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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**TUESDAY**

**JANUARY 10, 2012**



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## Hit & run

Autopsy confirms homicide ruling on Padron death  
 By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
 Staff Writer

Preliminary autopsy results on a Big Spring man who died shortly after being found in a roadway last week confirm he was the victim of a hit and run incident, according to law enforcement officials.

Eleutario Torres Padron, 62, was discovered in the roadway by passerbys Thursday evening near the intersection of Sgt. Paredez and Trades Avenue on the city's north side, according to police reports.

Howard County Justice of the Peace Kathryn Wiseman said Monday preliminary autopsy results confirm Padron was struck by a vehicle before being left in the road.

"He suffered two collapsed lungs as a result," Wiseman said. "He died shortly after arriving at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. The autopsy leaves no doubt he was hit by a vehicle. His death has been ruled a homicide."

See **DEATH**, Page 3



HERALD photos/Thomas Jenkins and Steve Reagan

**Old Man Winter arrived with a vengeance to this area Monday, as more than a foot of snow was dumped on parts of Howard County. The storm made streets nearly impassible, was blamed for numerous traffic accidents and forced schools to delay the start of classes today. On the good side, plenty of snow meant some impressively sized snowmen.**

## County OKs jail expenditures

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
 Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners approved a number of routine items Monday, including a \$1,300 expenditure at the county jail that will make it easier to house inmates, according to jail officials.



Dawson

According to Jail Administrator Mike Dawson, the inability to isolate water sources in jail cells — specifically to showers and sinks — has made it tough to house a smaller number of inmates than designed for the areas.

However, some rather expensive valves and some plumbing know-how will fix that problem, Dawson told commissioners.

**Another project the court approved — but not quite as excitedly — was the \$2,500 cost for the repair of a decorative mailbox in the county. Road and Bridge Administrator Eddy Jameson said the mailbox, constructed mainly of brick, was struck by a driver in his department while working on a county road.**

"The total cost of the project is \$1,300, and that's for the valves," Dawson said during Monday's meeting.

"We need some half-inch valves to isolate the plumbing in the cells. We also need some valves in the laundry areas," he added.

"The \$1,300 is for materials only. We have a master licensed plumber on staff who is going to do the work. I recently had County Judge

(Mark) Barr out at the jail and I corralled him and showed him what it would take. It could really save us some money in the long run."

Barr agreed, saying the work could be done at a minimal cost to the county.

"It's not a very big job at all," Barr said. "You're talking about going in and putting in a nipple and a valve. I think it's a good idea. In the long run I think it's going to

be a really good idea."

Commissioners approved the expense on a unanimous vote.

Another project the court approved — but not quite as excitedly — was the \$2,500 cost for the repair of a decorative mailbox in the county. According to Road and Bridge Administrator Eddy Jameson, the mailbox, constructed mainly of brick, was struck by a driver in his department while working on a county road.

According to county officials, the damage is not covered by county insurance.

Commissioners were unable to meet with Gene Valentini and Leslie Soto of the Lubbock County Juvenile Mediation Services during Monday's meeting due to a scheduling conflict.



### INDEX

- Comics 11
- Classified 8-10
- Features 6
- Obituaries 2
- Opinion 4
- Sports 7,12

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### Obituaries

#### Lonnie Ferrell Anderson



Lonnie Ferrell Anderson, 70, of Coahoma, went to be with the Lord on Saturday, Jan. 7, 2012, at his home surrounded by his family and friends. A Celebration of Life service will be held at 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, 2012, at the Coahoma Church of Christ with Eddy Pitchford officiating.

The family will receive friends following the service.

He was born March 9, 1941, in Big Spring to Luther "Bud" and Vera Dell Anderson. He married his high school sweetheart, Mary Kiser, on Oct. 7, 1960.

Lonnie was a lifelong resident of Coahoma. He attended Texas Tech University. In 1964, he returned to Coahoma, where he and his brother took over ownership of his uncle's grocery store, Cramer Brothers. The store was later renamed Lil' Sooper Market. He retired from the grocery business in 1985 and then started Anderson Construction. He retired from the construction business in 1998.

Lonnie was a member of the Coahoma Church of Christ and was an avid Coahoma Bulldog sports fan.

He was a loving, faithful father and husband who was a blessing to his family.

Lonnie is survived by his wife, Mary of Coahoma; two daughters, Shana Blgrave and husband, Doug of Ackerly, and Kelley Hankins and Jim Pearce of Big Spring; grandchildren, Chaz Sloan and wife, Erin of San Angelo, Lauren Rubio and husband, Jacob of Big Spring, and Brittany Hankins and Kayla Hankins of Big Spring; great-grandchildren, Caleb, Truitt and Evelyn Sloan, and Ben Rylan Rubio; one brother, Buddy Anderson of Coahoma; two sisters, Phyllis Scroggins of Big Spring and Wanda Davis of Cheyenne, Wyo.; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Luther and Vera Dell Anderson; one brother, Wendell Joe Anderson; one sister, Linda Dell Anderson; and one grandson, Wacey Anderson.

The family suggests memorials be made to the American Diabetes Association, 8008 Slide Road, Suite 12-A, Lubbock, Texas 79424.

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

*Paid obituary*

#### Police blotter

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

- WILLIAM SCOTT SIMPSON, 49, of 1300 Stanford, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- ARTHUR LYNN RICHARDSON, 48, of 906 Douglas, was arrested Monday on warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility (two counts) and speeding.
- JUAN ARNULFO CARDINA, 26, of 109 Algerita, was arrested Monday on a warrant for driving while intoxicated – open container.
- KEVIN SHEA BOYCE, 33, of 2902 Cherokee, was arrested Monday on a warrant for possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.
- THEFT was reported:  
In the 2000 block of S. Goliad.  
In the 200 block of W. FM 700.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1600 block of Lark.

#### Tammy Lynn Torres



Tammy Lynn Torres, 47, of Big Spring died Sunday, Jan. 1, 2012, at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation. Memorial services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, 2012, at Myers & Smith Funeral Home with Chaplain Cherise Felty officiating.

She was born April 26, 1964, in Los Angeles, Calif. She moved to Big Spring five years ago from Lompoc, Calif. She was a Christian and a housekeeper.

She is survived by one son, Jesus Naidas of Santa Maria, Calif.; one daughter, Tiffany Torres of Big Spring; father, Memo Torres of Los Angeles, Calif.; three sisters, Nancy Torres of Lompoc, Calif., Nicky Torres of Ventura, Calif.; and Tarrina Zambrano of Big Spring; two brothers, Butch Torres of Oxnard, Calif. and Eddie Torres of Universal City, Calif.; and two grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Sandy Torres; and her stepfather, Pingy Lemos.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersand-smith.com

#### Selestino Hernandez

Selestino Hernandez, 60, of Big Spring, died Monday, Jan. 9, 2012, at his residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

#### Elizar P. Cantu

Elizar P. Cantu, 68, of Ackerly, died Monday, Jan. 9, 2012, at his residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

#### Glen R. Overton

Glen R. Overton, 80, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2012, at Parkview Nursing and Rehab. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

### Sheriff

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

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 73 inmates at the time of this report.

- KEVIN SHEA BOYCE, 33, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for possession of marijuana – two ounces or less and a municipal warrant for speeding in a school zone.
- JUAN ARNULFO CARDINA, 26, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated – open container and municipal warrants for no driver's license, failure to appear (six counts) and violation of a promise to appear.
- REUBEN CURTIS INGRAM, 28, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of bail jumping and failure to appear.
- JERRY LEE SMITH, 32, was arrested Monday by Glascock County Sheriff's Office on a Glascock County warrant for driving while license invalid, no insurance and a Tom Green County warrant for failure to appear for driving while license invalid.
- WILLIAM SCOTT SIMPSON, 49, was transferred to the county jail Monday by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- AUTHUR LYNN RICHARDSON, 48, was transferred to the county jail Monday by BSPD on municipal warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility (two counts) and speeding 65 mph in a 50 mph zone.

### Support Groups

**WEDNESDAY**

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

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

**THURSDAY**

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

### Today's Weather

#### Local 5-Day Forecast

Thu 1/12	Fri 1/13	Sat 1/14	Sun 1/15	Mon 1/16
40/27 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the upper 20s.	53/32 More sun than clouds. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the low 30s.	45/33 Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 40s and lows in the low 30s.	54/39 Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the upper 30s.	61/35 Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.
Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 6:01 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 6:02 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 6:03 PM	Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 6:03 PM	Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 6:04 PM

#### Texas At A Glance



#### Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	43	30	windy	Kingsville	63	40	windy
Amarillo	38	24	pt sunny	Livingston	53	31	pt sunny
Austin	51	33	windy	Longview	47	31	pt sunny
Beaumont	58	34	pt sunny	Lubbock	40	24	pt sunny
Brownsville	65	47	pt sunny	Lufkin	51	32	pt sunny
Brownwood	47	32	windy	Midland	41	30	sn shower
Corpus Christi	59	41	windy	Raymondville	62	42	pt sunny
Corsicana	45	32	windy	Rosenberg	55	35	pt sunny
Dallas	46	32	windy	San Antonio	56	35	windy
Del Rio	54	35	pt sunny	San Marcos	53	33	windy
El Paso	51	31	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	44	29	windy
Fort Stockton	42	31	sn shower	Sweetwater	42	29	windy
Gainesville	40	26	windy	Tyler	45	29	pt sunny
Greenville	42	27	windy	Weatherford	44	28	windy
Houston	55	35	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	42	28	pt sunny

#### National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	55	30	cloudy	Minneapolis	15	9	sn shower
Boston	45	34	mixed	New York	45	38	rain
Chicago	27	18	sn shower	Phoenix	70	42	sunny
Dallas	46	32	windy	San Francisco	64	43	pt sunny
Denver	39	23	sunny	Seattle	43	33	pt sunny
Houston	55	35	pt sunny	St. Louis	33	24	sn shower
Los Angeles	71	44	sunny	Washington, DC	56	36	rain
Miami	80	58	pt sunny				

#### Moon Phases



#### UV Index

Thu 1/12	Fri 1/13	Sat 1/14	Sun 1/15	Mon 1/16
3	4	4	3	4
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

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

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Attorney at Law  
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# National, world news in brief

## It's not if, but how big Romney wins in New Hampshire

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — While Mitt Romney is the overwhelming favorite to win the New Hampshire presidential primary, the size of his expected victory could help shape upcoming contests in South Carolina and Florida.

