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Courtesy photo

Members of the local comedy troupe the Goondock Saints, from left, Josh Caudill, Katy Hunnicut, Clay "Goonie" Vickers and Ward Hardy ready themselves for a show in Big Spring slated for Saturday evening.

## And now, for something completely different... Comedy troupe to perform Saturday

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
 Staff Writer

Crossroads residents will get a chance to laugh — and, more importantly, for a good cause — Saturday, as the local comedy troupe the Goondock Saints will present an evening of laughter and entertainment to benefit the local volunteer fire department.

With doors at the Hog Heaven Party Barn — located on W. Highway 80 — set to open Saturday at

7 p.m., Goondock Saints founder Clay "Goonie" Vickers said the show will offer those attending a chance to relax and enjoy some big-city humor.

"In the 12 years that I have been here, I have never heard of a comedy show actually being put on in Big Spring," Vickers said. "So this show is actually kind of ground breaking. Ever since we started our group in 2005, people from Big Spring have been begging us to perform here, mainly because

we have only done shows in bigger cities like Austin, Dallas and San Antonio. And that's because we knew how hard it would be to put on an event here in town because there is really no venue for it. After all the recent success we have been having, however, we believe that our hometown deserves a show."

Vickers said the troupe began with just a few people, but has

See **COMEDY**, Page 3

## Tidwell receives 120 days

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
 Staff Writer

Winkler County Attorney Scott Tidwell, who went on trial in 118<sup>th</sup> District Court last week on charges of two counts each of misuse of official information, official oppression and retaliation will have to spend some time behind bars, as he was sentenced to 120 days in county jail, 10 years probation and a \$6,000 fine.

It took the jury approximately three hours Monday to find Tidwell guilty on the

See **TIDWELL**, Page 3

## Angel Tree applications are due soon

**By STEVE REAGAN**  
 Staff Writer

Once again, the Salvation Army is striving to ensure a merry Christmas for this community's less fortunate residents.

The organization is taking applications for its annual Angel Tree program through Oct. 14, said Maj. Orville Chambless, co-commander of the local Salvation Army office.

The Angel Tree program annually provides Christmas gifts for qualifying children and seniors,



Chambless

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## Not so shocking, Oncor going electric

**By AMANDA MORENO**  
 Staff Writer

Practice what you preach is the motto Oncor is going with when it comes to its most recent venture.

"We are the electric company, so it only makes sense we are not only preaching to people, but practicing what we preach," said Jim Clements, Oncor area manager.

As part of its "go green" way of thinking, Oncor has incorporated 12 electric cars — six Chevy Volts and six Nissans — into its operation. Clements said the cars are currently being tested on performance and efficiency.

"We are trying to conserve all that we can," Clements said. "As a company we promote energy efficiency at home, at work and even on



HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

Oncor is in the process of testing 12 electric cars, which could be incorporated into the company by next year. The cars would be used as fleet cars. The incorporation of the cars is to encourage energy use and conservation.

the road." Since 2005, Oncor has been operating hybrid bucket trucks in an effort to go green through the use of electric in the metroplex area and is hoping to expand on that

See **ONCOR**, Page 3

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## Obituaries

### Jerry Neil Easterling



Jerry Neil Easterling, 75, of Big Spring, passed away Monday, Oct. 3, 2011, in a Midland hospital. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6, 2011, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Chaplain Scott Jimenez of the Big Spring Veterans Administration Hospital officiating, assisted by Lt. Col. (ret) Vaughn Martin. Burial will follow at Trinity Memorial Park with full military honors.

A visitation will be from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2011, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Mr. Easterling was born Aug. 19, 1936, in Morgantown, Miss., to Jim and Ruby Easterling. The second of seven brothers and sisters, he left home immediately after high school to join the United States Air Force at the age of 17.

As a young Airman, Jerry was stationed at Webb Air Force Base in Big Spring where he met Sue Ann Everett. They were married April 19, 1956, in Lovington, N.M., and had four children. Sue preceded him in death July 5, 1986.

Jerry worked in USAF airborne electronics and communications maintenance. He served three combat tours in Vietnam and received numerous medals. He was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service in military operations against the Viet Cong and he also received the Air Force Commendation Medal. He was stationed at numerous stateside and foreign bases during his 21 years in the USAF. MSgt. Jerry Easterling retired from active duty Sept. 1, 1974.

He continued serving his country as a civil servant in the Veterans Administration, working a combined total of 23 years at VA facilities in Big Spring, Texas, and Gulfport, Miss. While at the Big Spring VA, he met Bobbie Johnston. They were married Oct. 30, 1987, in Livingston, Texas and lived in Gulfport, Miss., almost 10 years. In 1997, he retired and they moved back to Big Spring.

Jerry rarely sat still for long, always gardening and cooking. He was an avid stock trader. Jerry couldn't stand for any creatures — dogs, cats, birds or people — to be hungry or sad and he often lent a helping hand to others in need. Jerry was honorable, a man of his word who embodied Air Force core values of integrity, service before self and excellence in all you do.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Darrell; and two step-grandchildren, Casie and Brent.

He is survived by his wife, Bobbie of the home in Big Spring; a son, James Randall (Randy) Easterling and wife Lisa of San Antonio; a stepdaughter, Zina and husband David Wood and a stepson, Sammy, all of Big Spring; two brothers, Jimmy and Jeff, and three sisters, Jean, Joan and Doll, all of Mississippi; three daughters, Wanda, Teresa and Lisa, all residing out of state; nine grandchildren; and numerous great- and great-great grandchildren.

Memorials are suggested to the Big Spring Humane Society, P.O. Box 823, Big Spring, Texas 79721-0823 or the charity of your choice.

Arrangements are 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)

*Paid obituary*

### Gerald R. 'Z' Ziebart

Gerald R. "Z" Ziebart, 70, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2011, at his residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

### Modehn Wyatt



Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 4, 2011, Modehn Wyatt, 94, stepped into the loving arms of her heavenly father. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home with Pastor Ken McMeans officiating. Graveside services will be at 3 p.m. at Littlefield Cemetery in Littlefield, Texas.

She was born Dec. 5, 1916, in Jefferson County, Okla., to Jennie and William Mack Williams. She married Ruel Cleo Wyatt on Dec. 23, 1934, in Portales, N.M. She and Ruel farmed in Morton and Littlefield, Texas. They had two daughters, Ruelene and Jeanette. He preceded her in death in April 1954.

She moved to Big Spring in 1956 and worked for Safeway for many years.

She loved her Lord, family and friends. She loved attending church, especially Sunday school. She was an avid 80 domino player for many years. She enjoyed her many vacations with friends and family. Her friends and family grieve at her passing and yet we remember "Earth holds no treasures, but perish with using, and nothing earthly can last."

She is survived by two daughters, Ruelene Porter and husband Bennie of Big Spring and Jeannette Phillips and husband Jerry of Woodward, Okla.; grandchildren, Jana Porter of Andrews, Texas, Nancy Sink and husband David of Big Spring, Shannon Deweese and husband Steven of Woodward, Okla., Jerry Phillips, Jr. of Salt Lake City, Utah and Amanda Flewellen of Pueblo, Colo.; great-grandchildren include Weldon Gibbs and wife Francesca, Heather Vaughan of Big Spring, Paden Black and Mylia Black of Big Spring, Sarah and Seth Deweese of Woodward, Okla., and Elston and Stephanie Phillips of Minneapolis, Minn. She is also survived by her special nephew and nieces, Don Williams, Joy Hester and Maxine Wright.

The family will be at 3223 Duke Avenue, Big Spring, Texas.

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

*Paid obituary*

### Lumina Flores Lopez

Lumina Flores Lopez, of Big Spring passed away on Monday, Oct. 3, 2011, at Midland Memorial Hospital. Memorial services will be held Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2011, at 10 a.m. at Kingdom Hall-Jehova Witnesses, 1500 Wasson Road, Big Spring 79720.

She is survived by her children, Eladio Zubiata, Fidel Lopez, Albert Barrera, Ray Gutierrez, Carlos Rodriguez and Carmen Alicia Rodriguez-Huerta.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland.

## Police blotter

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

• LARRY JAMES STERLING, 53, of 2911 W. Highway 80, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of

criminal mischief — more than \$500 and less than \$1,500.

• AURORA CANTU, 27, of 2911 W. Highway 80 Apt. 248, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant from another agency.

• CHARLIE EVERRETT RYERSON, 65, transient, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.

• SCOTT FREY, 62, transient, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported:

In the 1200 block of Lindbergh.

In the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.

• THEFT was reported:

In the 600 block of S. Aylesford.

In the 400 block of E. Fourth St.

• ASSAULT was reported:

In the 300 block of W. Fourth Street.

In the 1500 block of S. Gregg Street.

• BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.

## Sheriff

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

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

• JAY CHANCELLOR, 30, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a probated judgment — three days in jail as term of probation.

• JESSICA MARIE MARLAR, 33, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on assault causing family violence — family violence.

• ROSAELBA FRANCO MORENO, 53, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by another agency on a charge of driving while intoxicated — third or more offense.

• LARRY JAMES STERLING, 53, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief — more than \$500 and less than \$1,500.

• AURORA CANTU, 27, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a Lubbock warrant for theft with two previous convictions and a Hale County warrant for motion to revoke — possession of marijuana — two ounces or less.

• DEVON OLSEN, 62, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• LUIS ALEJANDRO RAMOS, 22, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less.

• LEONA JENE RADASA, 29, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• CHARLIE EVERRETT RYERSON, 65, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• AUDREY D. NEWELL, 43, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on possession of marijuana — two ounces or less.

