime directive.
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U.S. softball team advances to final

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — First-year coach Ken Eriksen is starting to see his group of youngsters into the Team USA of old.

Stacy May-Johnson hit a grand slam and Christi Orgeron had a three-run double in a 10-run fourth inning, and the United States advanced to the World Cup of Softball champi-

onship game by beating Great Britain 10-0 Sunday.

The U.S. will face 2008 Olympic gold medalist Japan on Monday night in a familiar matchup of the sport's two powerhouses.

Orgeron broke a scoreless tie with a double that hopped to the wall in left field and cleared the bases, and the Americans (4-1) didn't let up

until the game had ended because of the mercy rule.

"This team has that potential to at any moment just completely bust the game open," Orgeron said. "It could be anyone in the lineup, one through nine. This team has an incredible amount of talent. We've definitely been blessed by God with our abilities.

"All it takes is one little spark and you start a forest fire."

Just after Michelle Moultrie made a high-reel diving catch in left field to finish the top of the fourth, the American offense came alive just like in the days when Crystl Bustos, Jessica Mendoza and Stacey Nuveman filled the middle of the lineup.

Orgeron scored when second baseman Naomi Jones misplayed Michelle Moultrie's grounder, and Rhea Taylor followed with a single to shallow center to load the bases again. May-Johnson homered to left, and Valerie Arioto and Brittany Schutte added back-to-back blasts to center to end the game.

All of the Olympians See **FINAL**, Page 10

from the Americans' most dominant era are gone now, replaced by players with little to no international experience — and some only halfway through college. The U.S. lost three out of four games against Japan, including the championship game, at the Canada Cup this month and also lost

Rangers shut out by Blue Jays

ARLINGTON (AP) — Brett Cecil pitched a four-hitter for his second complete game in his last four starts as Toronto beat the Texas Rangers 3-0 on Sunday night.

It was the first career shut-out for Cecil (3-4), whose only other complete game in his 55 games was in a loss July 15 at Boston. The left-hander allowed only four singles to the AL West-leading Rangers, who had only one runner reach second base.

Jose Bautista had an RBI double and a diving catch in an unusual spot to back up Cecil, who struck out seven and walked two.

Bautista's hit sent home Yunel Escobar, who led off the sixth with his third hit. Edwin Encarnacion and Travis Snider had consecutive RBI doubles later in the inning off All-Star right-hander Alexi Ogando (10-4).

Until Nelson Cruz reached with a two-out infield hit in the ninth on the slow roller toward third base, the other Rangers singles had been leading off innings. They still were never able to put together a run-scoring frame against Cecil.

The AL West-leading Rangers lost for only the third time in 17 games overall, and had their nine-game home winning streak ended.

It was the fifth time this season the Rangers were shut out, but the first by an individual pitcher.

In the field, the Blue Jays used a drastic shift against some of the Texas left-handers that had third baseman Bautista playing short right field — much like the rover in a softball game. Bautista started the inning off the sixth with a diving catch of Mitch Moreland's sinking

liner.

The only Texas runner to get to second base was Craig Gentry, who singled twice — a bunt single in third and another hit in the eighth. He got to second in the eighth after tagging up on a long flyball by Moreland.

Gentry was briefly stunned when his helmet came off and he slid headfirst into the back side of second baseman Aaron Hill's leg. Gentry stayed down on the ground briefly and was checked out by a trainer. He stayed in the game.

Ogando had won his previous three starts this month following a three-game losing streak. He struck out six and walked two in 6 2-3 innings.

Each of Toronto's first four strikeouts with Ogando striking out a batter, the same way the fifth inning

started. After Escobar and Eric Thames had consecutive two-out singles in the third, Ogando got out of that jam when he threw a 96 mph fastball past Bautista.

Bautista didn't miss in the sixth, and got the Blue Jays going in their decisive outburst.

Toronto had also scored three runs in the sixth inning Saturday night to take a 4-3 lead in that game, but Texas won with two runs in a ninth-inning rally that included three sacrifice bunts — one a suicide squeeze — before Michael Young's game-ending hit.

Notes: The temperature at first pitch was 105 degrees, matching the hottest it's been for a game at Rangers Ballpark, which opened in 1994. It was also 105 degrees when Oakland played there July 8.

