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County to kick in \$100,000

Commissioners will dip into reserves to assist ambulance, Senior Center

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer
 In response to a last-minute request for money, Howard County Commissioners agreed to shell out more than \$100,000 to increase the county's contribution to the operation of the Big Spring Senior Center and the local ambulance service. Although commissioners

had "basically" set the county's budget for the coming fiscal year, they agreed to fund an additional \$75,000 in senior center operations and \$29,333 for ambulance services during their meeting Monday in the county courthouse. The county originally had not budgeted any funds to help with the senior center operations — citing an agreement between it and the city

of Big Spring — while it had already budgeted \$130,000 for ambulance service. But when city officials made a late request for additional funds to help with those two services, commissioners decided to tap into cash reserves to provide more money. That's not to say officials were happy with the action. "We had a pretty lean budget to begin with," County

Judge Mark Barr said. "We can get by, we think, by giving them the money (but) we had the budget pretty well set for this year and we had the tax rate pretty well set, also." The city also wants to discuss the county providing more money to help open a new landfill, but no dollar amount has been set for that yet, Barr noted. Easing the financial pain

somewhat is the addition of federal funds which will go toward the senior citizen center operations, Barr said. The total price tag for keeping the senior facility open this coming year will be around \$432,000, the judge said. Commissioners will very likely tap into the county's See **COUNTY**, Page 3A

Major changes taking place at the Sally Ann

By AMANDA MORENO
 Staff Writer
 The Big Spring Salvation Army post has welcomed two new majors — Orville and Debra Chambless. The couple comes to Big Spring after serving five years at the Salvation Army station in Martinsville, Va. "We had no inkling we were coming back to Texas," Maj. Orville Chambless said. "It wasn't tough to hear, but it was unexpected." Orville was born and raised in Texas and majored in music education at West Texas State University — now West Texas A&M University — and has

family in the Houston area. Debra is from Richmond, Va., and received an elementary education degree from Asbury College in Kentucky. The couple has three children — two daughters who are enrolling at Big Spring Independent School District and a son who will take classes at Howard College. Big Spring is not exactly unfamiliar territory to Orville, but it was a place he had only passed through. This time, though, it became a destination. "We are very happy to be



Maj. Orville and Maj. Debra Chambless invite the public to visit them at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St.

INDEX

- Comics 6B
- Classified 3-5B
- Features 8A
- Obituaries 2A
- Opinion 4A
- Sports 1-2B

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Firefighter benefit shaping up

Public can help by donating auction items, helping with food

By AMANDA MORENO
 Staff Writer
 Basketball, arts and crafts, trade shows — even arena football has made its way to Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. On Aug. 27, doors at the facility will open for another reason — to show appreciation to the local and area firefighters at the Firemen's Benefit — Auction and Dance. "This is the least we can do to say thank you," said Rob Dalsing, pastor of Birdwell Lane Baptist Church. According to Dalsing, the event started as a simple idea in a prayer meeting, a call from the mayor and the com-

ing together of numerous businesses and organizations. Several churches throughout the community have agreed to donate food for the event and other churches are being contacted. "This is a community effort and we are inviting everyone to come out and attend and anyone who wants to help is more than welcome," Dalsing said. Food donations include

briskets, hot dogs, hamburgers and pizza and other donations are still being accepted. "We don't want to limit it and we aren't going to turn a donation away," Dalsing said. "This event is the result of pulling all the resources together in order to have one big community event to show the firefighters just how much we appreciate them." Boy Scouts, cheerleaders and football players will be offering their assistance during the benefit. They will be on hand to help people with carrying their trays, providing assistance at the tables and more.

There is no charge for the event, but donations are highly encouraged. Firefighter boots will be set up for donation spots. All the monies made during the benefit and auction will go toward helping the volunteer fire department. According to Dalsing, the goal is to purchase or at least provide funding to purchase a new fire truck for the volunteers. "We are thanking the people who saved our town, our livelihood," Dalsing said. "This is our chance as a community to say thank you to those

See **BENEFIT**, Page 3A



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Obituaries

Joe Dean Lasater



Joe Dean Lasater, 50, of Big Spring, died Saturday, Aug. 13, 2011, at his residence. Funeral services for Joe Dean and his father, Larry Dean Lasater who also died Saturday, will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 18, 2011, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home Chapel in Midland with the Rev. Herbert Crisp officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2011, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Big Spring.

Joe was born June 28, 1961, in Gorman, Texas, and moved to Midland with his family. He married Kristen Schrecengost July 15, 2006, in Big Spring. Joe was employed as electrical foreman at TESCO Electric in Snyder. He loved to go fishing, especially with his son, Austin, and longtime friend, Keith Grant.

Survivors include his wife, Kristen Lasater of Big Spring; one son, Austin Lasater of Big Spring; three daughters, Amanda Lasater of Midland, and Misty Lasater and Jayme Johnson, both of Big Spring; one step-daughter, McKenzie Schrecengost of Big Spring; seven grandchildren, Kaylynn, Shealy and Reagan Culver, all of Midland, and Erynn Lasater, Jason Coker, and Kyleigh and Toby Johnson, all of Big Spring; three brothers, Robert Lasater and wife Traci of San Angelo, and Lonnie Lasater and Paul (P.D.) Lasater, both of Midland; one brother-in-law, Ethan Schrecengost and wife Glenda; one sister-in-law, Magen Williamson and husband Michael; mother-in-law, Tammy Schrecengost; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents, Larry Dean and Barbara (Greene) Lasater, and one son, Billy Joe Lasater.

Pallbearers are Michael Williamson, Curtis Culver, Steven Johnson, Caleb Lasater, Spencer Lasater and Brian Grant. Honorary pallbearers are Joe's good friend, Keith Grant and the men at Dixie Electric and TESCO Electric.

The family suggests memorials be made to the American Cancer Society, in care of Carolyn Brooks, P.O. Box 2121, Big Spring, Texas 79721-2121, or to the Heritage Museum, 510 Scurry, Big Spring, Texas 79720.

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

Paid obituary

Larry Dean Lasater



Larry Dean Lasater, 72, of Midland, died Saturday, Aug. 13, 2011, in a local hospital. Funeral services for Larry Dean and his son, Joe Dean Lasater who also died Saturday, will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 18, 2011, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home Chapel in Midland with the Rev. Herbert Crisp officiating.

Larry was born June 18, 1939, in Gorman, Texas, and married Barbara Greene in DeLeon, Texas. She preceded him in death on Feb. 28, 2004.

Larry worked as a contract painter, loved fishing and being with his grandchildren. He also loved his garden and giving the produce away.

Survivors include three sons, Robert Lasater and wife Tracy of San Angelo, and Lonnie Lasater and Paul Lasater, both of Midland; 12 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and one brother, Harold Lasater of Fort Worth.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents, Almos and Annis (Overstreet) Lasater; one brother, Aubrey Glenn Lasater; one son, Joe Dean Lasater; and one grandson, Billy Joe Lasater.

The family suggests memorials be made to American Cancer Society, in care of Carolyn Brooks, P.O. Box 2121, Big Spring, TX 79721-2121.

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

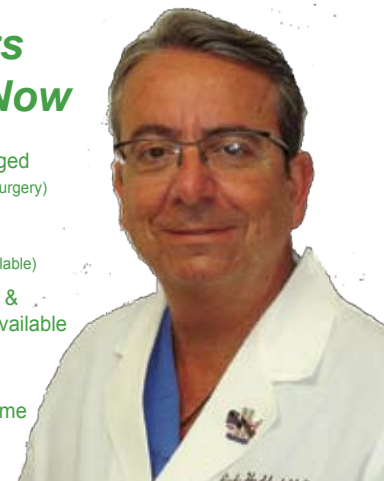
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Police/Sheriff/EMS

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

- TYONNE MARQUIS BROWN, 25, of 702 Ohio, was arrested Saturday on a warrant for failed to maintain financial responsibility and expired registration.
- NICHOLAS HERNANDEZ LIMON, 22, of 1407.5 S. Scurry, was arrested Saturday on charges of possession of dangerous drug, possession of controlled substance more than or equal to one gram and less than four grams, warrant from other agency, possession of alcohol by a minor and fail to appear.
- SONYA MARISSA MORIN, 27, of 3730 Adams, was arrested Saturday on a charge of criminal mischief more than \$50 and less than \$500.
- JOHN HENRY GRAYSON JR., 47, of 3702 Connally, was arrested Saturday on a warrant from another agency.
- JORGE LUIS GOMEZ, 20, of 508 State, was arrested Saturday on warrants for no drivers license when unlicensed, consumption of alcohol by a minor, fail to appear (two counts) and warrant from another agency.
- MARCUS LAMON COLE, 24, 1102 S. Lancaster, was arrested Saturday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- SASHA MARIE TREVINO, 24, of 2530 Hunter, was arrested Saturday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- ASHLEY CASSAREZ LUNA, 26, of Sweetwater, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- MICHAEL ANTHONY GOMEZ, 19, of 312 E. Davis, was arrested Monday on a warrant from another agency.
- COREY PRESTON HOFFPAUIR, 34, of 1100 Sycamore St., was arrested Monday on a warrant from another agency.
- KEITH ANDREW HILARIO, 27, of 2602 Chanute Dr., was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid — no insurance.
- ROBERT RUBEN SANCHEZ, 47, of 1405 Wood, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- NATHAN CARL DEAN GARRARD, 19, of 1425 E. Sixth St. 104, was arrested Monday on a charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor.
- GARY LEE MILLER, 43, of 1513 S. Main St., was arrested Tuesday on a warrant from another agency.
- SHOTS FIRED was reported in the 1300 block of Scurry.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1000 block of E. 11th.
- THEFT was reported in the 200 block of W. FM 700.
- In the 600 block of Caylor Drive.
- In the 400 block of S. Gregg Street.
- BURGLARY OF HABITATION was reported in the 1200 block of E. 19th Street.
- In the 2200 block of Cecilia Street.
- ASSAULT was reported in the 600 block of W. IH 20.

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 80 inmates at the time of this report.
- DAVID LYNN DOW, 28, was transferred to the county jail Friday by BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass habitation/shelter/infrastructure.
 - MARCO ANTONIO LOPEZ, 30, was arrested Friday by HCSO on sentencing for contempt of court child support.
 - CARLOS VENEGAS, 27, was arrested Friday by HCSO on a Midland warrant for possession of controlled substance less than one gram-violation of probation and immigration hold.
 - JUAN MIGUEL RODRIGUEZ, 22, was transferred to the county jail Friday by BSPD on a charge of purchasing/furnish alcohol to a minor.
 - ISMAEL JOE JOHN RODRIGUEZ, 34, was transferred to the county jail Friday on a charge of disorderly conduct noise.

Rodrigo 'Rey' Reyes

Rodrigo "Rey" Reyes, 71, of Big Spring, died Sunday, Aug. 14, 2011, at his residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

ferred to the county jail Friday on a charge of disorderly conduct noise.

