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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**TUESDAY**

**AUGUST 30, 2011**



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VOLUME 106, NUMBER 231

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

## Retiring the flag



HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

Members of Boy Scout Troop 5, Cub Scout packs 305, 179 and 501, as well as Girl Scout Troop 118 were on hand at the VA Medical Center Saturday morning to take part in a flag folding ceremony. Troop members took part in folding the garrison flag and also practiced on other flags. The scouts will be in charge of raising and taking down the flag at the VA.

## Voter deadline nearing

*Little more than month to register for Nov. election*

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
 Staff Writer

The clock leading up to the Nov. 8 election is ticking away and area voters who aren't registered to vote or are unsure of their status have a little more than a month to prepare.

The deadline to register to vote in the Nov. 8 election — which covers 10 proposed amendments, several of which could have a strong effect on veterans in the Crossroads area — is Oct. 11, according to Howard County Election Administrator Sandra Bloom.



Bloom

"The registration deadline for any election is 30 days prior to the election day," said Bloom. "If they haven't received their card or aren't sure if they're registered, all they have to do is come by the office. They can fill out the voter registration application and their card should be mailed to

See **VOTER**, Page 3A

## Johansen: Plants, trees not lost cause just yet

By **AMANDA MORENO**  
 Staff Writer

No rain, no grass, little to no watering. With all the "nos," it seems like it might be time to give up on your yard — but no, don't give up hope just yet.

Terri Johansen, owner of Johansen Landscape and Nursery, said the lack of rain and tight water restrictions don't have to put an end to all landscaping.

"You can't just give up, which is what some people

are doing," Johansen said. "We have all invested too much time and we need to do what we can to maintain certain things."

She said with the water restrictions — allotted time for water which is now 3 hours

on Tuesdays and 3 hours on Saturdays — it is time to focus on the trees, shrubs and perennials. The trees and shrubs will provide shade, which will in turn serve as an escape from the high temperatures.

"If you lose a 50-year-old oak tree, you lose 50 years and it can't be replaced," Johansen said. "The trees are important and can help conserve energy. We need to do every

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1 54414 79720 9



Emergency personnel respond to this traffic accident at the intersection of FM 700 and Birdwell Lane Monday morning. According to officials at the scene, two people were transported to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center with non-life threatening injuries.

HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins



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# Obituaries

## Enrique Sotelo



Enrique Sotelo, 88, of North Little Rock, Ark., formerly of Big Spring, Texas, passed away Aug. 27, 2011, at his daughter's home in North Little Rock, Ark.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Maria Inez Sotelo; his father and mother, Pedro and Merejilda Sotelo; three brothers, Jesus Sotelo, Pedro Sotelo Jr. and Jose Sotelo; and two sisters, Rosa Subia and Maria Villa.

Enrique was born March 26, 1923, and married Maria "Inez" Lerma Sotelo. He worked for Wilson Brothers Construction for 17 years and was a member of St. Thomas Catholic Church.

He is survived by his daughter, Manuela Sotelo Escovedo and husband Trini of North Little Rock, Ark.; his son, Caterino Sotelo of Sherwood, Ark.; three grandsons, Bennett (Teresa) Escovedo, Benjamin (Francie) Escovedo and Trini Escovedo Jr.; four granddaughters, Jenny (Wayne) Henard, Anita (Rodney) Bennett, Betty (Jim) Barnett and Gloria (Armando) Martinez; and numerous great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins.

A rosary service will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2011, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Deacon Clemente Villa officiating. Funeral services will be held Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2011, at 10 a.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church. Interment will follow at the Mt. Olive Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be his grandsons, Bennett Escovedo, Benjamin Escovedo, Trini Escovedo Jr. and nephews Jamie Sotelo, Paul Sotelo and Johnny Sotelo.

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

*Paid obituary*

## Margy Vernetta Fickling



Margy Vernetta Fickling, 90, of Howardwick, formerly of Big Spring died Sunday, Aug. 28, 2011, in Howardwick, Texas. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2011, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Monroe Teeters officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born May 1, 1921, in Cogar, Okla., and married John E.

Fickling Jr. on July 1, 1940, in El Reno, Okla. He preceded her in death Feb. 12, 2005.

Margy worked side by side with her husband. She had worked at the Big Spring State Hospital for 16 years until retiring. Margy was a member of the Eagles Auxiliary for many years.

Survivors include her son, Terry Fickling of Las Vegas, Nev.; her daughter and son-in-law, Joyce and Don McQuien of Howardwick; five grandchildren; and four sisters, Velma Hoehner, Ruth Hayes, Mattie Beach and Mary Foster, all of Oklahoma.

The family suggests memorials be made to the American Cancer Society, c/o Carolyn Brooks, P.O. Box 2121, Big Spring 79721-2121.

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

# Police blotter

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

- DARRELL DUANE SESSUMS, 38, of Abilene, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- TABATHA MILDRED PARKER, 27, of Arlington, was arrested Monday on charges of possession of a controlled substance (two counts) and tampering/fabricating physical evidence.
- ROBERT DIAZ JR., 29, of 3718 Hatch, was arrested Monday on warrants for failure to appear and open container – passenger.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 700 block of W. Eighth Street.
- THEFT was reported:

In the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.  
In the 300 block of S. Main Street.  
In the 1200 block of E. 11<sup>th</sup> Place.  
• ASSAULT was reported:  
In the 900 block of Abrams.  
In the 1900 block of N. Highway 87.  
• BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 800 block of Edwards Blvd.  
Note: A recent edition of the Herald identified Don Lloyd Brooks, 45, arrested on a charge of public intoxication. According to police officials, Brooks provided a false address (1304 Wood) at the time of his arrest. His last known address is 1712 E. 15<sup>th</sup> Street.

# Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 79 inmates at the time of this report.

- TYRE COLE WATTS, 26, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated – open container.
- ROY PAIZ GARCIA, 51, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of failure to report change of address – driver's license.
- CHRISTOPHER NIC VANDERSLICE, 28, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for possession of a dangerous drug.
- LONNIE RAY GRAY JR., 31, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of burglary of a building.
- ABEL LOZANO TORRES, 22, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of no driver's license and failure to change address or name within 30 days.
- ALAN CATON POWELL, 37, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of violation of bond/protective order.
- TABATHA MILDRED PARKER, 27, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of possession of a controlled substance (two counts) and tampering/fabricating physical evidence.
- ROBERT DIAZ JR., 29, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for open container in a vehicle and failure to appear.
- LEE NEAL MCGINTY, 19, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

# Support Groups

### TUESDAY

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

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

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

### WEDNESDAY

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

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

### THURSDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

• Spring Tabernacle Ministries has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m. and noon, each lasting an hour. The classes take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.

### FRIDAY

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

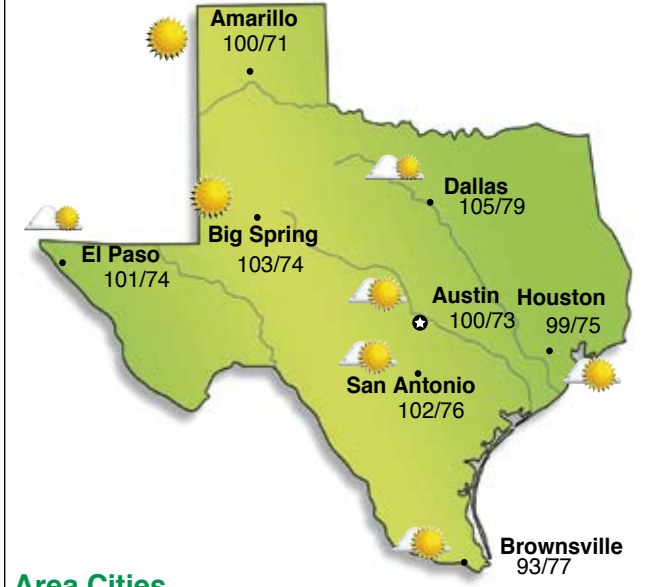
# Today's Weather

## Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 8/31	Thu 9/1	Fri 9/2	Sat 9/3	Sun 9/4
<b>103/74</b> Abundant sunshine. Very hot. High 103F. Winds SSE at 15 to 25 mph.	<b>98/73</b> Sunny. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the low 70s.	<b>99/75</b> Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the mid 70s.	<b>97/75</b> More sun than clouds. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the mid 70s.	<b>96/72</b> Partly cloudy, chance of a thunderstorm.
<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:20 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:12 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:21 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:10 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:22 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:09 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:22 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:08 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:23 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:07 PM



## Texas At A Glance



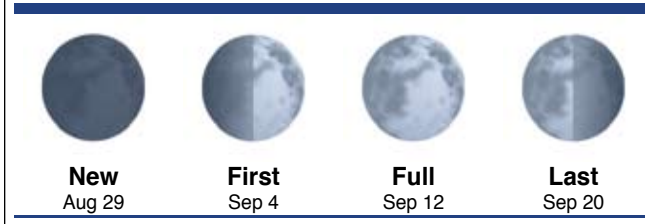
### Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	102	76	sunny	Kingsville	99	75	mst sunny
Amarillo	100	71	sunny	Livingston	102	72	mst sunny
Austin	100	73	mst sunny	Longview	103	76	mst sunny
Beaumont	98	75	mst sunny	Lubbock	101	71	sunny
Brownsville	93	77	mst sunny	Lufkin	103	74	mst sunny
Brownwood	104	74	sunny	Midland	102	75	sunny
Corpus Christi	97	77	mst sunny	Raymondville	96	75	mst sunny
Corsicana	103	76	mst sunny	Rosenberg	99	75	mst sunny
Dallas	105	79	pt sunny	San Antonio	102	76	mst sunny
Del Rio	100	77	mst sunny	San Marcos	100	73	mst sunny
El Paso	101	74	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	104	78	mst sunny
Fort Stockton	100	71	windy	Sweetwater	102	74	sunny
Gainesville	104	77	mst sunny	Tyler	103	75	mst sunny
Greenville	103	76	pt sunny	Weatherford	104	76	pt sunny
Houston	99	75	mst sunny	Wichita Falls	107	77	pt sunny

### National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	92	68	mst sunny	Minneapolis	81	69	rain
Boston	81	60	mst sunny	New York	84	68	pt sunny
Chicago	83	66	rain	Phoenix	106	83	pt sunny
Dallas	105	79	pt sunny	San Francisco	64	56	pt sunny
Denver	93	65	mst sunny	Seattle	67	53	pt sunny
Houston	99	75	mst sunny	St. Louis	96	76	t-storm
Los Angeles	78	61	pt sunny	Washington, DC	86	69	pt sunny
Miami	87	79	t-storm				

### Moon Phases



### UV Index

Wed 8/31	Thu 9/1	Fri 9/2	Sat 9/3	Sun 9/4
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
Very High	Extreme	Very High	Very High	Very High

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

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# Take note

- A meeting with U.S. Postal Service representatives will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday at Forsan Baptist Church. This will be an opportunity for Forsan residents to express their concerns about the possible closure of the post office in that community.
- Are you a 1971 BSHS graduate? Come to our 40th reunion Sept. 30-Oct. 1. For information, contact bshs71@yahoo.com or Susan Green McLellan at 432-267-5759.
- Home Hospice is seeking volunteers. Training will be provided and geared to your time frame. Volunteers are need for in office duties as well as sitters, deliveries and crafts. To find out more information or to volunteer contact Sherry Hodnett at Home Hospice by calling 264-7599.

