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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**THURSDAY**

MAY 3, 2012



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VOLUME 107, NUMBER 180

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HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

Steve Peterson and Robin Rose of Minneapolis, Minn., stopped by the Heritage Museum and viewed the Big Spring High School Student Art Show on Wednesday. The display will be up until May 15.

## Student art on display at Heritage Museum

By **AMANDA MORENO**  
Staff Writer

Great artists have to start somewhere. Heritage Museum and Big Spring High School art students are running with that idea. The Big Spring High School Student Art Show will be on display in the museum gallery until May 15. During this time, the public will have access to viewing

more than 100 works from local students. "The works are examples of various assignments given throughout the school year," said BSHS Art Teacher Judy Tereletsky. "Each student was asked to pick at least one item to display."

The exhibit includes several medias and topics, including paintings and sculptures. Some of the topics touched upon in the collection are optical illusions, observations of nature, pop art and Egyptian art. Mediums include watercolors, abstract, ceramic pottery and others.

"We have various forms of

art displayed here," Heritage Museum Curator Tammy Schreengost said. "This is the second year. It is a great way to encourage the kids to continue to create and put their imagination to use. You never know when one of these students might become the next big artist or use their work to contribute to the community when they grow up. It gives the community an opportunity to see what's on the horizon."

The display is open during normal museum hours, Tuesday through Friday from

See **ART**, Page 3

## Balloting gets off to slow start

*Polls open until 7 tonight*

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Howard County Elections Administrator Sandra Bloom says early voting

has gotten off to a slow start in the May 12 municipal election, a surprising fact considering what's at stake in this year's municipal election.

By the way, polls will be open until 7 this evening at the county courthouse.

"We opened up Monday

with approximately 150 votes," Bloom said. "Tuesday we had about 126 ballots, which was much slower than what we were expecting. Wednesday was around the same neighborhood. I'm not sure why things are moving so slowly."

Bloom said she had expected early voting to kick off at a much more vigorous pace because of the proposed multi-million dollar 4B project to overhaul the municipality's water and wastewater facilities on the ballot.

See **VOTE**, Page 3

## Hot Dog! Local canine show opens Saturday

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Dotty for dachsunds? Psyched about shih tzus? Wowed by Welsh corgis?

Hundreds of this region's best show dogs will put their best paw forward this weekend at the Big Spring Kennel Club's annual Dog Show, set for Saturday and Sunday at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The 42<sup>nd</sup> annual show opens at 8 a.m. Saturday and 8:30 a.m. Sunday. Admission is free.

Betty Kelley, one of the event's organizers, said high gasoline prices will probably hold down entries, but added that she still expects more than 400 dogs, some from as far away

See **SHOW**, Page 3

**What:** Big Spring Kennel Club Dog Show

**Where:** Dorothy Garrett Coliseum

**When:** Opens at 8 a.m. Saturday and 8:30 a.m. Sunday.

**Admission:** Free

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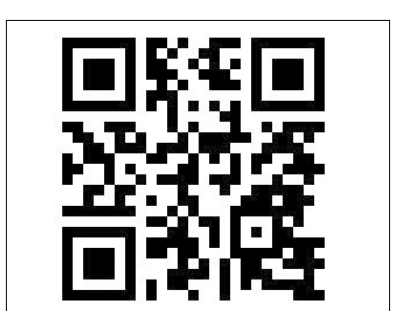
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Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. Sunday.



## Elder abuse: It's your business

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

It's everyone's business. That's the message Adult Protective Services (APS) is trying to drive home with



Texans during the month of May, which just happens to be Elder Abuse Prevention Month and Older Americans Month.

"APS is reminding Texans that stopping elder abuse is truly everyone's responsibility," said Marleigh Meisner, public information officer with the agency. "No one knows exactly how many older Texans are being abused, neglected, or financially exploited. Many victims are too embarrassed to ask for help, and their suffering can be

shrouded by secrecy.

"As our population ages, statistics show the problem is a growing concern, and nationwide studies estimate three to five million seniors age 65 and older have experienced abuse, with only one in five cases reported. In 2011, Texas APS, a division of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), completed 87,741 investigations of abuse, neglect or exploitation involving adults living at home. Of those, more than 58,000 cases

were confirmed, with most cases including physical or medical neglect."

Meisner said the perpetrators are often family members — ranging from adult children to spouses and grandchildren — and one of the keys to preventing these crimes is education.

"This marks the sixth year of APS' It's Everyone's Business campaign," said Meisner. "It's a statewide effort to educate Texans about the

See **APS**, Page 3

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## Obituaries

### John Franklin McDonald



John Franklin McDonald, 68, of Midland passed away Friday, April 27, 2012, in Hospice of Midland.

Graveside services were held at 2 p.m. Monday, April 30, 2012, at Fairhaven Cemetery in Ackerly, Texas.

He married Jan D. Willborn on April 2, 1965, in Big Spring. He was employed with Dawson Geophysical and Drilco before starting J&J Water Well Drilling.

He is survived by his wife, Jan; daughter, Sherry Barclay and husband Clay; son, Doug McDonald and wife Sandra; grandchildren, Chance Barclay and Haley McDonald, all of Midland; two sisters, Terrie Merrifield and Georgia Voorhies, both of Midland; and brother, George McDonald of Midland.

He was preceded in death by his parents and seven siblings.

Memorials may be directed to American Cancer Society.

Graveside services were under the direction of Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home. Family messages and condolences may be emailed to: pipkin@nts-online.net.

*Paid obituary*

### Camilla Joyce Osburn



Camilla Joyce Osburn, 75, of Big Spring died Tuesday, May 1, 2012, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 5, 2012, at Myers & Smith Chapel with Dr. Randy Cotton officiating. Burial will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born Sept. 5, 1936, in Hico, Texas, to Vera Maybell and Cyrus Daniel Trantham. She had been a resident of Big Spring since 1948. She married Clinton Ray Osburn on Aug. 8, 1957, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death July 31, 1991. She had worked as a home health aide for Nurses Unlimited for many years. She was a member of Trinity Baptist Church.

She is survived by three sons, Malcom Troy Osburn and Clinton Dale Osburn, both of Big Spring and Vickey Daniel Styers of Dayton; one daughter, Vanessa Gale Austin of Big Spring; two sisters, Sherley Ann Crosson of Santa Anna, Texas, and Juanita Smith of Kaufman, Texas; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by two sisters, Charlesy Faye and Linda Jane Morris; and one brother, Roy Trantham.

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

## Support Groups

### THURSDAY

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

• Spring Tabernacle Ministries has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m. until noon and again at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.. The classes take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.

• Visual Awareness Support Group (VASG) will meet at 5:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church Parish Hall. VASG is open to the public but specifically aimed for people who suffer from vision problems and their caregivers. For more information, call 263-2501.

### FRIDAY

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

## Police blotter

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

• PAULA SUE BAKER, 52, of 101 E. 16<sup>th</sup> St., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.

• AMANDA GALAVIZ, 35, of 800 Andree St., was arrested Wednesday on a warrant for driving while license invalid.

• MAURICIO BLANCAS-VALLADARES, 35, of Plano, Texas, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.

• ROXANNE BLACKWELL, 38, of 801 E. 14<sup>th</sup> St., was arrested Thursday on warrants for failure to display driver's license, expired registration, failure to maintain financial responsibility, failure to use child safety belt and failure to appear.

• JORGE MONDRAGON-LIMA, 37, of Plano, Texas, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.

• FRANCISCO BLANCAS-VALLADARES, 35, of Hobbs, N.M., was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.

## Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 56 inmates at the time of this report.

• PAULA SUE BAKER, 52, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• AMANDA GALAVIZ, 35, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on a municipal warrant for driving while license invalid.

• JAMES ANTHONY GRIEGO, 17, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of forgery of a government instrument.

• ROXANA BLACKWELL, 38, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for failure to display driver's license, expired vehicle registration, failure to maintain financial responsibility, failure to use child safety belt and failure to appear.

• MAURICIO BLANCAS-VALLADARES, 35, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• FRANCISCO BLANCAS-VALLADARES, 35, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• JORGE MONDRAGON-LIMA, 37, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

## Fire/EMS

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2700 block of Carol. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the area of the VA Medical Center. Service refused.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of E. 15<sup>th</sup> Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the 169 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20. One person was life-flighted from the scene.

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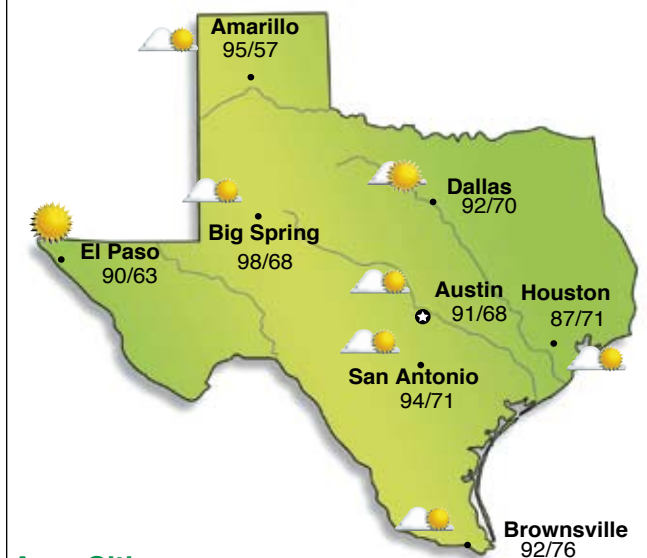
## Today's Weather

### Local 5-Day Forecast

Fri 5/4	Sat 5/5	Sun 5/6	Mon 5/7	Tue 5/8
98/68 Considerable clouds early. Some decrease in clouds later in the day.	97/68 Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the upper 60s.	102/69 Partly cloudy. Highs 100 to 104F and lows in the upper 60s.	98/66 Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the mid 60s.	96/67 Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the upper 60s.
Sunrise: 6:57 AM Sunset: 8:29 PM	Sunrise: 6:56 AM Sunset: 8:29 PM	Sunrise: 6:56 AM Sunset: 8:30 PM	Sunrise: 6:55 AM Sunset: 8:31 PM	Sunrise: 6:54 AM Sunset: 8:32 PM

