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# H BIG SPRING HERALD

**THURSDAY**

JUNE 21, 2012



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## Local man pleads to sex abuse

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
 Staff Writer

A Big Spring man pleaded guilty to a charge of sexual abuse of a child (continuous) – age 14 years or less in Collins County last week, with sentencing in the case slated for Aug. 9, according to court records.

Michael Dale Hodnett, 48, formerly of Farmersville, Texas, and currently residing at 301 W. Robinson, was arrested July 13, 2010, by the Howard County Sheriff's Office on a Collin County warrant for aggravated sexual assault of a child.

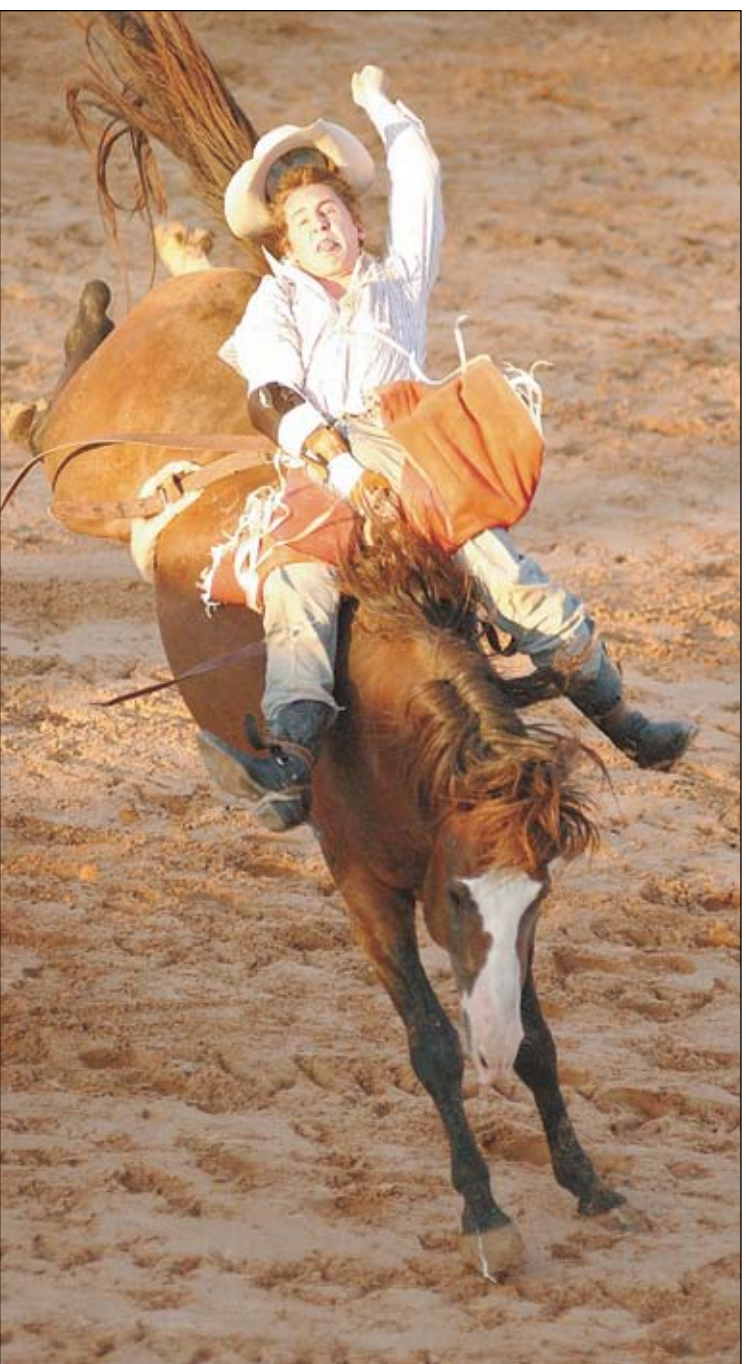
Hodnett was indicted by a Collins County grand jury Oct. 28, 2010, on one count of sexual abuse of a child (continuous) – age 14 years or less and released on \$50,000 bond.

A jury trial in the case was scheduled to begin Monday morning in 401st District Court in McKinney, Texas, however, a guilty plea was entered by Hodnett and his attorney, Donna Winfield, on June 14.

According to court documents, sentencing in the case is slated for Aug. 9 in McKinney, with Hodnett required to wear an electronic leg monitoring device until then.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232.

## YEE HAW!



HERALD file photo  
**The 79th Big Spring Reunion and Rodeo begins at 8 p.m. this evening at the Rodeo Bowl. Performances are at 8 nightly (gates open at 7) through Saturday.**

## New Coahoma principal hails from Eastland

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
 Staff Writer

COAHOMA — School district officials here have filled one administrator position and are zeroing in on filling another.