- DARRELL SCOTT SHULTZ, 28, was arrested Friday by BSPD on warrants on fail to appear (two counts), failure to maintain financial responsibility, display expired registration, violate promise to appear (three counts), driving while license invalid (three counts).
- RENE ANGEL VALDEZ JR., 50, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- TYONNE MARQUIS BROWN, 25, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by BSPD on charges of display expired registration and fail to maintain financial responsibility.
- SONYA MARISSA MORIN, 27, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief more than \$50 and less than \$500.
- NICHOLAS H. LIMON, 22, was transferred to the county jail Saturday on warrants for violation of probation, possession of controlled substance more than or equal to one gram and less than four grams, possession of dangerous drug, minor in possession of alcohol and failure to appear.
- BRADY HOWARD JONES, 27, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- DAVID ALEX RUSSELL, 47, was arrested Saturday by DPS on warrant for non payment of child support.
- KIMBERLY HARGROVE, 49, was arrested Saturday by DPS on warrant for possession white tail deer in closed season.
- JOHN HENRY GRAYSON JR., 47, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by BSPD on charges of parole violation — felony DWI.
- MARCUS LAMON COLE, 24, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- ANTHONY THOMAS MCGRUDER, 40, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana less than two ounces.
- JORGE LUIS GOMEZ, 20, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by BSPD on warrants for no drivers license, minor consuming alcohol, failure to appear (two counts) and possession of marijuana less than two ounces.
- SASHA M. TREVINO, 24, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- JUAN CORDOVA, 34, was arrested Sunday by HCSO on a charge of assault by threat.
- MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ, 18, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by BSPD on a charge of bail jumping and fail to appear.
- CHARLES ROY BURKE, 53, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a warrants for display expired registration and violate promise to appear.
- STACEE MARIE KARPPINEN, 21, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- ANTIONE DEANDRE THOMAS, 29, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana less than two ounces.
- ISAAC J. TARIN, 18, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by BSPD on a charge of consumption of alcohol by minor.
- JASON PARTLOW, 23, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by BSPD on a warrant for chained dog.
- LUIS ALEJANDRO RAMOS, 22, was arrested Sunday by HCSO on charges of possession of marijuana less than or equal to five pounds and over

See SHERIFF, Page 3A

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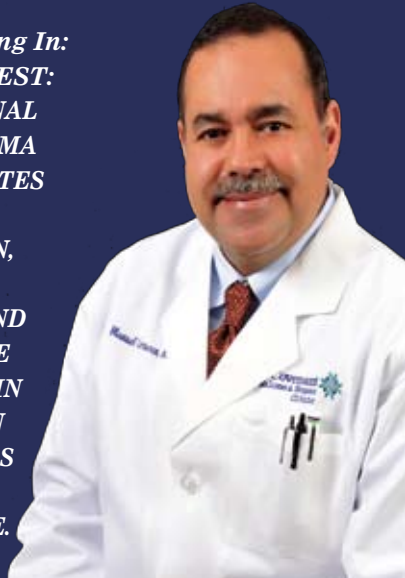


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SHERIFF

Continued from Page 2A

four ounces and prohibited weapons—switchblade/knuckles.

- BRANDON JD MENDOZA, 27, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by BSPD on a charge of expired drivers license.
- PAMELA LEE VARDY, 56, was transferred to the county jail by BSPD Sunday on warrants for driving while intoxicated second offense and public intoxication.
- LINDA RENE TORRES, 29, was transferred to the county jail by BSPD Sunday on warrants for driving while license invalid (three counts) and driving while license invalid with previous conviction/suspension without final restitution.
- RONNIE LEAL, 21, was arrested Sunday by HCSO on charges of driving while license invalid with previous conviction/suspension without final restitution and unlawful carrying weapon.
- UNIQUE CHRYSTELLE FULTZ, 20, was arrested Monday by DPS on a warrants to operate recreational vehicle on public road and violate promise to appear minor in consumption.
- POLITO P. TREVINO III, 41, was arrested Monday by Marshals on charges of issuance of bad check and blue warrant.
- LEE LINDERMAN, 49, was arrested Monday by Marshals on a charge of child support.
- RODRIGO HERNANDEZ HUERTA, 31, was arrested Monday by Marshals on a charge of contempt of court.
- ASHLEY CASSAREZ LUNA, 26, was transferred to the county jail Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- MICHAEL ANTHONY GOMEZ, 19, was transferred to the county jail Monday on charges of no driver's license and possession of controlled substance less than one gram.
- COREY PRESTON HOFFPAUIR, 34, was transferred to the county jail Monday on a charge of parole violation.
- KEITH HILARIO, 27, was transferred to the county jail Monday on a charge of driving while license invalid with previous conviction/suspension without final restitution.
- ROBERT RUBIN SANCHEZ, 47, was transferred to the county jail Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- JUSTIN WAYNE HOLSENBECK, 20, was arrested Tuesday by HCSO on a charge of minor in consumption of alcoholic beverage.
- GARY LEE MILLER, 43, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by BSPD on a charge of terroristic threat.
- NATHAN CARL DEAN GARRARD, 19, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday on a charge of minor in consumption.

- The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:
- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of E. 18th. One person was transported to SMMC.
 - MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of Driver Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
 - MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of N. Bell. Service refused.
 - MEDICAL was reported in the 1400 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
 - MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of S. Adams. Service refused.
 - MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of N. 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
 - MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of N. 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
 - MEDICAL was reported in the 1100 block of E. 15th. Service refused.
 - TRAUMA was reported in the 2600 block of Ann. Service refused.
 - MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of E. 15th. One person was transported to SMMC.
 - MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
 - MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of S. Adams. Service refused.
 - MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of Johnson. One person was transported to SMMC.
 - MEDICAL was reported in the 3600 block of W. 80. One person was transported to SMMC.

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8	2	3	7	5	4	1	6	9

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Take Note

- Holy Trinity Catholic Parish is having CCE pre-registration Wednesday from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary cafeteria to start the new school year. Please bring your child's birth certificate with you. This is very important that you attend.
- Join us for a band booster meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Coahoma Band Hall. If you cannot attend but would like to help in some way, please contact any of the board members and let them know. They are Diane Ewing, Steph Ferguson, Melissa Hardy, Melissa Sanchez and Heather Maddox.
- Hangar 25 Air Museum needs your help! We are in need of volunteers to fill a variety of positions such as tour guides, front desk, clerical, events, and many others. Set your hours and days of the week you are available. Meet new people and enjoy a rewarding experience. For more information, contact Emma Bogard at 432-267-2963.
- 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.

MAJORS

Continued from Page 1A

here and we look forward to building relationships and working closely with others throughout the community who are serving those in crisis," Orville said.

One of the ways he plans on expanding the organization's service is by extending an open invitation to area congregations to adopt a day where they prepare meals at the emergency shelter.

"Not only do we serve the physical needs at the emergency shelter, but their spiritual needs as well," Chambless said. "This is an opportunity for congregations to expand their ministry and their reach."

The shelter is equipped with 24 beds and serves not only those in the community, but individuals passing through. The Big Spring Salvation Army also feeds an estimated 500 people at Thanksgiving and offers assistance to many

more through the Angel Tree project and other programs.

"One thing we want to increase are the donations from the community," Chambless said. "Everyone is hurting and we understand that, but we want to encourage those who can give to make a donation."

Assistance provided by the Salvation Army ranges from help for people who can't pay a light bill, are wondering about their IRA, or are living from paycheck to paycheck, he said. Funds for assistance and other programs provided through the Salvation Army are procured through private donations and grants from the state, local and federal government.

"We are very thankful for the Permian Basin Foundation because they have been a big boost," Chambless said. "Normally, they only provide grants to those organizations in the Midland/Odessa area, but we are very grateful they extended a helping hand to us."

Also, a shelter grant

BENEFIT

Continued from Page 1A

who are doing this out of the pure want to and not because of the money they are making because they aren't getting paid.

"It truly has impressed us that these people have done all that they have and this is in their honor."

The dinner will begin at 5 p.m. with an open-

ing ceremony. About 6 p.m., there will be an award presentation to the firefighters, Dalsing said. There will also be an auction, dessert auction and silent auction. Anyone wanting to donate items to the auctions can do so by contacting Debra Wallace at 417-274-0473 or Iva Jo Hanslik at 466-1496.

"Really, the best thing people can do besides donating to the event is to show up," Dalsing

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

reserve funds to pay for the increased contributions, Barr said, leaving intact current budget plans for the coming fiscal year.

As costs for maintaining the senior center increase, Barr said city and county officials will begin meeting to devise ways to make the facility's operation more efficient.

The biggest financial strain connected with the senior center is meals, which costs the governmental entities around \$8 per meal to provide. Currently, anyone 60 or over can eat for free at the center. Barr said officials will look at that and other issues in the coming months.

In other business Monday, commissioners discussed the proposed construction of a road to connect the city of Forsan with the Tubbs Addition, but no action was taken.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@big-springherald.com

has been received which will allow the emergency shelter to provide more beds beginning in September. The Dora Roberts Foundation also has been a major contributor to the Salvation Army.

"All the stories I have heard concerning Dora Roberts Foundation are always accompanied by a big smile. (It) has played an intricate part year in and year out and has been extremely generous," Chambless said. "We are very grateful to those who notice the continual need and continue to support us."

A local advisory board, comprised of 15 people from different occupations and backgrounds in the community, will add a few new members. Chambless said it is important to bring in fresh faces and new ideas in order to keep the progress moving forward.

"It's not just about finding people who can write us big checks. It's about finding those with good ideas and can help us move in a positive direction," Chambless said.

Other plans include developing a rapid-response disaster team and improving upon existing programs.

"Everything we do, whether it be providing a sandwich, playing with the kids, helping them with homework or offering assistance to someone having a tough time, it's all done in the name of Jesus," Chambless said.

To find out more about the Salvation Army, its programs or how to donate, call 267-8239.

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Gene Priest, 74, died Sunday. Funeral Services were at 10:30 a.m. today at College Baptist Church. Graveside services with Military Honors were held at 2:30 p.m. today at the Sweetwater Cemetery.

Joel Diaz Lopez, 63, died Saturday. Funeral Services were at 2:30 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial with Military Honors were at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Rodrigo "Rey" Reyes, 71, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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Letting states make policy

Majorities in liberal states often back policies that most folks in conservative states abhor — and vice versa.

The difficulty of reaching accord among warring but heartfelt views partly explains Washington's paralysis.

But note this: New York recently legalized gay marriage without having to consult with Tennessee, Nebraska and Idaho. Alabama limited the right to abortion without having to compromise with California, Massachusetts and Hawaii. With Washington, D.C., in disarray, this has been a busy time for states going their own way.