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### Texas At A Glance



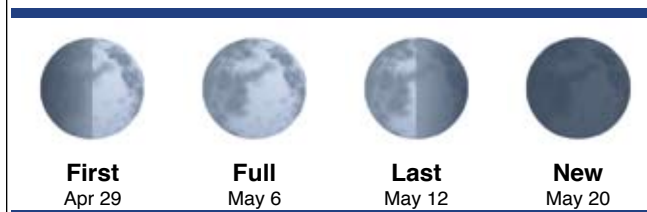
### Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abiene	96	70	t-storm	Kingsville	93	73	pt sunny
Amarillo	95	57	pt sunny	Livingston	89	67	mst sunny
Austin	91	68	pt sunny	Longview	90	69	mst sunny
Beaumont	87	69	pt sunny	Lubbock	97	62	pt sunny
Brownsville	92	76	pt sunny	Lufkin	92	68	mst sunny
Brownwood	96	69	pt sunny	Midland	98	70	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	89	75	pt sunny	Raymondville	93	73	pt sunny
Corsicana	89	68	mst sunny	Rosenberg	88	70	pt sunny
Dallas	92	70	mst sunny	San Antonio	94	71	pt sunny
Del Rio	93	71	t-storm	San Marcos	92	68	pt sunny
El Paso	90	63	sunny	Sulphur Springs	90	71	sunny
Fort Stockton	95	66	pt sunny	Sweetwater	96	69	t-storm
Gainesville	91	68	mst sunny	Tyler	89	68	mst sunny
Greenville	89	68	mst sunny	Weatherford	92	68	mst sunny
Houston	87	71	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	98	69	mst sunny

### National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	84	65	cloudy	Minneapolis	82	55	t-storm
Boston	57	51	rain	New York	63	58	rain
Chicago	83	64	t-storm	Phoenix	89	65	sunny
Dallas	92	70	mst sunny	San Francisco	59	53	rain
Denver	80	52	pt sunny	Seattle	49	44	rain
Houston	87	71	pt sunny	St. Louis	87	70	pt sunny
Los Angeles	66	55	pt sunny	Washington, DC	87	66	t-storm
Miami	82	72	pt sunny				

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# Take Note

- Spring of Siloam CWJC will be hosting the spring graduation Saturday at 4 p.m. A reception will follow the graduation in the Holy Grounds Cafe. The ceremony will take place at Spring Creek Fellowship at 501 Birdwell Lane.
- An account has been established at Wells Fargo Bank to help defray medical cost for Brittney Phillips Smith. Brittney will be undergoing a kidney transplant in San Antonio on June 14. Brittney is a graduate of BSHS and is the daughter of Karan and Gary Phillips. All donations and prayers will be greatly appreciated.
- Every Friday night from 7:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. is dance night at the Senior Citizen Center. The cost is \$8 per person.
- An account has been established at American State Bank to help defray medical expense for Brad "Ghost" Ugstad, a local resident who was severely injured in a motorcycle accident. All donations will be appreciated.
- Mobile Meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you can donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.
- Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St., has a brief, inspirational message before giving away food and clothing on Thursday mornings. It's a great way to work off community service and get help, too. Be there at 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and get two for one plus a rehab meeting.

- Home Hospice is seeking volunteers. A training will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. May 18. 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.
- The Salvation Army is holding its annual fan drive and is in need of fans. Community members can donate new or used fans. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Donations can be made at the main office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We currently have 55 children in foster care without a volunteer. We need your help. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Suzy Milliken at 1-877-316-8346 or visit www.BecomeaCASA.org or www.casawtx.org.
- Legal Aid of Northwest Texas is accepting appointments from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

# VOTE

Continued from Page 1

"There's always the possibility people don't understand the proposition," Bloom said. "There's also the possibility May's just a busy month. It's hard to say why we aren't seeing the turnout we expected at this point."

Regardless, Bloom said she and her team of election clerks are ready to assist Howard County voters in casting their ballots, whether it's during regular early voting hours or today's extended hours.

"Our normal early voting hours are 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. here at the Election Administration Office, which is located on the third floor of the county courthouse," Bloom said. "However, today we are offering extended hours from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., which is designed to help voters who work between our normal hours and can't normally get in here."

Bloom said construction in and around the courthouse area hasn't caused any problems for voters looking to cast their ballots.

"There was some concern early on about the construction effecting parking, but it doesn't appear to have caused any problems," Bloom said. "Most of the construction is dealing with curbs and that sort of thing and hasn't been a problem, so we're very pleased."

Early voting will continue until Tuesday, with election day slated for May 12. The deadline to request a mail-out ballot is Friday, according to Bloom.

Big Spring voters have one city council contest — District 4 — to weigh in on. Bobby McDonald — businessman and husband of incumbent Councilwoman Gloria McDonald, faces off against Loretta Farquhar for the seat. Gloria McDonald elected not to run for another term.

Big Spring voters will also be asked to decide the fate of a proposed overhaul of the municipality's water and wastewater facilities using up to \$13 million in economic development funding through a 4B project.

Members of the Big Spring City Council voted unanimously to have the proposed project placed on the May ballot during their Feb. 14 meeting, a move that drew both praise and criticism from various voices in the community.

As part of the agreement between the council and the Big Spring Economic Development board of directors, if voters approve the project the EDC will provide \$750,000 a year for the first two years, and then 40 percent of its sales tax revenue — with a floor of \$500,000 and a ceiling of \$750,000 for the following 18 years — with the city of Big Spring picking up the remainder of the tab.

Big Spring ISD has one contested election — District 2. Incumbent Maria Padilla is running against Ed Ware and Pat Deanda.

Forsan ISD has two at-large positions, held by Lewis Boeker and Misty Rhoton. Other names appearing on the ballot will be Chris Olson and Beckie Wash. Wash was appointed to the board last month to fill a spot left vacant by Derrick Looney. The position will be for an unexpired two-year term, while the other positions are for three year terms. Early voting will take place at the Howard County Courthouse.

Sands ISD will have three at-large positions on the ballot. Incumbents Tommy Staggs and Bill Barnes are running for re-election. Michael Wigington, Wes Higgins, Blayne Archuleta and Matt Snell are also seeking election. Early voting will take place at the school business office.

Coahoma Independent School District has three positions — all at large— up for election Brian Moore, board president, Jody Reid and Alan Wright are all incumbents running for re-election. Challengers are Leslie Tindol, Gerald King and Paul Lewis. Early voting will also take place at the Howard County Courthouse.

For more information on the upcoming elections, contact the Howard County Elections Administration at 432-264-2273.

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

# SHOW

Continued from Page 1

as Arizona, to participate this weekend. And those dogs will run the gamut of breeds, from tiny chihuahuas to hulking St. Bernards and just about every-

thing in between. Kelley said dogs will compete for best of breed, best of group (sporting, non-sporting, toy, herding, working, terrier and hounds) and best in show honors. Kelley promises a high quality show, even if the quantity of entries is down from previous

years. "This is one of the best dog shows in West Texas," she said. Aside from free admission, one of the show's big attractions for visitors, Kelley said, is that they are welcomed down on the show floor to get a close look at the dogs, as well as talk to handlers,

breeders and owners. "They are all very gracious and enjoy visiting with people," Kelley said. "They love answering questions about their dogs." Two words of warning, however — Kelley asks visitors to refrain from trying to pet the pooches after they've

been groomed and are ready to enter the show ring; and said American Kennel Club rules do not allow small children in strollers (parents must carry their kids). Food concessions and other vendor stands will be open in the lobby of the coliseum.

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

# ART

Continued from Page 1

8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children. For those want-

ing to view only the art exhibit in the gallery, there is no admission charge. "The Heritage Museum has always been a strong supporter of the visual arts and graciously offered the museum as a venue this year," Tereletsky said. "Visual art is probably the quietest form of fine arts and deals with individual and internal ideas,

views and solutions to revealing emotions and observations. This gives the students a chance to shine." Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com

**MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL**  
24th & Johnson 267-8288  
Camilla Joyce Osburn, 75, died Tuesday. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

# APS

Continued from Page 1

pervasive problem of abuse, neglect and exploitation of the elderly and adults with disabilities, and to encourage citizens to get involved in making a positive difference. "Throughout May, APS employees across Texas will distribute brochures and information kits, as well as participate in conferences, information fairs, and ceremonies honoring those who work on behalf of vulnerable adults."

and exploitation," said Engelking. "Isolation places vulnerable adults at risk. That's why elder abuse prevention is everyone's business. "If you suspect that an elderly or disabled adult is being abused or neglected, please report it immediately. Protecting vulnerable adults is everyone's business."

exploitation involving adults living at home," she added. "Of these, more than 56,056 were confirmed. As a comparison, in 2007 APS completed 64,459 investigations and confirmed in 45,934 cases. In the last decade, the number of

in-home cases investigated by APS has more than doubled. "The message is simple but important. If you believe an elderly person is being abused, neglected, or exploited, report it by calling 1-800-252-5400. For more infor-

mation about preventing elder abuse, and to download public awareness materials, visit EveryoneBusiness.org." Contact Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

According to Meisner, Texas has more than 2.5 million residents 65 or older, with more than 1.7 million people with a disability. "In 2010, APS completed 82,802 investigations of abuse, neglect or ex-

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**AN ENCOURAGING WORD**



By Eddy Pitchford

The STAAR testing has gotten a lot of attention! While the success of testing may ultimately depend upon the ability of test developers, there are benefits to assessing progress. Taking inventory is vital for one to properly take aim; taking is necessary if one is going to take proper action.

How long has it been since you've examined your walk with the Lord?

*Psalm 26:2, "Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart."*  
*Lamentations 3:40, "Let us search and examine our ways, and turn back to the Lord."*  
*2 Corinthians 13:5, "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves..."*

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# EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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## OUR VIEWS

# A couple good causes to run for

In less than three weeks Scenic Mountain will be the place to be if you are wanting to support a good cause.

The 3rd Annual Bob Fishback Benefit 5K Run/Walk will take over the state park May 19. The race will begin at 8 a.m.

For those wanting to sign up ahead of time, registration can be done online at [www.timing-specialist.com](http://www.timing-specialist.com). However, for those who want to wait and register at the event, a time has been allotted for that. Registration will take place at 7 a.m. the day of the race.

Just because run is in the name of the race doesn't mean there is a certain time the area needs to be completed, even though timing will be provided. Walkers, joggers and runners are all welcome.

A couple weeks after the Bob Fishback Run/Walk, area residents can gather again on top of Scenic Mountain and take part in the Run for God.

June 2, Life Church will be hosting another 5K run. Proceeds from the event will benefit Go Life missions at Life Church.