Romney's five opponents will try to shrug off a convincing victory as the expected outcome for a former Massachusetts governor who owns a vacation home here. But a narrow win in the nation's first presidential primary — or a surprisingly strong finish from one of his rivals — will be played up as more evidence that Republicans still have their doubts about Romney.

Those doubts were on display in Dixville Notch, the tiny New Hampshire village that traditionally votes at midnight. Romney and Jon Huntsman each received two of the six votes cast; Newt Gingrich and Ron Paul received a vote apiece.

The rest of New Hampshire voters go to the polls Tuesday after receiving months of attention from the Republican candidates and witnessing an increasingly sharp tone in the intraparty struggle for the nomination.

"If I am president of the United States, I will not forget New Hampshire," Romney said during a Monday night rally in Bedford, hinting at the impact of Tuesday's contest while surrounded on by his wife, children and grandchildren.

## Bomb targeting anti-Taliban militia kills 25 people in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — A bomb targeting a militia opposed to the Pakistani Taliban exploded in a market close to the Afghan border Tuesday, killing 25 people in the deadliest blast in the country in several months, officials said.

The explosion, likely detonated by remote control, hit vehicles being used by the militia in the Khyber region, said local security officer Khan Dad Khan. It also wounded 24 people, said local govern-

ment official Iqbal Khan.

Shopkeeper Sharif Gul said the blast ignited a huge fire.

"People were burning," he said at a hospital in Peshawar, the main town in the northwest. "There was nothing to put out the fire."

The army has supported the formation of anti-Taliban militias in northwest Pakistan, but the insurgents have ruthlessly attacked the groups over the last two years. Many of the country's bloodiest bombings have been against militia members or their families.

## Supreme Court weighs validity of broadcast TV regulation

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court is considering whether government regulators may still police the airwaves for curse words and other coarse content at a time when so many Americans have unregulated cable television, and the Internet is awash in easily accessible adult material.

The justices are hearing arguments Tuesday in a First Amendment case that pits the Obama administration against the nation's television networks. The material at issue includes the isolated use of expletives as well as fines against broadcasters who showed a woman's nude buttocks on a 2003 episode of ABC's "NYPD Blue."

The broadcasters want the court to overturn a 1978 decision that upheld the Federal Communications Commission's authority to regulate both radio and television content, at least during the hours when children are likely to be watching or listening. That period includes the prime-time hours before 10 p.m.

At the very least, the networks say the FCC's current policy is too hard to figure out, penalizing the use of particular curse words on awards programming but not in the airing of the movie "Saving Private Ryan," for example.

The administration said that even with the explosion of entertainment options, broadcast programming remains dominant. It also needs to be kept as

a dependable "safe haven" of milder programming, the administration said.

## Ahmadinejad defends Iran's nuclear program

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad defended his country's nuclear program as he began a four-nation tour of Latin America, joining his ally Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez in accusing the U.S. and its allies of using the dispute to unjustly threaten Iran.

Both leaders dismissed U.S. concerns about Iran's intentions in the Middle East and its growing diplomatic ties with Chavez and his allies in Latin America.

"They accuse us of being warmongers," Chavez said. "They're the threat."

Both leaders planned to travel to Nicaragua on Tuesday for the inauguration of newly re-elected President Daniel Ortega, and then Ahmadinejad will also visit Cuba and Ecuador.

The Iranian leader is using the visit to tout relationships with some of his close friends shortly after the U.S. imposed tougher sanctions on Iran over its nuclear program.

## Mo. woman's quest could mean Medal of Honor for her father

LABADIE, Mo. (AP) — It was bravery at the highest level: William Shemin defied German machine gun fire to sprint across a World War I battlefield and pull wounded comrades to safety. And he did so no fewer than three times.

Then, with the platoon's senior soldiers wounded or killed, the 19-year-old American took over command of his unit and led it to safety, even after a bullet pierced his helmet and lodged behind an ear.

Yet Shemin never earned the nation's highest military citation, the Medal of Honor — a result, many suspected, of the fact that he was Jewish at a time when discrimination ran rampant.

# Take note

- An organizational meeting for Visual Awareness Support Group will be held at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 19 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad St. VASG is a support group forming to provide help to individuals that have poor or deteriorating vision. The meeting is open to everyone but will focus on people who have significant vision problems, their family members, friends and care givers. It is the goal of this group to provide, through education, a sense of hope to people that have vision problems and help them and their care givers cope with vision loss. For more information, call 263-2501 or email eyeassocone@ccrom.net.

- Crossroads Friends of NRA Banquet will be held at 6 p.m. Jan. 28 at the Dora Roberts Community Center. Tickets are \$25. Funds raised at this and other FNRA events in West Texas support local youth shooting groups (Boy Scouts, 4-H, JROTC, etc.) law enforcement, education, safety and many other areas. Giveaways, games, and live and silent auctions will be held. For more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 432-270-7384.

- An account has been set up at T&P Credit Union for Herchel Lewis who is trying to rebuild his house at 904 E. 12<sup>th</sup> after a recent house fire claimed the house and the life of Doris Lewis. Lewis is asking for help to gather funds in order to rebuild the house, which his family has called home for more than 30 years. For more information, contact Lewis at 432-517-4308.

- A benefit account for the Arguello family, who lost two family members in a recent house fire in Coahoma, has been established at Western Bank. Interested persons can contribute to the account at any of the bank's three locations (two in Big Spring, one in Coahoma). For more information, call 432-394-4256.

- An account has been established at Wells Fargo to help defray medical expenses for 4-year-old Zayde Stallings, who recently died of a rare heart condition. She was the daughter of Kenny and Renea Stallings of Big Spring. If you need more information, contact Four Seasons Insulation and Siding at 264-8610. The account number is 7938527277.

- American Cancer Society will have its board meetings at noon on the second Tuesday of the month through April. Lunch will be furnished. Meetings will take place at Home Hospice, located at 111 E. Seventh.

- Home Hospice is seeking volunteers. Training will be provided and geared to your time frame. Volunteers are needed for in office duties as well as sitters, deliveries and crafts. To find out more information or to volunteer contact Sherry Hodnett at Home Hospice by calling 264-7599.

- Every 10 years, Texas requires that marks and brands be re-registered in the county or counties in which you operate. The re-registration period began Aug. 31 and runs through Feb. 29, 2012.

At the conclusion date, all marks and brands that have not been re-registered are automatically available for registration by another party.

For additional information, contact the Howard County Clerk's Office at 264-2214 or 264-2213.

# DEATH

Continued from Page 1

Although there was some trouble finding Padron's next of kin following his death, Wiseman said they have been located and arrangements have been made for the 62-year old man.

"His next of kin has been notified and his body will be transported to Mexico for burial," Wiseman said.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department, Padron's body was discovered lying in

the roadway in the 600 block of Sgt. Paredez Street shortly after 7 p.m. Thursday.

"Officers found a severely injured male who was transported to the emergency room by ambulance," Everett said. "At this time all evidence in the case in-

dicates the victim was struck by a vehicle. He was found by a passerby who notified police."

Everett said no description of the suspect or suspects or any vehicle involved is currently available.

"The vehicle that struck the victim left

the scene prior to him (Padron) being found," Everett said. "There is no suspect or vehicle information currently available to pass on at this time. Anyone who has any information on this crime should call the Big Spring Police Department."

Area residents with information can contact the BSPD at 432-264-2550.

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# EDITORIAL

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

—FIRST AMENDMENT

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

<b>Bill McClellan</b> Managing Editor	<b>Ron Midkiff</b> Publisher	<b>Steve Reagan</b> Staff Writer
<b>Amanda Moreno</b> Staff Writer	<b>Thomas Jenkins</b> Staff Writer	

## OUR VIEWS

### Rushing to a solution?

Sometimes the most important ingredient in local government is time.

Time for elected officials to talk to the constituents and get a hold on their feelings for what their government is planning for the future of their community. Time for voters who have to deal with the comings and goings of their own lives to pick up the phone and talk to their councilman or councilwoman and let them know how they feel about the direction of the municipality.

It's an ingredient the Big Spring city council has recognized for years, passing its agenda items on first and second reading, usually giving at least two weeks so voters and council members could appreciate the full measure of their actions before the ordinances and resolutions became law.

Unfortunately, that's a tradition that seems to be coming to a close.

Mayor Tommy Duncan announced in December he would be calling for the council to vote on an ordinance calling for an election that would allow funding destined for the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation be used for a multi-million dollar 4B project to revamp existing water, wastewater and waterlines in the city.

True to his word, first reading of that ordinance will come during tonight's council meeting, set for 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, located at 307 E. Fourth Street. However, final reading of that ordinance, which would normally come during the council's regularly scheduled Jan. 24 meeting, is instead slated for Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at the same location.

That leaves less than 48 hours between tonight's meeting and Thursday's final reading for area residents to educate themselves on the matter, approach their district's council member and make their feelings known on the issue.

Duncan has made it clear the final reading of an ordinance or resolution is no time to quibble or debate. However, on an issue as important as this — when millions of dollars and possibly thousands of jobs are at stake for the next several decades — is it really too much to ask for a couple of weeks to research the issues?

We don't imagine the members of the Big Spring EDC board of directors would mind the time. After all, it's their budget we're thinking of cutting from approximately \$1.6 million a year to approximately \$800,000 a year, possibly crippling our city's chance of drawing industry — and thereby jobs — to the Crossroads area.

