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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**TUESDAY**

**MAY 8, 2012**



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VOLUME 107, NUMBER 174

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

## Food drive

**It's in the mail**

By **BILL McCLELLAN**  
 Managing Editor

Big Spring Post Office is providing an opportunity for residents to help their neighbors via the mail this weekend and it won't even cost postage.

It's the 20th annual National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive and it takes place Saturday during letter carriers' normal delivery runs.

Need a reminder? Well, remember those post cards the NALC used to send out before every food drive? Forget 'em.

"Instead of post cards, the AARP donated brown paper bags which we will place in everybody's mailbox Thursday," said Candace Williams, letter carrier and food drive coordinator.

Those wanting to donate are asked to fill the bags with non-perishable food items

See **DRIVE**, Page 3



**HERALD staff photo**  
**Candace Williams, letter carrier and event coordinator, displays the bags which will be delivered to residents Thursday for Saturday's annual food drive.**

## Complaint dismissed against Yeats

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
 Staff Writer

The Texas Ethics Commission has dismissed the complaint filed against 118th District Court Judge Timothy Yeats, which alleged campaign finance violations committed during his 2010 bid for the bench.

Yeats was notified by mail this week the complaint — filed in February by Jim Doyle of Conroe, Texas, a member of the Texas Ethics Advisory Board, a political action committee (PAC) — had been dismissed and no fines or penalties were assessed.

The complaint made two allegations, the first being Yeats misidentified several of the contributors to his campaign as "self employed," although the individuals do, in fact, own their own businesses. The second allegation — and the more serious — claims Yeats converted campaign funds to personal funds.



"I listed the name and address of every contributor," Yeats said. "On several occasions, I described the occupation of an individual who owned their own business or law firm as 'self-employed.'"

The complainant contends I should have listed the name of the business or law firm instead of designating the individual as 'self-employed.' "The allegation which has garnered the most attention is the allegation I converted campaign contributions to personal use. This allegation is simply false. I properly reserved the right to reimburse myself for campaign expenditures from personal funds. Both of these complaints were, at the most, technical complaints based

See **YEATS**, Page 3

## A learning experience: Scouting worldwide

By **AMANDA MORENO**  
 Staff Writer

Boy Scouts is reaching farther than the local community. Its reach is international. Gabriela Montilva, intern from Venezuela, is experiencing scouting West Texas style. For the next four months, she

will be traveling through the region ruled by the Buffalo Trail Council.

"I had worked with the Buffalo Trail Council before, which is why I picked them for my internship," Montilva said.

She first arrived April 24 and since then has been helping Brian Sweeney, Lone Star District executive, with school visits.

"It has been helpful having her here because it lets

the kids we talk to see that scouting is worldwide, not just something here in our community," Sweeney said. "It lets them see how many people scouting touches."

As part of her experience in West Texas, Montilva will be working at summer camps and learning the duties of a professional scout.



Montilva



Sweeney

"I am aiming to learn as much as I can so I can go back and get my degree in modern language," she said.

Part of her learning experience is realizing the size difference between the two councils. According to Montilva, the Buffalo Trail Council is larger, more organized and more company oriented

than the one back home. "It's not just a group that gets together to have fun," she said. "It's more organized or formed like a company would be."

To find out more about scouting, contact Sweeney at [brian.sweeney@scouting.org](mailto:brian.sweeney@scouting.org).

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at [life@bigspringherald.com](mailto:life@bigspringherald.com)

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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.

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## New drivers need proof of residency

**Special to the Herald**

Effective this week, people seeking a Texas driver's li-



cense or identification card for the first time will be required to show proof of residency, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety.

The requirement, which went into effect Monday, applies only to first-time applicants.

In addition to the standard requirements necessary to obtain a license or identification card new applicants will also be asked to present two acceptable documents con-

taining the applicant's name and address to establish proof of residency in the state of Texas.

To meet the residency requirement for an original identification card or driver license, an applicant must:

Reside in Texas for at least 30 days prior to application

Present two acceptable documents establishing proof of residency, one of which must demonstrate the applicant has lived in Texas for at least 30

days. The 30-day requirement is waived for applicants who surrender a valid, unexpired out-of-state driver license, but two documents establishing proof of residency are still required.

For a complete list of acceptable residency documents and additional details, visit <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/residencyReqNonCDL.htm>.

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## Obituaries

## Lillian Newcomer

Lillian Newcomer, 86, of Houston, formerly of Comanche County, died Sunday, May 6, 2012, in Houston.

Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 10, 2012, at Comanche Gardens of Memory in Comanche County with Larry Newcomer officiating. Visitation will be held from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday at Stephenville Funeral Home.

Lillian was born June 10, 1925, in Martin County, Texas, to the late Jeff and Myrtle Pratt Nichols. She married Eddie Earl Newcomer on Sept. 14, 1946, in Brownfield, Texas. He preceded her in death Aug. 6, 1984.

Lillian was a member of Mills Road Baptist Church in Houston. She has resided in Harris County for 16 years. She also resided in DeLeon, Comanche County, Ackerly and Martin County. She was a homemaker.

Survivors include two sons, Larry and wife Karen of Houston, Texas, and Eddie and wife Georgia of Lubbock, Texas; one daughter, Kathy Blocker and husband Euel of Stanton, Texas; five grandchildren, Lucas Earl Newcomer of Houston, Texas, Matthew Clay Blocker of Stanton, Texas, Kyle Glen Newcomer and wife Lindsay of Bryan, Texas, Kara Louise Newcomer of Modesto, Calif., and Andrew Walker and wife Amy of Frisco, Texas; two great-grandchildren, Thomas Jackson Newcomer and Ava Corrine Walker; one sister, Vivian Ann Barron and husband Bill of Whitehouse, Texas; and many nieces and nephews.

Lillian was preceded in death by her youngest daughter, Doris Kay on Feb. 28, 1993.

Memorials may be made to the Mission Fund, Mills Road Baptist Church, 12515 Ann Lane, Houston, TX 77064.

Online condolences may be made at [www.stephenvillefh.com](http://www.stephenvillefh.com).

*Paid obituary*

## Dorothy Napper

Dorothy Napper of Lubbock passed away Sunday, May 6, 2012, at home at the age of 92.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, May 9, 2012, at Redbud Baptist Church at 2 p.m. with the Rev. Shon Wagner officiating. Burial will follow in Resthaven Memorial Park. Visitation will be held Wednesday, May 8, 2012, from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. at Resthaven Funeral Home.

She was born Dec. 24, 1919, at Richland Springs, Texas. Her family moved to a farm near O'Donnell, Texas, and she graduated from high school. She married W.J. Napper.

Dot lived in a number of locations and worked in the public for many years in Big Spring, Texas. Her final home was made in Lubbock in 1994.

She is survived by her two children, Patsy Soucy of Lubbock and James Napper and wife Sylvia of Richland, Miss., one stepson, Jan Napper; five grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, three brothers and two sisters.

Condolences may be offered at [www.resthavenfuneralhome.com](http://www.resthavenfuneralhome.com)

## Velvet Sky Makowsky

Velvet Sky Makowsky, infant, died Sunday, May 6, 2012, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 9, 2012, at Mount Olive Memorial Park with Corina Salazar officiating.

She was born May 6, 2012, in Big Spring, Texas, to Leslie Garcia Makowsky and Monty Scott Makowsky.

She is survived by her parents of Big Spring; one brother, Carlos Garcia of Big Spring; one sister, Madison Makowsky of Big Spring; grandparents, Donna and Mark Hedges and Terry Bob Makowsky of Big Spring and Lenora Garcia of Lamesa; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her grandfather, Robert Garcia.

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

## Betty Jo Gray



Memorial services are scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, May 12, 2012, at Clark Memorial United Methodist Church for Betty Jo Gray of Artesia, N.M.

Mrs. Gray, 76, died Wednesday, May 2, 2012, at Eastern N.M. Medical Center in Roswell, N.M.

Travis Husted will officiate the services. Cremation has taken place under the direction of Terpening & Son Mortuary.

Betty was born Nov. 12, 1935, in Big Spring, Texas, the daughter of Forrest F. Thorp and Lottie L. (Prentice) Thorp. She was a longtime Artesia resident.

On Aug. 21, 1965, she was married to Walter M. "Joe" Gray in Artesia. He preceded her in death Aug. 12, 2008. She was also preceded in death by her parents and brothers, Bobby and Donnie Thorp.

Betty was a homemaker and a member of Clark Memorial United Methodist Church.

Survivors include her sons, Mike Teel and wife Deanna of Oklahoma, Randy Teel and wife Arleen of Pojoaque, N.M., and Darold Gray and wife Michell of Artesia; daughter, Debra Hope of Artesia; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Terpening & Son Mortuary. Please express condolences at [www.artesiafunerals.com](http://www.artesiafunerals.com).

## Nancy Elaine Robbins

Nancy Elaine Robbins, 68, of Big Spring died Sunday, May 6, 2012, at her residence. Memorial services will be held from noon until 4 p.m. Saturday, May 12, 2012, at the home of James and Sharon Robbins.

She was born Sept. 1, 1943, in Marfa, Texas, and married James Phillip Robbins Jr. in 1962 in Fort Stockton, Texas. He preceded her in death in November 1975.

Nancy worked as a cosmetologist and retired in 2001. She moved to Big Spring in 2002 from Spring Branch, Texas. Nancy loved animals and showing dogs.

Survivors include one son, James Robbins and wife Sharon of Big Spring; one daughter, Nanette Robbins of Big Spring; her mother, Anna Teague of Fort Davis; one sister, Diana Lannom and husband Tony of Fort Davis; one brother, Roger Lee and wife Kay of Odessa; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

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

## Police blotter

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

• LYNDON TRENT FRALEY, 52, of 1506 Stadium, was arrested Monday on warrants for failure to signal turn and failure to yield right-of-way to emergency vehicle.

• ALBERTO RIVAS, 53, of 306 N.E. Sixth St., was arrested Monday on a warrant from another agency.

