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WEDNESDAY

MAY 9, 2012



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VOLUME 107, NUMBER 175

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Atmos request denied

City council agrees on summer pool hours

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

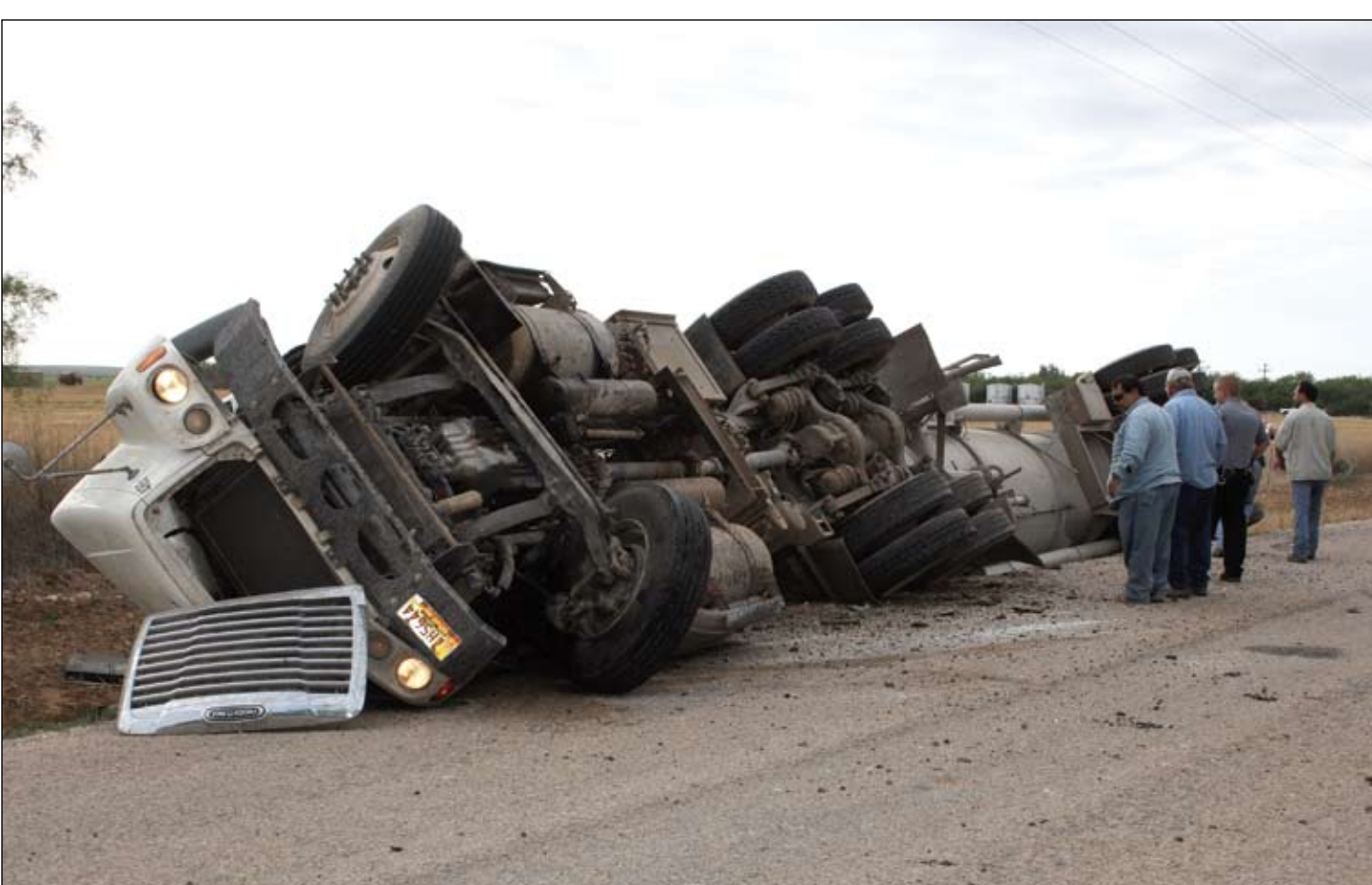
Big Spring City Council voted unanimously Tuesday to deny a rate increase requested by Atmos Energy's West Texas Division estimated at \$11.6 million, a move that will likely force the issue before the Texas Railroad Commission.

According to City Finance Director Peggy Walker, consultants brought in by a steering committee of cities effected by the proposed rate increase found the hike uncalled for, saying the energy giant could actually afford to lower rates.

"The company is requesting an \$11.6 million increase. Our consultant found there is actually a decrease that could be substantiated," Walker said. "As part of the steering committee, our city has been working diligently with the company to negotiate a settlement. However, for some reason the company does not seem to be willing to settle this case. A lot of that deals with the fact Amarillo and Lubbock have stand-alone rates, which are considerably lower rates than what our citizens pay. They are trying to maintain that stand-alone status."

The council gave final approval to suspend the rate increase by a unanimous

See **CITY**, Page 3A



Emergency personnel responded to a report of a one-vehicle rollover west of Big Spring on Stallings Road just after 7 a.m. today, following an accident involving an oil tanker traveling north on the roadway. According to officials at the scene, the truck left the road and rolled into the bar ditch. The tanker's cargo — believed to be crude oil — was not released in the crash, according to clean up crews on the scene. The accident was under investigation by the Texas Department of Public Safety. The condition of the driver was not available at the time of this report.

HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

Old schools to come down as new campuses going up

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

One of the surest signs construction of new school buildings in Big Spring is nearing completion is the campuses they are replacing are about to be demolished.

Big Spring Independent School District trustees are expected to approve bids for the demolition of Washington and Marcy elementaries when they hold their monthly meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday in the high school board room.



Pierce

Two other elementary campuses (College Heights and Moss) were demolished prior to the start of construction in 2011. The old Goliad campus had been scheduled for the wrecking ball, but officials have decided to keep the building intact, at least for now.

Overall, \$735,000 in voter-approved bond money has been budgeted for demolition of the elementary campuses, said Debbie Green, BSISD business manager.

Asbestos abatement and demolition at Marcy and Washington is expected to start al-

most immediately after students are dismissed for summer vacation May 25, said Wayland Pierce, who is overseeing the construction projects for BSISD.

"School district personnel will begin moving furniture out of those buildings the Saturday morning after classes are dismissed and abatement work will begin the following Monday," Pierce said. "Abatement and demolition will be done a wing at a time — once the abatement workers are done with one wing, they'll move on to another, and the demolition crews will be right behind them ... We figure a four-week window for demolition to be completed."

Four new elementary campuses — Washington, Marcy, Moss and Goliad — are on schedule to be ready for students by the first day

See **SCHOOLS**, Page 3A

Hangar 25 to honor local veterans

By **AMANDA MORENO**
 Staff Writer

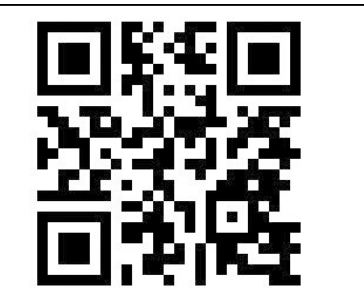
Each branch of the military has played a role in the nation's history. In order to honor that contribution, a special day was created in 1949, Armed Forces Day.

This year, in recognition of that day — May 19 — military members can stop in to Hangar 25 Air Museum and receive a free gift.

"We appreciate our soldiers and wish to take this opportunity to show them that appreciation," Hangar 25 Museum Administrator Genevieve Stockburger said.

During President Harry S. Truman's term in office, an effort was started to establish a single holiday allowing citizens to thank military members for their service. According to the Armed Forces Day History

See **VETERANS**, Page 3A



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Obituaries

Harold G. Henley

Harold G. Henley, 85, of Stanton died Wednesday, May 9, 2012, in a Stanton nursing home. His services are pending with Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton.

Support Groups

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

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

• Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at the Gold Rush Tobacco Shop, 800 E. Third Street. Open meeting at 7 p.m.

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

• 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.

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

Police blotter

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

• JOHN MARTINEZ RAMIREZ JR., 45, of 1516 Sycamore St. A, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant from other agency.

• CHRISTOPHER OBELL VANOVER, 34, of 1806 Winston, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of assault/aggravated with deadly weapon.

• JOHN ANTHONY MIER, 23, of 800 W. Marcy Drive 1, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of manufacture/deliver controlled substance more than four grams and less than 200 grams.

• JOHNNY JORGE RODRIGUEZ JR., 22, of 1601 Avion St., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of marijuana less than or equal to two ounces.

• REBECCA KATY GARCIA, 18, of 3607 Dixon, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for juvenile curfew violation.

• DAVONTE DASHUN ANDERSON, 19, of 1020 Ridegroad Dr., was arrested Wednesday on warrants for failed to maintain financial responsibility, no drivers license when unlicensed, fail to appear (two counts).

• TYREE MAURICE WILLIAMS, 27, of 505 Union St., was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for unlawful restraint and assault causes bodily injury.

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1900 block of Choctaw Drive.

• ASSAULT was reported:
 In the 1500 block of Sycamore Street.
 In the 1700 block of E. Third Street.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 60 inmates at the time of this report.

• TYREE MAURICE WILLIAMS, 27, was arrested Tuesday by HCSO on a warrant for unlawful restraint and assault causes bodily injury.

• RICARDO ARTEMIO URANGA, 52, was arrested Tuesday by HCSO on sentencing for a DWI.

• ROY PAIZ GARCIA, 52, was arrested Tuesday by HCSO on sentencing for driving while license invalid with previous conviction/suspension without final restitution (two counts).

• JOHN M. RAMIREZ, 45, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by BSPD on a charge of parole violation.

• CHRISTOPHER OBELL VANOVER, 34, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by BSPD on a charge of aggravated assault with deadly weapon.

• REBECCA KATE GARCIA, 18, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by BSPD on a capias curfew violation.

• JOHNNY JORGE RODRIGUEZ JR., 22, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana less than two ounces.

• JOHN ANTHONY MIER, 23, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by BSPD on charges of assault causes bodily injury, possession of controlled substance more than four grams and less than 200 grams and manufacture/deliver controlled substance more than four grams and less than 200 grams.

• DAVONTE DASHUN ANDERSON, 19, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by BSPD on a charge of fail to maintain financial responsibility, no drivers license and failure to appear (two counts).