All ages are welcomed and encouraged to take part in the Run For God. The race will start at 8 a.m. with registration, the day of the event, taking place from 7 a.m. until 7:30 a.m.

A 5k on Scenic Mountain encompasses a 3.2 mile course.

Whether you want to support a good cause, put in an early morning run or simply take a stroll through the Big Spring State Park while taking in lovely scenery, there are at least two options coming up.

Of course, taking part in the runs sponsored by [timingspecialist.com](http://timingspecialist.com) aren't the only opportunities to get out and enjoy the view from atop Scenic Mountain. Each day the mountain is open to the public for walking, running or a journey through the nature trail.

Get out, have fun and support a good cause.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor Bill McClellan at [newsdesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:newsdesk@bigspringherald.com).
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

## 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

May we tackle the toughest tasks, Lord, with You.

Amen

# Maintain the outrage you have

We have lost not just our jobs, but our faith. We have lost faith in our government to fix things, to make things right, to operate for the public good.

I am not talking about faith in our political system. Those people who still have faith in our politics are hopeless optimists or hopeless loons. Most Americans no longer "hate" politics, as E.J. Dionne famously put it in his book more than 20 years ago. Now, they simply feel that politics has become irrelevant.

Politics is a titanic struggle with a Lilliputian result: The Democratic Party and the Republican Party grapple daily on Capitol Hill, but the outcome is so pathetically small that one wonders why they bother.

Life, thank goodness, is not all politics. There are institutions that operate above and beyond politics. And how have they been doing in recent years?

How about the Supreme Court? It is a body that remains above politics in order to carry out a sacred duty, a body where justices serve for life, conduct their debates in secret and never answer to the public in order that they might rule dispassionately, free from the demands of partisanship.

Allow me to pause here while I wipe away the tears of laughter (or of sorrow) from my cheeks.

Does anyone still believe this guff? Following Bush v. Gore in 2000, how can anyone still believe the Supreme Court acts other than supremely politically? It was in that case that the court picked a president for raw political reasons: a majority wanted George W. Bush to become president rather Al Gore.

Think I exaggerate? As Justice John Paul Stevens wrote in dissent: "Although we may never know with complete certainty the identity of the winner of this year's presidential election, the

identity of the loser is perfectly clear. It is the Nation's confidence in the judge as an impartial guardian of the rule of law."

Stevens also wrote: "Time will one day heal the wound to the confidence that will be inflicted by today's decision."

All one can say is that day has not come. The 2010 case of Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, allowing unrestricted political spending by corporations, saw to that.

Once again, Justice Stevens wrote in dissent, stating that the majority decision "threatens to undermine the integrity of elected institutions across the Nation."

"A democracy cannot function effectively when its constituent members believe laws are being bought and sold," Stevens wrote.

Next month, the Supreme Court will announce its decision on Barack Obama's health care plan. Does anyone have faith that that decision will be free from politics? And, in fact, we are told we must choose our presidents with an eye to the Supreme Court appointments they will make, appointees who will agree with their politics.

But forget about the Supreme Court.

There are other institutions that we can believe in.

Like the Secret Service, for instance. An institution whose reputation is impeccable, incorruptible, unblemished and, oh, yeah, a national joke. After "Hookergate" in Cartagena, Colombia, and allegations of "Strippergate" in El Salvador, David Letterman joked Friday: "Brad Pitt is getting married to Angelina Jolie. You know who's planning the bachelor party? The Secret Service." And President Obama joked at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner Saturday night, "I had a lot more material prepared, but I have to get the Secret Service home in time for their new curfew."

And there are new rules for the Secret Service. Like no sex while running alongside the presidential limousine. (OK, so I made that one up. But it's a good idea.)

It has been a bad few years for

national institutions that we never used to question. Take Arlington National Cemetery, the final resting place for more than 300,000 veterans, two presidents (John F. Kennedy and William Howard Taft) and other famous departed, as well as the Tomb of the Unknowns. Arlington's official mission is to "lay to rest those who have served our nation with dignity and honor."

Which it has since 1864, except for a chaotic management system, exposed by Salon in 2009, which allowed thousands of graves to be misidentified, bodies to be buried atop one another, burial urns dumped together and millions of dollars wasted. Two top administrators were forced out. One, Arlington Superintendent John Metzler, said: "Sure, mistakes get made. ... Does anyone run a perfect organization?"

One wonders. Remember all those politicians, camera crews in tow, trooping out to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, crowing about the wonderful treatment the wounded were getting, but never reporting, as The Washington Post did in 2007, roach- and rat-infested facilities, walls covered in mold and how "disengaged clerks, unqualified platoon sergeants and overworked case managers fumble with simple needs."

There are other institutions we used to have faith in: our presidents, the Congress, Amtrak, and a postal system where, "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."

All problems are being worked on, corrected or, some will insist, never existed in the first place.

But every day, there seems to be a new institution — the schools, the media, big business — that tries our faith. We must struggle to maintain faith, but we must also struggle to maintain a sense of outrage, because without our outrage, nothing will be forced to improve.

To find out more about Roger Simon, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

# Here is the declaration of war

Republican lawmakers have declared war on the presidency. Not so odd, perhaps, given their recent record. But the leader they're targeting this time is Mitt Romney.

The former Massachusetts governor is clearly going to be the party's candidate. Traditionally, the nominee sets the agenda for the party in the fall elections. Not this time, according to several Republican firebrands.

"We're not a cheerleading squad," said Rep. Jeff Landry, a freshman from Louisiana. "We're the conductor. We're supposed to drive the train."

"We have led and will continue to lead," said Rep. Lou Barletta, a Pennsylvania Republican.

Their bottom line seems to be that Romney can say anything he wants so long as he supports lower taxes on the rich, the evisceration of food stamps and other programs that benefit the poor, and the inflation of a military budget that already looks as though it's on steroids.

Basically Republicans don't want a president. They want a potted plant.

And judging from his performance so far, Romney might be willing to accommodate them. He's already reversed himself on pretty much every issue that would make a tea party fanatic frown.

I keep wondering how in the world Republicans expect to win the election on a platform that would benefit — at most — 10

percent of the population at the expense of the other 90 percent.

I suppose they're going to rely heavily on negative campaigning. Romney certainly did in destroying his primary opponents.

And thanks to the Supreme Court's lamentable Citizens United ruling, they will have virtually unlimited resources to hurl exaggerations, misrepresentations, and outright lies at President Barack Obama.

We're going to revisit Obama the Muslim, Obama the foreigner, and Obama the hate-filled black radical, as well as Obama the socialist and Obama the dictator.

I doubt that any of those hysterical charges will stick with anyone who isn't a Rush Limbaugh fan, but who knows?

When the Republicans took over the House of Representatives in the 2010 election, they claimed a national mandate to return to the 18th century.

That mandate has very little validity. In that election, Republican candidates scored a total of 30,799,391 votes. Two years earlier in the presidential election, Obama received 69,498,215 — more than twice as many. That's a mandate.

Unfortunately, he hasn't been able to exercise it much over the past two years because of Republican intransigence. Our system of government invites gridlock, and Republican members of Congress have done everything in their power to accept that invitation.

When Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said in October 2010 that the "single most important thing" that Republicans "want to achieve is for President Obama to be a one-term president," he

wasn't kidding. He and his Republican colleagues have spent the past two years throwing sand into the gears of government.

Beating Obama will be harder for the GOP than it was to clench a robust majority of House seats and narrow the Democratic Party's Senate majority two years ago. Despite the Republicans' best efforts to paint him as an extreme liberal, Obama has governed as a moderate. He's certainly too moderate for some of his supporters.

He's helped drag us back from the brink of insolvency, save the auto industry, and cut our trade deficit. He's even managed to oversee an increase in our oil production, making us less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

All of this with the Republicans leaving heel marks all the way

Had the voters kept the Democratic Party in control of Congress in 2010, or had more reasonable Republicans been calling their party's shots, our economic recovery might be several years further along by now.

The Republicans will argue that none of that is true, of course, that the Obama administration has been a failure in every regard. Maybe they can sell that. They've certainly got enough money to give it a try. However, they have no competing narrative that makes sense to anyone but people who are interested in nothing but low taxes for the rich.

There's a saying in politics that you can't beat somebody with nobody. This election will test that premise.

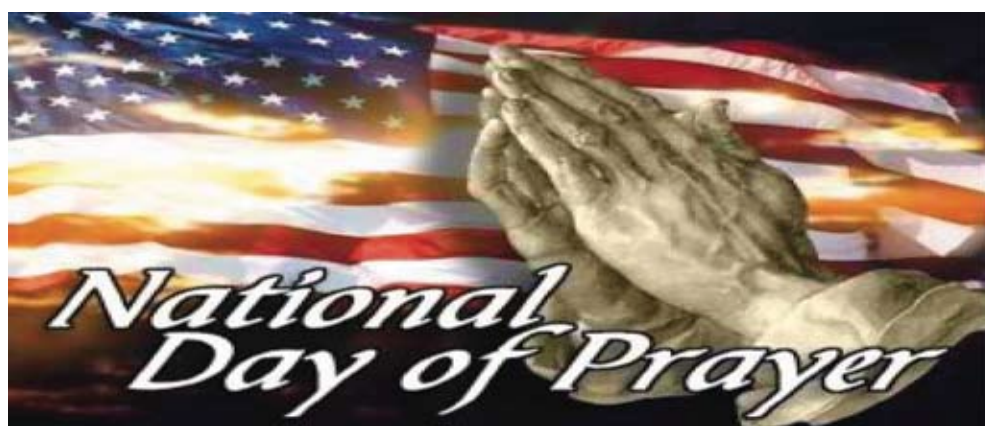
OtherWords columnist Donald Kaul lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan. [otherwords.org](http://otherwords.org)



ROGER SIMON



DONALD KAUL



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2 Chronicles 7:14 NKJV



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## News in brief

### U.S. ambassador denies Chinese activist's claim he was pressured to leave embassy

BEIJING (AP) — U.S. officials said Thursday they are still trying to help a blind Chinese activist who says he fears for his family's safety, and denied he was pressured to leave the American Embassy to resettle inside China.