• SHAYNE CHRISTOPHER HUDGINS, 42, of 1425 E. Sixth St. Apt. 12, was arrested Monday on a warrant from another agency.

• DONNIE RAE SCHMALTZ, 26, of 1406 Sycamore, was arrested Monday on warrants for expired registration and bail jumping - failure to appear (fine only).

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## Today's Weather

## Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 5/9	Thu 5/10	Fri 5/11	Sat 5/12	Sun 5/13
<b>68/54</b> Thunderstorms. High 68F. Winds NE at 15 to 25 mph. Chance of rain 80%.	<b>77/57</b> Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the upper 50s.	<b>73/56</b> Partly cloudy, chance of a thunderstorm.	<b>74/58</b> Scattered thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the upper 50s.	<b>79/56</b> Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the mid 50s.
<b>Sunrise:</b> 6:53 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:32 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 6:52 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:33 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 6:51 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:34 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 6:51 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:34 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 6:50 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:35 PM

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## Texas At A Glance



## Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	67	55	rain	Kingsville	91	71	t-storm
Amarillo	68	46	rain	Livingston	84	64	t-storm
Austin	79	63	t-storm	Longview	77	61	t-storm
Beaumont	86	68	t-storm	Lubbock	69	48	rain
Brownsville	92	73	t-storm	Lufkin	82	65	t-storm
Brownwood	73	59	t-storm	Midland	68	55	t-storm
Corpus Christi	86	72	t-storm	Raymondville	92	71	t-storm
Corsicana	74	60	t-storm	Rosenberg	87	68	t-storm
Dallas	75	61	rain	San Antonio	81	66	t-storm
Del Rio	82	65	t-storm	San Marcos	82	63	t-storm
El Paso	78	57	t-storm	Sulphur Springs	75	58	rain
Fort Stockton	69	57	t-storm	Sweetwater	67	54	rain
Gainesville	70	55	rain	Tyler	77	60	t-storm
Greenville	74	57	rain	Weatherford	69	56	rain
Houston	86	69	t-storm	Wichita Falls	69	52	rain

## National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	81	64	t-storm	Minneapolis	58	45	rain
Boston	55	55	rain	New York	66	63	rain
Chicago	69	48	mst sunny	Phoenix	87	65	pt sunny
Dallas	75	61	rain	San Francisco	74	53	sunny
Denver	64	42	pt sunny	Seattle	62	43	cloudy
Houston	86	69	t-storm	St. Louis	74	52	mst sunny
Los Angeles	82	60	pt sunny	Washington, DC	78	65	t-storm
Miami	84	73	t-storm				

• **THEFT** was reported: In the 3600 block of W. Highway 80. In the 2000 block of S. Gregg Street. In the 700 block of W. Interstate Highway 20. In the 1900 block of Martin Luther King Blvd.

• **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 1700 block of N. Highway 350.

## Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 54 inmates at the time of this report.

• JUAN CORNEJO MORA, 27, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on an Austin warrant for parole violation.

• SHAYNE HUDGINS, 42, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated - third or more offense.

• ANGELA RUTH MALLONE, 40, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the Martin County Sheriff's Office on a judgment/sentence for possession of a controlled substance.

• LYNDON TRENT FRALEY, 52, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for failure to signal turn and failure to yield right-of-way to emergency vehicle.

• LELEAND DUANE JENKINS, 49, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on a miscellaneous Class C offense.

• DONNIE RAE SCHMALTZ, 26, was booked into the county detention center Tuesday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for displaying expired registration and failure to appear.

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# State briefs

## Parole revoked for impostor high school student

ODESSA, Texas (AP) — The state has granted, then revoked, parole for a man who posed as a teenager to play high school basketball in West Texas. Guerdwich Montimere won't be released until May 13, 2013, after serving all three years of his prison sentence.

Texas prison system spokesman Jason Clark tells the Odessa American that the state parole board had voted April 19 to grant Montimere parole, effective May 13. However, the board voted to revoke that parole after federal immigration officials revoked an immigration detainer that potentially would have deported him upon his release.

The naturalized U.S. citizen from Haiti pleaded guilty last July to sexual assault and records tampering. He arrived in Odessa as a ninth-grader and played as 15-year-old Jerry Joseph, even though he was 21.

## Fort Worth hiring ban on smokers unlikely

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Fort Worth's proposed ban on the hiring of smokers as municipal employees appears to be heading nowhere.

The city's human resources department said last month that it was reviewing public and private tobacco-use policies to report back to the City Council on Tuesday.

But city spokesman Jason Lamers says it's unlikely that city staff will recommend the ban to the council. He says the preferred approach among public- and private-sector employers is offering employees help with quitting tobacco use.

## Last U.S. military vehicle in Iraq reaches Texas

BEAUMONT, Texas (AP) — The final U.S. military vehicle to leave Iraq has reached Texas and will be displayed at Fort Hood.

Crews at the Port of Beaumont on Monday unloaded the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle, known as MRAP, from a cargo ship.

A note written in chalk on the heavily-outfitted truck included an Army star and the words "Last Vehicle Out of Iraq."

Battalion Sgt. Maj. Michael Stone confirmed the equipment was the final military vehicle to travel

from Iraq to Kuwait, with a photo proving the distinction.

Soldiers from Fort Hood in December were among the last U.S. combat personnel to leave Iraq as the nearly nine-year war ended. Military officials say the vehicle will be part of the 1st Cavalry Division Museum at the Central Texas post.

## Houston-area boy, 9, found safe, missing overnight

SUGAR LAND, Texas (AP) — Investigators say a 9-year-old Houston-area boy who disappeared after getting off a school bus has been found unharmed and a woman is sought.

The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office says Amsal Dhuka of the Sugar Land area was located before dawn Tuesday.

Spokesman Bob Haenel says a tip led to the boy, who was found at a structure about 10 miles from where he disappeared Monday afternoon. Further details on the site were not immediately released.

Authorities are looking for a person of interest identified as 34-year-old Kismat Momin (moh-MEEN'). Haenel says she is not believed to have any relationship with the family. Momin has not been charged.

The boy's disappearance sparked an Amber Alert and an overnight search by law officers and dozens of volunteers.

## I-10 traffic stop nets cocaine

GROSSE TETE, La. (AP) — Iberville Parish sheriff deputies have arrested a 41-year-old Houston man and booked him with possession of more than 33 pounds of cocaine.

Sheriff Brent Allain tells The Advocate deputies were conducting traffic stops Thursday near Grosse Tete (GROS' tayt) along Interstate 10 when they pulled over Christopher B. Wade for allegedly speeding.

Allain says deputies searched the suspect's car after they noticed Wade acting suspiciously during the traffic stop.

Allain says deputies then asked Wade for permission to search his vehicle.

The deputies found 15 packages of cocaine, which has an estimated street value of \$1.5 million.

Wade was booked with speeding and possession with intent to distribute cocaine in excess of 400 grams.

He remains in the Iberville Parish jail. Bond has not been set.

## Man found dead in hot tub

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Austin police say a man's body has been found in the hot tub of an apartment complex and the death does not appear to be suspicious.

Police early Tuesday responded to a 911 call from a couple who were heading to the pool when they noticed the body.

Police say the man who died had no apparent signs of trauma and he appeared to be clutching his chest.

His name and a cause of death were not immediately released.

## Texas: ex-park ranger gets 15 years for child porn

HOUSTON (AP) — A retired federal park ranger living in Southeast Texas has been sentenced to 15 years in prison in a child pornography case.

A federal judge in Houston on Monday sentenced 65-year-old Douglas Crockwell Demmon of Galveston. Demmon in February pleaded guilty to distribution of child pornography.

The case was sparked by a 2010 tip from the National Center For Missing and Exploited Children originally investigated by Maryland State Police.

Law officers in Houston last year examined two computers in Demmon's home and recovered child pornography images.

## Man surrenders in deadly gunfire

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Police say a suspect in gunfire outside a North Texas pool hall that left one man dead and two wounded has surrendered.

Arlington City Jail records show 23-year-old Brian Allen Coleman of Fort Worth was held Tuesday on a murder charge.

Bond has been set at \$500,000 for Coleman, who turned himself in Monday night.

Police say the shootings happened April 29 following an argument that apparently started in the bar and then moved to the parking lot.

Investigators are trying to determine what prompted the dispute that killed 22-year-old Zadrac Walker of Fort Worth. The other two men suffered injuries not believed to be life threatening.

## DRIVE

Continued from Page 1

and place them near their mailbox Saturday morning. If you fill your bag and have more food

left over, feel free to use any other bag you might have on hand. The more the better. And for goodness sake, don't worry about the mail carriers, Williams said.

"People always say I

didn't leave anything because I thought it might be too much for the carrier to deal with.' No, that's our job," said Williams. "Don't hold back. We're happy to do this."

All of the food donated will go to the local Salvation Army.

"Last year we collected 3,300 pounds of food and this year our goal is to collect 3,700," said Williams.

Those who'd rather not leave food items by their mailbox but who still want to help can take them to the rear of the post office Saturday. Collection boxes will be set up.

## YEATS

Continued from Page 1

on typographical errors that, obviously, were not meant to be misleading in the least."

Yeats said he signed an "assurance of voluntary compliance" for the commission in which he acknowledges the requirements of the Texas Election Code as they pertain to campaign finance reporting, as well as filed an amended finance report correcting the errors identified in the course of the complaint.

"The ethics commission did not tell me to file the amended report, that was something I decided to do on my own," Yeats said. "I'm just pleased to have this behind me. You know that when you run for a public office, things like this can happen. However, I feel confident the ethics

commission's dismissal will put an end to this matter."

While the commission's decision may allow Yeats to move on, it will likely have its hands full for quite a while, as members of the Texas Ethics Advisory Board PAC have made it quite clear they have no intentions of slowing down.

According to advisory board spokesperson William B. Elmer, the group had more than 70 complaints pending

against Texas officials earlier this year, targeting Democratic candidates.