Big Spring Football and volleyball two-a-days start Monday, Aug. 1

Briefs

Volleyball camp July 25-28

BSISD's volleyball camp will be held July 25-28, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. The camp is open to students in grades 3-8 for a fee of \$25. T-shirts can also be purchased for \$10. Call 432-264-3662 for more information.

Steers football equipment fitting

Equipment fitting for the Steers football players has been announced.

Juniors will be fitted Monday and Tuesday, July 25-26 at 9 a.m.

Sophomores will be fitted Wednesday and Thursday, July 27-28 at 9 a.m.

Freshmen will be fitted Thursday and Friday, July 28-29 at 9 a.m.

Steer season tickets on sale

The athletic department of the Big Spring Steers has announced the dates for season ticket sales. Those previously holding season tickets can purchase tickets for the 2011-2012 season July 18-Aug. 4 from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

New purchasers of season tickets can purchase their ticket books Aug. 8-Aug. 17 from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

The ticket books are \$25 and include all five home games. For more information, contact Kay Cook at 432-264-3662.

Football, cheerleading

signups start Saturday

Sign-ups for CYFA's youth football and cheerleading signups will be held Saturdays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. The cost of the programs are \$125 for divisions one and two, \$75 for flag football and \$100 for cheerleading.

Signups will take place at Big Spring Mall every Saturday through Aug. 13, from 10 a.m. through 6 p.m.

Signups will also be taken Aug. 9, 11, 16 and 18 between the hours of 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. For more information, contact Jeff Vidal at 432-816-6871.

Flag football workers needed

Anyone interested in heading up or helping run the Big Spring area NFL Flag Football League, please call or text 432-213-7186. This is a coed flag football league that is run in conjunction with the NFL.

Climb to the top handicap bowling tournament Aug. 28

Bowl-A-Rama is hosting a bowling tournament with a \$600 guaranteed first place prize. The tournament, which will take place at 1 p.m. Aug. 28, is open to the first 24 bowlers with an average of 199 or less. Entry fee is \$60 and must be received by 6 p.m. Aug. 25.

For additional information, contact Greg Clarke at 432-264-6480 or John and Diana Dodd at 432-267-7484. Further information can be obtained on Bowl-A-Rama's website. Simply go to www.bigspringbowlarama.com

Houston swept again

CHICAGO (AP) — A dejected Hunter Pence stood at his locker, smiling in disbelief.

"Today, my performance was awful. I let everyone down," he said. "This is one of the worst games I feel I've been a part of."

Blinded by the sun, Pence was unable to track down Marlon Byrd's flyball, which ended up as a leadoff triple in the 10th inning and later turned into the winning run in the Chicago Cubs' 5-4 victory over the Houston Astros on Sunday.

Pinch-hitter Jeff Baker's walkoff single with the bases loaded drove in Byrd to help the Cubs complete their first three-game sweep at Wrigley Field in nearly two years.

Byrd led off the extra frame with a deep fly ball to right-center. Pence was in the area to catch it, but ran right past where the ball eventually fell.

"I never even saw the ball," Pence said. "I saw the ball off the bat. I was running, but it never came out of the sun. I was looking, looking, looking, and I heard it hit the ground. I was trying to get there. I really don't know what I could have done better on that play because of the sun in my face, but there's no excuse. It's a major league ballgame."

"It's not the first time I've made a horrendous play in this outfield. No flyball is easy here. It's the toughest

one I've ever played in."

Astros reliever David Carpenter (0-1) then struck out Geovany Soto, and after intentional walks to Tony Campana and Darwin Barney, Baker ended the game with a liner down the left-field line.

"We wanted to face a guy that hadn't been in the game yet," Astros manager Brad Mills said. "He put a good swing on a pretty good pitch."

Cubs reliever John Grabow (2-0) pitched a scoreless 10th inning to earn the win.

Chicago had to come back after the bullpen blew another impressive start by Matt Garza. In his third straight start, Garza left after seven innings with the lead only to have it given away by the bullpen.

Cubs manager Mike Quade gave Garza the option to start the eighth but the right-hander, already having thrown 107 pitches, declined after further consideration.

"Being a competitor, it is always, 'Yeah,' right out of the gates," Garza said. "But then I sat down and thought about it a little bit before the inning started, then I said, 'No.'"