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**ANGELS**

Continued from Page 1

Chambless said. Applicants are screened through interviews at the local SA office, located at 811 W. Fifth St. "It depends on the family's situation," he said. "Basically, they are in a financial crisis and find they will really have difficulty providing for their kids this Christmas." And children aren't the only ones helped through the program — qualifying senior citizens also are eligible to participate, Chambless said. Trees with angel decorations with the person's name, clothing size and special gift request will be placed at several locations across town this season. Persons purchasing gifts for the individuals can either leave the gifts at the location or drop it by SA headquarters. Scenic Mountain Medical Center, Pizza Inn, Wal-Mart, Higgingsham-Bartlett, Maurice's, Beall's, the Howard County Library, Blum's Jewelers, Heritage Museum and the *Big Spring Her-*

*ald* all will host Angel Trees this season. He added, there is a good reason the program starts so far ahead of Christmas. "We have to conduct all the interviews and hand-write all the angels before they go out to the stores in mid-November," he said. "When you're hand-writing information for 400 angels, it's going to take a little while." Families wishing to qualify for the program must provide the following information:

- Picture ID of the head of household.
- Social Security cards for everyone in the household.
- Proof of guardianship.
- Proof of children's birth dates.
- All household income.
- All household bills (rent, utilities, etc.).
- Three gift suggestions for children up to 12 years old, clothing and shoe sizes for all children, and three gift suggestions, clothing and shoe sizes for senior citizens.

Applications will be accepted from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m. at the Salvation Army headquarters. For more information, contact the Salvation Army at 267-8239.

**TIDWELL**

Continued from Page 1

charges, which were presented in a Howard County court because of an ordered change of venue by presiding Judge Robert H. Moore III. Tidwell, former Winkler County Sheriff Robert Roberts and Dr. Rolando Arafiles were charged in connection with the whistle-blowing scandal of two Winkler County Hospital nurses who reported "questionable practices" by Arafiles to the Texas Medical Board. Tidwell was convicted Monday of retaliating against nurses Anne Mitchell and Vickilyn Galle, who told state regulators in 2009 that Arafiles used herbal remedies and had attempted to use hospital supplies to perform at-home procedures, among other things. Arafiles asked a friend — Roberts, who was then the Winkler County sheriff — to investigate the complaint. The nurses were fired from their jobs at a hospital in Kermit and charged with felonies following the finger-pointing. Mitchell was later acquitted in a trial prosecuted by Tidwell in Andrews County. Shortly after Mitchell's acquittal, charges against Galle were dropped. Since Mitchell's acquittal, Arafiles

has been accused of aggravated perjury for testimony he gave during the trial. An Andrews County grand jury indicted Arafiles on June 30 on a single count, alleging Arafiles lied while under oath when he denied knowing how Roberts obtained names and contact information of patients for questioning about who complained about the physician. Roberts was the first of the trio to go to trial and was convicted of misuse of official information and retaliation, both third-degree felonies and official oppression. After waiving jury punishment Roberts was given four years probation for each of the felony charges and 100 days in county jail for the misdemeanor offenses. Former hospital administrator Stan Wiley pleaded guilty in March to a misdemeanor charge of abuse of official capacity in exchange for his testimony. Mitchell and Galle — who were fired from the hospital, indicted and arrested in June 2009 — have since sued the county and accepted a \$750,000 settlement after they were cleared of wrongdoing. Both testified during the course of the trial, describing the hardships they have endured. Defense Attorney David Zavoda requested Tidwell's jail time be served in Crane County.

**COMEDY**

Continued from Page 1

changed and grown in the past few years. "We have changed the cast of our group up just a little bit. Josh Caudill and myself are still running things at Goondock Saints Inc., but we have recently added Katy Hunnicutt — who teaches elementary and graduated from Big Spring High — as well as Justin Green, who is also a Big Spring High graduate," Vickers said. "For this show we have brought back Ward Hardy, who was our selection from our try-out auditions held last December. Ward is from Andrews and has wanted to perform comedy for the last 30 years, so it's not all just young people. "Also, Garret Cline

will be helping us out with his comedy skill, and we have also added a new sound technician to our group — which has helped out a ton — Lance Waters, a Coahoma graduate." Vickers said doors for the show will open at 7 p.m. "Tickets are \$10 and a portion of the proceeds raised will go to help the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department," Vickers said. "Those guys have been through an insane wildfire season, and their equipment has taken an incredible beating. We just wanted to try to help them out, to show them how much we appreciate what they do for our community. They literally stand in harm's way to keep you and I safe as these wildfires rage through West Texas. They look at it as just being their job, but

people in this community should be stopping them on the street and thanking them for the incredible job they do for us. "The show is open to ages 21 and up, which was something we sort of struggled with during the planning stage of this show. However, in the end we decided this will give those folks a chance to relax and not have to worry about a lot of the drama that can come along with underage drinkers and such," Vickers said. "The show will kick off at 8 p.m. with a performance from the Brandon Falkner Band. They play both country and rock, so I'm sure folks will enjoy it. Brandon is such a great entertainer. "The Goondock Saints plan to take the stage with a bang. We will have a couple of stand up acts and, in between,

we will perform sketch comedy and anywhere from five to 10 improv games, which includes audience participation. Also, as people are walking into the gates they may be asked random questions, and these questions will provide us with different suggestions and scenarios for those improv games. "I think that the most important thing is that everyone has fun, that's our real goal. We will be interacting with the audience quite a bit and that tends to amp up the atmosphere way more than just your regular comedy show. Think of our act as a stand up comedy routine mixed with 'Whose line is it Anyway' and 'Saturday Night Live.' Who wouldn't want to be a part of that?" Vickers said the Saints' portion of the show is expected to

last approximately two hours. "At some point, each of us in Big Spring has found ourselves saying we wish we had this or that here in the area, whether it's a concert, restaurant or even a comedy show," Vickers said. "However, it's all just wishing until someone steps up and makes it happen, and that's what we're working so hard to do. We need folks to come out and have fun, and tell their friends and family about it. Word of mouth is such an incredible thing when you're trying to get something like this rolling, and we would love nothing more than to be able to plan several shows here in Big Spring throughout the year." For more information on the Goondock Saints, visit them online at goondocksaints.com

or facebook.com/goondocksaints, or contact Vickers at 432-816-7954. *Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com*

**MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL**  
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Jimmy Grant, 66, died Sunday. Graveside services with Military Honors will be at 2 p.m. today at Coahoma Cemetery. Modehn Wyatt, 94, died Tuesday. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside services will be at 3 p.m. at Littlefield Cemetery in Littlefield, Texas.

**ONCOR**

Continued from Page 1

cars. Based on the results of the performance, Oncor will be purchasing more electric vehicles to serve as fleet cars. "Through the use of one of these cars I could cut my gasoline usage and purchases by about half," Clements said. It takes an average of

seven hours to charge the car through a normal household outlet, or half the time through a 240 volt connection. Clements said a full charge will allow the car to travel 35 miles before having to switch to a gasoline powered generator. "We are trying to cut and be conservative in everything we do. The car shows you how efficient you are being each mile you drive," Clements said. "These cars will help cut carbon emissions as well as promote the use of elec-

tricity." In order to better gauge the efficiency of the electric cars, a new division has been created in the Oncor company specifically for electric cars. Oncor offers numerous programs encouraging customer energy

efficiency. To find out more about the programs and incentives visit the company website at www.oncor.com *Contact Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com*

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John Crane Production Solutions Inc., has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for an amendment to Air Quality Permit Number 74335, which would authorize modification to a Pultrusion Facility at 3604 Bethel Dr, Big Spring, Howard County, Texas 79720. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

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# Why not check this out? At the library

The books are packed away for next year's book sale. The Friend's Book Shelves are available now, with the usual prices, and we will add books as they become available.

Here is a story you have to love: It involves

a golden retriever (of course it could be any dog) and murder. I know, I know, you thought it was going to be a book about mom, baseball and apple pie. Andy Carpenter loves his dog and would do almost anything

to save Tara. That is what Noah Galloway is counting on. Noah has been living in fear for the past six years, just waiting for the axe to fall and it has. His secret has been found out and lawyer Andy Carpenter is the only one who can find out the truth. Check out "One Dog Night" (M ROS D) by David Rosenfelt to see what Noah did and how Andy proves him innocent.

Here is a thriller by an author I am not familiar with. It is Steven James and he has written several books, all titled with names of chess pieces. In "The Queen" (F JAM S), while investigating a mysterious double homicide in an isolated Wisconsin town, FBI Special Agent Patrick Bowers uncovers a high-tech conspiracy that ties together long-buried Cold War secrets with present-day tensions in the Middle East. This is a fast-paced

story that will keep you reeling.

Another mystery from Jeffrey Deaver is "Roadside Crosses" (M DEA J). It is third in Deaver's bestselling high-tech thriller trilogy and points out in a particularly pointed manner the accountability of blogging and life in the online world. The

guage — expert. Along with Deputy Michael, O'Neil follows leads that take them to Travis Brigham, a troubled teen, whose role in a fatal car crash inspired attacks in on a popular blog. Desperate and risky measures will be taken to solve this case; you will just have to read it

an unseasonably warm morning across Nebraska, the Dakotas and Minnesota. It was so warm children walked to school without coats or gloves. That afternoon, the sky exploded in a raging chaos of snow and hurricane force winds. By the next morning, Jan. 13 (yes, it was also a Friday) more than 500 people had perished on the plains, frozen to death. In "The Children's Blizzard" (978.02 LAS D), Laskin traces the stories of five families who were forever changed that day. Laskin draws on family interviews and memoirs as well as contemporary accounts.

Nearly 52,000 German POWs lived and worked at 70 POW camps during camps here in Texas during World War II. Camp Hearne (near the city of Hearne) was one of the largest camps in Texas and the U.S. "Lone Star Stalag: German Prisoner of War at Camp Hearne" (940.547 WAT M) by Michael Waters, tells their story. While I was

visiting Pampa's library, they had a display on the Italian POW camp that was in that area during WWII. It was quite interesting.

We are open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.; the internet/video room closes at 5:30 p.m.

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Our phone number is 264-2260; fax number is 264-2263.

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.



