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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**TUESDAY**

SEPTEMBER 20, 2011



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VOLUME 106, NUMBER 248

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# One injured in shooting

## Police believe Monday incident gang-related

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

The Big Spring Police Department is investigating a shooting that wounded at least one person in the 700 block of Lancaster Monday afternoon.

Officers were dispatched to the 700 block of Lancaster shortly after 2 p.m. Monday on a report of shots fired with at least one person hit, according to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer for the BSPD.

"As officers arrived (at the scene of the shooting) they were notified by dispatch that a victim with gunshot wounds had arrived at the emergency room (at Scenic Mountain

Medical Center) by private vehicle," Everett said.

The victim was identified as 19-year-old Fernando Rodriguez of Big Spring, according to police reports.

"The victim suffered wounds to both legs," Everett said, "The wounds were not life-threatening, but the victim was kept at the hospital overnight for observation."

Everett said a male subject at the residence where the shooting took place was questioned and released.

"The gun used was a .357 magnum revolver," Everett said. "It was recovered at the scene of the shooting. Officers learned that the victim, who

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HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

**Big Spring Police Department Crime Scene Investigator Wayne Jones marks shell casings left behind during Monday afternoon's shooting in the 700 block of Lancaster as evidence. A local 19-year-old sustained gunshot wounds to both legs in the altercation, according to police officials.**

# AG's office investigating death of Alzheimer's patient

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

The Texas Attorney General's Office is investigating the death of a patient who apparently walked away from Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home Saturday.

According to Big Spring Police Department Lt. Terry Chamness, the patient — whose name has not been released to the media — was discovered lying in the roadway near the 500 block of the Lamesa Highway.

"Officers found the man lying in the roadway," Chamness said. "There was no indication that he had been struck by a vehicle. He was transported to the Scenic Mountain Medical Center emer-

**"At this point in the investigation this incident appears to be a most unfortunate accident. We are cooperating fully with the state in the investigation."**

—Gary Anderson, Sears Methodist Retirement System executive vice president of operations

gency room, where doctors examining him also said there was no indication he had been hit."

Chamness said the man didn't appear to have suffered any physical injuries when he arrived at the emergency room.

"When they admitted him, they didn't see anything life threatening," he said. "They performed a CAT scan and didn't find anything. Shortly after, they performed a second CAT scan and identified an aneurism in his brain. At that point he was airlifted to a hospital in Lubbock, where he later passed away."

Chamness confirmed the investigation into the matter is still open and has been taken over by the Texas Attorney General's Office.

"Investigators with the attorney general's office were in Big Spring Monday looking into the incident," Chamness said. "They have taken over the

See **DEATH**, Page 3A

## EDC meets tonight

Herald Staff Report

BigSpringEconomicDevelopmentCorporation will hold its monthly meeting today at 5:15 p.m. in the Chamber board room.

Executive Director Terry Wegman said the meeting will be routine. Among the action items will be consideration of an incentive agreement with CeRame-Kote Inc.

- Other items on the agenda include:
- Action on financials and investment reports
  - Action on the revised annual budget for 2011-2012
  - Action on the annual report for 2011-2012

The board also will hear a report from Wegman and an update on conferences and meetings will also be given.

## Sonic supports Dine-Out-Days

Dine-Out-Days continues for United Way of Howard County and Big Spring. This week, Sonic will be the Dine-Out-Days sponsor. A portion of their funds raised during the week will go toward the 2012 campaign.

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# Concussion discussion on CISD agenda

Herald Staff Report

COAHOMA — When they meet at 7 p.m. tonight, Coahoma Independent School District trustees will consider a policy covering athletes who suffer concussions during games.

The policy, which is mandated by both the Texas Legislature and the University Interscholastic League, will set guidelines on how athletes who suffer concussions are moni-

tored and when they will be allowed to return to action.

"People on the campuses will be trained in the recognition and management of concussions," Interim Superintendent Gary Harrell said. "And the school will have to establish a protocol on when the student will be allowed to return to games."

Harrell noted that four CISD coaches have completed a training program designed to comply with the state mandate.

Also tonight, trustees will consider purchasing a school bus via the Buy Board, a state cooperative purchasing plan that Harrell said is cheaper than if the district advertised for bids locally.

In other business, trustees will:

- Hear reports on enrollment and attendance, as well as a monthly update from Harrell.
- Consider routine items such as the monthly financial statement and investment reports.

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## Obituaries

### Benito 'Benny' Rodriguez



Benito "Benny" Rodriguez, 44, of Big Spring died Saturday, Sept. 17, 2011, at Midland Memorial Hospital. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Reynaldo Bennett officiating. Burial will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

He was born Sept. 12, 1967, in Big Spring, Texas, to Betty and Patricio Rodriguez. He is a self-employed contractor, plumber and carpenter. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and was a member of Light House Restoration Center.

He is survived by one son, Jesse Rodriguez of Big Spring; three daughters, Vicki Viera, Josie Rodriguez and Sabrina Rodriguez, all of Big Spring; father, Patricio Rodriguez of Big Spring; one brother, Pat Richard Rodriguez of Big Spring; four sisters, Frances Morales of Springfield, Mo., and Patricia Robles, Norma Shipp and Melissa Ruiz, all of Big Spring; one grandchild, Malachi Rodriguez of Big Spring; and a number of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Betty Rodriguez; and one grandson, Adam Viera.

Pallbearers will be Jesse Rodriguez, Matt Robles, Pete Galan, John Galan, Caleb Chavez and Raymond Rodriguez. Honorary pallbearers will be Ruben Gutierrez Jr. and Patrick Ruiz.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

*Paid obituary*

### Clara Puga

Clara Puga, 82, of Big Spring died Friday, Sept. 16, 2011, at her residence. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2011, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Vigil services will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2011, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

She was born June 7, 1929, in Ruidosa, Texas, and married Juan Olivas Puga on Dec. 8, 1965, in Big Spring, Texas. He preceded her in death March 15, 2001.

Clara was a homemaker. She was very active in church and was a Cursillistas.

Survivors include a daughter, Juana Puga and husband Sabino Toledo of Millsap; three sisters, Petra Villa Salazar and Lenor Villa Gonzales, both of Big Spring and Emma Villa Gonzales of San Antonio; one brother, Jose Villa Jr. of Big Spring; three grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jose and Gregoria Villa; one brother, Celestino Villa; and two sisters, Carolina Villa Rojo and Rosa Villa.

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

### Eugenia Ochoa

Eugenia Ochoa, 89, of Big Spring died Monday, Sept. 19, 2011. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

### Lena Heard

Lena Heard, 92, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2011, at Coronado Nursing Center in Abilene, Texas. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Police blotter

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

- JEFFERY WILLIAMS, 55, transient, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- ADRIANA MARIE ENRIQUEZ, 22, of 1900 Martin Luther King Blvd. Apt. 216, was arrested Monday on a warrant for no safety belt.
- STACEY LYNN PENDLETON, 36, of 1800 S. Lancaster, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 2600 block of S. Gregg Street.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported: In the 4300 block of Connally. In the 600 block of State.
- ASSAULT was reported: In the 400 block of E. Fourth Street. In the 1000 block of N. Main Street. In the 2500 block of S. Gregg Street. In the 400 block of E. Fourth Street. In the 400 block of N. Scurry.
- STOLEN VEHICLE was reported in the 1700 block of Jennings.
- SHOTS FIRED was reported in the 700 block of Lancaster.
- THEFT was reported in the 200 block of Washington Blvd.

## Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 84 inmates at the time of this report.

- LEONA JENE RADASA, 29, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- ERIK BRYAN SELLERS, 28, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of public intoxication and resisting arrest, search or transportation.
- TREVOR LEE SMITH, 20, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for burglary of a habitation.
- LAWRENCE EUGENE HARRISON, 35, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for no seat belt – passenger and violation of a promise to appear.
- ADRIANA MARIE ENRIQUEZ, 22, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for no seat belt – passenger, violation of a promise to appear and a charge of assault by contact.
- JEFFREY KEITH WILLIAMS, 55, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- STACY LYNN PENDLETON, 36, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- MICHAEL OSCAR YANEZ, 38, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
- MICHAEL WILSON CARL, 28, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on charges of possession of a dangerous drug, unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon, violation of a protective order and a Midland County warrant.
- MARTHA FINA LOPEZ, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of assault causing bodily injury – family violence.
- ALBERT RIVAS, 52, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- MICHAEL JAMES MCMILLIAN, 35, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a Bexar County warrant for theft by check.
- FRANCISCO JESUS NIETO, 32, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of Class C assault – family violence.
- DUSTIN JAMES SAUCEDO, 22, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of public intoxication and Class C assault – family violence.

## Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 3600 block of Calvin. Service refused.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 100 block of

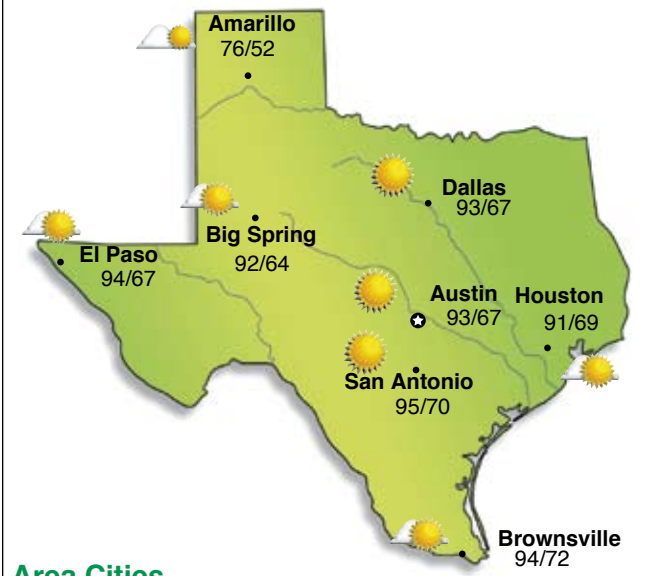
## Today's Weather

### Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 9/21	Thu 9/22	Fri 9/23	Sat 9/24	Sun 9/25
92/64 Mostly sunny skies. Hot. High 92F. Winds E at 5 to 10 mph.	79/63 Partly cloudy with a stray thunderstorm.	92/65 More sun than clouds. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the mid 60s.	94/66 Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the mid 60s.	93/66 Mostly sunny. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the mid 60s.
Sunrise: 7:33 AM Sunset: 7:44 PM	Sunrise: 7:34 AM Sunset: 7:43 PM	Sunrise: 7:35 AM Sunset: 7:42 PM	Sunrise: 7:35 AM Sunset: 7:40 PM	Sunrise: 7:36 AM Sunset: 7:39 PM