Garza was done in by reliever Jeff Samardzija in the eighth. With a 2-1 lead, Samardzija allowed a lead-off walk to Pence, then gave up a

See **ASTROS**, Page 10

CTLGA changes starting time for tournament

By **ROBERT GRIFFIN**
Sports Editor

The Comanche Trail Ladies Golf Association met again this last week at the course for a little golf. In the individual play Monday, Joan Daniels recorded the low gross, while Shirley Long had the lowest net score. Betty Murphy had the fewest putts among the ladies.

Thursday, the ladies were joined by the men for a couples tournament. First place went to the team of Jimmy Foresyth, Deanna Foresyth, Joe Sharpnack and Patsy

Sharpnack. The team came in four strokes under par during the nine-hole outing.

At three under par and in second place was the team of Jerry Roach, Annie Ward, Max Coffee and Betty Ray Coffee.

Jerry Roach came closest to the pin on hole number three and Shirley Long set the pace on hole number six.

The CTLGA announced this week they are moving the start time for the Thursday tournament from 9:30 to 9 a.m.

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 - Benjamin Franklin, letter to Collinson, 1753

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Not the easiest morning you ever had, eh? When the Taurus moon goes void-of-course, even the mild mannered can get stubborn and set in their ways.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There is so much unnecessary worry in the world. You see it in other people's lives, while your own worries seem somehow more valid.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You will choose your colleagues for their ability, honesty and loyalty. But when it comes to your friends and acquaintances, you will be most attracted to those who make you laugh.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Many will follow along and cooperate with the flow of action. This is good news, especially since you have ideas and the guts to be a leader, as well. Speak up and you'll gain support.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your exceptional intuition about people will be tested. The one who is charming and flattering may be sincere at heart, but you will sense if he or she has other intentions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your natural response is to be resilient in the face of adversity. When you were a baby trying to walk, you often fell, recovered and walked again. Remember your basic

nature, and continue on.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). External sources of comfort and security may seem out of your reach now. This will help you remember your internal resources. There is a divine presence and power within you always.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). New developments and exciting possibilities are on the horizon. You feel willing to let another person into your heart, though you fully realize that doing so will surely change you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Someone is rubbing against your gentle sensibilities, causing you to feel edgy and out of sorts. Consider that maybe there are lessons your soul still needs to learn from this person.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You are modest and accommodating. And yet, there is a special air about you today that people sense immediately. You command respect. You belong everywhere.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You thought you put an old problem to rest long ago. But today's action seems to revive the issue, or more likely, some smaller, stranger version of it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The conflict between your head and your heart will be pronounced. Use your imagination to strike up a conversation between the two. Introduce your topic, and then sit back and observe their discussion.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You will keep your

agreements, even when it is inconvenient to do so. And yet, you do not expect others to keep theirs. This way, you can be ready for anything and go forward with confidence.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 25). You'll turn up the intensity and make a passionate play for what you want through the next three months. Your combination of tenacity and keen problem-solving will bring your goal to hand. You'll get fit in October. Your great affection for friends and family will move you to honor and celebrate them in 2012. Taurus and Sagittarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 3, 19, 44 and 11.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "My 16-year-old daughter has just informed me that she is pregnant and intends to keep her baby. I'm a 42-year-old Cancer mother who has raised three children, and I did not plan on or want more. My 16-year-old is the youngest, and I was looking forward to my newfound freedom. I know that my daughter will need lots of help, and how could I possibly not offer it? I already feel disappointed and resentful, like the role of grandmother/primary caretaker is being forced on me. At the same time, I feel guilty for having these cold feelings."

You are not cold. It is precisely because you recognize the serious responsibilities of child rearing that you have these feelings. It is your nature to be nurturing, and you know that nature will take over once the baby is born. Your daughter may be idealizing her impending parenthood and hasn't a clue about all that is involved in raising a child. You are right to want to establish boundaries now. Seek truthful and sensitive family counseling that you and your daughter can attend together so that she can understand all of her options and the realities she is likely to face as a young mother.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

"Classic" Ann Landers®: from dreamer to doer

Editor's Note: Hundreds of Ann Landers' loyal readers have requested that newspapers continue to publish her columns. These letters originally appeared in 1999.

Dear Ann Landers: Twenty years ago, when I was in my early 20s, you printed a column about marijuana. You expressed concern that marijuana may have "taken a generation of doers and turned them into a generation of dreamers." That single sentence was my wake-up call.



ANN LANDERS

I used to smoke pot daily. I somehow managed to get through college (barely) and hold down a job, but I didn't feel connected to anything, and I wasn't getting anywhere. Every night, I would get high and write down in a journal all the things I planned to do. After reading your column, I realized I had been doing the same thing year

after year, getting nowhere. I decided I had to quit smoking pot.