HOLLIS  
MCCRIGHT

## Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

### Taking Care of Business

North dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ A K Q 5	♥ 7 5 2	♠ 7 6	♥ 10 8 4
♦ Q 9	♣ A Q J 9	♦ A 10 7 6 2	♣ K 10 5
WEST		SOUTH	
♠ 10 4	♥ Q J 9 3	♠ J 9 8 3 2	♥ A K 6
♦ K 8 4 3	♣ 8 6 2	♦ J 5	♣ 7 4 3

The deal being:

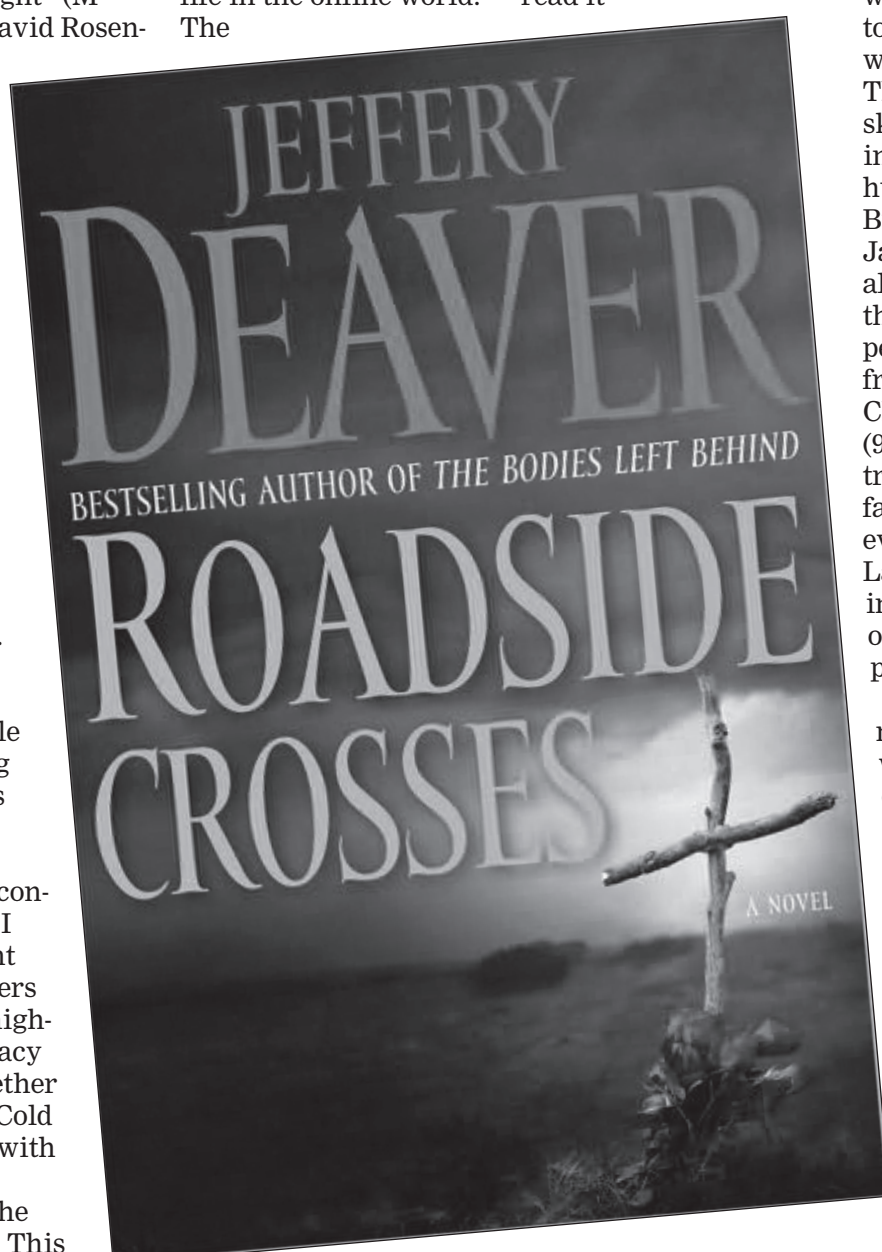
North	East	South	West
1♠	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	

Opening lead — queen of hearts.

**Over the long haul**, defenders who play mechanically will not do nearly as well as those who play thoughtfully. Today's deal from a duplicate game provides a case in point.

**The deal was played** at eight tables, and at every table the final contract was four spades by South, against which West led the queen of hearts. At seven of the tables, declarer made 10 tricks — five spades, two hearts and three clubs. Since seven declarers achieved this result, and since 10 tricks seem to be there for the taking, this would seem

**Tomorrow: A case of timing.**



Monterey Peninsula is rocked when crosses begin to appear on the roadsides, not as a memorial, but as an announcement of a coming death. Using information taken from online sources, blogs, social networking sites and the like, people are killed in a very personal way. The case will land on the desk of Kathryn Dance, the California Bureau of Investigation's foremost kinesics — body lan-

to see what happens. "Until I Return: 12 Things Jesus Wants Every Believer to Know" (226.506 WAL J) by Jeff Walling, takes the words of the Gospel of John and uses them in a very different way. The words of the Last Supper are simple words any child can recite and they are words He wants every believer to know.

From a prior column: If you have ever been caught when a blue norther blows in, then you know how quickly the temperature can drop. David Laskin has written a heartbreaking account of such a thing. Jan. 12, 1888, began as

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.



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# Bat colonies face adversity amid drought

By **MICHAEL GRACZYK**  
Associated Press

**BRACKEN** — The historic drought in Texas is changing the behavior of the stars of one of the state's natural summer marvels, raising fears the spectacle next year may be less spectacular.

A depleting insect population has forced millions of bats around Texas to emerge before nightfall for food runs, making them more susceptible to natural predators.

Some experts have already noticed fewer bats emerging from caves and have seen evidence that more infant bats are showing up dead, hinting at a looming population decline.

"The drought makes for good bat viewing but is hard on the bats," says Fran Hutchins, coordinator at Bracken Cave, home to the world's largest concentration of bats, about an hour's drive northeast of San Antonio.

The cave holds some 20 million Mexican free-tailed bats that emerge for food runs every evening from March into November in numbers so great they show up on weather radar.

The major difference this year is they're emerging much earlier, as much as two hours before darkness, because they need to travel farther to find the drought-depleted insect populations such as moths that infest corn and cotton plants.

"Last year, when it was really wet and there were good crops and good for pests, the bats were emerging just about dark," said James Eggers, education director at the Bat Conservation International, which manages Bracken Cave. "That's when they prefer to emerge because they can avoid all different kinds of predators."

Mexican free-tailed bats, the most common species in Texas, are targeted by hawks and falcons that dive into the swarm emerging from the black mouth of the cave, an ancient collapsed sinkhole where tons of excrement gives off an ammonia-like scent.

They're also hunted by raccoons, owls and snakes that sometimes dangle from the top of the cave entrance, snatching bats as they come out in a whirring, corkscrew-like funnel that darkens the sky. Eggers said the declin-

ing insect population will also affect the bats' survival rate, though it will be difficult to determine the severity of the problem until 2012.

"We can stipulate that more than most years, the old, the infirmed and the young are suffering more, so bat populations will be lower next year," Eggers said.

The dark brown or gray bats are about 15 grams each — the weight of two 25-cent coins — with wingspans of 8 to 10 inches.

They are among the slowest reproducing mammals, producing each year a single pup, whose life is in jeopardy if the mother bat can't provide sufficient food.

These factors have experts concerned about other colonies across Texas where the bats are also beginning their food runs before nightfall.

This includes the 1.5 million bats in Austin — the world's largest urban bat population — which entertain people with nightly depar-



tures from under a city bridge.

Activity at another well-known Texas bat site may be foreshadowing next year.

Nyta Brown, who manages the Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area near Fredericksburg, said while her bat emergences are earlier this summer, the 3 million bats that normally inhabit the abandoned train tunnel is down considerably. Nightly shows that should be 40 minutes to an hour at this time of the year have dwindled to six to 10 minutes.

"Usually the population at Old Tunnel almost doubles during the month of August as the juveniles have begun to fly," she said. Not now.

live under bridges along bayous near downtown but suggested it's more likely due to record heat. The largest colony has about 300,000 bats.

"There seems to be enough insects, but whether it's the type of insects they're looking for, we haven't done any study," she said.

What Foss has noticed is an increase in the number of baby bats falling to the ground and dying, potentially meaning a smaller presence next year.

"If adults aren't able to get enough food, babies don't," she said.

Texas A&M biologist Mike Smotherman isn't so sure the behavioral changes are dire.

"These things are everywhere," he said. "These are fantastically mobile animals designed to fly fast and go far distances."

Smotherman said his studies show if bats don't like the food or water, they just move somewhere else.

"Given a choice, they do have preferred foraging grounds, but they make annual migrations over thousands of miles and it's hard to imagine they're really stuck on one path," he said. "My guess is they're flexible enough and adaptable enough they can just deal with it."

**Charles Myers**  
Attorney At Law

Family Law And  
Criminal Law

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## News in brief

### Groups sue to block oil pipeline

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Three conservation groups are suing to halt preliminary work on a proposed 1,700-mile-long oil pipeline from the tar sands of western Canada to Texas Gulf Coast refineries.

The lawsuit to be filed Wednesday in federal court in Nebraska contends that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service broke the law by allowing Canadian pipeline operator TransCanada to start preparing the route for its Keystone XL pipeline.

The groups say federal officials allowed TransCanada to clear a 100-mile pipeline corridor through the Nebraska Sandhills, despite a federal law barring projects from launching before they receive approval.

The project would cross the Ogallala aquifer, which supplies groundwater to Nebraska and seven other states.

The lawsuit also names the U.S. State Department, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar.

### Women's Museum in Dallas to close

DALLAS (AP) — The Women's Museum at Fair Park in Dallas is set to close at the end of this month after a history of financial struggles.

The museum, which has been in operation for 11 years, has had 1.5 million visitors.

"This was not an easy decision to make," Liz Minyard, president of the museum's board, told The Dallas Morning News. "We didn't take it lightly. But we have always had the mission of leadership and direction for girls and women and that's what we will continue to do in the future."

The nonprofit will continue offering programming for women and girls. Minyard said the details are still being worked out, but that could include summer camps and leadership workshops.

Museum spokeswoman Haley Curry said the museum has suffered a decrease in revenue during the economic downturn.

According to tax records, the museum reported a deficit in 2007 of nearly \$600,000, and that shortfall doubled the next year. In 2009, the latest year for which records are available, the museum reported a \$1.3 million deficit, after \$2.6 million in expenses.

### Firefighters make progress on new blaze

BASTROP (AP) — Firefighters made progress overnight battling a wildfire in the same Central Texas county where a destructive blaze last month destroyed more than 1,500 homes.

Officials Wednesday revised the number of homes evacuated in the current blaze to 28.