## Texas At A Glance



### Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	92	63	mst sunny	Kingsville	96	70	mst sunny
Amarillo	76	52	pt sunny	Livingston	93	66	mst sunny
Austin	93	67	sunny	Longview	92	66	sunny
Beaumont	89	67	mst sunny	Lubbock	81	56	pt sunny
Brownsville	94	72	mst sunny	Lufkin	94	67	mst sunny
Brownwood	94	66	sunny	Midland	91	65	mst sunny
Corpus Christi	94	72	mst sunny	Raymondville	96	71	mst sunny
Corsicana	93	66	sunny	Rosenberg	91	69	mst sunny
Dallas	93	67	sunny	San Antonio	95	70	sunny
Del Rio	95	71	sunny	San Marcos	94	67	sunny
El Paso	94	67	mst sunny	Sulphur Springs	91	66	sunny
Fort Stockton	94	65	mst sunny	Sweetwater	90	63	mst sunny
Gainesville	90	61	mst sunny	Tyler	92	66	sunny
Greenville	91	64	sunny	Weatherford	91	63	sunny
Houston	91	69	mst sunny	Wichita Falls	89	60	pt sunny

### National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	77	64	t-storm	Minneapolis	54	45	rain
Boston	76	63	pt sunny	New York	75	68	rain
Chicago	70	48	rain	Phoenix	100	73	sunny
Dallas	93	67	sunny	San Francisco	77	59	sunny
Denver	66	46	pt sunny	Seattle	78	61	cloudy
Houston	91	69	mst sunny	St. Louis	78	53	pt sunny
Los Angeles	81	63	sunny	Washington, DC	77	69	t-storm
Miami	90	79	t-storm				

### Moon Phases



### UV Index

Wed 9/21	Thu 9/22	Fri 9/23	Sat 9/24	Sun 9/25
9	9	9	9	9
Very High	Very High	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.

Weaver. Service refused.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of Abrams. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 900 block of Lamesa Highway. Service refused.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported at the intersection of FM 700 and Birdwell Lane. Three people were transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Johnson. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.

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**News in brief**

**Obama's deficit plan targets drug companies, hospitals and future Medicare beneficiaries**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Health care savings in President Barack Obama's deficit-reduction plan would squeeze future Medicare recipients, cut payments to drug companies and hospitals, and shift costs to states.

Still, some advocates say the president's approach is less painful than other major ideas being debated this year, from privatizing Medicare to letting the states run Medicaid without a federal guarantee that the poor would get needed care.

"This is a question of 'compared to what?'" said John Rother, president of the National Coalition on Health Care, a research and advocacy group. "I would describe this as an attempt to spread the pain pretty broadly. While it does hit Medicare beneficiaries, it's better than most of the alternatives we've seen thus far, which would involve bigger hits."

Obama did promise Medicare beneficiaries that he'd veto any legislation asking them to sacrifice without also raising taxes on upper-income earners. But he didn't issue them a complete pass.

Instead, his administration is borrowing from corporate America's playbook by proposing to raise a range of costs for future retirees, while mostly shielding Medicare's 48 million current beneficiaries. Under the president's plan, starting in 2017:

**Military portrays repeal of gay ban as business-as-usual, after months of preparation**

WASHINGTON (AP) — After years of debate and months of final preparations, the military can no longer prevent gays from serving openly in its ranks.

Repeal of a 1993 law that allowed gays to serve only so long as they kept their sexual orientation private took effect Tuesday at 12:01 a.m. EDT.

Some in Congress still oppose the change, but top Pentagon leaders have certified that it will not undermine the military's ability to recruit or to fight wars.

The Army was distributing a business-as-usual statement Tuesday saying simply, "The law is repealed," and reminding soldiers to treat each other fairly.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, scheduled a Pentagon news conference to field questions about the repeal. And a bipartisan group of congressional supporters of allowing openly gay service planned a news conference on Capitol Hill.

**Palestinians say they will submit letter seeking UN membership when Abbas speaks Friday**

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is pressing ahead Tuesday with

his diplomatic campaign to gain full U.N. membership, brushing aside heated Israeli objections and a promised U.S. veto as the issue of Palestinian statehood takes center stage with world leaders gathering for the opening of the U.N. General Assembly session.

Abbas had meetings scheduled Tuesday with French President Nicolas Sarkozy and Lebanese President Michel Suleiman, among leaders, as he sought to line up support ahead of his speech Friday to the General Assembly when the Palestinians vow to submit a letter formally requesting U.N. membership.

Envoys of the Quartet of Mideast mediators — the U.S., the U.N., the European Union and Russia — planned to meet again Tuesday in an effort to avert a divisive showdown over Palestinian statehood by crafting a way forward that would be enough to persuade the Palestinians to drop their bid and have enough caveats for Israel to get its support.

As the Palestinians edged closer to seeking statehood recognition from the United Nations, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called for Abbas to meet with him in New York. The Israel leader said he wanted to resume peace talks, upping the pressure on Abbas and building on the frenzied diplomacy swirling around the Palestinians' bid.

Regardless, Abbas said he had not been swayed by what he called "tremendous pressure" to drop the bid for U.N. recognition and instead to resume peace talks with Israel. Senior aides to the Palestinian leader said Abbas was undaunted by threats of punitive measures.

**FACT CHECK: Data disputes Obama claim that millionaires pay less in taxes than secretaries**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama makes it sound like there are millionaires all over America paying taxes at lower rates than their secretaries.

"Middle-class families shouldn't pay higher taxes than millionaires and billionaires," Obama said Monday. "That's pretty straightforward. It's hard to argue against that."

The data tells a different story. On average, the wealthiest people in America pay a lot more taxes than the middle class or the poor, according to private and government data. They pay at a higher rate, and as a group, they contribute a much larger share of the overall taxes collected by the federal government.

There may be individual millionaires who pay taxes at rates lower than middle-income workers. In 2009, 1,470 households filed tax returns with incomes above \$1 million yet paid no federal income tax, according to the Internal Revenue Service. That, however, was less than 1 percent of the nearly 237,000 returns with incomes above \$1 million.

In his White House address Monday, Obama called on Congress to increase taxes by \$1.5 trillion as part of a 10-year deficit reduction package totaling more than \$3 trillion. He proposed that

Congress overhaul the tax code and impose what he called the "Buffett rule," named for billionaire investor Warren Buffett.

**Pardons board in Ga. weighs clemency in Davis case**

ATLANTA (AP) — The Georgia pardons board is likely to announce Tuesday whether it will grant leniency to condemned cop killer Troy Davis.

The board questioned Davis supporters about his claims of innocence and listened to the officer's family tearfully ask for the execution during a day-long hearing Monday.

Davis, 42, has long claimed he's innocent of killing Mark MacPhail in 1989 in Savannah, and the doubt about his guilt has attracted a host of high-profile supporters from the pope to former U.S. president Jimmy Carter. After decades of legal wrangling, Davis is set to be put to death by injection Wednesday, the fourth time in four years his execution has been scheduled.

The Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles has the power to change death sentences but rarely does.

MacPhail's family said after the hearing they asked the board to reject Davis' clemency bid so they can have peace.

**First elections since Arab Spring uprisings more about stalling change than expanding freedoms**

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The first elections since the Arab Spring uprisings will be more about holding back change than expanding political freedoms: voting in three Gulf nations that poses no threat to old guard rulers or their efforts to unite against calls for fast-track reforms.

None of the planned elections this month will even slightly loosen the hold of rulers — the central aim of the street protests that have toppled leaders from Tunisia to Egypt and threaten to do the same in Syria and Yemen.

Yet each of the voting rounds — a stopgap parliamentary election in violence-battered Bahrain and tightly controlled balloting in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — tells a different story about the upheavals and the chances for change among the region's wealthiest and most entrenched royal houses and ruling families.

"Each one, in their own way, reflects the new environment that the entire region faces," said Salman Shaikh, director of The Brookings Doha Center in Qatar.

**MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL**

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Benito "Benny" Rodriguez, 44, died Saturday. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Eugenia Ochoa, 89, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Lena Heard, 92, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

**SHOTS**

Continued from Page 1A

does not reside at the residence, was involved in a fight prior to the shooting with one of the people who live there."

Everett said investigators found bullet holes in the residence and several .45 caliber shell casings in a nearby street, indicating at least two handguns had been fired in the incident.

"No clear motive (for the shooting) has been established, but there is gang involvement," Ev-

erett said.

Everett declined to elaborate on the alleged gang involvement, citing an open investigation.

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

**DEATH**

Continued from Page 1A

investigation at this time."

The veterans home is operated by Sears Methodist Retirement System.

When called for comment, Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home Director Bob Kerr referred questions to Sears Methodist Retirement System spokesperson Gary Anderson.

Anderson, the executive vice president of operations for SMRS, said the incident was a "most unfortunate accident" and he is working hand-in-hand with the state to investigate how the patient was able to

leave the local facility.

"We're currently talking to the staff and other patients' family members who were there at the time," Anderson said. "We believe he was able to leave (the Alzheimer's wing) by walking out along with family members who were there visiting patients. He had only been there one night and it's my understanding he was extremely agitated.

"At this point in the investigation this incident appears to be a most unfortunate accident. We are cooperating fully with the state in the investigation. Investigators with the state, along with officers from the BSPD, were at the facility Monday and

it's our normal procedure to notify both anytime something like this happens."

Tom Kelley, a press office spokesman for the Texas Attorney General's Office, would not comment on whether or not an investigation into the incident had been opened.

"I'm sorry, our office does not disclose or acknowledge the exist-

ence of investigations," Kelley said Monday.

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

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# EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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# End of the world? — No proof

Many of you may remember a column I wrote not too long ago about Harold Camping, the 89-year-old Colorado-native who predicted the end of the world would happen May 21 of this year.

After months — actually, it's more like years — of warning the citizens of the planet Earth God's judgment would begin with terrible earthquakes and natural disasters of a never-before-seen magnitude all around the world, Camping's doomsday prediction was a flop.

However, failure does little to sway a crackpot like Camping, although his recent stay in a mental facility might just slow him down a bit. No, he has already said he made a miscalculation and the actual date will be Oct. 21, also known as my daughter's birthday.

Bear in mind, however, Camping isn't the only nut running around yelling "The end is near!" There are plenty of people out there who are waiting for Dec. 21, 2012 — as our newspaper's publisher keeps reminding us — which is supposed to be the end of days foretold by the Mayans.

Like most people, I get a good chuckle from these nut jobs, and it's safe to say I enjoy ridiculing them for their steadfast beliefs. The reason I could laugh, however, is because I always viewed them as a form of entertainment, sort of like those fruit bars in Montana who spend their days muttering incoherent slogans into a two-way radio they believe belongs to God.

