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# THE BIG SPRING HERALD

**MONDAY**

**AUGUST 8, 2011**



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## Explosion at refinery injures one

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
 Staff Writer

An Alon USA employee suffered minor burns late Friday night after a gas compressor exploded, according to officials at the Big Spring Refinery. Vice President of Refining Jim Crosby told local media outlets during the weekend the fire started at the refinery's hydrocracking unit at approximately 11:50 p.m. Friday. Crosby said the fire took approximately 40 minutes to extinguish. One employee was burned in the altercation and received first-aid

treatment on the scene. The employee was not transported to a hospital, however.

A report filed by Alon with state regulators on Saturday said a gas compressor caught fire and flared during the incident, adding emergency workers brought the situation under control and stopped the flaring.

According to Howard County Volunteer Fire Department Chief Tommy Sullivan, he and his crew were called to the refinery shortly after the explosion. However, after waiting a short period in the facility's

parking lot, refinery officials said they had the fire under control or extinguished.

The explosion caused a loud boom which was heard throughout the eastern part of the county, according to local residents.

The damage caused by the explosion is unknown at this time. Officials at the Big Spring Refinery couldn't be reached at the time of this report.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

An Alon USA employee suffered minor injuries Friday night when a compressor exploded at the Big Spring Refinery.

## Atmos rate hike faces final denial

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
 Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council will meet Tuesday evening — prior to continued budget work sessions — to discuss a number of issues, including final reading of a denial of a proposed rate increase from Atmos Energy's West Texas Division.

The Council voted unanimously July 26 to deny the proposed rate increase from natural gas provider Atmos Energy, saying not only

is the rate hike unwarranted, a rate decrease is in order.

"On April 1 they filed with the city for an annual increase of \$2.9 million. This is their fourth filing under this particular type of rate review mechanism," City Finance Director Peggy Walker told the council recently. "It does give the city some leeway in negotiating, so we hired someone and they went in and reviewed all of the operating expenses, as well as the revenue classes Atmos currently has. Based on the consultant's recommendation, she said they are actually over-earning at this point and should have



Peggy Walker

**"Based on the consultant's recommendation, she said they (Atmos) are actually over-earning at this point and should have a rate reduction."**

— **Peggy Walker**  
 City Finance Director

Unfortunately, according to Walker, the city can not force Atmos to complete a system-wide rate evaluation in hopes of lowering the company's Big Spring rates.

"The city would like to see Atmos go through a full system-wide rate evaluation. We believe our rates in this area are too high, while some of the prices in the metropolitan areas, Amarillo and Lubbock are considerably lower than ours," Walker told the council. "So, we would like the full-fledged

system-wide rate review, but we can't force that.

"However, by allowing this additional depreciation rate, it is

## Scouts to honor couple with Good Scout Award

By **AMANDA MORENO**  
 Staff Writer

It's not just taking the oath, but living up to it that makes a difference.

This is the second year for the Good Scout Award Dinner, scheduled for Thursday and this year the winner of the award is double special. This year, two people are being honored with this award — John and Cynthia Scott — not just one. Hayes Stripling was the recipient at the 2010 Good Scout Award Dinner.

"This award recognizes individuals, or in this case a couple, who demonstrate the principles scouting teaches

to its youth members," Valerie Acosta, media contact for Boy Scouts of America Buffalo Trail Council, said.

The dinner, which will be at the Big Spring Country Club, is open to the public and is \$50 per person. Reservations need to be made by this afternoon according to Acosta. Dress for the evening is business casual and will be able to accommodate 200 attendees. Money raised from the event will benefit Permian Basin scouting pro-

grams.

"It provides training for adult leaders, covers material costs for our annual recruitment drives and cost of insurance and scholarships for scouts who cannot afford scouting materials or the cost of attending events," Acosta said.

The Scott's are active on over 12 boards, including junior achievement, Salvation Army, Greater Big Spring Rotary Club, Crossroads Housing

Development, Big Spring Chamber of Commerce, First Christian Church, Buffalo Trail Council and Western Region Texas Federation of Women's Clubs.

"The scout oath states scouts will do their duty to God and country and to obey the scout law," Lyman Gifford, scout executive, said. "John and Cynthia have demonstrated in their daily life

See **SCOUTS**, Page 3

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## Yard sale nets \$700 for firefighters

By **AMANDA MORENO**  
 Staff Writer

Sometimes cleaning out the closet can be a good thing.

Crossroads residents joined together Saturday morning — July 30 — at the Community Wide Yard Sale held in the Big Spring Herald parking lot in support of the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department. Eleven vendors set up in the north parking lot from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m. Through their efforts, \$714 was raised.

There were garage sale items, arts and

crafts and more. Members of the volunteer fire department were also on hand during the event.

"We really appreciate all the community support," Gary Snowden, volunteer firefighter, said. "The support has been really good and most of us wouldn't be able to push the way we do if it wasn't for the support."

Each vendor paid a \$10 entry fee to participate in the yard sale and set up donations jars at their booths. Monies raised through entry fees and donation jars went to the local volunteer fire department.

"Knowing people are behind us and supporting us really keeps us going," Billy Waid, volunteer firefighter, said. "They may not be out there with us in the fires, but knowing they stand behind us with their support really does help."

This season has been an unusual and busy one for Texas firefighters and with little to no rain in the forecast there is still a high rate of fire danger. The short rain received Friday afternoon in the city didn't do much for the drought conditions. Residents are urged to adhere to the fire ban and water restrictions as the drought continues.

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## Obituary

### Everette Eugene Wise Jr.

Everette Eugene Wise Jr., 46, of Big Spring died Saturday, Aug. 6, 2011, in a local hospital. No services are planned at this time.

Survivors include one daughter, Samantha Wise of Midland; his mother and step-father, Linda and Kenneth

Dearman of Midland; two brothers, Eddie "Rabbit" Wise of Midland and Butch Wise of Dallas; and one sister, Elizabeth Godman of California.

He was preceded in death by his father, Everett Eugene Wise Sr.

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

## Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. today:

- KRISTINA FELICIDAD HEALY, 21, of 1900 Martin Luther King Blvd. 512, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.
- TONY MOJICA CASTELLANO, 37, of 1503 S. Scurry, was arrested Saturday on a charge of driving while intoxicated/second offense.
- JOSHUA WILLIAM LUCERO, 23, of 2104 Johnson, was arrested Saturday on a charge of driving while intoxicated – open container.
- JESUS COSTAN BUSTAMANTE, 69, of 605 S. Nolan, was arrested Saturday on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and public intoxication.
- JESUS ACOSTA TARIN, 50, of 1407 Johnson, was arrested Saturday on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia, public intoxication, theft less than \$50 all other (two counts) and failure to appear (two counts.)
- MATTHEA NICHOLE TURNER, 18, of 1615 E. 16<sup>th</sup> St., was arrested Saturday on warrants for failed to yield right of way – turning left (at intersection alley, private road or driveway) and failure to appear.
- NATHAN HOUSTON CAHOON, 50, of 2409 S. Scurry, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.
- RENE ANGEL VALDEZ JR., 49, of 2205 Johnson, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.
- CHRISTOPHER BENNETT WOOTEN, 50, 301 State St., was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.
- KIMBERLY MARIE CASTILLO, 27, of 1000 Howell, was arrested Sunday on a charge of no drivers license – when unlicensed.
- JACOB ALBARADO, 18, of 700 S. Lancaster, was arrested Sunday on a charge of consumption of alcohol by

a minor.