Texas Forest Service spokesman John Nichols said Wednesday that with winds and temperatures down overnight and humidity up, "the conditions were right for them to keep a pretty good handle on it."

Containment was still at about 25 percent, but he expected that percentage to be increased later Wednesday.

Nichols says the 1,000-acre fire has not yet burned any structures and the homes are not in imminent danger, though residents will likely not be allowed back home till Thursday.

Historic drought conditions in Texas have led to a rash of wildfires.

### Texting study finds slower driver response times

AUSTIN (AP) — New findings from a Texas study show texting while driving is more dangerous than previously thought.

Reading or writing a text message behind the wheel can more than double a driver's reaction time, according to a study released Wednesday by the Texas Transportation Institute.

"Our findings suggest that response times are even slower than what we originally thought," said Christine Yager, a TTI researcher, who managed the study. "Texting while driving basically doubles a driver's reaction time and makes the driver less able to respond to sudden roadway dangers, if a vehicle were to make a sudden stop in front of them or if a child was to run across the road."

Reaction times slowed from one to two seconds with no texting activity, to three to four seconds while texting, the study found.

The study found very little difference in response times between a driver composing a message and reading one.

Researchers studied 42 drivers between the ages of 16 and 54 on a test-track driving course in vehicles equipped with a flashing light and a monitoring system. To put the findings in context, Yager said drivers going 30 mph travel 220 feet in five seconds. At 60 mph, a driver covers 440 feet in five seconds, she said.

"If you're on a freeway where the

speed limit is 60 in rush hour and a vehicle suddenly stops in front of you, that's not enough time to react if your eyes are glanced down at your phone," Yager said.

Drivers in the study were more than 11 times more likely to miss the flashing light altogether when they were texting.

### 3 more El Paso officers resign amid investigation

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — Three more El Paso police officers have resigned amid a U.S. Department of Transportation investigation into the use of federal grants to enforce traffic violations and detect drunken drivers.

El Paso officials said Tuesday a total of eight police officers have now resigned amid the investigation. Five officers resigned last month.

The Transportation Department is investigating the use of money given for the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program and Impaired Driver Mobilization programs.

Last year, some of the grants for the Fort Worth Police Department were cut after a similar investigation. Officers had been paid overtime, some of it through STEP, by giving tickets during their normal duty hours but writing later times on them to appear as if they were working longer hours.

### Management of Texas disaster fund worries feds

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas' outsourcing of the management of more than \$1 billion in federal disaster recovery funds to an engineering firm has raised concern from federal officials.

The Austin American-Statesman reports that the firm, Kansas City, Mo.-based HNTB, which the state has so far paid \$45 million to process infrastructure grants for communities damaged by Hurricanes Dolly and Ike has close ties to Gov. Rick Perry's administration.

Three years after the storms, only 20 percent of the first round of money released to Texas to aid disaster recovery grants has been spent. Federal officials say at least half those projects should have been completed by now based on the state's original timeline.

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### OCTOBER IS NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

There were 111 women between ages 13-83 killed by intimate male partners in Texas in 2009

- 61% Were Shot to Death.
- 13% Were Stabbed to Death
- 10% Multiple Means
- 6% Other Means
- 4% Were Strangled to Death
- 4% Unknown
- 2% Were Beaten to Death by the hands of their abuser

56% Victims did not have children

44% Children lost their Mothers.

#### VICTIM SERVICES OF BIG SPRING STATS 2010:

Domestic Violent cases – 146

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## News in brief

### 10 years into war, Taliban strong, Afghans disappointed

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP) — Asif Khan sits on a dirty, once-white blanket in an abandoned cinema and fights back tears of desperation.

He can't find a job for his eldest son, who "even knows computers," without paying a bribe. He can't afford uniforms, books or pencils for his nine daughters to go to school. And so they all live with him in the old cinema, where mangled rebars dangle like tentacles from the ceiling and a cold wind whips through windows with no glass.

It's a long way from the optimism Khan felt when he returned to Afghanistan from Pakistan after the U.S. defeated the Taliban in 2001. Now, he says, "I have no hope."

As the U.S. and NATO mark 10 years of war in Afghanistan, a grim picture emerges from scores of interviews over six months across the country with ordinary Afghans, government officials, soldiers, and former and current Taliban, along with recent data. The difference between the often optimistic assessment of U.S. generals and the reality on the ground for Afghans is stark.

There are signs of progress — an important one is that schools are open. More than 6 million children are in school today, according to the United Nations. During the Taliban, girls were denied schooling, and before that most schools were closed because of fighting. The media is also flourishing, with several newspapers, weekly magazines and 10 television channels in operation.

### Her 4-year ordeal in Italian prison over, Amanda Knox arrives home

SEATTLE (AP) — The emotional strain built steadily for years as Amanda Knox sat locked away thousands of miles from her loved ones, all the while maintaining her innocence, wondering whether anyone who mattered would ever believe her.

Knox's father, Curt, suggested that at least some of that pressure was released when she gained her freedom. "She pretty much squished the air out of us when she hugged us," he said.

Curt Knox, for the time, is no longer a legal advocate, he's only a father. And, as Amanda Knox returned to her hometown of Seattle on Tuesday after

being acquitted on murder charges after four years in prison, he shifted his concern to her future.

"The focus simply is Amanda's well-being and getting her re-associated with just being a regular person again," he said in front of his home in West Seattle.

He said Amanda would like to return to the University of Washington at some point to finish her degree, but for now, he's apprehensive about what four years in prison may have done to his daughter, though there are no immediate plans for her to get counseling. "What's the trauma ... and when will it show up, if it even shows up?" he said. "She's a very strong girl, but it's been a tough time for her."

### Israel's Daniel Shechtman wins Nobel Prize in chemistry

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Israeli scientist Daniel Shechtman has won the 2011 Nobel Prize in chemistry.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences cited Shechtman for the discovery of quasicrystals.

The chemistry award is the third Nobel Prize to be announced this year. The medicine award went to three scientists for breakthrough research on the immune system and the physics prize was awarded to a trio who discovered that the expansion of the universe is accelerating.

### Poll finds 1 in 3 post-9/11 veterans believes neither Iraq nor Afghan war was worth fighting

WASHINGTON (AP) — One in three U.S. veterans of the post-9/11 military believes the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were not worth fighting, and a majority think that after 10 years of combat America should be focusing less on foreign affairs and more on its own problems, according to an opinion survey released Wednesday.

The findings highlight a dilemma for the Obama administration and Congress as they struggle to shrink the government's huge budget deficits and reconsider defense priorities while trying to keep public support for remaining involved in Iraq and Afghanistan for the longer term.

Nearly 4,500 U.S. troops have died in Iraq and about 1,700 in Afghanistan. Combined war costs

since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks have topped \$1 trillion.

The poll results presented by the Pew Research Center portray post-9/11 veterans as proud of their work, scarred by warfare and convinced that the American public has little understanding of the problems that wartime service has created for military members and their families.

The survey also showed that post-9/11 veterans are more likely than Americans as a whole to call themselves Republicans and to disapprove of President Barack Obama's performance as commander in chief. They also are more likely than earlier generations of veterans to have no religious affiliation.

### Democrats have different idea on paying for Obama's jobs bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Democrats are scrambling to rewrite portions of President Barack Obama's jobs bill as they seek elusive party unity around the measure even as Obama tries to pin the blame squarely on Republicans for Congress' failure to act.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell moved to call the president's bluff Tuesday by pushing for a quick Senate vote on the bill, but Democratic leader Harry Reid derailed the effort as all sides maneuvered for position in a potentially defining battle in the 2012 presidential campaign.

In the Senate, Democrats made plans to jettison provisions that Obama recommended to pay for the \$447 billion jobs bill, substituting them with a tax increase on millionaires, officials said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the closed-door developments.

Reid, D-Nev., outlined plans for a 5 percent surcharge in a meeting with the rank and file Tuesday, according to participants in the session, as Obama traveled to Texas to deliver his most caustic challenge yet to House Republicans who have not allowed a vote on the legislation unveiled nearly a month ago.

"What's the problem? Do they not have the time? They just had a week off. Is it inconvenient?" he said in Mesquite, Texas, singling out House Majority Leader Eric Cantor for special criticism.

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- Appetizers
- Desserts
- Vegetables
- Casseroles
- Entrees
- Salads



228515

**RECIPE ENTRY DEADLINE:**  
Tuesday, November 8, 2011

Winners will be published in the  
cookbook on Sunday, Nov. 27, 2011

#### HOW TO GET YOUR ENTRY TO US:

Mail to:  
PO Box 1431, BS, TX 79721

Bring to:  
710 Scurry, Big Spring

Fax to:  
(432) 264-7205 or

Email to:  
rick@thebigspringherald.com

#### \* Official Entry Form \*

**YES!** Enter my recipe(s) in the  
12th Annual Holiday Cookbook Contest.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please type or print your recipe legibly  
and submit it with this form

Finalist will be required to cook entry and drop off at the Big Spring Herald on the day of judging  
Winners will be notified and empty containers may be picked up the day after judging of the contest.