The diplomatic dispute between Washington and Beijing over Chen Guangcheng is sensitive for the Obama administration. It risks appearing soft on human rights during an election year or looking as though it rushed to resolve Chen's case ahead of strategic talks this week with China attended by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

After fleeing persecution by local officials in his rural town and seeking refuge in the embassy in Beijing for six days, Chen left Wednesday to get treatment for a leg injury at a Beijing hospital and be reunited with his family. U.S. officials said the Chinese government had agreed to resettle him in a university town of his choice.

Chen, 40, initially said he had assurances that he would be safe in China — which is what U.S. officials said he wanted — but hours later he told The Associated Press he feared for his family's safety unless they are all spirited abroad. He also said he felt pressured to leave, both by Chinese and U.S. officials.

U.S. Ambassador Gary Locke told a news conference that he could say "unequivocally" that Chen was never pressured to leave. Locke said Chen left the embassy after talking twice on the telephone with his wife, who was waiting at the hospital.

### Survey: Economists confident hiring gains will help sustain U.S. recovery

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hiring through the rest of 2012 will lag the brisk pace set early this year. But it will be strong enough to push the unemployment rate below 8 percent by Election Day.

That's the view that emerges from an Associated Press survey of 32 leading

economists who foresee a gradually brighter jobs picture. Despite higher gas prices, Europe's debt crisis and a weak housing market, they think the economy has entered a "virtuous cycle" in which hiring boosts consumer spending, which fuels more hiring and spending.

The survey results come before a report Friday on hiring during April. The April report is eagerly awaited because employers added surprisingly few jobs in March. That result contributed to fears that the economy might struggle to sustain its recovery.

But the economists think the recovery will manage to reduce unemployment to 7.9 percent by Election Day from 8.2 percent in March.

Falling unemployment would boost President Barack Obama's prospects in November. Going back to 1956, no president has lost re-election when the unemployment rate dropped in the two years before the election. And none has won when the rate rose over that time.

### Problems seen if Supreme Court strikes down health care law

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tossing out President Barack Obama's health care law would have major unintended consequences for Medicare's payment systems, unseen but vital plumbing that handles 100 million monthly claims from hospitals and other service providers, the administration has quietly informed the courts.

Although the law made significant cuts to providers and improved prescription and preventive benefits for seniors, Medicare has been overlooked in a Supreme Court debate focused on the law's controversial requirement that individuals carry health insurance. Yet havoc in Medicare could have repercussions in an election year when both parties are avidly courting seniors.

In papers filed with the Supreme Court, administration lawyers have warned of "extraordinary disruption" if Medicare is forced to unwind countless transactions that are based on payment changes required by more than 20 separate sections of the

Affordable Care Act.

Opponents argue that the whole law should go. The administration counters that even if it strikes down the insurance mandate, the court should preserve most of the rest of the legislation. That would leave in place its changes to Medicare, as well as a major expansion of Medicaid coverage.

Last year, in a lower court filing on the case, Justice Department lawyers said reversing the Medicare payment changes "would impose staggering administrative burdens" on the government and "could cause major delays and errors" in claims payment.

### Hollande's France would tweak NATO role but hold hard line on Syria, Iran

PARIS (AP) — If polls are to be believed, leftist Francois Hollande will soon be French president, and will tell Barack Obama next month that France is speeding up its withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan — bucking NATO's slower timetable.

Conservative French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who has trailed Hollande for months in the polls, is arguably the most America-friendly French leader in a half-century. He has aligned with Washington on Iran and Syria, upped France's military presence in Afghanistan and took a major role in NATO's air campaign over Libya that helped oust Moammar Gadhafi.

Hollande, with virtually no foreign policy experience, might be less vigorous in flexing military or diplomatic muscle abroad than Sarkozy. And that would have implications for France's allies and enemies alike.

Whoever is elected in Sunday's presidential elections, his decisions will carry weight on Iran's nuclear ambitions, government repression in Syria, and the fight against terrorism and pirates in Africa, and beyond.

### High-profile Democrats in GOP-leaning House races could aid Obama in core battleground states

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Republican-leaning areas in states vital to President Barack Obama's re-election prospects are drawing top-tier Democratic congressional candidates who, even if they lose, could help turn out the vote and boost Obama's chances of winning a second term.

The best example of the trend is for-

mer Iowa first lady Christie Vilsack, challenging GOP Rep. Steve King in Iowa's 4th Congressional District.

Christie Vilsack, the wife of former two-term governor Tom Vilsack — now Obama's agriculture secretary — moved more than 100 miles away from her home to run in a largely rural tract of GOP-heavy northern and western Iowa, where Obama lost in 2008 despite winning the state.

"That race is a great example of one that will help the president," said Tad Devine, a senior adviser to 2004 Democratic nominee John Kerry. "There will be a strong correlation between Obama and Vilsack voters. It's about the composition of the electorate."

Other key matchups are in Colorado, Florida, Ohio and Virginia. Obama carried these four states four years ago while losing to Republican John McCain in the individual counties that make up the districts.

### Its last nuclear reactor going offline, Japan takes tentative steps toward renewable energy

TOKYO (AP) — Another long, stiflingly hot summer is looming for Japan just as it shuts down its last operating nuclear power reactor, worsening a squeeze on electricity and adding urgency to calls for a green energy revolution.

On Saturday, the last of the country's 50 usable nuclear reactors will be switched off, completely idling a power source that once supplied a third of Japan's electricity. At a time when temptation to set the aircon to deep freeze is at its greatest, companies and ordinary Japanese will be obliged to economize amid temperatures that can climb above 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit).

Nuclear energy seemed a steady mainstay of Japan's power supply until the March 11, 2011, tsunami crippled the Fukushima Dai-Ichi plant in the worst atomic accident since the 1986 Chernobyl explosion. Authorities have since tightened safety standards.

To offset the shortfall, utilities have ramped up oil- and gas-based generation, giving resource-poor Japan, the world's third-largest economy, its biggest annual trade deficit ever last fiscal year. That \$100 million-plus a day extra cost, worries over the risks of nuclear power and concern over carbon emissions are leading many decisionmakers to view renewable energy such as solar.



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# Steers begin playoffs against Iowa Park

By **BRIAN MCCORMACK**

Sports Editor

Could this be the year of the Steer? Coach Bert Otto and his baseball squad believe it is as they ready game series for Game One of a three-game series in postseason play against Iowa Park today in Mineral Wells.

Big Spring High School earned a 4-4 (14-15 overall) record in District 5-3A action this year, but the .500 record may not be an accurate reflection of just how hard the Steers charged. Both losses at the hands of Abilene Wylie could have easily gone the other way. Starting pitcher Adam Franco threw a one-hitter against the Bulldogs in their second matchup of the season. Unfortunately, the one hit happened to be a two-run home run which was

enough to put Wylie ahead in a 2-1 ball game.

It doesn't matter to Otto, who is confident his team has what it takes to compete with Iowa Park in bi-district.

"Iowa Park is a solid team in a tough district," he said. "But I think we can say we are evenly matched."

Resilience has been the theme weaved throughout the season. Otto cites a difficult non-district schedule and the work ethic of his team as keys to their gritty style of play.

"It's our goal to play the tougher non-district teams," Otto added. "You can give your team a false sense of security if you play weaker teams. We always make our schedule tough."

Another reason for BSHS's success

is Adam Franco.

Franco has been consistent on the mound and has kept the Steers within striking distance of most teams throughout the season. The thought of playing Iowa Park in his playoff debut hasn't bothered the young hurler.

"I take it like it's any other game," Franco said. "I have just been hanging out with friends and playing Call of Duty (a video game) to try to take my mind off of it."

Joseph Morelion, a junior, has contributed to the Steers' success with his bat — which has found the ball in clutch situations all year. Like Franco, he is sure BSHS can play with the likes of Iowa Park.

"We have had a good season," Morelion said. We have played a lot

of good teams and we competed with them."

Morelion said his fondest memory was of beating Snyder after a rally in the second game against them to complete the season sweep of the perennially powerful Tigers.

"When we beat Snyder, we shocked the world with that win," Morelion added. "We knew we could do it, and we can beat Iowa Park."

Otto also had a personal milestone. A Snyder native, he was thrilled to beat his former alma mater for the first time in his career as a coach. When asked what his most memorable moment of the season was, however, Otto said it was clinching a postseason

See **STEERS**, Page 12

# Hawks head to Lubbock to start postseason run



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

The Howard College Hawk softball squad gathered for a sendoff Wednesday before making the trek to Lubbock for the regional championship. The Hawks finished the regular season by winning the WJCAC outright and earning the top seed. The Hawks begin Region V tournament play today at 2:30 p.m. after receiving a first round bye.

## Mavs will try sound up game in third try against OKC Thunder

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**

AP Sports Writer

DALLAS (AP) — That young up-and-coming Oklahoma City team that made things so difficult on the Dallas Mavericks in the playoffs last year may not even let the defending NBA champions get out of the first round this time.

Even though Kevin Durant has struggled with his shot, and each of the first two games in this opening-round series has gone down to the closing seconds, the Thunder certainly aren't in awe of Dirk Nowitzki and the Mavericks.

Oklahoma City has a 2-0 advantage in the best-of-7 series that shifts to Dallas for Game 3 on Thursday night.

"Game 3 is Game 7," Mavericks guard Jason Terry said Wednesday, stopping only briefly to make that comment while bounding up the stairs from the practice court to the locker room.

"We've played very well the first two games but we come away empty because we just haven't been able to make one extra play," coach Rick Carlisle said.

"We've got to turn that in Game 3, and it's not as simple as just coming home and it's just going to happen. We have to make it happen."

In last year's Western Conference finals, Dallas needed only five games to get past the Thunder's group of 20-somethings.

But the Mavericks needed overtime

to win Game 4 and it took a go-ahead 3-pointer by Nowitzki in the final minute of Game 5 of that series.

This time, the Thunder won the series opener on clutch shot by Durant and held on to win Game 2 despite not making a field goal in the final 4:51. They were tough, they were physical and they're growing up in a hurry.

So what happened to that Oklahoma City team that some viewed as soft before now?

"We were young. And when you're young you're still trying to learn about yourself, you're trying to learn the league and you don't have time to focus on the little things because you're trying to just survive. You're in survive mode. I don't think we were ever soft," coach Scott Brooks said. "The last two games, I like the fact that we just clawed and battled and fought our way. ... Maturity helps, and you do it one day at a time."

Consider that the youngest starter for Dallas in this series is 27-year-old guard Delonte West, one of two starters who wasn't even with the Mavericks last season and is the only one in their top five not in his 30s.