- ERNEST WILLIAM CLARK, 71, transient, was arrested Sunday on charges of criminal trespass – property/building/aircraft/vehicle and public intoxication.
- TERRY LEE TRAHAN, 53, transient, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- ERNEST EDWARD SAIZ, 19, of 1905 Wasson Rd. 76, was arrested Sunday on charges of public intoxication, failure to identify – fugitive from justice, consumption of alcohol by a minor, failure to appear and warrant from other agency.
- OFELIA GONZALES, 30, of 1509 Wood St., was arrested Sunday on a charge of assault – family violence threat or offensive touch.
- JOHN DAVID GAY, 29, of 1509 Wood St., was arrested Sunday on a charge of assault – family violence threat or offensive touch.
- FRANK HERNANDEZ, 41, of 311 N. Aylesford, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- BURGLARY OF HABITATION was reported in the 2900 block of W. Hwy 80.
- HARASSMENT was reported in the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.
- THEFT was reported in the 1800 block of S. Gregg Street. In the 600 block of W. 15<sup>th</sup> Street. In the 1400 block of Nolan Street.
- SHOTS FIRED was reported in the 1000 block of NW Second Street. In the 1400 block of Oriole.
- ASSAULT was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King. In the 2400 block of S. Gregg Street. In the 1900 block of S. Gregg Street.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 1000 block of N. Main.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1200 block of E. Third Street.
- DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported in the 1500 block of Wood Street.

## Take Note

• Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union is raising money to benefit Maurine Pittman, who is undergoing cancer treatment in a Dallas-area hospital. For more information, call the credit union at 263-8393.

• A benefit fund has been established at Western Bank for Eric Kelly, a 24-year-old Big Spring resident with cystic fibrosis who is recovering from a double lung transplant in Dallas. All donations are appreciated. For more information, call 432-213-0795

• The Salvation Army is holding its annual fan drive and is in dire need of fans. Community members can donate new or used fans. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Donations can be made at the main office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., Monday through

Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

• 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.

• A benefit fund for Chris Johnson (account 5945033396) has been established at Wells Fargo Bank to help defray expenses from a house fire. All donations are appreciated.

• Big Spring High School Class of 1981 will have its 30-year reunion Sept. 30-Oct. 1. For information, contact Mark Warren at 903-283-3326 or 903-843-5927, or e-mail [mwarren@etex.net](mailto:mwarren@etex.net)

## Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 72 inmates at the time of this report.

- RICHARD ANTHONY FLORES, 20, was arrested Friday by HCSO on a charge of possession of marijuana less than two ounces.
- BRANDON ALTMAN, 33, was arrested Friday by HCSO on a charge of criminal mischief more than or equal to \$500 and less than \$1,500.
- CARL EDWARD DUHAMEL, 33, was arrested Friday by HCSO on charges of deadly conduct discharge firearm, theft of property more than or equal to \$50 and less than \$500, capias/assault – family violence, expired motor vehicle inspection, violate promise to appear (two counts) and driving while license invalid.
- HENRY TREVINO FRANCO JR., 19, was transferred to the county jail Friday by BSPD on charges of theft more than \$50 and less than \$500 and bail jumping and FTA.
- EDWARD DEAN ATKINSON, 45, was arrested Saturday by HCSO on charges of expired drivers license and expired registration.
- TONY CATELLANO, 37, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated – second offense.
- TERRY LEE TRAHAN, 53, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- KRISTINA FELICIDAD HEALY, 21, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- ALFREDO GARCIA, 39, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- JOSHUE WILLIAM LUCERO, 23, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated/open alcohol container.
- JESUS CASTENDA BUSTAMANTE, 69, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by BSPD on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and public intoxication.
- JESSE ACOSTA TARIN, 50, was transferred to the jail Saturday by BSPD on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia, public intoxication, theft (two counts) and failure to appear (two counts).
- ROBERT LEE AIKENS JR., 48, was arrested Saturday by HCSO on charges of theft of property more than or equal to \$500 and less than \$1500 and burglary of a building.
- MATTHEA NICHOLE TURNER, 18, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by BSPD on charges of fail to yield right of way turning left and violate promise to appear.
- CHRISTOPHER WOOTEN, 50, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- SKEETER JEWEL SMITH, 17, was

arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of possession of marijuana less than two ounces.

• OLIVIA TALIETHA BALLIN, 32, was arrested Sunday by DPS on charges of driving while license invalid, violate promise to appear, possession of drug paraphernalia, failure to appear (two counts) and permit unlicensed person to drive.

• RENE ANGEL VALDEZ, JR., 50, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• NATHAN HOUSTON CAHOON, 50, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• ANDREW FRANKLIN MCDADE IV, 32, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of public intoxication.

• ROY G. CERVANTES, 31, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication, resist arrest search or transport, failure to identify giving false/fictitious information.

• ERNEST EDWARD SAIZ, 19, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by BSPD on charges of public intoxication, evading arrest/detention, failure to identify fugitive/intent give false information, unlicensed possession of firearm by felon, minor consuming alcohol, failure to appear and failure to appear/manufacture/deliver of controlled substance less than one gram.

• JACOB RAY ALBARADO, 18, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by BSPD on charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor.

• CHRISTOPHER SANDOVAL, 32, was arrested Sunday by HCSO on a charge of theft of property more than or equal to \$50 and less than \$500.

• GREGORY TURNBOW, 51, was arrested Sunday by HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

• ZYON GONZALES, 33, was arrested Sunday by HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

• KIMBERLY MARIE RUIZ, 27, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by BSPD on a charge of no drivers license.

• JOHN DAVID GAY, 29, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by BSPD on a charge of assault family violence.

• OFELIA GONZALEZ, 20, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by BSPD on a charge of assault family violence.

• TERRY LEE TRAHAN, 53, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• ERNEST WILLIAM CLARK, 71, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by BSPD on charges of criminal trespass and public intoxication.

• FRANK HERNANDEZ, 41, was transferred to the county jail Monday by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

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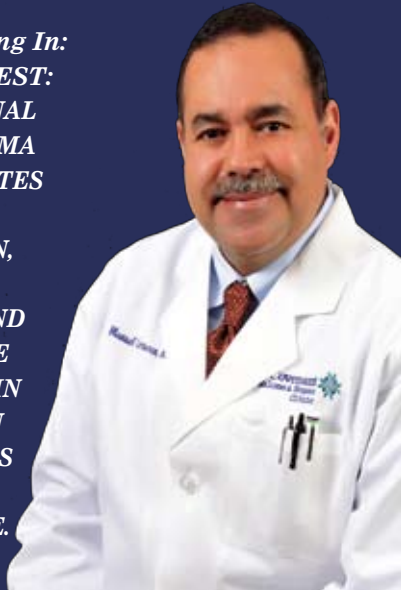
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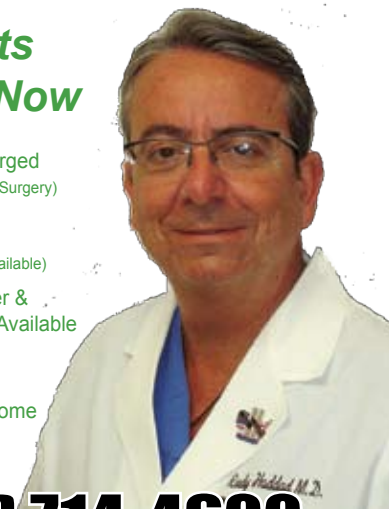
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# Hangar 25 to honor local vet

## Special to the Herald

Al Aton, the August 2011 Veteran of the Month, will be honored Thursday at Hangar 25 Air Museum.

The reception will begin at 6 p.m. in the museum's briefing room. The public is invited to hear Mr. Aton's presentation about his military service.

When Aton first heard of Big Spring, it was while he was rid-

ing on a troop train rolling through Texas from Houston. He recalls the train stopped near the Cosden Refinery and he could see the Settles Hotel, which led him to believe Big Spring was a large city.