Unfortunately, these doomsayers aren't nearly as harmless as I wanted to believe.

"I hear the argument that predictions made by doomsday prophets like Harold Camping are harmless because the majority of people will ignore them," Dr. Christopher Keating, a physics professor, said. "But, many

people ruined themselves financially because of Camping's prediction that the rapture would occur on May 21.

"In the past, predictions like this have even led people to commit suicide. It's difficult to stand by and watch while people are harmed because of someone like Camping."

Keating, author of *Dialogues on 2012: Why the World Will Not End*, said both science and religion have been misused by doom-sayers, and the Mayan prediction is no different.

"Science and religion have both been misused by fear-mongers to promote the idea the world will come to an end in October, in 2012 or what ever comes next," he said. "There is always the next crackpot who thinks he has all of the great answers."

"I wish there was a way to convince the public that these people are merely putting forth these ideas for their own self-promotion and profit. Just look at Camping. He originally predicted the rapture would occur in 1994 and people believed him. Now, even though he was wrong last time, people mindlessly followed him again."

"Claims about Dec. 21, 2012, are fiction with no scientific evidence or validity. The world will still be here on Dec. 22, 2012. The basis of the 2012 prediction comes from the 'Mayan' calendar, but that calendar is not even Mayan. It was developed more than a thousand years before the rise of the Mayan civilization and was already well-established before the Maya ever appeared on the scene."

Keating is a professor of physics with 20 years experience conducting research in space physics with several published scientific papers. His experience as a teacher includes nearly all topics in undergraduate physics, space science and astronomy. He has also served for over 30 years in the United States Navy and Navy Reserve working principally as an analyst in naval intelligence.

Moreover, Keating pointed out the Mayans weren't necessarily the most qualified people to make

any kind of enlightened predictions. While the mystery of the Maya civilization's demise is intriguing, the Maya were not the advanced civilization some are claiming.

"The Maya did not have any special powers or knowledge that would allow them to make any such prediction," Keating said. "They were not an enlightened civilization. They engaged in terrible violence, including horrific animal and human sacrifices, frequently preceded by torture. The bodies of the victims were thrown into the source of their drinking water. The common people would bury their dead under the floors of their homes. They didn't even have the wheel. How is it this culture is supposed to have been so intelligent they were able to predict the end of the world?"

The difference between the latest Camping debacle and the 2012 predictions is that Keating believes the 2012 doomsayers are twisting science to support their wild claims.

"Camping used these bizarre numerology arguments to get his end date. 2012 people are using false arguments and bad science. As an example, recent news coverage concerning Comet Elenin has all the 2012 theorists in a tizzy," he added. "Comet Elenin is a small comet that is currently over twice as far from Earth as the Sun, but some believers in the prophecy are claiming it will be responsible for earthquakes and a shift of the Earth's axis."

"Basically, people just need to use a little common sense when they hear these stories about the end of the world. If people would do just a little research on their own we could quickly put the fear-mongers out of business and prevent a lot of harm. It would be great if science received as much attention from the public as these false predictions."

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

# Global warming is here, but don't forget it could be worse

Bark beetles and egrets don't care whether Governor This or Senator That believes in global warming. They feel it in their whatevers. Responding to warmer temperatures, plant and wildlife are moving north or uphill to cooler elevations, according to a new study published in *Science* magazine. For example, higher temperatures in the Rocky Mountains have set off a population explosion of bark beetles now devouring its beautiful pine forests.

Will humans follow the flora and fauna? The question, of course, goes beyond matters of biology. Climatologists say planet warming makes hurricanes fiercer and droughts meaner. Human inhabitants of regions prone to such calamities suffer the discomfort or fear of rising sea levels, wind, deluges and fire. But global warming will also cost them.

Insurers are now including climate change in their calculations of risks, reports Bloomberg BusinessWeek. This could mean higher premiums. It could mean forcing homeowners to spend more on such items as wind-proofing. It could mean shrinking coverage for natural disasters — narrowing the so-called God Clause.

The drought in Texas has reached biblical proportions. Wildfires are consuming homes.

Ranchers have given up their cattle, as farmers lose their crops. In some parts, water supplies are so low and concentrated that people are brushing teeth with bottled water.

Climatologists are listing factors other than global warming, chiefly La Nina, a cooling pattern in the tropical Pacific that holds off rain. But climate change has left Texas starting from a hotter base. Its temperatures are now 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit higher than they were in the '80s and '90s. That means you need more water than before to grow the same amount of crops.

By 2060, Texas could be five degrees hotter than now, according to state climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon.

He has declared this the worst one-year drought in recorded Texas history and the hottest summer of any state in U.S. history. (Oklahoma and New Mexico are not far behind.)

Texas is no stranger to droughts. There was a long and terrible siege in the 1950s. But besides a lower base temperature, the big difference in 1950 was that Texas had fewer than 8 million people to supply with water. It now has 25 million.

The drought has inspired Gov. Rick Perry to pray for rain. He accuses scientists who insist that humans burning fossil fuels plays a role in global warming (the expert consensus, actually) of making it up to enhance their research budgets. If man has little or nothing to do with it, then man can just sit back. Or perhaps move to Minnesota.

Meanwhile, Texas homeown-

ers are confronting massive electric bills for running air conditioners as temperatures swelter in the triple digits for weeks at a time. A friend in Palestine, Texas, reports that he doesn't lower his thermostat below 85 degrees during the day, to avoid getting clobbered by a massive a/c bill. And monthly water costs are soaring, with some residential bills going well into the hundreds.

The wildfires have fouled the air. The beauty of local vegetation is gone. Birds migrating south could die of thirst. (Texans have been asked to put out bowls of water for the hummingbirds passing through.)

Elsewhere, North Carolina is cleaning up the debris from Hurricane Irene. New Jersey and Pennsylvania, hit by Irene, were flooded again by Tropical Storm Lee.

Stuff does happen in nature. But it takes a sturdy hostility to science to bash the experts giving us all fair warning of worse cataclysm ahead if we don't act.

Do nothing to curb global warming, and we humans will be following the bark beetle up the slopes.

To find out more about Froma Harrop, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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

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- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
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## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

With You, Lord, we can have a satisfying relationship.

Amen

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# Kid Scoop

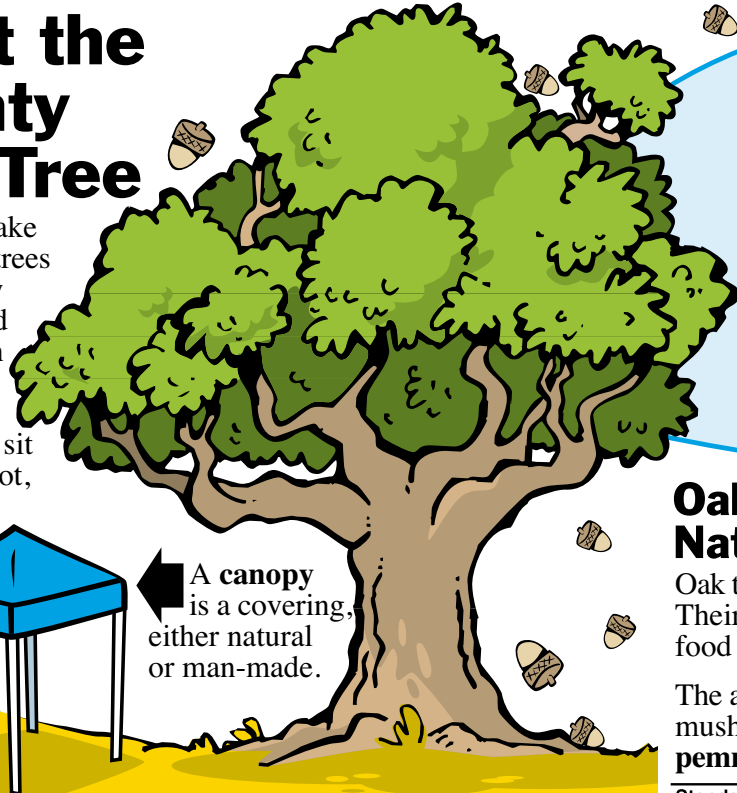
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## Kid Scoop FIT & FUN

2011: INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FOREST

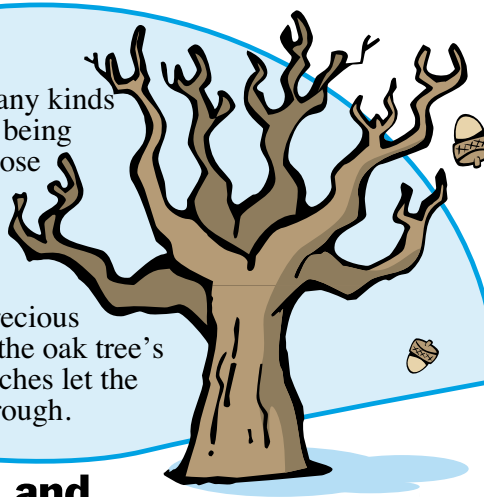
## Meet the Mighty Oak Tree

Oak trees make good shade trees because they grow tall and wide enough to create a big canopy that you can sit under on a hot, sunny day.



A canopy is a covering, either natural or man-made.

In winter, many kinds of oak trees, being **deciduous**, lose their leaves. During that time when sunlight is especially precious for warmth, the oak tree's leafless branches let the sun shine through.



## Oak Trees and Native Americans

Oak trees provided more than shade for the first Americans. Their fruit, known as **acorns**, were an essential source of food for Native Americans from coast to coast.

The acorns were ground into a meal that was used to make mush or pounded with meat, fat and berries to make **pemmican**, a paste that dries into chewy, nutritious strips.

**Standards Links:** History: Students understand the daily life and values of Native American cultures.

**Standards Links:** Science: Students know that living things in an ecosystem are independent for survival.

## Don't Eat That Acorn!

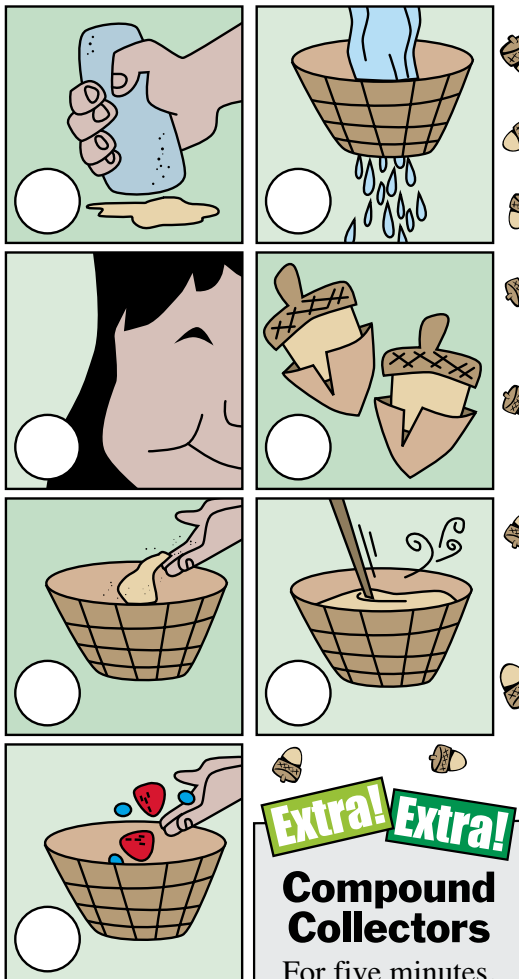
Don't pick an acorn and try to eat it right off the tree. It is full of chemicals called **tannins** that taste terrible and could make you sick. Before acorns can be used to make food, the meal must be carefully prepared.