One of those missing starters is Tyson Chandler, now with the New York Knicks and the winner Wednesday of the NBA's Defensive Player of the Year award.

West would be among the oldest starters for the Thunder, who are using the same starting five from last year's Western Conference finals.

## Seau found dead in Calif. home

OCEANSIDE, Calif. (AP) — Junior Seau's apparent suicide stunned an entire city and saddened former teammates who recalled the former NFL star's ferocious tackles and habit of calling everybody around him "Buddy."

It also left everyone wondering what led to Seau's death Wednesday morning in what police said appeared to be a suicide. He was 43.

"I'm sorry to say, Superman is dead," said Shawn Mitchell, a chap-

lain for the San Diego Chargers. "All of us can appear to be super, but all of us need to reach out and find support when we're hurting."

Police Chief Frank McCoy said Seau's girlfriend reported finding him unconscious with a gunshot wound to the chest and lifesaving efforts were unsuccessful. A gun was found near him, McCoy said. Police said no suicide note was found and they didn't immediately know who the gun was registered to.

## Texas State to join Sun Belt

SAN MARCOS, Texas (AP) — The Sun Belt said Wednesday that Texas State will join the league in July 2013 and begin conference play for the 2013-14 academic year.

Texas State is going into its first season at the Football Bowl Sub-division level in 2012, when coach Dennis Franchione will lead the Bobcats into what will be their only WAC season. The school has 16 varsity programs.

"There was energy and excitement," said Sun Belt Commissioner Karl Benson, who attended a press conference announc-

ing the move. "Truly a very, very successful launch."

Texas State joins current Sun Belt Conference members Arkansas State, Arkansas-Little Rock, Florida Atlantic, Florida International, UL-Lafayette, UL-Monroe, Middle Tennessee, North Texas, South Alabama, Troy and Western Kentucky.

In addition, Georgia State also will join the conference in 2013 after accepting a bid last month.

Texas State and Georgia State would make up for the potential loss of FIU and North

Texas, which will reportedly jump to Conference USA.

Benson hinted that more changes will be on the way for the Sun Belt this week. Benson said he's hopeful the league's membership will be finalized in the next few days as the Sun Belt waits for other conferences to finalize plans.

"The addition of Texas State and Georgia State is part of a plan and a strategy that the Sun Belt has in place to bring in quality universities. Not only to allow the Sun Belt to get bigger, but to get better," he said.

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## Garage Sales

**1811 RUNNELLS** (in rear), Thursday & Friday 8:00-6:00. Half price 3pm Friday.

**3 FAMILY** Garage Sale: Saturday 8:30-?, 710 E. 15th. Lots of girls and women's clothing, mattresses, computer desk, computer chair, table w/4 chairs, gas heaters, and lots more.

## YARD SALE

**601 COLGATE**, Saturday 8:00am-Noon. HUGE MOVING SALE: Holiday decorations, tools, small appliances, cookbooks, purses, poly shed, dog kennel, knick-knacks and much more.

**BACKYARD SALE** 1420 Tuscan Fri. 9-4 Sat. 9-2. Furniture, coats, womens clothes and scrubs tops, heavy duty trailer hitch for a Ford pickup, old pickup bed trailer, fax machine, lots of good stuff.

**CARPOR SALE:** 205 Becker Rd. (Sand Springs), Thursday & Friday 8:30-? Portable play pen, carrier, lots of boys & girls clothes.

**CARPOR SALE:** 6716 East Robinson Road (Sand Springs) Friday, Saturday & Sunday 8am-5pm. Call (432)935-8551. 87 Honda Goldwing, fishing gear, trolling motor, power tools, clothes, books, jewelry and lots more.

**COMMUNITY WIDE** Garage Sale: Pick-Up maps at 6904 South Service Road in Sand Springs. Saturday 8:00-Noon. Call (432)268-3375.

**GARAGE SALE** Multi Family: 2103 East 25th St., Saturday 8-4. Too much to list.

**GARAGE SALE**, 609 South Aylesford. Saturday Only 9:00-? Little of everthing. Come See.

**GARAGE SALE:** 2906 Cactus Drive, Friday & Saturday 8:00-? Too much to list!!!! Come See Us!!

**HUGE GARAGE** Sale: 213 North 5th St. (Coahoma), Saturday 8:00-? (3) Trailers, furniture, tools, clothes, TV's and lots more.

**MOVING SALE:** 1501-1/2 Hilltop Road, Thursday, Friday & Saturday 7:30am-5:00pm. Refrigerator, stove, household items, furniture, knick-knacks, clothing and lots more.

**MULTI FAMILY** Garage Sale: 3300 FM 3113 (Stanton) North of I-20 on Hwy. 137, West for One mile on FM 3113, Saturday 8-2. Follow Signs.

**PATIO SALE** Multi Family: 2506 Lynn Drive, Saturday Only 8:00-? Craftsman tools, ladies apparel, kitchen items, Bar-B-Que Grill, lawn equipment, books and etc.....

## Help Wanted

**DAY'S INN** needs Front Desk person. Apply at Front Office @ 2701 South Gregg Street.

**IMMEDIATE JOB** Opening Part-time position for a Housekeeper. Hours will be Monday thru Friday, 4 hours per day as scheduled. Competitive applicants will have a dependable work history and good references. Apply in person Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. 3rd Street, Big Spring

## Help Wanted

**\$\$\$Immediate Opening \$\$\$**  
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Our employees are our greatest asset, providing flexible schedules and an attractive benefits packet.

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Please contact Katee Rubio,  
HR Director  
kmrubio@sears-methodist.com

## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The Colorado River Municipal Water District, regional raw water supplier for the Permian Basin, is accepting applications and resumes for the position of Administrative Assistant. Responsibilities include assisting the General Manager with administrative duties of the District. This is a skilled level position, additional information can be found at

www.crmwd.org  
CRMWD is an equal opportunity employer. Benefits include health insurance, retirement plans, and sick, vacation and holiday leave. Resumes are desired. Applications are required and available at the District's administrative office, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, by calling (432)267-6341 or www.crmwd.org

**AIRLINES ARE HIRING** - Train for high paying Aviation Career, FAA approved program. Financial aid if qualified - Job Placement assistance. CALL Aviation Institute of Maintenance 877-803-8630.

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/OFFICE** manager needed for busy Christian preschool office. Apply in person at 118 Cedar Rd. Full-time Monday-Friday. Must be able to pass Criminal history background checks and drug tests. Applicants will need to have extensive background working with computer programs.

**BIG SPRING** Country Club needs experienced Salad Preps for day and evening shifts. Apply in person, No phone calls.

**BLUE BELL** Creameries is seeking a responsible, dependable Full Time Shipping Clerk. Position involves physically working with ice cream products in a cold environment. Must be 18 years old and have reliable transportation. No experience necessary, we will train. We offer competitive pay and great benefits. Apply in person at: Workforce Solutions; 1001 Birdwell Lane (Howard College) or our office at 401 East Interstate 20.

**BUFFALO COUNTRY** taking application for Sales Clerk (all shifts). Experience required. Must apply in person 4911 South Hwy. 87 ask for Salitta. No Phone Calls.

**IMMEDIATE KITCHEN** Help needed. Must be Neat in Appearance. Honest and Dependable. Inquire at Wagon Wheel, 2010 Scurry St. No phone call Please!

## Help Wanted



**DUE TO** the continued trust being placed in our staff by Big Spring residents & physicians, Crossroads Hospice is hiring for the position of RN/LVN full-time. We will gladly train the candidate who is selected for this position to OUR STANDARD OF CARE. Bilingual a plus.

Please fax your resume to  
Debbie Read  
(432)263-5304  
or come by the office.

**EYE ASSOCIATES** is accepting applications for a Bookkeeper. Quick Books experience helpful. Apply at 2311 Scurry. No calls please.

**FARM HAND** Wanted! Experience only apply. \$550.00 Weekly plus Bonus. Call after 7:00p.m. (432)684-5418.

**GENERAL MAINTENANCE:** Must have a desire to work in a team environment and the ability to follow directions. Must have at least 1 yr maintenance experience. Abilities to include: painting experience; general plumbing, general sheetrock repair and texture and HVAC skills. Must have own tools, ability to take afterhours and weekend calls; valid TX drivers license and liability insurance. Apply in person at Bent Tree Apartments, 1 Courtney Place.

**HIRING EXPERIENCED** CDL drivers. 1-2 yrs experience required, with clean driving record. Pay DOE. Health, vision, and dental insurance 100% paid! Apply in person: 9400 South Service Road., Coahoma, TX.



**HIRING FOR FRONT DESK, HOUSEKEEPING, BREAKFAST HOSTESS AND MAINTENANCE. PAY BASED ON EXPERIENCE. APPLY AT LAQUINTA INN & SUITES 1102 W. I-20. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.**

**HIRING FULL-TIME** salaried shop foreman. Requires 3yrs. minimum verifiable experience w/diesel & heavy equipment, as well as supervisory experience. Pay negotiable DOE. Health, vision, and dental ins. 100% paid! Apply in person at 9400 South Service Rd., Coahoma, TX, or call 432-394-4604.

Join our professional cleaning team! \$12/Hrs. & advancement opportunities. We provide paid training, all necessary supplies & uniform. Must have own transportation & speak English. All cleaners are drug tested & background checked. Bonded and insured. Call J. Williams Management at 432-699-2090 M-F 8-4.

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## Help Wanted



**KASE CONSTRUCTION-** Big Spring, TX.. Specializing in Pipeline Construction; Trenching & Road Boring is currently hiring for the following positions.

\* Equipment Operators  
\* CDL Driver  
\* Welder  
\* Laborers  
Applicants must be honest, hard working, dependable & possess a valid driver's license. Must pass pre-employment and random Drug Screen. Apply in person at 510 E. 1st in Big Spring or call (325)868-0300.

**LOCAL ACCOUNTING** firm is seeking full charge bookkeeper. Candidate should possess skills that allow for routine general ledger and payroll duties to be completed with minimal supervision. Microsoft Excel and Word skills are preferred. Applicants should send resume c/o P.O. Box 1431/207, Big Spring, TX 79721-1431.

## MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR III,

Plumbing Dept.,  
Salary \$2802.75-\$3223.16 MO,  
Posting Number: 195940  
Full Time at 1901 Nth Highway 87, Big Spring  
Description:  
Performs moderately complex maintenance work and supervises maintenance staff in the installation, care and repair of varied state facilities and equipment. Constructs, maintains & repairs plumbing system, HVAC Systems, pumps & related equipment, repairs and maintains Food Service Equipment, assists in the preventive maintenance of all equipment related to plumbing/HVAC shop. Experience in building maintenance and repair work. Graduation from a standard senior high school or equivalent, supplemented by training in the operation of electrical, electronic and mechanical equipment, is generally preferred experience and education may be substituted for one another.

## MATERIAL HANDLER II

Warehouse Worker  
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Big Spring State Hospital  
Big Spring Texas.  
Posting number #184170  
Apply Online:  
https://  
accessshr.hhsc.state.tx.us

**NEED A** Pusher & Roustabout. Must have experience, pass a drug test and have a valid drivers license. Apply at 2000 North Birdwell Lane.

**Needed Belly** Dump Truck Driver. Must have truck driver experience. Must pass drug test. Walker Construction 432-264-2976 or 264-2975

**NEIGHBORS CONVENIENCE** Store now hiring cooks, cashiers, stockers. All Shifts. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700.

**NOW ACCEPTING** resumes for plant operator @ natural gas processing plant NE of Big Spring, TX. Excellent salary, paid vacation, medical insurance and 401k. Send resume to:  
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11703 E FM 846  
Coahoma, TX 79511  
Or fax 432-399-4290 or  
Email mwcol@wtggas.com

**PART-TIME DISHWASHER** needed. Apply in person at Big Spring Country Club. No phone calls please.

## Help Wanted

**NOW HIRING** for the summer session and 2012-2013 School year. Christian Pre-School teachers and child care givers. Part-time and full-time positions available. Prefer at least 1-year experience in a licensed child-care facility, but will train the right person. New Hope Christian School 118 Cedar Rd.

## PARKPLACE RETIREMENT

Living is hiring! We're looking for a team player who is enthusiastic and outgoing. This position is rotating shift work which could involve weekends, midnights, days and evenings. Duties include facilitating activities, housekeeping, and kitchen work, etc. Must be able to multitask and be active. Apply in person at 501 W. 17th Street.

**PART-TIME MAINT** Tech needed for property in Big Spring. Applicant must have strong organizational skills and enjoy working outdoors. 20 hrs/week plus Vacation. Fax resume to (432)264-1761.

**PATIENT CARE** Coordinator needed for busy medical practice. Competitive pay with bonuses available. Call (903)280-5551.

## PHILLIPS CRANE &amp; RIGGING

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**PLAZA INN** is looking for Front Desk person and Night Audit person. Apply in person at 700 West I-20. No phone calls please.



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800/737-9981  
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ww.mipe.com  
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**RUSTY'S OILFIELD** Service In Stanton has immediate openings for Mechanic, CDL Driver, Roustabout Pushers and Helpers. Must have valid drivers license. Apply in person at 3327 W I20 in Stanton. 432-756-2821.

**TOP NOTCH** Landscaping is Hiring for all positions. Experience preferred. Call (432)213-0031 Mon.-Fri. 8-5.

## Help Wanted

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Needed for Hospital Federal Inmate Protection detail. All positions are Part-time and PRN.

**Physical Requirements:** Must be in general good health and vision must be correctable to 20/30 (SNELLEN) in one eye. The ability to distinguish basic colors is required. Emotional and mental stability is required.

**Other Requirements:** Must be able to pass State and Federal Backgrounds and Credit Checks.

**Experience Requirements:** One year (2040) hours of experience in the armed forces or coast guard which involved significant performance of guard duty of detainees or prisoners; or the equivalent experience in a federal, state, or local government, or private organization which involved protecting/police duties, or college level training in courses such as corrections or police science may be substituted for experience at the ratio of two hours of instructions for one hour of experience.

Apply at Workforce Center (1001 Birdwell Ln., Howard College- Charles Warren Bld. 106), KEYWORD: PARAGON. EOE.



Seeking Experienced; Sitters/CNA's to work for private duty clients. Hourly rate. Call 522-5080. All Shifts Avail. 1-800-201-5904 E.O.E.

## TRUCK DRIVER

Helena Chemical Company, a national agricultural-chemical company, has an immediate opening for an experienced truck driver. This position will make deliveries, load and unload product, utilize a forklift, and perform general warehouse duties. The position requires high school diploma or equivalent, CDL with HAZMAT endorsement. We offer an excellent working environment and outstanding compensation and benefits package. For consideration, please apply in person:

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## WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY

Wanted for local Rental Store. Benefits include paid vacation, retirement & health insurance. Requirements are background check, drug screening, good driving record and be at least 19 years old. Starting pay \$8.50 per hour. Apply in person, Credit World, 1611 Gregg.

**WS CONSTRUCTION** is looking for experienced Concrete Finishers, Carpenters, and Laborers.

Please fax resume between the hours of 8am and 5pm. 940-322-2797. If you need an application sent to you call the office @ 940-322-1970 between the hours of 8am and 4pm.

## Instructional

**MEDICAL CAREERS** begin here - Train ONLINE for Allied Health and Medical Management. Job placement assistance. Computer available. Financial Aid if qualified. SCHEV certified. Call 877-692-9599 www.CenturaOnline.com

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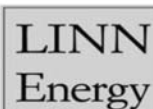
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**Legals**

Region 18 Education Service Center is issuing three (3) "Open Catalog" bids on behalf of approximately forty-six (46) Texas school districts. The bid categories are:

1. School and Office Supplies, Instructional Materials and Furniture (R18C060)
2. Computer Hardware, Software, Supplies and Accessories (R18C061)
3. PE and Athletic Equipment and Supplies (R18C062)

Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m., May 18, 2012 at Region 18 ESC, PO Box 60580 Midland TX 79711-0580. Bids will be opened and recorded as they are received. Bids will be approved by the Region 18 ESC Purchasing Committee at a special meeting to be held at the above address after all bids have been received and recorded.

Bid forms are available from Frank Gomez, Region 18 ESC, PO Box 60580, Midland TX 79711. Please send an email request to [fgomez@esc18.net](mailto:fgomez@esc18.net) The forms, along with instructions, can also be downloaded and printed from the Region 18 ESC website at [www.esc18.net](http://www.esc18.net) The "Printable Forms" link is located under the Public Information drop-down menu.

#7342 April 26 and May 3, 2012

**Legals**

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

The Colorado Municipal Water District (CRMWD) is requesting sealed Bids addressed to John W. Grant, General Manager, for construction of its "Raw Water Supply Well Sites - Ward County North Well Field" project. Bids must be received at the CRMWD office at 400 East 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720 on or before 3:00 P.M. local time on Thursday, May 10, 2012. No bids will be accepted after 3:00 P.M. local time. The sealed envelope containing the Bid shall be enclosed in a separate package plainly marked on the outside with the notation "BID ENCLOSED - RAW WATER SUPPLY WELL SITES." As soon as practical after this closing time, all Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Work will be performed at twenty-one (21) new water supply wells in the CRMWD Ward County North Well Field located approximately nine (9) miles west of Monahans, Texas. The Work will include installation of submersible pumps (supplied by others) and column pipe, as well as piping, valves, instrumentation, and appurtenances required to connect each well head to a future well field pipeline. The successful Bidder shall provide all labor, materials, equipment, tools, start-up services, testing, training, superintendence, and incidental items necessary for a complete installation. The Basis of the Bid will be unit prices based on conditions known to the Owner at the time of this Advertisement. Well depths and pumping capacities listed in the specifications are subject to change as wells currently under or planned for construction are aquifer tested. A separate procurement contract has been negotiated for supply of submersible pumps. It is the intent of the Owner to assign this procurement contract to the successful Bidder. Time is of the essence in completion of this project; the successful Bidder must be able to meet milestones specified in the Contract.

The Project Manual is on file at the CRMWD Big Spring office and the Albuquerque office of Daniel B. Stephens and Associates, Inc. (6020 Academy Road NE, Suite 100, Albuquerque, NM 87109). Electronic copies of the Project Manual should be obtained at no charge via the internet at <http://construction.freese.com> Potential Bidders obtaining electronic copies of the Project Manual via the internet are responsible for checking the site for updates and Addenda that may be posted after the initial download.

A non-mandatory pre-Bid conference for the project will be held on **April 26, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. at the Ward County Convention Center, 400 East 4th Street, Monahans, Texas 79756.** A project site visit is planned immediately following the pre-Bid conference.

Each Bid must be accompanied by Bid security in the amount of five percent (5%) of the Bidder's maximum Bid price, payable to the CRMWD, as a guarantee that the Bidder will execute a Contract for the Work if it is awarded by the Owner. The Bid security may be a cashier's check; other certified check, bank draft, or money order from a chartered financial institution authorized to operate in Texas; or a Bid Bond, duly executed by the Bidder as principal and having as surety thereon a surety company meeting the requirements of the Project Manual. CRMWD reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

**COLORADO RIVER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**  
John Grant, General Manager  
#7344 April 19 & 26, 2012 and May 3, 2012

**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

It's amazing how much lighter another person's baggage seems when compared to your own. The mere newness and novelty of it subtracts pounds. Libra is the moon of partnership and collaboration, the moon of love and reflection, the moon of balance and transference.

Your loved ones will gladly take your burdens and you'll take theirs.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Your idols may fall. That's what human idols do, after all. The good news is that no one can take away what you've learned or the qualities you admired in the first place.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Does that special person in your life make you want to be a better partner? If not, you'll be turning the question



HOLIDAY MATHIS

around in your mind. How can you make your loved ones want to rise to the occasion of you?