We at the *Herald* think the existing businesses and industries in Big Spring wouldn't mind that time, considering they stand to lose a valuable resource in growing their investment in the coming years.

Time. Whether we measure it in minutes, hours, weeks or years, we often undervalue its effects, especially on our community. After all, it was our inability to measure time and its impact on our water, wastewater and water lines that got us into this mess in the first place.

We didn't dig ourselves into this hole in a day. It's doubtful we'll be able to dig ourselves out of it that quickly, either. Hopefully our elected city officials will figure this out and not try to rush to a solution.

## LETTER POLICIES

- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to [newsdesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:newsdesk@bigspringherald.com)

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

There are no limits, Lord, when we walk with You.

Amen

# George Stephanopoulos wins

We've been dealing with liberal media bias for years, but George Stephanopoulos' performance in the Republican presidential debate Saturday night in New Hampshire was particularly egregious.

In many of these MSM-moderated debates, liberal moderators have tried to stir up personal fights between candidates, which diverts our focus from more important issues and, before national television audiences, shifts attention far away from Barack Obama and his disastrous agenda.

Yes, these are debates among Republicans and designed to bring out distinctions among the candidates, but it should be up to the candidates to initiate and define those distinctions, and it is improper for the moderators to continually steer the debate away from substance and into the personal. With the moderators constantly stirring up catfights, liberal ends are served, both in placing Republican candidates in the worst light and in creating the illusion that their primary differences are with one another rather than Obama.

If you doubt this, then ask yourself how often in Saturday night's debate the candidates were given an opportunity — instead of showing how corrupt, immoral or inexperienced their GOP rivals are — to distinguish their policy proposals from the others in the context of the Obama record. The narrative in these debates ought to be how each of the candidates is better-equipped than the others to reverse Obama's agenda.

In addition to misdirecting the debates substantively, the liberal moderators have also, too often, injected themselves into the debates as if they were either driven by their irrepressible egos to make themselves players rather than facilitators or so ideologically revolted by the

GOP's policies that they were compelled to argue Obama's side in his absence. The moderators shouldn't be allowed to have it both ways. If they are going to direct the debate solely toward differences among the GOP candidates, they shouldn't present Obama's side for him, giving him and the liberal position a free ride.

As for stirring up personal and nasty issues, ABC's George Stephanopoulos asked Rep. Ron Paul whether he would stand by charges in one of his South Carolina ads that former Sen. Rick Santorum is “corrupt — a corporate lobbyist, a Washington insider with a record of betrayal.” As if to ensure Paul wouldn't sidestep the corruptness charge, Stephanopoulos repeated, “You also call him corrupt in that ad.”

This kind of baiting would never happen in a Democratic debate, even if Fox News furnished the moderators.

After an extensive back-and-forth on this issue, Stephanopoulos tried to keep it going by turning the ball over to Texas Gov. Rick Perry, nudging him to pile on both Santorum and Paul. Why settle for a back-and-forth when you can have a three-way?

Before Stephanopoulos' next turn, for good measure, moderator Josh McElveen, as if trying to perpetuate a gossip chain in a schoolyard, asked former House Speaker Newt Gingrich how he would respond to Paul's calling him a “chicken hawk.”

But the evening's award performance goes to Stephanopoulos, for his next round of questions to former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney. Completely out of the blue, manufacturing an issue out of whole cloth, Stephanopoulos asked, “Gov. Romney, do you believe that states have the right to ban contraception? Or is that trumped by a constitutional right to privacy?”

To his credit, Romney called him on it: “George, this is an unusual topic that you're raising.”

When Romney wouldn't take the bait, Stephanopoulos argued with him, derisively reminding Romney that Romney had attended Harvard Law School and

therefore couldn't pretend not to understand the issue — as if Romney's understanding of the issue, as opposed to its stunning irrelevance, were what Romney was reacting to.

But Stephanopoulos held on to the question like a rabid terrier, petulantly making himself and his asinine line of questioning the issue. Perhaps Stephanopoulos, in a most convoluted way, was trying to get Romney to denounce the Supreme Court's judicial establishment of a Ninth Amendment right to privacy, ultimately culminating in the infamous abortion decision, *Roe v. Wade*.

More likely, Stephanopoulos was angling, via a pathetic effort at Socratic questioning, to lay a trap for Romney that would expose him as the flip-flopper he's reputed to be and knock him down a peg or three. For Stephanopoulos next said, “But you've given two answers to the question.”

Romney obviously didn't even know what Stephanopoulos was talking about. He had invoked an irrelevant issue and tried to trick Romney into answering it the way he wanted him to so he could pounce, and when Romney didn't, he supplied Romney's answer(s) anyway because he was determined to ensnare him, even if the ghost of Socrates wasn't cooperating.

With a half-century of experience as a witness to liberal media bias, I'm not easily shocked or outraged by current displays of it, but George Stephanopoulos deserves special notoriety for his disgraceful performance Saturday night.

*David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney. His latest book, “Crimes Against Liberty,” was No. 1 on the New York Times best-seller list for nonfiction for its first two weeks. Follow him on Twitter @davidlimbaugh and his website at [www.davidlimbaugh.com](http://www.davidlimbaugh.com). To 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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## Consumer Bureau will offer protection to the prudent too

Let's set aside the back-and-forth over the recess appointment of Richard Cordray as chief watchdog at the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. President Obama named the former Ohio attorney general to lead the agency when the Senate was supposedly out of session, which he's allowed to do.

Republicans refuse to confirm him without changes that would render the bureau toothless. And they hold that the Senate wasn't out of session because they had someone whack the gavel every four days, calling the empty chamber to order. Democrats tried the same trick during the George W. Bush administration. The Constitution neglected to define “recess,” so the courts will.

The bigger question is why Republicans oppose an agency that would stop financial companies from cheating and taking advantage of ordinary Americans, which happened to millions during the mortgage mania. They complain that the current setup leaves the bureau “unaccountable” to the American people, in part, because its funding comes automatically out of the Federal Reserve's budget rather than through the congressional appropriations process.

Unfortunately, the interests of the American people and individual members of Congress are not always one and the same.

The funding mechanism was created precisely to remove the power of the purse from the industry's handmaidens in Congress. During 2007 and 2008, the height of Wall Street excess, conservatives cut the funding for the Securities and Exchange Commission, whose job it was to patrol the markets. They apparently want the ability to deny the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau the means to stand between the unscrupulous financial salesmen and their unsophisticated prey.

Sen. Richard Shelby, the Alabama Republican, further warned that the bureau “will directly affect every American household by limiting their choices when purchasing financial products, restricting the availability of credit to consumers” and so forth.

Limit consumer choice? Restrict the availability of credit? Jolly good, I say.

If taking poison off the shelves means limiting consumer choice, that's OK. And if some people can't get a loan under reasonable standards, so be it. And really, how does requiring that financial contracts be written in plain English challenge the sanctity of free markets?

There is a moral case for protecting ordinary folk from abusive or fraudulent financial products, but also a selfish one. We who were not foolish, lazy or reckless during the housing bubble also paid a price. When the slick operators' practices brought the financial markets to their knees, the taxpayers had to bail them out or face another Great Depression. They con-

tinue to suffer from the Great Recession that followed. (The operators, meanwhile, ran off with their sacks of upfront fees and the pickings from working-class pockets.)

We don't want that to happen again, do we? One may argue with reason that other factors also crushed the financial markets — government guarantees for risky mortgages, shoddy and corrupt work by the financial ratings agencies and a policy of low interest rates to keep the game going. But a well-built jetliner has any number of backups ready to keep the thing flying should one system malfunction.

Obviously, there's lots of money in letting Wall Street feed the little guys into the grinder. The financial, insurance and real estate industries have given Washington politicians \$135 million in 2011-2012, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. Republicans received 56.3 percent of that largesse, versus 37.7 percent going to Democrats.

While many of the contributors are fine, upstanding citizens, one still senses a monetary motive behind the Republican campaign to defang the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. In the end, the Republican position would seem more aimed at defending the cons than the Constitution.

*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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DAVID LIMBAUGH



FROMA HARROP

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### Kid Scoop Together: What's Missing?

Below are the Chinese characters for each of the animals. On the left, you'll see the complete character. Fill in what's missing in each character on the right.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

# Gung Hay Fat Choy

In China, January 23, 2012, is the beginning of the new year. In China it will be the year 4710! Chinese New Year does not fall on the same date each year, although it is always in January or February.

On New Year's Day, Chinese people add a year to their age, no matter when they were born. This is the biggest birthday party of all!

### What year is it?

The Chinese tell a story that, one day, a great teacher named Buddha invited all the animals to a meeting. Only 12 animals came. Buddha named a year after each of these animals.

The Chinese year starting January 23, 2012, is named after the dragon, a powerful, mythical creature.

Find the year you were born. Then work with a parent to figure out the animal representing the year they were born by counting back counter-clockwise. (Someone born in 1962 would be born in the year of the tiger.)



I was born in the year of the \_\_\_\_\_  
My parent was born in the year of the \_\_\_\_\_



### Worldwide Celebration

Chinese communities around the world celebrate the new year with fireworks, parades, gongs, music, eating and gift-giving. Special foods are prepared and homes are cleaned and then decorated with the color — a color which symbolizes happiness and good luck to the Chinese.



Children give each other and . Parents give children good luck wrapped in red paper.

Use the code to get some details on how to celebrate Chinese New Year!