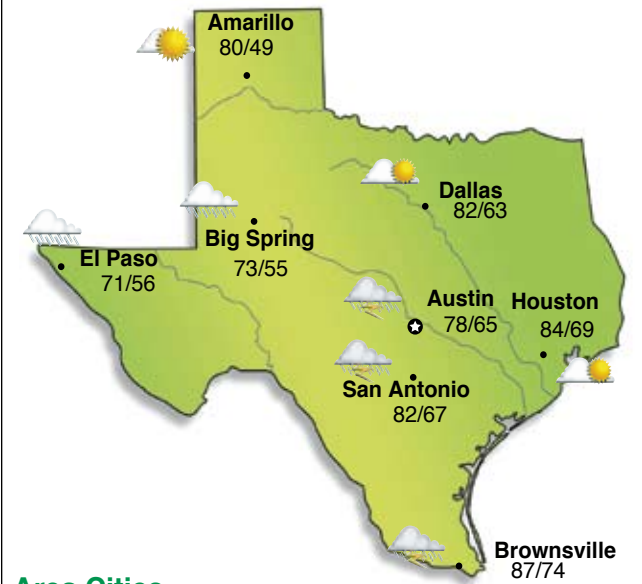
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Thu 5/10	Fri 5/11	Sat 5/12	Sun 5/13	Mon 5/14
73/55	73/57	77/56	81/59	77/58
A few showers in the morning then thundershowers in the afternoon. High 73F.	Scattered thundershowers. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the upper 50s.	Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the mid 50s.	More sun than clouds. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 50s.	A few thundershowers possible.
Sunrise: 6:51 AM Sunset: 8:34 PM	Sunrise: 6:51 AM Sunset: 8:34 PM	Sunrise: 6:50 AM Sunset: 8:35 PM	Sunrise: 6:49 AM Sunset: 8:36 PM	Sunrise: 6:49 AM Sunset: 8:37 PM



Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	77	59	rain	Kingsville	88	72	t-storm
Amarillo	80	49	mst sunny	Livingston	85	62	pt sunny
Austin	78	65	t-storm	Longview	83	59	mst sunny
Beaumont	85	64	mst sunny	Lubbock	77	52	pt sunny
Brownsville	87	74	t-storm	Lufkin	86	62	mst sunny
Brownwood	78	62	rain	Midland	70	56	rain
Corpus Christi	84	73	t-storm	Raymondville	88	72	t-storm
Corsicana	81	62	pt sunny	Rosenberg	84	68	pt sunny
Dallas	82	63	pt sunny	San Antonio	82	67	t-storm
Del Rio	73	62	t-storm	San Marcos	80	65	t-storm
El Paso	71	56	rain	Sulphur Springs	81	60	mst sunny
Fort Stockton	68	56	t-storm	Sweetwater	75	57	rain
Gainesville	80	59	pt sunny	Tyler	83	59	mst sunny
Greenville	81	59	pt sunny	Weatherford	80	60	pt sunny
Houston	84	69	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	82	57	pt sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	76	49	sunny	Minneapolis	76	56	sunny
Boston	64	48	rain	New York	68	50	pt sunny
Chicago	68	49	sunny	Phoenix	93	69	mst sunny
Dallas	82	63	pt sunny	San Francisco	72	54	mst sunny
Denver	80	47	mst sunny	Seattle	59	41	sunny
Houston	84	69	pt sunny	St. Louis	73	55	mst sunny
Los Angeles	70	56	pt sunny	Washington, DC	70	50	sunny
Miami	86	72	t-storm				

Fire/EMS

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of E. Sixth. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Birdwell. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the area of 18th and Goliad. One person was transported to SMMC.

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Simler. One person was transported to SMMC.

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Nation/World in brief

Plot fizzled as al-Qaida unwittingly handed its new bomb to the CIA

WASHINGTON (AP) — Over the past three years, al-Qaida bomb makers in Yemen have developed three fiendishly clever devices in hopes of attacking airplanes in the skies above the United States.

First, there was the underwear bomb that fizzled over Detroit on Christmas 2009. Next, terrorists hid bombs inside printer cartridges and got them on board cargo planes in 2010, only to watch authorities find and defuse them in the nick of time.

Then last month, officials say, al-Qaida completed a sophisticated new, nonmetallic underwear bomb — and unwittingly handed it over to the CIA.

The would-be suicide bomber, the man al-Qaida entrusted with its latest device, actually was a double agent working with the CIA and Saudi intelligence agencies, officials said Tuesday. Instead of sneaking it onto a plane in his underwear, he delivered it to the U.S. government and handed al-Qaida its latest setback.

The extraordinary intelligence operation was confirmed by U.S. and Yemeni officials who were briefed on the plot but spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss it.

Poll: Support for war in Afghanistan at new low of 27 percent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Support for the war in Afghanistan has reached a new low, with only 27 percent of Americans saying they back the effort and about half of those who oppose the war saying the continued presence of American troops in Afghanistan is doing more harm than good, according to an AP-GfK poll.

In results released Wednesday, 66 percent opposed the war, with 40 percent saying they were

“strongly” opposed. A year ago, 37 percent favored the war, and in the spring of 2010, support was at 46 percent. Eight percent strongly supported the war in the new poll.

The poll found that far fewer people than last year think the killing of Osama bin Laden by U.S. troops increased the threat of terrorism against Americans. Overall, 27 percent say the al-Qaida leader’s death resulted in an increased terror threat, 31 percent believe his death decreased the threat of terrorism and 38 percent say it has had no effect. The poll was conducted before the revelation this week of a recent al-Qaida plot to blow up a U.S.-bound airliner with an underwear bomb.

Chris Solomon, an independent from Fuquay-Varina, N.C., is among the respondents who strongly oppose the war. He said the military mission has reached the limits of its ability to help Afghans or make Americans any safer, and he would close down the war immediately if he could. While the rationale for the war is to fight al-Qaida, most of the day-to-day combat is against an entrenched Taliban insurgency that will outlast the foreign fighters, he said.

Indiana senator’s loss shows incumbency is out, GOP is split

VALPARAISO, Ind. (AP) — Veteran Sen. Richard Lugar’s loss in the Indiana GOP primary provides warnings for President Barack Obama and his Democrats as well as Mitt Romney and fellow Republicans six months before the November election.

In one state at least, anti-incumbent sentiment is coursing through the electorate, a potentially ominous sign for the incumbent Democratic president seeking a second term and lawmakers of all political stripes. The GOP also remains deeply split between the establishment wing and insurgent tea

party, a fissure that underscores the challenge the presumptive Republican presidential nominee and other GOP candidates face in the months ahead to unite the party.

“We are experiencing deep political divisions in our society right now,” Lugar, 80, one of the nation’s longest-serving senators, said in a statement after the results were known. “These divisions have stalemated progress in critical areas. But these divisions are not insurmountable.”

The loss of Lugar — who boasted of strong conservative credentials but was lambasted by critics for working with Democrats — also highlights the degree to which deal-makers are becoming a rarity on a Capitol Hill often consumed by partisan gridlock. He follows Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, moderate known for bipartisanship, in leaving the Senate at year’s end. Others too, including former Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., have left in recent years.

FDA takes steps to help ensure kids don’t get unnecessary radiation

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government is taking steps to help ensure that children who need CT scans and other X-ray-based tests don’t get an adult-sized dose of radiation.

Too much radiation from medical testing is a growing concern, especially for children, because it may increase the risk of cancer later in life.

Wednesday, the Food and Drug Administration proposed guidelines urging manufacturers to design new scanners to be safer for the youngest, smallest patients — and put new advice on its website to teach parents what to ask about these increasingly common tests.

“We are trying to ensure that patients get the right dose at the right time, and the right exam,” FDA physicist Thalia Mills told The Associated Press.

CITY

Continued from Page 1A

vote in late February, a move designed to give the city time to study the request and begin negotiations between the two entities. However, the lack of negotiations will likely force the matter before the commission.

“We have a June 11 deadline at this point. If the city does not take action then the rates will go into effect June 11,” Walker told the council. “Since we have not reached a negotiated settlement, we are requesting the council go ahead and deny the increase. We know it will be appealed to the Railroad Commission, although while it is in a pending

status with the commission we will continue to try to negotiate. If we reach a settlement, we will bring that back to the council. If we can’t reach a settlement, then it will be left entirely up to the Railroad Commission.”

Mayor Tommy Duncan quickly pointed out the city of Big Spring isn’t the only municipality denying the proposed rate increase.

“My understanding is none of the other communities are agreeing to this (rate increase) either,” Duncan said.

“That is correct,” Walker said. “The only cities where this (rate increase) will take effect immediately are those who gave up their original jurisdiction.”

Walker said this isn’t

the city’s first time deferring to the steering committee. In fact, since doing away with the GRIP system, it’s pretty much been par for the course.

“We’ve gone through this same process every year. They propose a rate increase and we suspend it, just like we’re doing now,” Walker said. “The steering committee will look at it, and when it’s all said and done, the number agreed upon by both sides will be a lot lower than what’s being thrown around right now. It’s a lot like buying a car. That’s really the only analogy I can think of to compare it to.”

Also during Tuesday’s meeting, the council approved some rather

slight changes to the operating hours for the municipal aquatics center.

According to Assistant City Manager Todd Darden, the resolution will call for the hours of operation to change from noon until 8 p.m. on Sunday — the hours used during 2011 — to 1 p.m. until 8 p.m. during the coming summer season.

Darden said there won’t be any changes to the cost of admission or pavilion rentals compared to last year, however, as the aquatics center prepares to open May 26, with Aug. 25 expected to be the last day for the facility’s season.

“As most of you know, the majority of the workforce at the aquatics center are students,”

Darden said. “Last year we made the decision to keep the center open after school started, and that’s a decision we later regretted. We had a tough time keeping enough staff there because of the conflict in schedules. That’s why we made the decision this year to go ahead and make Aug. 25 the last day. That will have the facility closing for the season before the start of school.”

The center is slated to be open to the public noon until 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. until 8 p.m. Sundays. Admission is \$5 for ages 3 years and up.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-

7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

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Velvet Sky Makowsky, infant, died Sunday. Graveside services were at 2 p.m. today at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

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SCHOOLS

Continued from Page 1A

of classes for the 2012-2013 school year, officials said.

Construction at Washington, Marcy and Goliad is about 90 percent finished, while Moss is about 80 percent complete, Pierce said.

“The schools them-

selves will be ready and open, barring some unforeseen circumstance,” Pierce said. “Some landscaping and parking lot work may still need to be done by the time the new school year starts, but everything else will be completed ... (Contractor) Lee Lewis has no qualms about us being open on time. He just doesn’t see any is-

sue with that.”

Completion date for the four new campuses is set for July 1, Pierce said.

In other business Thursday, trustees will consider:

- Approval of the Howard County Tax Collection budget for 2012-2013.
- An agreement for auditing services.

- A resolution authorizing the purchase of unimproved real property.
- Employment recommendations.

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

VETERANS

Continued from Page 1A

website, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of Armed Forces Day on Aug. 31, 1949. This day was created as a single day of celebration of Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force. Before the creation of Armed Forces Day, each branch was recognized

on a different day.

According to Stockburger, the free gift is available to active and retired military personnel. In order to receive the free gift, stop by the Hangar on Armed Forces Day in uniform or with military ID.

For more information, call 264-1999. Hangar 15 is located at 1911 Apron Drive.

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com

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AGAINST

Why should I vote against the Big Spring EDC 4B project?

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- The city can pay for this project by other means than raising taxes or water rates.
- The city will have access to an additional \$1 million (from funds for existing water facilities and the bond that matures in 2014) to fund this project.
- The water project will not increase the quantity or quality of our water.
- 20 years is too long to tie up 50% of the EDC’s income.

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If this proposition wins, the city’s future loses. **VOTE NO!**

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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.

Bill McClellan
Managing Editor

Steve Reagan
Staff Writer

Amanda Moreno
Staff Writer

Thomas Jenkins
Staff Writer

Google privacy policy

The line between providing a dynamic service and violating customers' privacy can be a thin one in the 21st century. As technology giants strive for one-touch solutions across multiple platforms to create a more convenient experience for their customers, they must avoid misusing these customers' personal information. The case-in-point for this struggle appears to be Google's new privacy policy, which three dozen state attorneys general and consumer protection officials asked the company to reconsider last week.

Google justifies its new privacy policy — which was implemented on March 1 — by arguing it needs to consolidate roughly 60 product-specific privacy policies into one comprehensive policy in order to improve the user experience and make its privacy policies and practices more understandable. Google claims that the unified privacy policy will not change or expand the information it collects about its users. Rather, Google argues that it will merely combine data

collected by one Google service with information about that same user that was collected by other Google services — effectively treating the customer as a single user across all services.

Google's stated goal for this change is to provide its customers "with a better experience and to improve the quality of our services." The problem is that Google does not want to allow its users to decide whether they actually want this purportedly "better experience." Indeed, the company does not appear to be giving its customers any true opportunity to determine how their personal information is shared among a vast swath of Google services. Under the pre-existing privacy policy, customers had more freedom to tailor their information for different purposes. For example, Gmail users could maintain an address book for their email account and a separate set of personal information to share in Google+, the company's social networking service. But under Google's new privacy policy, a user's Gmail account information will be automatically combined with their Google+ profile. Likewise, users might not object when Google tracks their online search queries, but might not want the company to know their location. Yet under Google's new privacy policy, customers appear to have no choice in the matter.