I can't begin to tell you how my life changed. I became bored with my party-animal boyfriend and later married a wonderful man I wouldn't have looked at twice while I was hanging out with the doper crowd. I went back to school, earned a master's degree and got an excellent position with a Fortune 500 company. I also developed some badly needed self-esteem. It was your column on marijuana that helped me turn my life around, and I want to write a belated "thank you." — Margie in Tennessee

Dear Tennessee: I very much appreciate your generous letter. Please keep reading for one that should be of special interest to you:

Dear Ann Landers: Last fall, my teenage son began smoking marijuana and was soon totally out of control. I sent him away to a special program for a short period of time.

He is much better now, but I

was heartsick at the time and could not understand how my son got into so much trouble.

Two weeks ago, the truth came out, and I am furious.

Last summer, I sent my two teenagers to visit their uncle and aunt across the country. I decided it would be a good way for my brother and his wife to get to know their niece and nephew. I also believed that my brother would be a good role model. I was mistaken. He and his wife smoked pot in front of my kids, offered it to them and made them promise not to tell me.

My brother believes marijuana is not harmful, even though their oldest daughter has been in trouble with the law because of cocaine. I remember reading in your column that most cocaine addicts start with pot. My brother and his wife insist there is no connection between their casual use of pot and their child's current problems. I am so angry about this that I am considering a break with the entire family. — A Canadian Mom

Dear Mom: A pox on your

brother and his wife for introducing your son to marijuana. Be thankful the "special program" was a success, and forget about becoming estranged from the entire family. Next summer, see that your son has a local job, and keep your eye on the companions he hangs out with. This is the best insurance that he will not go down that disastrous road again. Good luck.

Ann Landers' booklet "Nuggets and Doozies" has everything from the outrageously funny to the poignantly insightful. Send a self-addressed, long, business-sized envelope and a check or money order for \$5.25 (this includes postage and handling) to: Nuggets, c/o Ann Landers, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. To find out more about Ann Landers and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

ANN LANDERS (R) © 2011 CREATORS.COM

CELEBRITY PROFILES

Quintessential rock star Mick Jagger is a stick of dynamite on stage and was, of course, born under the passionate fire sign of Leo. Five planets in the sign of lion-sized showmanship add to the sizzle. Mars in Taurus suggests tenacity, longevity and an abiding love of the finer things in life. Venus and Neptune in Virgo are indicators of a voracious appetite for work.