• Every 10 years, Texas requires that marks and brands be re-registered in the county or counties in which you operate. The next re-registration period begins Aug. 31 and runs through Feb. 29, 2012. At the conclusion date, all marks and brands that have not been re-registered are automatically available for registration by another party. For additional information, contact the Howard County Clerk's Office at 264-2214 or 264-2213.

• 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.

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

• The Salvation Army is holding its annual fan drive and is in dire need of fans. Community members can donate new or used fans. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Donations can be made at the main office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

• The Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) is an independent national nonprofit dedicated to helping distressed homeowners navigate financial challenges and avoid mortgage foreclosure. If you want to stop foreclosure and are in need of foreclosure help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now. The Homeowner's HOPE hotline is a counseling service provided by HPF to work with you to find a solution to your problem. HPF can provide counseling free of charge, in English and 170 other languages, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Free free foreclosure help, call the hotline.

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

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

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

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

• The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We currently have 55 children in foster care without a volunteer. We need your help. If you're interested in volunteering please contact Suzy Milliken at 1-877-316-8346 or visit www.BecomeaCASA.org

## WATER

Continued from Page 1A

thing we can to conserve our natural resources, especially in this energy and water crunch."

When it comes to the allotted watering times, Johansen said the best way to water is to make sure you are providing a good, deep watering. It's not about the time you have to water, but how much water you are giving to each tree, shrub and plant.

"At this point, it's OK to let the grass go dormant and focus on the trees. With the high temperatures and heat, it is going to be hard to say just how long you

need to water each tree, but just remember the deeper the watering, the more reserve the tree will have."

According to Johansen, an hour usually suffices when it comes to providing the correct amount of water, but the best way to test it is to take a stick, poke it into the ground and see just how far down the moisture goes in the ground.

"Too often, people do the '5,4,3,2,1' method of watering. They take the water hose count and move on to the next one, but that is not doing what needs to be done," Johansen said. "It's really not about frequency, it's about the depth."

Keeping an eye out for bugs and diseases in your greenery is also important when it comes to maintenance. Another way she suggested to help conserve water and take advantage of water times is to mulch everything, including indoor plants. The mulch — which can be compost, cyprus mulch, organic materials or even shredded newspaper — will help retain the water in the ground and serve as an air conditioner for the soil.

"Mulch is your insurance policy. The water is going to go further if you mulch," Johansen said. "Fertilizing also does wonders. If you keep the trees, shrubs

and grass healthy, it is going to use less water."

Fall is coming and Johansen said it is the best time of the year for planting. Planting in the fall allows the plant to grow deeper roots so when summer approaches, the roots won't be shallow and won't require as frequent of a watering schedule.

For those looking to plant or redo landscaping, finding the plants that are surviving around town and those accustomed to this area will make it a little easier when it comes to keeping outdoor greenery alive. Some of the plants doing well are purple sage, crape myr-

ties, oleanders, red yucca and different forms of cacti.

"In all honesty, even if we were allowed to assume regular watering schedules, we shouldn't go back to "regular watering," Johansen said. "A good watering three times a week will do just fine. It's about making everything count."

Of course, indoor plants and those with shallow roots will require more frequent watering, but with the mulching the frequency can be cut down. She said there are very few things that require watering every day.

"Of course, our landscaping is not the only place we need to con-

serve water in," Johansen said. "We need to start conserving the water we use indoors as well."

She continued, "It's all about thinking outside the box."

Catching the condensation off of air conditioner units can fill up a five-gallon bucket, washing dishes in dishpans and re-using the water for plants and numerous other reuses of water can help in this time of conservation.

For more information, contact Johnasen at 267-5275.

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

## VOTER

Continued from Page 1A

them in time for the November election.

"For those who can't get out, they can call us and we'll mail them the form. They can fill it out and just mail it back to us. It's a very easy process."

Bloom said her office set to begin accepting requests for mail-in ballots Sept. 9, but warned against procrastinating.

"I would encourage everyone to get their applications in as soon as possible," said Bloom. "If you're 65 years old or older, disabled, confined to jail or you know you will be out of the county for the election, you can apply for a ballot by mail. They can write us a letter or send us a request by fax or e-mail."

According to Bloom, requests for a mail out ballot must include the voter's name, address of residence inside Howard County, the reason

for their request and the address the ballot should be mailed to.

If the reason for requesting a mail out ballot is the voter will be out of the county during the election, Bloom said the ballot must be mailed to an address outside Howard County, as well as mailed back from outside the county.

"We're hoping this will help our college students, military and voters temporarily working out of the county," said Bloom.

Early voting in the election will begin Oct. 24 and end Nov. 4, according to information provided by the Texas Secretary of State's office.

Among the proposed amendments to be included in the election is Proposition No. 1 (SJR 14), which would amend the constitution to authorize the legislature to provide the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran with an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the surviving spouse's residence homestead as long as the surviving spouse has not remarried, the property was the residence homestead of the surviving spouse when the qualifying veteran died, and the property remains the residence homestead of the surviving spouse.

The proposed amend-

ment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran."

Bloom said the lack of local races on the ballot will certainly effect the voter turnout in November, but encouraged area residents to study the issues and weigh-in on the issues.

"The voter turnout for amendment elections is traditionally much lower than elections involving local and state candidates," said Bloom.

"However, some of these propositions will have a direct effect on our county and its residents, so it's important to educate yourself on the issues and cast your ballot."

For more information on voter registration, contact Bloom at 264-2273.

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

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September 19, 2011

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# EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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- By telephone at 263-7331
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- By e-mail Managing Editor Bill McClellan at [newsdesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:newsdesk@bigspringherald.com).
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## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

When we bring our ideas to You, Lord,  
we've brought them to the right place.  
Amen

# School; Not what it once was

Shopping for school supplies with my 11-year-old daughter is a lot like operating a wood chipper after you've had one-too-many drinks: It sounds like a good idea — possibly even fun — at the time, but there's a pretty good chance someone is going to lose a limb.

OK, so maybe that's overstating things, but not by much.

This year's purchasing affair went smoothly at first, with the supplies and clothing purchased with a minimal number of piercing gazes, dirty looks and insulting comments quietly mumbled under one's breath. Smooth, that is, until it came time to purchase a backpack.

We began our search locally, but I quickly realized we weren't going to find the bag — or the fashion statement — my daughter was looking for. So, we decided to head off to Midland in an effort to broaden the search.

After nearly an hour of arguing about whether or not Hobby Lobby sold backpacks — an argument that ended 10 feet in the store's entrance, much to my child's dismay — we landed at Academy Sporting Goods, one of my favorite places to shop.

Now, to say Academy has a selection of backpacks would be an understatement. With aisle after aisle of backpacks, messenger bags and every other kind of book bag, I felt pretty sure we had come to the end of our shopping journey.

Granted, it took a couple of hours — and plenty of arguing concerning the price and overall reliability of the various bags versus their stability — but we headed back to Big Spring with

what I felt like was a safe and fairly-priced choice.

However, I was wrong. Not about the bag, mind you. The first day of school my daughter was quickly informed by the students and teachers that backpacks were not allowed at Big Spring Junior High School. Between the money, gasoline and time wasted on finding her new bag, I was a bit ticked off the school district had failed to mention this fact.

Needless to say, I'm a reporter. My job is to ask questions, and this ban of backpacks and other book bags brought one word to mind. Why?

I doubt the answer to that question will surprise anyone. Lockers and backpacks are being done away with in many schools in an effort to keep students from bringing dangerous things — guns, knives, alcohol and drugs, just to name a few — to school.

So, students at Big Spring Junior High School are forced to lug around huge three-ring binders — most of which are already bursting at the seams, and the school year just started — with them throughout the school day. And, yes, it is a sad commentary on our society's desire to mitigate obscure, unlikely danger by eating away at the rights of the innocent.

That's right. Americans are almost always willing to trade in their civil liberties for what they see as safety. Don't think so? Take a look at the Patriot Act. Unfortunately, that safety is merely an illusion, a fact my daughter immediately pointed out.

"What makes people think kids won't bring a gun or knife to school in their binder?" she asked me. "Sure, a gun or large knife won't fit in these binders with all the papers and stuff in them, but I seriously doubt a kid

who is bringing a gun to school is really worried if they have enough pencils or paper. Something tells me they are going to be more worried about extra ammo."

OK, she's a bit of a comedian, but she comes by it honestly.

So, if we're going to tell kids not to bring backpacks to school because they can hide dangerous objects, what's next? Well, it seems logical to get rid of pockets, right? And what about pencils? Once they are sharpened, they could certainly be used to stab someone. The same goes for pens. What about a compass? Scissors? Anyone?

Once we've made the classroom completely safe, we can move on to other problem areas, like the lunch room. We'll have to get rid of the forks, for sure, and that's going to make eating spaghetti a real challenge.

Needless to say, shop class is going to have to be cancelled altogether.

And if guns are a real worry, why aren't the nation's colleges banning bags? In fact, the Texas Legislature, in all its vast and expansive wisdom, recently passed an amendment allowing anyone with a concealed-handgun license to carry weapons onto public university campuses and into public college buildings.

Really? So, the answer isn't keeping guns out of school, it's that too few guns are being toted to class? What about the students who can't aim worth a flip?

In the end, I know our school officials are just trying to keep our kids safe, and, as a father I can certainly appreciate that. However, shouldn't common sense prevail in these situations?

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

# The Job Wrecker in Chief

President Obama often tells us that his No. 1 focus is creating jobs, but his record makes you wonder what he might have done differently if his goal were to destroy jobs.

Those who've examined Congressional Budget Office data have calculated that each job allegedly created by Obama's stimulus — and this is if you accept the fantastically generous guess-timates — cost between \$225,000 and \$600,000. But that's not the only way in which the administration has shown its virtual contempt for efficient job creation and its callousness concerning job destruction.

In the name of compassion, Obama advocates seemingly endless extensions of unemployment benefits because his economic theology holds that by paying people not to work, you will create jobs. It not only fails to factor in the obvious deterrent that extended benefits have on their recipients but also falsely assumes that transferring money from one pocket to the next generates more spending — by some mythical multiple factor, no less. Back on planet Earth, studies reveal that extending unemployment benefits results in more unemployment.

But don't worry; Obama is on it. He's spent hours on the golf course meditating on job creation. In September, he is going to announce his jobs "reset" plan in some self-ballyhooed oration. But reports of such rumination and administration powwows on jobs are as phony as Obama's insistence that he doesn't intend Obamacare to lead to a single-payer system.