For certain cell phone users, in particular, simply opting not to use Google services may not be an option. Individuals who choose to leave the Google universe over this privacy policy don't have an easy way out. For example, customers who own phones powered by Google's Android operating system — which now control more than 46 percent of the mobile phone market, according to one recent report — may need to purchase new phones if they want to avoid having their information subjected to Google's new privacy policy.

Consequently, Google's new privacy policy may simply create additional headaches for users, rather than an improved customer experience. The better solution would be to allow users to choose whether to integrate their data across multiple Google platforms — rather than compel it. Google claims its new privacy policy will provide users with a "simple product experience that does what you need, when you want it to." If the company's policy is truly beneficial for its customers, then it should have enough confidence in its products to allow users to opt out in a more straightforward, uncluttered fashion. Better yet, Google should shift to an opt-in strategy that allows the new policy to stand or fall on its own merits. In a free market, customers tend to choose the better service when given a genuine opportunity to do so.

After state and federal regulators and policy makers raised concerns about the new privacy policy, Google attempted to justify its new position in letters to members of Congress and state attorneys general. Google also embraced the "Do Not Track" option that ostensibly allows Google Chrome users to prevent their web searches from being tracked by online advertisers. While these may be a step in the right direction, Google's relatively minor efforts to mitigate the backlash do not sufficiently address our concerns. As attorneys general, our first responsibility is to protect the citizens of our states. At a time when identity theft is on the rise and protecting online privacy is of unparalleled importance, we are committed to safe-guarding our citizens' personal information and hope Google will do the same.

Greg Abbott is the Texas Attorney General.

Newspapers and their struggle

Let me go ahead and say, up front, there is no denying the fact the newspaper industry is struggling — some say valiantly, others may say feebly — to somehow merge with what has become a predominantly digital and electronic world.

Some papers have fallen, such as the once-mighty Rocky Mountain News, Baltimore Examiner and Cincinnati Post, with doors locked and once busied newsrooms silenced. Others have managed to endure, such as the New York Times, but at a heavy cost paid through mortgages and layoffs.

Advertising dollars have dwindled during the past three to four years, as automotive companies have shifted away from print and begun to rely more on the internet; sites like Craig's List have siphoned away money from newspaper classifieds and Monster has cornered the market on job hunting.

In the meantime, radio and television news agencies have stepped-up their games, some actually providing better news coverage and others simply electing to loosen the strings on journalistic ethics and run with stories based solely on rumors and hearsay. Either way, they are trying to give their audiences what they want.

And that very notion becomes the heart of a debate that continues to rage through the newspaper industry and community today ... what does the customer want, and what can we do to make that happen?

I've listened to this argument rage on, from the high rise offices of some of the nation's largest newspapers to the small newsrooms of America's community newspapers, even right here at the *Big Spring Herald*. I've watched regimes come and go,

each with a different idea of how to answer that all-encompassing riddle and I've even tried my hand a time or two at tossing out a new idea.

Unfortunately, with such a global problem, even the shiniest of ideas seem like nothing more than a toy at the bottom of a box of cereal, a gimmick marketed to someone who was already about 98 percent sure they wanted to buy your product.

The newspaper industry isn't just fighting other news media outlets — television, internet, radio, satellite radio — for your attention, either. As the popularity of social networking continues to rise, many Americans say they get a majority of their news from places like Twitter and Facebook, many of the times delivered not by reporters or journalists, but by everyday citizens.

And while I'm normally the first to reach out and embrace technology and social networking, this is where I'm forced to take exception.

This rise of lightning-fast news has come at a cost ... a very, very dear cost, in this writer's opinion. It has removed a great deal of the responsibility from reporting, forcing ethics and a need to get the story right the first time to take a back seat to being the organization that breaks the story.

And that, my friends, is nothing short of tragic.

It has traded in the knowledge and experience of our newsrooms — where writers and reporters have debated and struggled for hundreds of years with the best way to report the unbiased facts — for the convenience of status updates and the flash of in-your-face video clips.

That's why we, at the *Herald*, do our best to not only get the stories people in the Crossroads community care about, but to also get it right the first time. That's something I'm still proud of after all these years, and it's an idea I'll continue to pour into my work in the years to come.



THOMAS JENKINS



GREG ABBOTT

Feet firmly planted in the saddle

Riding a hobby horse isn't really my comfort zone. I'm not big on stumping my opinions and believing that anybody is really going to care very much about what I think, but I'm feeling pretty spunky about something that really gets my motor running and I am firmly planted in the saddle of that aforementioned horse today.

One of the things that really sends ripples across my pond is when people expect me to believe really stupid things. I realize it's been going on forever, but that doesn't make it acceptable in my way of thinking. I'm of the opinion that, generally speaking, people don't ever really undergo much transformation in their intellect. We just develop new vocabularies and package our gullibility and foolishness in different wrappings and life goes on pretty much as it always has.

Even though it had certainly never happened in the same manner, it wasn't anything new when the president stared straight into the camera and declared to the nation who had elected him that "I did not have sexual relations with that woman" and actually expected us to believe him. People have been telling us stupid things for generations and expecting us to believe it.

When Moses went up on the mountain to commune with God and receive the 10 Commandments the people became impatient and persuaded Aaron to make them a god to worship. He took their gold jewelry and made a golden calf. When Moses confronted him about such a foolish thing he offered the ridiculous explanation, "I told them 'Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off'. Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!"

My dad used to say there are some people who lie when the

truth would fit better. I have met some of those people through the years. It's irritating when you can't believe what someone says, but it's even more pathetic when they expect you to believe them. But the ultimate vexation is when people do believe it.

I have been outspoken for many years about how insulting it is to me that researchers say that watching violence on television or in movies has no effect on our lives. It is a preposterous expectation to believe anyone can feed their eyes and minds extreme brutality or listen to music that promotes violence, crime, abuse, immorality and even killing policemen and it will have no effect on the listener.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics website, children between the ages of two and 18 spend an average of three hours each day watching television. A three-year National Television Study, reported by the AAP, found children's shows had the most violence of all television programming. Statistics read some cartoons average 20 acts of violence in one hour, and by the age of 18 children will have seen 16,000 simulated murders and 200,000 acts of violence on television. Young people are especially in jeopardy of the negative effects of television violence because "many younger children cannot discriminate between what they see and what is real," reports the American Academy of Pediatrics.

According to the article "Media Violence," the American media shows heroes justifiably using violence as a means to resolve conflict. The American Academy of Pediatrics website suggests prolonged exposure to this type of violence increases acceptance of violence as a means of solving problems. An AAP National Television Study showed 61 percent of programming "portrayed interpersonal violence, much of it in an entertaining or glamorized manner." Children are drawn to such programming when the violent act seems surreal and the lack of consequence attractive.

According to "Children,

It's not hard to see this idea in motion. Go back to mid-March, when several local and national media outlets claimed the human remains found at the local airpark were almost certainly those of missing Colorado City teen Hailey Dunn.

There were area residents — even a former *Herald* employee, but we won't name names — who were just as guilty, maybe even more so, fanning the flames with rumors and hearsay about the condition and appearance of the remains, saying it just had to be Dunn.

At the same time, the *Herald* published several articles warning readers not to jump to conclusions, that there was no evidence to support those claims and the best thing to do was to wait for investigators to do their jobs.

Of course, as we all know now, the remains were identified as belonging to an elderly male who, as of yet, has not been identified.

I only bring this up because it serves as a perfect example of why the experience and savvy of a real newsroom is still very much needed in America — and the Crossroads — today, and that's not a need I expect is going anywhere, anytime soon.

We at the *Herald* are far from perfect, and I have a few of my favorite silver-haired mixxes who just love to call me up and chastise me when we bust a headline with a typo or make some other innocuous mistake. I suspect we'll even make some mistakes that aren't so harmless.

However, I just want you, the customers and readers of the *Big Spring Herald* to know we will continue to do our best to adapt to the digital and electronic age, these times that are changing so rapidly, but not at the cost of our integrity. That's a promise from me to you.

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

Adolescents, and Television," 37 percent of parents reported their child being frightened or upset because of a television news story. While children are watching television, they are being bombarded 60 percent of the time with various images of violent acts. Viewing hour after hour of violence increases the likelihood a child will see the world as a dark and sinister place. The American Academy of Pediatrics calls this the "mean world" syndrome.

The article "Children, Adolescents, and Television" states research has shown television violence to have a negative effect on the academic performance, sexuality, body concepts, and self-images of young viewers, which can lead to violent or aggressive behavior and substance abuse.

Yet Hollywood, the video game industry and the music industry continue to defy logic and sensibility and produce more and more extremely graphic and violent programming targeted to the youth and children of our society. And we wonder why crime is out of control and why kids walk into their schools and shoot people without conscience. They have been desensitized by years of mental imagery glorifying bloody violence as an acceptable, or even desirable, lifestyle.

I don't expect to change the world with my words. Most people will probably write me off as being an alarmist or not being in touch with today's culture. I am very much in tune with the vibrations of today's world and I'm not standing on the street corner declaring the sky is falling. But I am telling you it is insanely naïve to believe it doesn't matter what finds its way into our hearts and minds. There is a valid law of the harvest that says we reap what we sow.

You may not agree with anything I've said, but I column as I see 'em.

Eddy Prince is the senior pastor at Grace Fellowship Church in Big Spring. He can be reached by email at pastorprince@msn.com.



EDDY PRINCE

Why preplan for your funeral?

Some thoughts to consider

Why preplan? On a daily basis I have people ask me, "Why should I preplan my funeral?" They say, "What are the advantages of me doing it and why not leave that up to my kids?" My response is always the same ... If you could do something to give comfort to your loved ones, save money, and ease burdens at a difficult time, why wouldn't you do it? I usually remind folks we plan for things every day, and many times even pay for things every day we are not sure we will ever need. For example, we pay for insurance for our homes, cars, travel and health. We also plan for weddings, college and retirement. All of these require planning and preparing for the future, often for events that may or may not happen. But one thing we know will happen to everyone for sure is death and for some reason, no one wants to plan for that.

The reason is not that we aren't sure it's going to happen. It's that we don't like to talk about it, or even think about it. I admit, death is not an easy subject to bring up at your family dinner. But avoiding the topic ultimately leaves our loved ones in a bind after we're gone — not only do they have to deal with grief, they have to deal with making difficult decisions, making everybody happy with the decisions once they are made, and finding the money to pay for everything.

There are many good reasons to plan ahead, but here are my top three:

Comfort loved ones. If you lost a parent, what would you give to know exactly what your mother or father would have wanted as far as songs, casket, flowers and other options. It's not to say you can't add your own touches to the service, but can you imagine the comfort it would give you to know your loved one's wishes? That's a gift you can give your family with preplanning.

Save money. Preplanning helps you select economical options for your loved ones. Often at a time of loss, family members can tend to overspend, wanting "only the best" for mom. You can save your family money by putting your wishes in writing. Paying for services in advance can also save your family money because

it locks in the cost of the funeral at today's prices. We all know prices go up year after year, but you can freeze the cost of the funeral, saving hundreds if not thousands in the long run.

Ease burdens. Another reason to preplan and possibly prepay is for peace of mind for you as well as your family. You would not believe how many times families come together at the death of a loved one and instead of focusing on their grief and the ones left behind, they are focused on the money it will cost, arguing about who wants what, or what mother really would have wanted. Preplanning is a way of making sure your wishes are carried out and the burden is lifted from your loved ones.

Another question I am often asked is "Why should I prepay if I have life insurance?" One misconception that many families have is that life insurance will cover everything. The problem is that life insurance does not typically grow to keep up with inflation over the years. That means, your insurance has less and less buying power as the years go on. After medical bills, debt and credit obligations, and funeral costs, there is little to no life insurance proceeds left to take care of your family's needs, which is what life insurance is designed for!

The difference with a prepaid funeral plan is that 1. the details of the service can be planned out, 2. the proceeds will grow over time to keep up with inflation, and 3. the funeral home's prices are guaranteed. Life insurance can do none of those things.