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

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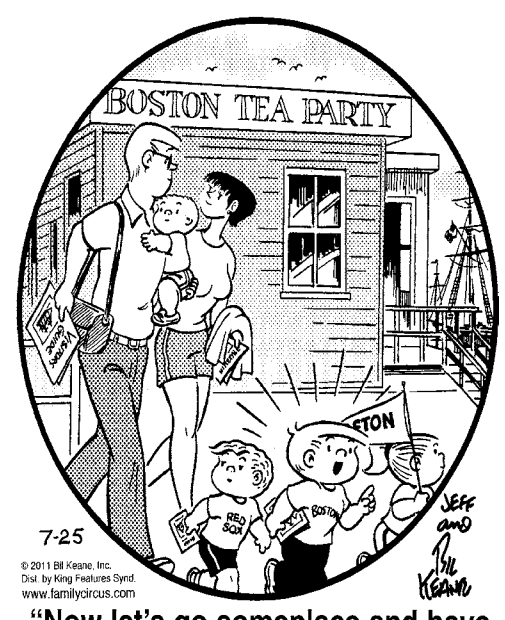
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5 :PM	News ABC	Alma	George	News	Noticias	News	King	Schwarz	News	'70s	Cash Cab	Movie: From Dusk Till Dawn	Jail	Law & Order	Live	Phineas	SportsNation	SportsCenter
6 :PM	Jeopardy!	Quando Me Wheel	Two Men	News	Caso Cer-rado	News	King	Sala	Business	'70s	Cash Cab	Movie: From Dusk Till Dawn	Jail	Law & Order	Live	Phineas	SportsNation	SportsCenter
7 :PM	The Bachelor	Teresa (SS)	Hell's Kitchen	How I Met Mike	Mi Corazón Insiste	America's Talent	Fam. Guy	Upd	Antiques Roadshow	Gossip Girl	Man vs. Wild	Movie: Collateral Damage, Francesca Neri	Ways Die	The Closer	Movie: Double Platinum	Random	30 for 30	
8 :PM	Extreme Makeover	Don Francisco	Simpsons	How I Met Mike	La Casa de al Lado	Harry's Law	Fam. Guy	Upd	Antiques Roadshow	One Tree Hill	Man vs. Wild	Movie: Collateral Damage, Francesca Neri	Ways Die	The Closer	Movie: Double Platinum	Random	30 for 30	
9 :PM	News	Impacto	How I Met Mike	News	Noticias	News	Conan	House	Roseanne	Roseanne	Man vs. Wild	Movie: Collateral Damage, Francesca Neri	Ways Die	The Closer	Movie: Double Platinum	Random	30 for 30	
10 :PM	Nightline	Noticiero	Raymond	Letterman	El Cartel II (SS)	Jay Leno	Conan	House	Roseanne	Roseanne	Man vs. Wild	Movie: Collateral Damage, Francesca Neri	Ways Die	The Closer	Movie: Double Platinum	Random	30 for 30	
11 :PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Para Volver a Amar	Law & Order: SVU	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Lopez Tonight	Andrew Gabriel Roth	World	T. Smiley	Surviving the Cut	Movie: Bull Durham, Tim Robbins	Ways Die	Rizzoli & Isles	Wendy Williams	Wizards	E:60	Baseball
12 :AM	Extra	Destilando Amor	Paid	Insider	Pagado	News	Conan	Upd	Cops	Man vs. Wild	Movie: Bull Durham, Tim Robbins	Ways Die	Falling Skies	Movie: Double Platinum	Hannah	Softball: 2011 World Cup: Teams TBA.	SportsCenter	
1 :AM	Paid	Mujer	TMZ	Ent	Pagado	Poker After Dark	Lopez Tonight	Light of the Southwest	Prince	Man vs. Wild	Movie: Bull Durham, Tim Robbins	Ways Die	Southland	Movie: Double Platinum	Hannah	Softball: 2011 World Cup: Teams TBA.	SportsCenter	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"MY BOSS SAYS DENNIS HAS TO BE ON A LEASH AT NEXT YEAR'S COMPANY PICNIC."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

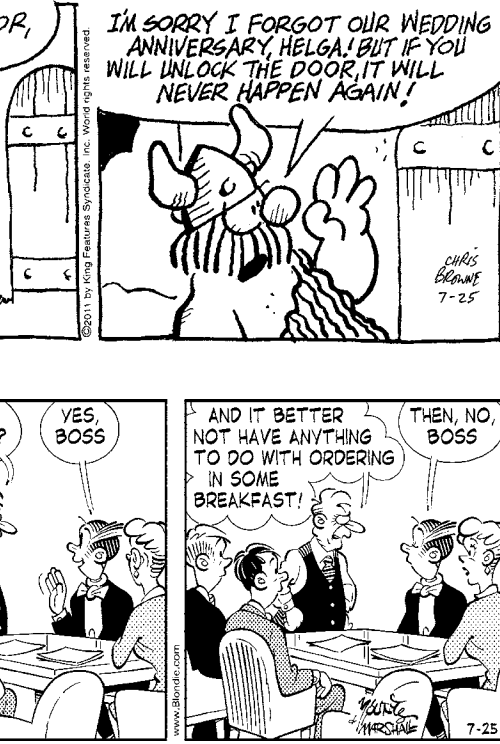


"Now let's go someplace and have a Boston SODA party!"