- = A
- = C
- = D
- = E
- = G
- = H
- = M
- = N
- = O
- = R
- = S
- = Y

## Golden Dragon Parade

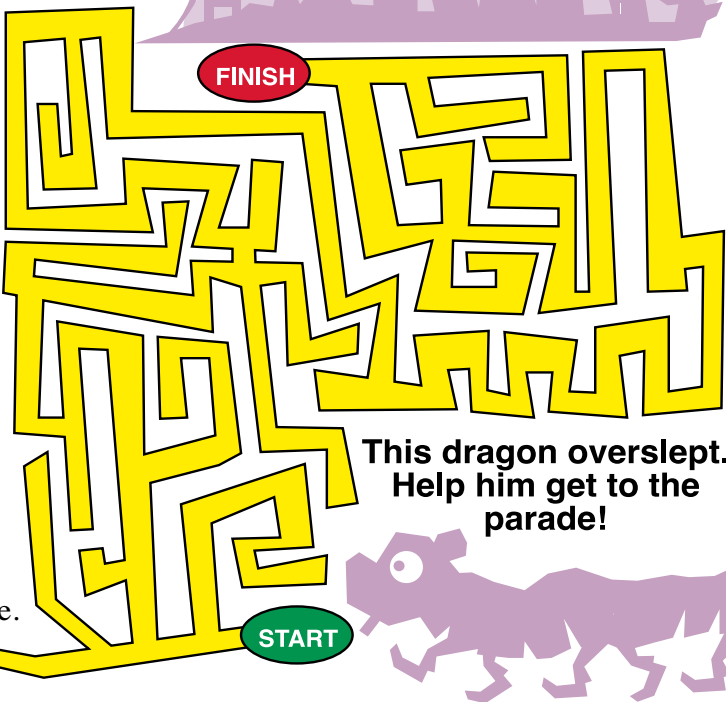
People look forward to the Golden Dragon Parade, a Chinese New Year tradition.

According to legend, the Golden Dragon, "Gum Lung," has been asleep for a year. He wakes up only for the parade. To make sure he stays awake for the entire parade, people throw firecrackers in his path.

San Francisco holds the largest Golden Dragon Parade outside of Asia. It takes 100 people to carry the colorful, bright-eyed dragon. More than 600,000 firecrackers will be thrown. The dragon's head is 6 feet long. The entire dragon is more than 200 feet long.

### Join the Excitement!

Tell your friends, "Gung Hay Fat Choy!" That means "Happy New Year!" in Chinese.



This dragon overslept. Help him get to the parade!

### Extra! Extra! The World Together

Today most communities are made up of people from many parts of the world. Look through the newspaper to find examples of words, products, foods and celebrations that show the diversity in your community.

Standards Link: Social Science: Students recognize the forms of diversity in their community and the benefits of a diverse population.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

When people visit China, some are surprised to find that there are no fortune cookies. That's because fortune cookies were invented in \_\_\_\_\_'s Chinatown!

Many years ago, a Chinese New Year tradition gave one Chinatown restaurant owner an idea. Each New Year, people in Chinatown write greetings, blessings and sayings on long pieces of red \_\_\_\_\_ and hang these near their doors. He wrote these \_\_\_\_\_ on little pieces of paper and folded \_\_\_\_\_ around them for a crispy dessert treat. What a fortunate dessert!



Learn how to draw a Chinese dragon in eight easy steps! Visit: [www.kidscoop.com/kids](http://www.kidscoop.com/kids) for printable instructions.

### Double Double Word Search

- ANIMAL
- CHINATOWN
- COOKIES
- DRAGON
- GONGS
- PARADE
- WORLD
- ASIA
- PARENTS
- LUCK
- BUDDHA
- YEAR
- WORDS
- RED

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

T	K	S	T	N	E	R	A	P	A
E	A	S	L	E	E	P	W	I	Q
D	R	A	E	Y	J	T	S	F	D
A	L	A	M	I	N	A	R	L	E
R	U	S	U	I	K	K	R	B	R
A	C	D	R	A	G	O	N	G	S
P	K	R	Z	D	W	L	O	L	L
N	W	O	T	A	N	I	H	C	O
G	M	W	H	A	H	D	D	U	B

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

鼠 <sup>rat:</sup> 鼠

牛 <sup>ox:</sup> 牛

虎 <sup>tiger:</sup> 虎

兔 <sup>rabbit:</sup> 兔

龙 <sup>dragon:</sup> 龙

蛇 <sup>snake:</sup> 蛇

马 <sup>horse:</sup> 马

羊 <sup>sheep:</sup> 羊

猴 <sup>monkey:</sup> 猴

鸡 <sup>rooster:</sup> 鸡

狗 <sup>dog:</sup> 狗

猪 <sup>pig:</sup> 猪

### Kid Scoop-doku™

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

			O		
			A	O	
A			R		
			D		
			N		
D	R	A	G	O	N

### FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

www.kidscoop.com

### Advertise the New Year

Create a newspaper advertisement to promote a Chinese New Year celebration. Use the ads in the newspaper for ideas on how to make your poster look exciting and appealing.

Standards Link: Writing: Research: Understand the organization of newspapers and how print materials convey information.



### Write On!

### Make a Fortune!

Pretend it is your job to write the fortunes at the fortune cookie factory. Can you come up with 10 fortunes?

# A fine, featherless friend gets grounded

Having had a large brown raptor for three days, a woman notified Texas Parks & Wildlife. Not knowing what to expect, a game warden pulled up to a residence. After being ushered into a back yard, he saw it.

Standing erect, a red-tailed hawk exemplified the magnificence of its specie. As it turned to walk further away from the officer, its rusty tail denoted its maturity and was an easy color for identification.

As the warden watched the raptor, he gave his usual short lecture concerning the illegal possession of wild, migratory birds to the caller. Repeatedly, the woman answered, "But it couldn't fly."

Then he slowly walked toward the hawk as it tried to leave. Gaining no lift as it flapped its broad wings in an effort to become airborne, it settled in another part of the yard.

When it spread its wings defensively as he approached it again, his quick glimpse at the undersides noted a remarkable absence of feathers. Able to corner the hawk, the officer also noticed the end of one wing was missing, and numerous feathers had been broken.

After placing the hawk in a carrier and loading it in his vehicle, he asked the woman what she had been feeding it. Shocked to learn she had not fed the bird, he decided the closest source of food was his

home.

Opening a can of dog food, he placed the contents on a platter and placed it in the carrier. Without hesitation, the hawk ate the entire serving of beef chunks.

Concerned about the condition of its wings, the warden then delivered the hawk to Odessa's Eighth Street Vet Clinic. Within the auspices of our license, Julie Marshall, a vet tech, and the veterinarian are assisting in wild bird rescue.

With Julie's phone call came the results of a full body scan as finding no breaks. She noted the hawk had good body fat. "But its feathers are a mess. Many broken, or missing," she added.

Wing by wing she assessed the damage.

All the primary feathers were missing from the left wing. Likening the wing to a human arm, she said from the wrist out was gone. There was a gap of feathers missing from the center portion of the right wing. Bleeding had occurred and formed a crust.

In addition to the most noticeable injuries were numerous broken feathers. From what she told me, even if the hawk were healthy, it would have to be confined until a complete molt occurred.

Since we would meet at the Midland office of Parks & Wildlife three days later, she offered to keep the hawk at the clinic so it could receive antibiotics to prevent infection.

Delayed by an appointment, we missed thanking Julie by a few minutes, but were entertained by the office staff and captain. Since

Julie needed to take her carrier, she had opened the gate to extract the hawk. Eager for freedom, it had bolted past her and had been loose in the conference room.

With the receptionists taking refuge in another room, the captain managed to get a cardboard box over the raptor. Adeptly folding the lid, he had succeeded in squeezing a very large hawk into a most confining space without an inch to spare.

Fortunately, the red-tail was not boxed for long. Laying it on its back, Art and I were appalled by the disappearance of its feathers. Both areas indicated they had been pulled or yanked from the hawk. Our concern was would the missing feathers be replaced.

Startling, also, were the broken feathers. Splintered, they were of varying lengths and at random. It was as if some maniacal creature had snapped or broken them as a whim.

Once home, I examined the featherless wing sites one more time.

Deciding nature had provided a more than adequate compress of its own over the bleeding areas, I hesitated in removing the scabs because of the possibility of further bleeding.

After four days of rest and feasting on mice and beef heart, the red-tail was delivered to Gail Barnes in Lubbock. Throughout its ordeal of captivity, the woman,



File photo

Almost 23 inches in length, and weighing two and a half to three pounds, the red-tailed hawk is an awesome raptor. Seen year-round, the bird of prey is a skilled hunter of rabbits, ground squirrels, rats, mice and snakes.

game warden, vet tech and TP&W staff had all said, "It tries to fly."

Placed in a mew in the barn, the raptor could access low perches, and with plenty of room, exercise its wings. Having given the hawk enough time to see if it might begin to produce new feathers, Gail took the red-tail to their veterinarian.

When I answered her call later that day, Gail mentioned having taken the bird to be examined. For a brief moment I held my breath in anticipation.

"There's growth in those areas that have no feathers! Dr. J thinks the feathers will come back," she continued. "Its next appointment will be in three to four weeks."

In a call before Christmas, Gail described the hawk as "thriving." As 2012 ap-

proached, she added that it was "doing well."

Replacement of the missing and broken feathers might possibly take as long as nine months to a year. Then the next phase of its recovery would be based on its performance in the flight cage. Attaining the highest perches and building muscle tone and stamina were crucial to its release.

In this new year, to see it gracefully rise in elevation to heights denied by a horrific incident would be to appreciate its indomitable spirit. Taking flight would once again establish its dominance of the skies.

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

# A mole is a mole — but not a gopher or ground hog

I was in a discussion with my father-in-law a few days ago about moles and how to get them off the property.

I've had very little experience with moles so I decided to do a bit of research and found it interesting enough to share with you.

First, I discovered you must be certain you are dealing with moles and not gophers, since trying to get rid of them is completely different.

Speaking of gophers, please note a gopher is not a ground hog. Gophers are small, measuring anywhere from four to 12 inches

in length and weigh as little as three centigrams or as much as two pounds. Gophers do not hibernate or swim as ground-hogs do.

Gophers have only two litters per year; are quite docile and can be raised in captivity. They can be very beneficial in gardens and eat weeds in addition to our prized roots and bulbs; given the chance, they can do more good than harm, but if you plant only desired items and eliminate all weeds, gophers have nothing to eat but what you give them, which make them your competitor rather than your helper.