"Obviously, we can't look at them all, but we look at a lot of them," Elmer said with a laugh from his home in Huntsville, Texas, shortly after the complaint was filed against Yeats in February. "We primarily focus on campaign finance reports from Democratic candidates

because those are the ones most likely to contain the kind of big spending we're targeting. In Judge Yeats' case, however, we know he's a Republican, but as a judge we hold him to a higher standard."

The PAC has also filed complaints in the past against Texas Speaker of the House Joe Straus, Upshur County District Judge Lauren Parish, 79th District Judge Rich-

ard Terrell and a slew of other candidates.

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

**sudoku**

ANSWERS

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

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Marie Chapman, 92, died Sunday. Graveside services will be today at 2 p.m. at Trinity Memorial Park.

Velvet Sky Makowsky, infant, died Sunday. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

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# EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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- By fax at 264-7205
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- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
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## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we see our problems and situations  
through Your eyes, Lord.

Amen

# Romney faced with making choice

You have to wonder why some gay advocates — like a few believers in birth control, global warming and evolution — remain loyal Republicans even as the right wing drags their party back to the beginning of the 20th century, if not the 19th. While governor of Massachusetts, Mitt Romney planted himself mostly in the future. The likely Republican presidential pick has since renounced his modern views to appease the party's powerful social conservatives.

Problem is, you can't live in two eras at once. This week, Romney sought an endorsement from New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, former Democrat, former Republican and powerful independent. Last February, as Romney demanded an end to public funding of Planned Parenthood, Bloomberg sent the group a check for \$250,000. That breakfast chat must have been lively.

Another social cloudburst soaked the party this weekend, when Richard Grenell quit the Romney campaign as spokesman on foreign policy. The openly gay Grenell apparently had been targeted by social conservatives, notably one Bryan Fischer, an evangelical obsessively interested in homosexuality. The campaign made Grenell oddly invisible during the first anniversary of Osama bin Laden's death.

Let the record note that

Grenell was already in some trouble for having sent tweets about Callista Gingrich's hair looking "snapped on" and Rachel Maddow being a "dead ringer" for Justin Bieber. He should have kept the fashion commentary to himself. Frankly, it wouldn't ruin my day to learn that "shtoopid" sexist quips have become a political hazard — or at least a rap to be piled onto more serious charges. But it was anti-gay forces that decisively ended Grenell's brief stint on Team Romney. Fischer characterized the resignation as "a huge win."

Although he expressed regrets at the departure, Romney withheld a full-throated defense of the man whom President George W.

Bush had added to his United Nations delegation without incident. Romney weakly stated that Grenell had made the decision "for his own personal reasons."

Why are so many gay Republicans sticking around through all this? I asked R. Clarke Cooper, the executive director of Log Cabin Republicans, a group of GOP gays and lesbians. He offered an interesting reply:

Advances in gay rights have forced its foes to make a last stand before all is lost. Such groups as the National Organization for Marriage, the American Family Association and the Family Research Council opposed repealing the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, which forbade openly gay soldiers to serve in the military. They fought against the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which banned discrimination against employees based on sexual orientation. Both measures passed

with bipartisan support.

"If you're one of those groups, you see what's happening," Cooper said. "It's getting their dander up. They're getting angry and extremely aggressive."

And so why don't gay Republicans boycott the election in protest of the anti-gay hostility their party leaders tolerate, even when they personally don't share it?

The reason they don't, Cooper explained, is again tied to progress. For the first time, two openly gay Log Cabin Republicans are running for Congress — Paul Babeu in Arizona and Richard Tisei in Massachusetts. "So we can't sit out elections," he said.

Cooper recalls speaking to Romney right after the candidate's speech at the Conservative Political Action Conference in February. He told Romney something like: "All right. Great speech, except for the part about not supporting same-sex marriage and claiming you supported it as governor (though he didn't quite)."

Romney can go through the next six months sloshing through his contradictions, but a saggy center will not hold. He should choose his century, preferably this one.

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

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# Morgan slays himself in interview

There was a silver lining for Jonah Goldberg in Piers Morgan's ambush interview of him allegedly concerning his new book, "The Tyranny of Clichés." Jonah couldn't have written a better script to illustrate his book's theme.

Someone really should explain to Morgan that when a host invites a guest to discuss the guest's book, the host ought to at least make a good-faith effort to pretend he has the slightest interest in allowing the author to expound on the book's contents — as opposed to using the author as a prop to indulge the interviewer's own arguments against conservatives and their toxic opinions.

That someone might also inform Morgan that it's a perversion of the Socratic method for an interviewer to badger a guest into admitting the rhetorical premises of the interviewer's opinions rather than lead him through carefully constructed logical arguments to those conclusions — never allowing the guest fully to answer his questions, never listening to his responses, making every one of his follow-up questions a classic non sequitur and putting words in the guest's mouth for the purpose of constructing and then demolishing various straw men.

The central theme of Jonah's book, which he explained in response to the only germane question Morgan posed in the interview, is that though pretty much everyone is ideological, conservatives are honest about it, and liberals are not. Liberals lie about their own ideological proclivities, mostly to themselves but also to others.

Let me briefly unpack the interview to illustrate precisely how accurate Goldberg is and how, during the interview, Morgan became a personification of the book's theme — all without having the slightest clue he was doing so.

Early in the interview, Mor-

gan launched into an accusatory tirade about conservatives' unfair criticism of President Obama for his decision to take out Osama bin Laden. As Goldberg pointed out — in between Morgan's interruptions — most conservative criticism has been directed not at Obama's decision but at his un-presidential gloating about it after promising he wouldn't "spike the football" and at Obama's ad suggesting that Mitt Romney wouldn't have made a similar decision.

But Morgan seemed hellbent on proving Goldberg's thesis by showing he couldn't get beyond his clichéd thinking to deal with the arguments Goldberg was making instead of those he was projecting on to him. Morgan insisted on mischaracterizing Goldberg's beef with Obama's decision as a knee-jerk ideological Republican reaction.

(Morgan refused to grasp that the criticism was over the ad.) "I can't understand how any Republican can genuinely criticize (the decision)," pleaded Morgan.

When he finally did belatedly address Goldberg's actual point, Morgan noted that Obama's ad was fair game because Romney would have done the same to Obama had the tables been turned. Goldberg explained that the ad unfairly took Romney's remark out of context because Romney was comparing the importance of capturing a major figurehead (bin Laden) with otherwise successfully prosecuting the overall war on terror. Of course Romney would have given the kill order against bin Laden had he been presented with it.

When Morgan claimed that Romney's earlier statements implied he wouldn't have spent the necessary money to capture bin Laden, Goldberg shot back that it was a relatively cheap operation. Morgan, visibly shellshocked, demanded to know how much Goldberg thought it cost.

After being waterboarded into answering, Jonah ventured a guess of \$50 million, after which Morgan spent the next several minutes sputtering indignantly about how a Republican such as

Goldberg could think \$50 million is pocket change. "Wow, and that's cheap in the Republican world? ... No wonder the country got into the mess it did," said Morgan, the exasperated fiscal hawk. Voilà, Goldberg's nuanced argument about Romney's actual position was transmogrified by the ideologically clichéd liberal Morgan into some bizarre class-warfare screed.

At one point in the interview, the prey (Goldberg) captured the hunter (Morgan), with Morgan exclaiming, "I'm not batting for Democrats or Republicans," to which Goldberg replied during one of Morgan's rare pauses for oxygen, "If you're not batting for Democrats, it's a wonderful approximation of it." Game, set, match.

You see, Morgan obviously doesn't believe he's displaying a liberal bias. He is, undeniably, lying to himself — again, vindicating Goldberg's argument.

But Morgan wasn't finished. He said, "No, I like to deal with reality." Goldberg may have been thinking to himself, "Wow, he has no idea how thoroughly he is validating my book." For on Page 14, Goldberg described this very liberal mindset: "They hide their ideological agenda within Trojan Horse clichés and smug assertions that they are simply pragmatists, fact finders, and empiricists who are clearheaded slaves to 'what works.'"

Perhaps Morgan didn't get past Page 13 of the book, but you should; it's a fabulous, trenchant, insightful read, about which I shall have more to say later.

*David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney. His latest book, "Crimes Against Liberty," was No. 1 on the New York Times best-seller list for nonfiction for its first two weeks. Follow him on Twitter @davidlimbaugh and his website at [www.davidlimbaugh.com](http://www.davidlimbaugh.com). To read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).*

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FROMA HARROP



DAVID LIMBAUGH



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# Kid Scoop

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### Kid Scoop Together:

### Proof It!

Are you an eagle-eyed reader? Read the article below and correct the eight spelling errors you find. The first one is done for you.

### Measuring Tornadoes

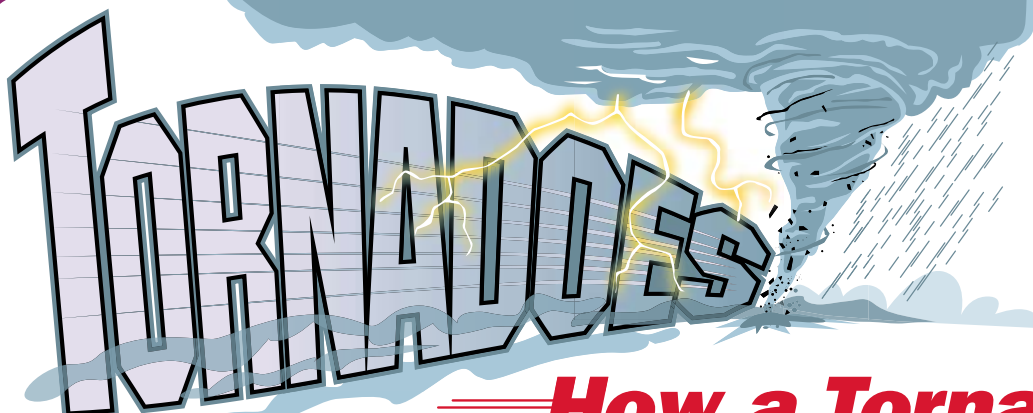
In 1971, T. Theodore Fujita invented the Fujita Tornado Scale, rating tornadoes from F0 to F5. Since 2007, stricter standards have been used—the Enhanced Fujita Tornado Scale now classifies tornadoes from EF-0 to EF-5.