There is really no greater gift you can give your family than to leave things taken care of. Whatever your age, health, or wealth, preplanning will benefit your family in more ways than you can even imagine right now. It is truly a gift of love to those who are left behind.

Kasi Welch Baker is a third generation of the Welch family that owns and operates Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory in Big Spring, Midland and Gilbreath Funeral Home in Stanton. She is a graduate of Texas Tech University and a licensed funeral director as well as the general manager of the family business. Kasi is currently the vice president of the West Texas Funeral Director's Association and a member of various organizations in the funeral industry.

Are you in need of legal advice?

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 for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

CITY OF BIG SPRING SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICT FOUR AND 4B PROJECT ELECTION

Please remember to vote in the May 12, 2012 election. In addition to the contested race for Single Member District 4 between Bobby McDonald and Loretta Farquhar, there is a proposition on the ballot for citizens to vote **For** or **Against** the use of Type 4A Economic Development sales tax revenue to fund a Type 4B project of up to \$13 Million of the approximate \$23.8 Million in planned improvements to the City's water and wastewater infrastructure.

Major Impacts if Use of 4A Funds is Approved by a Majority of the Voters:

- The use of 4A sales tax revenue to fund a portion of the infrastructure improvements will reduce the need to use other sources of City revenue, such as increased property taxes or water utility fees.

- The use of up to 40% of the Big Spring EDC's annual sales tax revenue will reduce the amount of funds available for cash incentives on other economic development projects.

238069

193 & Counting!



Since taking office, State Senator Kel Seliger has traveled back and forth across his district conducting 193 town hall meetings.

"This month I'm getting ready for my 194th Town Hall meeting. Even though the district has grown from 26 to 37 counties, I'm reaffirming my pledge to conduct at least one Town Hall in every county every year."

Kel



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because he's a good listener.

Republican Primary Election: May 29, 2012
Early Voting: May 14 - 25

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Why not check this out? At the library

Week one of the new library hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and while two days and cooler weather do not constitute a true test, it has worked so far! We had customers here by 8:30 a.m., so come on down and check out books in the cool of the morning. Remember, we close at 4 in the afternoon.



HOLLIS
MCCRIGHT

Craig Johnson writes the Walt Longmire mystery series and while in Houston I picked up an older mystery called "Junkyard Dogs" (M JOH C). Walt is a sheriff in Durant, Wyo., and the situation gets a little heated when the owners of a multi-million dollar development of ranchettes wants to get rid of the adjacent junkyard. Personally, I would have taken that into consideration when I started the development, but however Ozzie Dobbs, Jr. just didn't think of that. War erupts between the two (in the wintertime, no less) and Walt and deputies Santiago and Victoria Moretti find themselves involved in a high plains battle.

Hank Haney has written a surprisingly candid, but insightful account of his six-year career as Tiger Wood's golfing coach. "The Big Miss" (B HAN H) is Haney's account of their relationship that began in March 2004 with a phone call from Tiger, asking Hank to be his golf coach. The term "big miss" refers to a wildly inaccurate golf shot that can ruin a solid

round and is the type of blunder that was sometimes part of Tiger's game he wanted to eliminate. Hank would spend some 110 days a year with Tiger, speak with him many, many times, observe him at every major golf tournament, eat meals with Tiger and Elin and relax with his friends. Hank's most formidable coaching challenge, though, would be solving the riddle of Tiger's personality. Toward the end of Tiger and Hank's time together, the champion's laser-like focus began to blur and he became less willing to put in punishing hours practicing. After all, he had been playing since he was 4 years old. Hank has a lot of detail on how he modified Tiger's playing style and so on. The book ends with Tiger's car accident in 2009 and subsequent divorce.

The true crime section is always a popular section for people to check out books from. From M. William Phelps, comes "Never See Them Again" (364.152 PHE M). The story is about the horrific murders of four teenagers. It takes place in Clear Lake, Texas, in 2003 and I don't remember really hearing about it. Rachael Kolorourts and Tiffany Rowell were kind, beautiful and intelligent and ranked high in the social life at Clear Lake HS. Marcus Precella and his cousin Adelbert Sanchez were the other two persons murdered along with the girls. It takes the police three years to find out who killed them and the murderer will

surprise you. Lindsey Boxer's long-



awaited wedding celebration is marred by a new case. Her new boss, Lt. Jackson Brady, is watching her every move and evidence Lindsey finds will jeopardize AD Yuki Castellan's case. In James Patterson and Maxine Patetro's "10th Anniversary" (M PAT J), the Murder Club women are

back in action to solve two cases to insure Lindsey's new life goes well and Yuki's case.

I know you won't believe me, but my brother's wife is named Lara Croft. Yes, that is my maiden name and he married a woman with a first name of Lara. Having said that, we now have "Lara Croft, Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life" PG-13, 1496, with

Angelina Jolie in the DVD section ready to check out. Lara is ready to recover Pandora's Box, what is considered to be the essence of evil. She must keep it out of the hands of a maniacal scientist (aren't they all?) whose plan is to use it for mass annihilation. Will she succeed?

On the other spectrum, we also have "Legally Blonde 2: Red White & Blonde" PG-13, 1498 with Reese Witherspoon ready to check out. When Elle finds out her Chihuahua's mother is locked in a cruel animal testing facility, she heads to Washington, D.C. to fight for animal rights. In the process, she gives D.C. a makeover and proves once and for all that America is really the land of the free and home of the blonde. (This is from the DVD case, not me!)

We have quite a few more DVDs ready to be checked out; check the new book binder for a list of them.

Remember, our hours have changed just until we get the air condition-

ing repaired. Please call if you have any questions. The library is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m., with the Internet/Video room closing at 3:30 p.m.

The library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260.

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: My 25-year marriage is falling apart. My husband's 40-year-old daughter, "Sally," has been living with us for eight months.

She occasionally buys a few groceries, but otherwise pays nothing. She does no work around the house. I've asked her to help clean the shared bathroom.

She says she doesn't think she should have to do any cleaning because she doesn't mess anything up. She uses the bathtub more than we do and has all kinds of junk in there.

She says her father also has stuff in there, so it's my job to clean it. I refuse.

Meanwhile, my husband says Sally is right. He agrees that she shouldn't have to do any work around the house because she has a full-time job. (We are retired.)

She also never cleans up after herself in the kitchen and doesn't help with the dishes after eat-

ing the dinner I cook.

This is causing major problems between my husband and me. He isn't interested in counseling. What can I do about Sally? — *A Sad Marriage*

Dear Sad: If Sally has a full-time job, she should be paying rent. If she won't pay rent, she should contribute to the household by helping with the housework, groceries and cooking on a regular basis.

The fact that you are retired doesn't make you her servant. Tell your husband he can clean up after her.

Your real problem is that your husband doesn't back you up, and he puts Sally's preferences above yours. The goal should be to get Sally out of your house as soon as possible. It is not healthy for any of you if she remains dependent on Daddy.

Dear Annie: I am in an abusive marriage. There has been some physical abuse along with verbal, emotional and mental abuse. It has gone on for three years, and I think about leaving every day. I cry all the time.

I have tried to be a good wife, but nothing I do is good enough. I have talked to a couple of counselors, and they tell me I need to get out. I want to, but I don't have any money (he has seen to that) and I have no place to go. I don't have any family or friends close by to stay with.

I've been in contact with the local women's

shelter a couple of times, but right now, they don't have any available housing. How can I leave if I don't have any money or a place to go? I just don't know how much longer I can hang on. — *Crying*

Dear Crying: Please call the National Domestic Violence Hotline (thehotline.org) at 1-800-799-SAFE (1-800-799-7233). The people there can help you figure out how to protect yourself and prepare to leave this relationship. In the meantime, don't hide your situation. Let others know what is going on, including your family members and trustworthy friends. When you are able to leave, you will need their support.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Maybe It's Not Just Hormones." I was married for 22 years, and our sex life was strictly for my ex. It was hard to enjoy intimacy with someone who was constantly jealous and didn't trust me — and he had no reason to feel that way. He was the only man I'd ever been with.

I have been divorced for 18 years and was done with men. But a friend suggested online dating sites, so I recently signed up and met a nice gentleman. I realized I needed to have sex with another man to see what genuine intimacy was like. Well, let me tell you, I am so satisfied I cannot describe it. He says I am an excellent lover.

I am 60 years old and never thought I would enjoy sex. Now I know anything is possible. — *Enjoying Life*

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.
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News in brief

Texas lawmakers review mental health programs

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas lawmakers plan to hear expert testimony on how to improve the state's mental health programs.

Mental illness is one of the biggest problems facing the Texas health care system. State-run mental health facilities don't have enough beds and the majority of people in county jails require some form of mental health treatment.

The Senate Health and Human Services Committee plans to meet Wednesday morning to discuss what the Legislature can do about it.

On Tuesday, experts told the committee that the people with mental illness and substance abuse problems are the most frequently re-admitted patients. Local hospital administrators and sheriffs complain they spend too much time and money dealing with people who have treatable mental illnesses.

But lawmakers will also likely face another budget shortfall next year.

Judge orders hearing on Texas nuke waste dump

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A judge ruled Tuesday that Texas' environmental agency should have held a hearing about potential harm to nearby residents prior to licensing a remote radioactive waste dump owned by a top Republican contributor — and ordered that such a hearing now take place.

But the dump began receiving low-level nuclear

waste April 27 in Andrews County, and the company that owns it, Waste Control Specialists LLC, said it will continue operating normally while it appeals the judge's decision.

The firm's majority owner is Harold Simmons, a Dallas-based billionaire who has been a major donor to leading GOP presidential candidates as well as Texas' Republican governor, Rick Perry.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality originally granted Simmons' company approval in 2009 for the facility that is designed to become the final resting place for radioactive waste from 38 states and is built on 1,340 acres of scrub brush about 360 miles west of Dallas. The Texas Legislature further sanctioned the dump with a law last summer, and the environmental commission signed off on it beginning to receive radioactive waste last month.

Proposed Fort Worth ban on hiring smokers fizzles

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — A North Texas city's proposed ban on hiring city workers who smoke has been abandoned.

The measure failed to reach the Fort Worth City Council.

Human resources officials on Tuesday declined to recommend the ban, following weeks of reviewing public and private tobacco-use policies. Fort Worth, starting in 2014, will instead use incentives to encourage municipal employees who light up to stop smoking.

Man convicted in San Antonio road rage death

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A South Texas man has been convicted in a road rage fatal beating after the victim stopped and picked some flowers for his wife.

A judge in San Antonio next month will sentence 46-year-old Stephen Wayne Richardson. The San Antonio man faces up to 20 years in prison after being convicted Tuesday of manslaughter.

Prosecutors say DNA evidence from a ring that Richardson was wearing linked him to the 2010 attack on 30-year-old Juan Duran.

The victim had stopped at an intersection to pick the flowers. Investigators say Richardson followed Duran to a parking lot and confronted the victim about holding up traffic.

North Texas man accused of killing neighbor

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Police say a North Texas man has been arrested after his neighbor was fatally shot while the two men argued.

Arlington police are trying to determine what sparked Tuesday night's killing. The name of the victim wasn't immediately released.

Police say 66-year-old Franklin Hudson of Arlington was jailed Wednesday on a murder charge. Bond has been set at \$500,000. Arlington City Jail records did not list an attorney for Hudson, who police say fired at witnesses before being arrested. No bystanders were hurt.

Hobbs picked as site of scientific ghost town

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — A scientific ghost town in the heart of southeastern New Mexico oil and gas country will hum with the latest next-generation technology — but no people.

A \$1 billion city without residents will be developed in Lea County near Hobbs, officials said Tuesday, to help researchers test everything from intelligent traffic systems and next-generation wireless networks to automated washing machines and self-flushing toilets.