Coahoma Independent School District Superintendent Amy Jacobs said today that Brett Ramsey, who has been middle school principal at Eastland ISD the past five years, has been hired to be the new principal at Ethridge Junior High School.



Ramsey

Ramsey succeeds Ted Hallford, who served as junior high school principal for one year.

Jacobs was enthusiastic about Ramsey's hiring.

"He understands the challenges students and faculty are faced with in light of the new (state) assessments," Jacobs said.

"He has a very basic approach to working with faculty, students and community, and he understands the value each of those brings to a

school district." Ramsey was selected from among 30 applicants for the position, Jacobs said.

Hallford was one of eight educators provided to CISD by the educational consulting firm JR3. CISD paid JR3 a contracting fee, and in return the firm provided salary and benefits to the educators.

Coahoma trustees voted earlier this year to terminate the district's contract with the firm, Jacobs said.

The other CISD administrator vacancy — principal at the elementary campus — is being expanded to include assistant superintendent duties.

Patricia Bennett, the long-time elementary principal, retired in 2011, then returned for another year as a JR3 employee, Jacobs said.

The district has received "numerous" applicants for the principal/assistant superintendent position, Jacobs said, adding she is hopeful the vacancy will be filled sometime in July.

Contact Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at [reporter@bigspringherald.com](mailto:reporter@bigspringherald.com)



## Chill and Grill this weekend

By **AMANDA MORENO**  
 Staff Writer

This weekend, C&D Truck Accessories will host an opportunity for Crossroads residents to enjoy food and cars.

The 1st West Texas Chill and Grill is scheduled from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. Saturday at C&D Truck, located at 2706 N. Highway 87.

"We just wanted to bring

something different to town," Casey Henry, event organizer, said. "This is still kind of a learning process, but we want to encourage everyone to come out and have fun."

There will be an opportunity to take part or just view the car show accompanying the barbecue. Admission to the event, as well as the entry fee to take part in the car show, is a canned food or non-perishable item.

"This is a way for us to help out Isaiah 58 and gather a donation for them," Henry said of the non-profit organization which helps the needy.

For more information or to let Henry know you will be taking part in the car show, call 263-3600.

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

## Amateur radio club to take part in Field Day Saturday

By **AMANDA MORENO**  
 Staff Writer

This is a test ... only a test.

The Big Spring Amateur Radio Club will be taking part in the ARRL (American Radio Relay League) Field Day from 1 p.m. Saturday to 1 p.m. Sunday. The event will take place at the clubhouse, located across from Johan-

sen's Nursery on South U.S. Highway 87.

Field Day is an annual event involving amateur radio operators — more than 35,000 — across the United States and Canada. According to the ARRL website, in 2011 more than 1.4 million radio contacts were made between amateur radio operators during field day week-

end. "This is the most popular on-air day," Brad Hyde, president of the local amateur radio club, said.

"For 24 hours we will try and make as many connects as we can across the U.S. and Canada."

According to Hyde, the

See **RADIO**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno  
**A century plant grows in a local resident's yard at 14th and Johnson. The plant has reached the same height as the light poles.**

**INDEX**

Comics	11
Classified	9-10
Briefs	5
Obituaries	2
Opinion	4
Sports	7,12

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Courtesy photo

Members of the Big Spring Amateur Radio Club show off their clubhouse, located off U.S. Highway 87 across from Johansen's Nursery. The club will be taking part in the ARRL Field Day Saturday.

**RADIO**

Continued from Page 1

radio operators will be working off battery power, just as they would have to in the case of an emergency. The main objective is to check and ensure the equipment is working properly in case an emergency should arise.

"There are a lot of people in the community who don't know we have emergency services available," Hyde said. "Emergency service radio operation isn't the only thing we do either; we are also involved in storm chasing.

We are the eyes and the ears for the national radar service."

The club has been active in Big Spring since 1967. There is a repeater in the area with a range of 100 miles that serves the radio club. On top of a recent building remodel, a new radio tower was also installed this past weekend.

"This is a great chance for the community to come out and see us operating the equipment," he said. "The important thing about this weekend is we will have a chance to test our equipment. After all we don't want to get into a time of emergency and then realize it's not working."

In addition to the annual Field Day, Texas Gov. Rick Perry declared June 18-24 as Amateur Radio Week.

To find out more about becoming a member of the local amateur radio club or for more information, send an email to w5bk@live.com or stop by the event Saturday.

Meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the club house.

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

**► Something different**

**Minn. woman finds \$5,000 ring in secondhand pants**

HAM LAKE, Minn. (AP) — A Minnesota woman has found a diamond ring worth at least \$5,000 in a pair of secondhand pants, but says she can't bring herself to keep it.