Tornadoes are measured by their wind speed. The measurements are EF-0 to EF-5.

EF-0 tornadoes have wind speeds between 56 and 85 mph and will break branches, uproot shallow rooted trees and blow down chimneys and roof tiles.

EF-5 is rare. Wind speeds are over 200 mph, and damage includes the twisters lifting entire houses off their foundations and tossing trucks and trailers around like toys.

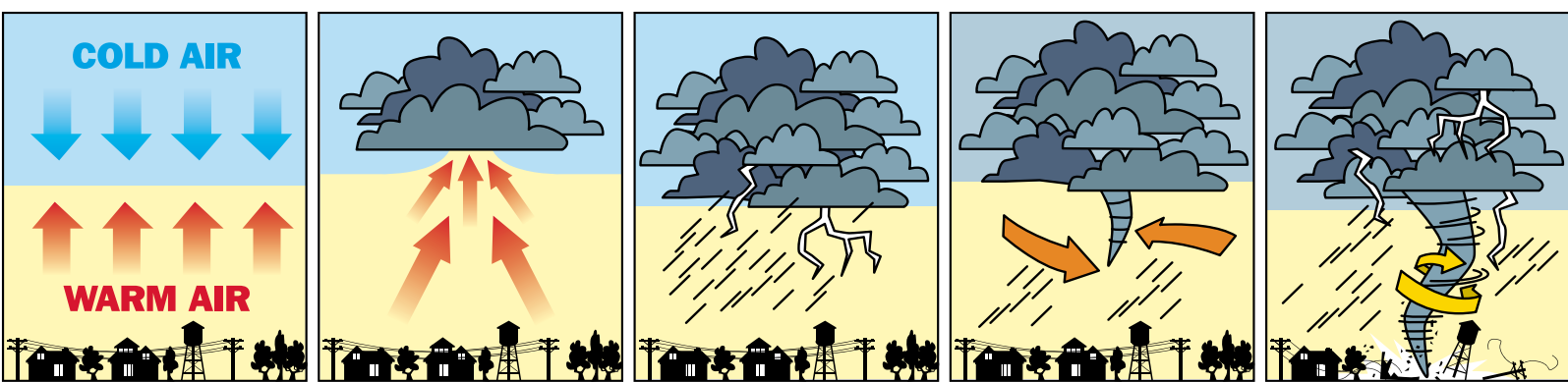
Standards Link: Writing: Use strategies to edit written work.



A tornado is a violent storm that creates a rotating column of air that spins at tremendous speed.

Often it will rain, hail and produce a great, roaring sound at the same time. When a tornado touches the ground, it can cause a path of damage up to 50 miles long. Most tornadoes last less than 10 minutes.

## How a Tornado Forms



On a hot day, ground temperature increases and starts to rise.

When the warm air from the ground meets a dark thundercloud, it creates an **updraft**.

A storm forms quickly, bringing rain, hail, thunder and lightning.

The updraft meets a cold **downdraft** and begins to spin. A **cone** shape becomes visible.

The rotating air forms a vertical **funnel**. It sucks in warm air, making it spin faster. When it reaches close to the ground, it is a **tornado**.

Standards Link: Science: Students understand atmospheric processes that cause weather.

## Twister Math

Do the math. If the statement has an even-numbered answer, it's TRUE. Odd numbered answers are FALSE.

16 + 4 = Tornado comes from the Spanish word *tronada* meaning thunderstorm.

29 + 7 = Tornadoes rotate counterclockwise in the northern hemisphere and clockwise in the southern hemisphere.

15 + 15 = Winds on the outside of a tornado can reach 250 mph.

12 + 18 = The United States has about 1,200 tornadoes each year.

## Tornado Alley

Even though tornadoes have occurred in all states of the U.S., the middle of the country has the most tornadoes. Warm air from the Gulf of Mexico meets cold air coming down from Canada, creating instability in the atmosphere.

Unscramble the names of the states where tornadoes regularly occur each spring.

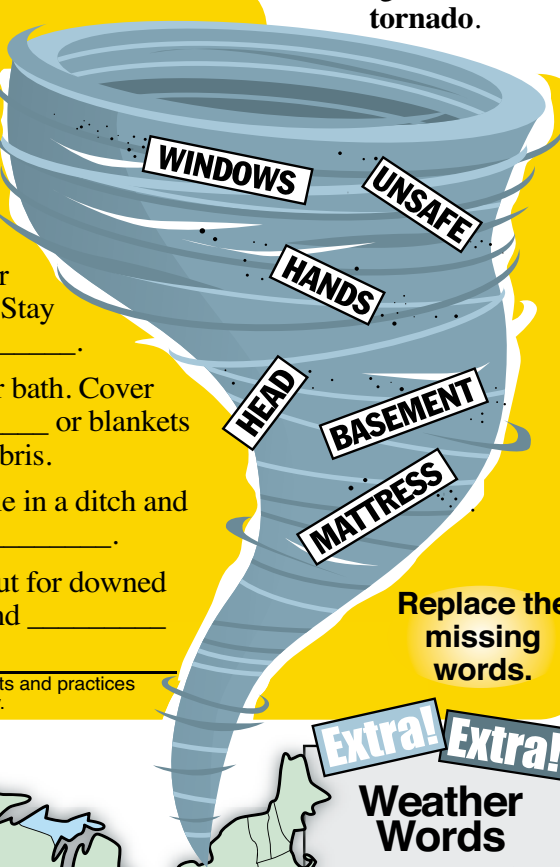
- 1. HOUST TOADAK
- 2. BRANASEK
- 3. DROOCOLA
- 4. SAKSAN
- 5. MOOLHAAK
- 6. ESAXT

Standards Link: Geography: Know natural hazards that occur in physical environments.

## TORNADO SAFETY

- Go into a \_\_\_\_\_ or a below-ground shelter.
- If you are inside a building, crouch down and cover your \_\_\_\_\_ with your hands. Stay away from walls and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Shelter in an inside closet or bath. Cover yourself with a \_\_\_\_\_ or blankets as protection from flying debris.
- If you're in a car, get out. Lie in a ditch and cover your head with your \_\_\_\_\_.
- After it has passed, watch out for downed power lines, broken glass and \_\_\_\_\_ structures.

Standards Link: Health: Know concepts and practices concerning injury prevention and safety.

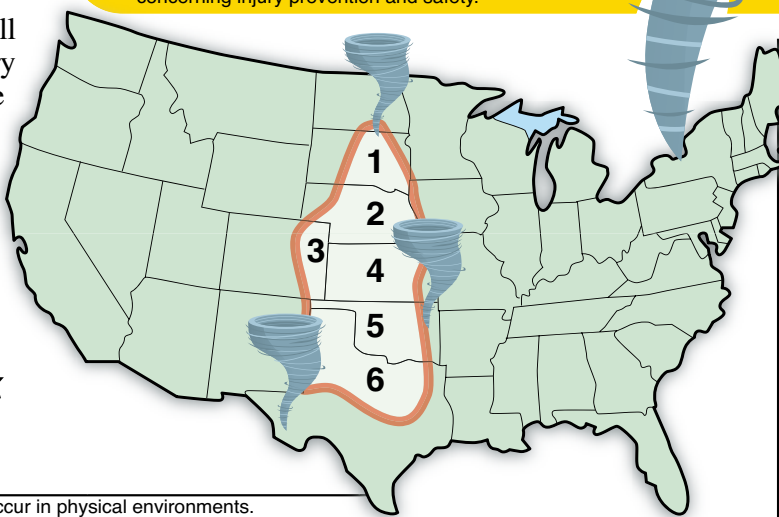


Replace the missing words.

### Weather Words

Find and circle five words in the newspaper that describe weather. Which ones describe warm weather? Which ones describe cool weather?

Standards Link: Vocabulary: Understand grade-level appropriate words and vocabulary.



## Kid Scoop Puzzler

WEATHER PATTERNS: Draw the weather icon that continues the pattern in each row.

	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>

Standards Link: Math/Reasoning: Complete patterns.

## Double Double Word Search

- TORNADOES
- VERTICAL
- UPDRAFT
- DEBRIS
- WEATHER
- AIR
- WINDS
- DRY
- VIOLENT
- HAIL
- RAIN
- COVER
- GROUND
- COLD

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

S	E	O	D	A	N	R	O	T	G
L	D	Y	C	O	V	E	R	U	R
A	Y	N	S	L	W	D	E	P	O
C	O	L	I	D	S	R	H	D	U
I	D	A	R	W	E	Y	T	R	N
T	H	I	B	A	L	W	A	A	D
R	A	R	E	C	I	V	E	F	L
E	D	Y	D	H	A	N	W	T	O
V	I	O	L	E	N	T	C	V	C

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

## Bottled Tornado

Make your own tornado in a bottle! You'll need:

- Two 2-liter bottles
- Metal washer
- Electrical tape
- Glitter or food coloring
- Water

Fill one of the bottles about 2/3 full with water. Add glitter or food coloring.

Place a metal washer over the opening of the bottle. Carefully balance the empty bottle on top. Tape together.

Turn the bottles over, giving a small rotation and watch what happens!



## Kid Scoop-doku

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

S				O
		O		S
O			S	
	O	S		
S			O	

## FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

### Picture the Weather

Select a photograph from today's newspaper. What can you tell about the weather in the picture? Write a weather report using the weather clues you observe in the photo.

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Write simple descriptions.

What kind of shorts do clouds wear?



ANSWER: Thunderwear!

## Write On!

### Tornado Tale

Write a story about what you'd do if you saw a tornado coming towards your home.



# sudoku

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

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

# Bird Poop: A couple saves a coot

Excited, the woman tried to describe what she had found in her flowerbed. "Small head, large body. It can't fly! Oh, I hope it isn't hurt," she continued. When asked about the bird's coloration, she mentioned a white bill, black head and slate gray body.