**ALL FOOD ENTRIES BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE BIG SPRING HERALD,  
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# Pigskin Picks Football Contest

Brought to you by  
**Big Spring Herald & Hog Heaven BBQ**



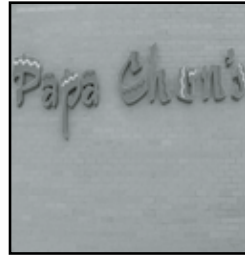
**Blum's Jewelers**

1. Big Spring
2. Coahoma
3. Garden City
4. Colorado City
5. Grady
6. Forsan
7. Bills
8. Texans
9. TX Tech
10. Broncos



**Bargain Mart Discount Store**

1. Brownwood
2. Coahoma
3. Borden Co.
4. Colorado City
5. Grady
6. Forsan
7. Eagles
8. Texans
9. TX A&M
10. Chargers



**Papa Chon's**

1. Big Spring
2. Coahoma
3. Garden City
4. Colorado City
5. Grady
6. Forsan
7. Eagles
8. Texans
9. Tx A&M
10. Chargers



**Walmart**

1. Big Spring
2. Coahoma
3. Garden City
4. Colorado City
5. Grady
6. Forsan
7. Bills
8. Texans
9. Tx A&M
10. Chargers



**87 AUTO SALES**

1. Big Spring
2. Coahoma
3. Garden City
4. Colorado City
5. Grady
6. Forsan
7. Bills
8. Texans
9. Tx A&M
10. Chargers



**Hog Heaven**

1. Big Spring
2. Coahoma
3. Garden City
4. Colorado City
5. Grady
6. Forsan
7. Eagles
8. Raiders
9. Tx A&M
10. Chargers



**Sonic Drive In**

1. Big Spring
2. Coahoma
3. Garden City
4. Colorado City
5. Grady
6. Forsan
7. Bills
8. Texans
9. Tx & A&M
10. Chargers

**Enter To Win \$50 At These Participating Merchants**

**Rules:** Find this week's games in the merchants' ads on this page. Choose the teams you think will win. Clip and fill in the official entry blank on this page with your team choices. The entry with the most correct picks will win \$50 and a \$20 Gift Certificate to Hog Heaven. You must be 18 to enter. *No Photo Copies Accepted.* In the event of a tie, the tie breaker will determine the winner. For the tie breaker, Guess the winner and the combined scores for the total points. Decisions of the judges are final. Employees of *The Big Spring Herald* are ineligible. All entries must be received at one of the participating merchants by 1 p.m. Friday of the week played. Winners will be announced in the *Big Spring Herald* the Wednesday following the games.

**PLEASE DO NOT BRING ENTRY FORM TO THE BIG SPRING HERALD'S OFFICE.**

**Enter To Win \$50 & A \$20 Gift Certificate to Hog Heaven BBQ!**

## Pigskin Picks Entry Form

Team \_\_\_\_\_

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. _____</li> <li>2. _____</li> <li>3. _____</li> <li>4. _____</li> <li>5. _____</li> <li>6. _____</li> <li>7. _____</li> <li>8. _____</li> <li>9. _____</li> <li>10. _____</li> </ol>	Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone Number: _____  Tie Breaker - Circle the winner and note total points scored <b>49ers vs. Buccaneers</b>  Total Points _____
---	---

1972 **87 AUTO SALES** 2011

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MON - SAT 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM  
SUN 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

1. Big Spring vs. Brownwood
2. Coahoma vs. Post
3. Garden City vs. Borden Co.

4. Colorado City vs. Wall
5. Grady vs. O'Donnell
6. Forsan vs. Anson

7. Eagles vs. Bills
8. Raiders vs. Texans
9. TX Tech vs. Tx A&M
10. Broncos vs. Chargers

**Bargain Mart** Discount Foods

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Open Mon.-Sat. 9 am - 6:30 pm  
(Closed Sundays)

**SHARON CREGAR**  
was the Big Spring Herald's Week 6 Winner of \$50 AND a \$20 Gift Card to Hog Heaven BBQ!  
(Checks may be picked up Friday after 12 pm)

**Congratulations!**

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## Lady Steers fall to No. 10 ranked Wylie

By **ROBERT GRIFFIN**

Sports Editor

The Big Spring Lady Steers travelled to Abilene Tuesday for a match-up between the number 9 and number 10 ranked teams in the state, with sole possession of the District 5-3A lead at stake.

Big Spring, 26-10 (2-1), fell in three sets to the Lady Bulldogs 25-20, 25-12 and 25-12.

Taylor Seaton led the Lady Steers with six kills, with Haley Dimidjian and Diamond Mayes recording three apiece.

Seaton also recorded three blocks for Big Spring, while Mayes had one.

Cerbi Ritchey had 11 assists to lead Big Spring, with Morgan Seaton adding three. Carson Reibe had a team high 13 digs, Ritchey added 10 and Clara Benavides had eight.

The Seaton, Taylor and Morgan, each had six digs in the game as well.

The Lady Steers will be back in the friendly confines of Steer Gym Friday as they prepare to take on Brownwood in their next district match-up.

The varsity and freshman teams play at 5 p.m. and the JV girls — who fell to Wylie Tuesday night 25-14 and 25-16 — will play at 6:30 p.m.



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Taylor Seaton (12) hammers the ball home against Abilene Wylie Tuesday night. Seaton recorded six kills as the number nine ranked Lady Steers fell to Wylie in three matches.

### Briefs

#### Quarterback Club meeting Monday

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

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

#### BSLL meeting

Big Spring Little league will have an end of season meeting Oct. 8. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. at the Life Church. There will be an election of officers for the 2012 season.

#### Forsan Booster Spook-tacular 4-man scramble

The Forsan Buffaloes Booster Club presents a Spook-tacular buffs and goblins 4-man scramble golf tournament at Big Spring Country Club Oct. 15.

The tournament will begin with

a shotgun start at 8 a.m. and will feature prizes for longest drive, closest to the pin, the winning team and the best costume.

To reserve your spot in the tournament, call the country club at 267-5354.

For further information, call Wendy Roman at 213-1071 or Angie Williams at 270-0606.

#### 6-6-6 golf tournament Oct. 22-23

Big Spring Country Club is hosting a six-hole scramble golf tournament, featuring six low ball holes and six modified, alternate shot holes Oct. 22-23.

Entry fee is \$60, plus cart fee, with private carts being allowed.

The tournament will kick off to a 1 p.m. shotgun start on both days, with barbecue being served on the course Saturday. The field will be flighted according to first round scores, with the number of flights being determined by the number of entrants.

For more information, call the pro shop at 432-267-5354.

## Rangers ride Beltre's three homers to ALCS

ST. PETERSBURG (AP) — Adrian Beltre stood off to the side of the interview room, drying his face with a giant towel. The Texas Rangers were celebrating another playoff series win, and the hot-hitting, championship-seeking third baseman relished being in the middle of the party.

The two-time All-Star had moments like Tuesday in mind when he joined the defending AL champions in the offseason, although it's difficult to imagine anyone foreseeing him putting on a power show that few in major league history have matched to help the Rangers beat the Tampa Bay Rays 4-3 in the clincher of their division series.

"From my point of view, Texas gave me the best chance to put a ring on my finger," Beltre said after homering three straight times to help the Rangers advance again. "And I am just two steps away from it. Hopefully that happens."

Ian Kinsler also homered, going deep on the second pitch of the game to help Texas take the best-of-five series 3-1 and end Tampa Bay's remarkable run to the wild-card spot.

Next up, the Rangers will play the winner of the ALDS matchup between the Detroit Tigers and New York Yankees for the pennant.

"We've done this a lot over the past couple of years, but we're look-

ing forward to a little more of it," designated hitter Michael Young said in the midst of the celebration in the visitors clubhouse at Tropicana Field. "We know it's going to be tough. We know we're going to play a good team next round."

Beltre, playing in the postseason for just the second time in a 13-year career, came into the game in a 1-for-11 slump. He broke loose with a 413-foot homer to left in the second inning, a 381-foot shot in the fourth and another that traveled 384 feet in the seventh.

By his own account, it probably was Beltre's best day as a pro.

"I think besides my first big league hit, this is right up there," said the slugger, who's in the playoffs for the first time since 2004, when he was with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

"Amazing. ... We've been waiting for the middle of our lineup to get started, and today he stepped up and put us on his back and hit three home runs against pretty good pitching," Texas manager Ron Washington said. "That's not easy to do. ... He's been big for us all year. And today he was bigger than big. He was huge."

It was the seventh time a player has homered three times in a postseason game — Adam Kennedy was the last to do it, for the Angels in 2002. Babe

See **RANGERS**, Page 15

## NBA needs deal by Monday to save season

NEW YORK (AP) — Unable to reach a deal, NBA owners and players walked away from the table and don't know when they will meet again.

If it's not in the next few days, they can forget about playing 82 games.

Without an agreement by Monday, the beginning of the regular season will be canceled, and both sides will lose millions of dollars and perhaps countless fans.

"We're ready to meet and discuss any subject anyone wants to talk

about," Commissioner David Stern said. "We'd like not to lose the first two weeks of the season, but it doesn't look good."

Though the financial gap closed slightly, once the players' association said it wouldn't enter-

tain the idea of a 50-50 revenue split, the league canceled the remainder of the preseason Tuesday and will wipe out the first two weeks of the regular season if there is no labor agreement by Monday.

"We were not able

to make the progress that we hoped we could make and we were not able to continue the negotiations," Stern said after nearly four hours of talks between owners and players ended without gaining ground on a new deal.

No further meetings are scheduled — union executive director Billy Hunter said it could be a month or two until the next one — making it even more likely the league will lose games

See **NBA**, Page 15

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For more information go to www.mybigspring.com, or apply in person in the Human Resources Office located at 310 Nolan. (432)264-2346.

**COASTAL TRANSPORT** is seeking **Owner-operators** with a Class A CDL. Must be 23 years, X endorsement with 1 year experience. **For More Information, Call 888-527-7221 between 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday.**

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**GOODWILL-WEST TEXAS** is accepting applications for **Store Manager** Applications available at 701 S. Gregg Street Big Spring or Goodwill-West Texas 2200 N. 1st Street Abilene, TX 79603 tbloodgood@goodwillwesttexas.org

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**Real Estate for Sale**

**1307 MT.** Vernon- Owner Finance 3/1. New paint & carpet. Easy Terms. Payment under \$500 after down payment. Call (325)277-4923.

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**Legals**

**Public Notice**  
The Glasscock County Commissioner's Court is accepting bids for the following vehicles:

- Heavy Duty Pickup
- SUV

For more information or specifications please call the County Treasurer's Office @ 432-354-2415.

Bids will be opened on October 11, 2011 at 10:00 AM.

Glasscock County Commissioner reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

#7137 September 30 & October 5, 2011

**Legals**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS FORSAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S STATE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY RATING**

Forsan ISD will hold a public meeting at the beginning of their regular Board Meeting at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, October 10, 2011, at the Administration Office located at 411 W. 6th Street in Forsan, Texas.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Forsan ISD's FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) rating.