In fact, Obama doesn't meditate, cogitate, contemplate or deliberate about job creation, because he thinks he's already got it figured out. The only thing

he's doing is strategizing how best to convince the people, against all their reason and instincts, that his failed policies will work if he keeps trying.

Meanwhile, he continues to wreak havoc on the market with his onerous tax, regulatory and administrative policies. We know better than to fall for his promise to cut \$10 billion through regulatory relaxation. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor said the proposal was "underwhelming," and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce said the changes "will not have a material impact on the economy." Just more smoke and mirrors.

Obama dismissed out of hand a farmer at a town hall meeting who said he was worried about "noise pollution, dust pollution and water runoff." But the Environmental Protection Agency is actually considering more stringent requirements on controlling dust, which has prompted 21 senators to sign a letter of objection to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson.

The senators say the proposed standard would be "the most stringent and unparalleled regulation of dust in our nation's history" and "extremely burdensome for farmers and livestock producers to attain." Obama's callousness notwithstanding, the farmer's concerns about water runoff are also well-grounded, as the EPA is working on new rules to tighten requirements for farms.

To get an accurate feel for Obama's attitude toward regulation, we should understand that in stark contrast to the private sector under Obama's watch, federal regulatory agency employment, as noted by columnist Ramesh Ponnuru, "has surged 13 percent." These agencies' "budgets are up 16 percent."

Consider also the EPA's new "Transport Rule," which could destroy thousands of jobs, and its ozone regulation, which Cantor suggests could cost "upward of \$1 trillion and millions of jobs in the construction industry over the next decade." Other

administration gems include its "new maximum achievable control technology standards for cement," which may send thousands of jobs offshore, and the National Labor Relations Board's unconscionable action in preventing Boeing from opening a plant in South Carolina.

Big Brother is also working its paternalistic magic through the Interagency Working Group on Food Marketed to Children, whose food guidelines are billed as a voluntary program to combat childhood obesity. By cloaking the regulations in the voluntary costume, government officials will be able to bypass the standard regulatory process. The government doubtlessly won't tell us about a study showing that these new "voluntary," innocuous regulations could destroy 74,000 jobs and cost \$28.3 billion in the first year alone.

When evaluating the administration's record on jobs, we mustn't overlook the inevitably devastating impact Obamacare will have on jobs and businesses, as Andy Puzder, CEO of CKE Restaurants, testified to Congress last month. Puzder said his company is a "job creation machine" but fears Obamacare will be the wrench that grinds it to a halt.

As if this weren't enough — and there's so much more — the Obama-enamored New York Times has pronounced Obama's promise to create 5 million green jobs over 10 years a "pipe dream."

Capping it all off, the Congressional Budget Office has now lowered its projected 2011 economic growth rate from 3.1 percent to 2.3 percent, which is far below the pace needed to reduce unemployment. It projects unemployment to remain above 8 percent until 2014.

On the bright side, the CBO is not factoring in the 2012 elections.

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney. Follow him on Twitter @davidlimbaugh and his website at [www.davidlimbaugh.com](http://www.davidlimbaugh.com).



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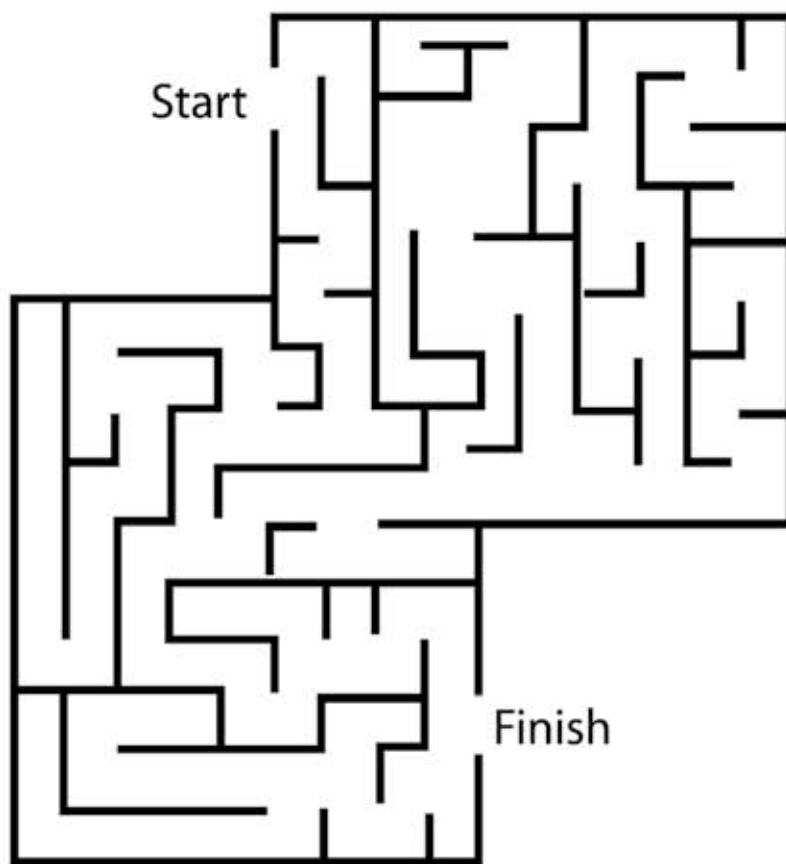
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**THIS DAY IN...**



**HISTORY**

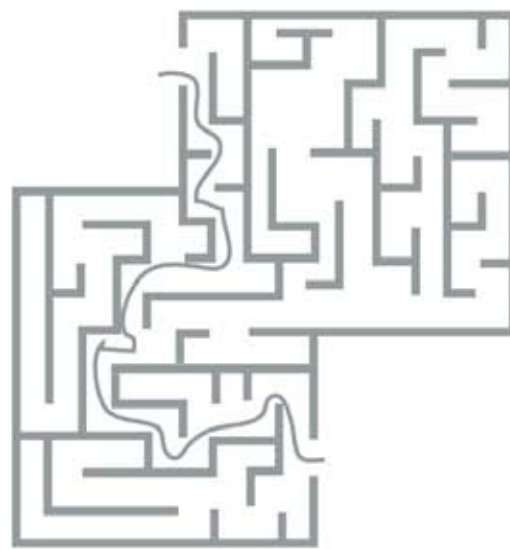
- 1877: BRIGHAM YOUNG DIES IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.
- 1949: THE USSR TESTS THEIR FIRST ATOMIC BOMB.
- 2005: HURRICANE KATRINA HITS THE U.S. GULF COAST.



WHICH OF THESE CELEBRITIES IS CURRENTLY LICENSED TO FLY AN AIRCRAFT, OR HAS BEEN LICENSED IN THE PAST?

- A. TOM CRUISE B. HARRISON FORD
- C. JOHN TRAVOLTA D. ALL OF THEM

ANSWER: D



**contrail**

trailing streak of water vapor from the aircraft engine

*How they SAY that in...*

**ENGLISH:** Wind

**SPANISH:** Viento

**ITALIAN:** Vento

**FRENCH:** Vent

**GERMAN:** Wind

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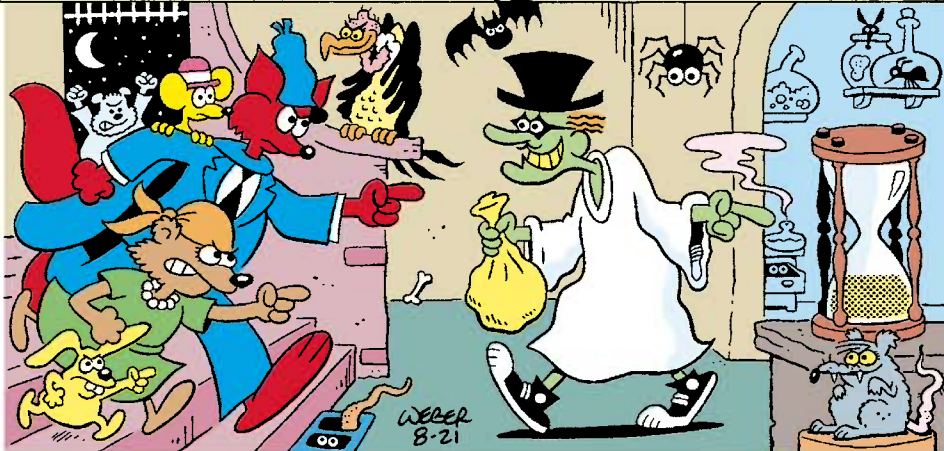
Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: HELICOPTER

**SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS**

**BY BOB WEBER JR.**

Citizens claim Count Weirdly activated a device from his castle fifteen minutes ago that interrupted their Internet connections. Weirdly insists he's innocent, and claims he just returned from an hour of outside errands. He says that before leaving the castle he turned over the hourglass, and all of the sand has just now finished falling. Why does Slylock Fox suspect Count Weirdly is lying?



**HOW TO DRAW a villain**



**YOUR DRAWING**

Today's terrific artist is Sarah, age 7



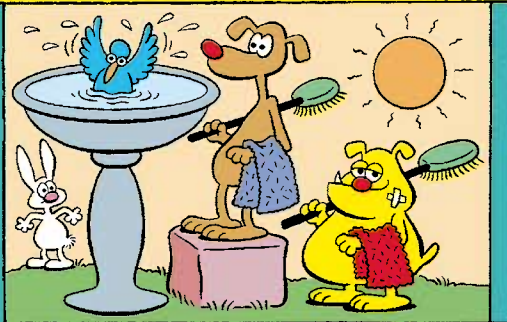
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**Which of the following mammals are rodents?**

- 1) Mice
- 2) Chinchillas
- 3) Beavers
- 4) Porcupines
- 5) Squirrels

Answer -- All of the above!

**Spot six differences between these panels.**



Answer -- Towel, brush handle, bandage, water drop, tooth and rabbit's tail.

twitter.com/BobWeberJr

The fourth Find the six differences is here. Send \$4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to Six Differences No. 4, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



# With help, chimney swift survives the heat

Undulating over arid terrain, the twists and bends of a county road eventually led to an area lake. Following property lines established by early pioneers, the two lanes of asphalt sometimes resembled the serpentine slither of a West Texas reptile.

With the hills and escarpments in the distance, the drive to Moss Creek Lake was scenic and held promise. Upon leaving the recreational area was to return to sparse vegetation spread over miles of desert clime.

The August afternoon was another record breaker. Having passed 104 degrees, the temperature continued to climb.

Having traveled the road numerous times, a driver was familiar with its meandering path.

What he didn't expect was something lying in the roadway.

Slowing his vehicle, then pulling off the asphalt, he stopped. After backing up until he was close to what he had seen, he turned off the engine. Opening the door, he was stunned by the amount of heat rising from the pavement.