BEBE  
McCASLAND

Balancing her cell phone against her ear with her shoulder, she held the bird as she continued its description. "Long, greenish legs and weird toes."

As she tried to put into words the scalloped, curved projections, she said they looked like leaves pasted on the end of the legs. She was adequately describing lobed toes.

When I asked where the legs and feet were in relationship to the body of the bird, she immediately replied, "Toward the rear."

"And it has red eyes?" was my next question. "Yes!"

After telling her she had an American coot, came my explanation that the bird was a member of the rail family, and in typical, seasonal trouble. Mostly a water and shore bird, it needed a lengthy body of water in order to leave an area. Running on top of the surface,

it would gain enough forward momentum to become airborne. For some reason, it had landed in her yard and was essentially grounded.

It wasn't the only species, however, to encounter difficulties during migration. Grebes and loons also often mistook asphalt, or moistened and glistening surfaces for ponds. The woman admitted the previous evening their sprinklers had been used.

Although the coot was limited in mobility on land, in water it would be enabled to be a superb swimmer and diver. "Do you have a bathtub?" I asked.

She then learned if she filled the tub and placed the bird on the surface, she could tell if the legs and feet worked properly. In a "dog paddle" type of movement, it would propel itself around the tub with those weird looking feet. Also, she could watch it dive and surface.

Excited to try it, she asked if she could call me back. It was the beginning of a May morning exercise in helping wildlife.

Calling back in about 30 minutes, the woman was ecstatic. "It can swim, dive, paddle ... oh, you should have seen it!"

Then the woman answered my question as to where she lived. "Loraine, about 10 miles east of Colorado City. "Where is the closest large body of water



near your town?"

She immediately replied, "Lake Colorado City." She and her husband fished it often and were well acquainted with the shoreline.

Asked if she would be able to take the bird to place it on the body of water, she said she'd be delighted to return it to where it belonged. She promised to let me know the results.

In a little over two hours, she finally called. Wanting her husband to share in the release, she had waited until his lunch hour for the short trip to the lake.

Having told the woman coots find food on, near, or under the water, she knew to look for a spot where it could forage along the shore and access roots of tender, aquatic growth.

She also knew of areas that were rife with minnows. Knowing that was part of the bird's diet, she mentioned the previous week, they had seen a lot of insects on the surface of the water.

After her husband lowered the coot to the surface, he moved his hands away from its wings.

Without entering the water, it immediately began to run on the tips of its toes as its feet sprayed water outward and its wings flapped furiously. Thirty-five to 40 feet away from them, it sensed it was safe. Back in its own environment, it settled into the lake. Sitting high in the water, the bird paddled along the shoreline.

Days later during the stillness of a May evening, the coot would rise up, flap its wings, and run its way out of the water and down the lake.

As it left this watery haven to satisfy migratory urges, its survival had depended upon a couple's hospitality and a western paradise.

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

## Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

### The Misplaced King

South dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**

♠ Q 7

♥ Q 3

♦ A J 9 8 5

♣ K J 10 6

**WEST**

♠ K 9 5

♥ A J 7 2

♦ 6 3

♣ 9 8 7 2

**EAST**

♠ 8 6 4 3 2

♥ 10 8 5 4

♦ 7 2

♣ 4 3

**SOUTH**

♠ A J 10

♥ K 9 6

♦ K Q 10 4

♣ A Q 5

The bidding:

South West North East

1♦ Pass 3♦ Pass

4NT Pass 5♦ Pass

6♦

Opening lead — nine of clubs.

It may seem that declarer requires a successful spade finesse to make six diamonds in this deal, but actually South has a much better chance than that.

A good rule for declarer to follow — when the outcome of a hand appears to depend on where a particular card (here, the king of spades) is located — is to start looking for a way to make the contract even if the card is badly placed.

In the present case, South should conclude that if West has the ace of hearts, he can make the slam regardless of where the king of spades is located. Only if East has the ace of hearts will a spade finesse eventually be needed.

Accordingly, after taking the ace of clubs and drawing two rounds of trumps ending in his hand, South leads a low heart toward the queen at trick four. If West goes up with the ace, South's worries are over, so let's assume he allows dummy's queen to win the trick.

This does not get West off the hook, because declarer pursues his plan by next cashing his remaining clubs, discarding the nine of hearts from his hand on dummy's last club.

Declarer then plays a heart to his unguarded king. West takes the ace but must give up the ghost, whatever he returns. If he leads a spade, declarer's spade loser disappears, and if he leads a heart, South discards a spade from dummy as he ruffs in his hand, thereby eliminating his spade loser.

So — oddly enough — when dummy comes down, South prays first that West was dealt the ace of hearts, but when and if East shows up with that card, South then prays that East was also dealt the king of spades.

Tomorrow: Partnership cooperation.

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## A simpler, more straight forward path

I recently read of a Russian comedian, Yakov Smirnoff, on his first trip to the United States. He was not prepared for the incredible variety of instant products available in American grocery stores.



DARRELL  
RYAN

He says, "On my first shopping trip, I saw powdered milk — you just add water and you get milk. Then I saw powdered orange juice — you just add water and you get orange juice. And then I saw baby powder, and I thought to myself, "What a country!"

He viewed us a bit differently than we do ourselves, but we have to admit we live in a fast-paced world. We

drive fast cars. We eat fast food. We live in the fast lane. We want it now. An old story tells of a judge, being in a very good mood, who questioned a prisoner. "What are you charged with?" he asked. "Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the defendant. "That's no offense," said the judge. "How early were you doing this shopping?" The prisoner replied, "Before the store opened."

Few of us will go to those extremes to satisfy our desire to "get it now," but we know what we want and we wish we could have it yesterday. We don't like to wait. We know there is a place for action and there is also a place for patience, but it's difficult to learn how.

We live in an immediate gratification society. Symptoms include hyperactivity, overspending, excessive debts and lots of shopping, often for unneeded items. Yet this is the perfect time to learn how to wait, a skill that eludes most of us in this culture.

I have discovered

that learning to wait actually increases our chances of manifesting what we want without overspending or going into debt. But to get to that right moment, we may have to wait and wait. In the end, we will be rewarded if we are willing to wait while maintaining a positive expectation of the future. Developing patience is a very difficult thing. Patience is often referred to as being a virtue. It is a quality to possess, but unfortunately it's something most of us very seldom practice.

When difficulties arise, most of us immediately quit and search for a simpler, more straight forward path, with a hope of avoiding pain and struggle that comes with any worthwhile and meaningful goal and desire. But it is only by overcoming adversity and pain that we forge and develop our character. Impatience deprives us of life-changing and character-defining experiences.

Practicing patience brings with it many

virtues that will greatly impact both our life and the wider world, for patience is that quality to hang on when things seem hopeless and impossible. It is the ability to distance ourselves from instant gratification and allow things to come to us at the right time and in the right way. It is about accepting what is, and trusting that no matter what, we're always on course to reach our destination. It demonstrates a maturity in a person and cultivates strong and binding relationships whether in marriage, family or community.

I once read patience is like a postage stamp — the ability to stick to one thing until it gets there. But I more closely identify with another saying: Patience is something you admire in the driver behind you, but not in one ahead.

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

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HERALD file photo

Howard College's Jordan Allen hits a walk-off homerun earlier this season during a game at Jack Barber Field. The Hawks won the WJAC to advance to the Region 5 tournament this weekend. The first game will pit the Hawks against Hill College on Saturday at 8 p.m.

## Playoff Calendar

### Baseball

• Big Spring vs. Mineral Wells, Abilene — McMurry University, Game 1: Friday, May 11, 7 p.m. Game 2: Saturday, May 12, noon.

• Forsan vs. Floydada, Lubbock Christian High School, Game 1: Friday, May 11, 7 p.m. Game 2: Saturday, May 12, 1 p.m.

• Howard College vs. Hill College (Region 5 Championship tourney), Lubbock — Dan Law Field at Rip Griffin Park, Saturday, May 12, 8 p.m.

### Softball

• Forsan vs. Alpine, Crane High School, Game 1: Friday, May 11 at 6 p.m. Game 2: Saturday, May 12, 1 p.m.

• Coahoma vs. Colorado City, Big Spring High School, Game 1: Friday, May 11, 7:30 p.m. Game 2: Saturday, May 12, 10 a.m.

## Snyder helps Rangers snap Orioles' streak

DAVID GINSBURG

AP Sports Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) — Brandon Snyder and the Texas Rangers put on an offensive show against the Baltimore Orioles, who looked very much like their former selves in this matchup of first-place teams.

Snyder homered and had a career-high six RBIs against his former team, and the Rangers beat Baltimore 14-3 Monday night to end the Orioles' five-game winning streak.

Snyder, the Orioles' top draft choice in 2005, hit a two-run single in the second inning, a three-run drive in the sixth and an RBI single during a seven-run ninth. He played in only 16 games with Baltimore before the Rangers got him for cash considerations in January.

"I'm probably going to have to wake up tomorrow and read something to make sure it happened," Snyder said. "It's a special night, being in Baltimore, but the biggest thing is having my family there."

Snyder went to high school in Northern Virginia and said more than a dozen friends and family were in attendance. Playing well for his team was his motivation as opposed to gaining a measure of revenge against the Orioles.

"It's something that kind of bugged me in the past, but they were also the team to give me my opportunity to come here," Snyder said.

Prior to this start, he had one RBI in 11 games with the Rangers, on a solo homer against Toronto on Wednesday.

"He had a good night tonight and I'm happy for him. I'm also happy for my team," manager Ron Washington said.

The Rangers had lost five of their previous seven games, in part due to a lack of timely hitting. Snyder got it started with his two-out RBI single, and the rest of the team followed his lead.

"He got us a big two-out RBI hit. We certainly needed that," Washington said. "Then he gave us a three-run bomb that gave us a cushion, and then he drove in another one. He gave us what we needed."