After completing his training as a U.S. Army Air Forces bombardier, he was retained in Big Spring as an instructor at the bombardier school.

Hangar 25's Veteran of the Month program honors area veterans as a part of the museum's mission to honor all veterans, past and present. The museum is located at 1911 Apron Drive on the McMahon-Wrinkle Airport in Big Spring.

The museum encourages nominations of veterans for this honor. Nomination forms can be requested by calling 432-264-1999.



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Apparently, it's never too hot to fish, as evidenced by this pair of boaters trying their hand at Comanche Trail Park Lake Sunday morning.

# Texas drought will harm wildlife habitat for years

CANADIAN, Texas (AP) — In a muddy pile of sand where a pond once flowed in the Texas Panhandle, dead fish, their flesh already decayed and feasted on by maggots, lie with their mouths open. Nearby, deer munch on the equivalent of vegetative junk food and wild turkeys nibble on red harvester ants — certainly not their first choice for lunch.

As the state struggles with the worst one-year drought in its history, entire ecosystems, from the smallest insects to the largest predators, are struggling for survival. The foundations of their habitats — rivers, springs, creeks, streams and lakes — have turned into dry sand, wet mud, trickling springs or, in the best case, large puddles.

"It has a compound effect on a multitude of species and organisms and habitat types because of the way that it's chained and linked together," said Jeff Bonner, a wildlife biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Since January, Texas has only gotten about 6 inches of rain, compared to a norm of about 13 inches, making it the most severe one-year drought on record. Last week, the U.S. Climate Prediction Center said the La Nina weather pattern blamed for the lack of rain might be back soon, and if that happens, the dry spell would almost certainly extend into 2012.

The extreme dry conditions, which have extended into parts of the Plains including Oklahoma and Kansas, have been made worse by week after week of triple-digit temperatures that have caused reservoirs to evaporate, crops to wither and animals and fish to die.

Already, some rivers and lakes are at lows not seen since the 1950s — the decade when Texas suffered its worst drought in recorded history. And in some cases, bodies of water are at their lowest points ever, said Joseph

Capesius, chief of the Austin field unit for the U.S. Geological Survey.

Of the state's 3,700 streams, 15 major rivers and more than 200 reservoirs at least seven reservoirs are effectively empty and more than half of the streams and rivers are at below normal flow rates.

The drought will most immediately cause fish to die and such kills have already happened in parts of the state, including not far from the Canadian River, a normally flowing river in the Panhandle that in some places is barely a puddle fed by a drought-taxed spring. In West Texas, O.C. Fisher Lake has been so depleted that fish have died from a lack of oxygen and bacteria has turned the remaining water red.

Without water, animals struggle with thirst. Few plants grow.

Without plants, there are fewer insects. No insects result in low seed production. The animals that rely on seeds and plants for nutrition — from birds to deer and antelope —

have low reproduction. Predators that rely on those animals as a food source remain hungry as well, and they reproduce less.

"So there's a domino effect that goes out in however many more branches than you can

where there has been a lot of rain and more insects than usual. But because of the drought in Texas and the Plains, there may not be enough birds to consume the insects, Bonner said.

"Now, what happens?" Bonner

**"Continently speaking, this big of an area not getting enough water can impact places far and wide."**

**— Jeff Bonner  
Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist**

actually ever keep count of," Bonner said.

The long-term impact from the drought will cross state lines and country borders because Texas is so large and its ecosystems diverse.

For example, birds that migrate south in the winter will find little food and water this year in Texas so they will have to fly even farther south and expend more energy. As a result, they could reproduce less. Some of those birds, such as the colorful painted bunting, often fly to Central America for part of the year

said. "Continently speaking, this big of an area not getting enough water can impact places far and wide."

The impact on species also could last for years after the drought officially ends. For example, quail normally nest in grass grown a year earlier, but because of the drought, there has been almost no grass growth this year. That means many quail won't be able to nest next year and the impact of the drought on the birds won't be seen until 2012, Bonner said.

With deer, the true

## PRIMEVAL

Continued from Page 1

something they will be able to take advantage of and it could push it a little bit in the direction of that rate review so we could get it a little sooner than we normally would."

Also during Tuesday's meeting, the council will consider:

- A notice of revisions to the city's watering schedule in Stage 3 of the Drought Contingency Plan.

- First reading of a resolution approving the city's investment policy.

- Approval of a performance agreement with Big Spring Economic Development Corporation for improvements to the Western Container Facility at McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

- Approval of an inter-local agreement between the city and Howard County to provide support for the operation of the Big Spring State Park.

For more information on the meetings, contact City Hall at 264-2401.

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

## SCOUTS

Continued from Page 1

each facet of the oath. They also live by the scout law by being trustworthy, helpful, thrifty, reverent and most definitely, cheerful."

To RSVP for the dinner on Aug. 11, contact Tracy McIlroy at 432-570-7601. To find out more about the Buffalo Trail Council visit their website at www.buffalotrailbsa.org.

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

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ANSWERS

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

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# For Star Wars fans, Yoda statue a mecca

By GARANCE BURKE

Associated Press  
SAN FRANCISCO — Within sight of the Golden Gate Bridge lies another landmark cherished by a small but fervent group of travelers: a full-size replica of Yoda, George Lucas' master of the Force.

Since the statue of the Jedi sage went up amid the Presidio's landscaped lawns in 2005, Star Wars fans have made a pilgrimage to take pictures with their beloved character and take in Lucasfilm Ltd.'s

sleek headquarters.

Given the franchise's huge impact not only on pop culture but on the tourism industry, the diminutive Yoda fountain is just one of dozens of location shoots and special sites visited by Star Wars acolytes.

Other sites include Luke Skywalker's desert home in Tunisia, Guatemalan pyramids and a Tuscan lakefront villa.

For the Van Zweiten family of Oploo, Netherlands, a stop to see the pointy-eared master

was a key part of their summer holiday in the United States.

"The Dutch guidebook said 'Love it, you will,' and we decided we had to come," said Tom Van Zwieteren, a tax attorney who has also visited another shoot site in Tenerife, and who brought up his children watching the trilogies.

In "The Empire Strikes Back," Yoda builds Luke's confidence to harness the Force, an energy field that Jedi use to perform supernatural feats. "You must unlearn what you have learned," he tells Luke. "Luminous beings are we, not this crude matter. You must feel the Force around you."

Some visitors to this corner of the park, flanked by towering palms and eucalyptus groves, hope to absorb such lessons through sheer proximity to the statue, poised atop a rushing fountain.

"Yoda is the source of wisdom and gravitas for the whole trilogy," said fan Dale Tolosa, 37, an underemployed actor who often dresses as a Star Wars biker scout with his chapter of the 501st Legion, an international, all-volunteer costuming group. "It's almost like he's a religious symbol or the Statue of Liberty, or a representation of all the positive fantasy that George Lucas has brought to the world since 1977."

Tolosa and his older brother, Matt, who dons the tunic of Luke's father Anakin Skywalker, also have visited numerous other location shoots, and are planning a trip to Death Valley, where R2D2 cruised the sand dunes.

Gus Lopez, a Star Wars collector in Seattle who runs an online memorabilia museum, has already been there, as well as to the Yoda fountain and to nearly every major Star Wars location shoot the world over, including sites in Norway and the Arizona desert.

Lopez's favorite? A redwood grove near Crescent City, Calif. where Lucas filmed the speeder bike chase scenes for "Return of the Jedi".

"It took friends and I a year to research and find the location because the forest that got logged looks so different today," said Lopez. "For all of these sites, it's about how you connect with the movies and how you actually feel like you're closer to it by being in a place that was involved in making them."