How many acorns can you find on this page?

## Making Acorns Safe for Eating

Read the steps that Native Americans followed to remove tannins from acorns. Then number the pictures in the correct order.

1. Shell the acorns by splitting the outer shell and removing the light-colored inner nut.
2. Grind the shelled acorns into a fine meal.
3. Scoop the pounded meal into a basket.
4. Rinse the acorn meal with hot water to wash away the tannins. The meal must be rinsed at least ten times, or more if cold water is used.
5. Add water to the leached meal and stir with a hot rock lodged into a looped stick.
6. Add berries, seeds or dried meat for flavor.
7. Eat!



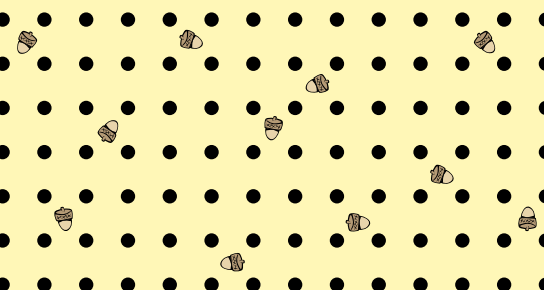
## Extra! Extra! Compound Collectors

For five minutes, look through the newspaper or your newspaper's website for compound words. Then have a friend try. Who found the most compound words?

**Standards Links:** Vocabulary Development: Identify and read compound words.

## Acorn Gathering Game

With a friend, take turns drawing a horizontal or vertical line between two dots. Completing a square is worth 1 point. If there's an acorn in the box, that's worth 5 points.



## In a Nutshell

Nutshell is a compound word. Draw a line from each acorn cap to a nut to form compound words.

## Kid Scoop Puzzler

Match each acorn to the kind of oak tree it comes from. Do the math to check your answers.

	Golden Oak		Tanbark Oak		Black Oak
	$17 - 11 = \underline{\quad}$		$15 - 8 = \underline{\quad}$		$21 - 12 = \underline{\quad}$

**Standards Links:** Number Sense: Calculate sums and differences.



Read the Native American legend of *The Acorn Maidens*. Go to: [www.kidscoop.com/kids](http://www.kidscoop.com/kids)

## Double Double Word Search

- DECIDUOUS
- PEMMICAN
- SUNLIGHT
- POUNDED
- TANNINS
- NATIVE
- CANOPY
- ACORN
- COAST
- SHELL
- SHADE
- PASTE
- MEAT
- MUSH
- OAK

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.



**Standards Link:** Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

## Oak Tree Exercises

Pretend you are a mighty oak tree and give these exercises a try.



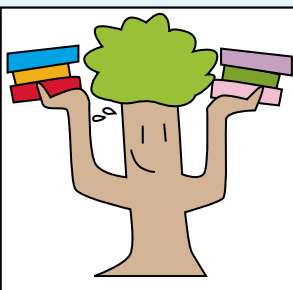
Curl up into a tight ball like an acorn. Then slowly start to stand up, stre-e-etching your arms as far as you can, like branches on a growing oak tree.



Whoa! You're now in a big wind storm. Lean as far as you can to one side, then the other.



Now it's fall. Shake, shake, shake those dead leaves off!

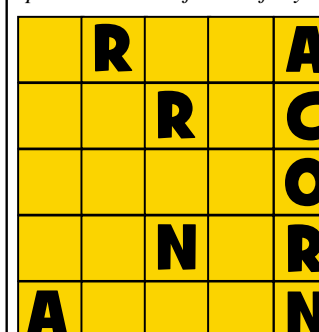


Use a stack of books in each hand to pretend some kids built a tree fort in your branches. How long can you hold the books up?

**Standards Links:** Physical Education: Use a variety of basic and advanced movement forms.

## Kid Scoop-doku

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word ACORN in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.



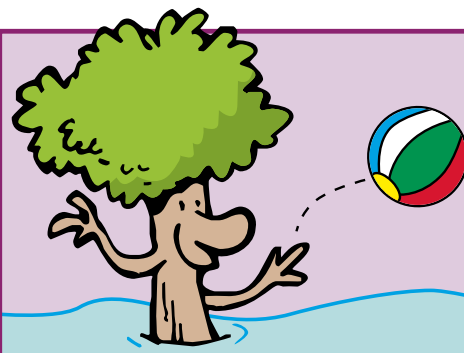
## FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

[www.kidscoop.com](http://www.kidscoop.com)

### Fall in My Town

Look through the newspaper for pictures and words that show you it is fall in your town. Cut these out and make a "Fall in My Town" poster. **Bonus Challenge:** Put the words you find in ABC order.

**Standards Links:** Visual Arts: Know how symbols are used to communicate meaning.



## What do trees wear to pool parties?

ANSWER: Swim trunks.

## Write On!

### The Old Oak Tree

One day I was climbing an old oak tree and ...  
*Finish this story.*



Courtesy photo

Spending its summer in the northern part of the United States and northwestern Canada, the house wren may migrate through Texas from mid-September until the middle of November. Weighing almost half an ounce, it uses its repertoire of sounds to sing melodically during courtship, or to scold with a strident chatter in voicing its disapproval.

## Bird gets caught in the crossfire

Stepping from their vehicles, they welcomed the stillness of a cool September morning. After unloading equipment came the careful attention to their relics of the past.

Ancestors were not a prerequisite for their enjoyment of this day. An appreciation of archaic armament had brought them to an isolated edge of the county. The opportunity to use their own treasure and, hopefully, inspect that of others was their

excuse for the gathering.

Before noon, conversations ceased. Well out of earshot of roads and ranch houses, they began to load their weapons. The sounds of rods tamping powder were a prelude to the excitement generated by explosive bursts from rifles and guns once used in a long ago war.

As the shooting progressed, the air was filled with smoke discharged from each firing. In the time it took to reload, several realized what it must have been like on an active battlefield.

The pace of explosive belches slowed as each repeated the routine of arming such ancient weaponry.



BIRD POOP  
BEBE  
MCCASLAND

See BIRD, Page 7A

## An owner's manual: Tips to finding happiness

Through the years I have made a list of things that add a touch of happiness to one's life that I would like to share with you.

I know you have heard each of them from time to time but it's always good to stop and consider what each means and how each can bring that "touch of happiness" to your life:

- Drink plenty of water.
- Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince and dinner like a beggar.
- Eat more foods that grow on trees and plants and eat less food that is manufactured in plants.
- Live with the three Es — Energy, Enthusiasm and

Empathy.



PARENT'S  
CORNER  
DARRELL RYAN

- And while you walk, smile.
- Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
- Eliminate negative

- Make time to play.
- Read more books than you did last year.
- Sit in silence for at least 10 minutes each day.
- Sleep for seven hours each night.
- Take a 30 minute walk daily.

thoughts and things you cannot control. Instead invest your energy in the positive and in the present moment.

- Don't over-do. Know your limits.
- Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
- Don't waste your precious energy on gossip.
- Dream more while you are awake.
- Don't waste your time on envy.
- Forget issues of the past. Don't remind your partner of his/her mistakes of the past. That will ruin your present happiness.
- Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
- Make peace with your past so it won't spoil the

present.

- No one is in charge of your happiness except you.
- Realize that life is a school and you are here to learn. Problems are part of the curriculum; they appear and fade away but the lessons you learn last a lifetime.
- You don't have to win every argument.
- Agree to disagree.
- Call your family often.
- Each day, do something good for others.
- Forgive everyone for everything.
- For a learning experience, spend some time with people over the age of 70 and under the age of 8.
- Try to make at least three people smile each day.

• What other people think of you is none of your business.

- Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends will.
- Do the right thing.
- Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful, or joyful.
- However good or bad the situation, it will change.
- No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
- The best is yet to come.
- When you awake alive each morning, smile and be thankful for another day.

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

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# Texas news in brief

## North Texas firefighter fatally shoots burglar

FORT WORTH (AP) — Authorities say a Keller firefighter who fatally shot a man who broke into his North Texas home has been placed on administrative leave.

Saginaw police spokesman Damon Ing says David Wilson told police he walked in on a burglar in his home about 10 miles north of Fort Worth on Monday afternoon.

Keller City Manager Dan O'Leary told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that Wilson has been with the fire department for five years.

O'Leary says the firefighter and paramedic is on leave while police investigate the shooting.

## Ex Army recruiter to die for slaying in Fort Worth

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — A former Army recruiter condemned for the rape-slaying of a woman in Fort Worth nearly a decade ago is looking to the U.S. Supreme Court to stop his execution for a third time this year.

Forty-seven-year-old Cleve Foster faces lethal injection Tuesday evening in Huntsville.

Foster was spared by the Supreme Court in January and again in April. His lawyers are arguing he's innocent and had deficient legal help during his trial and early in his appeals. State lawyers say his issues have been resolved by the courts and the last-day appeal is just another attempt to delay the punishment.

Foster would be the 11th Texas prisoner executed this year.

On Wednesday, Lawrence Russell Brewer is set to die for his part in the notorious Jasper dragging death case.

## Congressional hearing focuses on border security

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — Four months after President Barack Obama went to the other end of the Texas-Mexico border to tally achievements in border security and call for comprehensive immigration reform, a Republican congressman said the border remains unsafe and convened a hearing Monday in this border city to show it.

"I do believe that the concept out of Washington that the border is as secure as it has ever been is not actually factual," said U.S. Rep. Ted Poe, a Texas Republican. "The federal government is probably doing more than it has in recent years but the border ... is still not secure."

Poe, a member of the House Judiciary committee's subcommittee on immigration policy and enforcement, said from the start that he didn't want to combine border security and immigration. But since a secure border is the prerequisite many Republicans have set for immigration reform and the goalpost Obama accused Republicans of moving

during his May speech in El Paso, immigration remained the unspoken presence at the hearing on the campus of the University of Texas-Brownsville.