Hobbs Mayor Sam Cobb said the unique research facility that looks like an empty city will be a key for diversifying the economy of the nearby community, which after the oil bust of the 1980s saw bumper stickers asking the last person to leave to turn out the lights.

"It brings so many great opportunities and puts us on a world stage," Cobb told The Associated Press before the announcement.

Pegasus Holdings and its New Mexico subsidiary, CITE Development, said Hobbs and Lea County beat out Las Cruces, for the Center for Innovation, Technology and Testing.

The CITE project is being billed as a first-of-its kind smart city, or ghost town of sorts, that will be developed on about

15 square miles west of Hobbs.

Bob Brumley, senior managing director of Pegasus Holdings, said the town will be modeled after the real city of Rock Hill, S.C., complete with highways, houses and commercial buildings, old and new. No one will live there, although they could as houses will include all the necessities, like appliances and plumbing.

The point of the town is to enable researchers to test new technologies on existing infrastructure without interfering

in everyday life. For instance, while some researchers will be testing smart technologies on old grids, others might be using the streets to test self-driving cars.

"The only thing we won't be doing is destructive testing, blowing things up — I hope," said Brumley.

Not far from the Texas border, Hobbs has seen new growth in recent years but local leaders have been pushing to expand the area's reputation to include economic development ventures beyond the

staple of oil and gas.

The investors developing CITE were looking for open spaces. Brumley said his group scoured the country for potential sites, "but we kept coming back to New Mexico."

Front Of the Line

FEED • SEED • SUPPLY

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Hawks hoopsters sign with universities



Courtesy photo

Howard College basketball stars recently signed with four-year schools to continue their collegiate basketball careers. With Head Coach Mark Adams are (from left) Calvin Godfrey (LSU), Leon Cooper (Moorehead State), Shavon Coleman (LSU) and Damion McGee (McMurry).

Playoff Calendar

Baseball

• Big Spring vs. Mineral Well, Abilene — McMurry Univ., Friday, 7 p.m. (Game 1), Saturday, noon (Game 2).

• Forsan vs. Floydada, Lubbock Christian H.S., Friday, May 11, 7 p.m. (Game 1), Saturday, May 12 1 p.m. (Game 2).

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

Softball

• Forsan vs. Alpine, Crane H.S., Friday, 6 p.m. (Game 1), Saturday 1 p.m. (Game 2).

• Coahoma vs. Colorado City, Big Spring H.S., Friday 7:30 p.m., (Game 1), Saturday 10 a.m. (Game 2).

To submit a calendar item, please call 263-7331, ext. 237, or e-mail sports@bigspringherald.com

Olympic torch flame lighting ceremony to be held Thursday

ANCIENT OLYMPIA, Greece (AP) — The final rehearsal for the lighting of the flame that will burn at the London Olympics went off without a hitch under bright sunny skies in the birthplace of the Ancient Games.

Standing in front of the 2,600-year-old Temple of Hera, an actress dressed as a high priestess used a concave mirror to focus the sun's rays and light a torch.

That flame will serve as a backup in the unlikely event that clouds

block the sun at Thursday's official lighting ceremony.

This has happened only once in recent memory for the Summer Olympics — in 2000, ahead of the late-season Sydney Games — but clouds have disrupted three of the previous four Winter Games ceremonies.

The rehearsal went on without almost any VIPs and in front of hundreds of visitors to the archaeological site, access to which will be restricted under tight security.

Hamilton belts four, Rangers rout Orioles

DAVID GINSBURG

AP Sports Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) — Josh Hamilton expects it will take some time before he realizes the significance of becoming the 16th player in baseball history to hit four home runs in a game.

He does, however, appreciate how fortunate he was to be playing baseball at Camden Yards on Tuesday night as a member of the Texas Rangers. Because, before his epic performance against the Baltimore Orioles, Hamilton had to do something even harder than launching a quartet of two-run homers.

He needed to save himself from personal ruin.

Hamilton went from first-

round draft pick by Tampa Bay in 1999 to out of baseball altogether because of drug and alcohol addiction.

He recovered and returned to the majors in 2007 with Cincinnati, and was traded to the Texas, where he has become a star — the AL MVP in 2010 — while still battling his addiction. He had a relapse before this season, but is off to a torrid start.

After going 5 for 5 with a career-high eight RBIs and setting an AL record with 18 total bases in the Rangers' 10-3 win, Hamilton reflected on what his life was like before this unforgettable night.

"I think about what God's done in my life, everything I did to

mess it up," he said. "To finally surrender everything and pursue that relationship with Christ on a daily basis and understanding when I don't pursue it, I end up messing up. Understanding that what I'm doing and what God's allowed me to do, coming back from everything I went through and allowing me to play the game at the level I play it, it's pretty amazing to think about."

Few players in the game today are playing at Hamilton's level. He's batting .406 and leads the majors with 13 homers and 36 RBIs.

That's impressive, but not as mind-blowing as his heroics

See **RANGERS**, Page 2B

Astros end Miami's winning streak

KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — At first base with two outs in the eighth inning and the game tied, Travis Buck knew exactly what he wanted to do if the ball was put in play by pinch-hitter Brian Bogusevic.

"I knew right off the bat, I'm scoring," Buck said. "He's either going to catch it or I'm scoring."

Bogusevic's RBI double sent Buck home and the Houston Astros ended the Miami Marlins' season-long seven-game winning streak with a 3-2 victory on Tuesday night.

The game was tied 2-2 when Buck singled before Bogusevic's hit off Ryan Webb (1-1) to the corner of left field, which a leaping Logan Morrison just missed, sent home.

"The thing that I loved about that (play) was Travis Buck at first base," Houston manager Brad Mills said. "He never broke stride. As soon as the ball was hit, he knew there were two outs, but he was gone as fast as he could. That's exactly what you're supposed to do, but sometimes guys want to look at the ball. But he took off right from the get-go and put him in a position to be able to score. That was great."

The Astros had tied the game when two errors on one play by Omar Infante allowed two runs to score in the sixth inning. The normally reliable Infante committed just one error in his previous 136 chances before that play.

"It was an easy ground ball," Infante said. "I didn't catch it and then I (didn't look) and threw it too quickly. I don't know why I threw the ball."

Infante had a solo homer in the fourth and John Buck added one in the fifth to give Miami the 2-0 lead, but they managed just two hits the rest of the way.

Wilton Lopez (3-0) allowed one hit in the eighth for the win and Brett Myers pitched a scoreless ninth for his eighth save.

Houston's Aneury Rodriguez, who was recalled from Triple-A Oklahoma City before the game, allowed two hits and struck out six in six innings in his 2012 major league debut. He wasn't feeling well on Monday when he arrived in Houston, but was better by game time.

"I cried yesterday and they put me on some vitamins and today in the morning I felt better," he said when asked if he was sick on Monday. "I felt good."

Miami starter Anibal Sanchez allowed five hits and two runs — none earned — with eight strikeouts in seven innings. He wasn't upset that Infante's errors likely cost him the win.

"That's part of the game," he said. "I don't have any concerns about it. He is one of the best second basemen in the major leagues. He's not perfect. He's human. I know he didn't want to make the error, especially in that situation."

Houston hadn't been able to get more than one runner on base in an inning until the sixth. Pinch-hitter Marwin Gonzalez started things off with a single before a single by Jose Altuve with one out. Jed Lowrie grounded out before Sanchez loaded the bases by walking Carlos Lee.

Infante then had two errors on a ground ball hit by Buck. His first error allowed Buck to reach and the second one came when he badly missed the throw to first base, allowing Gonzalez and Altuve to score and tie it at 2-all.

Pinch-hitter Greg Dobbs singled for the Marlins with one out in the eighth inning for their first hit since John Buck's homer in the fifth. But

See **ASTROS**, Page 2B

Forsan names Hergert, Burchett as Most Outstanding Athletes



Courtesy photo

Forsan High School recently named seniors Brittney Hergert, who participated in track, cross country and basketball; and Foster Burchett who played football, baseball and powerlifted, Most Outstanding Athletes. Pictured with the MVPs is Forsan Athletic Director Terry McDonald.

Colorful ex-drug dealer livens up Clemens trial

FREDERIC J. FROMMER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Kirk Radomski, who provided performance-enhancing drugs to dozens of major league baseball players, injected some much needed energy into a plodding prosecution case at Roger Clemens' perjury trial.

The one-time New York Mets batboy got jurors' attention Tuesday by standing, opening his suit coat and demonstrating on his broad-shouldered body how human growth hormone and steroids are delivered. Even sitting, he would lean in, make eye contact and generally hold court with the jurors in ways other witnesses have not.

Radomski talked so quickly in his New York accent that he had to be slowed down several times, both by the prosecutor and the court reporter.

And he played up his street smarts over book smarts.

"You're asking the wrong person to spell," he quipped when asked to spell one of the many steroids he mentioned. When he botched the pronunciation of another word, he said:

"Hey, I'm from the Bronx. I'm not a scholar." He boldly suggested that U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton get an "orthopedic chair" to deal with recurring back problems. He knocked on the witness stand three times to describe the "knock at the door" when feds arrived to search his house in 2005.

Displaying New York chutzpah, Radomski testified that he had taken steroids and HGH for 15 years, and proudly declared, "I don't drink, and I don't do any drugs."

"I'm a health nut," he added. "I take care of my body."

Radomski cooperated with investigators and pleaded guilty to money laundering and distribution of a controlled substance in 2007. He was sentenced to five years' probation and fined \$18,000. He said he's started his own supplement company, including "a fat burner and a natural testosterone builder."

The pace of the trial quickened Tuesday afternoon, just hours after the judge had scolded both sides for dragging out the trial and told them they were making it too "boring" for jurors, who were getting "fed up."

Even Clemens, who has been watching without expression during most of the trial, was more animated during Radomski's testimony. He tapped his fingers a lot, stared more intently and rubbed his hair and face.

Clemens, a seven-time Cy Young Award winner, is accused of lying to Congress when he denied using steroids and HGH. If prosecutors are able to convict him, it will be with the help of Radomski, a former ice cream truck driver who was a lowly batboy when Clemens was in the prime of his career.

Radomski's key piece of evidence is a shipment of HGH he said he sent to Clemens' house about a decade ago. Radomski showed the jury an old, torn shipping label he found under his television set in his bedroom in June 2008.

Federal agents had failed to find the label when they searched his home three years earlier — because they apparently didn't look under what Radomski called his huge, old-model "dinosaur of a TV."

The label was addressed to Brian McNamee, Clemens' former strength coach, at Clemens' home address in Texas. Radomski said the shipment was for two kits of HGH — "about 50-100 needles" — and estimated it took place in 2002.

McNamee, who will testify later in the trial, has said he injected Clemens with HGH and steroids.

Clemens lawyers have already mocked the label as having "magically" surfaced, and they are sure to attack it during cross-examination. The defense is also expected to emphasize that the label lists McNamee, instead of Clemens, as the recipient. McNamee often stayed at Clemens' house during training sessions.

Radomski described how he started taking steroids himself as a teenager in the 1980s because he wanted to bulk up his small frame.

He then became a seller, first of steroids and then HGH, and met McNamee through a ballplayer they both knew.

Radomski said baseball players, and especially pitchers, didn't want to build muscle from steroids, but instead wanted to build endurance. That could help neutralize one of the defense's main arguments, that Clemens' body didn't change that much from the beginning to the end of his 24-season career.

Clemens' lawyer Michael Attanasio got only about 15 minutes to cross-examine Radomski before the trial adjourned for the day, but it was enough to get a lively exchange going. Attanasio pressed Radomski to acknowledge that he lived off his drug-dealing "business." Radomski denied that and said he worked other jobs.

Holding up his hands, he said, "These are the hands of a hard-working guy."

Ex-quarterback Leaf pleads guilty

MATT VOLZ

Associated Press

GREAT FALLS, Mont. (AP) — Former NFL quarterback Ryan Leaf pleaded guilty Tuesday to charges that he broke into a Montana home and illegally possessed painkillers, part of a deal with prosecutors that recommends he spend nine months in a secure drug treatment facility.