Determined to remove the

dark gray bird from the surface, he realized it was probably dead. Only when he had gathered it into his hand did



Courtesy photo

**With its wingspan twice the length of its body, the chimney swift is aptly named. Without an abundance of hollow trees in which to nest, swifts choose chimneys as a substitute. Other attributes of the small, adaptable flyer are its ability to eat, bathe, gather nesting materials, and court while in flight.**

he realize it was still alive.

"Do you realize how much hotter it is on an asphalt road than the 104 degrees on

some weatherman's gauges?" asked the man when he called to say he was on his way to our house. "It had to have been 130 or more out there," he continued.

When he handed me the bird, it barely stirred. The sooty appearance of an adult chimney swift made him wonder what it was doing "way out there."

As new homes were being built in that area, some had chimneys. For a bird that cannot perch, the rough inside of the tall structures would offer a nesting sight and safety. Gripping the rough brick or mortar with its four, forward-facing toes, and bracing itself with tail feathers tipped with spines, a swift could use the man-made, vertical surface for its nightly rest.

Totally dependent upon air-borne insects, it had used daylight hours and early evenings to hunt the skies. With outside lights attracting moths, it would have continued to search the air for food until nearly dark. The scarcity of insects and dehydration during a drought may have been the cause for its being found in such an unforgiving landscape.

If the swift responded to a cool, quiet afternoon, we would then determine if it could be released. Although our neighborhood was also suffering from the extreme heat, it did offer chimneys.

During previous evenings, we had seen numerous chimney swifts. Alternating flapping, then extending their swept-back wings, they would glide effortlessly over our roof. After sweeping through our neighborhood, the birds could take advantage of our close proximity to the city park. There, floodlights illuminating the tennis courts and other areas might attract even more flying insects.

Checking on our visitor, I discovered it had become active within its enclosure. Clinging to one of several vertical pieces, it seemed impatient to be outside.

To hold in my hand this exceptional aerialist made me appreciate how special it was. Its tiny beak was no indication of how far its gaping mouth could expand to capture a day's offering. Its pale, grayish-white neck and chest were dull in comparison to its almost charcoal-colored upper parts.

## BIRD POOP

By BEBE McCASLAND



In the midst of a brilliant sunset, with the promise of twilight to come, the chimney swift sensed its chance at freedom. Flying over our north cactus bed, it crossed the street. Finding the neighbor's brick façade attractive, the bird clung to the upper part of a wall.

With time to reconnoiter, it must have heard what we heard, a familiar twittering and chattering from somewhere high above. Suddenly, it was air-borne and rising.

With intermittent flapping and sailing, it gained altitude. Through an ancient language known only to chimney swifts, it had reunited with members of its specie.

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

# Don't ever overlook what's in front of you

A word came into my mind not long ago: overlook.

Now that's a word I've used many times, not always thinking about its multi-meaning.

First, I remembered it meant to fail to notice or fail to consider something, or to condone or excuse something. It can mean to afford a view, look over, to look down on, to look out on or watch over.

It can also mean to set priorities where certain

important things will not be "overlooked." It's this meaning I would like to address at this time.

When it comes to setting priorities, everyone is unique. For most people, their priorities are in a constant state of flux, shifting with the various demands that confront us on a daily basis. In order to prioritize our daily tasks effectively, we'll need a clear picture of the bigger goals and

values in our lives.

We usually rank our work, family and personal projects the highest. Whether this means consulting with another or simply spending a bit more time reflecting on what is important to us, it's essential we identify our core values before prioritizing the myriad of items on our daily list of things to do. Keep in mind behind each accomplishment there is another challenge

waiting for us.

After we have finally successfully completed one thing, it will just be a matter of time before another challenge arises or there is something new we want to accomplish. There will always be something awaiting our attention.

This came to my mind when I read a note recently from a friend. It stated: This morning I woke up to a messy home, slight smell of puppy poop. Still in

my PJ's I began my quest. First I cleaned the closet, then on to all areas of my home; cleaning, spraying, laundry, dishes, trash, etc.

I could not rest until the job was done. Finally, at 4 p.m. I sat down only to find "the smell" ground deep into the bottom of my house shoe.

Lesson learned. If we think it stinks, we should first take a deep look at ourselves before

## PARENT'S CORNER

By DARRELL RYAN



trying to fix everything else. Don't overlook the obvious.

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

# Hunters, please keep fire safety in mind

COLLEGE STATION — With much of Texas

still hot and dry and wildfires continuing to

ignite across the state, dove hunters should be

especially careful when heading out this week for the season opener.

Fire activity remains steady, and wildfires can easily ignite. All it takes is one spark from an unattended campfire, lit cigarette or even the muzzle of a gun.

"As responsible stewards of the land, hunters need to take wildfire conditions into consideration — especially when they're elevated as they are now," said Justice Jones, coordinator for the Wildland Urban Interface and Fire Prevention programs. "In doing so, they're protecting the resources and wildlife they strive to conserve."

Though dove season

kicks off Thursday, Sept. 1, hunters aren't the only people who should take precautions. All outdoorsmen should keep fire safety in mind for the next several weeks while conditions — hot temperatures and dry vegetation — remain ripe for wildfires.

If you're heading outside, keep in mind the following wildfire safety tips:

Obey outdoor burning

bans. Don't build a fire during dry or windy conditions.

If conditions are right and there is no burn ban in place, you may build a campfire. But keep the fire small and never leave it unattended.

Make sure the fire is extinguished and cold to the touch before you leave it.

Avoid burning feed bags and other materials that can create flying embers.

Keep water handy when welding on stands or working around hunting camps.

Drive only on designated trails. Don't park or idle vehicles in tall, dry grass, which can be ignited by contact with a hot muffler.

When shooting close to the ground, be sure there is no dry grass or tinder in front of your muzzle. Though rare, it's not impossible for a shot to ignite nearby tinder.

Use caution with cigarettes and matches.

Use spark arresters on all power equipment.

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# News in brief

## In Vermont, killer storm's toll includes stranded homeowners, towns

NEWFANE, Vt. (AP) — When Hurricane Irene unleashed its wrath on Newfane, Vt., Martin and Sue Saylor were among the lucky ones. All they lost was the road to their hillside home, and their utilities.

The Saylor's survived, but at a cost: Rivers of rainwater coursed down their hill, washing out the road that leads to their road. Just below their home deep in the woods, the Rock River rose up out of its banks, claiming another roadway.

Suddenly, the Saylor's feet became their sole transportation.

"Stranded, nowhere to go," said Martin Saylor, 57, standing by the Rock River on Monday, waiting for his brother to bring in supplies. "Don't want to leave my house because I don't know who's going to break in or whatever. I just don't know what to do."

The capricious storm, which veered into Vermont in its final hours, dumped up to 11 inches of rain in some places and turned placid little mountain streams into roaring brown torrents that smashed buildings, ripped homes from their foundation and washed out roads all across the state.

## Result can be deadly when pilots forget how to fly in age of 'automation addiction'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Are airline pilots forgetting how to fly? As planes become ever more reliant on automation to navigate crowded skies, safety officials worry there will be more deadly accidents traced to pilots who have lost their hands-on instincts in the air.

Hundreds of people have died over the past five years in "loss of control" accidents in which planes stalled during flight or got into unusual positions that pilots could not correct. In some cases, pilots made the wrong split-second decisions, with catastrophic results — for example, steering the plane's nose skyward into a stall instead of down to regain stable flight.

Spurred in part by federal regulations that require greater reliance on computerized flying, the airline industry is suffering from "automation addiction," said Rory Kay, an airline captain and co-chairman of a Federal Aviation Administration committee on pilot training. "We're seeing a new breed of accident with these state-of-the-art planes."

Pilots use automated systems to fly airliners for all but about three minutes of a flight: the takeoff and landing. Most of the time pilots are programming navigation directions into computers rather than using their hands on controls to fly the plane. They have few opportunities to maintain their skills by flying manually, Kay's advisory committee warns.

Fatal airline accidents have decreased dramatically in the U.S. over the past decade. However, The Associated Press interviewed pilots, industry officials and aviation safety experts who expressed concern about the implications of decreased opportunities for manual flight, and reviewed more than a dozen loss-of-control accidents around the world.

## Libyan rebels demand Algeria hand over Gadhafi family members who fled the country

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — Libyan rebels are demanding that Algeria return Moammar Gadhafi's wife and three of

his children for trial after they fled, raising tensions between the neighboring countries.

Algeria's decision to host members of the Gadhafi clan is an "aggressive act against the Libyan people's wish," said Mahmoud Shammam, information minister in the rebels' interim government.

Safiya Gadhafi, her daughter Aisha and sons Hannibal and Mohammed entered Algeria on Monday, while Gadhafi and several other sons remain at large. In Washington, the Obama administration said it had no indication that Gadhafi himself has left the country.

Rebels also said another Gadhafi son, Khamis, was likely killed last week in a battle south of Tripoli.

"We are determined to arrest and try the whole Gadhafi family, including Gadhafi himself," Shammam said late Monday night. "We'd like to see those people coming back to Libya."

## Shades of hunt for Saddam as Libyan rebels scour country for fugitive Moammar Gadhafi

WASHINGTON (AP) — Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi is on the run, his capital all but fallen to rebels, his hometown under siege.

Now comes another difficult task for the rebels and the civilian government they are trying to install: capturing Gadhafi before the fugitive dictator is able to mount a revenge assault from hiding or inspire an insurgency that could drag on for years.

Gadhafi's wife and three of his children fled Libya to neighboring Algeria on Monday. But the Obama administration said it has no indication Gadhafi has left the country.

As U.S. forces learned in the massive, monthlong manhunt for Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein in 2003, intelligence will be key to finding him.

Thanks to NATO and its small cadre of military advisers on the ground in Libya, the rebels will be able to draw on electronic clues known as signals intelligence, ranging from images from drones, spy planes and satellites to stolen transmissions from radio and phones — an advantage U.S. troops did not have in 2003 in Iraq, when the use of such equipment was in its infancy, and the intelligence not well shared with those on the ground.

## Obama faces difficulty in crafting jobs plan; proposals aim to prevent economic deterioration

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hamstrung by budget cuts and a tight debt ceiling, President Barack Obama is preparing a September jobs package with limited tools at his disposal to prime the economy and crank up employment.

At a minimum, the president's plan will call on Congress to extend current payroll tax cuts and jobless benefits, spend money for new construction projects and offer incentives to businesses to hire more workers. But economists say that while that would eliminate some drag on the economy and maintain the status quo, it won't be enough to propel it to new heights.

The president's plan, which he will announce in a major speech next week, will be far less ambitious than the \$825 billion stimulus of 2009, passed when the economy was still shrinking and when unemployment stood at 8.2 percent. Now the economy is growing sluggishly but unemployment is a full percentage point higher — 9.2 percent for July.

Economists who advocate for government intervention in the economy

estimate that it would take a package of at least \$300 billion to avoid backsliding and even more to give the economy a lift.