#7140 October 5 & 7, 2011

**Legals**

**Public Notice**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BIG SPRING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S State Financial Accountability Rating**  
The Big Spring Independent School District's Board of Trustees will hold a public meeting at 5:15 P.M. on October 13, 2011, in the Big Spring High School Board Room, 707 East 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the Big Spring Independent School District's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

#7142 October 5 & 6, 2011

**Legals**

**TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR AN AIR QUALITY PERMIT**

**PERMIT NUMBER: 74335 APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION.**

John Crane Production Solutions Inc., PO Box 4908, Tyler, Texas 75712-4908, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for an amendment to Air Quality Permit Number 74335, which would authorize modification to a Pultrusion Facility at 3604 Bethel Dr, Big Spring, Howard County, Texas 79720. This application was submitted to the TCEQ on May 19, 2011. The proposed facility will emit the following contaminants: particulate matter including particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less, organic compounds including (but not limited to) exempt solvents and isopropanol, and hazardous air pollutants including (but not limited to) styrene.

The executive director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit which, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The executive director has made a preliminary decision to issue the permit because it meets all rules and regulations. The permit application, executive director's preliminary decision, and draft permit will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, the TCEQ Midland regional office, and at the Howard County Library, 500 Main Street, Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review at the TCEQ Midland Regional Office, 3300 N A St Bldg 4-107, Midland, Texas.

**PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC MEETING.** You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comment or to ask questions about the application. The TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the executive director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing. **You may submit additional written public comments within 30 days of the date of newspaper publication of this notice in the manner set forth in the AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION paragraph below.**

**RESPONSE TO COMMENTS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION.** After the deadline for

Scientists in the United States, China and Singapore are developing a microelectronic tattoo that may someday be used to monitor functions such as heart rate, brain waves and the movement of pathogens. When it comes to saving humanity, under the lunar transit of philanthropic, future-thinking Aquarius, all

public comments, the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material or significant public comments. Because no timely hearing requests have been received, after preparing the response to comments, the executive director may then issue final approval of the application. **The response to comments, along with the executive director's decision on the application will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments or is on a mailing list for this application, and will be posted electronically to the Commissioners' Integrated Database (CID).**

**INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE.** When they become available, the executive director's response to comments and the final decision on this application will be accessible through the Commission's Web site at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid)

Once you have access to the CID using the above link, enter the permit number for this application which is provided at the top of this notice. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application.

<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=32.2302&lng=-101.5108&zoom=13&type=r>

**MAILING LIST.** You may ask to be placed on a mailing list to obtain additional information on this application by sending a request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

**AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION.** Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at [www.tceq.texas.gov/about/comments.html](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/about/comments.html)

or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. If you communicate with the TCEQ electronically, please be aware that your email address, like your physical mailing address, will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Public Education Program toll free at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from John Crane Production Solutions Inc at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Mike Rowland, Director of Operations at (432)264-4640.

Notice Issuance Date: September 30, 2011  
#7141 October 5, 2011

**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

things seem possible.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Your observations are astute, especially in regard to a certain colleague. You might not like what you surmise from watching this person; however, you can use the information to your advantage.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You'll express the creativity inside of you. You probably don't even realize it's there, but once you get in motion, you are suddenly amazed at the results. It won't feel like you're the one making it happen.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You have the courage to move forward in spite of your fear. It's not something you have to develop. There is bravery in you, and all you have to do is remember it's there. It powers you ever forward.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Your tendency toward perfectionism will be prominent. You'll find that it's not enough to do a fine job. You'll keep going with the job until you reach the stellar result to which you are accustomed.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You will be suddenly struck with the impulse to give yourself something you really, really want. The feeling is similar to the way you realize that if you don't transfer money into your account, you could bounce a check.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll trace a zigzag course through this day. There's a logic to this. Perhaps it hardly makes sense, but trust that you have your reasons. Luckily, you won't have to report to anyone else or explain yourself.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your ego hardly ever needs as much attention as the other guy's. That's why you usually wind up doing the stroking instead of getting stroked. Well, it's your turn, and you should take it.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You will feel compelled on some very deep level to study a person. This isn't someone you would typically think of as a role model, but he or she embodies a quality you want to obtain.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). An average person who focuses intently can become superhuman. That's because focus is power. You will be increasingly mindful of where you put your attention.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You simply cannot force yourself to do what you don't want to do. On a different day, under other circumstances, you would be able to do it. But you want something else now, and your best bet is to give in to it.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Perhaps your professional dealings are not as profitable as they could be because you have reasons other than financial for doing business. Keep your integrity high, and the money will follow soon.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You will be dealing with certain recurring and unhelpful thought processes. The best way is to ignore them. Tend to something else. Read a book. Look at pretty pictures. Anything to get your mind out of the negative spiral.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Oct. 5). Widely diversified interests lead to exciting friendships and/or professional developments. Partnerships stabilize in

November, and you could embark on a joint project that will be many years in the making. Your industrious nature will net you an award in December. Family celebrates you throughout 2012. Leo and Sagittarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 2, 24, 37 and 31.

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

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

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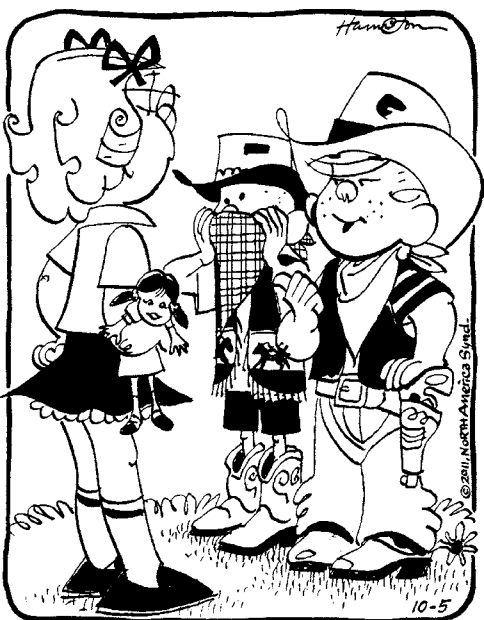
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5:PM	News ABC	Alma Notic.	Big Bang News	News	Noticias	News	MLB Baseball: Division Series: Teams TBA.	Swallow House	News Business	Til Death King	MythBusters	Others, Al-akina Mann	UFC Un-leashed	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Shake It Good	NFL32	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Cuando Me	Two Men	News	Caso Cer-rado	News		Dr. Diana Yohanan	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld	MythBusters		South Pk	Bones	Random	Pardon	Depth Chart	
7:PM	Wheel	Familia-Suert	The X Factor	Ent	Mi Corazón Insiste	All Night		Upd	Nature	H8R	MythBusters	Movie: The Exorcism of Emily Rose	South Pk	The Mental-ist	Movie: Deep Blue Sea, Samuel L. Jackson	Good	Baseball	
8:PM	Family Happy	Fuerza-Des-tino	Raising	Criminal Minds	Flor Salvaje (SS)	Harry's Law		Bill Cloud	NOVA (DVS)	Top Model	MythBusters		King	The Mental-ist	Return to Halloween-town	Jessie	WNBA	
9:PM	Revenge	Rosa de Guadalupe	Simpsons	CSI: Crime Scene	La Casa de al Lado	Law & Order: SVU	MLB Base-ball: Division Series: Teams TBA.	Charlie Rose	NOVA (DVS)	Cops	Penn & Teller	Movie: The Exorcism of Emily Rose	King	CSI: NY	Random	Good	Renee	
10:PM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News		Chumney	King	South Pk	MythBusters		King	CSI: NY	Jessie		SportsCenter	
11:PM	Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Para Volver a Amar	Law Order: CI	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night		Cortes	World	South Pk	Penn & Teller		King	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Wizards	NFL Live	
12:AM	Extra	Destilando Amor	Raymond Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	News	MLB	Yohanan	T. Smiley	Roseanne	MythBusters	Breaking Bad	King	CSI: NY	Movie: Deep Blue Sea, Samuel L. Jackson	Good	SportsNation	
1:AM	Paid	La Jaula	American	Ent	Pagado	Poker After Dark		Light.	Light of the Southwest	Focus 4	MythBusters	(-03) Movie: Screwed, Flaine Strich	King	Falling Skies	MAN	Good	Football	
	Paid	Par Ases	TMZ	Paid	Pagado	Pagado		Office		Tripp						ANT Farm	NASCAR	

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

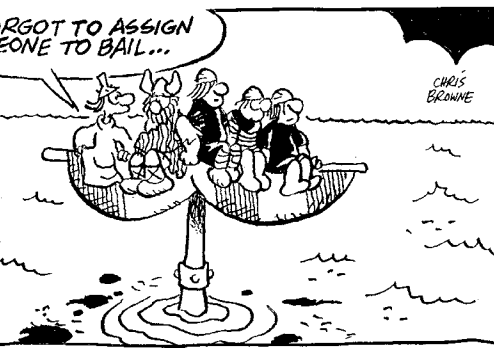


"Daddy, when you were little, were you any good at being a kid?"