PARENT'S CORNER  
DARRELL RYAN

They like dandelions and most tubers and bulbs.

They have quite a long list of natural predators — cats, dogs, coyotes, snakes, raptors, owls, hawks, weasels, badgers and skunks.

A mole is a tiny, gray or black mammal which enjoys burrowing underground. Moles are often thought to be blind because of their tiny eyes, but since they live mainly underground they have no real need of good eyesight.

Moles mostly feed on earthworms; they do eat grubs but using grub control products as a method of controlling moles will not be effective.

Even in grub free lawns, moles continue to survive, because the majority of their diet consists of the ever-present earthworm.

It appears when the ground dries out in the summer, or when it freezes in the winter, earthworms and soil dwelling insects remain deeper in the ground

and so do the moles.

This behavior makes control difficult because one can never be certain the moles are truly eliminated, even though they are not making surface runs.

Moles are not rodents like rats and mice which can be baited using rodent foods. Poison peanuts or other grain baits won't work since moles don't feed on seeds, alfalfa pellets or any of the typical baits sold to kill rodents.

Most of the schemes to drive moles away, such as using chewing gum, human hair, moth balls, pinwheels and other ultrasonic devices usually are not effective; however, they have been known to be effective in some incidences.

Rather than using poisons, traps or mole barriers, there are a few interesting ways that seem effective to control moles you may want to consider.

Castor oil is a repellent for moles. Before applying castor oil, the ground must first be

thoroughly watered, then spray castor oil onto the lawn before watering the area again. This may have to be repeated several times to be totally effective.

Garlic is a plant moles will avoid and I have read if garlic is planted in different areas of the lawn moles will not dwell in that area.

What appears to be simple, yet effective, way to rid your yard of moles is to try cat litter.

Cats are a natural enemy of moles.

When used cat litter is poured into the mole holes, the moles seem to be convinced that they should move to another area.

I guess the difficult part is to actually find the opening of the mole hole to be able to pour the litter, but it's worth the trouble if it really works.

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

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# No doubt: Bama best in AP poll

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — As required, Alabama's players whooped it up amid the confetti and fireworks, yet there was something muted about this championship celebration.

Turns out, these guys knew the ending to the sequel before they even got to the Big Easy. For two months, the Crimson Tide stewed over its first meeting with top-ranked LSU. By the time the team touched down in New Orleans, there was little doubt in anyone's mind about the outcome. Not just win, but dominate.

Boy, did they ever. With a smothering display of old-school football, No. 2 Alabama blew out the Tigers 21-0 in the BCS championship game Monday night, celebrated a bit and headed back to Tuscaloosa with its second national title in three years.

The Crimson Tide also claimed the top spot in the final Associated Press poll for the eighth time, tying Notre Dame for the most of any team in college football. Coach Nick Saban's team was an overwhelming choice with

55 of 60 first-place votes. "We knew what we were capable of," offensive lineman Barrett Jones said. "I guess that's kind of arrogant, but it's the way we felt. We felt like we were capable of dominating, and we did that."

Credit one of the greatest defenses in college football history, a bunch of NFL-ready players such as Courtney Upshaw and Dont'a Hightower who made sure LSU (13-1) never had a chance.

When Jordan Jefferson dropped back to pass, he

was swept under by a tide of crimson. When the LSU quarterback took off running, he must've felt like Alabama had a few extra players on the field. It sure seemed that way.

"It feels like a nightmare," Jefferson said. "We just didn't get it done on offense. Some defenses have your number, and Alabama had our number."

LSU beat the Crimson Tide (12-1) in overtime on Nov. 5, a so-called Game of the Century that was roundly criticized as a dud because neither team

scored a touchdown.

The Rematch of the Century was next, after Alabama worked its way back up to second in the rankings to claim a spot in the BCS title game. Turns out, it was even less of a classic than the first meeting, much closer to "Speed 2" than the "Godfather II."

But the Alabama defense was a thing of beauty, putting its own spin on this postseason of high-scoring shootouts.

"They are unbelievable,"

See **BAMA**, Page 12



President Barack Obama greets, from left, Dirk Nowitzki, Jason Kidd and Head Coach Rick Carlisle during the Dallas Mavericks' visit to the White House Monday.

# Obama hails Mavs for first NBA title

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama saluted Dirk Nowitzki and the Dallas Mavericks on Monday as NBA champions who staged a season-ending charge to beat LeBron James and the vaunted Miami Heat and claim their first title with a "heart that's the size of Texas."

"This was a remarkable run, a great victory," Obama declared, as owner Mark Cuban and Mavericks stars, including series MVP Nowitzki, looked on. "It's too bad that next year, it'll be the Chicago Bulls here."

The first basketball fan — a passionate supporter of his hometown Bulls — was

nonetheless lavish in praising the Mavericks, who beat the Heat in six games last June.

"They know how good teams win," Obama said. "Not just by jumping higher or running faster, but by finding the open man, working together, staying mentally tough, being supportive of each other, playing smarter."

He said that's how Dallas "took down some of the league's best teams ... including the Miami Heat, who got a little bit of attention last year."

The victory was sweet revenge for Dallas after it blew an NBA finals lead to

See **MAVS**, Page 12

# Hall pass: Larkin gets HOF call

NEW YORK (AP) — Barry Larkin joined with Cal Ripken Jr. in transforming shortstop into a position for powerful bats, not just great gloves. Now he's following Ripken into the Hall of Fame.

The former Cincinnati Reds shortstop was chosen on 495 of 573 ballots (86 percent) in voting announced Monday by the Baseball Writers' Association of America, well above the necessary 75 percent.

"When I think of Barry, I think of a steady, smart and terrific all-around player both at shortstop and at the plate," Ripken said. "I wish we had played in the same league, but we were in 11 All-Star Games together and I always enjoyed being around

him and talking baseball."

Larkin will be inducted July 22 in Cooperstown along with the late Ron Santo, elected last month by the Veterans Committee.

"I'm just incredibly, incredibly moved by this whole experience and so humbled by the experience and so excited about being the newest member of the Hall of Fame," he said on a conference call.

His election came in the final year before the Steroids Era becomes the main focus in balloting.

Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens, Sammy Sosa, Mike Piazza, Craig Biggio and Curt Schilling are eligible for the first time next year.

Jack Morris followed Larkin with 382 votes (67 percent), missing by 48 votes on his 13th try but up sharply from 54 percent last year. Morris, the ace of three World Series winners, finished with 254 victories and was the winningest pitcher of the 1980s.

He has two chances left on the BBWAA ballot. Gil Hodges (63.4 percent in 1983) has the highest percentage among players who never gained election.

Playing from 1986-04 — all with his hometown Reds — Larkin hit .295 with 198 home runs, 960 RBIs, 2,340 hits and 379 stolen bases.

# Texans: Phillips interview no distraction

HOUSTON (AP) — Texans coach Gary Kubiak says his players won't be distracted by defensive coordinator Wade Phillips' upcoming job interview as they prepare for this weekend's playoff game in Baltimore.

Kubiak confirmed reports Monday that Phillips will meet with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Friday to discuss their head coaching position. The Bucs fired Raheem Morris a week ago after finishing 4-12.

Houston (11-6) plays at Baltimore (12-4) in an AFC divisional playoff on Sunday.

"There's obviously



Phillips

a window where they have to ask for permission to talk to your guys, and then you try to make it work within your normal schedule," Kubiak said. "There's nothing that will change about our schedule. We'll go through our normal week, and Wade will visit with them some time Friday evening, and so he'll still be working on Friday evening when everybody else is getting a little break.

"Nothing will change about what we do," Kubiak

said, "I want everybody to understand that."

The 64-year-old Phillips talked last week about his credentials as a head coach, though he added he was content in his current position. He's still recovering from kidney and gall bladder surgery in mid-December, but still thinks he should be considered for a top NFL job. His record as a head coach is 82-59.

The Texans are in the playoffs for the first time, largely due to Phillips' revamping of the defense, which ranked as one of the league's worst in 2010. Fans called into Houston radio shows on Monday,

criticizing the Buccaneers for courting Phillips while the team was still playing in the postseason.

But Kubiak said that the Buccaneers' interest in Phillips is a testament to the job done by Houston's players and the rest of the defensive staff, including linebackers coach Reggie Herring, secondary coach Vance Joseph and defensive line coach Bill Kollar.

"We're proud of any opportunity any one of our coaches would get," Kubiak said. "It will not be a distraction. It's a compliment, and we'll get

See **TEXANS**, Page 12

# Stricker starts year with win in Hawaii

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP) — Steve Stricker had a silver trophy in his hands and a white-and-purple lei around his neck, a photo opportunity at Kapalua that didn't seem likely four months ago when he could barely hold onto a golf club.

He withdrew from the BMW Championship outside Chicago because of weakness in his left arm. It was a nervous time, even when it was diagnosed as a neck injury. The first doctor he saw recommended surgery, and Stricker nearly went along with it.

Stricker decided against surgery, opting for therapy, rest, a series of massages and two cortisone shots.

It looks like it was the right choice.

Stricker opened the PGA Tour season with a final round Monday on Maui filled with more tension that he needed, even if he is used to it by now.

Staked to a five-shot advantage at the Tournament of Champions, his lead was down to a single shot after just six holes.

As he does so many times, though,

Stricker's short game bailed him out. He birdied back-to-back holes at the turn to regain control, answered Jonathan Byrd with a wedge into 2 feet for another birdie on the 16th, and wound up with a 4-under 69 and a three-shot win for an ideal start to the year.

"It was tough," said Stricker, who now has won eight times in his last 50 tournaments. "I never let up today. It's always tough trying to win, and it's even more tough when you have a lead like I did. I'm very proud of what I did today."

"And it's always cool to get a hug from your family walking off at the end."

That was the best part of the day, seeing 13-year-old Bobbi Maria and 5-year-old Isabella greet him on the 18th green. It was the second time he has won when both his daughters were at the golf course. That never gets old.