Poe cited the number of foreign nationals in county jails along the border and the Border Patrol's statement earlier this year that 44 percent of the southwest border is under "operational control" to hammer home the insecurity.

"There are some in the federal bureaucracy who would have us believe that the violence is all in Mexico," Poe said. "These individuals know firsthand the violence is not confined to Mexico."

## Off-duty federal agent killed in domestic dispute

EAGLE PASS (AP) — An off-duty Border Patrol agent and a house guest were fatally wounded when a dispute between the two erupted in gunfire.

Eagle Pass Police Chief Antonio Castaneda tells the San Antonio Express-News that agent Alejandro Acevedo died Monday night at an Eagle Pass hospital of multiple bullet wounds.

Omar Olivares died earlier after the Monday afternoon shootout at Acevedo's flat at the Azteca Apartments. Olivares was a 28-year-old cousin to Acevedo's wife.

Castaneda says tension had been growing between Olivares and his 29-year-old host over the length of the guest's stay. The chief says officers found two of Acevedo's children hiding in a closet, uninjured. Acevedo's wife and eldest child were not home.

## Roof leak soaks files in Central Texas courthouse

BRYAN (AP) — A downpour from a thunderstorm exposed a leak in a Central Texas courthouse roof and soaked hundreds of boxes of court and government files.

The four-story Brazos County Courthouse in Bryan has been under renovation for more than a year. The Eagle of Bryan-College Station reports water from the leak early Monday flowed from the fourth floor to the first floor, where the county attorney's office appeared to be the worst affected.

District Attorney Bill Turner's staff spent much of the day going through its files on the fourth floor to see what files were salvageable. Prosecutor Danny Smith says some of his damaged files were notes from capital murder cases.

## DOJ: 2 Texas voting maps don't meet federal law

AUSTIN (AP) — The U.S. Department of Justice said in a court filing Monday that Texas' new voting maps for Congress and for the Texas House do not meet federal anti-discrimination requirements, setting up a legal battle that will decide the landscape of future elections in the state.

The case, which involves the election districts drawn by the Republican-led Texas Legislature,

will likely be decided by a federal court in Washington, D.C.

District boundaries are redrawn every 10 years to reflect changes in census data. Any changes to Texas' voting practices must be cleared by a federal court or the Justice Department to ensure changes do not discriminate based on race or color.

The Justice Department took issue with the maps for Congress and the Texas House, but it agreed with the state attorney general that maps for the Texas Senate and State Board of Education met requirements under the federal Voting Rights Act. But the Justice Department reiterated that the court would have to make its own determination on the education board and Senate maps.

The agency denied that the congressional and House plans maintain or increase the ability of minority voters to elect their candidate of choice, as required by federal law. The Voting Rights Act requires map drawers to give special protection to districts that contain mostly minorities.

"The D.C. court will have to hear these issues fully and we will have a chance to put in our evidence supporting why we think that the plan should not be pre-cleared," said Nina Perales, an attorney for the Mexican American Legal and Defense Fund.

"Now, it's going to have to be decided by the court."

## Texas man suspected of series of rapes testifies

EDNA (AP) — A Texas man suspected of being a serial rapist who targeted older women told jurors Monday that he was sexually abused as a child, suffers from multiple personality disorder and has been visited by aliens.

Billy Joe Harris, 54, then verbally sparred with a prosecutor who tried to convince jurors that Harris' claims were simply attempts to manipulate the justice system. Harris, his body twitching and shaking, took the stand to testify in his own defense after prosecutors rested their case earlier Monday.

Harris, a former Texas prison employee who is on trial for allegedly raping a disabled woman on Jan. 8, has pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity. He told jurors he has three other personalities inside of him, including one named Bobby, whom he described as a "bad, bad person" and David, a black Great Dane.

Authorities allege DNA samples also link Harris to five other assaults or attempted assaults over two years in Central and Southeast Texas. Authorities believe Harris is "The Twilight Rapist," so dubbed because most of the attacks happened just before dawn. The attacks rattled so many women that older volunteers at a Yoakum library in Southeast Texas began locking the doors during business hours and organizers at one community meeting gave away pepper spray as door prizes.

Investigators found evidence of careful planning at the many crime scenes, including cut phone lines outside homes.

# BIRD

Continued from Page 6A

Taking aim again, one man was startled by a blur across his vision as his finger pulled the trigger.

In less than a second, his concentration had been broken. Recoiling against his shoulder, the old rifle reminded him of his error.

As the smoke cleared, he wondered if it could have been a bird. After glancing to each side and ahead, he finally noticed a small, avian body, with a long, thin bill, lying on the ground.

Sprayed with black powder, it appeared to have only superficial wounds as he held it in his hands for the others to see. Slowly reviving from the traumatic force generated by the rifle, the bird moved slightly enough to caution the man it was still alive.

Opening a tattered box introduced us to a dusty house wren.

After finding no broken bones, and confirming to the man that the nicks of misfortune were minor, we felt time for recovery and rest were essential.

Left to its own privacy, the little songbird surprised us after several hours. With time to ruffle its feathers, then preen, it had scattered the remainder of the dust we had failed to remove, on the floor of its container. A dish of mealworms had also been appreciated.

In comparison to other wrens, the house wren was considered the plainest. With no eye-stripes, it was a moderate brown above. The sides of its head and below were a pale grayish-brown. The dullness of its covering, however, was augmented by dark brown barring on its wings and tail.

As we watched it discover nearly every inch of its enclosure, we realized how inquisitive and active this specie

is. Being an insect eater and in the midst of migration influenced our decision regarding release.

Having a side yard filled with mesquites, yuccas, agrita, and juniper, we felt the house wren could hunt for insects at its leisure. Searching bushes, dried growth and tree trunks, it could also move into our backyard to discover a stack of firewood. Both areas offered adequate cover if needed.

With freedom came the use of its short, rounded wings. Rapid beats took it to a nearby tree. After looking about and feeling safe, it proceeded to the stalk

of a spent yucca bloom. Inside the opened pods, the small bird found hidden spiders. Moving higher, it feasted on tiny insects attracted to a cluster of late blooming mesquite.

The welfare of the wren and its insatiable metabolism had guided us in our decision. Aware that often nature's healing grace outweighs our abilities, we felt the house wren's recovery could be complete in a natural setting.

For three days, we observed its movements throughout the side yard. Soon it would depart for the southern part of Texas or northern Mexico.

Sharing the house wren's success with the man who had brought it was rewarding. As for us, we were relieved the Revolutionary/Civil Wars had not claimed another victim.

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

### sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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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.

• Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-centered recovery program, is held at Cornerstone Covenant Church, 706 E. 12th St. at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call at 264-0015 or visit [www.cccbigspring.org](http://www.cccbigspring.org)

SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.  
Covered dish supper at 7 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,

# 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.

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

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**Megan Crane receives a hug after being crowned homecoming queen at halftime of Forsan High School's football game against Plains Friday night. Crane was escorted by her father Keith Crane. Her mother is Beckie Crane.**

Bruce Schooler photo



# Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

## The Fine Art of Card-Reading

West dealer. North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**

- ♠ 8 5 3
- ♥ K 10 9
- ♦ K J 10 9
- ♣ 6 5 2

**WEST**

- ♠ K 6
- ♥ J 4
- ♦ Q 8 7 2
- ♣ A K 9 8 4

**EAST**

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

**SOUTH**

- ♠ A Q 7 4 2
- ♥ A Q 8 6
- ♦ A 5
- ♣ 7 3

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
1 ♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	4 ♣

Opening lead — king of clubs.

Assume you get to four spades and West leads three rounds of clubs. You ruff the third club, enter dummy with a diamond to the king and return a trump, finessing the queen. This loses to the king, and you later lose another trump trick to go down one.

If by any chance you played the hand this way, you played it incorrectly. You could have made the contract by leading the ace and a low spade instead of taking a finesse. West would win your low spade with

the king, and, whatever he returned, you would pick up East's last spade with your queen and make the contract.

It could be argued that this line of play is easy enough if you see all 52 cards. But the fact is that the hand should be played this way without that advantage.

The reason lies in the bidding. In Standard American methods, a player holding six or more points must respond to his partner's opening bid of one of a suit. This is because the opener could have as many as 20 points, and possibly even more on occasion.

In the present case, there is no reason to think that East violated that rule when he passed West's opening bid. So after East shows up with the Q-J-10 of clubs on the first three plays, South should assume that East does not have the king of spades.

Once it is granted that West has the king of spades, it can't be right to finesse the queen. Nothing can be gained, and much can be lost, by doing so.

Declarer should reason that if West has three (or more) spades to the king, the contract cannot be made. He should therefore play for his one and only chance, namely, that West was dealt the doubleton king of spades.

Tomorrow: Similar is not the same.  
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HERALD photo/Robert Griffin

Michael Olivia (21) breaks a run back inside in recent Steers' action. The Steers will play Saturday at Midland's Grande Comm Stadium at 7p.m.

## Briefs

### Lady Steers booster meeting

The Lady Steers' Booster Club will hold its monthly meeting Sept. 22 at 6 p.m. in the high school library. Parents of girls in volleyball, basketball, cross country, cheerleading or track and also coaches of those sports are invited and encouraged to attend. Junior high parents are also welcome. For more information, contact Cheri Reibe at 432-268-9587.

# Giants scoop win from Rams

EAST RUTHERFORD (AP) — Scoop and score.

It's one of those silly expressions defensive coaches scream at their players to get them to run after the ball any time it hits the ground.

Most times, it's meaningless — the ball is dead and picking it up is a waste of time.

For Michael Boley and the New York Giants, scoop and score played a big role in a 28-16 victory over the error-prone St. Louis Rams on Monday night — the first matchup between Tom Coughlin and his former defensive coordinator, Steve Spagnuolo.

Boley made the biggest play of the game, returning

a lateral by Sam Bradford 65 yards for a second-quarter touchdown that gave the Giants (1-1) some breathing room and sent the Rams on their way to a second straight loss.

"Boley's play is tremendous," Giants defensive captain Justin Tuck said. "I've seen that happen a lot of times where guys just leave the ball there and think it's an incomplete pass."

Boley never considered leaving the ball on the turf at MetLife Stadium after Bradford's pass on a third and eight from the Giants 25 with New York ahead 7-6.

The veteran linebacker had smelled out the screen pass to Cadillac Williams

and it didn't take him long to run after the ball after Bradford's errant toss and take it down the sideline for a score.

"For us, one of the things we talk about in practice is whenever the ball hits the turf is to pick it up and leave no doubt and always scoop and score," Boley said. "Right before I picked it up I didn't hear a whistle so I am just thinking score."