Does the trend represent federalism at its best or growing national disunity and polarization? The answer to both questions is "yes." And the first may offer a solution to the second. For controversies around such matters as guns, marriage and voter ID, having the states choose their own path in harmony with local sensibilities acts to release tensions.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry, a likely Republican candidate for president, recently raised some conservative hackles by saying it was "fine" for New York to legalize gay marriage. But then he lowered some conservative hackles by characterizing abortion as a states' rights issue. Perry deems himself "pro-life," and we know that letting states ban

abortion requires first overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court decision that effectively legalized the procedure.

Perry rests his case on the 10th Amendment, which says: "The powers not delegated to the (federal government) by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." This division of powers underlies the principle of federalism.

"You can't believe in the 10th Amendment for a few issues," Perry said, "and then, (for) something that doesn't suit you, say, 'We'd rather not have the states decide that.'" That principled statement is one drug war advocates should recall when federal agents invade the backyards of Californians growing medical marijuana consistent with their state laws.

Of course, such states' rights arguments have been used to defend such evils as legalized racial discrimination.

And a patchwork of 50 different sets of laws on the same matter can cause headaches.

For example, some states allow gay marriage, some civil unions, some domestic partnerships (similar to civil unions) and some none of the above. Both Washington state and Oregon ban same-sex marriage while permitting domestic partnerships. But gay couples wanting full marriage can tie the knot on the tribal land of the Suquamish in Washington's Kitsap County or of the Coquille in Coos Bay, Ore. Both tribes have legalized same-sex marriage.

Opinions that reflect local conditions often contradict the

partisan stereotypes attached to them. Gun rights are supposed to be a conservative passion, but fairly liberal Maine recently eased its gun laws. Maine is largely rural with a strong hunting tradition and relatively little crime. Practical considerations ruled the day. One of the most left-leaning states, Vermont (also rural), has among the most lax gun laws in America.

Any pro-choice people, your author included, would not be dismayed were *Roe v. Wade* overturned. Letting the states make their own abortion law would release our national politics from a never-ending war between irreconcilable views. One fewer area for strife in a presidential election should be welcome.

In the end, no one would have to live in a state that forbids abortion. No one would have to live in a state that lets illegal immigrants pay in-state tuition to attend public colleges, if that's something he or she can't abide. We refer to Connecticut, Illinois and Maryland.

Washington, D.C., hasn't been doing a great job of late handling its enumerated powers. Asking the states or the people to deal with the rest may not be a bad idea.

To find out more about Froma Harrop, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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There is no satisfying liberals

What is 2011 if not a dramatic global outworking of the abysmal failures of liberalism? Their failures are everywhere, but liberals are no closer to abandoning their political theology than they were, say, five years ago.

Every marginally intelligent person must know that events unfolding in Britain are a likely foreshadowing of what's in store for us if we don't radically alter our ways. Unchastened and undaunted, liberals keep their collective foot on the big-government accelerator. There's no governor on the liberal golf cart.

For years, the more responsible among us have been warning about spending and unsustainable entitlements, and the left has mocked. But this past year, it's as if God has been trying, with increasingly urgent alarms, to get our attention, to no avail.

Tea partiers tried to hold the line during the debates of the continuing resolutions and debt ceiling, only to be vilified. But the national debt continues to explode as if to resoundingly validate conservatives as reasonable and their spending-addicted opponents as extremists. For liberals, too much government is never enough.

We were told that unless we lifted the debt ceiling, our credit rating would be downgraded and the markets would collapse. Most Republicans signed on to the deal under duress, which ended up neither preventing nor delaying the downgrade or the market free fall. But that was no problem for liberals, who simply changed their warnings after the fact, now saying it was the wrangling over the ceiling, not the underlying debt, that was responsible. Liberals are not to be held to account for what they said yesterday.

In a move ostensibly aimed at containing the plummeting mar-

ket, Obama bounced out once again to his trusted prompter. But instead of acknowledging his culpability for the unfolding national nightmare — for which he, at the very least, is blocking remedial action — he wagged his skinny finger of blame, saying it is everyone's fault but his. Being a liberal means never having to say you're sorry.

Meanwhile, we got another stern jolt of reality from across the pond as one of Europe's primary poster nations for the grand socialist experiment implodes into abject violence before our eyes. We witnessed the very beneficiaries of government largesse exhibiting their gratitude as they stole from an already beaten and bloodied man and forced people to strip naked to prove they'd not withheld any assets.

It was unnecessary to speculate as to the causes of this unrest.

Audiotapes of the inebriated women justifying the despicable behavior on the basis of income inequality told us all we needed to know.

But British liberals are as impervious to proof as their American counterparts. A video linked on National Review Online featured a British Labour Party liberal condemning the protesters' violence through one cheek and sympathizing with their plight on the other, thereby further excusing and enabling their behavior. Her party injected the addict with addictive substances yet castigates conservatives who call for an intervention.

There is just no satisfying liberals. No amount of money thrown at a project can ever be enough, because you can't solve problems by throwing money at them, especially when that money comes with federal demands attached and leads to diminished local control. They'll always demand more — even when we are wholly bankrupt. Always. No exceptions.

Indeed, if there were ever a test case to see whether exceptions exist, whether there are some limits to the rapacious liberal appetite for spending,

our current debt picture and economic malaise provide it. But they won't even countenance the thought of counseling, much less patient rehab.

Like their addicted wards, liberals remain in perpetual denial, continually giving themselves a pass for their disastrous policies because of their allegedly good intentions. But how noble is it to stoke the dark human passions of greed, jealousy, envy and covetousness? How commendable is it to foment resentment among the races, genders and different income groups? How virtuous is it to promote policies that rarely, if ever, live up to their promises?

Should we lavish praise on President Obama for his simulated compassion when his press secretary, Jay Carney, insists that extending unemployment benefits creates jobs, willfully ignoring both common sense and empirical evidence, which contradict the claim? Must we laud Obama for his unrelenting demands for more "stimuli" that not only don't work but also will further impoverish us and our posterity?

It must be easy to be a liberal. When your policies don't work, you just change the goal posts and say we haven't done enough — and then demand more.

Honestly, close your eyes and try to imagine a scenario in which liberals would ever say that enough money has been spent, enough federal government power exerted. You will fail — because there is just no satisfying liberals.

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney. His latest book, "Crimes Against Liberty," was No. 1 on the New York Times best-seller list for nonfiction for its first two weeks. Follow him on Twitter @davidlimbaugh and his website at www.DavidLimbaugh.com. To read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
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- By fax at 264-7205
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- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we maintain an open mind, Lord, and trust in You and Your word for our life.

Amen

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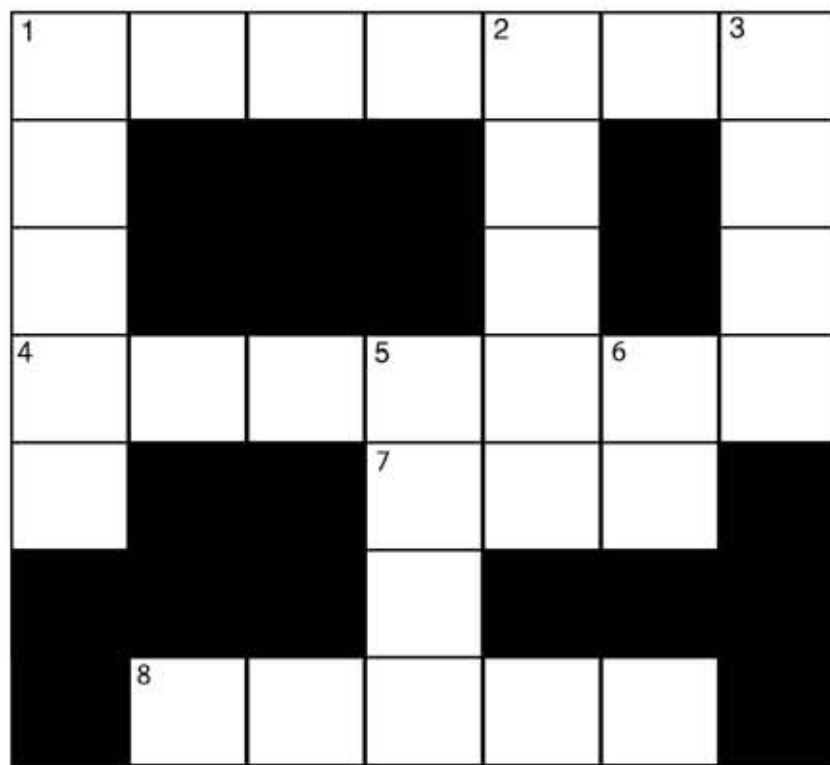
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Crossword Puzzle



THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1920: THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE IS FOUNDED.
- 1977: NASA LAUNCHES THE VOYAGER 2 SPACECRAFT.
- 2007: LEGENDARY HOTELIER LEONA HELMSLEY PASSES AWAY.

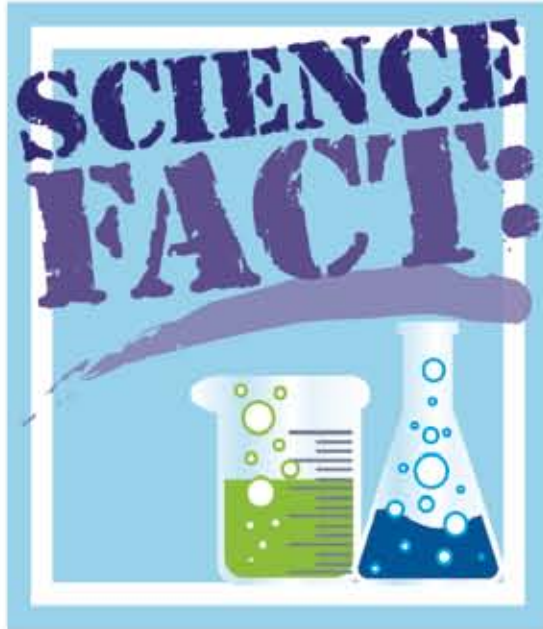
ACROSS

- 1. Person who swims
- 4. Inexperienced persons
- 7. Morning mist
- 8. Seaside area

DOWN

- 1. Bright outside
- 2. Cut up into pieces
- 3. Straight lines of sun
- 5. Concept
- 6. Enlisted woman (abbr.)

Answers:
ACROSS
1. swimmer 4. novices 7. dew 8. beach
DOWN
1. sunny 2. mince 3. rays 5. idea 6. EW



HOW MANY GALLONS OF WATER DOES THE AVERAGE ROUND, ABOVE-GROUND POOL HOLD.

ANSWER: BETWEEN 8,000 AND 17,000 DEPENDING ON WIDTH.



depth

the distance from the top of something to its bottom

How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Swim
- SPANISH:** Nadar
- ITALIAN:** Nuotare
- FRENCH:** Nager
- GERMAN:** Schwimmen

Did You Know?



THE BUOYANCY OF WATER SUPPORTS THE BODY AND MAKES IT GOOD FOR LOW-IMPACT WORKOUTS.

GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: SWIMMING GOGGLES

SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

BY BOB WEBER JR.

Miss Squirrel came home through the back door and frightened off an intruder. She heard his wrench fall to the floor as he fled, but she didn't see him. The trespasser is one of these construction workers. Which one does Slylock Fox think is guilty?

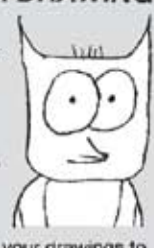


HOW TO DRAW an unwelcome visitor



YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Stew Brunner, age 14



Which one of the following birds cannot mimic the human voice?

- a) Parakeet
- b) Crow
- c) Macaw
- d) Kiwi
- e) Cockatoo

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News in brief

Merkel, Sarkozy to try to tame debt crisis amid worries about Europe's growth prospects

PARIS (AP) — The leaders of Germany and France are discussing Tuesday how to get the eurozone's 17 countries to work closer together to address Europe's debt crisis as further evidence emerged of a marked economic slowdown.

The meeting in Paris comes after a week of turmoil in financial markets, largely blamed on Europe's sprawling government debts and worries that European leaders aren't doing enough to address them. It also comes a day after the European Central Bank revealed that it splashed out more

money than ever trying to appease the markets.

Unsettling signs over Europe's growth prospects — especially those of its two biggest economies — overshadow the meeting between German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy. Figures released Tuesday show Germany's economic growth was just 0.1 percent in the second quarter; France announced last week that its economy ground to a halt in the same period.

Fears that Italy and Spain, the eurozone's third and fourth largest economies, may find it too expensive to service their debts triggered last week's intervention in the bond markets from the ECB, which has increasingly stepped in as Europe scrambles.

France and Germany, which together account for almost half of the eurozone's economic output, are taking the lead in pushing for reforms. But, speculation that the two leaders would consider proposals for the eurozone to issue jointly guaranteed government debt appear to have been dashed, with officials for both sides indicating that would not be on the agenda.

Protests over wireless shutoff prompts rush hour closures of San Francisco subway stations

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Rush-hour protests prompted the closure of four San Francisco subway stations and sent hundreds of commuters into the sidewalks and streets Monday, but there was no repeat of the wireless service shutdowns that angered protesters last week.

The Bay Area Rapid Transit agency has found itself in the middle of a raging debate over how far authorities should go to disrupt protests organized on social networks. The agency shut cellphone service last Thursday to quell a brewing protest on one of its platforms over a police shooting.

Cellphone service was operating Monday night as an estimated 50 protesters gathered on the Civic Center Station platform chanting "no justice, no peace" shortly after 5 p.m. Thirty minutes later, police in riot gear and wielding batons closed the station and cleared the platform after protesters briefly delayed an east-bound train from departing.

From Civic Center, the protesters were joined by more demonstrators and marched down San Francisco's Market Street and attempted to enter to more stations. Officials closed those stations as well.

"Once the platform becomes unsafe, we can't jeopardize the safety of patrons and employees," BART Deputy Police Chief Dan Hartwig said.

Court records: Neighbor confessed to killing 3-year-old Mo. girl who was playing at his pool

KENNETT, Mo. (AP) — A southeast Missouri man told authorities he suffocated a 3-year-old neighbor girl he found playing at his backyard swimming pool and then threw her body in a floodway ditch, court documents allege.

Shawn Morgan, 43, was charged over the weekend with first-degree murder, armed criminal action and tampering with evidence in connection with the disappearance of Breeann Rodriguez.

The child was last seen Aug. 6 in front of her home near Senath, a town of about 1,500 residents located about 200 miles south of St. Louis in southeast Missouri. Her body has not been found.

Authorities said in a probable cause statement that Morgan admitted to an agent of the Bootheel Drug Task Force that he grabbed Breeann and took her inside his home after finding her standing on the ladder of his pool. Morgan said he suffocated her with a white plastic trash bag and that it "felt like it took an hour for the girl to die," according to the probable cause statement.

Morgan told police he then tossed the girl's body in the same trash bag he used to suffocate her and threw it over a railing along Missouri 164 and into a floodway ditch.

FBI SWAT team in Ky. captures man in Australian fake bomb plot

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — An FBI SWAT team descended on a quiet Louisville suburb to arrest a man authorities say broke into a family's home in Australia and chained a fake bomb to a teenage woman's neck as part of an extortion plot.

Paul "Doug" Peters, 50, faces charges in Australia that include kidnapping and breaking and entering, said Luke Moore of the New South Wales

Police. Peters' initial court appearance was set for Tuesday morning in Louisville and the extradition process will take about two months, authorities said.

His capture comes nearly two weeks after 18-year-old Madeleine Pulver was attacked in the wealthy Sydney suburb of Mosman. She was alone studying for exams when a masked man broke into the house in the middle of the day, chained a device that looked like a bomb to her and left a note with demands before leaving.

Bomb technicians, negotiators and detectives rushed to the scene. Neighboring homes were evacuated, streets were closed and medical and fire crews waited nearby. Pulver spent 10 terrifying hours chained to the device before the bomb squad was able to free her. She was not hurt, and the device was later found to contain no explosives. Australia's prime minister said the event resembled "a Hollywood script."

Police say a note had been attached to the device, but they haven't released details of what it said.

Safety questions loom over state fair collapse that killed 5 people

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Nathan Byrd was known as a daredevil, a wiry stagehand who would take on jobs no one else wanted. But one thing scared him: the quality of the canvas roof covering the stage at the Indiana State Fair.

"He said it scared the crap out of him all the time," said Randy Byrd, his older brother.

Byrd was working 20 feet above the stage Saturday night when a wind gust estimated at 60 to 70 mph toppled the roof and the metal scaffolding holding lights and other equipment. The stage collapsed onto a crowd of concert-goers awaiting a show by the country group Sugarland.

Byrd and four others were killed. Twenty-five people remained hospitalized Monday.

As the fair reopened Monday, investigators and the families of the dead and injured were still seeking answers to hard questions: Was the structure safe? Why were the thousands of fans not evacuated? Could anything have been done to prevent the tragedy?

Police: 7-year-old La. boy who had cerebral palsy decapitated by dad

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A Louisiana man told investigators he decapitated his disabled 7-year-old son because he had grown tired of caring for the boy, who had cerebral palsy and heart problems, needed a feeding tube and used a wheelchair, police said.

Police Chief Scott Silverii said Monday that Jeremiah Lee Wright, 30, of Thibodaux waived his right to an attorney and confessed to killing Jori Lirette within a half-hour of being brought to the police station Sunday. Wright was booked with first-degree murder and held in lieu of \$5 million bond. Detective Ricky Ross, a department spokesman, said Wright did not have an attorney.

Silverii said the boy's feet and one hand also were cut off, recovered in several white plastic garbage bags. A preliminary autopsy indicated Jori also had been bludgeoned, he said. His head was left by the side of the road so the child's mother, 27-year-old Jesslyn Lirette, would see it when she came home, the chief said.

Wright's only explanation for doing so was "just that he wanted her to feel stupid when she saw the head," Silverii said.

The killing was the first since 2008 in Thibodaux, a city of about 14,500 people.

Late payments on credit cards hit lowest level since 1994

NEW YORK (AP) — Credit card users are so focused on keeping their accounts in good standing that they've driven the rate of late payments down to its lowest level in 17 years.

The national credit card delinquency rate, or rate of payments 90 days or more past due, fell to 0.60 percent in the second quarter, down from 0.92 percent a year ago. That's the lowest rate since 1994, according to credit reporting agency TransUnion.

Delinquencies were expected to drop, but the improvement in that April to June period was faster than forecast.

And the improved payment habits came despite increased use of credit cards, based on quarterly data reported by banks that issue Visa and MasterCard-branded cards and data from American Express Co. and Discover Financial Corp.

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



By Steve Becker

Perseverance Pays Off

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ Q 6
♥ 4
♦ K Q J 10 9 7 3
♣ A 6 3

WEST

♠ J 9 7 4 3
♥ 8 3
♦ 6 5
♣ K J 7 2

EAST

♠ 10 8 5 2
♥ A J 10 9 7
♦ A 4
♣ 8 5

SOUTH

♠ A K
♥ K Q 6 5 2
♦ 8 2
♣ Q 10 9 4

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1♦	1♥	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	

Opening lead — eight of hearts.

Defensive play can sometimes be hard work, requiring pinpoint accuracy to reach the desired goal — defeat of the contract.

As a **case in point**, consider this deal, where one slip by either East or West would have allowed South to make three notrump. But the defenders hit on every correct card for the first five tricks, leaving declarer absolutely helpless.

West started the ball rolling by leading the eight of hearts, which East correctly read as the highest card his partner held in the suit. On

another deal, East's proper play to the first trick might be to withhold the ace to avoid establishing two tricks for declarer. But here, East had more pressing business at hand — namely, to try to stop declarer from utilizing dummy's long diamond suit.

So he **took the ace of hearts** and shifted to the eight of clubs, hoping to drive out dummy's ace before the diamonds could be established. South played the ten and West the jack, which declarer ducked.

It was **now West's turn** to make a sacrifice for the common cause, and he came through with flying colors by returning the club king! Once again dummy followed low, declarer hoping that West could not continue clubs. But that hope went aglimmering when the club deuce dislodged the ace.

South's only chance now was to find the ace of diamonds singleton, but it was not to be. East refused to take the ace on the first diamond lead, and declarer finished with only seven tricks — two spades, two hearts, two clubs and a diamond.

Of course, South would have gone down only one had he taken the second club lead with the ace, in effect conceding defeat. But that's the best he could have done against a relentless defense that never let up from the word "go."

Tomorrow: Sylvia rides again.

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News in brief

15 mobile homes destroyed in Leander brush fire

LEANDER (AP) — The Texas Forest Service says five people have received medical attention following a brush fire that destroyed 15 mobile homes. Spokeswoman Lexi Maxwell said Tuesday that crews are working to contain the blaze that started with a 30-acre fire in Leander (lee-AN'-der), about 20 miles northwest of Austin.

Maxwell says authorities are trying to determine what started the fire Monday afternoon. Maxwell told The Associated Press that some of the heavy brush could burn for a week or two.

Maxwell says one man she described as a civilian was treated for minor smoke inhalation. Four firefighters were treated for heat-related ailments, then they returned to their duties. Dozens of evacuated residents were allowed to return to their homes Monday night.

Book about Perry coming in 2012

NEW YORK (AP) — Rick Perry has the book world's attention.

The Texas governor and recently declared GOP presidential candidate is the subject of new book by James C. Moore, co-author of the anti-Bush best seller "Bush's Brain," and Jason Stanford. Metropolitan Books, an imprint of Henry Holt and Company, announced Tuesday that the book is scheduled for early 2012.

Meanwhile, a book by Perry himself received a sales bump after he announced his candidacy Saturday.

urday. The hardcover of "Fed Up!" has moved into the top 400 on Amazon.com and is out of stock until Friday. The conservative policy book was released last year.