Stricker finished at 23-under 269, three shots clear of Martin Laird (67).

The final round came down to those two, along with Byrd and Webb

Simpson, who each closed with a 68. All three of the challengers got to within one shot of Stricker, but not for long.

He has made a habit of losing big leads in the final round, and of holding on for the win. Stricker is not sure what to make of these dynamics, although he's glad the outcome has been the same.

Last summer at the John Deere Classic, he lost a five-shot lead on the back nine and had to birdie the final hole for a two-shot swing to beat Kyle Stanley. A month earlier, he had a four-shot lead at the Memorial and hung on to win by one shot.

At Riviera two years ago, his six-shot lead was reduced to two shots after only six holes, before he steadied himself to win by two.

So this was nothing new.

"I've been there before. It's not a great feeling, either," Stricker said. "It's just the nature of our game. I realize that, and I've gone through it before. It always seems close, and you always have to perform to get it done."

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Legals

**PRE-INVITATION TO BID**  
The Colorado River Municipal Water District and Garney Companies are soliciting General Contractor, supplier and subcontractor participation including those that qualify as SWMBE's for the following: Bid Package 6, Above Slab Construction for the Ward County Water Supply Expansion Project. Bid Deadline is February 23, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. Bids will be received at CRMWD 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, TX 79721-0869. For more information contact Marcus Grace at (816)536-6485 or email mgrace@garney.com  
Garney Companies, Inc is an Equal Employment/Opportunity Employer.  
#7214 December 21, 22, 23, 25, 27 & 28, 2011 and January 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, & 10, 2012

Legals

**INVITATION TO BID**  
The Colorado River Municipal Water District and Garney Companies are soliciting General Contractor, Subcontractor and supplier participation including those that qualify as SWMBE's for the following: Bid Package 7 Big Spring Pump Station for the Ward County Water Supply Expansion Project. Bid Deadline is January 26th, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. Bids will be received at CRMWD 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, TX 79721-0869. For more information contact Marcus Grace at (816)536-6485 or email mgrace@garney.com  
Garney Companies, Inc is an Equal Employment/Opportunity Employer.  
#7223 January 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22 & 23, 2012

Legals

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT**  
Midland Oil and Gas, Inc., 800 Marienfeld, Suite 203, Midland, TX, 79701 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid in the San Andres Formation, Chaney Moore SWD, Well No. 1. The proposed injection well is located 7.1 miles Northwest of Big Spring, Texas in the Varel (San Andres), in Howard County, Texas. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 3400 to 4600 feet.  
LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.  
Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792).  
#7229 January 10, 2012

After the recent outpouring of feeling inspired by the Cancer full moon, some will feel slightly drained and drawn to the sort of practical tasks that don't require much emotional investment, such as paying bills, shopping and cleaning up. For those who care to recount the details of the past few days, the Leo moon favors the storytellers.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Think big, and everything will go smoothly. You'll feel powerful and move swiftly forward without worry, doubt, bickering or hesitation. You'll make a bold move.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). What's the use in wondering whether the gray parts of life are mostly black or mostly white? You see each color, tone and mood as uniquely its own, and you embrace it for what it is.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Instead of worrying about whether you'll ultimately be happy or disappointed in the outcome of a project, you'll view it from a stance of interest and

discovery. You're a lighthearted genius.  
**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). The ones who love you want to show you just how much. But they can't. It's too deep to express. Just know that your loved ones have your back if you ever need them, just like you have theirs.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Don't wait until you're satisfied with all the uncertainties to present your project to the world. That day will never come. There always will be unanswered questions. That's why you need partners. Show them what you have.  
**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There are times when looking back is helpful, but today you will have better things to do. Instead of reliving scenes from your childhood, you'll create some new traditions.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's called a "relationship" because you're supposed to be relating to one another. When that fails to happen, it's something to remedy right away, or risk losing the connection altogether.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Be brave. Stop your participation in a less than ideal situation so that you can focus on attracting what you really want. Once you let go, new opportunities will rush in to fill the void.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll be in the energy of gratitude all day, giving thanks for the kindnesses that others extend to you. Your heart opens a little more with every "thank you" that passes your lips.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The parachute was invented more than a century before the airplane — so people could escape burning buildings. The same behavior that once got you out of a small disaster will now help you float freely.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You usually spend your time helping others, learning about the world and having fun. So today's focus on making a name for yourself and finding your place in the material world may feel strange.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You have no problem letting go of what is holding you back. Identifying it is a bit trickier. A wise friend will give you hints about it.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Jan. 10). An influx of

money and assistance signals that you're on the right track to creating the year you envisioned. March brings a wave of invention and innovation. Income sources open in April. Paying for children's teams or lessons is worthwhile, and all benefit from this in the end. June is your lucky month for love. Leo and Pisces people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 21, 22, 35 and 11.

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.  
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sudoku

ANSWERS

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

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.

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

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A Reward for Good Technique

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

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 NT Pass 2 ♣ Pass  
2 ♦ Pass 3 NT  
Opening lead — three of spades.

**Good technique** consists of very little more than paying close attention to details. For example, take this deal where West leads a spade against three notrump. Declarer hopefully plays the queen from dummy, but East produces the king, taken by South with the ace.  
**With the opponents' spades** established, it is certain that if South loses the lead before he can take nine tricks, he will go down. This leaves

him no choice but to assume that he can score four diamond tricks and four club tricks in addition to his ace of spades.

**South is far from sure** that he can actually take eight tricks in the minor suits, but he should make every effort to do so. He starts by cashing the ace of clubs and then the queen. The queen is played, rather than leading a low club to the king, to guard against a holding of J-x-x in the West hand. In that case West's jack would be finessable.

**But when West** produces the club jack on the queen, South must take advantage of his good fortune by overtaking the queen with dummy's king. (If he doesn't, he will go down.) He then takes a diamond finesse, which wins.

**Declarer must again be careful** to next lead the seven of clubs, not the deuce, to dummy's ten. After another diamond finesse, South leads the two of clubs to dummy's six for his third and final diamond finesse.

**As a reward** for his perspicacity, declarer winds up with precisely nine tricks. But if South fails to overtake the club queen with the king, or later neglects to lead the seven to the ten, he goes down one, scoring only three diamond tricks instead of the four he needs to make the contract.

**Tomorrow:** The lead's the thing.  
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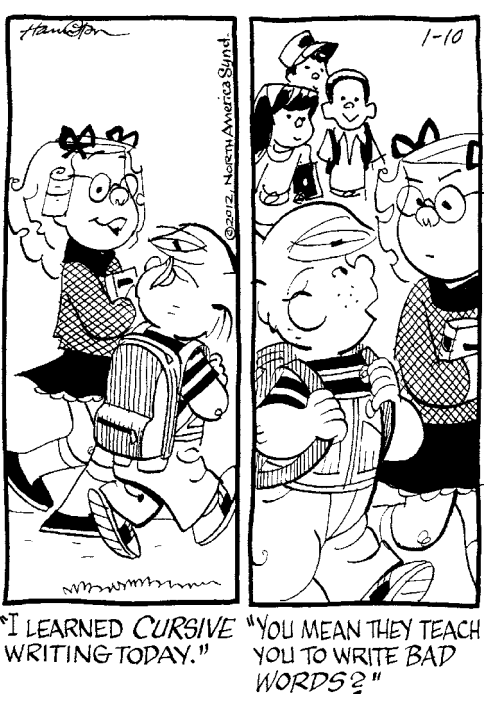