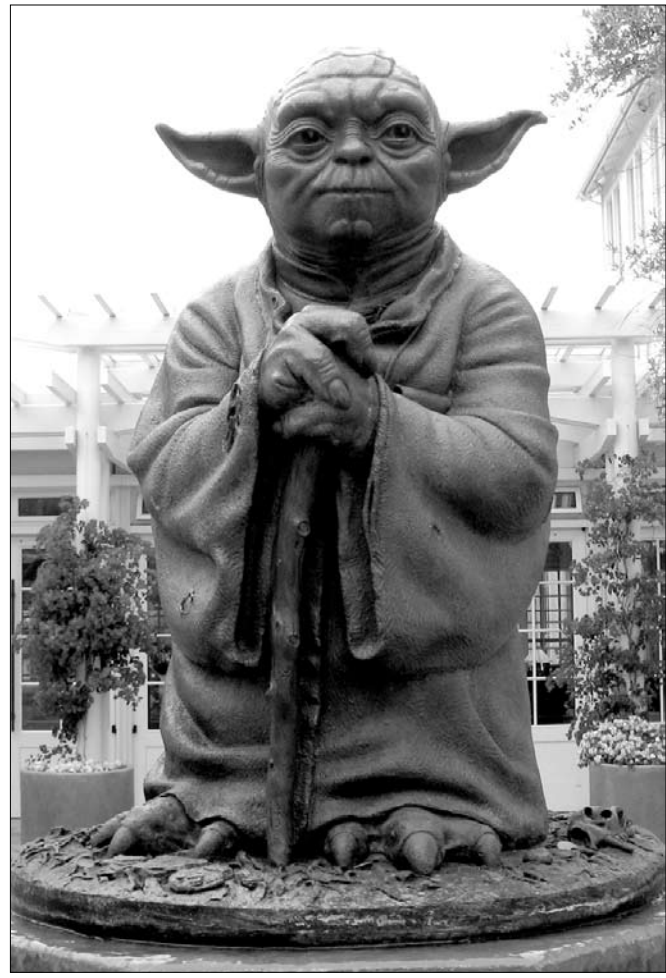
Some passionate fans choose to get directly involved at the locations they visit.

Belgian fan Mark Dermul has been raising money to visit the Tunisian salt lake Chott El-Jerid, which Lucas transformed into the desert planet of Tatooine.

So far, nearly 400 donors have contributed \$10,994 to repair the weather-worn plaster, wood and chicken wire holding together the iconic "Lars Homestead" where Luke Skywalker was raised and fans plan to do the restorations next summer, Dermul said.

Along with an entrée into the fantasy world, other filming sites offer tourists special services and accommodations, officials say.

On the sweeping



grounds of Villa del Balbianello, visitors can get married in the setting overlooking Italy's Lake Como where Queen Padme Amidala married Anakin in "Star Wars II: Attack of the Clones".

The epic film series has spawned a franchise including collectables, books, television series, video games, and comic books that Forbes magazine estimated in 2007 had earned more than \$22 billion.

Lucasfilm is among several businesses and nonprofits that have relocated to the Presidio, the one-time military base turned national park overlooking the bay and the Pacific. Run-of-the-mill fans, however, aren't invited past the plush company lobby without invitation.

"The Yoda fountain is the public face of Lu-

casfilm, the one picture-taking opportunity that they have with something from Star Wars," says Steve Sansweet, a fan relations advisor to Lucasfilm who houses a trove of collectables on his land in Northern California, dubbed Rancho Obi-Wan.

Jay Shephard, a manager at an online testing company in Baltimore, went a step further, calling the fountain a mecca for fans.

"Yoda's like what I would like to aspire to be in the way that I live my life and the way I raise my kids," said Shephard, who founded a fan site called Theforce.net. "Here's this little guy who's really unassuming, and you think 'how could this little creature be a warrior?' But the messages he shares with Luke in the movie really resonate with all of us."

## sudoku

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

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net



By Steve Becker

### Famous Hand

East dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♠ 4 3 2  
♥ Q 6 4 3 2  
♦ K Q 6 3  
♣ J  
**WEST**  
♠ K J 10  
♥ A J 7  
♦ 10 5 4  
♣ K 10 6 2  
**EAST**  
♠ 9 7 6 5  
♥ K  
♦ J 9 2  
♣ Q 9 8 7 4

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

Opening lead — two of clubs.  
Even the best players occasionally stumble in basic situations. Consider this deal played by Brazil and Norway during the 1970 world team championship.

At the first table, West led a club against four hearts, and the Brazilian declarer won East's queen with the ace. South played the ten of hearts at trick two, West contributing the seven and dummy the deuce as East won with the king.

East returned the nine of spades,

South's queen losing to the king. West's jack of spades dislodged the ace, and declarer led a second trump. West rose with the ace and cashed the ten of spades to set the contract.

At the second table, with Norway North-South, the contract and opening lead were exactly the same. But at this table South played the hand more carefully and was well-rewarded for his effort.

He also won the club lead with the ace and played a trump, but when East took the king and returned the nine of spades, South did not finesse. Instead, he went up with the ace and led a second round of trumps.

West took the ace but was helpless. He couldn't cash the king of spades because that would make South's queen a trick, while if he played any other suit, South would draw West's last trump and then discard a spade on dummy's fourth diamond. Either way, declarer would finish with 10 tricks.

The declarer at the second table was clearly on firmer ground than his counterpart when he spurned the spade finesse. If West had the king, it was surely wrong to finesse, while if East had the king, the opponents could never score more than one spade trick whether South finessed or not.

Tomorrow: Rugged individualism.

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## With right tune, music desk reveals its secrets

By CATHERINE TSAI

Associated Press  
DENVER — Denver woodworker Kagen Schaefer drew mazes as a kindergartner to stump his dad. He was building 3-D puzzles out of cardboard by the time he was 11.

This summer, commissioned by a New York film director, the 33-year-old former Colorado College math major is finishing a one-of-a-kind musical wooden desk. Its secrets can be unlocked only by those who can solve its puzzles.

The desk, crafted from ebony, Bastogne walnut and pink ivory, has eight square drawers that act like bellows on a pipe organ. When a drawer

is pushed in, it emits a tone. Play the right tune of 12 notes, and a secret drawer is unlocked.

Clues to the correct tune are held in a musical score that's hidden in pieces within the desk. The journey begins with a concealed button for a secret panel.

That opens to reveal a puzzle of sliding tiles which, when arranged in the right pattern, allow another drawer to open.

All told, the desk contains more than 20 puzzles. It took about four years to design and build, Schaefer said, and cost about as much as a luxury car.

"The person who wanted me to build this for him, his only question was to ask if it was inspiring. 'Are

you inspired?'" said the soft-spoken Schaefer. "It wasn't until I came across this idea that it seemed that I was."

The desk works with air.

Each draft from a drawer getting pushed in not only plays a note on a pipe organ in the back but also moves an array of switches into different positions, Schaefer explained. The "switchboard" resets itself on every wrong note, but if the correct tune is played, the final puff of air travels through the board to unlock the secret drawer.

Schaefer and his production assistant are also building a series of round "lotus tables" that Schaefer designed. They have six drawers, plus a series of sliding

rings inset on top. Inside the first drawer is a pattern. If the rings on top of the table are rotated to match that pattern, the next drawer opens, revealing the pattern to unlock the next drawer, and so on.

"It really turns into a treasure hunt of patterns," Schaefer said.

His work has won awards at puzzle competitions and worldwide attention through the International Puzzle Party, a forum of 3-D puzzle fans.

No electronics are involved.

"It's fascinating to take a material like wood and push the limits of it and to have it accomplish unexpected things," Schaefer said. "It's almost a feat of magic."