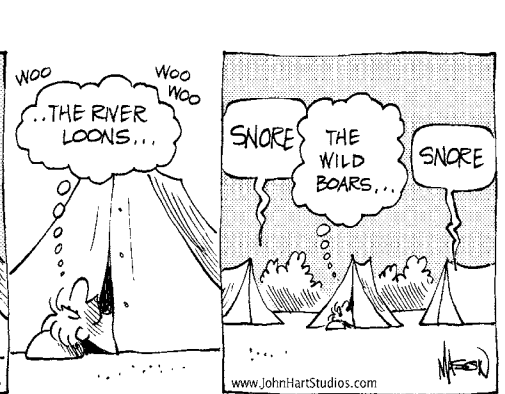
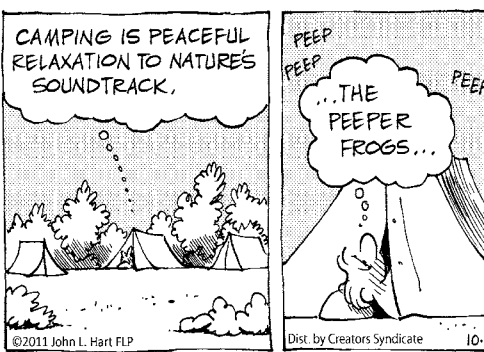
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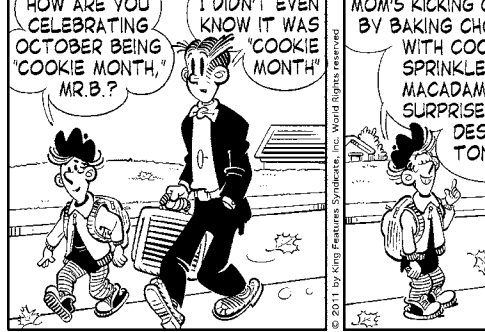
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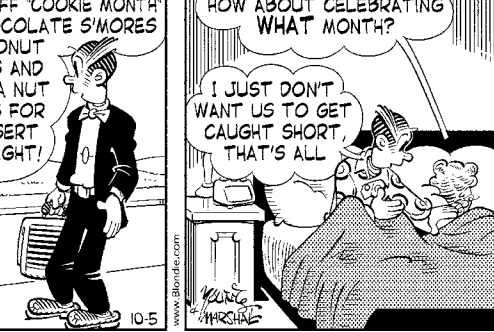
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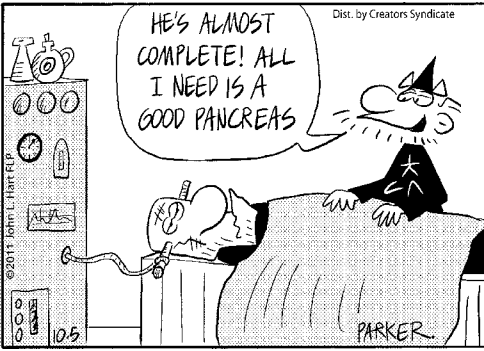
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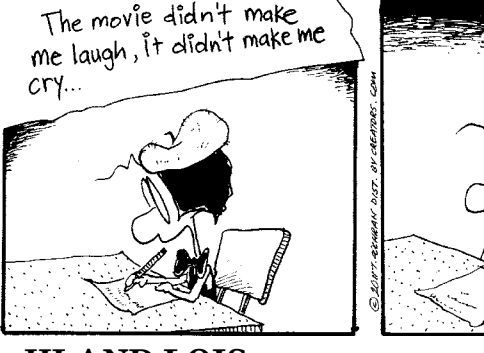
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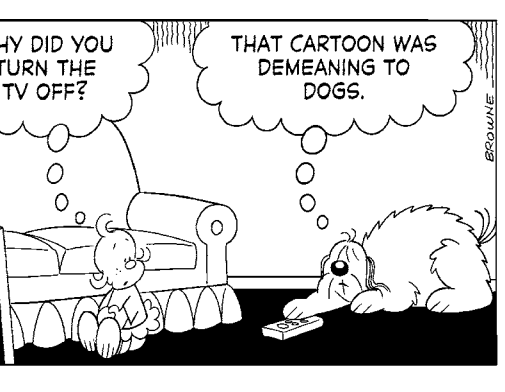
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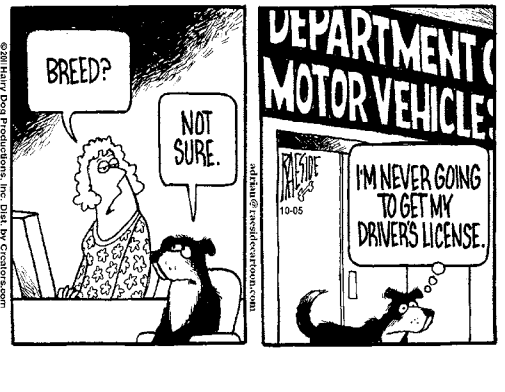
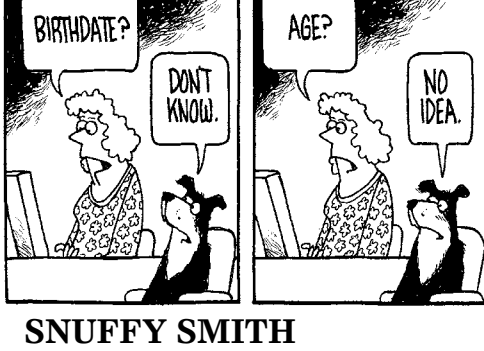
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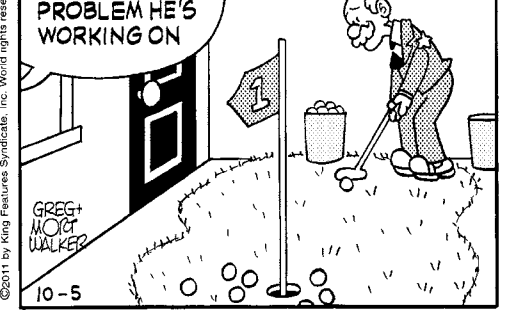
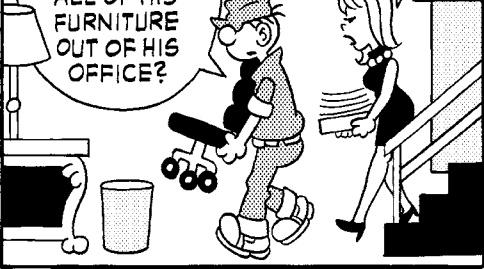
THE OTHER COAST



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This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Oct. 5, the 278th day of 2011. There are 87 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 5, 1921, the World Series was covered on radio for the first time as Newark, N.J., station WJZ relayed reports from the Polo Grounds, where the New York Giants were facing the New York Yankees. (Although the Yankees won the opener, 3-0, the Giants won the series, 5 games to 3.)

On this date:

In 1829, the 21st president of the United States, Chester Alan Arthur, was born in Fairfield, Vt. (Some sources list 1830.)

In 1892, the Dalton Gang, notorious for its train robberies, was practically wiped out while attempting to rob a pair of banks in Coffeyville, Kan.

In 1910, Portugal was proclaimed a republic following the abdication of King Manuel II in the face of a coup d'etat.

In 1931, Clyde Pangborn and

Hugh Herndon completed the first non-stop flight across the Pacific Ocean, arriving in Washington state some 41 hours after leaving Japan.

In 1941, former Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis — the first Jewish member of the nation's highest court — died in Washington at age 84.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman delivered the first televised White House address as he spoke on the world food crisis.

In 1953, Earl Warren was sworn in as the 14th chief justice of the United States, succeeding Fred M. Vinson.

In 1970, British trade commissioner James Richard Cross was kidnapped in Canada by militant Quebec separatists; he was released the following December.

In 1981, President Ronald Reagan signed a resolution granting honorary American citizenship to Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, credited with saving thousands of Hungarians, most of them Jews, from the Nazis during World War II.

In 1988, Democrat Lloyd Bentsen lambasted Republican Dan Quayle during their vice-

presidential debate, telling Quayle, "Senator, you're no Jack Kennedy."

Today's Birthdays: "Family Circus" cartoonist Bil (cq) Keane is 89. Actress Glynis Johns is 88. Comedian Bill Dana is 87. Actress Diane Cilento is 78. The former president of the Czech Republic, Vaclav Havel (VAHTS'-lah HAH'-vul), is 75. College Football Hall of Fame coach Barry Switzer is 74. Rhythm-and-blues singer Arlene Smith (The Chantels) is 70. Singer Richard Street is 69. Singer-musician Steve Miller is 68. Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, D-Md., is 68. Rock singer Brian Johnson (AC/DC) is 64. Actress Karen Allen is 60.

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Answer to previous puzzle

ALAMO	SPEC	MAPS
DUGIN	CIAO	ERIE
AGENT	ONTO	TILE
MEDIA	MOGUL	EDEN
PEP	PEER	
LAWMEN	REMOTE	
AREA	DROP	LANES
PEEK	SOARS	ICES
ENDED	TROT	DUNE
LASSOS	ASSES	
MEAT	CIA	
RIPE	MOTORMOUTH	
ODOR	PTAS	BURRO
MOOR	LAST	ASSES
ALLY	ELKS	STAKE

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Cookout, in brief
  - 6 Engage in banter
  - 10 Lambs' moms
  - 14 "Here's looking \_\_, kid!"
  - 15 Besides that
  - 16 Wistful phrase
  - 17 Really rhythmic
  - 19 Pasta alternative
  - 20 Pinafore designation
  - 21 Nada, in Nice
  - 22 Slanted
  - 24 Numbered rds.
  - 25 Makes a contact
  - 26 Florence art museum
  - 29 Geoffrey of fashion
  - 30 Volvo rival
  - 31 US/Canada defense org.
  - 33 Collect crops
  - 37 Polish up prose
  - 38 Bowling target
  - 39 Hunter's garb, slangily
  - 40 Supermarket department
  - 41 Guys
  - 43 "Ah, yes..."
  - 44 Scold mildly
  - 46 In the on-deck circle
  - 48 Oil vessels
  - 51 Unexpected obstacle
  - 52 Banished
  - 53 Mailed off
  - 54 "Mamma \_\_\_!"
  - 57 \_\_ Field (Big Apple ballpark)
- DOWN**
- 1 Big financial loss
  - 2 It's a small thing
  - 3 Sandwich breads
  - 4 Automated Web browser
  - 5 Crystalline mineral
  - 6 Wisecracks
  - 7 Actress Lena
  - 8 Govt.-issued ID
  - 9 Hampered severely
  - 10 Really loud
  - 11 Prepares potatoes, perhaps
  - 12 Banquet host
  - 13 Bird food
  - 18 \_\_ the sky (pipe dream)
  - 23 Author Fleming
  - 24 Really funny
  - 25 Slanted
  - 26 No longer new
  - 27 Become dim
  - 28 Come up short
  - 29 Salty solution
  - 32 Newspaper sections
  - 34 Mitigate

BODYWORKS by Mel Rosen

Edited by Stanley Newman

www.stanxwords.com

- 35 NASDAQ rival
- 36 Limerick writer
- 41 Encircled
- 42 Many a Muslim
- 45 Haw preceder
- 47 Inconsistent
- 48 Computer-help specialists
- 49 Self-evident truth
- 50 Volatile liquid
- 51 Does well in the stores
- 53 Brief car ride
- 54 Flirtatious lass
- 55 Picnic playwright
- 56 A long time
- 59 Suffix for secret
- 60 Korean auto

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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57							58	59			60		
61							62				63		
64							65						66

**RANGERS**

Continued from Page 10

Ruth did it twice, while Reggie Jackson, George Brett and Bob Robertson also are on the list.