The former San Diego Chargers quarterback and Washington State standout was shackled hand and foot and wore a black-and-white prison stripes as he told Cascade County District Judge Kenneth Neill that he

needed treatment.

"I'm very much looking forward to the opportunity presented," Leaf said. "An intensive nine-month rehab facility is presently needed."

It was one of the few statements Leaf made in the hearing under questioning by his attorney, Kenneth Olson. Leaf admitted that he broke into a home in Cascade County on April 1. He then admitted that a few days earlier, on March 28, he illegally possessed oxycodone that was not prescribed to him.

See **GUILTY**, Page 3B

ASTROS

Continued from Page 1B

Jose Reyes grounded into a double play to end the inning.

Giancarlo Stanton made a jumping catch at the wall in right field on a ball hit by Lowrie

for the first out in the eighth inning.

Rodriguez didn't allow a hit until Infante's two-out shot to the Crawford Boxes in left field in the fourth inning. John Buck, who also homered on Monday night, added a solo home run in the next inning to make it 2-0.

Rodriguez got his first major league hit and Houston's first hit of the game on a single to right field with two outs in the third inning. Sanchez retired seven in a row after that, with the next hit coming on a single by Chris Johnson with two outs in the fifth inning.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

against the Orioles.

Hamilton homered off Jake Arrieta in the first and third innings, added another off Zach Phillips in the seventh and topped it off with a one-for-the-books shot against Darren O'Day. During the last at-bat, Hamilton took a mighty hack and missed, lined a foul into right-field seats and then sent an 0-2 pitch over the center-field wall.

"Amazing," Texas manager Ron Washington said. "Josh came out tonight, and he wasn't going to be denied. I know he can't do it every night, but what you saw tonight, he's capable of it."

As he spoke to the media afterward, Hamilton wore a blue T-shirt emblazoned with "BEAST MODE."

On this night, he was a beast with the bat.

"It's like anything else — you do something good or something incredible happens, it takes a little bit for it to sink in," Hamilton said. "I think when I get away from everybody and I have some time to myself, I think it might then."

The last player to hit four home runs in a game was Carlos Delgado on Sept. 25, 2003, for Toronto against Tampa Bay. Two of the 16 players to hit four homers in a game did it before 1900.

"History was witnessed tonight," Washington said.

As he walked to the plate in the eighth inning, Hamilton felt a sense of calm. He had never hit more than two home runs in a game, and he al-

ready had three.

"I just went up like it was any other at-bat because if I don't hit one," Hamilton reasoned, "I've still had a really good night."

It got even better after he was circling the bases.

"I can say that was the worst pitch of my life," O'Day said. "Worst pitch of my career, not of my life. Guy's already got three bombs and I had him 0-2 and I throw it right over the middle. I couldn't have soft-tossed it any better to him. I'd like that pitch back for sure. You can't say enough about the day he had."

"Obviously it's, other than being in the World Series, the highlight of my big league career," he said. "I was saying after I hit two I've never hit three in a game before, and what a blessing that was. Then to hit four is just an awesome feeling, to see how excited my teammates got."

"It reminds you of when you're in Little League and a little kid, and just the excitement and why we play the game. Things like that. You never know what can happen. It was just an absolute blessing."

So is his career. Hamilton will become a free agent after this season, but that's something he won't deal with until the proper time.

"God gives me peace, man. I pray a lot. I want to be where he wants me to be," Hamilton said. "If that's Texas, I love it in Texas. And you know, I take it as far as day-to-day life, a one-day-at-a-time mentality not only for a recovering addict, but that should be for everybody. It's one day at a time really because tomorrow is not promised and yesterday's gone."



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Spurs enter west semis on 14-game streak

PAUL J. WEBER

AP Sports Writer

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — No early playoff collapse this time. No skeptics doubting whether they're really the caliber of a No. 1 seed. No injuries to overcome.

Not a single loss in the last month. By practically any standard, the San Antonio Spurs are dominating and doing so at a pace that few NBA teams have sustained in the playoffs, returning home Tuesday with a 14-game winning streak after sweep-

ing Utah in the most lopsided series yet this postseason.

"You know what?" Spurs forward Tim Duncan said before leaving Salt Lake City, "We got a team here."

San Antonio finished off the Jazz on Monday night, and could have as long as a week to rest before starting the Western Conference semifinals against either Memphis or the Los Angeles Clippers. The Clippers lead that series 3-1 and get their first

See SPURS, Page 4B

Ravens acquire Jones from Texans

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (AP) — Former Houston Texans wide receiver Jacoby Jones has agreed to terms with the Baltimore Ravens on a two-year contract.

Jones was cut by the Texans last week. He caught 31 passes for 512 yards and two touchdowns last season, but he also fumbled twice in Houston's playoff loss to the Ravens.

The 27-year-old Jones gives depth to Baltimore's group of receivers. The Ravens have two established starters in Anquan Boldin and Torrey Smith, but have no proven option at the third receiver spot.

Jones has 127 catches for 1,741 yards and 11 touchdowns over five NFL seasons, all of them with the Texans.

Jones also provides an option to cornerback Lardarius Webb as a punt returner. Jones has three career punt returns for touchdowns and averages 23.3 yards on kickoff returns.

GUILTY

Continued from Page 2B

Leaf pleaded guilty to one count each of felony burglary and criminal possession of a dangerous drug. Under the agreement, County Attorney John Parker agreed to dismiss two other counts of burglary and drug possession.

Neill set sentencing for June 19. Parker and Olson are recommending a five-year sentence in the custody of the Montana Department of Corrections for the burglary charge.

Olson said that recommendation will include a nine-month program at the Nexus Treatment Center in Lewistown, a center affiliated with the DOC, where Leaf would be locked down and unable to leave. That would be followed by time in a pre-release program in which Leaf's movements would be restricted.

The agreement recommends a separate five-year sentence for the possession charge, but all of it would be suspended, Olson said.

Neill is not bound by the sentencing recommendation, but indicated he may look favorably on it.

"There is no question he

needs treatment," Neill said.

Olson said he and Parker also will recommend that the sentence run together with whatever sentence Leaf is given for a probation violation in Texas.

A prosecutor there, James Farren, filed to revoke the former quarterback's 10-year probation from a 2010 plea deal. Leaf was charged with stealing prescription pain medicine from a player's home while he was a coach at West Texas A&M. An investigation also found he obtained nearly 1,000 pain pills from area pharmacies in an eight-month span.

Olson said he has received no sentencing commitment from Texas prosecutors, but he hopes to have one when Leaf goes to Texas to face the probation violation accusation.

"We all agree that Ryan needs treatment. He needs that more than he needs to go to prison," Olson said.

Farren said if the Montana judge approves the deal there, Leaf could return to Texas for a hearing to revoke his probation, either before or after the treatment program. He said he would like Leaf back in Texas as soon as is feasible to face

"extensive" prison time that Farren will recommend to a judge in Amarillo.

Leaf asked for a reduction in bail — \$76,000 in Montana and \$50,000 in Texas — so that he can spend time with his family and get his affairs in order before sentencing. He told the judge that he was not a flight risk.

Parker said Leaf is "a man in the grip of a very powerful addiction" and it would be a mistake to reduce his bail before he begins treatment in a secure facility.

Neill denied the request to reduce bail.

Leaf was the No. 2 pick in the 1998 draft, but his short-lived career earned him the reputation as one of the biggest busts in NFL history.

Prosecutors say the investigation into Leaf began in March, when Great Falls postal workers tipped the Central Montana Drug Task Force that Leaf was receiving frequent packages and paying more than \$500 cash on delivery for each.

Task force officers and Leaf's parole officer confronted Leaf on March 30 and found two pill containers in a golf bag. One contained 28

oxycodone pills, while the other was empty with a prescription label in the name of an acquaintance of Leaf's.

Police interviewed the acquaintance and the acquaintance's housekeeper, who said that Leaf had entered the man's home the day before without permission.

Leaf was arrested and then freed on \$76,000 bail.

Two days later, on April 1, two Cascade County residents told authorities they had returned home to discover a man inside their home, according to the charging documents. The man said he had the wrong home and left,

and the couple

noticed a drill and three different prescription medications missing. The couple

identified Leaf in a photo lineup and police went to Leaf's home to arrest him. They found another 89 hydrocodone pills when searching his home, the charging documents say.

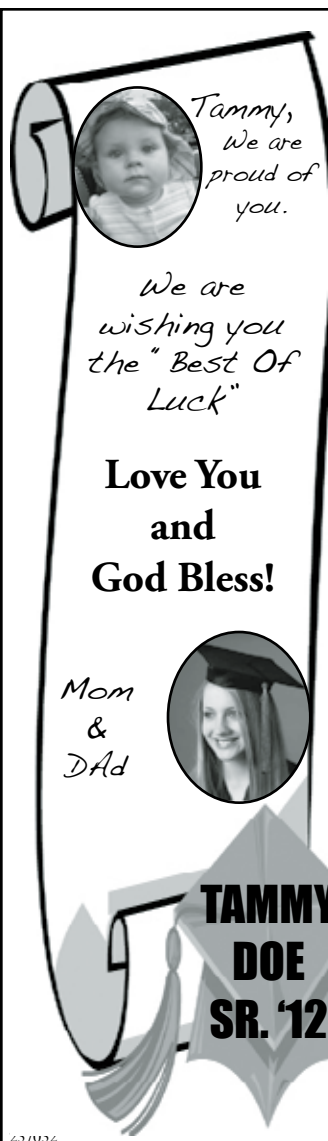
Great Falls Police Sgt. Chris Hickman said Tuesday that the task force and federal drug authorities are still investigating the Florida source of the packages that Leaf received through the mail. The task force also is reviewing data downloaded from the GPS device in Leaf's truck to determine if Leaf drove to other sites where there were burglaries.

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.

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

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Tammy,
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Mom & Dad

TAMMY DOE SR. '12

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Partnership Cooperation

East dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 10 9 8
♥ 10
♦ A Q 10 7 3 2
♣ K 10 6

WEST
♠ Q 4
♥ K Q J 8 7 5
♦ —
♣ Q 9 8 7 4

EAST
♠ K J 2
♥ A 9 4 3
♦ 9 8 6 5
♣ 5 2

SOUTH
♠ A 7 6 5 3
♥ 6 2
♦ K J 4
♣ A J 3

The bidding:
East Pass 1♠ South 2♣ West 4♣ North 4♣
Opening lead — jack of hearts.

Considering the vocabulary of bidding consists of only 15 words — the four suits, the numbers one to seven and the words "notrump," "double," "redouble" and "pass" — one would think that it is a near impossibility to accurately describe one's holding to partner in the majority of deals. Nevertheless, a good pair, by making careful use of this limited vocabulary, will reach the best contract the great majority of the time.

Similarly, this same good pair, utilizing the same sort of inferential reasoning that is available in the bidding, will usually excel on defense.

For a good example of how careful defenders guide each other during the play, consider this deal where declarer got to four spades on the bidding shown. South's spade bid had guaranteed a five-card suit, and West's two-spade bid had conventionally guaranteed at least five hearts as well as five or more cards in one of the minors.


West started his side on the right path when he made the abnormal lead of the jack of hearts instead of the king. It was immediately obvious to East, after dummy appeared, that the jack-of-hearts lead was not the top card of a sequence and that his partner was trying to deliver a special message of some sort.

It did not take East long to decipher the message. He won the jack of hearts with the ace and shifted to a diamond at trick two! West ruffed, and the defenders later scored two trump tricks to put the contract down one.

But if West had led the king of hearts originally, or if East had not been alert to the meaning and purpose of his partner's offbeat opening lead, declarer almost surely would have lost only two trumps and a heart and would have made four spades.