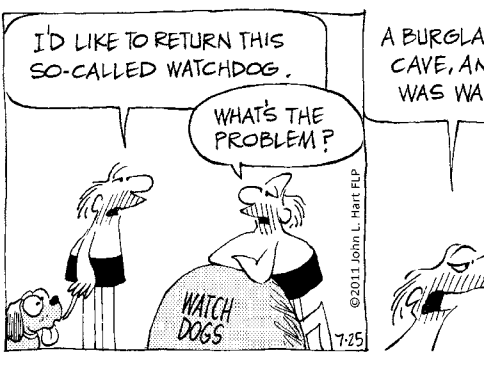
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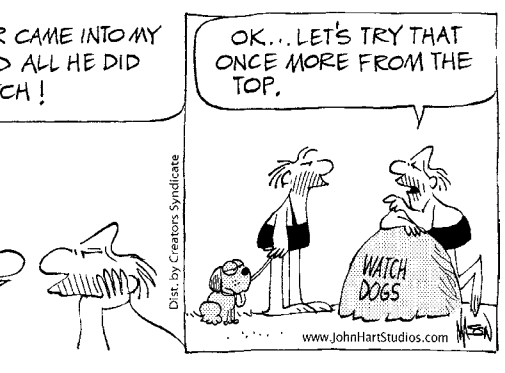
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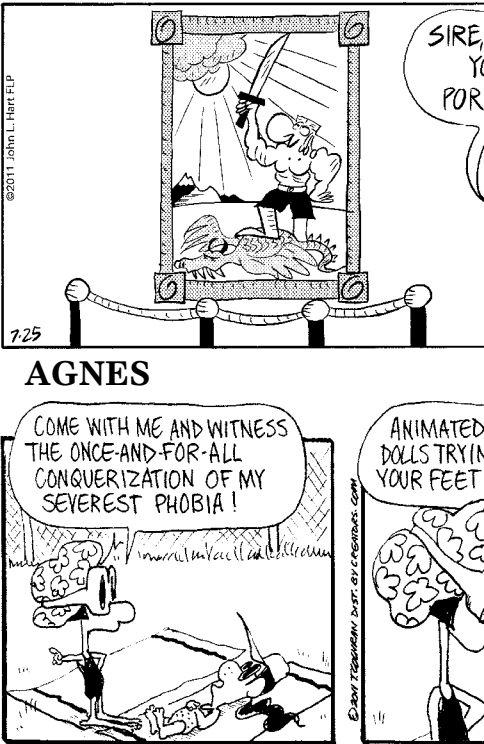
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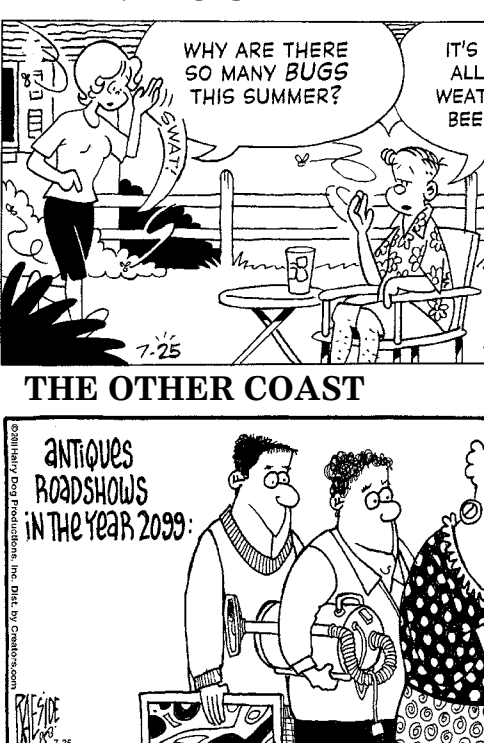
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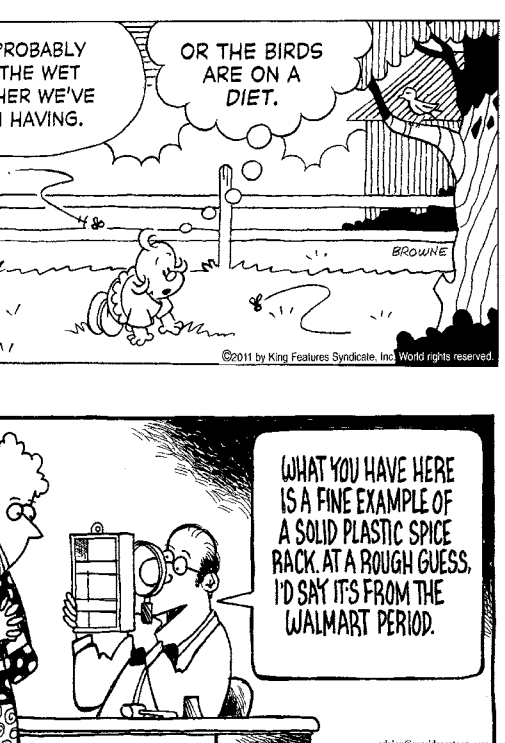
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



I'M NOT A BIGMOUTH!