## Selena Gomez big winner at Teen Choice Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Selena Gomez conjured five wins at the Teen Choice Awards.

The star of "Wizards of Waverly Place" was selected as choice TV actress, female hottie and music group with her band The Scene. The group also was awarded the choice single trophy for "Who Says" and love song for "Love You Like a Love Song," which the 19-year-old actress-singer performed at Sunday's ceremony at Universal Studios Hol-

lywood's Gibson Amphitheatre.

"This is for all of you guys," Gomez told the screaming crowd. "This isn't mine."

Other early winners included Ellen DeGeneres as choice comedian, Kellan Lutz and Ashley Greene from "The Twilight Saga" as choice scene movie stealers and Ashton Kutcher as choice romantic comedy movie actor for "No Strings Attached." Before leading the crowd in a sing-along

of Katy Perry's "Teenage Dream," Kutcher provided the crowd with some topical advice.

Black Eyed Peas frontman will.i.am kicked off the fan-favorite ceremony, which honors celebrities in TV, film, music and sports. Others expected to sail away with surfboard-shaped trophies Sunday include multiple nominees like "The Vampire Diaries," "Pretty Little Liars" and Taylor Swift, who will be honored with the Ultimate Choice Award.

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# Woods misses cut at Bridgestone

AKRON (AP) — Tiger Woods finished his first tournament in four months and got some predictable results. At times, he looked

good. Far more often, he looked ordinary. And with no cut in the Bridgestone Invitational, he got in four rounds going into the final ma-

major of the year. Woods lost momentum of a good start by losing his swing in the middle of the round, then pieced it together at the end for

an even-par 70 Sunday that left him in the middle of the pack on a Firestone course where he is a seven-time winner. "I had it in spurts this

week," Woods said. "I hit it really well, and then I'd lose it and get it back." Even so, the guy who said he wouldn't play if

he didn't think he could win found a few positives out of his first time playing golf since May. See **TIGER**, Page 10

# Atlanta Hawks to be sold

ATLANTA (AP) — The Hawks and Philips Arena will be sold to California developer and pizza chain owner Alex Meruelo, but the NBA team will remain in Atlanta, a person familiar with the deal said Sunday.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press because no official announcement has been made. The deal, subject to the approval of the NBA, is to be announced on Monday.

The Hawks ownership group, led by Michael Gearon Jr. and Bruce Levenson, also recently sold the NHL Atlanta Thrashers to a group that has moved the team to Winnipeg. The Thrashers deal was for a reported \$170 million.

Meruelo, who will have controlling interest of more than 50 percent of the Hawks,

founded La Pizza Loca. It has over 50 franchised and company-owned restaurants in Southern California.

Meruelo also heads The Meruelo Group, a Downey, Calif.-based investment firm, which recently acquired the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno, Nev., for a reported \$42.45 million.

A tearful Gearon said at the news conference to announce the sale of the Thrashers on May 31 that the owners failed in attempts to find someone to keep the hockey team in Atlanta. Gearon said no local buyer emerged with a serious offer for the Thrashers.

The ownership group, called the Atlanta Spirit, also had to look outside of Atlanta to find a buyer for the Hawks. This time, there was no threat of moving the team.

The group bought the Hawks, Thrashers and operating rights to Philips Arena, where the teams play, in 2004. There was almost immediate dissension among the owners.

The ownership split began in 2005 over Boston-based co-owner Steve Belkin's objection to the Hawks' trade of Boris Diaw, two first-round draft picks and a \$4.9 million trade exception to the Phoenix Suns for guard Joe Johnson in 2005.

The dispute led to a long legal battle that ended when Levenson and Gearon announced on Dec. 22, 2010, they had bought out Belkin's 30-percent share.

Gearon grew up with the team and has said he would like to retain a minority share of the team's ownership.

# Texans hope secondary can climb out of league's cellar

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Texans defensive backs coach Vance Joseph offers words of encouragement after almost every practice snap, even if one of his players is beaten on a route.

Joseph may have the biggest challenge of any position coach on the staff — fixing a secondary that ranked as the league's worst in 2010.

"You've got to hard assign, because it's a hard assignment and bad things happen, even when you're playing good," Joseph said Sunday. "Somebody's got to be there supporting them, and it's got to be me, as your coach."

"This is a young group, they want to do well, they want to be great," he said, "so there's no reason not to be positive."

The Texans allowed 267.5 yards passing per game and 33 touchdown passes last season. They drafted cornerback Brandon Harris (Miami) and Roc Carmichael (Virginia Tech), then picked up free

agents Johnathan Joseph and Danieal Manning to bring experience that the group lacked in 2010.

"They've been around good secondaries, they know how it should look," Vance Joseph said. "They can push these guys, show them how to practice, show them how to prepare, how to think through it."

"We've also got two guys who are in the primes of their careers," he said. "That's strange. Teams drafted these guys pretty high, and now we get them at only the second stage of their careers? All the bad things, the bad habits are behind them. All their good football is still ahead."

One of Johnathan Joseph's first directives when he arrived was talking to cornerback Kareem Jackson, last year's first-round pick who often took the sharpest criticism for the secondary's problems.

Joseph, a first-round pick by Cincinnati in 2006, reassured

Jackson that just about every NFL rookie struggles and that cornerback is one of the hardest positions for a young player to learn. Joseph did not intercept a pass in his first season, but has 14 picks in his four seasons since.

"We've all had those same growing pains," Johnathan Joseph said. "I'm sure, from talking to him (Jackson), that it's behind him. He comes out here every day confident, and it doesn't bother him at all. In this league, you have to have a short memory, which he understands."

Jackson doesn't want to forget 2010 entirely. If anything, he says remembering the backlash from fans and media provides perfect motivation.

"For having a year like that last year, no one wants to go through that," Jackson said, "so everybody is committed to what we're doing. So we're

See **TEXANS**, Page 10

# 'Boys sign Miami's Brandstater

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys have signed quarterback Tom Brandstater and receiver Dominique Edison after they were cut by other teams.

Brandstater, cut by Miami, and Edison, who was with Seattle, were added to the roster in time for Sunday's practice. Dallas had open roster spots

after quarterback Zack Eskridge and nose tackle Billy Blackard were released Saturday.

Brandstater was drafted out of Fresno State by Denver in the sixth round in the 2009 draft. He was released last year after the Broncos drafted Tim Tebow and acquired Brady Quinn. Brandstater had

since had time on practice squads in Indianapolis and Miami.

Edison, a Texas native who played at Stephen F. Austin, was drafted by Tennessee in 2009.

He went to Seattle after being released by the Titans this year.

## This day in baseball

1903 — A week after pitching his first double-header triumph, Joe "Iron Man" McGinnity of the New York Giants scored a double victory over the Brooklyn Dodgers 6-1 and 4-3. In the second game, he stole home.

1915 — Philadelphia's Gavy Cravath hit four doubles and drove in eight runs in a 14-7 victory over the Reds at Cincinnati.

1920 — Howard Ehmke of the Detroit Tigers pitched the fastest 1-0 game in American League history — 1 hour, 13 minutes, for a victory against the New York Yankees.

1931 — Bob Burke of the Washington Senators pitched a 5-0 no-hitter against the Boston Red Sox.

1954 — The Brooklyn Dodgers pounded the Cincinnati Reds 20-7 at Ebbets Field. The Dodgers scored 13 runs in the eighth inning after two were out.

1973 — Designated hitter Orlando Cepeda hit four doubles as the Boston Red Sox posted a 9-4 victory over the Kansas City Royals.

1982 — California's Doug DeCinces hit three home runs in a game for the second time in less than a week. DeCinces hit solo homers in the first and third innings and connected for a two-run shot in the eighth of a 9-5 victory over the Seattle Mariners. DeCinces hit three against Minnesota on Aug. 3.