That's a tall order for a president facing a divided Congress where Republicans, demanding fiscal austerity, reject the notion that short-term infusions of taxpayer money into the economy can prod a sluggish recovery. Even without Republican opposition, such a level of spending would require short-term borrowing that would move the government closer to its new debt ceiling before the November 2012 election, something Obama is determined to avoid.

## Critics say Obama administration ignored calls to replenish disaster aid coffers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government's main disaster aid account is running woefully short of money as the Obama administration confronts damages from Hurricane Irene that could run into billions of dollars.

With less than \$800 million in its disaster aid coffers, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has been forced to freeze rebuilding projects from disasters dating to Hurricane Katrina to conserve money for emergency needs in the wake of Irene. Lawmakers from states ravaged by tornadoes this spring, like Missouri and Alabama, are especially furious.

The shortfalls in FEMA's disaster aid account have been obvious to lawmakers on Capitol Hill for months — and privately acknowledged to them by FEMA — but the White House has opted against asking for more money, riling many lawmakers.

"Despite the fact that the need ... is well known," Reps. Robert Aderholt, R-Ala., and David Price, D-N.C., wrote the administration last month, "it unfortunately appears that no action is being taken by the administration." The lawmakers chair the panel responsible for FEMA's budget.

FEMA now admits the disaster aid shortfall could approach \$5 billion for the upcoming budget year, and that's before accounting for Irene.

## Rights group: Gadhafi forces raped and killed Libyan civilians, used them as human shields

NEW YORK (AP) — Libyan troops loyal to Moammar Gadhafi forced civilians to act as human shields, perching children on tanks to deter NATO attacks, human rights investigators said. It was part of a pattern of rapes, slayings, "disappearances" and other war crimes that they said they found.

Physicians for Human Rights was able to get a team of interviewers into the embattled city of Misrata from June 5-12, just after Libyan rebel forces expelled Gadhafi's loyalists.

Interviewing dozens of survivors of the two-month siege, the Boston-based PHR found widespread evidence of crimes against humanity and war crimes, including summary slayings, hostage-taking, rapes, beatings, and use of mosques, schools and marketplaces as weapons depots.

"Four eyewitnesses reported that (Gadhafi) troops forcibly detained 107 civilians and used them as human shields to guard military munitions from NATO attacks south of Misrata," said the report, which was released Tuesday.

"One father told PHR how (Gadhafi) soldiers forced his two young children to sit on a military tank and threatened the family: 'You'll stay here, and

if NATO attacks us, you'll die, too.'"

## Talks on future U.S. involvement in Afghanistan strains relations, but both sides want pact

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A pact aimed at clearing up mistrust and confusion between Washington and Kabul about the future of U.S. troops and aid in Afghanistan has instead sowed more of the same.

Afghan officials worry that the United States is looking for a way to decrease support for Afghanistan after the combat mission ends in 2014, especially in light of U.S. economic woes and waning public support for the war, now in its tenth year. American officials insist the agreement is designed to allay that fear, but acknowledge the draft agreement is less precise than the Afghans want, and unenforceable.

With Kabul seeking detailed guarantees but Washington insisting on something more vague, it's not surprising that each side is looking warily at the other.

Negotiators from both countries are to meet in Washington early next month to continue their talks. Discussions come at a time when relations are already strained, anti-Americanism is running high in Afghanistan and uncertainty abounds over what will happen to the nation as foreign forces continue their march home.

The document is meant, in part, to give Afghans confidence that the United States will not abandon them after 2014, when U.S. and other foreign combat troops have left or taken on military support roles. At the same time, it will give the U.S. a legal framework to continue counterterrorism, counter-narcotics and training missions, according to a senior U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the ongoing negotiations.

## Poll: Most US Muslims say anti-terror policies target them, but remain upbeat about their life

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than half of Muslim Americans in a new poll say government anti-terrorism policies single them out for increased surveillance and monitoring, and many report increased cases of name-calling, threats and harassment by airport security, law enforcement officers and others.

Still, most Muslim Americans say they are satisfied with the way things are going in the U.S. and rate their communities highly as places to live.

The survey by the Pew Research Center, one of the most exhaustive ever of the country's Muslims, finds no signs of rising alienation or anger among Muslim-Americans despite recent U.S. government concerns about homegrown Islamic terrorism and controversy over the building of mosques.

"This confirms what we've said all along: American Muslims are well integrated and happy, but with a kind of lingering sense of being besieged by growing anti-Muslim sentiment in our society," said Ibrahim Hooper, spokesman for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a Washington, D.C.-based Muslim civil rights group.

"People contact us every day about concerns they've had, particularly with law enforcement authorities in this post-9/11 era," he said.

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# News in brief

## Girl, 4, dies after mobile home fire in Commerce

COMMERCE, Texas (AP) — Authorities say a mobile home fire in North Texas has claimed the life of 4-year-old girl.  
Fire investigators in Commerce are seeking the cause of Monday night's blaze. City spokesman Marty Cunningham says the residence was about 50 percent engulfed in flames by the time firefighters arrived.  
Officials say Annette Reyes of Commerce was transported to a Greenville hospital, where she later died.  
Commerce is 60 miles northeast of Dallas.

## Fire-evacuated residents near Porter head home

PORTER (AP) — A wildfire in a wooded area northeast of Houston has led to the evacuation of dozens of homes and about 70 residents.  
Authorities say the brush fire in Montgomery County, near Porter, was brought under control Monday night and evacuees were allowed to return to their residences. No injuries have been reported and no structures were damaged.  
The Texas Forest Service says about 15 acres burned in the fire that broke out Monday afternoon. Spokesman Ed Brown says authorities are seeking the cause of the blaze.  
The agency says outdoor burn bans are in effect for 251 Texas counties, including Montgomery County.

## Dallas to use cameras on license tags, pay debts

DALLAS (AP) — Parked vehicles in Dallas could help identify people who owe the city money.  
A pilot program will use digital cameras to take photos of vehicle license tags. The information will be matched with a Dallas database in an effort to collect back fines and fees.  
The Dallas Morning News reported Monday that the program will be conducted by the Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson. The law firm will subcontract the work to the Municipal Intelligence Group, which uses roaming vehicles with cameras to target all parked vehicles and record the tag numbers.  
A sticker will be put on the vehicle if the owner has an unpaid municipal debt.  
Dallas already uses the technology for parking enforcement.  
Critics say the tracking allows too much government surveillance.

## Teacher in Ennis ISD positive for tuberculosis

ENNIS, Texas (AP) — A teacher in a Dallas-area school district has tested positive for tuberculosis.  
The Ennis Independent School District says a letter will be sent to a group of high school students and their parents to help identify potential contacts.  
A district statement, released Monday night, says free screenings will be done Sept. 14 at Ennis High School, which is the only campus affected by the notice. Medical care will be provided to anyone who may have been exposed to the educator.  
Further details on the teacher haven't been released. The district says the risk of exposure and infection to the general campus population is extremely low.  
Classes began Aug. 22.  
Experts say TB is spread through the air. The disease, if not properly treated, can be deadly.

## Juror who used Facebook during trial sentenced

FORTH WORTH (AP) — A Texas juror who contacted the defendant in a civil case through Facebook has been sentenced to community service for contempt of court.  
Jonathan Hudson was dismissed from a Tarrant County jury last month after the defendant's lawyer told the judge that the 22-year-old juror tried to "friend" his client.  
Hudson pleaded guilty to four counts of contempt of court last week and was sentenced to two days community service. The case concerned a 2008 car accident. Hudson's attorney told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram his client felt bad about what happened.  
Texas recently added specific language to jury instructions that bans jurors from discussing cases on social networking sites and Hudson along with the other jurors had been warned.

## Perry: No stimulus program if he's president

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — Republican presidential hopeful Rick Perry said Monday that no new economic stimulus package is needed to "get America working again," but he declined to give specifics about how his still-unannounced plan to jumpstart the nation's economy would create jobs.  
During an appearance at the Tulsa Press Club, Perry said he would let his "guiding principles" as a fiscal conservative inform his policies. But when pressed for details, Perry resorted to general statements he has often repeated on the campaign trail.  
"No. 1 is don't spend all the money, you can figure out what that means," Perry said at the Tulsa Press

Club event also attended by U.S. Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla. "You won't have stimulus programs under a Perry presidency. You won't spend all the money."  
The Texas governor, the newest entry into the 2012 GOP presidential field having announced his candidacy just over two weeks ago, has yet to release a national economic plan.  
His campaign often cites the 1 million jobs Texas added in a decade that ended with a national recession. Some critics, however, point out that many of those new jobs are low-paying and the product of a low cost of living, so they question how much credit Perry's business-friendly policies actually should get.  
At the Tulsa event, Perry said the nation's "entrepreneurial spirit" would create jobs and that his tax policies would allow Americans to keep more of what they earn. He said his tax system would be "light on job creators" and called for a more predictable legal system "that doesn't allow for over-suing."


## AAA expects 2.2M Texans traveling over holiday

HOUSTON (AP) — An industry group has predicted that more than 2.2 million Texans will hit the road this Labor Day weekend and travel 50 miles or more.  
AAA Texas on Tuesday reported nearly 1.9 million Texans plan to drive during the holiday period, which begins Thursday and runs through Monday. Recent AAA surveys found that auto travel is expected to be up 1.3 percent, compared to last year.  
The association says nearly 208,000 Texans are expected to fly, while the rest of the travelers will likely go by bus, train or ship.  
AAA Texas says the average distance traveled by Texans during the Labor Day holiday weekend is expected to be 482 miles.  
The average retail price for gasoline across Texas was \$3.46 a gallon on Tuesday.

## Laredo agents seize 5,800 fake label DVD players

LAREDO (AP) — Federal agents in South Texas have confiscated a shipment of 5,800 DVD players with counterfeit labels.  
Customs and Border Protection officers on Monday announced the seizure by agents at the Laredo Port of Entry.  
Investigators say the trademark-violating items were confiscated Aug. 24 as part of a shipment awaiting export. Nearly 1,200 packages were seized.  
CBP says the DVD players, if authentic, would have a combined manufacturer's suggested retail price of \$881,000.

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### Sound off Big Spring

When my cheerleader daughter came home after the game Friday night, I asked her this question: If there is four minutes left in the game and you have to make a decision, do you want to tie the game or win the game, what would you do? She said she would try to win the game. At that moment I realized a cheerleader knew more about football than the Big Spring High School coach and coaches. There were 15 coaches on the field and 5 in the press box. I coached them. If we try to win and lose, that happens, that's sports, that's life. If we don't try and lose, we're just stinking losers. I suppose a coach with job security is going to end up a loser. Who is holding this guy accountable?

Weldon Jones

Mr. Jones,

While I do love the "do or die" approach, especially in sports, I believe Coach Ritchey did make the right call Friday night. He was showing confidence in his defense and, as it turned out, his defense made a great stop, giving the team a chance to win it in the end.