The foreword is by Newt Gingrich, one of Perry's rivals for the Republican nomination.

Billboard worker in Arlington falls to death

ARLINGTON (AP) — A billboard worker has died after falling about 30 feet from a sign near Cowboys Stadium in Arlington.

The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office on Tuesday identified the victim as 40-year-old John Burnette of Boyd.

Arlington police say the accident happened around midday Monday. Lt. Pedro Arevalo says Burnette apparently lost his footing and fell to the ground.

Burnette was declared dead at an Arlington hospital.

Investigators did not immediately say whether Burnette was wearing a safety harness.

Texas gears up for sales tax-free weekend

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas businesses and shoppers are getting ready for this weekend's sales tax holiday as students prepare to return to school.

Comptroller Susan Combs says the sales tax break, on select items, runs Friday through Sunday. The tax exemption applies to qualified prod-

ucts purchased at a store in Texas or from an Internet or catalog seller that does business in the state.

The sales tax break applies to purchases of qualifying clothing, shoes, backpacks and school supplies that total less than \$100.

Combs has predicted that shoppers in Texas will save more than \$62 million in state and local sales taxes this weekend.

San Marcos police have announced increased patrols near outlet malls.

Man guilty of assault in alleged machete death

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — One San Antonio man accused in the alleged machete death of his roommate has pleaded guilty to a lesser charge and will testify against another defendant.

Prosecutors say jury selection is scheduled Tuesday in the murder trial of fellow roommate Alexi Estebes-Mejia.

The San Antonio Express-News (<http://bit.ly/poPQfe>) reports Erlin Yobani Garcia-Rivera reached a plea agreement Friday in his murder case and agreed to plead guilty to aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Prosecutors say Garcia-Rivera must testify against Estebes-Mejia, in exchange for a maximum 20-year prison term.

The body of Juan Jose Santana-Hernandez was discovered in 2009 near a San Antonio loading dock. An autopsy found the victim was stabbed and had chopping wounds allegedly caused by a machete.

Investigators say the three men had attended a party together.



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Castaway line shortens robin's life

In the cool of an August morning, the American robin methodically searched through the fallen mesquite leaves in our side yard. Then, scampering across withered grasses, he stopped. Taking a few steps, he tilted his head as if to listen. After a moment, his stop-start routine continued in search of insects.

As he approached my view from the kitchen window, his head cocked to one side again. Taking a step forward, he plunged his bill into the humus beneath a tree. Pulling backward, he quickly extracted an earthworm and swallowed it. While he continued to probe for hidden treasures under the leaves, I thought back to this same time last year.

During that morning, a distraught caller had described having found a robin hanging upside down in his tree. The wiggling mass of feathers, tangled with what he thought was string, deserved his every effort.

Reaching the captive bird, the man was confronted with another problem. When he tried to cut the knotted line, he discovered a tough plastic had ensnared the struggling songbird.

After cutting off as much

as he could of the troublesome material, he examined the damage done to one of the robin's wings. As it had tried to free itself, it had rubbed against the line in a desperate effort. Part of its wing was raw and bleeding.



Courtesy photo

With its brick red breast, blackish head, white eyerings, and yellow bill, the American robin is easily recognized. If earthworms and insects are not available, the bird will readily dine on berries and wild fruit.

Of more concern, however,

was a part of the plastic embedded deep within the robin's flesh. "I'm afraid to pull it out," he continued.

"You're on top of the hill?" was my first question. "Yes, the sign company," he replied. His lofty vantage on the rolling hills along FM 700 gave an open view south from Scenic Mountain to the city park.

Within five minutes, the man was standing on our front porch with the robin in his hands. The bird had obviously caused the scraping on the surface of its wing as it struggled to be free.

Able to see only a part of the line disappearing into the flesh, we were worried about its removal. It had to have been caused by an impact with the line while in flight. We identified the plastic as monofilament fishing line.

My call later in the day was to let the man know that we would be taking the robin to the wildlife center in Lubbock the next day. During our conversation, he said it made no sense that a songbird usually found in neighborhoods would become tangled in fishing line.

It was then I asked him to think about what he could see from his home atop the hill.

"The mountain and city park in the distance," he replied.

"And where would you find monofilament line?" was my next query. Frowning, as if he wondered where our conversation was heading, he answered, "Comanche Lake."

My reasoning was based on previous and numerous incidents of birds becoming entangled in fishing line at the lake. From a nearby neighborhood, birds could be going to the lake for insects along the shoreline, and worms hidden in the muddy banks. Clean-up efforts at the lake to remove trash and discarded monofilament line, could hardly keep up with our throw-it-anywhere society.

My thinking was that the robin had taken flight only to become entangled from monofilament hanging from or within a tree at the park. Even with the plastic a major nuisance, it could have been possible for the bird to fly toward the hilltop to rest in one of the man's trees.

Once there, the robin's situation worsened. Having brought with it the potential for more danger, it had jumped from limb to limb. Then entangled, exhausted and weary from its struggle, it had tried one last attempt

BIRD POOP

By BEBE McCASLAND



to reach another branch, only to discover the line prevented a landing. How long it had hung upside down in the tree was unknown.

The report from the wildlife center noted that the monofilament line had slowly strangulated circulation to the rest of the wing. Since it was unable to recover, euthanasia was recommended for the songbird.

Upon hearing this, the man said he was going to do something for the robin. Indicating he would use his billboard on Gregg Street to warn of the dangers of "left-behind" fishing lines at the city park, he said he would notify the public of the danger to wildlife.

Later, driving south on Gregg one day after picking up a bird, Art and I saw that Skip Burcham had kept his word. Through public awareness, he was trying to prevent more victims of human carelessness.

Bebe McCasland is author of "The Scoop From Bird Poop." She is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

'Sir, you'll have to speak with my supervisor'

I was reading an account the other day about what can happen after you die if you have not had your credit cards cancelled. This is so priceless, and extremely easy to see happening.

As the story goes: A lady died this past January and Citibank billed her for February and March for their annual service charges on her credit card, and added late fees and interest on the

monthly charge. The balance had been \$0.00 when she died, but is now somewhere around \$60. A family member placed a call to Citibank.

Here is the exchange:

Family Member: "I am calling to tell you she died back in January."

Citibank: "The account was never closed and the late fees and charges still apply."

Family Member: "Maybe you should turn it over to collectors."

Citibank: "Since it is two months past due, it already has been."

Family Member: "So,

what will they do when they find out she is dead?"

Citibank: "Either report her account to frauds division or report her to the credit bureau, maybe both!"

Family Member: "Did you just get what I was telling you — the part about her being dead?"

Citibank: "Sir, you'll have to speak to my supervisor."

Supervisor gets on the phone:

Family Member: "I'm calling to tell you, she died back in January with a \$0 balance."

Citibank: "The account was never closed and late fees and charges still apply."

Family Member: "You mean you want to collect from her estate?"

Citibank: (Stammer) "Are you her lawyer?"

Family Member: "No, I'm her great nephew."

Citibank: "Could you fax us a certificate of death?"

Family Member: "Sure." (Fax number was given)

After they get the fax: Citibank: "Our system just isn't setup for death. I don't know what more I can do to

PARENT'S CORNER

By DARRELL RYAN



help."

Family Member: "Well, if you figure it out, great! If not, you could just keep billing her. She won't care."

Citibank: "Well, the late fees and charges do still apply."

Family Member: "What's wrong with you people? Would you like her new billing address?"

Citibank: "That might help..."

Family Member: "Odessa Memorial Cemetery, Highway 129, Plot Number 69."

Citibank: "Sir, that's a cemetery!"

Family Member: "And what do you do with dead people on your planet?"

Now couldn't that happen?

Darrell Ryan is director of federal programs for the Big Spring Independent School District.

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Briefs

Steer season tickets on sale

The athletic department of the Big Spring Steers has announced the dates for season ticket sales. Fans can purchase their season ticket books through 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

This is the last week of sign-ups for CYFA's youth football and cheerleading. The cost of the programs are \$125 for divisions one and two, \$75 for flag football and \$100 for cheerleading.

The last day for signups will be Aug. 18, between the hours of 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. For more information, contact Jeff Vidal at 432-816-6871.

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.

Quarterback Club meeting Monday

Big Spring Quarterback Club meetings 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.

Soccer signups

Soccer signups will be held at the Big Spring Mall through Aug. 19 at 5:30 p.m. In addition, players can register between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Aug. 20.

Forsan community pep rally

Forsan will be holding their community pep rally this Friday, following the junior varsity and varsity scrimmage, which begins at 6:30 p.m. There will be fan gear for sale, games, prizes, give-a-ways and a surprise. Everyone is invited.

Sale of Astros on slow, steady track

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball postponed a vote to approve the proposed sale of the Houston Astros from Drayton McLane to Jim Crane. The \$680 million agreement was reached May 16, and baseball Commissioner Bud Selig said at the All-Star game last month that the sale was on track for approval. McLane said Monday that the set-

tlement of a discrimination suit a decade ago against Crane's former company was not an issue.

"The standard due diligence that must be completed before any transaction of this magnitude can close remains ongoing," the commissioner's office said in a statement. "Because that procedure is continuing, it is not expected that the proposed sale

of the Astros will go to the approval process at this week's owners meetings. Major League Baseball will continue to work as expeditiously as possible to complete the process."

McLane and Crane had anticipated a vote when owners meet Thursday in Cooperstown.

"He was certainly

See **SALE**, Page 2B

Rangers' win over Angels pushes AL lead to five games

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Torii Hunter realizes the Los Angeles Angels could finish their four-game series against Texas with new life in the AL West race — or with a formidable climb back to the postseason.

Even after the Angels flopped in the opener, their veteran leader still believes his club can keep up with the Rangers.

Nelson Cruz and Mike Napoli hit back-to-back homers and Michael Young added a two-run single during a six-run fifth inning as the streaking Rangers extended their AL West lead over Los Angeles

with an 8-4 victory Monday night.

Ian Kinsler had four hits and scored three runs, and Josh Hamilton added an RBI double in Texas' fourth straight win. Alexi Ogando (12-5) pitched eight-hit ball into the seventh inning for the Rangers (70-52), who have won nine of 11 while taking a five-game lead over Los Angeles (65-57) in their four-team division.

The Angels, who committed three errors and struggled again on offense, will face the Rangers nine more times over the clubs'

See **RANGERS**, Page 2B

Ogbonnaya makes best of Texans' opener

HOUSTON (AP) — Chris Ogbonnaya made the most of his opportunity in Houston's preseason opener, with virtually every other Texans running back hobbled by injuries.

Ogbonnaya caught a touchdown pass from Matt Leinart and ran for the winning score in the fourth quarter of the Texans' 20-16 win over the New York Jets on Monday night.

"This time of the year is a grind," Ogbonnaya said, "and you just have to be ready for the opportunity when it comes."

The regular starters for both sides only played the first quarter.