Tomorrow: The pessimistic approach.
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In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



The Mother Road

Once the primary path for westward migration across the United States, Route 66 today is a destination in itself, drawing travelers in search of a nostalgic view of roadside America.

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Sandusky asks judge to postpone June trial date

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Jerry Sandusky's lawyer on Wednesday sought to delay the former Penn State assistant football coach's child sex-abuse trial, saying he needed more time to prepare and that he was still waiting for disclosure of prosecution material.

Defense attorney Joe Amendola argued in a 13-page motion that without more time, he was worried he would be "unable to effectively and adequately" represent Sandusky. Amendola said he was still waiting for material from prosecutors.

The request comes a month before Judge John Cleland and the attorneys were set to pick jurors in Centre County to hear the case. Cleland has said before that he was reluctant to postpone the trial.

It wasn't clear if Cleland could rule on the motion during a hearing set for Wednesday at the Centre County Courthouse in Bellefonte.

That hearing was to focus on the disputes remaining between

Amendola and prosecutors about turning over evidence before the June trial.

The other major topic expected to be addressed before Cleland is the use of defense subpoenas, as school districts and government agencies have asked him to throw them out.

Challenges to defense subpoenas have been filed by three central Pennsylvania school districts, the Clinton County and Centre County child welfare agencies, Juniata College, and the state departments of Labor and Industry, Public Welfare and Corrections.

It's not clear how many pretrial discovery conflicts still exist between the attorney general's office and Sandusky's attorneys. Prosecutors on Monday filed a court document telling Cleland that much of the material sought by Sandusky has already been provided and that dozens of other requests are not subject to mandatory disclosure.

Sandusky, 68, is confined to his State College home to await

the June 5 start of his trial on 52 criminal counts involving 10 boys over 15 years. Sandusky has denied the allegations.

The charges against Sandusky concern his relationships with boys he met through his charity for at-risk kids, The Second Mile, between 1994 and 2008.

Prosecutors allege Sandusky groomed the boys for sexual abuse, offering gifts and access to the team in addition to companionship.

At least some of the alleged abuse happened in the Penn State football team's facilities, prosecutors said. One of the alleged attacks was witnessed by former receivers coach Mike McQueary, then a graduate assistant.

The ensuing scandal led to the firing of Hall of Fame football coach Joe Paterno and the ouster of university President Graham Spanier. Two other university officials are charged with failing to report suspected abuse and perjury related to their grand jury testimony.

A&M club to hold 3rd Annual Ol' Sarge Shootout

The Howard County A&M Club will be holding its 3rd Annual Ol' Sarge Shootout — a clay target shooting fundraiser which helps the club provide funds for scholarships for local graduating students who are accepted for enrollment at Texas A&M.

The venue will be Windwalker Farms, located at 2551 County Rd. 2801 in Stanton.

Teams will consist of six shooters each, and the cost per marksmen will be \$160.

Fees will include registration, lunch and prizes. Mulligans are available for \$20 apiece.

The Annie Oakley competition will be held at 9 a.m., registration for the shoot will begin at 11 a.m. Followed by lunch at noon. The shooting is slated for 1 p.m.

For more information, call Kelly Gaskins at (432) 517-0471 or Harrell Newton at (817) 368-8226.

SPURS

Continued on Page 4B

crack at advancing Wednesday. If Memphis hangs on to the brink, the Spurs may not host Game 1 until next Tuesday.

Here's what the Spurs can reflect upon in the meantime: They haven't lost since April 9, and since then, they're winning by an average margin of 17 points. The NBA's running punch line for being too old and frail — a worn-out joke that's now a misnomer, really — is now one of only six teams since 1986 to maintain an overall winning streak this long in the playoffs.

It's almost enough to make the Spurs feel confident returning to the second round, particularly after not even surviving the first last year despite being the No. 1 seed then, too.

Almost enough, anyway.

"As usual," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said about the next series, "scared to death."

Popovich knows history is maybe the only thing the Spurs don't have going for them. As invincible as San Antonio has looked for the past month, Popovich has helmed an even hotter team in the post-season — only to lose in the West semifinals, exactly where these Spurs are headed next.

That was in 2004, when the Spurs finished the regular season on an 11-game tear, followed by six mostly blow-out wins to start the playoffs. But that 17-game winning streak came to a screeching halt by Game 3 of the second round against the Lakers, who won the next four on their way to the NBA finals.

Just as they remain eight years later, Duncan, Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili were all the leading scorers on that 2004 team. Ginobili, at the time, was left afterward sorting out the difference between "failure and disappointment."

After closing out the Jazz 87-81 on Monday — only the third time in the past month the Spurs haven't won by double-digits — Ginobili struck a tone of cautious optimism.

"We had great additions late in the season to make us even better. Our defense is slowly improving," Ginobili said. "I think we are a little better, but the league is so tough. Anybody can beat the other team."

Few know that better than the Spurs. Blowing out Utah helped them exorcise any lingering demons from Memphis stomping out their 61-win season in the first round last year. Proclaiming the demise of the four-time champion Spurs has become a tradition since their last title in 2007, and the death rattle never sounded louder than following that humbling exit to the Grizzlies.

Whether the next round brings a rematch with Memphis or a date with the Clippers, the Spurs were a combined 7-1 this season against both. The only loss was to the Clippers at home in March, when Parker didn't play because of a sore thigh.

No injuries are shackling the Spurs this time.

No guarantees, either.

"We didn't accomplish anything. We just passed the first round," Parker said. "We can be happy, but tomorrow is a new day, and it's going to be even harder."



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sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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Lost and Found

FOUND FEMALE Dog in Denny's Parking lot. White with black spots. Call 713-447-5082 to claim.

REWARD- LOST Male Black/White Boston Terrier. White Head, two blue eyes, DEAF!! If seen please contact (432)466-3559.

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FREE KITTENS: Male tuxedos black with white paws, tummies, and noses. First shots. Extremely sweet! Call or text (432)934-7938.



This link www.petfinder.com connects people to pets up for adoption from the Big Spring Animal Control (432)264-2372.

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34-1/2 ACRES near country club. Good water well, bordered by 3 sides Morgan Ranch. Good deer hunting. \$105,000.00 For more info contact: sandysmith15@earthlink.net

4203 THEO \$149,995. 3/2 split bedrooms. Updated designer interior. New paint, oil-rubbed bronze fixtures, tile, carpet, countertops. Sprinkler system. Visit 4203theo.com for more details.

BY OWNER/ No Owner Finance. 1202 Buena Vista. 3 Bdrm, 2 bath, 2 car garage, shop, 1 acre of land. Coahoma ISD. Call 432-413-7400. www.forsalebyowner.com

GALVAN'S CAFE- S. Hwy. 87 almost 4 acres. Call Ellen Phillips Realtors Odilia Granados @ (432)213-0674.

OWNER FINANCE, 3225 Auburn, 3 bdr/1bath, CH/A, new carpet, fenced yard, asking 62,500.00, call 325-277-4923.

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Sasha
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Available for adoption until May 10.



Theodore
This little guy loves attention. He is a small, young, male Chihuahua mix who is sweet and playful.
Available for adoption until May 16.

For more information on how to bring home one these or other furry friends, call the Big Spring Animal Shelter

432-264-2372.

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Legals

Notice of Application for Fluid Injection Well Permit Shenandoah Petroleum Corporation, 24 Smith Road, Suite 601, Midland, TX 79705 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is not productive of oil and gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the San Andres, Golden Bend 34 Lease, Well Number 3. The proposed injection well is located 4 miles SE of Vealmoor, in the Vealmoor Field, in Howard County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 3420 to 3854 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 Rule 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). #7376 May 9, 2012

Tomorrow's Horoscope

It's an excellent time to tackle what you would have procrastinated just yesterday. The Capricorn moon likes to get things done with as little fuss, resistance or drama as possible. This moon lends just enough emotional control for maximum efficiency, but not enough to make life boring.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Life becomes more precious and beautiful to you when you're around a certain someone. This is mainly because being around this person heightens your awareness and makes you slow down and tune in.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You have the solution to your problem. This is hard to believe in the moments when you lack self-confidence or feel stuck or oppressed. Cultivate faith and optimism. It will help you move through the valleys and find answers.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). At this point, life seems so uncertain that you don't even want to set goals. Take a break. Relax and rejuvenate. Everything will feel more joyful when you do.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). In a sense, you are "shopping" for new alliances today. Whether what you need most is a friend, a business partner or a romance, be sure to choose the person, not the credentials.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You have ideas, and now they are stringing themselves together in your head to formulate an improved vision of the future. You could be the one to open a new heaven for your loved ones.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Wanting something to be finished will not make it so. You're well aware of the steps involved, though making yourself go through them will be a challenge. Give yourself some incentive.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The written word will be your most powerful form of communication. So wherever possible, put your ideas down in writing. People need to remember your words and attribute them to you. Write on!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Stand back, take a breath, and see your situation anew. Are you handing someone power that rightfully belongs to you? Your self-respect is a renewable resource. You may have given a little of it away, but you can get it back.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A relationship is forming. You can't quite frame it in your mind at this point, but ideas and feelings are coming together, and by the end of the week, you'll have a clear picture of what you want to do next.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have influence, but you won't know about it unless you take action. Make a move. Suddenly, someone follows your lead, and then another, and another.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). What you say in a group will matter immensely. The compliments you give people in public will mean more than the ones you give privately. Singing a loved one's praises publicly is a good way to build relationship points.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your goals are doable. What you want is very much in line with all that is possible for you. Still, you need to streamline your efforts. Cut out the fat. Make every attempt to be lean and mean in your approach.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 9). You have amazing powers of visualization. You'll paint your ideal world in words and images and then take steps to make it real. You'll network and put together a lucrative deal over the next seven weeks. A turn of events gives you an unexpected advantage in June. November brings a journey that's good for your family. Pisces and Virgo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 14, 39, 1 and 18.

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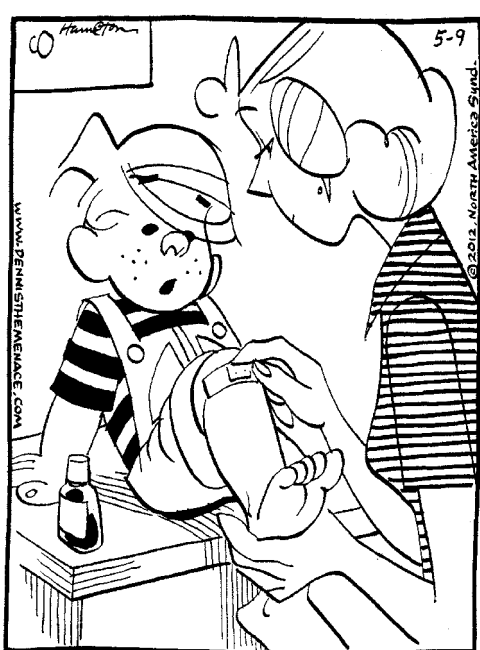
UNSUITABLE ROCK STRATUM OR "FLOATER"