1985 — Baseball, after a two-day walkout, resumed playing with 18 games scheduled, including five doubleheaders.

1988 — The first night game scheduled in the 74-year history of Chicago's Wrigley Field's was postponed with the Cubs leading the Philadelphia Phillies 3-1 after heavy rains started in the bottom of the fourth inning. Philadelphia's Phil Bradley led off the game with a home run, but all numbers were wiped out when the rain came.

1992 — Oakland's Dennis Eckersley had his consecutive save record snapped at 40. His consecutive save records — 36 straight to start a season, and 40 straight over two seasons — ended trying to protect a 2-1 lead in the ninth inning against the Kansas

City Royals. Eckersley gave up a two-out, two-run single to Gregg Jefferies to give the Royals a 3-2 lead. But the Athletics came back to win the game in the ninth, 5-3.

1997 — Randy Johnson struck out 19, matching the major league record for left-handers he had tied earlier this season, as the Seattle Mariners defeated the Chicago White Sox 5-0.

1998 — Paul Molitor stole his 500th base in Minnesota's 6-3 loss to Baltimore before the fifth batter with 3,000 hits and 500 steals. Molitor joined Ty Cobb, Honus Wagner, Eddie Collins and Lou Brock.

2000 — Darren Dreifort of the Los Angeles Dodgers hit two homers and was the winning pitcher in a 7-5 victory over the Chicago Cubs.

2007 — Barry Bonds added to his home run record with a two-run shot into McCovey Cove for No. 757. It helped Bruce Bochy to his 1,000th managerial victory as the San Francisco Giants beat Washington 5-0.

2009 — Albert Pujols drove in three runs to surpass the 100 RBI mark for the ninth straight season to start his career. The only major league hitter with a longer streak is Hall of Famer Al Simmons, who had 11 consecutive seasons with the Philadelphia Athletics from 1924-34.

2010 — Toronto's Brandon Morrow lost a no-hit bid with two outs in the ninth inning on an infield single by Evan Longoria, then stuck out his 17th batter of the game to finish off a 1-0 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays.

2010 — Derek Jeter passed Babe Ruth on the career hits list and Mark Teixeira hit his 25th homer, becoming the fourth player to hit at least 25 in each of his first eight big league seasons leading the New York Yankees to a 7-2 victory over the Boston Red Sox.

Jeter broke a tie with The Babe for 39th place on the career hits list with an RBI single in the second inning, his 2,874th hit.

The three other players to hit at least 25 homers in first eight seasons are Eddie Mathews, Darryl Strawberry and Albert Pujols.

Today's birthdays: Ross Ohlendorf 29; Craig Breslow 31, Brian Sanches 33.

## Briefs

### Steer season tickets on sale

The athletic department of the Big Spring Steers has announced the dates for season ticket sales. 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 infor-

mation, contact Kay Cook at 432-264-3662.

### Fall tennis practice begins

Big Spring begins tennis practices Monday for their fall schedule. The sessions will be from 9 a.m through noon on weekdays at the courts at Comanche Trail.

### 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](http://www.bigspringbowlarama.com).

### Quarterback Club meeting Monday

Big Spring Quarterback Club meeting to be held Mondays at the ATC. The meetings will start at 6 p.m. All parents of football players in grades 7-12 are encouraged to attend.

For more information, call Denise Carrillo at 432-816-1685



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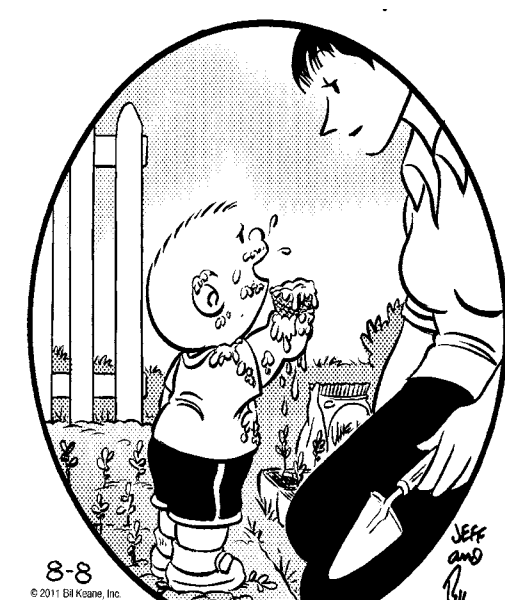
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5:PM	News ABC	Alma Notic.	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	King	Schwarz	News	King	Cash Cab	Movie: The Cowboy Way	Jail	Law & Order	Live	Phineas	Around	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Quando Me	Two Men	News	Caso Car-	News	King	Van Impe	Business	King	Cash Cab	Movie: Blazing Saddles	Jail	Law & Order	Good	Phineas	Pardon	SportsCenter
7:PM	Bachelor Pad	Teresa (SS)	Hell's Kitchen	How I Met	Mi Corazón	America's Got Talent	Fam. Guy	Upd	Magic Moments: The Best of 50s Pop	Gossip Girl	Dual Survival	Movie: Blazing Saddles	Ways Die	The Closer	Movie: Soul Plane, Method Man	Good	Phineas	MLB Baseball: Boston Red Sox at Minnesota Twins
8:PM		Triunfo del Amor	MasterChef	Two Men	Flor Salvaje (SS)		Fam. Guy	Light of the Southwest		One Tree Hill	Dual Survival	Ways Die	The Closer	Ways Die	Movie: Frankenhod, Bob Sapp	Good	Phineas	MLB Baseball: Boston Red Sox at Minnesota Twins
9:PM		Don Francisco	Simpsons	How I Met	Hawaii Five-0	La Casa de al Lado	Fam. Guy		Malt Shop Memories: The Concert	Browns	Dual Survival	Ways Die	Rizzoli & Isles	Movie: The Wash, George Wallace	Good	Phineas	World, Poker	Baseball Tonight
10:PM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Conan	House		Roseanne	Dual Survival	Ways Die	The Closer	ANT Farm	World, Poker	SportsCenter		
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Para Volver a Amar	Law & Order: SVU	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Conan	Upd	World T. Smiley (Off Air)	South Pk	Dual Survival	Ways Die	Rizzoli & Isles	Wizards	SportsNation	Baseball		
12:AM	Extra	Destilando Amor	Paid	Insider	Pagado	News	Conan	Upd	Light of the Southwest	South Pk	Dual Survival	Ways Die	Falling Skies	Wizards	NASCAR Now	SportsCenter		
1:AM	Paid	Mujer	TMZ	Insider	Pagado	Poker After Dark	Lopez	Light of the Southwest		MAN	Dual Survival	Ways Die	Falling Skies	Wizards	NASCAR Now	SportsCenter		
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**DENNIS THE MENACE**



"When you were in Hawaii, did you see where pineapple comes from?"

**THE FAMILY CIRCUS**



"Yummy, Mommy ... share."