This Date In History

Today is Monday, July 25, the 206th day of 2011. There are 159 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 25, 1961, in a televised address on the Berlin Crisis, President John F. Kennedy announced a series of steps aimed at bolstering the military in the face of Soviet demands that Western powers withdraw from the German city's western sector.

On this date:

In 1866, Ulysses S. Grant was named General of the Army of the United States, the first officer to hold the rank.

In 1909, French aviator Louis Bleriot (bleh-ree-OH') became the first person to fly an airplane across the English Channel, traveling from Calais (kah-LAY') to Dover in 37 minutes.

In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt froze Japanese assets in the United States in retaliation for Japan's occupa-

Answers to previous puzzle

KNICKS	PLOT	ACS
ALDRIN	REPO	NHL
LENORE	IMPOSTER	
BROWSE	COOKIES	
SCREENS	TBAR	
GAP	HAH	ERIEPA
USIA	TARA	UNLED
EBSEN	SON	GOLAN
SUTRA	HDTV	NUKE
TROOPS	RAP	MER
SYNS	CASINOS	
PROJECT	MERCURY	
SAINT	LEON	STATUE
URN	LINTE	SERENA
EKG	TIRE	ADEPTS

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Small snack
 - Summits
 - Business-envelope abbr.
 - Turn (become)
 - Workshop gripper
 - Bangkok native
 - December song
 - Ragged and untidy
 - Thin strand
 - Military bases
 - Champagne-bottle seals
 - Point-and-click gadget
 - Jack or ace
 - Most wise
 - Excessive saver of stuff
 - Architect's design
 - Partly melted snow
 - Lawyers' org.
 - Lamb's dad
 - Pension recipient
 - Charged atom
 - Before, in poems
 - Make happy
 - Electrical cord's end
 - Ambassador's headquarters
 - Takes care of
 - Woodwind instrument
 - Light-bulb units
 - Bring almost to a boil
 - Slow-but-steady progress
 - Eroded
 - Semester-ending test
- DOWN**
- One of Columbus' vessels
 - off (light-switch positions)
 - Sunflower stalk
 - Spiritual leaders
 - Play charades
 - Schoolroom group
 - Unshiny photo finish
 - CPR experts
 - Undercover agent
 - In one's office
 - Trains' power sources
 - Job to do
 - Small bites
 - Opposite of neg.
 - Hidden stockpile
 - Violin holder
 - Shopping binge
 - Car's security device
 - Scrabble and chess are played on them
 - Untainted
 - Approximately
 - Latin American dance
 - Hang around
 - Ignited
 - Do some lawn repair
 - "If all ___ fails..."
 - Annoys
 - Most skilled
 - Hairdressers' creations
 - UFO pilots
 - Desires to have
 - Die down
 - Graceful bird
 - Secret writing
 - Prejudice
 - Slangy suffix for switch
 - Aspirin unit
 - Parakeet food
 - Miami's state: Abbr.

ON DECK by Gail Grabowski

Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15						16			
17				18						19			
20			21						22				
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25	26	27					28				29	30	
31						32	33				34		
35				36	37						38		
39			40								41		
42			43					44	45				
			46				47	48					
49	50						51				52	53	54
55							56				57		
58							59				60		
61							62				63		

Drag racer crosses finish line at 270 mph

MORRISON, Colo. (AP) — Spencer Massey's return from a year-long driving hiatus keeps getting better.

Massey edged teammate Tony Schumacher in the final elimination round to win the Top Fuel dragster division at the Mopar Mile High Nationals at Bandimere Speedway on Sunday.

Part of the Don Schumacher racing team with Schumacher's son, Massey hit 269.67 mph and covered the 1,000-foot straight-line course

in 4.150 seconds in his nitro-fueled dragster for his fifth career victory and third this season.

"It was tough sitting back and watching on the sidelines for so long," said Massey, the NHRA's rookie of the year in 2009 who lost his first driving job when team owner Don Prudhomme closed up shop.

"But I knew that one day, I would have a shot at it again," Massey added. "I knew it might not be the next year or the next year, but if I kept my

head up and kept beating up the doors, eventually something would happen. I kept my faith and here I am."

His latest victory closed the gap between him and points leader Del Worsham, 1,057 to 989, and clinched a Top 10 spot in the NHRA's Countdown to the Championship. The six-race, title-deciding series begins in Charlotte in mid-September.

"It's great that we are in for the Countdown," said Massey, who joined the Schu-

macher team before this season. "We're catching up to Del a little bit. So if we can stay No. 1 or 2, even with 3, I guess it would be OK. We're ready for it. We're hungry for the championship. These guys have been so close so many years and I'm just the new guy."