CLAY

LOAD-BEARING ROCK STRATUM

	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM	News ABC	La Mujer Notic.	Two Men CBS	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News News	King King	Swallow House	Charlie Rose	King King	American Guns	CSI: Miami	Auction	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Shake It Good	NFL32	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Una Familia con Suerte (SS)	Big Bang American Idol	News Ent	Caso Cerrado	News Millionaire	Seinfeld	Dr. Diana CCM	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld	American Guns	CSI: Miami	Auction	Law & Order	Movie: Johnson Family Vacation	Wizards	NFL Live	MLB Baseball: Teams TBA.
7:PM	Middle Suburg.	Abismo de Pasión		Survivor: One World	Una Maid en	BFF	Fam. Guy	Upd	Nature (DVS)	Top Model	American Guns	Movie: Die Hard With a Vengeance, Samuel L. Jackson	Auction	NBA Basketball: Playoffs, First Round: Teams TBA.	Jessie	SEC Storied		
8:PM	Mod Fam			Criminal Minds	Corazón Valiente	Rock Center	Fam. Guy	Light of the Southwest	NOVA (DVS)	Top Model	American Guns	Auction	Am Dig	NBA Basketball: Playoffs, First Round: Teams TBA.	Movie: Soul Men, Sharon Leal	Fish	NFL Live	Baseball Tonight
9:PM	Revenge	La Que No	Simpsons How I Met	CSI: Crime Scene	Relaciones Peli	Law & Order: SVU	Big Bang	Conan	McGee	L. Moore	Auction	Am Dig	NBA Basketball: Playoffs, First Round: Teams TBA.	Jessie	SportsNation	SportsCenter		
10:PM	News Nightline	Impacto	How I Met	News Letterman	Noticias Sin Senos no	News Jay Leno		Office	Yohanan	World	Auction	Am Dig	NBA Basketball: Playoffs, First Round: Teams TBA.	Wendy Williams	Wizards	Baseball Tonight	SportsCenter	
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Hasta-Dinero	Law Order: CI	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Conan	Office	Dr. Denis	T. Smiley	Auction	Am Dig	NBA Basketball: Playoffs, First Round: Teams TBA.	Movie: Soul Men, Sharon Leal	Wizards	NASCAR	SportsCenter	
12:AM	Extra	Mañana-Siempre	Raymond Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	News		Light.	Wretched L. Tripp	American Guns	Movie: The Birdcage, Nathan Lane	Repo	Franklin & Bash	Random	E:60	SportsCenter		
1:AM	Paid	Par Ases	TMZ	Paid	Paid	Paid												

DENNIS THE MENACE



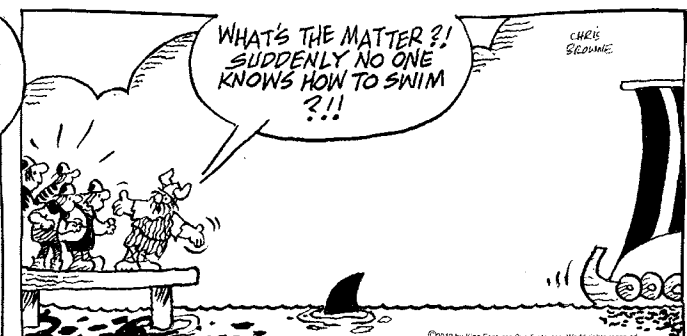
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



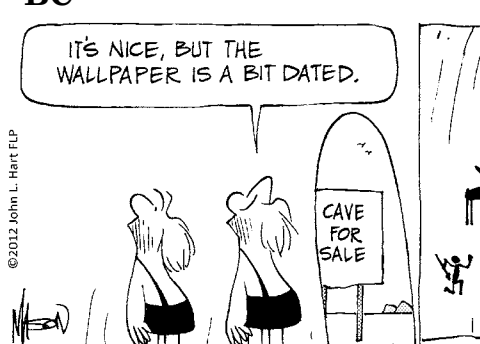
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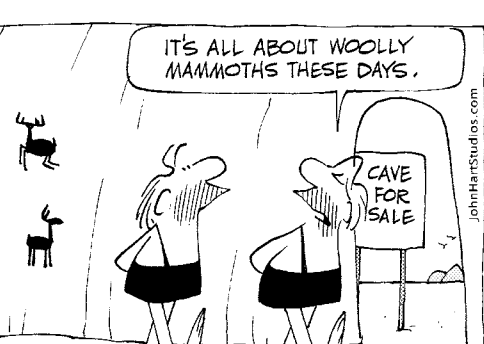
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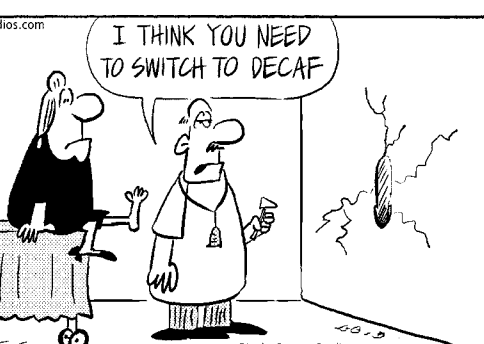
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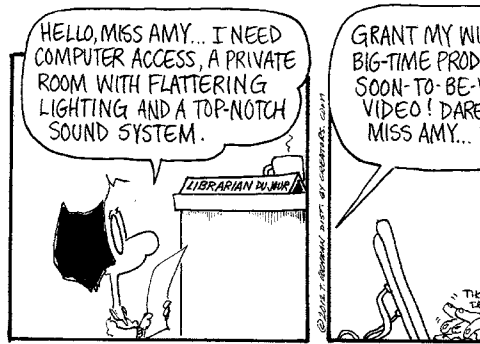
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HI AND LOIS



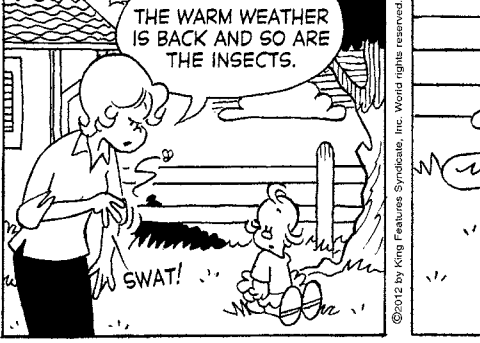
THE OTHER COAST



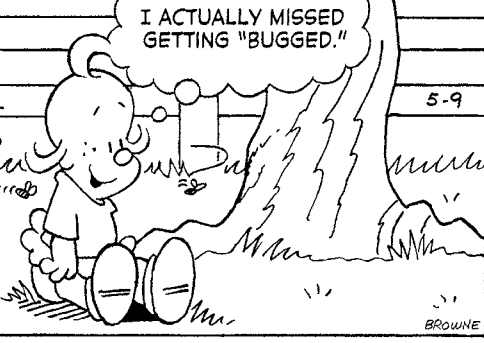
SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



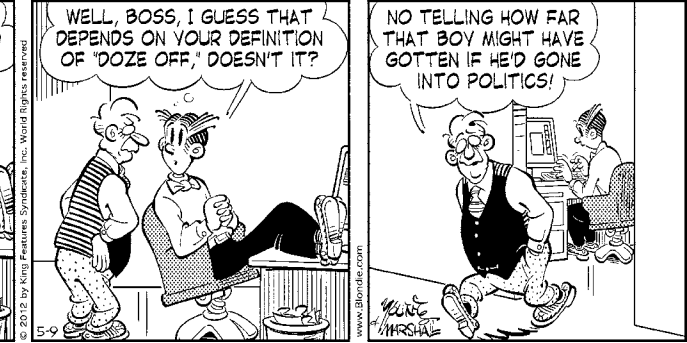
MEMO TO ME



BUMSTEAD, DID YOU DOZE OFF AT YOUR DESK AGAIN?!



WELL, BOSS, I GUESS THAT DEPENDS ON YOUR DEFINITION OF 'DOZE OFF,' DOESN'T IT?



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, May 9, the 130th day of 2012. There are 236 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 9, 1712, the Carolina Colony was officially divided into two entities: North Carolina and South Carolina.

On this date:

In 1754, a cartoon in Benjamin Franklin's Pennsylvania Gazette showed a snake cut in pieces, with each part representing an American colony; the caption read, "JOIN, or DIE."

In 1883, Spanish philosopher Jose Ortega y Gasset was born in Madrid.

In 1936, Italy annexed Ethiopia.

In 1945, U.S. officials announced that a midnight entertainment curfew was being lifted immediately.

In 1951, the U.S. conducted its first thermonuclear experiment as part of Operation Greenhouse by detonating a

225-kiloton device on Enewetak Atoll in the Pacific nicknamed "George."

In 1961, in a speech to the National Association of Broadcasters, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Newton N. Minow decried the majority of television programming as a "vast wasteland."

In 1962, scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology succeeded in reflecting a laser beam off the surface of the moon. Italian movie director Federico Fellini began filming "8 1/2," his art house classic about a movie director struggling to make a movie.

In 1974, the House Judiciary Committee opened public hearings on whether to recommend the impeachment of President Richard Nixon.

In 1978, the bullet-riddled body of former Italian prime minister Aldo Moro, who'd been abducted by the Red Brigades, was found in an automobile in the center of Rome.

In 1980, 35 people were killed when a freighter rammaged the Sunshine Skyway Bridge over Tampa Bay in Florida, causing a 1,400-foot section of the south-

bound span to collapse.

In 1982, the musical "Nine," inspired by the Fellini film "8 1/2" opened on Broadway.

In 1987, 183 people were killed when a New York-bound Polish jetliner crashed while attempting an emergency return to Warsaw.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Geraldine McEwan is 80. Actor-writer Alan Bennett is 78. Rock musician Nokie Edwards (The Ventures) is 77. Actor Albert Finney is 76. Actress-turned-politician Glenda Jackson is 76. Producer-director James L. Brooks is 75. Musician Sonny Curtis (Buddy Holly and the Crickets) is 75. Singer Tommy Roe is 70. Singer-musician Richie Furay (Buffalo Springfield and Poco) is 68.

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Answer to previous puzzle

SCAM	NOGS	SCRAM
LAME	AARP	THEME
ERIN	TRIO	RIDER
EGG	CHINO	ALONE
TOOTH	HAND	TAIL
HANG	FIN	BAH
SCARF	BUD	LIMO
OUTOF	WHOLE	CLOTH
FLOW	HAY	LASSO
ATM	SON	CRAM
READ	THE	PAPER
APRON	SEALS	AXE
BEAUS	OMNI	PUPS
LATTE	AMPS	ISEE
ESSES	POSH	PELT

Newsday Crossword

IN THE GARAGE by David W. Cromer Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS
- 1 Camera part
 - 5 Demolish
 - 10 Sculpted head
 - 14 Touched down
 - 15 Country home
 - 16 Ancient Peruvian
 - 17 Spillane's private eye
 - 19 Thailand's former name
 - 20 Make amends
 - 21 Upholstered furniture
 - 22 Ripped up
 - 23 Spanish gentlemen
 - 25 Unyielding
 - 27 Web page ad
 - 30 '70s TV detective
 - 33 ___ Romeo (imported car)
 - 36 Like a clock with hands
 - 39 Poetic pugilist
 - 40 Hotel employee
 - 41 Upholstered furniture
 - 42 Edinburgh native
 - 43 WWII-era leader
 - 44 Can't stand
 - 45 ___ out (barely manages)
 - 46 Dismissive shout
 - 48 Merchant's booth
 - 50 Minor fender flaws
 - 53 Enter a parking space
 - 57 Grp. for those 50+
 - 59 Word of regret
 - 62 Trailblazer Daniel
- DOWN
- 63 Staple alternative
 - 64 Cook's reference
 - 66 Maui, for one
 - 67 Sleeper-car slot
 - 68 Mr. Flintstone
 - 69 Parcel (out)
 - 70 War horse
 - 71 Establishes, with "up"
 - 9 Gold measure
 - 10 Informal eatery
 - 11 United Kingdom flag
 - 12 Lasting mark
 - 13 Domesticated
 - 18 Elongated lunch
 - 24 Garden tool
 - 26 Stress test readout: Abbr.
 - 28 Part of BTU
 - 29 Finishes a driveway
 - 31 Soothing application
 - 32 Model maker's buys
 - 33 Two-band radio switch
 - 34 Lord's spouse
 - 35 Grade-school ritual
 - 37 Following everyone
 - 38 Ready to serve
 - 42 Stock market declines
 - 44 Cub Scout group
 - 47 "Hurray!"
 - 49 Car maintenance job
 - 51 Modes of dress
 - 52 Winter weather
 - 54 France's longest river
 - 55 Arm of the sea
 - 56 Cries out for
 - 57 Corrosive chemical
 - 58 Furthermore
 - 60 Farmland measure
 - 61 Location
 - 65 Prof.'s degree, often

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