Mark Sanchez looked sharp, completing 6 of 7 passes, two to

Santonio Holmes. Sanchez's usual backup, Mark Brunell, did not play because of a finger injury, leaving the rest of the game to seventh-round draft pick Greg McElroy, the former Alabama star.

The Jets' first-string offense produced four first downs and 73 yards, but only three points.

"We would've liked to score a touchdown on that first drive, but we didn't," Sanchez said. "I was proud of the first group moving the ball the way we did. Now, we just need to finish in the red zone."

Matt Schaub, meanwhile, looked shaky for 20 yards. He went 2 for 5 for the Texans and was sacked once before Leinart replaced him.

Ogbonnaya accounted for 104 total yards — 37 on the ground and 67 receiving. He was just about the last running back standing for Houston after Derrick Ward left in the first half with a head injury. Arian Foster, the 2010 NFL rushing champ, and backups Steve Slaton and Ben Tate were sidelined with hamstring injuries.

"Hats off to Ogbonnaya, the young man's had a great camp for two weeks," Texans coach Gary Kubiak said. "Really, he was all we had. He played the whole game. He's been a real warrior for us."

Houston trailed 16-13 in the final quarter when Derrick Townsend returned a punt to the New York 37. Two plays later, rookie T.J. Yates com-

pleted a 28-yard pass to rookie Lestar Jean to the 1. Ogbonnaya dove into the end zone on the first play following the 2-minute warning.

The Jets had a chance to win it in the final minute, but undrafted free agent Michael Campbell dropped a 32-yard pass from McElroy in the end zone.

Houston's defense, learning a 3-4 scheme under new coordinator Wade Phillips, produced seven sacks. But McElroy, a seventh-round draft pick, still found gaps and completed 23 of 39 passes for 208 yards and a touchdown.

Phillips has only had a few weeks to teach his players the new scheme because of the lockout, and Texans coach Gary Kubiak saw obvious

progress.

"In general, you could see they've grasped the nature of the defense," Kubiak said. "We stayed away from giving up big plays."

Matt Leinart, who turned down offers from other teams to return to Houston and back up Schaub, also looked solid, except for an interception that led to the Jets' lone touchdown. Leinart went 8 for 14 for 78 yards in about two quarters of action.

Sanchez completed his first four throws, and the Jets drove inside the Houston 15. Linebacker Xavier Adibi sacked Sanchez on third down, forcing New York to settle for Nick Folk's 33-yard

See **TEXANS**, Page 2B

Aggies still undecided about Southeastern Conference

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Stay or go? Texas A&M plans to take a while before making a decision on its conference affiliation.

School President R. Bowen Loftin offered his first detailed comments Monday on the Aggies' rather public interest in joining the Southeastern Conference — a move that almost surely would set off another round of conference realignment.

"We've made no decision about terminating our relationship with the Big 12," Loftin said. "This is all about what is best for Texas A&M, along with ... visibility for us and our athletes and financial resources. That's what it's all about. I think anybody in my shoes would have exactly the same kinds of concerns."

He said there is no timetable for any decision and any realign-

ment by Texas A&M will take place after a "lengthy" process. He acknowledged that Texas A&M had approached the SEC, which has won the last five BCS championships in football but on Sunday reaffirmed its 12-school membership while leaving the door open to expansion.

"There is no bid," Loftin said. "There has never been a bid to invite us into the SEC at any time in the past and if it were to occur in the future, we would certainly want to evaluate that."

The latest batch of conference talk has drawn the attention of the NCAA. Vice President of Communications Bob Williams said in a statement Monday night that President Mark Emmert "has had conversations with a number of presidents and commissioners related to recent conference realignment issues and these dis-

cussions mirror many of the topics raised last week during the DI (Division I) presidential meetings."

Loftin met with reporters shortly after receiving authority from the board of regents to take any action he deems necessary in terms of realignment. He said Texas A&M is looking only at the SEC right now, but didn't rule out other possibilities.

"It's not so much what's wrong with the Big 12, it's what's right for Texas A&M and where we want to go in time," he said.

The Big 12 will begin the football season in a few weeks with 10 teams after Nebraska (Big Ten) and Colorado (Pac-12) left in July, a year after a seismic shift in conference alignment.

The Big 12 did not respond to requests for comment Monday, though Commissioner

Dan Beebe told USA Today on Sunday that the Big 12 was interested in maintaining 10 member schools.

"We're just working hard to try to figure out how they can stay with us because of the value that institution has and the quality academic and athletic programs it offers," Beebe told the newspaper.

"We'll see. We've seen the odds stacked against us before."

Loftin said he began discussing Texas A&M's interest in the SEC with Commissioner Mike Slive on July 21. A&M's departure would cast doubt on the future of the Big 12, and Loftin said he would consider the ramifications for the conference before doing anything.

"What we do, if anything, will be in the best interest of Texas A&M and the state of Texas," he said. "We're also

very concerned about the members of the Big 12. We don't want the Big 12 to go away. We have no intention of doing anything that might precipitate that."

Another key for Texas A&M in negotiating with another conference would be continuing its more than 100-year-old football rivalry with Texas.

"That's a historic rivalry," he said. "We see no reason why it could not continue under a different conference arrangement if they chose to do so. We certainly want to make that part of any discussion we have with another conference."

Loftin said he would have to consider the financial consequences to leaving the Big 12, if Texas A&M wants to go somewhere else.

The Big 12, including Texas A&M, agreed to a 13-year television deal

with Fox Sports in April that is worth more than \$1 billion.

If the Aggies leave the conference, there is a chance the contract could be voided, which could lead to legal issues for Texas A&M and its new league.

Texas A&M also could be subject to buyout or exit fees if it bolts.

"I've read the bylaws of the Big 12 and they're confusing to some extent," Loftin said when asked about what costs could be associated with leaving. "So I think there's a lot of room to talk about what that might mean if we choose to explore that option. We have not yet begun that process yet. This is one of the steps we have to take."

The issue is looking at the long-term and any short-term costs must be weighed against long-term costs and benefits."

SALE

Continued from Page 1B

disappointed," McLane said after speaking with Crane. "If you could just see the form you have to fill out on every investor, and then they have an investigative group, and they follow up on all of that. Jim knows the complexity. He was anxious. We had hoped to get this thing completed a week from today. It will most likely get done in two weeks."

Houston's proposed sale price trails only the \$845 million purchase of the Chicago Cubs by the Ricketts family two years ago. The \$660 million sale of the Boston Red Sox in 2002 currently is second.

Like the Astros' deal, the transactions involving the Cubs and Red Sox included related entities.

"The Jim Crane group is a large group, and the commissioner called today and said for a number of reasons, they have not been able to complete all of the work, both with the financial and the investigation, and it should take no more than 10 days to

two weeks to get that completed," McLane said. "The financing is good. I think the investigation of the individuals, they are some of the most outstanding people in Houston. I see no issue, whatsoever."

In October 2001, Crane's former company, Eagle Global Logistics, agreed to a \$9 million settlement of a lawsuit by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which alleged race, sex and age discrimination against employees and job applicants.

It included \$8.5 million in back pay and damages and a \$500,000 fund to train women and minorities for leadership jobs at the company.

"The EEOC issue, I think that's all been investigated, talked about," McLane said. "That was 11 years ago, and a fair settlement with the Department of Justice was reached. They moved on on that issue. I think that's not an issue that's involved at all."

With the postponement of the vote, no major actions are expected at the owners' meeting.

Astros unable to cage Cubs

HOUSTON (AP)—Just two starts into his major league career, Astros rookie Henry Sosa is still learning how to pitch in crucial situations.

Sosa's mistake to Geovany Soto in the sixth inning cost the 25-year old right-hander a chance to earn victory No. 1.

Soto had three hits and two RBIs and Kerry Wood earned his first save in over a year as the Chicago Cubs won for the 12th time in 15 games with a 4-3 win over the Houston Astros Monday night.

With two on, two out and a 3-1 count to Soto in the sixth, Sosa (0-2) meant to throw a slider off the plate and inside. With the pitcher's spot due up next, Sosa didn't want to give Soto anything good to hit.

"I wanted to throw the slider in," Sosa, who made his first-ever start at home, said. "It was in, but he hit it good enough."

In the sixth, Soto extended the Cubs' lead to 4-1 with a two-out two-run double that scored Marlon Byrd and Reed Johnson, who reached on back-to-back singles.

Astros manager Brad Mills said that was clear-

ly not a situation where Sosa would be going after the hitter with the pitcher's spot due next.

"That is not what we were doing there," Mills said.

"It was a pitch that came back. It backed over for him and became hittable. ... That just turned out to be a really big hit."

Sosa allowed four runs on seven hits with six strikeouts in six innings for Houston, which has dropped seven in a row and 10 of their last 11.

He set down nine in a row at one point before Marlon Byrd walked with one out in the fourth.

Rodrigo Lopez (4-3) pitched an effective 5 1-3 innings, allowing two earned runs and the bullpen held on for Chicago.

Wood's last save came on June 29, 2010 against Toronto while he was with Cleveland, but he had his club record tying streak of eight straight strikeouts dating back to Aug. 5 broken by Jason Michaels, who flew out to begin the ninth. Wood struck out the last two batters.

Carlos Pena had two hits and two RBIs, and Aramis Ramirez had

three hits for the Cubs, while J.D. Martinez was 2 for 3 with two runs scored and Matt Downs had two doubles and two RBIs for Houston.

Pena gave the Cubs a 2-0 lead in the first with a two-run double off the hill in deep center.

Martinez scored in the fourth to cut the lead to 2-1. After Martinez singled to start the inning, Downs hit a one-out double to right.

Tyler Colvin's throw to second to try to get Downs bounced off the base far enough for Martinez to score from third.

The Cubs got out of the inning as Brian Bogusevic flied out to Byrd, who fired an on-target throw to third to get Downs trying to advance.

"That was a dumb mistake on my part," Downs said. "I know better than to go on a ball like that."

Downs closed the gap to 4-3 with a two-run double in the sixth that scored Jose Altuve and Martinez and chased Lopez. Downs is 6-for-14 in the Astros' last eight games.

"I guess I was in a pretty bad slump up until about two weeks ago,

but I came out of it four or five days ago, and I have felt pretty good ever since," Downs said. "I just feel more comfortable now, and I am getting some pitches to hit."

NOTES: Houston acquired 19-year-old OF Domingo Santana from Philadelphia as the player to be named in the July 30th trade that sent OF Hunter Pence to the Phillies. Santana was ranked by Baseball America as the No. 9 prospect in the Phillies' organization.

He had been playing at Class A Lakewood for the Phillies, and has been assigned to the Astros' Class A Lexington team.

Cubs recalled LHP Scott Maine from Triple-A Iowa Monday to fill the empty roster left after RHP Carlos Zambrano was placed on the disqualified list Saturday.

RHP Ryan Dempster (10-8) takes on RHP Brett Myers (3-12) Tuesday in the second game of the three-game series.