CONCRETE  
SOIL  
UNSUITABLE ROCK STRATUM OR "FLOATER"  
CLAY  
LOAD-BEARING ROCK STRATUM

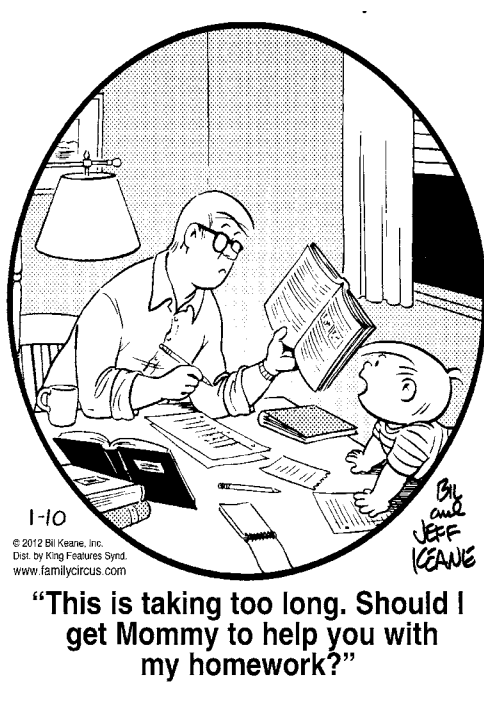


	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
<b>5:PM</b>	News ABC	Alma Notic.	Big Bang	News	Noticias	News	King	Scrivner	Charlie Rose	Til Death	Dirty Jobs	CSI: Miami	Auction	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Shake It Vampire	Strong	SportsCenter
<b>6:PM</b>	Jeopardy!	Una Familia con Suerte (SS)	Two Men	News	Caso Cerado	News	King	Mark Blitz	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld	Dirty Jobs	CSI: Miami	Auction	Bones		Vampire	Strong	College Basketball: Georgia at Florida.
<b>7:PM</b>	Last Man Standing	La Que No	Two Men	Ent	Una Maid en	The Biggest Loser	King	L. Moore	Egypt's Gold Empire	Seinfeld	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Christine, Alexandra Paul	Auction	Bones	Movie: Meet the Browns, David Mann	Shake It Austin	Strong	College Basketball: Ohio State at Illinois.
<b>8:PM</b>	Celebrity Wife Swap	La Que No	New Girl	NCIS: Los Angeles	Flor Salvaje (SS)		King	Light of the Southwest	Billy the Kid	Big Bang	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Kiss the Girls, Cary Elwes	Auction			Game	ANT Farm	Strong
<b>9:PM</b>	Body of Proof	Aquí y Ahora (SS)	Simpsons	Unforgettable	La Casa de al Lado	Parenthood	King		Frontline	Big Bang	Swamp Loggers	Movie: Christine, Alexandra Paul	Flip Men		Game	ANT Farm	Strong	
<b>10:PM</b>	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	King		Charlie Rose	Big Bang	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Christine, Alexandra Paul	CES All Access Live	Preview	Together	Good	Strongest Man	SportsCenter
<b>11:PM</b>	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Hasta-Dinero	Law Order: CI	Late	Sin Senos no	Jay Leno	King		World	Office	Swamp Loggers	CSI: Miami	Auction	CSI: NY	Game	Wizards	Basket	SportsCenter
<b>12:AM</b>	Extra Paid	Mañana-Siempre	Raymond Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	Late Night	King	Upd	(Off Air)	Office	Dirty Jobs	CSI: Miami	Auction	CSI: NY	Together	Wizards	NBA	
<b>1AM</b>	Paid	La Jaula	American	Ent	Pagado	(:06) Today	King	Alewine		Office	Swamp Loggers	CSI: Miami	Auction	Franklin & Bash	Together	Good	Argentine Open Polo	SportsCenter
<b>1:30AM</b>	Paid	Par Ases	TMZ	Paid	Pelicula:		King	Light of the Southwest		Office	American Loggers	CSI: Miami	Flip Men	Franklin & Bash	Wendy Williams	ANT Farm	NFL Live	SportsCenter

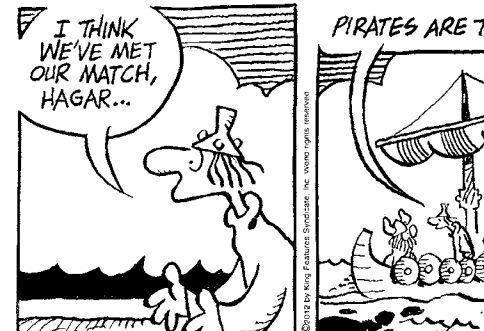
## DENNIS THE MENACE



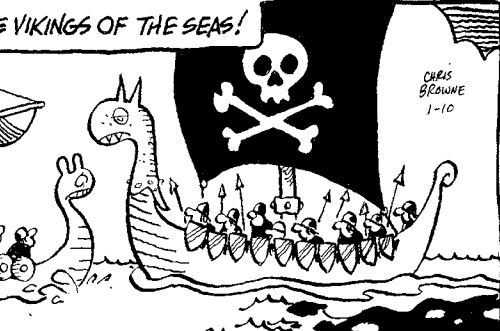
## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



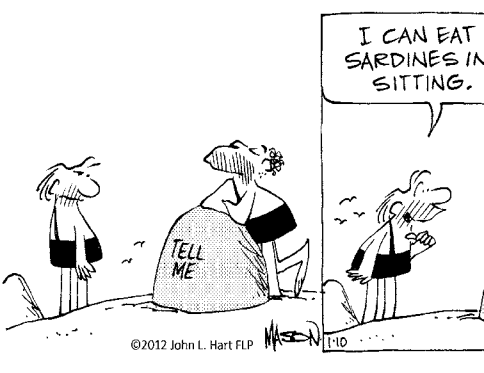
## HAGAR



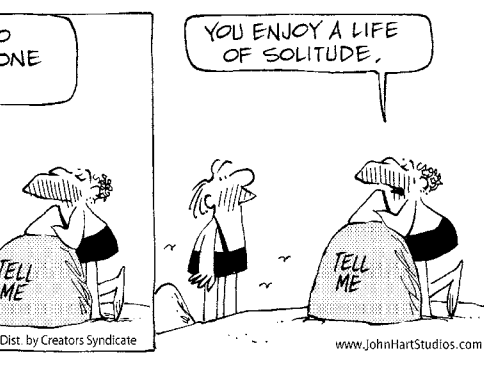
## PIRATES ARE THE VIKINGS OF THE SEAS!



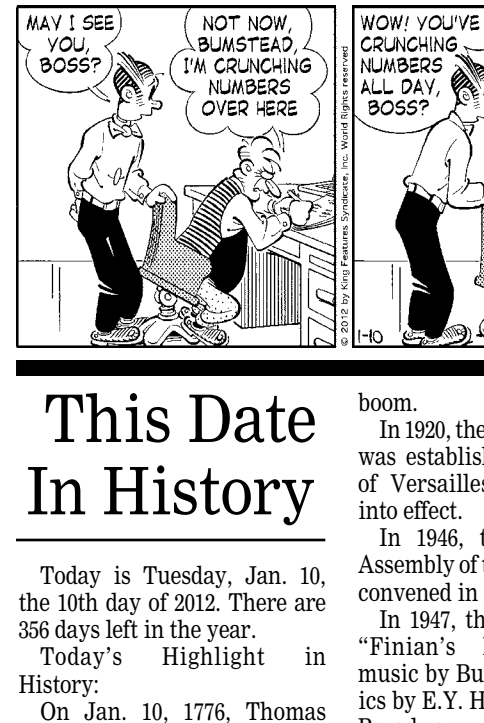
## BC



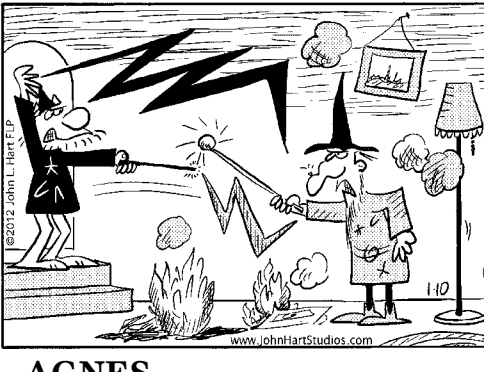
## BLONDIE



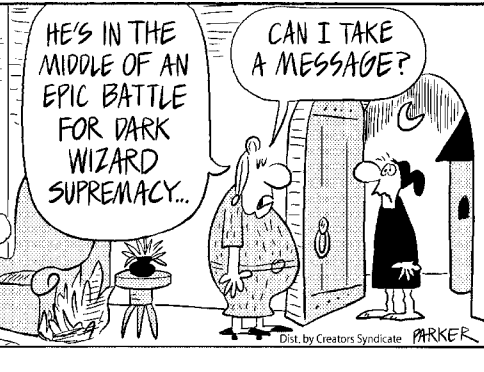
## WIZARD OF ID



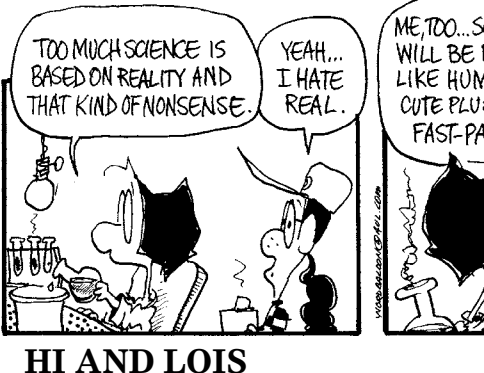
## AGNES



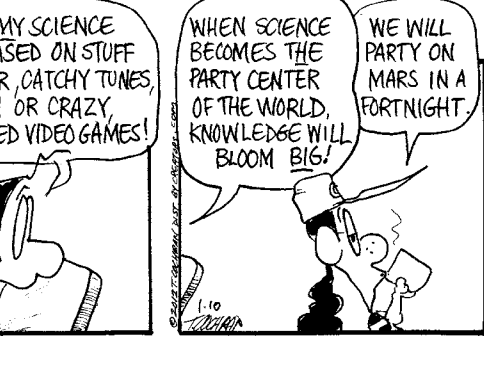
## HI AND LOIS



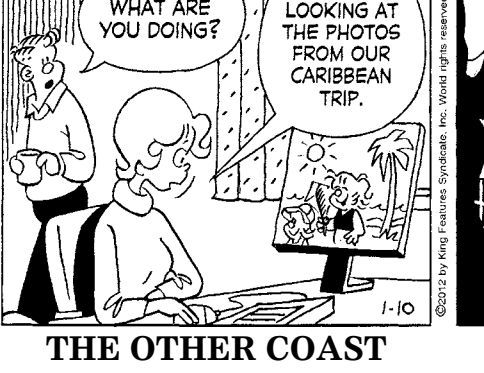
## DEREK THE DEAL HUNTER



## SNUFFY SMITH



## BEEBLE BAILEY



## This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 10, the 10th day of 2012. There are 356 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On Jan. 10, 1776, Thomas Paine anonymously published his influential pamphlet, "Common Sense," which argued for American independence from British rule.

On this date:

In 1860, the Pemberton Mill in Lawrence, Mass., collapsed and caught fire, killing up to 145 people, mostly female workers from Scotland and Ireland.

In 1861, Florida became the third state to secede from the Union.

In 1862, American inventor Samuel Colt, famed for his revolver, died in Hartford, Conn., at age 47.

In 1870, John D. Rockefeller incorporated Standard Oil.

In 1901, the Spindletop oil field in Beaumont, Texas, produced the Lucas Gusher, heralding the start of the Texas oil boom.

In 1920, the League of Nations was established as the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY) went into effect.

In 1946, the first General Assembly of the United Nations convened in London.

In 1947, the musical fantasy "Finian's Rainbow," with music by Burton Lane and lyrics by E.Y. Harburg, opened on Broadway.

In 1957, Harold Macmillan became prime minister of Britain, following the resignation of Anthony Eden.

In 1962, an ice avalanche on Nevado Huascarán in Peru resulted in some 4,000 deaths.

John W. McCormack became speaker of the House, succeeding the late Samuel T. Rayburn.

In 1971, "Masterpiece Theatre" premiered on PBS with host Alistair Cooke introducing the drama series "The First Churchills." French fashion designer Coco Chanel died in Paris at age 87.