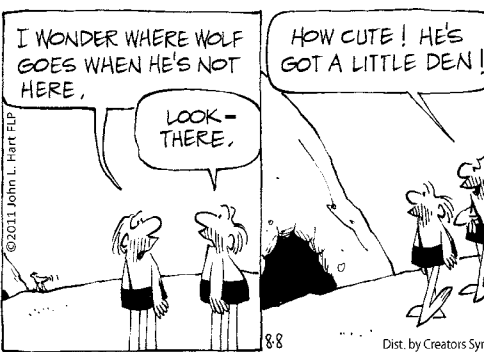
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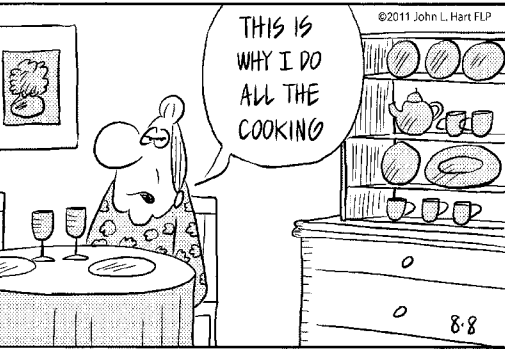
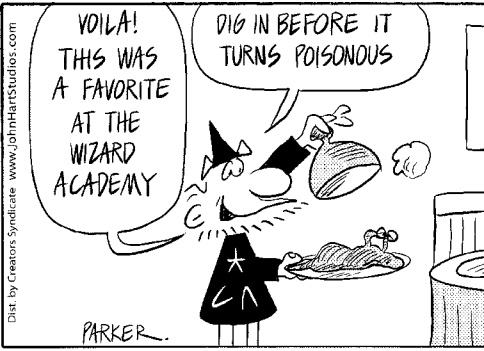
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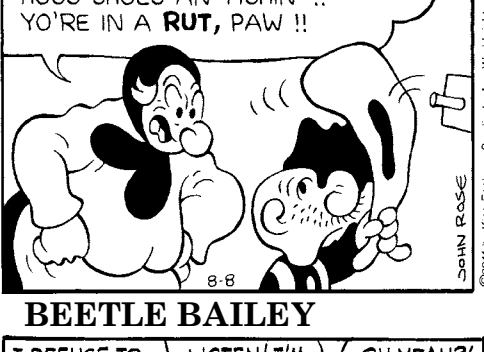
**HI AND LOIS**



**THE OTHER COAST**



**SNUFFY SMITH**



**BEEBLE BLEN**



**This Date In History**

Today is Monday, Aug. 8, the 220th day of 2011. There are 145 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 8, 1911, President William Howard Taft signed a measure raising the number of members in the U.S. House of Representatives from 391 to 433, effective with the next Congress, with a proviso to add two more members when New Mexico and Arizona became states. (The number of House seats has remained at 435 ever since, except for a temporary increase to 437 after Alaska and Hawaii were admitted to the Union.)

On this date:

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte set sail for St. Helena to spend the remainder of his days in exile.

In 1861, biologist William Bateson, founder of the science of genetics, was born in Whitby, Yorkshire, England.

In 1942, six convicted Nazi saboteurs who'd landed in the U.S. were executed in Washington, D.C.; two others were spared.

In 1953, the United States and South Korea initiated a mutual security pact.

In 1963, Britain's "Great Train Robbery" took place as thieves made off with 2.6 million pounds in banknotes.

In 1968, the Republican national convention in Miami Beach nominated Richard Nixon for president on the first ballot.

In 1973, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew branded as "damned lies" reports he had taken kickbacks from government contracts in Maryland, and vowed not to resign — which he ended up doing.

In 1974, President Richard Nixon announced his resignation, effective the next day, following damaging new revelations in the Watergate scandal.

In 1978, the U.S. launched Pioneer Venus 2, which carried scientific probes to study the atmosphere of Venus.

In 1994, Israel and Jordan opened the first road link between the two once-warring countries.

Today's Birthdays: Actress

Answer to previous puzzle

MANOWAR	SOPHISM
OMAGANE	PICANHA
REGARDS	ELECTOR
ALARM	PEW ZEROS
LINE	BIGIF KITH
SAO	SITONIT GPA
METE	GRADUAL
ALCOST	ELDERS
ROASTER	SMEE
MOP	ORESTES JAB
SKIT	SPAIN LANA
RETAG	IMP GIRDS
ARABIAN	ERASURE
COLOGNE	NOZZLES
ENJOINS	DNATEST

**Newsday Crossword**

WATCH LIST by Gail Grabowski  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

1 Fizzy drink

5 Prepares, as presents

10 Sofa or bench

14 On-line auction site

15 Run-down dwelling

16 Folk story

17 Answering-machine sound

18 Make amends

19 Strong \_\_ ox

20 Fraction of a min.

21 Romantic songs, informally

23 Walk on the stage

25 "I'd like to know ..."

26 Animal-bite worry

28 Childish giggle

30 Biblical song

31 Toot one's own horn

32 Chili cooker

35 Gold-nugget source

36 Ventilate

37 Sheltered inlet

38 Unfortunate

39 Stairway banisters

41 Memento

42 Memento calms

43 Rat or squirrel

44 Upward climb

47 Storm drain

48 Get a new owner

51 Little lie

54 Bugler's evening call

55 Math proportion

**DOWN**

1 Complete collections

2 Woodwind instrument

3 Formal event music group

4 Sailor's "yes"

5 Largest mammals

6 Helicopter blade

7 Declare openly

8 State west of Del.

9 Detectives

10 Mare's home

11 Flip-chart holder

12 Clock-radio feature

13 Not calm

21 Getlet part

22 Get acquainted with

24 Major African river

26 Tachometer readings: Abbr.

27 Cambodia's continent

28 Works hard

29 Portions of corn

31 Public defender's request

32 Emotionless look

33 Baking chamber

34 Circus structure

37 Secret writing

39 Ladder

40 Changed, as a seam

41 Drags from behind

42 Camera accessories

43 Changes the decor of

44 Take the role of

45 Crude dwelling

46 Italian isle

47 Take potshots (at)

49 Angel's topper

50 Molecule part

52 Phrase of understanding

53 "Striped" fish

56 Capture

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2011 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 8/8/11

# Radio host called racist after brawl

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Giants manager Bruce Bochy criticized a nationally syndicated radio host Sunday for what he said was a “racist” comment about San Francisco reliever Ramon Ramirez.

Radio host Tony Bruno referred to Ramirez as an “illegal alien.”

He also called Bochy a “coward” in a Twitter post following Friday night’s benches-clearing brawl between the Phillies and Giants. The mayhem came after Ramirez plunked Shane Victorino in the lower back in the sixth inning of the Phillies’ 9-2 victory.

Bruno’s show is broadcast on local station KNBR 1050 AM. He later deleted his tweet and apologized for his “stupid and insensitive” post.

“gutless (...) Giants,” he tweeted. “Bochy is a coward for having his illegal alien pitcher hit a guy since mighty Frisco boys ...”

Ramirez is from the Dominican Republic. He has declined to discuss the brawl but said Sunday he is in the U.S. legally and wouldn’t be able to work in the major leagues otherwise.

“I’m not interested in what he thinks about me,” Ramirez said in a Spanish

interview with The Associated Press and a Spanish reporter before the finale of the Giants’ four-game series with Philadelphia.

“I’m not interested in what he has to say. I don’t need to pay attention to what he has to say about me. A lot of people say things about me. I know who I am. How would I be able to work here if I were an illegal? He put it on the Internet? I can’t believe that.”

Phillies manager Charlie Manuel and Victorino felt Ramirez hit the center fielder on purpose. The pitcher, Victorino and Giants catcher Eli Whiteside were eject-

ed after the fracas — and Bochy expects to hear from Major League Baseball as soon as Monday regarding any suspensions.

“It’s not like somebody went out to the mound,” Bochy said of visiting Ramirez or instructing him to plunk Victorino. “He just walked a guy. There’s no communication there. The next pitch hit Victorino. It happened so fast. We were as surprised as anybody to be honest.”

Ramirez is ready to move forward — from the brawl and Bruno’s comments. “Everyone says what they feel in their heart,” Ramirez said. “But I feel that’s not right.”

On his Facebook page, Bruno addressed his remarks. “My stupid and insensitive twitter post was up less than one minute before I realized it was caustic,” Bruno said. “It was removed immediately and I typed a quick apology on twitter and here.”