Dempster is 6-3 with a 3.07 ERA in 12 starts since June 8, while Myers is looking to snap a career-long six game losing streak.

TEXANS

Continued from Page 1B

field goal. Folk, who signed a one-year deal after going 30 of 39 on field-goal attempts last season, is competing with veteran Nick Novak for the job.

Leinart replaced Schaub at the start of the second quarter, and immediately completed a pass to James Casey for a 9-yard gain. On third down, Leinart rolled left and threw a short pass to Ogbonnaya, who picked up 29 yards to the Jets' 31.

The drive stalled, and Neil Rackers' 49-yard field goal tied it with 12:13 left in the first half.

McElroy replaced Sanchez on New York's

first drive of the second quarter.

Linebacker Jesse Nading sacked McElroy, forced a fumble and defensive end Tim Jamison recovered at the Jets' 14. Ogbonnaya converted a fourth-and-1, and Jets' coach Rex Ryan stomped up the sideline and angrily called a timeout and ripped off his headset before Houston could snap it again.

"Too many guys out there, and we had to burn a timeout," Ryan said.

Leinart then rolled left again and flicked an easy pass to Ogbonnaya for a touchdown.

Ogbonnaya had a 15-yard run, and gained 16 more yards on a screen pass on Houston's next possession. Rackers

capped the drive with a 47-yard field goal with 57 seconds left before the break to put the Texans ahead 13-3.

Novak kicked a 35-yard field goal in the third quarter, and Leinart's first pass of the second half was tipped at the line by Kendrick Ellis and intercepted by Josh Mauga. Bilal Powell gained 19 yards on a short pass, and McElroy found Patrick Turner for the tying touchdown.

The Jets got the ball back near midfield with about 10 minutes left. Powell, a fourth-round pick out of Louisville, rushed for 21 yards on the drive and Folk kicked a 40-yard field goal with 6:12 remaining to give New York a 16-13 lead.

Notes: Jets' guards Rob Turner (lower leg) and Chris Stewart (shoulder) left in the first half. Texans' guards Antoine Caldwell and Kasey Studdard both went out with ankle injuries. ... Houston All-Pro receiver Andre Johnson (dislocated finger) and linebacker Brian Cushing (knee) also sat out.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

final 40 games, including the rest of this four-game series.

"We don't want to think like that," said Hunter, who extended his hitting streak to 13 games. "I don't even like to talk about that, actually. Most of these guys are young. We have a lot of young guys on the squad, and they've never been in a pennant race, so you have to go and talk to them and try to keep them upbeat and not let them get caught up in the hype of everything."

The Angels, who have lost five of six, also lost Garrett Richards to a strained groin muscle in the first inning of his second major league start. Bobby Cassevah (1-1) gave up one run while pitching 2 2-3 innings in relief of Richards, but the right-hander's replacements couldn't hold down Texas in its impressive fifth inning.

"I definitely felt comfortable tonight, and I felt like I had my good stuff," Richards said. "It's just unfortunate to

have something like an injury derail me from the game. I tweaked it and felt a little bit of discomfort, so it was a precautionary thing to come out of the game. I'm going to come out here tomorrow and see how it feels."

Although Jered Weaver's six-game suspension and Joel Pineiro's woes hurt Los Angeles last week, offense is undoing the Angels. Even with Hunter hitting around .450 in August, Los Angeles has the majors' worst batting average since the All-Star break, hitting just .219 entering this home-stand.

"We have 40 games left in the season, and we need to play good baseball," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "You can't focus on trying to catch one team now. The challenge is very clear, and it's in front of us. We need to play consistent baseball every night. And the more you don't, that opportunity narrows."

Richards gave up a run and threw just 19 pitches before limping off the mound with a strained muscle near his right groin. The Angels recalled the hard-throwing rookie from nearby Riverside, Calif., last week to replace the struggling Pineiro.

He lost his major league debut at Yankee Stadium before failing to get out of the first inning at Angel Stadium.

Young and Mitch Moreland had three hits

apiece for the Rangers, who took an 8-1 lead in the fifth.

Ogando yielded four runs while becoming the first 12-game winner this season for Texas, which improved to a season-best 18 games over .500 with the defending AL champions' second-best record after 122 games in franchise history.

Russell Bryan chased Ogando with his second pinch-hit homer in three games, but the Rangers' Dominican right-hander still improved to 3-0 with a 2.18 ERA against the Angels this season.

Texas could all but punch its playoff ticket with a strong showing, but Washington isn't thinking about October just yet.

"The only thing that's important is we got the one tonight, and we've got one tomorrow," Texas manager Ron Washington said. "We can't get ahead of ourselves."

Texas went up 3-1 in the fifth when Hisanori Takahashi fielded a sacrifice bunt and threw it past third base and into the outfield, allowing Moreland to score.

"He was trying to make something happen," catcher Bobby Wilson said of Takahashi's throwing error. "So I don't think anybody in this clubhouse has a problem with guys trying to make plays and being aggressive. That's our style of baseball. It just didn't work out."

After Young drove in two runs, Cruz put his 26th homer down the left-field line against Rich Thompson, and Napoli followed with his 19th homer to center.

NOTES: The Angels might regret using four relievers on Tuesday night, when inconsistent rookie Tyler Chatwood faces Derek Holland in the second game of the four-game series.

Manager Mike Scioscia expects the Angels to recall two pitchers from the minors before Tuesday night's game.



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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The sun, Mercury and Venus all line up in the same part of the Leo sky today, bringing a lovely confluence of interests. When you're in the flow of creativity, everything falls into place. So go forward with projects whether or not you have all that you need. Helpful people will fill in the gaps, and new methods will be developed along the way.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). While you struggle in the trenches trying to get what you need out of life, some with less talent and heart are rising quickly. Don't try to stop them. They will eventually be exposed. You'll win in the end.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It will be easy to get so carried away by a project that you lose track of time, ignore phone calls and blow off any previous goals you had for the day. That's how you know you're really in the zone!

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The way you see it, the world is loaded with opportunities waiting to be seized. A partner or colleague is worried that you'll do all the seizing alone. Reinforce that you are a team player, and make this person believe it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You will feel the worship of someone's eyes, and you will know what it means to be adored. Time will tell whether this is really love or merely a passing infatuation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your to-do list is pretty simple today. You need to wash some laundry, return that item you borrowed and forge the essence of your soul into the history of your people.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You are certain of your alliances. You depend only on those who have proved to be constant in word and deed. Even then, you make sure you have a backup plan.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Thinking too hard about a problem will only confuse you further. Distance yourself from the issue. While your conscious mind is distracted by juicy bits of life, your subconscious will work out the knots and find a solution.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll bustle and sweat, running at an impressive level of productivity. Then tonight, you'll drop your weary body into bed and enjoy the best sleep you've had in months. Your dreams will be heavenly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You don't have buried anger — it's right on the surface where you can effectively do something about it. Channel your feelings into exercise, and you'll get a stellar workout.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You rate well in someone's book of friendship. However, with that high rating comes a lot of responsibility and expectation. You'll feel the burden of that privilege today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're looking for a spark of genius, and it will come from a certain free spirit you know. This person's revolutionary vision will elevate you both from the realms of normality to embrace an extraordinary circumstance.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A scene that you created, cast, set up and directed is now playing on the stage of the world, seemingly without you. You won't mind being an invisible contributor, though. You'll proudly haunt the background.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 16). Using your talents makes you feel rich, and that feeling helps you attract greater riches. A special relationship will take a turn toward deeper commitment in the next six weeks. You'll pick up a new skill in October. Festivities abound through the fall. Family will move closer to you in the new year. Aquarius and Capricorn people adore you. Your lucky numbers

are: 11, 3, 26, 36 and 41.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I have a hard time watching my friend live and work, because she's always winning. The other day she told me of a personal disappointment, and I was actually happy that her charmed life had hit a bit of turbulence. I didn't let her hear the glee in my voice — I was a good friend. But I left feeling better about her and the world. It just doesn't seem fair that one person should have so much success, money, talent and charm, not to mention good looks. My question is: Why can't I be happy for my friend? I must have a horrible personality disorder. I'm a Leo, and my friend is a Libra."

If you indeed have a personality disorder, it is the same one that most humans are born with. A spirit of competition is alive in every sign of the zodiac — it's part of human nature and has contributed to the success of our species. Recognize that you are normal for having bitter feelings about your friend's sweet success. The fact that you are so honest with yourself and in tune with your feelings is helping you to contain them and control your reactions. Writing in a journal or confiding in a counselor may help you to further process your jealousy.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Steve Carell made a major career change this year when he left the hit television series "The Office" to spend more time with his family and develop his career in movies. Audiences will likely see a more serious side of this playful Leo in the future. His moon and Jupiter in Pisces is an excellent configuration for actors, as it indicates enormous powers of empathy.

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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HOLIDAY
MATHIS

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: "Ed" and I have been married for six months. He is a wonderful husband in every way except one: He refuses to discuss our financial situation with me.

I know nothing about the mortgage payments, utility bills or insurance. I don't even know Ed's salary at his high-level government job.

I have repeatedly asked him to sit down with me and talk about these matters, but he says, "Some other time," and it never happens.

I have a part-time job that does not pay a great deal, although I have told Ed I'd like to contribute toward our expenses.

He brushed that idea aside, saying whatever I earn is mine to spend as I see fit. I spend some of my money on groceries and household items, but it doesn't matter to Ed.

My friends tell me I am lucky to have a husband who takes care of all the bills. But I feel like a kept woman and not an equal partner in the marriage.

I have no reason to believe Ed is involved in anything

shady or that we are in debt. What do you suppose is going on? — Left in the Dark

Dear Left: By keeping you in the dark, Ed controls the money in your relationship. This is unfair and potentially dangerous. Don't let him be evasive. Ask him for a specific date to go over your finances, mark it on the calendar and remind him.

Write down all your questions so you don't forget anything. If he still avoids discussing it with you or treats you as if you have no right to know, tell him it seems suspicious and is undermining your trust in him. Next stop: a counselor or a lawyer.

Dear Annie: My sensitive 26-year-old daughter mumbles and sounds inarticulate. Is there a way to let her know that she can work on this speech disorder?

She doesn't believe she has a problem. Her friends and family members simply ask her to repeat herself. In school, people told her she was hard to understand, and a few made fun of her.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

In formal, professional situations, she makes an effort to be clear, but once she's comfortable, she falls back into making mumbling noises and slurring her words.

I'm just waking up to the fact that her baby-talk may not cure itself over time. I tried to get her into counseling after her father died, but it didn't take.

She has since moved to another town and is trying to support herself with temporary jobs. Her speech has affected her confidence. I'd like to help by paying for sessions with a speech therapist,

but she's likely to cringe at the suggestion.