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). The plan changes and you'll go with the flow. Your flexibility will be appreciated, although maybe you shouldn't make a habit of this. People need to know that you'll hold them accountable for their actions.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Honesty is not as hard to come by as people think. The key to getting truthful answers from people is to make it OK for them to tell the truth. If others think the truth will anger or disappoint you, they won't mention it.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). People owe you, and it's time to cash in your chips. You can do so with your head held high. Everyone knows the score, and it would be wrong for you not to take your turn. Also, others will love to know they helped you.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your nurturing qualities will be amplified. You'll continue to look for ways to build other people up, especially if you believe they have less than you.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You don't want to waste what you're given, and yet not all of it is going to work for your situation. Holding on just because you're afraid to lose is not a good enough reason. In that case, it's better to let go.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your drive pushes you; your goals pull you; and your life distracts you. There's probably a good reason. These distractions are telling you something about what you need and what you really think is important.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). How will your life look after you've achieved your aims? Envision it as much as you can today while your imagination and creativity are exceptionally strong.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have this habit of creating the

magic and then giving other people the credit for what you did. Stop deflecting the glory. Soak it in, and let it fuel your next endeavor.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The bottom line is your vitality will improve when you get more sleep. Revisit your nighttime routine. Does it support relaxation as much as it could? A few key adjustments will make a big difference.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll be making an agreement with life. If you give it your very best and expect to get something back for your effort, it will go all wrong. Giving and expecting nothing — that's when the magic happens.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (May 3). You have a way of building excitement around yourself, and you'll love the feeling of being in the spotlight. Others will seek your nurturing and guidance in June. Your internal compass will point the way. You'll take on a new project in July, and things happen quickly for you — a sign that you're on the right path. Scorpio and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 19, 24, 30 and 14.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Kirsten Dunst has grown up on the big screen. The child actress who played a vampire companion to Tom Cruise's Lestat de Lioncourt is having one of her busiest years to date, with five major projects in various stages of production for 2012. Natal Taurus sun and mercury in the beauty-loving sign indicates a well-honed aesthetic. Her Leo moon says show business is in her blood.

*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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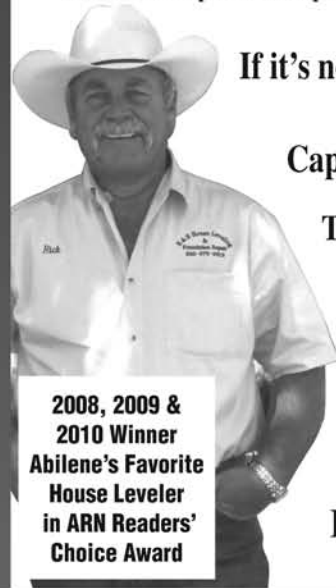
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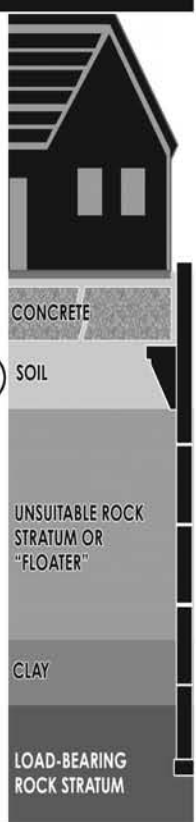
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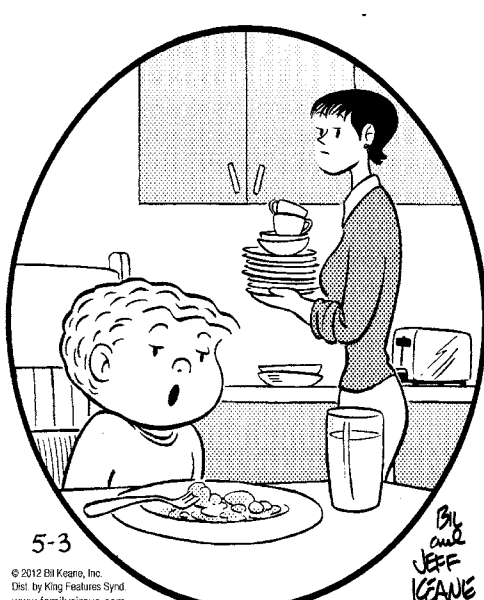


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5:PM :30	News ABC	La Mujer Notic.	Two Men CBS	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News Noticiero	King King	Israel Andrew	Charlie Rose King	King King	American Chopper	CSI: Miami Jail	Jail Jail	Bones Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Shake It Good	NFL32	SportsCenter
6:PM :30	Jeopardy! Wheel	Una Familia con Suerte (SS)	Big Bang Ent	Big Bang Ent	Una Maid en Rules	Millionaire Commun	Seinfeld Fam. Guy	Dr. Wil Scrivner	PBS News- Hour	Seinfeld Seinfeld	American Chopper	CSI: Miami Jail	Jail Jail	Bones Bones	Movie: Po- etic Justice, Regina King	Good Good	NFL Live	Movie: Catching Hell
7:PM :30	Grey's Anatomy	Abismo de Pasión	Touch	Person of Interest	Corazón Valiente	Office Parks	Big Bang Big Bang	Light of the Southwest	Jesse Owens The Secret Circle	The Vampire Diaries	American Chopper	Movie: The Matrix Revolutions, Carrie-Anne Moss	Jail Jail	NBA Basket- ball: Playoffs, First Round: Teams TBA.	Movie: Half Past Dead, Ja Rule	Good Good	Strong Strong	Baseball Tonight
8:PM :30	(:01) Scandal	La Que No	Simpsons How I Met	The Mental- ist	Relaciones Peli	Awake	Big Bang Big Bang	Independent Lens	Cops 'Til Death	The Treasure	Movie: The Matrix Revolutions, Carrie-Anne Moss	Jail Jail	NBA Basket- ball: Playoffs, First Round: Teams TBA.	Movie: Half Past Dead, Ja Rule	Good Good	Strong Strong	Baseball Tonight	
9:PM :30	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	How I Met Raymond	Letterman	Titulares	Jay Leno	Conan Conan	Dr. Diana Van Impe	Charlie Rose Scrivner	American Chopper	Movie: The Matrix Revolutions, Carrie-Anne Moss	Jail Jail	NBA Basket- ball: Playoffs, First Round: Teams TBA.	Movie: Half Past Dead, Ja Rule	Good Good	Strong Strong	Baseball Tonight	
10:PM :30	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	How I Met Raymond	Letterman	Titulares	Jay Leno	Conan Conan	Dr. Diana Van Impe	Charlie Rose Scrivner	American Chopper	Movie: The Matrix Revolutions, Carrie-Anne Moss	Jail Jail	NBA Basket- ball: Playoffs, First Round: Teams TBA.	Movie: Half Past Dead, Ja Rule	Good Good	Strong Strong	Baseball Tonight	
11:PM :30	Jimmy Kim- mel Live	Hasta-Dinero CI	Law Order: CI	Late	Decisions (SS)	Late Night	Conan	Conan	World (Off Air)	The Treasure	Movie: The Matrix Revolutions, Carrie-Anne Moss	Jail Jail	NBA Basket- ball: Playoffs, First Round: Teams TBA.	Movie: Half Past Dead, Ja Rule	Good Good	Strong Strong	Baseball Tonight	
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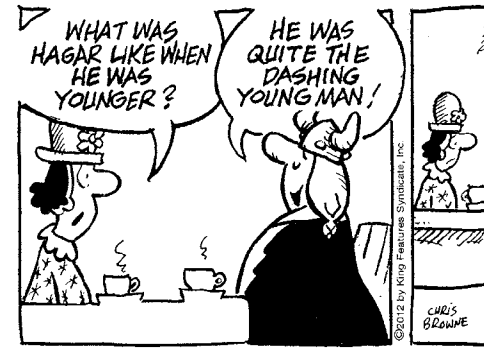
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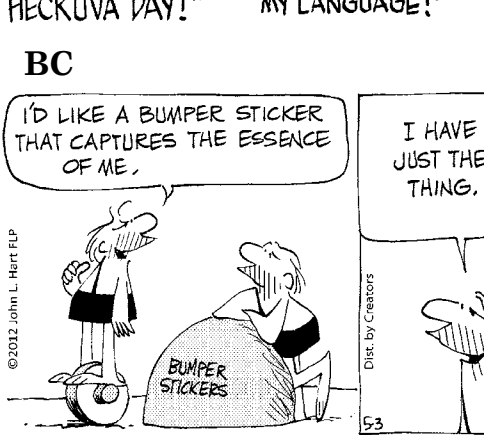
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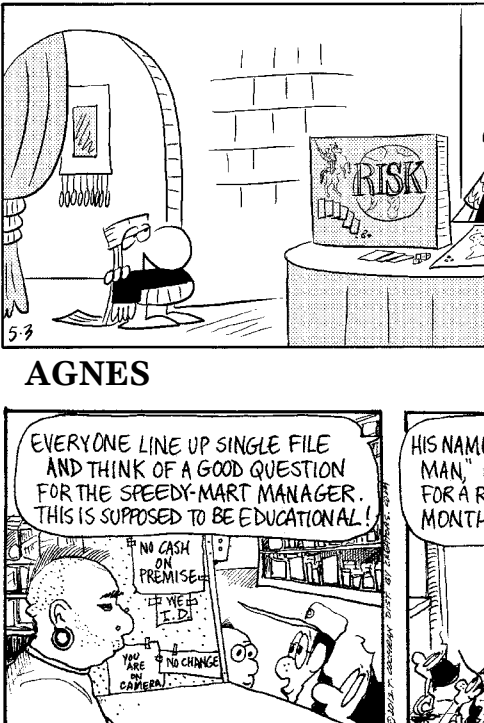
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## HI AND LOIS



## THE OTHER COAST



## SNUFFY SMITH



## BEEBLE BAILEY



## This Date In History

Today is Thursday, May 3, the 124th day of 2012. There are 242 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On May 3, 1937, Margaret Mitchell won the Pulitzer Prize for her novel, "Gone With the Wind."

**On this date:**

In 1791, Poland adopted a national constitution.

In 1802, Washington, D.C., was incorporated as a city.

In 1911, Wisconsin Gov. Francis E. McGovern signed the first U.S. workers' compensation law to withstand constitutional review.

In 1916, Irish nationalist Padraic Pearse and two others were executed by the British for their roles in the Easter Rising.

In 1933, Nellie T. Ross became the first female director of the U.S. Mint.

In 1948, the Supreme Court ruled that covenants prohibiting the sale of real estate to blacks or members of other racial groups were legally unenforceable.