Perhaps, without the injury to Garrett Stuteville on the final drive, things might have turned out differently. But, I appreciate your letter. It gives us all something to think about.

Robert

*Do you have something on your mind? Send me an e-mail. Let's get it out in the open. Send e-mails to:*

sports@bigspringherald.com

# Astros find win with youth

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Astros lineup is filled with youngsters. Monday night, a pair of veterans led the way.

Carlos Lee hit a tie-breaking three-run homer in the seventh inning, Wandy Rodriguez struck out a career-high 13 and the Houston Astros rallied past the Pittsburgh Pirates 7-4.

Trailing 3-2 in the seventh, a fielder's choice

grounded by J.D. Martinez tied the score and Lee extended his hitting streak to 10 games with his 14th homer off Jose Veras, putting the Astros ahead for the first time.

"I thought it was going to curve foul," Lee said. "I guess when you are going good, good things happen. I'm seeing the ball really good. I feel I can cover every pitch

and be on top of things." Rodriguez stumbled briefly in the fourth inning, allowing Pittsburgh to grab the lead.

Rodriguez struck out six of the first nine batters he faced and didn't allow a hit until Josh Harrison led off the fourth with a double and Andrew McCutchen followed with his 19th homer.

"In the fourth inning

my problem was I stayed behind in the count," Rodriguez said. "I tried to throw a fastball for a strike and I put a few behind. Early in the game I tried to locate the fastball. Later it was the breaking ball."

Neil Walker doubled and Ryan Doumit drove in the third run with a

See **ASTROS**, Page 2B

# Texas A&M leaving Big 12

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Texas A&M has notified the Big 12 it will withdraw from the conference, according to a newspaper report.

The New York Times said in a story posted on its website Monday night that Texas A&M President R. Bowen Loftin sent a letter to Missouri Chancellor and Big 12 board chairman Brady Deaton to inform the league it was leaving. The report cited two unidentified college officials with direct knowledge of the decision.

University spokesman Jason Cook did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment late Monday night.

Texas A&M's departure would cast doubt on the future of the Big 12 and could lead to more major changes to college athletics.

The university said earlier Monday it had received a letter from Big 12 Commissioner Dan Beebe outlining the withdrawal procedure should the Aggies decide to leave the league.

Cook said the letter "outlines the withdrawal procedures according to the financial provisions of the Big 12 bylaws and mutual waivers of legal claims." He wouldn't provide any other details of the letter or comment on what A&M's next step might be.

The Aggies are interested in

joining the Southeastern Conference and the dueling letters come less than a week after they formally told Beebe they are exploring their options and asked for the conference to outline the process if they decide to leave. The league's board of directors addressed the possible departure of the Aggies this weekend.

"I certainly appreciate the discussion among the Big 12 presidents/chancellors and the expression of their desire for Texas A&M to remain in the conference," Loftin said in a statement issued before The New York Times report.

See **AGGIES**, Page 2B

# NY GIANTS, JETS RUMBLE IN THE BRONX

EAST RUTHERFORD (AP) — Brandon Jacobs and Muhammad Wilkerson turned a snoozer into a slugfest.

The New York Giants running back and Jets rookie defensive end were ejected from the teams' preseason game Monday night — a 17-3 win by the Jets — after taking swings at each other.

After Mario Manningham's 7-yard catch with 8:37 left in the third quarter, Wilkerson and Jacobs shoved each other. The two yelled at each other several yards away from where Manningham caught the pass as players from both teams rushed over to separate Jacobs and

Wilkerson before things escalated.

"That's not good football," Giants coach Tom Coughlin said. "That's something you just don't want to see. You can't lose your control in the message there. And when you do, you have to pay the price."

Both Jacobs and Wilkerson, the Jets' first-round draft picks, were called for offsetting disqualification penalties, meaning both were done for the day with the Jets leading 7-3.

"I can understand it because I think both guys swung at each other," Jets coach Rex Ryan said. "Our

guy swung second. He swung hard, but he swung second."

Jacobs would not discuss the incident, and Wilkerson wasn't in the Jets' rookie locker room when it first opened to reporters.

It's possible the players could face discipline from the league because of the incident.

The game, originally scheduled for Saturday night, was postponed to Monday because of Hurricane Irene. Both teams' offenses struggled to do much with their starters in, and the game took on a sloppy tone early and lasted throughout as 16 penalties were called — sev-

en on the Jets and nine on the Giants.

The teams meet again — for real — in Week 16 of the regular season on Christmas Eve in a game that may have playoff implications for both.

"I don't know if there are any tickets available to that Dec. 24 game, but I think we just sold them because that was a typical Jets-Giants slugfest right there," Ryan said. "That's two good football teams going at it. Obviously, it's a preseason game, but it is great competition, there's no doubt and the fireworks will fly come Dec. 24, that's for sure."

# Mariners help Rangers, down Angels 5-3

## Rangers' lead in AL West now at 3.5 games

SEATTLE (AP) — The Los Angeles Angels are not going to get any help from the young Seattle Mariners in their pursuit of the first-place Rangers.

The last-place, nothing-to-lose Mariners, with a roster bulging with eager-to-prove rookies, played what manager Eric Wedge called "our best game" Monday night in a 5-3 victory over the Angels.

The loss dropped the Angels 3½ games behind idle Texas in the AL West with 28 games to go.

Mike Carp connected on a first-pitch slider from Hisanori Takahashi (3-3) in the eighth inning for a long two-run home run, providing the Mariners with the deciding margin.

Rookie Dustin Ackley, who had three hits and a pair of RBIs, opened the eighth with a double. Carp then hit the pitch into a fan's lap in the second-deck restaurant in left field.

"After he hit it I just stopped. I'm just going to watch this ball and see where it ends up," Ackley said. "Even in BP you don't see many balls land up that high, especially a first-pitch breaking ball like that. That's pretty impressive."

The ball was estimated to

have traveled 432 feet.

Takahashi said his pitch to Carp was in the wrong zone.

"I wanted it down and away," Takahashi said through an interpreter, "but it was on the opposite side."

Rookie Tom Wilhelmson (2-0) earned the victory with one inning of relief. Brandon League finished the ninth for his 32nd save in 37 opportunities.

First baseman Mark Trumbo hit his team-leading 24th home run, a two-run shot in the fourth.

Ichiro Suzuki had two doubles and extended his hitting streak to a season-high 12 games.

Suzuki has had 40 career double-digit hitting streaks, tied with Pete Rose for the fifth most since 1918. The others in front of him are Ty Cobb (65), Hank Aaron (44), Al Simmons (42) and Stan Musial (41).

"It's one of those nights he (Takahashi) just didn't get one pitch where he wanted and that was it," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said.

Scioscia was asked before the game whether Seattle, at 57-76, is still a dangerous team to play. He said Seattle "has a lot of talent. A lot of it is young but it's good, good young arms ... (but) I want our guys to play free, to play

easy and that's what we're going to focus on."

The Mariners took the early lead with a pair of sacrifice flies, but the Angels charged ahead with a three-run fourth.

Torii Hunter singled just before Trumbo launched his ball off the left-field upper-deck facade, on a 1-0 pitch from rookie Blake Beavan. The Angels have had at least one home run in 19 of their last 20 games.

The Angels added another in the inning. Vernon Wells singled to center followed by Erick Aybar's RBI double into deep right-center.

The Mariners tied it in the fifth, also with two outs. Suzuki doubled into the gap in left. Ackley drove a run-scoring triple into the gap in right for a 3-3 score.

"That was a big pitch," Joel Pineiro said of his pitch to Ackley. "I was not going to give him something to hit but the ball stayed up in the zone, a sinker that stayed up and he made me pay for it."

Scioscia said Pineiro, who hasn't won since he beat the Mariners July 9, will continue to get the ball.

"He'd get another start. He gave us a chance to win," he said. "He's not locked in where he was earlier in the season but he first came

off the DL but he has made strides from when he was taken out of the rotation.

"Hopefully, he will continue because we are going to need him," Scioscia added. "We need depth in the rotation."

The Mariners played exceptional defense to stymie potential rallies.

Shortstop Brendan Ryan made a barehanded grab of Peter Bourjos' spinning groundball to finish the Angels' threat in the fourth.

Casper Wells threw a hard, accurate strike on the fly to second base in the third inning to nail Bourjos trying to stretch a single.

Then in the seventh Wells did it again. The Angels had something going with speedy Aybar on first and one out. As Aybar broke for second, Bourjos hit a line shot to left. Wells raced in, caught on the run and quickly fired to first to double up Aybar.

"That's my favorite thing to do," said Wells, in his first season, "come up throwing."

Notes: The Angels have lost three of their last four after winning six straight. ... Trumbo leads the team in home runs (24) and RBI (71). No Angels rookie has ever led the team in both categories in a season.

## On the greens

### ACE ON HOLE 15

During a scramble tournament at Comanche Trail Golf Course, Stormy Ward recorded her first hole-in-one. The Big Spring resident aced hole number 15 with a seven iron. Witnesses to the amazing shot were Tommy Ward, Colby Gilbert, Michael and Amy Otho.

## Holden and Roach lead CTLGA girls

Comanche Trail Ladies Golf Association saw Ann Hilger shoot a 41 to take the low gross in individual play Monday and Betty Murphy capture the low net with a 48. Ramona Harris had the fewest putts in the nine-hole round with 14.

In the couples scramble Thursday, two teams tied for first place, shooting four under par. Dee Jenkins, Paul Jenkins, Jerry Roach and Annie Ward made up one of the teams, while the second team was comprised of Jimmy Foresyth, John Leonardi, Deana Foresyth and Gus Leonardi.

In third place with a three under par were Bill Holden, Max Coffee, Bobbie Holden and Betty Ray Coffee.

Jerry Roach came nearest the pin on hole number three and Bobbie Holden came closer than anyone on hole number six.



**ASTROS**

Continued from Page 1B

double. Rodriguez then walked Matt Diaz before finding his control again and striking out the next three.

Rodriguez (10-9) struck out the side twice, including the fourth. He went seven innings, walked four and allowed four hits. It was the 10th double-digit strikeout game of Rodriguez's career. Rodriguez had fanned 11 batters previously on three occasions.

"He was getting strikeouts because he had good stuff," Astros manager Brad Mills said. "It was just trying to get him consistent. He really was fighting himself finding his rhythm. The last couple of innings he found it and really started throwing the ball well."

Jason Grilli (1-1) pitched 1 1-3 innings. He allowed two earned runs and walked one. Juan Abreu struck out the first two batters of his major league debut for the Astros but then walked a batter and gave up an RBI triple to Ronny Cedeno in the ninth.

Mark Melancon got the final out for his 15th save in 20 chances.

An infield hit by Jose Altuve gave Houston its seventh run in the eighth.

Ross Ohlendorf, trying to rebound from four

months on the disabled list, didn't allow a hit until Martinez singled to left field with two outs in the fourth inning.