Bradford, who was 22 of 46 for 331 yards, took the blame for the mistake, one of four major gaffes by the Rams that either led to or contributed to a Giants touchdown.

"They were bringing someone off that edge, and I hurried and tried to get it

around the guy and in doing that I threw it backward," Bradford said. "I just can't do that. In hindsight I probably should have called a timeout and gotten out of that play."

A muffed punt, a blown coverage late in the first half and a crucial pass interference penalty early in the second were the other key mistakes that led to the Rams handing the Giants a gift win.

"It seemed when they gave us a little opening, we jumped in there and got points and scored touchdowns and didn't settle for

See **GIANTS**, Page 2B

# Downs' late homer lifts Astros over Reds

CINCINNATI (AP) — The Houston Astros will do almost anything to get Matt Downs' bat in the lineup.

Downs made his first major league appearance in the outfield Monday night and hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning, lifting the Astros to a 3-2 win over the slumping Cincinnati Reds.

"I don't know if I thrive in those situations, but I like them," said Downs, who got the start in right. "You can turn the game around with one at-bat. It felt great."

Downs greeted Nick Masset (3-6) with a 362-foot leadoff drive to left, sending the Astros to their second straight win after a three-game losing streak.

"It was one of those at-

bats where he left something out over the plate and I put the (bathead) through it," Downs said.

Downs, who has started at all four infield positions, has been working out in the outfield, manager Brad Mills said. He handled three chances flawlessly, including two fly balls.

"We watched him settle under those two fly balls, and he looked OK," Mills said. "Then he came up with the big home run in the eighth inning. That was huge."

Brandon Phillips hit a leadoff homer in the first for Cincinnati, which has lost four straight.

Six Houston pitchers combined for a four-hitter, and the Astros turned three double plays. Cincinnati collected 13 hits while be-

ing swept by Milwaukee in a weekend series.

"We hit the ball on the ground for some double plays at the wrong time," Reds manager Dusty Baker said. "We haven't hit very well the last three games."

Rookie pitcher Carpenter (1-3) picked up his first career win by getting Phillips to ground into an inning-ending forceout with runners on first and second in the seventh.

"It was definitely a tough one," Carpenter joked about his one-batter win.

Jordan Lyles and Wesley Wright combined for a scoreless eighth, and Mark Melancon worked the ninth for his 19th save.

Phillips got the Reds off to a fast start, hitting his fifth homer in his

last eight games and No. 17 overall. It was his second leadoff homer of the season.

The Reds added another run in the second. Drew Stubbs walked with one out and swiped second before Todd Frazier doubled into the left-field corner.

Houston left-hander J.A. Happ settled down after the rough start, setting a season high with nine strikeouts in six innings. He allowed three hits and walked three.

"I felt like I was in a good comfort zone," said Happ, who has a 2.40 ERA in five starts since being recalled from Triple-A Oklahoma City on Aug. 26. "I was able to throw my off-speed stuff early, which makes my fastball better. I felt pretty good. It's good when

you have confidence in your pitches. That's the difference between a solid and not-so-solid outing."

Travis Wood pitched five scoreless innings in a surprise start for the Reds. He allowed four hits and struck out two.

Wood was pressed into action when left-hander Dontrelle Willis was scratched for the second consecutive game because of back spasms.

The Astros tied it up against Logan Ondrusek in the sixth. With runners on first and second and none out, Downs hit a grounder to third that skipped past Frazier for an error that allowed J.D. Martinez to score. Jimmy Paredes loaded the bases with a bunt single, and Carlos Lee scored on Clint Barmes'

grounder that Frazier corralled with a diving stop to his left.

NOTES: Willis visited a chiropractor, but his back didn't improve enough for him to make the start. ... The Reds struck out 33 times against the Brewers over the weekend. ... A lingering right ankle injury might limit Reds 1B Yonder Alonso to pinch-hitting for the rest of the season. Alonso was hurt while playing left field in Chicago the first weekend of August, and it's gotten progressively worse. ... RHP Homer Bailey will try to set a single-season career high with his ninth win in his start on Tuesday against Houston. RHP Bud Norris, the Astros' scheduled starter, will be trying to avoid a career-high 11th loss.

# Robinson fined \$40,000 by NFL for flagrant hit

NEW YORK (AP) — Dunta Robinson will pay for his flagrant hit on the Eagles' Jeremy Maclin. He won't be suspended.

The NFL on Monday fined the Falcons cornerback \$40,000 for the hit in which he led with his helmet and crashed into Maclin in the

third quarter of Atlanta's 35-31 win over Philadelphia on Sunday night. Robinson was penalized 15 yards for unnecessary roughness.

The league did not suspend Robinson although it has said hits like the one he put on Maclin could lead to such action. Robinson is a repeat

offender, having being fined \$25,000 last year for a similar hit on the Eagles' DeSean Jackson that left both players with concussions.

In a letter sent to Robinson, NFL vice president of

See **FINE**, Page 2B

# Joan Daniel wins WGA championship

The Women's Golf Association held their club championship tournament at Big Spring Country Club recently, with Joan Daniel emerging as the champion.

Daniel shot a two-day total of 158 to take the crown this weekend.

The second gross was won by Tammy DePauw. First net was claimed by Lenita Fryar, while the second net was shot by Georgie Newsom. Bragging rights for the longest drive went to Tammy DePauw and Vickie Purcell shot the closest to the pin.

**Giants**

Continued from Page 1B

field goals," said Eli Manning, who completed 18 of 29 passes for 200 yards, two touchdowns and an interception.

Manning hit Hakeem Nicks with a 3-yard TD pass after a muffed punt and Domenik Hixon made a spectacular juggling grab on a 22-yard score after a busted coverage late in the first half. Brandon Jacobs scored on a 9-yard run in the third quarter after a third-down pass interference call kept New York's opening drive of the half alive.

"It's a little bit of the same story as last week, we shot ourselves in the foot," said Spagnuolo, who kept the media waiting 25 minutes after the game before talking. "It's difficult enough to beat any football team in this league without

doing that, when you kind of beat yourself."

Bradford threw a touchdown pass and Josh Brown kicked three short field goals for the Rams, who moved up and down the field, gaining 367 yards. The one area they could not move was in the red zone.

"The thing I liked about what we did tonight was we showed resiliency," said Tuck, who had 1½ sacks in his first game of the season after sitting out the opener with a neck injury. "In a lot of those situations, if they get touchdowns, that score is a lot different."

The Rams killed themselves in the red zone. They settled for three short field goals after drives stalled inside the Giants 10, with the first coming after they got a first-and-goal at the 1 following a 68-yard catch and run by Danario Alexander, who had three

catches for 122 yards.

Nicks, who was questionable for the game because of a bruised knee, put New York ahead with the 3-yard TD catch.

The score came after New York got a first down at the Rams' 9 after Bradley Fletcher was called for pass interference against Nicks.

A 25-yard field goal by Brown closed the gap to 7-6 later in the quarter, and the Rams seemed to be in position to take the lead early in the second until Bradford threw his lateral and Boley went the other way.

"It was a big momentum lift," Boley said after his first career regular-season touchdown. "Anytime the defense scores, it's a bonus. Not only does the defense feed off of it but it gives the offenses some momentum as well. It looked like he just dropped it. It was a pretty good throw. He just missed it.

**FINE**

Continued from Page 1B

football operations Merton Hanks noted that "future offenses will result in an escalation of fines up to and including suspension."

Commissioner Roger Goodell was advised of the decision, and said "we felt this was the appropriate discipline."

Asked if this was an example of the hits the NFL is trying to get out of the game, Goodell said,

"There's no such thing as a perfect example. There are individual elements of each hit. We're trying to identify the techniques that will make our game safer."

The league said Robinson violated Rule 12, Section 2, Article 9 (a) (2) of the playing rules, which states: "It is a foul if a player initiates unnecessary contact against a player who is in a defenseless posture."

The rule notes that players in a defenseless posture include "a receiver attempting to catch a pass; or who has completed a catch and has not had time to protect himself or has not clearly become a runner."

On the play with 6:12 left in the third quarter, the league said Robinson lowered his head and made forc-

ible contact to the head and neck area of Maclin.

Maclin made the catch, but he was slow to leave the field but returned to the game.

Robinson can appeal to former NFL coaches Art Shell and Ted Cottrell, who are paid by the league and the NFL Players Association to handle those cases. Their appeal must be heard by the second Tuesday following notification of the discipline.

Replays clearly showed Robinson leading with his helmet, something the league has been adamant about eliminating.

The NFL this year also banned players from launching themselves into a defenseless opponent.

Falcons coach Mike Smith said after the game he thought it was a legal hit and "that's the way we teach it."

"My opinion didn't change," he said Monday before the NFL made its ruling.

Last October, the NFL sent head coaches memos listing those players on their teams who were called for two or more unnecessary roughness penalties since 2008.

Ray Anderson, NFL executive vice president of football operations, told The Associated Press this summer the league uses the last two seasons as criteria to determine repeat offenders.

**Texas, Oklahoma could bring end to Big 12**

AUSTIN (AP) — Over the past dozen years, Oklahoma and Texas have teamed up to turn the Big 12 into one of the nation's foremost college conferences, winning two national championships and playing for the title a half dozen times.

And now, the league's fate rests squarely in their hands. Will they stay together and find a way to make the Big 12 viable into the future? Will they leave together and take their riches west to the burgeoning Pac-12? Or will they part ways, potentially bringing down the league and ending one of the sport's most colorful and stor-

ied rivalries?

Each school's board of regents took action Monday to empower the university presidents — David Boren at Oklahoma and Bill Powers at Texas — to choose a new conference home. Yet neither is saying goodbye to the Big 12, or the other, just yet.

Boren said his focus is solely on either stabilizing the Big 12 through an equal revenue-sharing plan or taking Oklahoma to the Pac-12. Powers wouldn't divulge Texas' options, saying only that the process is "ongoing."

"We're almost like a family. Sometimes we don't see things exactly

the same way," Boren said. "But while we like being rivals, we also like to work together when it's appropriate and we're continuing to have conversations with our friends at the University of Texas."

"And I think we're always stronger when Texas and Oklahoma move together, just as we're stronger when Oklahoma State and Oklahoma work together."

Boren said he has been in daily contact with Burns Hargis, his counterpart at Oklahoma State, and the in-state Bedlam rivals won't be separated. Oklahoma State's regents have called a special meeting on realignment Wednesday.

"Whatever we do, we're going to do it together and I think that's very good news for the state of Oklahoma," Boren said.

It's not so simple with Texas, which has been playing Oklahoma regularly for over a century — long before the two became conference partners in the mid-1990s.

"We have different perspectives," Boren said. "I would put it this way: We're listening with respect to each other at this point in time, but it's too early to tell whether we'll make a common decision or not."