Texas starter Matt Harrison (4-2) gave up three runs, six hits and a walk in seven innings. The left-

See **RANGERS**, Page 12

## Trio of UT players cited in restaurant incident

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Three Texas football players have been cited after allegedly refusing to leave an Austin restaurant following a bar incident.

Kenny Vaccaro later tweeted "Everything is all good. Nothing happened. Total misunderstanding."

Police early Monday cited Vaccaro, Barrett Matthews and Alex Okafor for failure to obey a lawful order, a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a \$500 fine. All are seniors.

Ex-Longhorn Eryon Barnett was charged with failure to obey a lawful order, plus failure to identify himself.

An affidavit says the men allegedly were denied entrance to a bar, then they went to a pizza parlor. They allegedly refused to leave after another man told police that Barnett threatened him.

Jail records Tuesday did not indicate any of the men were in custody.

UT officials did not immediately comment.

# Spurs can recharge while awaiting next opponent

LYNN DeBRUIN

AP Sports Writer

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The San Antonio Spurs were feeling good Monday night after sweeping their first-round Western Conference series with the Utah Jazz.

They also were feeling some pain.

"I'm sore," said reserve Stephen Jackson, who played 26 minutes in the down-to-the wire 87-81 victory. "Those guys play hard."

Fortunately, the Spurs are going to get some rest before the next round.

San Antonio awaits the winner of the Grizzlies-Clippers series, which may not be decided until Sunday. The Clippers lead 3-1 after winning 101-97 in overtime on Monday night.

"There's going to be some rust there," All-Star Tim Duncan said of the wait between series. "We have been playing so many games back to back, you're going to lose your rhythm a little. ... But health-wise and for us to

get 100 percent in the tank, it's great."

The Spurs blew out the Jazz by 58 points combined in the first three games but had to sustain a furious rally Monday after going up by as many as 21 points in the fourth quarter.

"This is probably the hardest-playing team in the league," said Jackson, who was part of the Spurs bench that contributed 57 points. "The way they played the character of this team. We take our hats off to them. They fought to the end."

The Spurs can thank their bench for keeping them in it.

Star sixth man Manu Ginobili hit consecutive 3-pointers after the Jazz had pulled within 61-58 late in the third quarter. And after the Jazz rallied from 21 down to get within four on Al Jefferson's put-back in the final minute, Ginobili turned a steal by MVP candidate Tony Parker into a layup that sealed the win.

"I wasn't making many shots, but I wasn't taking that many

either," said Ginobili, who was 0 for 8 from 3-point range in the first three games but had three 3s Monday and finished with a team-high 17 points. "I really wasn't that worried. I was happy that the team was playing as well as we were. We were 3-0 and winning those games with authority."

It was the West's second first-round sweep as Oklahoma City eliminated defending champion Dallas in four games.

The Spurs won Game 1 by 15 points, Game 2 by 31 and Game 3 by 12, relying on Parker, Duncan, key young players and the deepest bench in the league.

Parker had 11 points on 4-of-14 shooting Monday, Duncan added 11 points on 4-of-10 shooting, and starters Kawhi Leonard, Boris Diaw and Danny Green combined for a total of eight points. The Spurs' bench picked up the slack, outscoring Utah's reserves 57-10 and finishing with 27 more points than their own starters.

See **SPURS**, Page 12

## Texas A&M AD to retire

KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas A&M athletic director Bill Byrne, who oversaw the school's upcoming departure from the Big 12 and everything from national championships to the end of the storied football rivalry with Texas, is retiring.

Byrne will discuss his decision at a Tuesday afternoon news conference in College Station, a school official with knowledge of the decision. The school said only that Byrne would make an announcement "regarding his future" and the person spoke to The Associated Press late Monday on condition of anonymity because details had not been released.

The 66-year-old Byrne was hired at Texas A&M in December 2002 and has a contract that ends Aug. 31, 2013. School President R. Bowen Loftin said last month that the two were discussing Byrne's tenure.

Texas A&M's programs largely flourished under Byrne, but he will be remembered primarily for the move from the Big 12 Conference to the Southeastern Conference, effective July 1.

Byrne took heavy criticism last year as it became clear that the Aggies would leave and end longtime rivalries — none of them bigger than the annual football game against the Longhorns.

Last Thanksgiving, Justin Tucker kicked a 40-yard field goal as time expired to give Texas

See **A&M**, Page 12

## Surging Zambrano, Marlins top Astros

KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Carlos Zambrano has a new team and a new attitude, and on Monday night he displayed the dazzling pitching that has been overshadowed in recent years by tantrums and suspensions.

Zambrano pitched a three-hitter for his first win of the season and Giancarlo Stanton extended his hitting streak to 10 games with a two-run homer, leading the Miami Marlins to their seventh straight win with a 4-0 victory over the Houston Astros.

The three-time All-Star had pitched well this season after a trade from the Cubs, entering the game with a 2.53 ERA in five starts, but had yet to get a win. Zambrano said he didn't get upset in that span thanks to a life-changing, religious experience he had in Venezuela last season when he was suspended after he was ejected from a game, cleaned out his locker and talked about retiring.

"Now I'm pitching smiling because God is in my heart," he said. "When God is in your heart ... nothing is frustrating, nothing can bother you."

Stanton's homer into the Crawford Boxes in left field put Miami up 2-0 in the fourth inning and gives him six home runs and 12 RBIs during his streak. Logan Morrison walked with one out before Stanton went deep



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**Legals**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT**

ConocoPhillips Company, P.O. Box 358, Borger, Texas 79008-0358 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Sevens Rivers, Queen, Grayburg, and San Andres formations, Hyman, Sarah Well No. 46W and the 53W. The proposed injection well is located 6 miles East of Forsan located in the Howard Glasscock (Consolidated) Field, in Howard County, Texas. Fluid will be injected into the subsurface depth interval of 1290 feet to 2490 feet. LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711. (Telephone (512)463-6792). #7371 May 8, 2012

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Mercury scoots into the financial realm of Taurus with a cellphone in one hand and a credit card in the other. There will be more to buy and more to sell, and it will happen faster than ever. Though it would be unwise to mistake retail therapy for therapy that can bring about true healing, there's no denying that commerce can be a lot of fun.



**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You have a basic recipe for taking care of yourself. Realizing that you're a little bored with the basics, today you'll add special extras and secret ingredients to that formula.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Physical exertion during the day helps you fall into a deeper and more restful sleep at night. It will be difficult to gain a winning perspective if you are tired. Therefore, getting rest is a top

**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

priority. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Things get complicated. Right now you're not sure who is on your side; you're not even sure whether you are on your own side. Start there. How can you better support yourself?

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). The one who is very charming is not trying to get you to do anything in particular. There's an affection growing here. As a result, you have a way of unwittingly drawing this person out.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). When things seem much harder than they should be, you take notice and start asking questions. What am I putting out that attracted this tone to me? How can I adjust to create greater ease in my life? You quickly turn things around.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Life doesn't always go as planned. You're not into forcing life to bend to your will. Anyway, that wouldn't work. You'll deal with what you're given and see the potential. You're

creative. **LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll get an extra dose of optimism from the stars. Your stellar attitude allows you to start fresh, no matter how many times you've failed in the past. You let go and stay open to the unexpected.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You are quite purposeful now. You will be sure to accomplish your top three priorities. If you want to stay on track, be sure to celebrate those accomplishments. Otherwise, you'll quickly lose steam.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If you believe that things happen for a reason, you don't always have to know what that reason is at every moment. You trust that it's right. And trust can't happen unless there's a factor of the unknown involved.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll sense that you need to release your resistance to an idea, but you may not feel ready to do so. Accept your feelings and your current place. The more you accept the better

you'll understand your options.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You are not in the mood to wait around, and you make that clear with your behavior. Because you place such a high value on your time and energy, others will do the same.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You deserve to be prosperous, and you believe that others deserve this, too, so you'll help them get where they want to be. This in turn builds your business. All is working as it should.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (May 8). You'll apply passion to your work with fantastic results. You may choose a difficult job because you know you can do it — and someone has to. The entertainment is rich in June. Friends and family surprise you with their plans in July. You'll scoop up a major bonus in September and use it to embark on an adventure. Scorpio and Libra people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 50, 23, 25 and 18.

**ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS:** "What are

**Annie's Mailbox**

**ANNIE'S MAILBOX(R) FOR RELEASE: TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2012**

Dear Annie: My sister-in-law asked me to wipe her PC's hard drive so she could donate it. In the process, I discovered an old suicide note she

**Legals**

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF TEST OF AUTOMATIC TABULATING EQUIPMENT**

Notice is hereby given that the automatic tabulating equipment that will be used in the Democratic and Republican Primary Election held on May 29, 2012 will be tested on May 10, 2012 at 3:00 PM at Elections Office Courthouse to ascertain that it will accurately count the votes cast for all offices and on all measures.

Sandra Bloom  
Signature of Officer  
**AVISO PUBLICO DE PROBAR EL EQUIPO PARA TABULAR AUTOMATICAMENTE**

Por lo presente se da aviso que el equipo para tabular automaticamente que se usara en la Eleccion Democrata and Republicano Primaria que se llevara a cabo el 29 de Mayo se probara el 10 de Mayo a las 3:00 pm en electorales cargo juzgado para determinar si el equipo contara con exactitud los votos para todos los puestos oficiales y sobre todos los proyectos de ley. Sandra Bloom Firma del/dela Oficial #7373 May 8, 2012

had written. It dates back five years, which was a time when I know she felt overwhelmed caring for a disabled friend. In the note, it says she felt terribly burdened by this unwanted responsibility.

My sister-in-law recently moved back home to take care of her father, who is aging but is otherwise in good health. I'm afraid she may get overwhelmed again. What should I do? — Help for My Brother's Wife

Dear Wife: Any caregiver can feel overwhelmed, and you would not be breaking any confidences to offer assistance and support. Ask whether you could shop for groceries or pick up a prescription. If Dad is healthy enough to be left alone, take your sister-in-law out for coffee and conversation. If not, tell her you'll sit with Dad for an hour so she can have a break. Talk to her often. And make sure she has the contact information for resources such as the Eldercare Locator (eldercare.gov) at 1-800-677-1116 and the

National Family Caregivers Association (nfcacares.org).