In 1982, actor-comedian Paul Lynde died in Beverly Hills, Calif., at age 55.

Today's Birthdays: Opera singer Sherrill Milnes is 77. Blues artist Eddy Clearwater is 77. Rock singer-musician Ronnie Hawkins is 77. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Willie McCovey is 74. Singer Scott McKenzie is 73. Movie director Walter Hill is 72. Singer Frank Sinatra Jr. is 68. Singer Rod Stewart is 67. Rock singer-musician Donald Fagen (Steely Dan) is 64. Actor William Sanderson is 64. International Boxing Hall of Famer and entrepreneur George Foreman is 63. Roots rock singer Alejandro Escovedo is 61. Rock musician Scott Thurston (Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers) is 60. Singer Pat Benatar is 59. Hall of Fame race car driver and team owner Bobby Rahal is 59. Rock musician Michael Schenker is 57. Singer Shawn Colvin is 56.

**Answer to previous puzzle**

JUDO	STATE	BREW
IPOD	YOUOK	ROVE
LONE	RANGE	ATEE
TNT	JUST	SECOND
LEAPT	OVERT	
STEADY	CLUES	
ERASE	TROUTS	BET
EAVE	RAN	REPO
RYE	STING	HOPIN
TAHOE	RELATE	
SHINE	DEALT	
STICKAROUND	IMP	
TANK	BURN	GEAR
URGE	CLONE	ANTE
BEET	SENIOR	STEP

## Newsday Crossword

## LET'S PLAY CATCH by Sally R. Stein

Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Parking-space fillers
  - 6 Hollywood headliner
  - 10 Chew like a beaver
  - 14 Push rudely
  - 15 Angelic topper
  - 16 Foolhardy
  - 17 Blender setting
  - 18 Bullets, for short
  - 19 Where Indonesia is
  - 20 Time to get coffee
  - 22 Immense
  - 23 In the know
  - 24 Climbing plant
  - 26 Gaps
  - 30 Takes in air
  - 35 Wizard of Oz dog
  - 36 Woodwind instrument
  - 38 Valuable collection
  - 39 Aid in a crime
  - 40 More recent
  - 42 Neighborhood
  - 43 Traveler's path
  - 45 Assistant
  - 46 Does not exist
  - 47 Divulging of a secret
  - 49 Basic beliefs
  - 51 Car Talk aier
  - 52 What corporals call colonels
  - 53 Hair untangler
  - 56 Wintry
  - 63 Opera solo
  - 64 Land measure
  - 65 Sound portion of a broadcast
  - 66 Offer at retail
  - 67 Close to

- 11 Astronauts' org.
- 12 Auction sale condition
- 13 "Could you repeat that?"
- 21 Yellowstone bovine
- 25 Industrial tub
- 26 Impolite look
- 27 Part of some business
- 28 Devoured
- 29 Makeup-removal accessory
- 30 Alamo defender Jim
- 31 Swamp stalk
- 32 Stagecoach puller
- 33 Major happening
- 34 Chairs and stools
- 37 Endure
- 41 Adjust, as one's cravat
- 44 Sixth sense, for short
- 48 Suave
- 50 List of printed mistakes
- 52 Back of a ship
- 53 Performing group
- 54 Triple-decker cookie
- 55 Steel factory
- 57 Tops with frosting
- 58 Ensnare
- 59 Ringlet of hair
- 60 Garfield dog
- 61 Deceitful one
- 62 Nitwit

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15					16			
17					18					19			
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35					36	37			38				
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43			44		45					46			
47					48			49	50				
				51				52					
53	54	55			56	57	58			59	60	61	62
63					64					65			
66					67					68			
69					70					71			

## BAMA

Continued from Page 7

said Jones, relieved that he only has to go against them in practice. "That defense is as good as any defense I've ever seen. They rush the passer, they have awesome linebackers and they're great in coverage. They really don't have any weaknesses. They have to be as good as any defense ever."

LSU didn't cross midfield until there were less than 8 minutes remaining in the game. The Tigers finished with just 92 yards and five first downs, on the wrong end of the first shutout in the BCS' 14-year history.

"This defense is built on stopping them, and that's what we did," said Upshaw, the game's defensive MVP.

"We wanted to come out and show the world we beat ourselves the first game. We wanted to come out and dominate from start to finish, and that's what we did."

The Crimson Tide, piling up 384 yards and 21 first downs, spent much of the night in LSU's end of the field, setting up Jeremy Shelley to attempt a bowl-record seven field goals. He made five of them, matching a bowl record. Then, as if responding to all the critics who complained that an offensive powerhouse such as Oklahoma State or Stanford should've gotten a shot in the title game, Alabama finally made a long-overdue trip to the end zone.

With 4:36 remaining, Heisman finalist Trent Richardson broke off a 34-yard touchdown run.

It was the lone TD that

either of the Southeastern Conference powerhouses managed over two games, plus that overtime period back in November.

"It felt so good to get that touchdown against LSU," lineman D.J. Fluker said. "That's all we talked about. We said we were going to get (Richardson) a touchdown, and we did it."

On LSU's one and only trip into Alabama territory, the Tigers quickly went back, back, back — the last gasp ending appropriately with the beleaguered Jefferson getting the ball jarred from his hand before he could even get off a fourth-and-forever pass.

"We didn't do a lot different," Saban said. "We did some things on offense formationally. Our offensive team did a great job. Defensively, we just played well, played

the box. Our special teams did a great job."

The coach has now won a pair of BCS titles at Alabama, plus another at LSU in 2003. He's the first coach to win three BCS titles, denying LSU's Les Miles his second championship. The Tigers will have to settle for the SEC title, but that's not likely to ease the sting of this ugly performance.

"I told my team that it should hurt," Miles said. "We finished second. It's supposed to hurt."

LSU simply couldn't do anything — running or passing. Kenny Hilliard led the Tigers with 16 yards rushing, while Jefferson was 11 of 17 passing for 53 yards, usually hurrying away passes before he was sent tumbling to the Superdome turf. He was sacked four times and

threw a mystifying interception when he attempted to flip away a desperation pass, only to have it picked off because his intended receiver had already turned upfield looking to block.

A.J. McCarron was the offensive MVP, completing 23 of 34 passes for 234 yards. Richardson added 96 yards on 20 carries. But an even bigger cheer went up when the defensive award was presented to Upshaw, who had seven tackles, including a sack, and spent a good part of his night in the LSU backfield.

"The whole defense is the MVP," Upshaw said. "The whole defense. Roll Tide, baby. Roll Tide!"

With the way his defense was playing, McCarron simply had to avoid mistakes and guide the offense into field-goal range.

## TEXANS

Continued from Page 7

ready to go."

The Texans have been coping with obstacles all season, most of them injury-related. For a change, they escaped Saturday's 31-10 win over Cincinnati without any players significantly hurt.

Right guard Mike Brisiel played "about three quarters" after missing three games with a broken right fibula, and tight end Owen Daniels hurt his right hand, but will be back at practice on Wednesday, Kubiak said.

Star receiver Andre Johnson looked like his old self against the Bengals, catching five passes for 90 yards, including a second-half touchdown. Johnson was on the field for about 40 plays, and Kubiak said he "came out of the game fine" after missing nine

games in the regular season with injuries.

One of the games Johnson sat out was Baltimore's 29-14 win in Week 6, in which Houston set season lows for points and total yards (293) that held up through the end of 2011. Matt Schaub was the quarterback in that game, not rookie T.J. Yates, and the Texans were playing for the first time without outside linebacker Mario Williams, who tore a chest muscle the previous week.

Houston still led 14-13 in the third quarter, before the Ravens pulled away in the fourth.

"Well, they closed and we didn't," Kubiak said.

The Ravens held Arian Foster to 49 yards rushing in the first meeting, though Foster was also Houston's top receiver that day, with six catches for 52 yards.

If Baltimore can bottle up Foster again, the pressure will fall on Yates, the fifth-round

draft pick thrust into a starting role after season-ending injuries to Schaub and backup Matt Leinart.

Yates is 1-1 in two road starts, rallying the Texans past the Bengals in Cincinnati on Dec. 11, but then losing to Indianapolis 11 days later.

Kubiak has firsthand experience for what Yates can expect on Sunday. He was Denver's offensive coordinator in 2000, when the Broncos met the Ravens in Baltimore in an AFC wildcard game. The Ravens won 21-3 on their way to the Super Bowl.

"This will be probably the ultimate test from the standpoint of the noise and being there in a playoff game," Kubiak said. "But it's our job as coaches, too, to make sure that we're doing things that give him the best chance to get in and out of the huddle and go play and to give our guys up front the best chance."

## MAVS

Continued from Page 7

the Heat five years earlier. It also upended the hope of Heat superstars James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh for a championship in their first year playing together.

Monday's ceremony reflected both the league's current, lock-out-shortened season and the determination of the colorful Cuban to make it happen. Typically, White House visits take place when a championship team plays in Washington. With such a short season, the Mavericks aren't here this year. Cuban insisted on

the ceremony anyhow.

"It's tough to say no to Mark Cuban," Obama said, to knowing laughter from his players.

Obama singled out the German-born Nowitzki, noting he played in the finals despite a painful finger injury and fever. "Clearly Dirk is a tough guy, although the most painful thing may have been his rendition of 'We Are the Champions' during the victory celebrations," the president said.

Mavericks guard Delonte West did not attend the event in the East Room, even though the Secret Service said he had been cleared along with his teammates.

West pleaded guilty to weapons possession charges after a September 2009 traffic stop in suburban Maryland. He told The Fort Worth Star-Telegram that he was "banned" from the White House on Monday because of the weapons charges, but Secret Service spokesman Ed Donovan said in fact West could have taken part. A team spokeswoman, Sarah Melton, also said West was not banned from the White House ceremony but declined to comment on why he didn't attend.

West was not a member of the championship squad but joined the Mavericks prior to this season.

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