The Pac-12 already snapped up Colorado from the Big 12 last summer, and it flirted with adding Texas and Oklahoma as part of a package deal that would have created a 16-team super-

conference stretching from the West Coast to the Gulf Coast.

But the Longhorns and Sooners stayed put, committing to stay with eight other members in a smaller Big 12. The league then hammered out a \$1.2 billion television contract, but it wasn't enough to keep everyone happy.

They decided not to create a conference network similar to the ones in place by the Big Ten and Pac-12, not to split revenue equally and not to create any barriers to Texas' creation of the Longhorn Network through a 20-year, \$300 million agreement with ESPN that proved to be divisive.

Texas A&M announced last month that it would seek membership in the Southeastern Conference and was accepted into the league with the condition that it must resolve legal issues first — namely, the threat of lawsuits from Baylor and other Big 12 schools.

Now, the league is in a state of disarray again.

"I would simply say it is not a strong vote of confidence in the conference office that this has happened in such a short period of time," Boren said.

All Big 12 commissioner Dan Beebe could say in response was that the conference is "assuring our members that maintaining the Big 12 is in the best interest for their institutions" and that his case for the league is as strong as it was last year, when two

schools bolted.

"The status quo is certainly not stable," Boren said. "That's one of the things we're weighing: Can it be made stable?"

School and conference officials from the Big East and Big 12 have been discussing ways to merge what's left of the two leagues if Texas and Oklahoma leave the Big 12, a person involved in the discussions told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk publicly about the situation.

The Big East is left with only six football members after Pittsburgh and Syracuse announced plans to join the ACC this weekend, and the Big 12 could be in a similar situation if Texas, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Texas Tech all join Texas A&M in departing.

Boren has previously said he would consider the league a better option if it expanded back to 12 teams, and he said Monday that better revenue sharing must also be in place for the Sooners to stick around.

"Our goal is to be an equal partner in any network, and we think it ought to be the goal of every other member of any conference that we're a part of to be an equal member of that conference," Boren said.

"We all ought to value each other — every single member of that conference — and none of us should seek to play a stronger leadership role than anyone else."

Ultimately, the Big 12's future likely comes down to whether the schools raking in the most money want to share enough of it with those earning the least, or if they'd rather leave their current rivals behind and chase a bigger paycheck.

Any move by Texas could be complicated by the Longhorn Network as school officials explore whether other leagues would let them keep their recently launched venture or force them to make changes to fit established media rights guidelines.

For example, Pac-12 bylaws created six regional networks that are shared by conference schools.

Pac-12 Commissioner Larry Scott has said his league is not necessarily looking to expand, and some university leaders have expressed concerns about expanding again after adding Utah and Colorado this year.

There is no guarantee the Pac-12 presidents will welcome new members, especially if Texas is not one of them.

Boren rejected the notion that the Pac-12 was sending up signals that it should back off its pursuit of a move westward, saying "no one has given us any words of discouragement on any front."

Texas officials have said they want the Big 12 to hold together but would keep "all options" open for the university, including reported discussions with the Pac-12 and ACC.

But Texas has little appetite for a Big 12 without rival Oklahoma or Texas A&M.

"Last time everybody talked about where everybody was going, we ended up staying in the same place," Longhorns coach Mack Brown said. "So my thoughts have always been the same: I think the University of Texas wants to stay in the Big 12."

Texas Tech president Guy Bailey said it's a sensitive time and "any comments regarding Tech's plans are premature at this time." Tech's regents are not scheduled to meet until next month.

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**Annie's Mailbox**

**Dear Annie:** I'm soon to be an adult and am starting to make some important decisions. "Lana" has been my best friend for 12 years, but I'm beginning to think it's over. She is really hurting me.



KATHY MITCHELL  
MARCY SUGAR

When we go to festivals together, Lana walks around with someone else and ignores me.

When I invite her to go to the movies, she always wants to bring a date, which makes me the third wheel.

Every time I really like a guy, she friends him on Facebook and gets him interested in her.

We even took her on a family vacation, and she barely spoke to my parents and didn't thank them afterward.

Times have been tough for Lana lately, and I'm there for support, but she always creates drama and pushes things to the edge.

Being there for her turns me into a wreck. My parents think she isn't worth the trouble, and I'm starting to believe they are right. When I'm with Lana, I feel miserable.

What can I do? All this is stressing me out. — *One Confused Cookie*

**Dear Cookie:** Anyone who consistently undermines you and makes you feel miserable is not a true friend — and we think you know that.

You need to back away from Lana and her drama. Call her less often, and don't rush to invite her to join you at the movies or festivals.

A little distance will allow you to regain your equilibrium and seek out other friends.

**Dear Annie:** I have been married for a long time to a very social guy. I am not.

I suffer from depression and chronic pain. I have a small home busi-

ness and do most of the household chores.

Most days, I am weary simply getting through the day.

The problem comes from all the activities he joins. I don't mind that he does.

I actually encourage him to do what makes him happy. The problem is, as his wife, he expects me to take part in every event.

I have suggested that I come to some, but not all. He does not like this solution and becomes angry and resentful, making me feel guilty.

We have had this problem our entire marriage. His interests and mine do not coincide for the most part, nor does he enjoy my friends.

It's as if my life is supposed to revolve around him. How can I make him see that his demands aren't fair to me and I am doing the best I can? — *Unhappy with the Status Quo*

**Dear Unhappy:** Your husband may erroneously believe that it would help your depression and pain if you were more involved, but participating in something you don't enjoy is unlikely to alleviate your problems.

Your efforts to compromise are good, and your husband should be more accepting of your limitations and preferences. You might offer to go a little more often if he will back off on the

rest.

**Dear Annie:** The letter from "Tired of Wet Beds" hit home. She was concerned about her 14-year-old stepson wetting the bed every night. I had the same trouble with my child.

At first I thought it was night sweats because there was no urine odor.

Along with needing to urinate frequently, my son was constantly thirsty. We had numerous medical tests run. My husband wanted to deny our son water after 7 p.m. and would make him feel like a baby.

Meanwhile, I persisted with testing until one brilliant doctor checked for diabetes insipidus, a rare disease that causes frequent urination.

The large amounts of water my thirsty child drank during the day gave him water intoxication and diluted his urine, which was why there was no odor.

After being put on the proper medication, there was no more bedwetting. That was 10 years ago, and my son no longer needs the medication and is leading a normal life.

Please encourage your readers with bedwetting problems to explore this. — *California*

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

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**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

With the autumnal equinox just days away, the time of the season is strongly felt. Many want to catch a bit of fun to get their minds off of the work and changes that lie ahead. The Gemini moon stirs up discussion and builds interest in the new and novel. The twins are a restless duo, always looking for the next bit of fun and excitement.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You know immediately when you're clicking with someone. You can tell because you've experienced excellent rapport so many times before and you recognize the signs. Be patient with one less socially experienced.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Whilst trying to make your way up a social or political ladder, you will stop and realize ... there is no ladder. No one is on top. Everyone is on an equal level. Therefore, "climbing" is as unnecessary as it is nonsensical.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Hindsight is unrealistic. Then again, it's a more rounded perspective than the one you get when you're actually in the situation. As you look back on what happened, strive for a balanced and unsentimental view.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Limited knowledge is not always imparted with limited words. If you're not careful, you could get caught up in a conversation that seems to wind on forever, despite a lack of real content. Guard your time — it's precious.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You won't be given all of the information you need to do a job well. You'll have to fill in the blanks, or move past the gaps and come back to them later. If you can be patient with this process, the results will be brilliant.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Funny people are usually quite popular. You'll find yourself in both categories today as you laugh and kid among friends. The best part is that you won't even have to make an effort.

Your natural reactions have humor in them.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll make a clean sweep of a chronically cluttered part of your world. It's easy once you dedicate your time and attention to the project. The essence of order is time management.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Small problems are temporary. However, they still must be addressed. They won't go away on their own. If left to do their own devices, they will grow strong, blossom and propagate.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Foolishness and creativity are fine bedfellows. Knowing this, you can take part in a creative process without the fear of appearing foolish, since it's pretty much a given that will happen.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You are, to a greater extent than usual, socially driven. Knowing that your friends are watching you, you'll want to achieve higher and more interesting goals.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Winners take responsibility for the wins and the losses. That is because if you don't take responsibility for the loss, you'll never learn enough to get to the win.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You care about appearances and will keep them up even when doing so comes at a hefty cost to you. Later, you'll be glad you made the effort. Acting as though everything is going well might actually make it so.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Sept. 20). Your strength comes from beyond. Relationships feed your soul through the next 10 weeks. You throw out the scorecard and enjoy seamless give and take. November brings an ideal working dynamic. You'll partner with a wonderful contributor in December. January and July are windfall months. Aquarius and Capricorn people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 45, 3, 22 and 29.

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



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DENNIS THE MENACE



THE THERMOMETER DIDN'T HELP, MOM. I'M STILL SICK.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"How am I supposed to know what this says? It doesn't have any pictures."

HAGAR

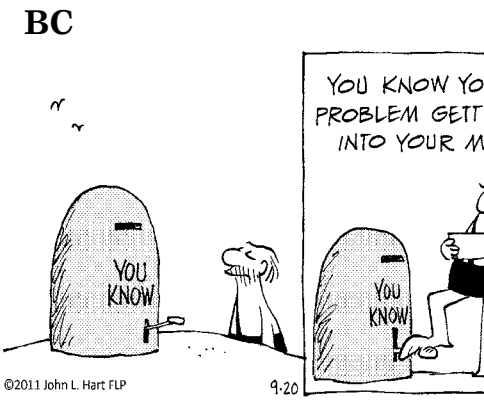


HALT! WHO GOES THERE? WHO AM I, INDEED! WHO AMONG US CAN ANSWER THAT WITHOUT OUR FRAGILE EGGS INFLUENCING OUR RESPONSES? MOREOVER, IT BRINGS UP A BROADER AND MUCH MORE SOUL-SEARCHING QUESTION, NAMELY, WHY AM I?

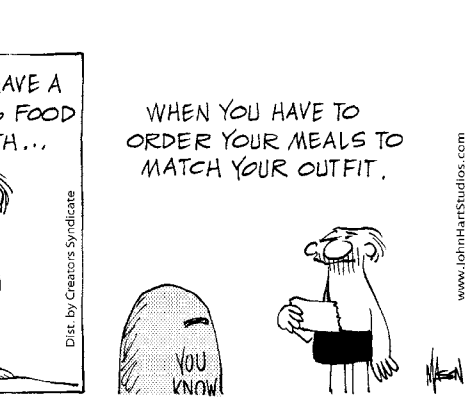
BLONDIE



GUARD DUTY IS GETTING TOUGH EVERY DAY!