Dear Annie: Next month would have been my fourth anniversary had I not moved out of the house I shared with husband, who is 12 years my junior.

"John" and I have been in a relationship for almost 10 years, and I thought I knew him. The problem started soon after our wedding, when I returned from an out-of-state trip and found pictures he had taken of himself — naked, graphic and posing suggestively with photos of other men. John said he was just curious about taking them and denies ever posting the pictures online. I thought we worked through it after many heartfelt discussions, but then six months ago, I caught him surfing gay porn on my computer, as well as watching it on TV.

He promised he would go to counseling, and I gave him one last chance, saying I would leave him if he lied to me about it again. In

February, I ran a profile of the top five websites that he visits — and they were all porn. I also discovered that he has charged porn to his credit card.

That was the last straw. I rented a house, and he finally realized that I was serious. But he doesn't understand why I want out of the relationship. He says it's "just porn" and refuses counseling. I cannot make him see that it is not just the porn. It is the lying, hiding, withholding of affection, withdrawal from me and his daily pot smoking that led up to my leaving.

Annie, I am a pretty, petite, youthful woman with a great job. I provide John with a comfortable lifestyle, but I refuse to keep enabling him. Should I stay with him even though I will never trust or respect him again? — Suicidal and Angry

Dear Angry: Trust and respect are two rather important aspects of a healthy marriage. If counseling does not help you regain those

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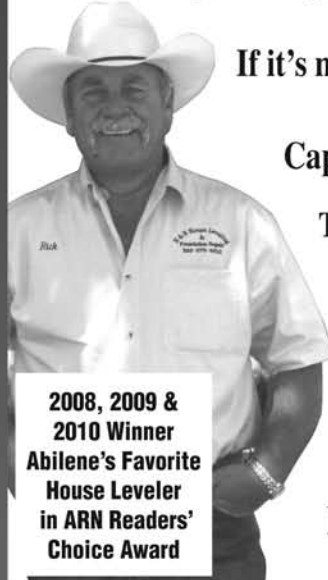
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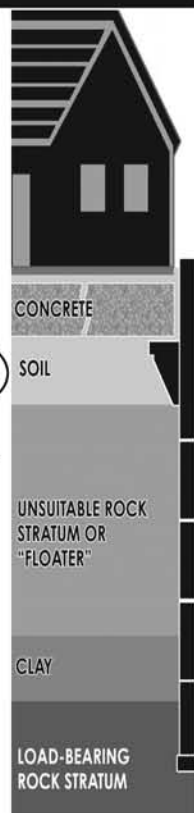
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5:PM :30	News ABC	La Mujer Notic.	Two Men	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News News	King King	McDonald Uri Harel	Charlie Rose	King King	Deadliest Catch	CSI: Miami	Jail Jail	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Shake It Good	NFL32	SportsCenter
6:PM :30	Jeopardy! Wheel	Una Familia con Suerte (SS)	Big Bang	News Ent	Caso Cer rado	Millionaire	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Alan Lee L. Moore	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Deadliest Catch	CSI: Miami	Jail Jail	NBA Basketball: Playoffs, First Round: Teams TBA.	Wizards of Waverly Place	Around the World	E:60	
7:PM :30	Last Man Cougar	Dancing With Stars	Abismo de Pasión	New Girl	NCIS: Los Angeles	Corazón Valiente	The Voice	Big Bang	Clinton: American Experience (DVS)	90210	Deadliest Catch	Movie: Die Hard, Bonnie Bedella	Big Easy	NBA Basketball: Playoffs, First Round: Teams TBA.	Together Together	Movie: Hannah Montana: The Movie	NFL Live	
8:PM :30	(01) Private Practice	Impacto	Noticiero	How I Met My Wife	News	Noticias Sin Senos no	News Jay Leno	Conan	Shepherd's Heart	Charlie Rose	Til Death Do Us Part	Movie: Die Hard 2, William Atherton	Repo	Inside the NBA	Wendy Williams	Wizards of Waverly Place	SportsCenter	
9:PM :30	News Nightline	Noticiero	Law Order: CI	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Office	Office	Ministerios Vida	World	T. Smiley (Off Air)	South Pk	Police Videos	Franklin & Bash	Movie: Cheaper to Keep Her, Christian Keyes	Good Good	NASCAR	
10:PM :30	News Nightline	Noticiero	Law Order: CI	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Office	Office	Ministerios Vida	World	T. Smiley (Off Air)	South Pk	Police Videos	Franklin & Bash	Movie: Cheaper to Keep Her, Christian Keyes	Good Good	NASCAR	
11:PM :30	News Nightline	Noticiero	Law Order: CI	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Office	Office	Ministerios Vida	World	T. Smiley (Off Air)	South Pk	Police Videos	Franklin & Bash	Movie: Cheaper to Keep Her, Christian Keyes	Good Good	NASCAR	
12:AM :30	News Nightline	Noticiero	Law Order: CI	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Office	Office	Ministerios Vida	World	T. Smiley (Off Air)	South Pk	Police Videos	Franklin & Bash	Movie: Cheaper to Keep Her, Christian Keyes	Good Good	NASCAR	
1:AM :30	News Nightline	Noticiero	Law Order: CI	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Office	Office	Ministerios Vida	World	T. Smiley (Off Air)	South Pk	Police Videos	Franklin & Bash	Movie: Cheaper to Keep Her, Christian Keyes	Good Good	NASCAR	

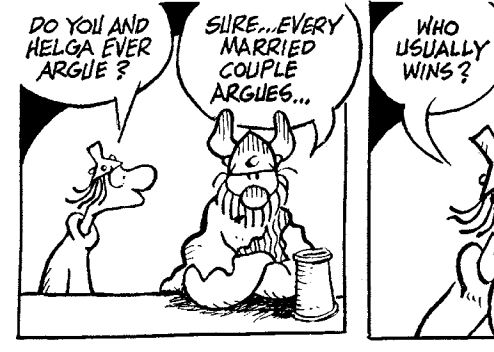
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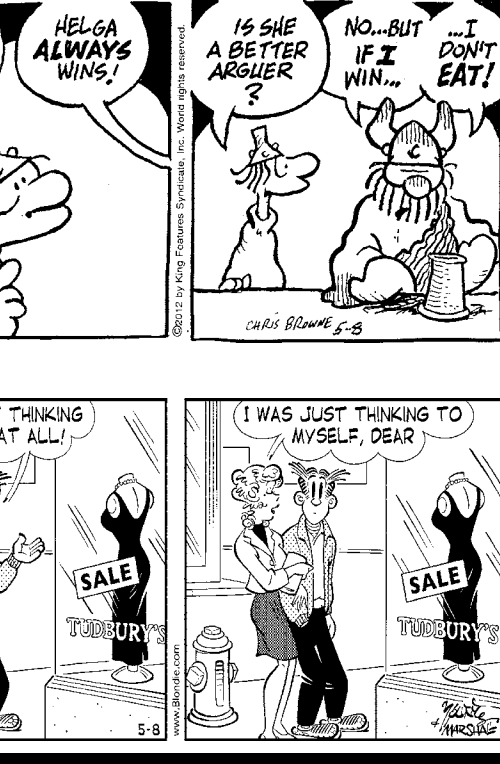
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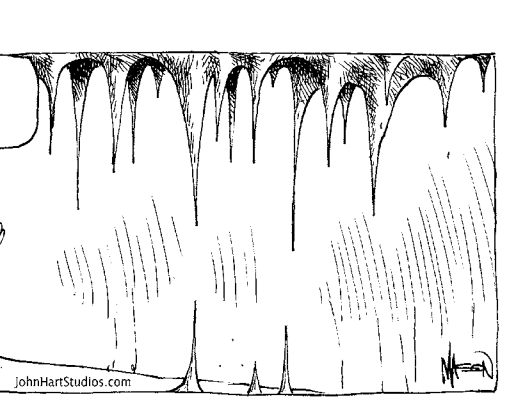
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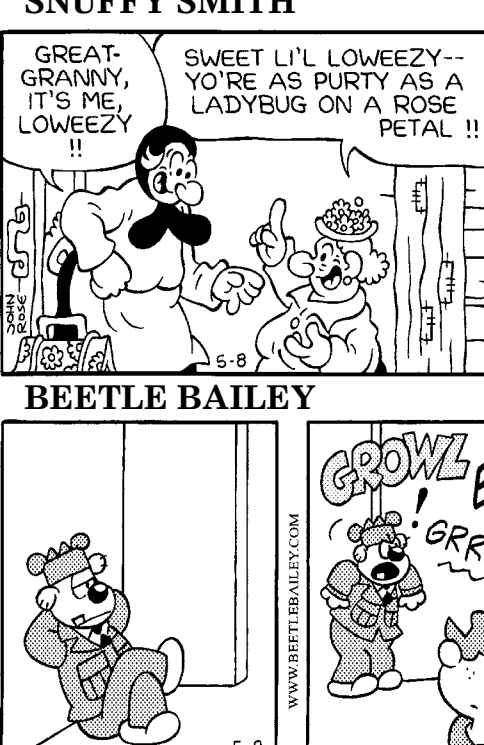
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BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, May 8, the 129th day of 2012. There are 237 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 8, 1945, President Harry S. Truman announced on radio that Nazi Germany's forces had surrendered, and that "the flags of freedom fly all over Europe."

On this date:

In 1541, Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto reached the Mississippi River.

In 1794, Antoine Lavoisier (lah-vwahz-YAY), the father of modern chemistry, was executed on the guillotine during France's Reign of Terror.

In 1884, the 33rd president of the United States, Harry S. Truman, was born in Lamar, Mo.

In 1886, Atlanta pharmacist John Pemberton invented the flavor syrup for Coca-Cola.