"Now we have a great, full head of steam marching to Sonoma with a win here," added Massey, referring to the NHRA Nationals in Sonoma, Calif., next weekend.

"I'm just ecstatic."

In the Funny Car division, John Force coasted to victory after his opponent in the final, Matt Hagan, drew a red light infraction for leaving a split-second early. Force, shaking off a qualifying run Saturday in which the body of his Ford Mustang was blown off the chassis and flipped in the air, finished the 1,000-foot course in 4.361 seconds and at a speed of 285.23 mph. It was his 133rd career victory but first this season.

FINAL

Continued from Page 5

to Canada at this World Cup.

But Eriksen saw his team start to turn the corner late in Saturday's 4-3 loss to Canada, which ended with the tying run on third.

"This is a pretty loose

group right now," Eriksen said. "If you take a look, really the four innings today, the seven innings last night and the last two innings against Canada, that was a little bit more like Team USA, what I'm used to."

"It's good to see it's coming together. They're starting to look to each other for com-

panionship and perspective on the field."

That showed in the adjustments made against Stacie Townsend (0-2). The UTEP product retired six of the first seven batters she faced, but then U.S. players started sharing what they'd learned about her pitches and soon the runs started piling up.

"This team is just relentless and we refuse to be denied," Orgeron

said.

"I love the fire and the passion this team has. Everyone just got a little taste of what we can do, so I'm excited about the future."

Whitney Canion (2-0) allowed only two singles by Laura Thompson to get the win.

Canada (3-2), the only team with multiple victories against the U.S. at the World Cup, was in line to reach the cham-

pionship game for the first time before losing 8-3 to Australia in the nightcap Sunday.

That opened the door for Japan (4-1), which beat Great Britain 13-6 and the Czech Republic 9-0 Sunday to maintain its chance at the title. The U.S. beat the Japanese 8-4 on Saturday night but didn't face nemesis Yukiko Ueno, the winner in the 2008 gold medal game who

threw a three-hit shutout in the Canada Cup finals.

Eriksen said he expected to start Jordan Taylor, who just completed her college career at Michigan.

She struck out all four batters she faced to close out the win against Japan on Saturday night.

"She deserves it. She's doing well for us," Eriksen said. "But the whole staff will be ready."

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ASTROS

Continued from Page 5

two-run homer to Carlos Lee to give the Astros a 4-3 lead. Before Lee's home run, Samardzija went 12 1-3 innings without allowing an earned run.

Lee has hit 36 home runs in his career against the Cubs with

101 RBIs.

"We went out there and battled, battled, battled," Lee said. "It's one of those situations that seems like nothing goes right, no matter what. Always something is going to happen. It doesn't matter how good we play."

The Cubs rallied in the bottom of the eighth. Byrd led off with a single off Astros reliever Wilton Lopez and he advanced to third on Soto's single. Alfonso Soriano tied it with a broken-bat single to left.

Cubs reliever Carlos Marmol pitched out of a one-out bases loaded jam in the ninth. He struck out Pence, then ended the inning by getting Lee to pop out to center.

Soto and Barney had a pair of RBI doubles for

the Cubs, who swept an opponent at home for the first time since taking three straight from Cincinnati on July 24-26, 2009.

The Cubs also recorded their first three-game win streak of the season.

Garza allowed two runs on five hits over seven innings, while striking out nine. He hasn't won since July 27.

Clint Barmes also hit a solo home run for the major-league worst Astros, who have lost seven straight on the road.

Astros starter Jordan Lyles rebounded after a three-run second inning to pitch six innings. He allowed three runs and nine hits while striking out five. The 20-year-old rookie is still in search of his first major league

win.

Trailing 1-0 in the second inning, Byrd led off with a double and scored on Soto's double. After Soriano struck out, Barney doubled down the right-field line to drive in Soto.

Garza followed with a single to right to give the Cubs a 3-1 lead. It was Garza's first RBI in the majors.

Barmes' first-inning home run ended Houston's streak of 27 consecutive hits without an extra-base hit. Barmes connected on Garza's 1-1 pitch in the first inning for his sixth of the season.

Notes: Astros C Carlos Corporan, who left after getting hit on the right foot by a pitch Saturday, suffered a bruise, but isn't expected to miss extended time.

sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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