YOU KNOW YOU HAVE A PROBLEM GETTING FOOD INTO YOUR MOUTH...



WHEN YOU HAVE TO ORDER YOUR MEALS TO MATCH YOUR OUTFIT.

AGNES



I CLAIM THIS LAND FOR THE KINGDOM OF ID!

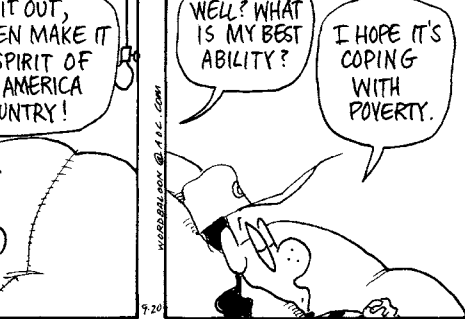


MAYBE WE COULD LEASE IT INSTEAD

HI AND LOIS



WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IS MY BEST ABILITY?

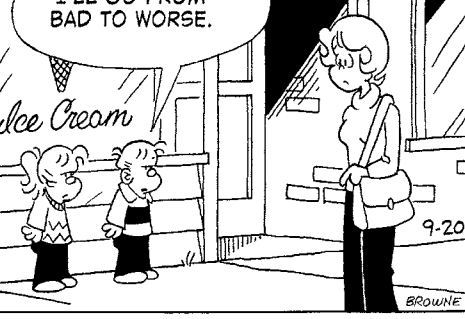


I WANT TO POINT IT OUT, PLAY IT UP AND THEN MAKE IT BANKABLE IN THE SPIRIT OF GREED THAT MADE AMERICA THE GREATEST COUNTRY!

THE OTHER COAST

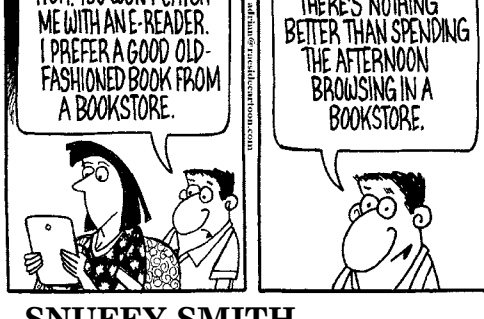


I'VE BEEN GOOD, SO DON'T I DESERVE SOME ICE CREAM?

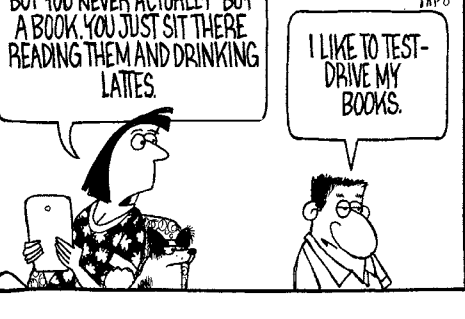


I'LL GO FROM BAD TO WORSE.

SNUFFY SMITH

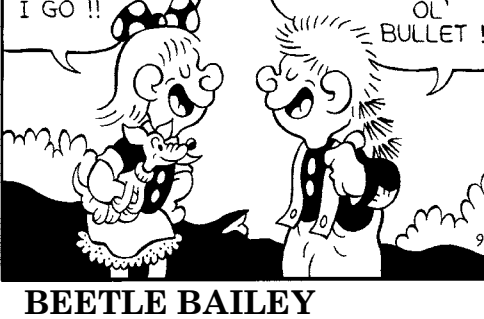


HUH, YOU WON'T CATCH ME WITH AN E-READER. I PREFER A GOOD OLD-FASHIONED BOOK FROM A BOOKSTORE.



BUT YOU NEVER ACTUALLY BUY A BOOK, YOU JUST SIT THERE READING THEM AND DRINKING LATES.

BEEBLE BAILEY

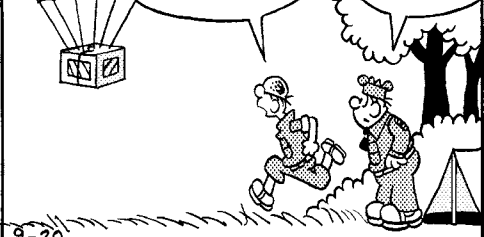


I CAN TAKE BISCUIT EV'RYWHAR I GO !!

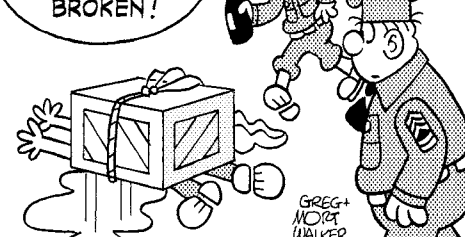


LONG'S I DON'T E OOF !! E GO TOO FAR !! E ERF !! E

BEETLE BAILEY

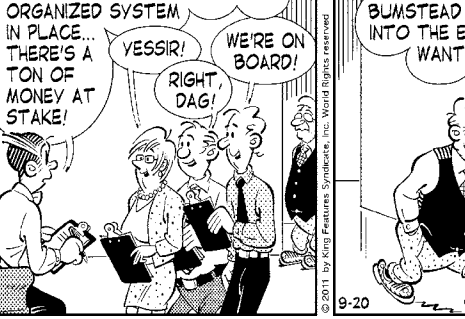


IT'S THE GENERAL'S EMERGENCY SUPPLIES!



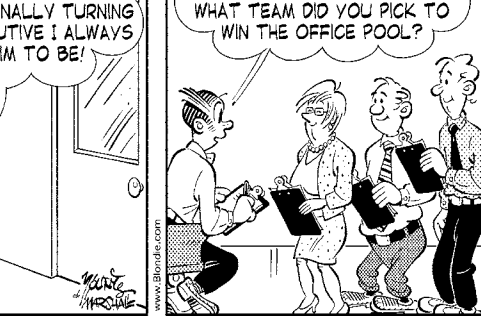
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WELL, THANK HEAVENS! BUMSTEAD IS FINALLY TURNING INTO THE EXECUTIVE I ALWAYS WANTED HIM TO BE!

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OKAY, LADIES FIRST... VIRGINIA, WHAT TEAM DID YOU PICK TO WIN THE OFFICE POOL?

This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 20, the 263rd day of 2011. There are 102 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 20, 1911, the British liner RMS Olympic collided with the Royal Navy cruiser HMS Hawke off the Isle of Wight; although seriously damaged, the Olympic was able to return to Southampton under its own power. On this date: In 1519, Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan and his crew set out from Spain on five ships to find a western passage to the Spice Islands. (Magellan was killed enroute, but one of his ships eventually circled the world.) In 1870, Italian troops took control of the Papal States, leading to the unification of Italy. In 1873, panic swept the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in the wake of railroad bond defaults and bank failures.

In 1884, the National Equal Rights Party was formed during a convention of suffragists in San Francisco; the convention nominated Belva Ann Bennett Lockwood for president. In 1947, former New York City Mayor Fiorello La Guardia died. In 1958, Martin Luther King Jr. was seriously wounded during a book signing at a New York City department store when Izola Curry stabbed him in the chest. (Curry was later found mentally incompetent.) In 1962, black student James Meredith was blocked from enrolling at the University of Mississippi by Gov. Ross R. Barnett. (Meredith was later admitted.) In 1973, in their so-called "battle of the sexes," tennis star Billie Jean King defeated Bobby Riggs in straight sets, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3, at the Houston Astrodome. In 1979, Jean-Bedel Bokassa (boh-KAH'-sah), self-styled head of the Central African Empire, was overthrown in a French-supported coup while on a visit to Libya. In 1980, Spectacular Bid, ridden by Bill Shoemaker, ran as the only entry in the Woodward

Stakes at Belmont Park in New York after three potential challengers dropped out in horse racing's first walkover since 1949. Today's Birthdays: Singer Gogi Grant is 87. Actress-comedian Anne Mearns is 82. Actress Sophia Loren is 77. Pro Football Hall of Famer Jim Taylor is 76. Rock musician Chuck Panozzo is 64. Hockey Hall of Famer Guy Lafleur is 60. Actress Debbi Morgan is 60. Jazz musician Peter White is 57. Actress Betsy Brantley is 56. Actor Gary Cole is 55. TV news correspondent Deborah Roberts is 51. Rock musician Randy Bradbury (Pennywise) is 47. Actress Kristen Johnston is 44.

Answer to previous puzzle grid with words: BATH, STEM, PORTS, ALOE, PERU, OPERA, STIR, INIT, LEVEL, HOLE, INONE, INSET, REF, SCI, SITSAT, SILENCES, TRAPS, VICE, GURU, PITA, DARED, DRAG, ASEC, USED, SALSA, THREATEN, GEYSER, CRY, HOE, SPIRE, CRACKDOWN, PECAN, LAVER, ERIE, USOFA, OVA, MAST, DONT, DENT, OLES

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS: 1 Impudent, 6 Space shuttle org., 10 Playwright George Bernard..., 14 Juliet's love, 15 Dad's sister, 16 Prefix for bucks, 17 Lines on a list, 18 Window-blind part, 19 Skip over, 20 Boy Scout's award, 22 Cabbagelike veggie, 23 Right-angle shape, 24 Black eye, 26 Where to grip a knife, 30 Get a... the back, 32 "Ditto!", 33 Red-tag event, 35 Marsh bird, 39 Perform with a choir, 40 Neck warmer, 42 Clinton's vice president, 43 Stores away, 45 Environmental sci., 46... arms (outraged), 47 Stable occupant, 49 Down and out, 51 Docking site, 54 Golf instructor, 55 Adds frosting to, 56 Fitness center, 63 The one over there, 64 Reign over, 65 Make ecstatic, 66 Bridge-crossing fee, 67 Vicinity, 68 Clear-thinking, 69 Nonspecific amount, 70 Party giver, 71 Banana skins, 8 Minor setback, 9 Bear witness to, 10 Conclusive evidence, 11 Macho guy, 12 Nimble, 13 Pool filler, 21 Make holy, 25 Weed-removal tool, 26 Greet the villain, 27 Take a crack..., 28 Tot's taboo, 29 Pet-store purchase, 30 Location, 31 Prefix for dynamic, 34 Experts, 36 Lasso material, 37 Cleveland's lake, 38 Care for, 41 Bat one's eyelashes, perhaps, 44 Dad's boy, 48 Full of team spirit, 50 Useless, 51 Catchers' gloves, 52 Sneeze sound, 53 Domain, 54 Kilt crease, 57 Money in Madrid, 58 Pub drinks, 59 Hint, 60 Delicate trim, 61 Gas or elec., 62 Flower-growing areas

Crossword grid with numbers 1-71 and black squares indicating non-letter positions.