"I thought I saw some incremental improvement," Pirates manager Clint Hurdle said about Ohlendorf. "There were more strikes thrown. There were more attempts working the ball in. I think the slider improved. He has to get the ball down with more consistency."

"I did see more comfort and better mound presence," Hurdle added. "He wasn't so antsy or amped up. I thought his tempo was better as well."

After Lee walked in the fourth, Brian Bogusevic doubled to the left-field corner scoring Martinez. Jimmy Paredes then struck out to end the inning and keep the Pirates ahead 3-1.

Clint Barmes doubled to open the fifth and scored after two outs on a single by Jordan Schafer.

Ohlendorf pitched five innings, allowed five hits two earned runs and he struck out six and walked one.

"I felt much better than the last game," Ohlendorf said. "It was the best I've felt in a while. I felt like my command was better. My slider felt really good. I think the most important thing was my fastball command was better than before. Some of it was a subconscious effort not to overthrow and let my arm work freely."

Rodriguez was much stronger than his last start against Colorado on Aug. 24 amid talk that he was being traded to the Rockies. He allowed 10 hits, four earned runs over six innings with four walks and two strikeouts.

Rodriguez's strikeout total was the most by an Astros pitcher since Bud Norris fanned 14 Pirates on Aug. 14, 2010.

NOTES: Pirates RHP Jeff Karstens pitched Sunday and won't get a chance to be the first pitcher this season to beat the Astros four times. Houston's bullpen has allowed two earned runs over the last 12 1-3 innings.

RHP David Carpenter has not allowed a run in 20 of his 24 major league appearances. Carpenter pitched a perfect eighth. He got his first big league save on Sunday. The Astros have won five of their last six home games.

**Jeter, A-Rod out for trailing Yanks**

BALTIMORE (AP) — Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez returned to New York on Monday to have an MRI on his left thumb, and the result "came out good," according to manager Joe Girardi.

Rodriguez sat out Sunday night's game against the Baltimore Orioles after playing in the first half of the split-doubleheader. He was poised to meet the Yankees in Boston on Tuesday for the start of a three-game series.

"He's day to day," Girardi said. "I don't know if he'll be able to play (Tuesday). His thumb, we got to let it heal, so I can't tell you exactly when he's going to be back. It's just when he feels better."

Asked if A-Rod would be available at all in Boston, Girardi replied, "I sure hope so. It just depends on how the thumb responds to treatment. He came back and he seemed to irritate it a little bit more, we just have to be smart about it. I think it bothers him probably more hitting."

Shortstop Derek Jeter was out of the starting lineup Monday against the Orioles for a second straight game. He fouled a ball of his right knee in the third inning of the opener Sunday and sustained a bruised kneecap.

The knee swelled up between games, and although

it was better Monday, Jeter was not ready to play a full nine innings.

"He was walking around fine today. He was walking a lot better than I would have anticipated when I saw him walk out last night," Girardi said. "He healed up pretty good. I can use him in case of an emergency."

Jeter played in his 2,402nd game with New York on Sunday, most in Yankees history. He moved one past Mickey Mantle.

Jeter didn't make it 2,403 on Monday but he was hoping to get back in the lineup on Tuesday against the Red Sox.

"That's the plan. I hope so," he said after New York's 3-2 win. "It feels a lot better than it did yesterday."

Jeter was pleased with the progress over a 24-hour period, noting that the knee was no longer swollen.

"Today, it just feels like I hit a ball off my knee," he said. "Yesterday, I don't know how to describe what happened."

New York trails first-place Boston by 1½ games, and Jeter intends to help the Yankees cut the deficit.

"We need to play well," he said. "They have a great team. Everyone knows that. It's a challenge for us. They've been playing extremely well so we need to be up for the challenge."

**sudoku**

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

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

**AGGIES**

Continued from Page 1B

"We all agree that Texas A&M is an extremely valuable institution; thus, it is incumbent upon me, as the president of the university, to ensure that we are in a position to enhance our national visibility and future financial opportunity."

Loftin added this is a "complex and long-term decision," but "it is not our intent to prolong our conference exploration for an extended period of time."

The SEC said earlier this month it was happy with its current 12-school membership but left the door open to expansion. Loftin then received authority from the board of re-

gents to take any action he deems necessary in terms of realignment.

There is concern that a departure by the Aggies could jeopardize the future of the Big 12, which is down to 10 teams after Nebraska (Big Ten) and Colorado (Pac-12) left the league last July. Loftin has said the Aggies would consider how their departure would impact the future of Big 12 before any decision is made.

The Big 12 would need to find a team to replace the Aggies if they exit the conference and there has been a lot of speculation about possible schools. So far, the only school to publicly express interest in moving to the Big 12 is SMU. Athletic director Steve Orsini said he's had informal talks with Big 12 officials for some time

to inform them of the school's improvements and growth.

In the letter Loftin sent to the Big 12 last week, he said if the Aggies leave, they would want to do it in a manner that complies with league bylaws. He also has said financial concerns will factor into any decision to leave; the school likely would face an exit fee.

The Big 12, including Texas A&M, agreed to a 13-year television deal with Fox Sports in April worth more than \$1 billion.

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

The Big 12 declined to comment on Monday's letter.

**Contract Bridge**

By Steve Becker

**A Valuable Convention**

East dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A 9  
♥ A K Q 10 9 4  
♦ A  
♣ J 8 7 5

**WEST**  
♠ 6 4 3  
♥ 7 5 3  
♦ J 10 9 4  
♣ Q 10 2

**EAST**  
♠ 7  
♥ 8 6 2  
♦ K Q 8 5 2  
♣ A K 9 3

**SOUTH**  
♠ K Q J 10 8 5 2  
♥ J  
♦ 7 6 3  
♣ 6 4

The bidding:  
East South West North  
1♦ 3♠ Pass 6♣

Dble  
Opening lead — ?

The **Lightner slam double** — designed to divert partner from making his normal opening lead — is a valuable convention that has led to the defeat of many a slam. Even so, it is not exactly all peaches and cream. Sometimes the opening leader is still in the dark about which suit to lead after the double, and a failure to divine partner's wishes can cost a

huge number of points.

Consider this deal from a team contest where East doubled six spades to stop West from leading a diamond, the suit East had bid. The double forbade a diamond lead, but it did not tell West whether to lead a heart or a club.

Observe that any lead but a club would give South the slam with an overtrick for a score of 1,860 points! But West, after considering the matter fully, came forth with a club lead, and declarer went down one when East quickly cashed the A-K of clubs.

West's club lead was well-reasoned. He realized that North, for his jump to six spades, expected his partner to bring home the slam against a diamond lead, which in turn meant that North was very likely to have a long, solid side suit for his leap to six spades.

Pursuing this line of reasoning, West concluded that dummy's solid side suit had to be hearts, since West was looking at the Q-10-x of clubs in his own hand.

West was rewarded for his sound logic by a score of plus 200 instead of a loss of 1,860.

Tomorrow: You can win, but you can't lose.  
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Those who take an intuitive approach to finance will sense that something has changed. Sometimes using your intuition means shooting from the hip. Other times, your inner knowing will urge you to wait for a clear sign or until circumstances feel undeniably right. Jupiter turns retrograde, favoring thoughtful and conservative methods.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You'll get the idea that break time is over. Crack down on self-discipline. The more leeway you give yourself the further away from your goals you will stray.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Avoid making assumptions about another person — you're not likely to assume the right thing. Instead, ask



HOLIDAY MATHIS

questions, even if it means you risk looking foolish. It is more endearing to be foolish than to be ignorant or wrong.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You see the light at the end of the tunnel, and you keep going toward it because you know it's the right way. Still, there's no reason not to enjoy your time and travels during this contained part of your journey.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Everything you own needs maintenance and management. You'll decide whether or not the time you put into keeping a certain possession clean and orderly is really worth the value of the thing.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Human behavior can be somewhat of a puzzle. You're willing to experiment, turning the pieces and trying different arrangements until something clicks. You'll come up with a brilliant solution by day's end.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept.

22). You want your loved ones to be entertained in the way they find most delightful. You'll observe what makes them laugh and note what holds their attention.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Don't be so worried about giving just as much as the other person gives. It may, in fact, be a bad idea to balance the scales. Someone wants to be the bigger giver and will be disappointed if you try to outdo every gift.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Take a break from trying to improve yourself. What you need more than anything is rest. Also, self-acceptance will carry your efforts much further than constant internal criticism.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You have interesting and useful talents now. You will be able to control your emotions, curb your cravings and fit into whatever social situation you happen to come across.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-

Jan. 19). Political and moral agendas may be at odds now. Someone needs your agreement in order to move forward. However, you may not be able to give this approval in good conscience.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You won't care whether or not you are the most amazing player on the scene. You just want to get into the game and have some fun. Because of this stellar attitude, you'll do well.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). One of the most formidable obstacles you will encounter in the managing of your mood is the emotional tone of others. Bad attitudes and crummy moods are catching. Think ahead about how you'll protect yourself.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Aug. 30). You want to see different parts of the world and be able to communicate fluently there. You'll learn a "new language" — though it may still be in your native tongue. Finances improve in September.

Enjoyable work makes lifestyle upgrades possible. November brings family additions. January puts an old battle to rest. Pisces and Aries people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 14, 31, 29 and 36.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Lovely Virgo Cameron Diaz began her career as a fashion model and was a cover girl by the age of 17. As an actress, she has never relied on her beauty to carry the picture. Her stellar sense of humor and tendency not to take herself too seriously as well as her impressive acting skills have made her a box-office favorite. Diaz was born when Mercury was in creative, fun-loving Leo.

*If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to [www.creators.com](http://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](http://www.creators.com). © 2011 CREATORS.COM*

**Annie's Mailbox ®**

**Dear Annie:** I work in a small office with two other people. The office was understaffed to begin with, and my boss is now undergoing chemotherapy and is out two weeks of every month.

Then my co-worker decided to retire. As a result, I had to work a fair amount of overtime in our busiest season.

Right now, the office consists of a part-time worker and me.

Even though our busy season has passed, I still often end up with an hour of overtime each week. My boss's boss has decided that since my peak-season overtime wasn't "pre-approved," she isn't going to pay it.

Furthermore, she had

my time clock hard coded so that no matter what time I log in or out, I only get credit for a standard workday.

I'm the only full-time, fully compensated employee, and I have significant responsibilities.

If I don't stay late and do whatever needs to be finished, I get in trouble. If I do stay late, I don't get paid. I guess in this labor market, the boss wins.

Needless to say, I am looking for another job. In the meantime, what do I do about this no-win situation? — *Workplace Dilemma*

**Dear Workplace:** You are being treated unfairly. However, in a small, privately owned business, there are likely no higher-ups to complain to.

And although we agree that you should be compensated for the overtime, one extra hour a week is, frankly, not that much.

What many employers fail to realize is that employees need to feel valued.

You put in a lot of hard

work during a busy season when you were effectively flying solo.

The boss could alleviate much of this ill will (and the possibility of losing a loyal employee) simply by letting you know how much she appreciates you. We hope she sees this.