“Since I was doing my live radio show, I apologized more emphatically on the air, and the podcast is available on my website (tony-brunoshow.com, hour 3) for those who choose to actually get some facts to go along with the hearsay or bloggers who spread falsehoods about my apology not being ‘sincere.’”

## TIGER

Continued from Page 5

12 because of injuries, and his first time completing 72 holes since April at the Masters.

“Absolutely encouraged,” said Woods, who finished at 1-over 281. “I hadn’t played. I mean, this is my first tournament since, what, April? So it’s been awhile.”

Woods, 13 shots out of the lead when he began the final round, had birdies on two of his opening five holes when it fell apart in a hurry. He went left off the tee at No. 6, escaped decently into a bunker, then barely got out of the sand chipped long on his way to a double bogey.

So began a stretch in which he missed the fairway on seven consecutive tee shots, a stretch he played in 5-over par.

“I got off to such a great start,” he said.

“Then all of a sudden, I just absolutely lost it.”

Woods switched back to a Nike putter — the first three rounds he used the Scotty Cameron he’s had since 1998 — and the improvement wasn’t noticeable. He finished strong with three birdies on his last four holes, starting with a 15-foot putt on the 15th, a wedge to 4 feet on the 16th and a 15-footer on the 17th.

It helped a little, but not enough.

Woods started the week at No. 135 in the FedEx Cup standings, and he is not likely to crack the top 125, the number that gets him into the first round of the playoff series that begin with The Barclays.

He still has the PGA Championship next week in Atlanta, although Woods said he would not play the Wyndham Championship in North Carolina, the final event to

qualify for the FedEx Cup, even if he is outside the top 125.

“No, I’m not playing that week, no,” Woods said. “Family obligations.”

That usually means he has custody of his two children, and since Woods has never played in Greensboro, N.C., there was no reason to think he might this year.

Woods conceded he was not tournament sharp.

“It’s nice for me to get out there in this competitive atmosphere no matter how I was playing just to figure out how to score, because I haven’t been forced to score,” he said.

“At home, playing money games with my buddies is just not the same. Being out here and being forced to have to post a score, hit shots ... that’s a different deal.”

Next up is the PGA Championship at Atlanta Athletic Club, which starts Thursday.

Woods has been hitting balls on the practice range after his rounds, an indication that his left leg is no longer causing any problems. His biggest obstacle now is time.

He has three days of practice before the final major of the year, and if he doesn’t figure it out in Atlanta, he won’t be playing a PGA Tour event for the next six weeks.

“I’ve got three days,” Woods said. “So I’m going to worry about these three days and apply it, and be ready come Thursday.”

## Blue Jays ground Orioles

BALTIMORE (AP) — Ricky Romero pitched eight innings of four-hit ball, Brett Lawrie hit his first major league homer and the Toronto Blue Jays cruised past the Baltimore Orioles 7-2 Sunday.

John McDonald had three hits and two RBIs for the Blue Jays, who took two of three from the Orioles and have won seven of 11 overall.

Romero (10-9) struck out five and walked none to win his third straight start, a streak that began on July 27 with a victory over Baltimore. The only runs the left-hander allowed were on solo homers by Mark Reynolds.

Romero is 6-1 in his last eight starts against Baltimore.

Lawrie, who made his big league debut on Friday, hit a 2-1 pitch from Alfredo Simon (3-5) into the right-field bleachers to make it 6-1 in the

sixth. In addition to the solo home run, the 21-year-old Canadian also singled and scored in the third inning. Lawrie hit .455 in the three-game series.

Reynolds fourth multi-homer game of the season featured a drive that traveled an estimated 450 feet and was only the second in the 20-year history of Camden Yards to reach the second deck in left field. Reynolds leads the team with 26 homers and ranks second with 62 RBIs.

Baltimore has not won a series since taking two of three from Cincinnati on June 24-26, going 0-9-2 in that span. First baseman Chris Davis and shortstop J.J. Hardy both missed a third straight game with injuries, and second baseman Cesar Izturis left in the fifth inning with a strained left groin.

Toronto broke on top

with a pair of unearned runs in the third inning.

After Lawrie hit a one-out single, Rajai Davis reached when Josh Bell failed to pick up his grounder to third. Lawrie moved up on a fly ball, Davis stole second and both runners scored when Jose Bautista bounced an opposite-field double down the first-base line.

The Blue Jays made it 5-0 in the third. Edwin Encarnacion led off with a single and Colby Rasmus followed with the first of three straight doubles by Toronto.

J.P. Arencibia drove in two runs with his liner to the gap in right-center and scored on McDonald’s second extra-base hit since June 17.

Reynolds connected in the fifth, and Lawrie chased Simon with his drive in the sixth. Reynolds crushed the first pitch.

## TEXANS

Continued from Page 5

just coming out and working hard every day just trying to get it done.”

Vance Joseph, hired in the offseason after six years in San Francisco, says the main issue for Jackson and Houston’s other defensive backs last year was faulty technique. He’s focused on footwork and fundamentals through the first few days of practice, and never misses a chance to point out improvement.

“Nice job, GQ, that was perfect,” he said after third-year safety Glover Quin made a play during a practice last week.

“Nice, Brice, you were

in great shape there,” he told third-year cornerback Brice McCain after McCain broke up a pass.

The Texans’ defensive backs also benefit from facing All-Pro receiver Andre Johnson and one of the league’s top passing offenses every day in practice. Johnson was back at work on Sunday after missing four days with a dislocated left index finger.

Johnson leaped over McCain to catch a touch-down pass on Sunday, then made a one-handed grab on a deep sideline route with Jackson covering him.

While Vance Joseph wants his players to learn to shake off the sting of big plays, he wants them to learn something from each one.

“You can’t totally forget, because bad things happen for a reason,” Vance Joseph said.

“You’ve got to be

coachable, you’ve got to listen and be ready to fix it. Your best defensive backs are consistent players.

They’re the same all the time. When you have young kids who are great players, but on four or five plays, they’re not their best, bad things happen. Consistency is the key.”

Johnathan Joseph says he’s already seen progress and likes the mentality of the group.

“We go into the film room, we correct things and then you see them come out here and translate that to the field,” he said.

“I think that’s the most important key thing, because those guys are listening.”

“You want guys to listen at this level, because if you don’t listen, and you don’t bring it to the field, it won’t do you any good at all.”

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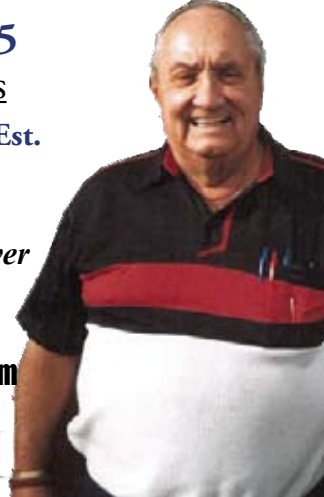
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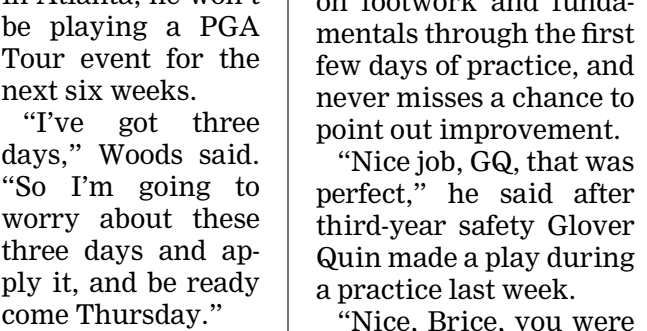


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