Should I just give up and continue to pretend to understand her when we talk on the phone? How do I approach this? — A Sad Mother

Dear Mom: Inarticulate speech patterns are best addressed at a young age. At 26, your daughter's mumbling is completely entrenched and will require great effort and constant practice to change.

But it can be done if she is motivated enough. Don't be afraid to risk her anger or embarrassment. Someone needs to tell her she sounds unprofessional and childish.

If she has a good friend who would be willing to back you up, that may help convince her that she needs some assistance.

Dear Annie: I agree with your response to "Mother of the Bride," whose ex-husband threatened not to walk his daughter down the aisle if she invited certain relatives. But I think you should have added that any father who

cannot put aside his own desires for one day in order to make his daughter happy on her wedding day doesn't deserve the honor of walking her down the aisle. — Montreal Mom

Dear Montreal: We don't disagree, but it's not up to us. It was important to the bride that Dad walk her down the aisle. She is the only one who can decide what emotional price she is willing to pay for such a "privilege."

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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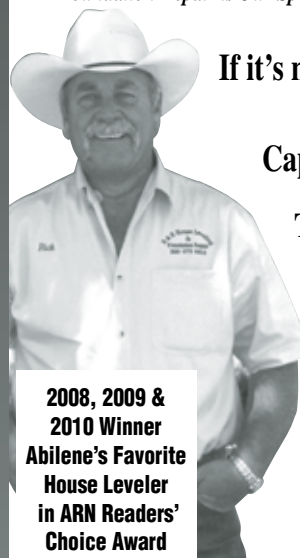
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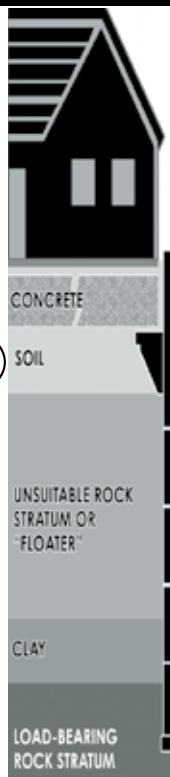
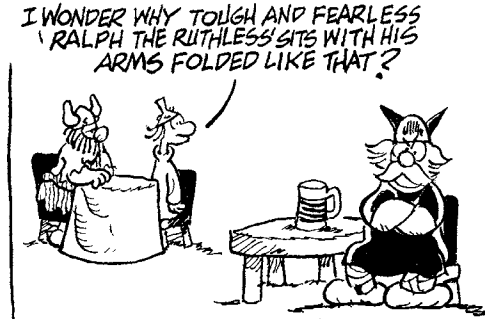
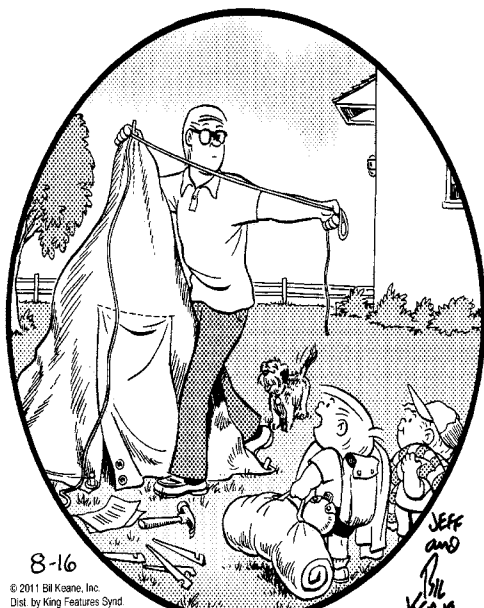


Table with 20 columns (KMID 3, UNI 4, KPEJ 5, KOSA 7, KTLT 8, KWES 9, WTBS 11, KMLM 12, KPBT 13, KWWT 14, DISC 20, AMC 21, SPIKE 22, TNT 23, BET 26, DISN 27, ESPN2 28, ESPN 29) and 24 rows of program listings.

DENNIS THE MENACE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

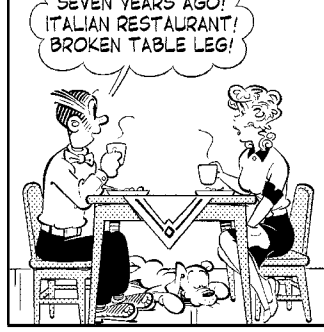
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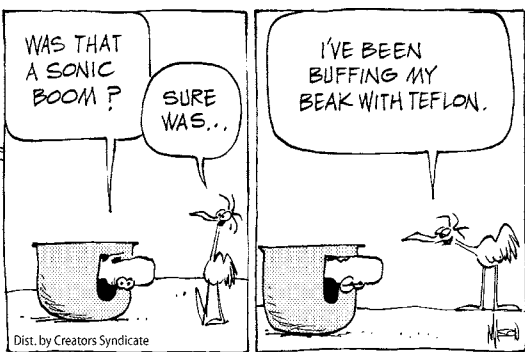
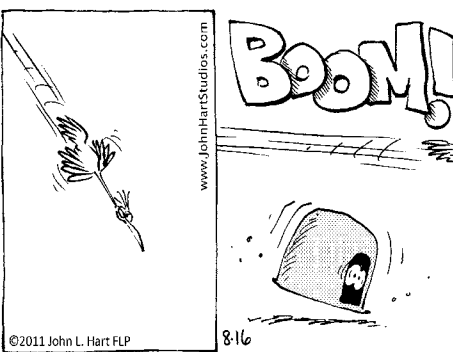
MARGARET TAKES SOME GETTING USED TO. I'VE KNOWN HER ALL MY LIFE, AN' I'M STILL NOT USED TO HER.

Can we get in it now, Daddy?

BLONDIE



BC



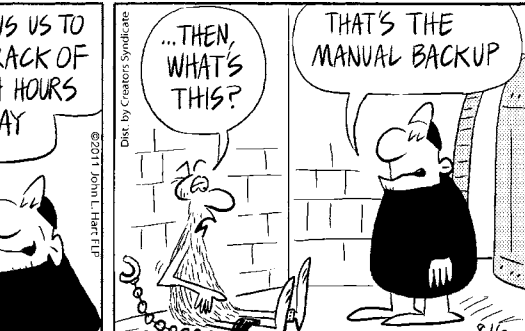
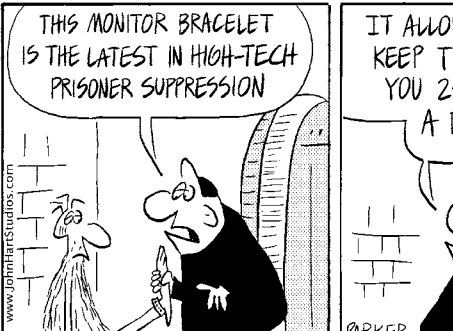
This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 16, the 228th day of 2011. There are 137 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Aug. 16, 1861, President Abraham Lincoln issued Proclamation 86...

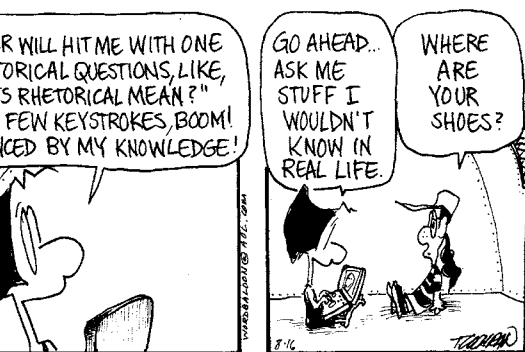
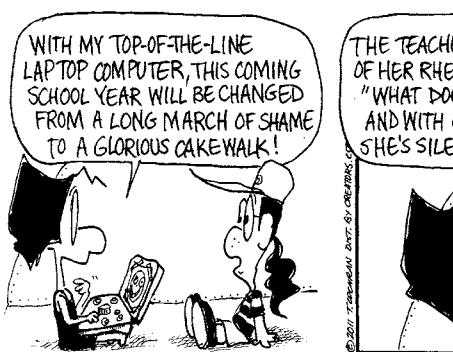
Yankees; Chapman died the following morning. In 1948, baseball legend Babe Ruth died in New York at age 53. In 1954, Sports Illustrated was first published by Time Inc.

Chi-Lites) is 69. Actor Bob Balaban is 66. Ballerina Suzanne Farrell is 66. Actress Lesley Ann Warren is 65. Rock singer-musician Joey Spampinato (NRBQ) is 61.

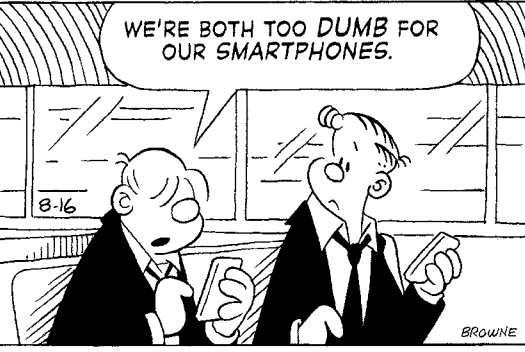
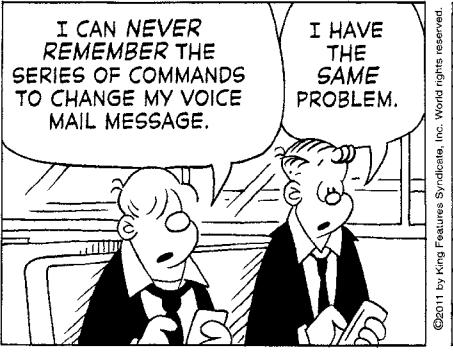
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THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS 1 Fire-department head 6 Oil cartel initials 10 Talk back to 14 __ hand (assist) 15 Algebra or arithmetic 16 Kitchen appliance 17 Makes simpler 18 Prefix meaning "against" 19 Made a rip in 20 Car transmission that "pulls" 23 Slice of history 24 "Turn it up, please!" 25 An equal number of 29 Cook's seasoning 31 Scold 32 Ultimatum ender 33 School transport 36 Sprinter's event 40 Call a halt to 41 River-bank deposit 42 Perform better than 43 Like neglected furniture 45 Beach headgear 46 Gas-pump number 49 Bend in the middle 50 Living dangerously 57 Tex-Mex treat 58 Persuade gently 59 Inexperienced with 60 Emerald Isle

Crossword grid with numbered squares and corresponding clues.

FULL OF ENERGY by Billie Truitt

Edited by Stanley Newman

www.stanxwords.com

Answer to previous puzzle grid with words like SPAS, ANTI, DRAMA, HELP, BEAD, REPEL, ERIE, SOLO, EVENT, DUTCHUNCLES, DUO, ORS, ASS, GRIND, DRYAREA, PRONE, KEEN, SEES, FOUNDINGFATHERS, CAGE, RIOT, REFIT, SNEERAT, PASSE, DAN, ARC, AFT, BIGBROTHERS, BLURB, LOOP, ARIA, CANAL, ONME, HANG, STAGE, BEAR, ASKS