**Dear Annie:** I am 50 years old and have been widowed for a year. I recently met a nice man, and we went on a couple of dates.

But I had mixed feelings. I still felt "married," and it was causing me great turmoil, so I told this wonderful guy that it wa

s too soon for me to date. He said he respected my feelings and to give him a call when I am ready.

Now I'm regretting my decision. He's a great guy, and we share similar interests.

I don't know how to sort this out. My family still mourns the loss of my husband, who was an exceptional man.

I don't know how they will react to my dating so soon, and I'm afraid to ask for fear of upsetting

them. What should I do? — *Widowed and Confused*

**Dear Widowed:** Dating is such a personal decision. Some people are ready in a month, while others never feel comfortable.

Most folks would agree, however, that a year is a respectable amount of time to wait.

You should feel free to date if you want to, but we also recommend you discuss this with your children.

Let them know their father will never be forgotten, but you want to feel that happiness again someday and hope they will want that for you, too.

**Dear Annie:** I'd like to comment on the letter from "Wedding Gift Nightmare," who gave her niece some antique china as a wedding gift.

My husband and I had been married less than five years when we took a vacation to meet his Aunt Susie.

She served us a delicious lunch. As we cleared the table and washed dishes, she asked if I liked a particular

serving bowl. I said I did. She replied, "Great. It's your wedding present." It seems it was a family heirloom and came with a neat story.

After 40 years of marriage, I still have the bowl and a story I never hesitate to tell. Treasure those old gifts. They can be quite special in years to come. — *Lucky Niece*

To all our Muslim readers: Happy Eid.

*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](mailto: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](http://www.creators.com).*

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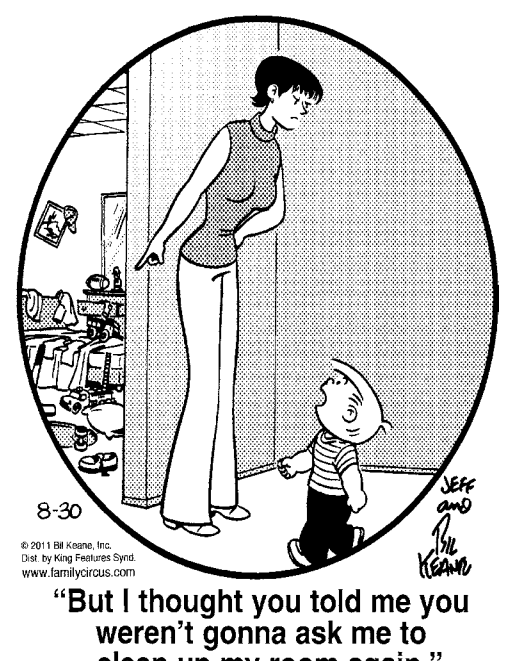


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	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports
5:PM	News ABC	Alma Notic.	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	King	Scrivner	News	King	Cash Cab	Movie: Mercury Rising, Miko Hughes	Auction	Law & Order	Live	Phineas Good		SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Cuando Me	Two Men	News	Caso Cerado	News	King	Uri Harel	Business	King	Cash Cab	Movie: Raising Hope, Miko Hughes	Auction	Law & Order		Vampire	2011 U.S. Open Tennis: First Round.	Herbie Awards:
7:PM	Wipeout	Teresa (SS)	Glee	Ent	NCIS (DVS)	Millionaire	King	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Top Gun, Anthony Edwards	Auction	Law & Order	Movie: Love & Basketball, Alfre Woodard	Good	World, Poker	
8:PM	Take the Money and	Fuerza-Des-tino	Raising	NCIS: Los Angeles	Flor Salvaje (SS)	It's Worth What?	Office	Upd	History	Detectives	Shedding for	Movie: Top Gun, Anthony Edwards	Auction	Law & Order	Born to Dance	Good	Baseball Tonight	
9:PM	Combat Hospital	Aquí y Ahora (SS)	Simpsons	NCIS (DVS)	La Casa de al Lado	America's Got Talent	Office	Cortes	Frontline		POV	Movie: Top Gun, Anthony Edwards	Auction	Law & Order	Born to Dance	Good	Baseball Tonight	
10:PM	News Nightline	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Conan	Brad New	Preview	World	South Pk	Movie: Mad Dog and Glory, Bill Murray	Auction	CSI: NY	Born to Dance	Good	Baseball Tonight	
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Para Volver a Amar	Law & Order: SVU	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Lopez Tonight	Ministerio-Vida	World	South Pk	D. Money	Movie: Mad Dog and Glory, Bill Murray	Auction	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Good	Baseball Tonight	
12:AM	Extra	Destilando Amor	Paid	Insider	Pagado	News	Conan	Upd	Cops	Auction	D. Money	Movie: Mad Dog and Glory, Bill Murray	Auction	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Good	Baseball Tonight	
1:AM	Paid	Mujer	TMZ	Ent	Pagado	Poker After Dark	Lopez Tonight	Light of the Southwest	TBA	Homecoming	Overhaul	Movie: Mad Dog and Glory, Bill Murray	Auction	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Good	Baseball Tonight	
1:30	Paid	Mujer	King-Hill	Paid	Pagado	Poker After Dark	Lopez Tonight	Light of the Southwest	TBA	Homecoming	Overhaul	Movie: Mad Dog and Glory, Bill Murray	Auction	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Good	Baseball Tonight	

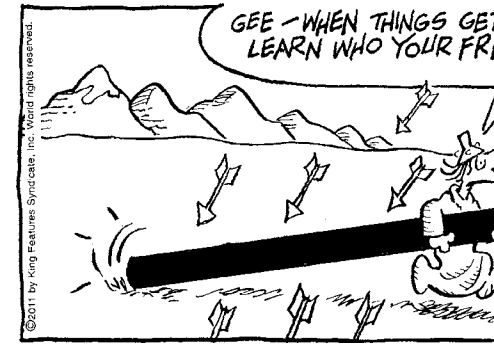
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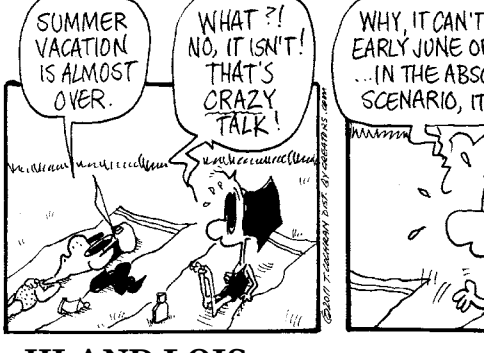
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THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 30, the 242nd day of 2011. There are 123 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 30, 1861, Union Gen. John C. Fremont instituted martial law in Missouri and declared slaves there to be free. (However, Fremont's emancipation order was countermanded by President Abraham Lincoln).

On this date:

In 1797, Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, creator of "Frankenstein," was born in London.

In 1862, Union forces were defeated by the Confederates at the Second Battle of Bull Run in Manassas, Va.

In 1905, Ty Cobb made his major-league debut as a player for the Detroit Tigers, hitting a double in his first at-bat in a game against the New York Highlanders. (The Tigers won, 5-3.)

In 1941, during World War II,

This Date In History

German forces approaching Leningrad cut off the remaining rail line out of the city.

In 1963, the "Hot Line" communications link between Washington and Moscow went into operation.

In 1967, the Senate confirmed the appointment of Thurgood Marshall as the first black justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1983, Guion S. Bluford Jr. became the first black American astronaut to travel in space as he blasted off aboard the Challenger.

In 1986, Soviet authorities arrested Nicholas Daniloff, a correspondent for U.S. News and World Report, as a spy a week after American officials arrested Gennadiy Zakharov, a Soviet employee of the United Nations, on espionage charges in New York. (Both men were later released.)

In 1991, Azerbaijan (ah-zur-by-JAHN') declared its independence, joining the stampede of republics seeking to secede from the Soviet Union.

In 1997, Americans received word of the car crash in Paris that claimed the lives of Princess Diana, Dodi Fayed and their driver, Henri Paul.

Answer to previous puzzle

DINE	SLAM	SHOW
LEDON	NASA	TOGO
ILIAD	OVER	ROLE
EIGHT	TRACK	TAPES
	ORE	DAY
VALLEY	IPOD	REB
ALIEN	AVOW	CAPE
NINED	DIGIT	NUMBER
EVER	SEES	NOBEL
SEN	SUDS	FINISH
	EAR	ART
TENSPEED	BICYCLE	
LITE	CLAY	SPILER
IRIS	ASIS	OSAN
TEES	NESS	TENT

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Touse, as hair
  - 5 Quick-witted
  - 10 Baseball toppers
  - 14 Largest continent
  - 15 Pay tribute to
  - 16 Woodwind instrument
  - 17 Feudal laborer
  - 18 \_\_ lunch (not paying attention)
  - 19 Time for lunch
  - 20 Simple pleasure
  - 23 Lab-maze runner
  - 24 Collie's coat
  - 25 Insurance filing
  - 28 Taxi
  - 31 Dollars or cents
  - 35 Canyon edge
  - 36 Chinese vegetable
  - 39 Nary a soul
  - 40 Charisma
  - 43 Greek cheese
  - 44 Bed covering
  - 45 Take to court
  - 46 "Have a taste"
  - 48 Pig's place
  - 49 Color of envy
  - 51 Nonverbal approval
  - 53 Have a glance at
  - 54 Snack for Dagwood
  - 63 Oodles
  - 64 Birchbark boat
  - 65 Doing nothing
  - 66 Flat-topped hill
  - 67 Make amends
  - 68 Close by
- DOWN
- 1 Not fem.
  - 2 Consumer
  - 3 Kingly address
  - 4 Exotic expedition
  - 5 Give a yell
  - 6 Typical TV drama length
  - 7 Poker stake
  - 8 Campus military org.
  - 9 Decisive evidence
  - 10 Get face to face with
  - 11 Peek-\_\_ (kids' game)
  - 12 Low-quality
  - 13 Shipped off
  - 21 Western Florida city
  - 22 Not talking
  - 25 Manual skill
  - 26 Cruise ship
  - 27 Friendship
  - 28 Pitches a tent, perhaps
  - 29 Take \_\_ (disassemble)
  - 30 Four on a par three
  - 32 Din
  - 33 Happen next
  - 34 Saudi Arabia neighbor
  - 37 Right-angle shapes
  - 38 Genetic initials
  - 41 Essential part
  - 42 Defeated by a whisker
  - 47 Little tyke
  - 50 Cassette-recorder button
  - 52 Low-power coffee
  - 53 Evil smile
  - 54 Doll's cry
  - 55 Bullfight cheers
  - 56 Have a snack
  - 57 Evaluate
  - 58 Blizzard, essentially
  - 59 Top-notch
  - 60 Flash of inspiration
  - 61 Chowder morsel
  - 62 His-and-\_\_

IT'S ALIVE by Billie Truitt  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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