In 1921, Sweden's Parliament voted to abolish the death penalty.

In 1958, Vice President Richard Nixon was shoved, stoned, booed and spat upon by anti-American protesters in Lima, Peru.

In 1961, New York's recently created National League baseball team announced that it would be known as the Mets.

In 1962, the musical comedy "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" opened on Broadway.

In 1972, President Richard M. Nixon announced that he had ordered the mining of Haiphong Harbor during the Vietnam War.

In 1973, militant American Indians who'd held the South Dakota hamlet of Wounded Knee for ten weeks surrendered.

In 1984, the Soviet Union announced it would boycott the upcoming Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

In 1987, Gary Hart, dogged by questions about his personal life, including his relationship with Miami model Donna Rice, withdrew from the race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Don Rickles is 86. Naturalist Sir David Attenborough is 86.

Answer to previous puzzle

HALF	ABLE	SKATE
USER	BEAM	ANNOY
MINE	ASIA	NOTIE
ODDS	STRINGTIES	
RESHOE	SLIT	
DDS	GOTCHA	
ARESO	UTAH	WAYS
GOVERNMENT	BONDS	
EPIC	AONE	ASSET
DELTA	WIN	
	MAPS	NECTAR
ONTHELINKS	ARIA	
BAIKED	TONE	REST
SLIDS	SEEM	ODES

Newsday Crossword

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**ACROSS**

1 Con game  
5 See 20 Across  
9 "Get lost!"  
14 Poor, as an excuse  
15 Org. for senior citizens  
16 Main idea  
17 Ireland nickname  
18 Threesome  
19 Bus passenger  
20 With 5 Across, winter drinks  
21 Pants fabric  
22 Without assistance  
23 Fiercely  
26 \_\_\_ in there (persist)  
27 Fish's steering organ  
28 Scrooge exclamation  
31 Winter neckwear  
34 Blossom-to-be  
35 VIP's car  
36 With no factual basis  
40 Proceed smoothly  
41 Bale in a barn  
42 Lariat  
43 24-hr. cash source  
44 Prince, to a king  
45 Study hard  
47 See what Garfield's doing  
52 Chef's garment  
55 Shuts securely  
56 Lumberjack's tool  
57 Boyfriends  
58 Prefix meaning "all"

**DOWN**

1 Frozen rain  
2 Airplane's freight  
3 Spanish pal  
4 Guys  
5 1770s patriot  
6 Propelling a canoe  
7 Make oatmeal from oats  
8 Liquid medicine dose, often  
9 Overstretch  
10 Coldness in the air  
11 Make over  
12 Prayer ender  
13 Insignificant  
21 Separate the wheat from the \_\_\_  
24 Toss  
25 Office assistant  
28 Life stories, for short  
29 Quantities: Abbr.  
30 Sounds from Santa  
31 Den furniture  
32 Group of devotees  
33 Molecule part  
34 Little guy  
35 Camel cousin  
37 Horse-stopping shout  
38 Bar near a sink  
39 Shows approval  
44 Touch and sight  
45 Repetitive cries  
46 Hot-dog topping  
47 Itinerary  
48 Musical pace  
49 Take a break  
50 Oust  
51 Bowling lane button  
52 Well qualified  
53 They're "split" for soup  
54 "Damn it!"  
59 Doozy

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RANGERS

Continued from Page 7

hander yielded 15 runs and 22 hits in his previous two appearances, so pitching against the Orioles couldn't have come at a better time — he's now 4-0 lifetime against Baltimore, with all of the wins coming at Camden Yards.

Michael Young homered and drove in three runs and Josh Hamilton hit his 10th home run for the Rangers, who got 19 hits in their sixth straight win over Baltimore.

Following 14 straight losing seasons, the surprising Orioles entered with the best record in the majors after a 5-1 trip through Yankee Stadium and Fenway Park, but on this night they were no match for the two-time defending AL champions. Starter Brian Matusz (1-4) yielded seven runs and 10 hits in five-plus innings, leaving Baltimore in a 7-0 hole in the sixth.

It was the most runs allowed by the Orioles since a 17-3 loss to the Yankees last July.

Asked if the defeat could have a long-term effect, manager Buck Showalter said, "That's not something our guys or I'm going to dwell on. It's part of what we do for a living. You get thrown some self-inflicted things that you have to deal with and nobody's going to feel sorry for you. Hopefully get a good night's rest and turn the page."

Robert Andino and Wilson Betemit homered for Baltimore, and J.J. Hardy had three hits, giving him eight over two games. But it wasn't nearly enough to prevent the Orioles from absorbing their most lopsided loss of the year.

One million Olympics tickets go on sale Friday

LONDON (AP) — Olympic organizers are making nearly 1 million more tickets available in the latest round of sales for the London Games.

The organizing committee says the tickets will go on sale online starting at 6 a.m. EDT on Friday.

The tickets will be available on first-come, first-served basis to the nearly 1 million people who applied in previous rounds but came up empty handed.

Included are tickets for the opening and closing ceremonies.

First priority will be given to the 20,000 people who were unsuccessful in the initial ballot and missed out again in a second sale. Those customers will be given 31 hours of exclusive access.

After that, the 1 million people who applied in the initial ballot but were unsuccessful will have an exclusive five-day window.

Marinatto resigns as Big East commissioner

STORRS, Conn. (AP) — Big East Commissioner John Marinatto resigned Monday after less than three years on the job, admitting he was drained by several high-profile defections and mounting pressure from school presidents upset with the departures.

Pittsburgh and Syracuse made plans to leave for the Atlantic Coast Conference in September, and West Virginia bolted for the Big 12 the following month.

The Big East regrouped by adding Central Florida, Houston, Memphis, SMU and Temple for all sports and Boise State, San Diego State and Navy for football only.

Marinatto told The Associated Press on Monday that trying to guide the conference through realignment took a physical and mental toll on him.

He said he began talking to the conference presidents in mid-April about stepping down.

"I've been running a marathon not only for the last eight months but for the last 2½ years," he said.

"As fulfilling as it can be, it is equally draining. All the assets are in place right now (in the Big East). It's probably time for a commercialized kind of perspective. Clearly the collegiate model is dead."

Marinatto became the third commissioner of the Big East on July 1, 2009. He had served as the conference's senior associate commissioner since 2002 and spent 14 years as the athletic director at Providence College.

"John helped build the Big East into what it is today, and played a critical role in our successful expansion efforts, and

for all of that we thank him," said Judy Genshaft, President of the University of South Florida and the chair of the conference.

But privately, many in the conference were unhappy by the defections of Pitt and Syracuse, and some blamed Marinatto for being caught off guard, having just turned down a television contract offer from ESPN last spring.

Former Commissioner Mike Tranghese, who retired in 2008, said his successor "inherited a very, very difficult situation."

"I said that when I left that's one of the reasons why I did leave," he told The Associated Press on Monday. "The conference was susceptible to being raided."

"When something goes wrong, the person in that chair is the one to take the hit."

A&M

Continued from Page 7

a 27-25 victory over Texas A&M in the Aggies' last Big 12 game and the 118th meeting between the bitter rivals.

The Longhorn band spelled out 'Thanks A&M' while playing "Thanks for the Memories." Earl Campbell, who won the Heisman Trophy at Texas in 1977, and Texas A&M's John David Crow, winner of the award in 1957, watched the game sitting side by side in golf cart in the corner of the stadium.

Many had hoped to continue the game, which began in 1894 and had been played every year since 1915,

but the Longhorns said their schedule is full through 2018 and made it clear there wasn't a lot of room for discussion.

A lot of the fallout was blamed on Texas' decision to start its own Longhorn Network to televise its sports teams. Byrne, like others around the Big 12, didn't like the move. He and his Texas counterpart, DeLoss Dodds, differed on whether Texas A&M was offered a chance to join the Longhorns in the venture.

Texas' pursuit of its own network was widely known in 2010 when Nebraska and Colorado decided to leave the Big 12, followed this year by Texas A&M and Missouri. The

league is adding TCU and West Virginia.

Byrne also took a deep pride in the school's other programs, including the women's basketball team that won a national championship under Gary Blair in 2011.

"Bob Gates said when he hired me that he wanted us to have the best sports program in the country," Byrne said on the eve of that championship game win over Notre Dame, referring to the former university president who is now the U.S. defense secretary. "We work to do that every day."

The softball, women's swimming and diving teams, and track and field teams are usually national powerhouses,

as are the women's soccer team and the equestrian team.

It hasn't been easy changing attitudes at a university that began as an all-male military school. Some alumni opposed the decision to begin admitting women in 1963, and school administrators didn't always see the advantage of funding men's and women's sports equally when Title IX passed in 1972.

While the football program flourished at times, change was slow in other sports. After Blair arrived in 2003, he and then men's coach Billy Gillispie helped raise \$24 million in private funds to build a new practice facility and it made a difference.

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SPURS

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"We've been a deeper team this year than we usually are and it sure came in handy tonight," Popovich said.

Facing elimination, the Jazz started their Big 3 lineup, with Derrick Favors at power forward, Jefferson at center and Paul Millsap moving to small forward.

After a slow start, they made a difference, with Favors registering impressive blocks on Parker and Tiago Splitter and dominat-

ing the boards. The trio combined for 52 points, 39 rebounds and five blocks.

It was the first game of the series that Utah held an advantage in the paint (34-30).

And the Spurs were feeling it afterward.

"It's good to get this series over with and not have to worry about these guys because they're definitely a hard team to play against," Jackson said.

Now it's either Memphis, which knocked the Spurs out in the first round last year, or the Chris Paul-led Clippers.

"We're gonna watch it," Jackson said of the Grizzlies-Clippers series. "We watch all the games. We'll just continue to stay focused and be prepared so when the series is over, we're ready to go. It's a tough series either way. Both are good teams."

The Spurs are seeking their fifth NBA title. Yet Ginobili said no one was looking that far ahead.

"Our defense is good and our offense is getting better slowly," he said. "We are just going to stay humble and focus on our next opponent and not on the Finals yet."

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