## Answer to previous puzzle

TUFT	SCAT	PASSE
ARIA	MASH	EXPEL
MACS	ALTO	REAPS
PLUS	ORMINUS	RTE
ASSERT	GROPE	
LEEDS	GNARLS	
AMA	ORANGE	VIAL
CODES	TOE	DEBRA
TADA	KARATE	SKY
STEVEN	TROTS	
DEMOS	REMITTS	
TWO	EXTRACREDIT	
RANDR	RUSH	LATE
IDTAG	ODIE	THAW
GEODE	PEAS	SONS

## Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Prosperous periods
  - Grouchy one
  - Baby wolf
  - Planetary path
  - Time of day
  - "Not to mention..."
  - "Just missed!"
  - Stamp on sirloin
  - Sophomore, for example
  - Assent at sea
  - Tamer's workplace
  - One of the Pep Boys
  - Lunar feature
  - Stand fast against
  - Erstwhile anesthetic
  - Prez, e.g.
  - Have the lead
  - Old hat
  - Wizard's work
  - Olympics chant
  - Mirrors' partner
  - Right away
  - Sub boss of fiction
  - Prevent a sinking
  - Arm-twisted
  - Overly flattering
  - Muffet's visitor
  - In the manner of
  - Child's plea
  - Public speaker's concern
  - Rights org.
  - Lawsuit basis
  - Actress Liv
  - Grasslands
- DOWN**
- City south of West Palm
  - Paris airport
  - Orchestra pitch-setter
  - "Everything else" abbr.
  - Prepares clams, perhaps
  - Water-park slide
  - Santa \_\_, CA
  - Bavarian carmaker
  - Subsidiary office
  - Soccer shoe part
  - Choice of words
  - Auger or drill
  - Bart Simpson shout
  - Poker stakes
  - Salespeople
  - Catch one's breath
  - Trade show
  - Feeder filler
  - Robert Graves historical novel
  - Lightened
  - Disneyland shuttle
  - iPod selection
  - Rise sharply
  - Study quickly
  - Hard to grasp
  - Harp cousin
  - Scandinavian
  - Grimm girl
  - Place for a vase
  - Parboil
  - Harness-race horse
  - Mosaic element
  - Feigned
  - Olden days
  - ESPN reporter
  - Andrews
  - Supermodel
  - Banks
  - Gobs
  - Convey formally
  - Jurassic Park menace

## WE FOUR by Fred Piscop

Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
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# Spurs blow out Jazz, take 2-0 lead

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Tony Parker shooed away the NBA coach of the year.

The San Antonio Spurs were ahead 36 points and he didn't want Gregg Popovich to end his night just yet.

"To stay in shape," Parker said.

That's how bad it got for the Utah Jazz. It was the third quarter of a playoff game, and Parker by then was practically treating it as just another workout.

Pummeling the Jazz in a fashion not seen since Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls humiliated them in the 1998 NBA Finals, San Antonio handed Utah its second-worst playoff loss, winning 114-83 on Wednesday night to take 2-0 lead in the first-round series.

Parker scored 18 points, while Popovich — a day after receiving the NBA's highest coaching honor — could practically put the Spurs on autopilot after a 20-0 run in the second quarter.

Jazz coach Tyrone Corbin had admitted to being unusually jittery before losing Game 1, but this time, it was center Al Jefferson summing up how this shiner felt.

"Embarrassing," he said.

The only bigger embarrassment for the Jazz in the playoffs was that

42-point loss to Jordan's Bulls in 1998.

Game 3 is Saturday night in Salt Lake City.

It's the first time the Spurs have led a series 2-0 since opening the 2008 playoffs against Phoenix. San Antonio won that series in five, and unless the Jazz can shake this off, this one will be over just as quick.

If not sooner.

"I can't explain it. I couldn't explain it the other night," Jazz forward Paul Millsap said. "They came out and just whipped us."

It was a total collapse by the Jazz in spite of flying back to Salt Lake City after Game 1 and regrouping with two days of practice back home. There they had talked about adjustments and maybe giving Parker "a hard foul or two" to get him thinking twice about driving, but Parker didn't seem to have a dent on him before taking the entire fourth quarter off.

Jefferson and Millsap weren't any more imposing on offense than they were defensively. Jefferson scored 10 points, and Millsap had nine.

Popovich chalked the blowout more to the Jazz having a bad night.

Popovich said the decision on when to take his star out was a struggle.

# Astros complete sweep of Mets

HOUSTON (AP) — Chris Schwinden might have pitched his way out of the New York Mets' rotation on Wednesday.

For the second time this season, Schwinden allowed runs early and often, and most of the damage was delivered by one Houston Astros player.

Chris Johnson homered twice off Schwinden and later added two more hits to drive in a career-high six runs and lead the Astros to an 8-1 that completed a three-game sweep.

When asked if he would commit to using Schwinden again as a starter, Mets manager Terry Collins was very blunt.

"I'm not committing to anything," Collins said. "Things change in this game."

Even without hearing Collins' comments, Schwinden didn't seem optimistic about his chances at another start.

"I know it doesn't really help me, but I think their patience is kind of wearing a little bit with my performance," Schwinden said. "I just have to keep my head on straight, and if I get another opportunity, try to go for it."

Johnson's first homer of the season was a three-run shot to the Crawford Boxes in left field that put Houston up 3-0 in the second inning. Johnson went deep again in his next at-bat, this one a two-run homer to left center that pushed the lead to 5-0.

It was the third consecutive start dating to last season where Schwinden (0-1) allowed five earned runs in five innings or less. On Wednesday, he allowed five runs, six hits, walked two and struck out one batter to leave his ERA at 11.25. He also pitched four innings in

his other start this season, an 18-9 loss at Colorado in which he received a no decision.

"I made a couple of bad pitches, and they got hammered," Schwinden said. "I thought today was going to be a little different, but I left a couple of balls up in the zone, and it changed the whole day."

But Schwinden wasn't the only Mets pitcher to perform poorly against the streaking Astros (11-14).

In just two innings, reliever pitcher Manny Acosta allowed six hits and three earned runs, while striking out just one batter.

"He's really trying too hard," Collins said. "He's overthrowing, and balls are in the middle of the plate. He's trying way too hard, and he's trying to get it going again. He's just got to relax and pitch."

# Bodemeister is early Kentucky Derby favorite

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Dr. Kendall Hansen wasn't worried when the Kentucky Derby draw came down to No. 14 spot or the dreaded No. 1 hole. He figured his good fortune would continue.

"I don't know why I just felt lucky. I was pulling for that from the beginning — 14 or 15," said Hansen, whose horse by the same name starts with 10-1 odds as the fifth choice with no winner coming from No. 14 post in 51 years.

"You have to breathe through times like that, but yeah, it was interesting. I had a good feeling, though."

Bodemeister was made the early 4-1 favorite for the Kentucky Derby on Wednesday, with Union Rags a close second choice at 9-2 in a full field of 20 horses. Gemologist is third at 6-1 followed by Dullahan at 8-1 and Hansen, the near all-white colt who won the Breeders' Cup Juvenile in November.

"To have an adrena-

line rush with little peas coming out of a bottle is kind of fun," said Hansen, who operates a pain management clinic in Crestview Hills, Ky.

Meanwhile, the focus remains squarely on the top choices — Bodemeister in the No. 6 post, where six winners have started, and Union Rags in No. 4, where Super Saver won in 2010.

"My original thought was that I wasn't crazy about it, but where everybody is, I don't

think it's so bad," Union Rags trainer Michael Matz said.

Bodemeister, trained by three-time Derby winner Bob Baffert, is the stronger of his two horses, having won the Arkansas Derby by 9 1/2 lengths in the most dominating performance of the Derby prep races. His other, 50-1 shot Liaison, landed the No. 20 spot for Saturday's race.

It's the third time the Hall of Fame trainer has had the early Derby favorite.

# Toronto hands Rangers consecutive losses for first time this season

TORONTO (AP) — As usual, a visit to Canada didn't go very well for the best team in the American League.

Edwin Encarnacion hit a three-run homer, Kelly Johnson added a two-run drive and the Toronto Blue Jays beat Texas 11-5 Wednesday afternoon, giving the Rangers consecutive losses for the first time this season.

Texas, which blew a five-run lead and lost 8-7 on Brett Lawrie's ninth-inning homer Tuesday, has not won a series north of the border since sweeping a two-game set in April 2008.

"It looks real bad when you lose one you should have won the night before and then you've got to face a Ricky Romero," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "I didn't really feel like he was at his best but we just couldn't hold their offense down. We

had to score 12 today to win."

Romero (4-0) won for the fourth time in five starts, giving up five runs and six hits in eight innings. The left-hander walked three and struck out a season-high six.

Joel Carreno, recalled from Triple-A Las Vegas before the game, pitched the ninth for the Blue Jays.

"They flat out beat us today," the Rangers' Mike Napoli said. "We'll just move on to the next. We'll forget about it. Our team is good at that."

Matt Harrison (3-2) allowed eight runs — tying his career high — and eight hits over 3 1-3 innings. He has given up 15 runs over 8 1-3 innings in his last two outings.

"I've just got to do a better job of putting guys away and not giving out free passes," Harrison said.

The left-hander retired six of the first seven batters before getting into trouble.

"The first two innings, I thought Harry was throwing the ball well," Washington said. "He just lost the feel for his secondary stuff and couldn't spot his fastball. His sinker is key, he gets a lot of ground balls. Today they got a lot of balls up in the air."

Brandon Snyder put Texas ahead in the second with his first career homer, but Johnson gave Toronto the lead in the third with his sixth homer, a two-run drive.

Then in the fourth, J.P. Arencibia hit a two-run double, Escobar tripled and Jose Bautista greeted reliever Scott Feldman with a sacrifice fly.

Texas closed in the fifth after Romero walked the bases loaded. Elvis An-

drus hit a two-run double, Michael Young singled in a run and Napoli hit sacrifice fly.

Encarnacion homered off Feldman in the sixth, his ninth of the season.

"Edwin is just continuing to carry us," Johnson said. "We needed to answer back and he answered back big right there."

Rangers outfielder Josh Hamilton missed his third straight start because of a sore back, and Adrian Beltre sat out for the second straight game. Hamilton ran on the field and hit in the cage before the game.

"I hope to have them back in that lineup (Friday)," Washington said. "They're quite important."

Napoli, who left Tuesday's game with vision problems in his right eye, visited a doctor before the game

and was diagnosed with an ocular migraine, or a spasm in the eye. He started at first base and reported no problems.

## STEERS

Continued from Page 7

berth.

"The two comebacks against Snyder were really nice," Otto said. "But when we were in Sweetwater for the last game, we knew we had to win. When that ball was foul tipped by Willie Norman right into our glove to end the game — that was the best moment for me."

The Steers will return from Mineral Wells when game one is wrapped up, and will resume the series at Lubbock Cooper on Saturday at noon. If a Game Three is necessary, it will be played 30 minutes after Game Two concludes.

Contact Sports Editor Brian McCormack at 263-7331 ext. 237 or by e-mail at sports@big-springherald.com



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