Beltre connected in his first three at-bats. Given a chance to tie the big league record of four homers in a game, he hit a routine flyout with two men on in the eighth against Wade Davis.

"I was just trying to get a run there. Hit a line drive somewhere, maybe in the gap because they were trying to come back. ... Winning the game was more important for me than to hit the (fourth) homer," Beltre said.

"He's just a phenomenal baseball player ... He has power to all fields. He showed that again," said Rays manager Joe Maddon, who has followed Beltre's career since the Rangers star was with the Dodgers and Maddon was a coach with the Los Angeles Angels. "He's one of the better fielding third basemen in the game. Always believed that. He has a joy for the game, too."

Neftali Feliz gave up a run in the ninth inning before closing for his third save of the series, preserving the victory for Matt Harrison.

Texas won for the fifth straight time on the road overall — all at Tropicana Field — in the opening round. The Rangers eliminated Tampa Bay in five games last year, winning three times in the Rays' home stadium.

Beltre hit his first two homers off rookie Jeremy Hellickson, then added another solo drive against Game 1 winner Matt Moore in the seventh.

"We can beat you in many ways," Washington said, "and today it was the long ball."

The Rays weren't the only ones who had trouble keeping up with Beltre — a television cameraman trying to run alongside Beltre to capture the image as the star jogged home did a face-first pratfall.

Texas reached the World Series for the first time last year, but lost to San Francisco.

Down 2-0 early, the Rays literally rammed their way back into the game.

Sean Rodriguez drew a one-out walk in the second and took off when Matt Joyce lined a two-out double to the gap in right-center field. Rodriguez barreled around third base and plowed into catcher Mike Napoli, jarring the ball loose. Rodriguez knocked Napoli backward, scrambled to his feet and touched the plate with his hand.

It was the second plate collision in the playoffs this year. St. Louis' Jon Jay ran over Philadelphia's Carlos Ruiz in an unsuccessful attempt to score during Game 2 of the Cardinals' matchup against the Phillies.

Washington and the Rangers trainer left the dugout to check on the woozy Napoli, who remained in the game. Napoli got more attention in-between innings and stayed in the lineup.

There appeared to be no hard feelings between Napoli and Rodriguez, who played together when both were in the Angels system.

"I'm going to go in hard, too, if I have a chance and the game is on line like this one," Napoli said. "That's the right way to play the game. There are things you need to do in this game. I don't have any problems with what he did."

Maddon called it a "beautiful collision because nobody got hurt and the Rays scored a run."

"We'll probably laugh about it the next time we see each other. It's the same as if he came into second and he took me out; I'm not going to be upset at him," Rodriguez said. "I know he's going to try to block the plate, which he's supposed to do to try to prevent guys from scoring."

The play energized the crowd of 28,299, about 4,000 less than Monday night, which was announced as a sellout. Casey Kothcman added RBI singles in the fourth and ninth innings, but it wasn't enough to prolong the season.

The Rays certainly gave their faithful, and fans everywhere, quite a ride in the final month. They overcame a nine-game deficit against Boston in the wild-card standings, then rallied from seven runs down to beat the Yankees on the last day of the regular season and reach the playoffs for the third time in four years despite a small payroll.

"It's sour the way it ended. You feel like you have done more. We really, really have nothing to hang our heads about," said Evan Longoria, whose 12th-inning homer beat New York and put the Rays in the postseason.

**NBA**

Continued from Page 10

to a work stoppage for the first time since 1998-99, when the season was reduced to 50 games.

Stern and Deputy Commissioner Adam Silver said owners offered players a 50-50 split of basketball-related income. That's still well below the 57 percent that players were guaranteed under the previous collective bargaining agreement, but more than the 47 percent union officials said was formally proposed to them.

The only numbers that matter now, however, are the millions that stand to be lost when arenas go dark.

"The damage will be enormous," Silver said.

Players had offered to reduce their BRI guarantee to 53 percent, which they said would have given owners back more than \$1 billion over six years. They say they won't cut it further, at least for now.

And they insist the 50-50 concept wasn't an even split, because it would have come after the league had already deducted \$350 million off the top.

"Today was not the day for us to get this done," players' association president Derek Fisher said. "We were not able to get close enough to close the gap."

With superstars like Kobe Bryant, Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett standing behind him, Hunter said the players' proposal would have made up at least \$200 million per sea-

son — a sizable chunk of the \$300 million owners said they lost last season.

"Our guys have indicated a willingness to lose games," Hunter said.

The sides are also still divided on the salary-cap structure.

Training camps were postponed and 43 pre-season games scheduled for Oct. 9-15 were canceled on Sept. 24. Both sides said they felt pressure to work toward a deal with deadlines looming before more cancellations would be necessary.

Stern said the owners had removed their demand for a hard salary cap, were no longer insisting on salary rollbacks, and would have given players the right to opt out of a 10-year agreement after seven years. But the money split was always going to be the biggest hurdle in these negotiations, with owners insistent on the ability to turn a profit after the league said 22 of its 30 teams lost money last season.

"We want to and have been willing to negotiate, but we find ourselves at a point today where we in some ways anticipated or expected to be, faced with a lockout that may jeopardize portions if not all of our season," Fisher said.

After hardly budging off their original proposal for 1½ years, owners finally increased their offer to players from 46 to 47 percent of BRI. It was then that the top negotia-

tors discussed the 50-50 concept, and while Stern sounded disappointed that it didn't work, Silver was more frustrated.

"I am not going to get a good night sleep," he said. "After this afternoon's session, I would say I'm personally very disappointed. I thought that we should have continued negotiating today and I thought that there was potentially common ground on a 50-50 deal. I think it makes sense, it sounds like a partnership. There still would have been a lot of negotiating to do on the system elements, but I'm personally very disappointed."

On what both sides stressed was an important day, the owners' entire 11-man labor relations committee came to New York to meet with 11 players. They could still work something out before Monday's deadline, but neither side sounded optimistic.

"Right now, we had our committees, we gave it a really good run, and it didn't work," Stern said.

Hunter said the union would hold regional meetings with its players, set up workout centers and help in other ways. And many players — including Bryant, who has been in talks with an Italian team — will have to decide if they want to explore playing overseas.

And without a deal, the battle could go to the courts. Hunter said.

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**sudoku**

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

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# Aggies season seems to be falling apart

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — Two big leads. Two heartbreaking losses. A once promising season falling apart.

Now the Aggies try to move on from the defeats to salvage the season. They'll have to do it against an undefeated Texas Tech team on the road.

No. 24 Texas A&M has won two straight over the Red Raiders, but before the Aggies' 2009 win in Lubbock, they had lost seven straight there.

"We're going to stay positive, that's the only thing we can do," receiver Ryan Swope said. "We've got a great team, great character on the team and we just have to keep moving forward and we can't look

back."

Texas A&M was 2-0 and ranked in the top 10 before back-to-back losses to No. 6 Oklahoma State and No. 10 Arkansas. The Aggies led by 17 points at halftime against the Cowboys and 18 against the Razorbacks before second-half meltdowns led to narrow defeats.

Texas A&M coach Mike Sherman said losing those two games by a total of five points is more difficult to deal with than getting blown out.

"We've had two devastating losses, which are tough to handle," he said. "You're almost better off just getting your butt kicked and losing by a large score sometimes."

Sherman certainly

isn't happy with what has happened with his team the past two weeks, but he is convinced the Aggies can get back on track. That could be because the team bounced back last season after an early three-game losing streak to compete for the Big 12 title.

The Aggies lost to Oklahoma State, Arkansas and Missouri in consecutive weeks last season before reeling off six straight wins to finish with a 9-3 regular season record and a Cotton Bowl berth.

"I think we're a better team, but we're missing on a couple of cylinders right now and we have to get those cylinders working," he said. "I think I have more optimism. I was optimistic last year, but I know our

guys. I know what we have. I think we have a good pulse on things and I'm confident we can fix what needs to get fixed."

One of the things that must get fixed is Texas A&M's pass defense. The Aggies are allowing an FBS-worst 336.75 yards passing a game after Oklahoma State's Brandon Weeden and Arkansas quarterback Tyler Wilson both set school records for passing against A&M's defense.

Sherman knew there would be some growing pains on his defense this season with the loss of linebacker/defensive end Von Miller, who was the second overall pick in this year's draft. But he still expected a better performance than it has shown so far.

"I have high expectations that our defense will sort things out and that we'll make the

necessary adjustments that we need to make as coaches and as players," Sherman said. "I think we will be playing good defense shortly, but we have to have everybody buy into it."

One bright spot in A&M's loss to Arkansas was the play of running back Christine Michael. Michael ran for 230 yards and three touchdowns to earn Big 12 offensive player of the week honors.

The Aggies have used both he and Cyrus Gray this season with great success and are averaging almost 224 yards rushing a game, which could help in slowing down Tech's high-powered offense.

Swope, who is a junior, said they younger guys on the team are trying to get things together to help the seniors go out on a high note. He is looking to see how his teammates respond to

this adversity.

"It will be interesting at practice this week to see how guys react and what kind of leaders step up to the table," he said. "It's only two games, it's not the end of the world. We can bounce back, that's for sure."

Sherman knows his team probably got the "here we go again feeling" when the lead began to evaporate against Arkansas.

He's working to remind his players not to look ahead or behind, but simply to focus on doing their jobs each play.

"When you start looking at the what-ifs it becomes overwhelming and you start to fall apart," he said. "You have to have the maturity and the focus to deal with what's at hand right now and what you can fix right this second and not worry about the what-ifs."

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Where: Boy Scouts of America  
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Time: 6:00 PM

Fire & Emergency Service Career Exploring is open to

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more about careers in the field of Fire & Emergency Services.

Fire & Emergency Services Exploring is a hands-on program put on by the Boy Scouts of America that exposes participants to many career experiences, leadership opportunities, and community service activities. The primary goals of the program are to help young adults choose a career path within fire and emergency services and to challenge them to become responsible citizens of their communities and country.

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**Registration Locations**  
Buffalo Country Fina, Crossroads Collision Center, Mountainview Mercantile, Higginbotham-Bartlett Company, Big Spring Herald, Allan's Gallery of Furniture & Appliances, The Alternative Shop, Pollard Chevrolet-Buick-Cadillac, Ward's Western Wear, Harris Lumber & Hardware, Credit World.

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