Deb Thompson of Ham Lake, Minn., is working with Goodwill to try to find the ring's original owner.

The 53-year-old bought the pants for \$3.99 Monday at a Goodwill store in Coon Rapids. She says when she found the ring in the pocket, all she could think was, "Wow."

A jeweler estimates the ring is worth between \$5,000 and \$6,500.

Thompson says she can't keep the ring. She tells KSTP-TV she wants to find the owner so she can hear the story of how the ring got there.

Goodwill spokeswoman Lisa Ritter says the owner still hadn't been identified as of Thursday.

June 8. Becky Kosalec lives in Shaler Township, another Pittsburgh suburb a few miles from West Deer, where both of her sisters live.

Kristi sums it up by saying, "Everyone's here, and everyone's healthy. It's a blessing."

**Hacked sign warns of zombies**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — A hacked road sign in Louisville instructed motorists to "honk if you're horny" and "beware of zombies," prompting the city's public works department to investigate who was changing the messages on the electronic message board.

Lindsay English, a spokeswoman for the Metro Public Works and Assets, told The Courier-Journal the sign on Brownsboro Road was hacked twice on Tuesday and Wednesday.

She said the signs are operated through a subcontractor, SafetyCo., which was investigating how the electronic signs were reprogrammed. The signs are password-protected and were changed as soon as the city was notified.

**Utah officer fired for wearing Speedo reinstated**

PROVO, Utah (AP) — A Utah police officer fired for dropping his pants and flaunting a green Speedo during a "Princess and the Frog" skit at a school is getting his job back.

Cody Harris filed an appeal after he was dismissed from his position as a Provo school resource officer in May. The Provo Civil Service Commission decided Wednesday that Harris should be reinstated.

Provo police said in an email that the department still backs its initial decision to fire Harris, but it will honor the commission's decision.

Harris was dismissed after Provo police said he removed his pants to

**Around the Area**

**'Anything Goes' in Alpine**

Friday marks the opening week for the 47th season of the Theatre of the Big Bend in Alpine, Texas.

Cole Porter's "Anything Goes" will play three weekends through Sunday, July 8 with a special holiday performance Thursday, July 5. Set on a New York to London-bound luxury liner in the 1930s, "Anything Goes" promises to be a fun-filled evening with vaudeville-style antics and gags and includes classic songs such as "You're the Top," "I Get a Kick Out of You" and "Anything Goes." The Theatre of the Big Bend's summer musical is directed by Gregory M. Schwab and choreographed by Dona W. Roman with musical direction by Donald Callen Freed and Chris Dobbins. Performances are at 8:15 p.m. June 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, July 1, 5, 7, and 8. Tickets are \$9 for general admission; \$7 for seniors and children. Tickets are on sale now by calling 800-722-SRSU or visiting online at www.sulross.edu/theatre.

**'Fiddler' opens in Odessa**

The Permian Playhouse in Odessa the classic musical "Fiddler on the Roof" beginning Friday, at 8 p.m. Featuring Carl Moore as Tevye, the show will be onstage Friday and Saturday nights and 2:30 p.m. Sundays through July 8. Tickets are \$14 for adults, \$12 for seniors and students and \$7 for children 12 and under. Tickets can be purchased by calling 432-550-5456, or online at www.permianplayhouse.com. A complimentary reception featuring assorted food and drink will be held opening night. The Permian Playhouse is located at 310 W. 42nd in Odessa.

**Flower Grove reunion**

The Flower Grove Reunion Committee has set its reunion for July 7 in the Lamesa High School student center, located in the 600 block of N. 14th.

Registration will begin at 10 a.m. and a catered meal will be served at 1 p.m. Cost will be \$12 per person. Pay at the door.

The Flower Grove School opened in 1922. Any student, teacher, school board member and staff who attended Flower Grove at any time is encouraged to attend and bring friends and family. For more information on the reunion, contact Lawana Webb at 806-462-7475.

**Inmates to test new locks at jail**

ATLANTA (AP) — Jailers in Atlanta have a challenge for inmates: Get past the new locks being tested on cell doors and win free food.

Officials have been trying to figure out what to do about hundreds of locks which can be jammed at the Fulton County Jail, allowing inmates to get to each other.

Fulton County's chief jailer, Col. Mark Adger, tells WSB-TV he's offering free food for any inmate who can defeat the new locks being tested in one cell block.

Adger says jailers are choosing experienced lock beaters, to try to beat the new locks.

County Commissioner Tom Lowe has said the lock issue has been blown out of proportion, but others say it puts inmates at risk of being attacked by other prisoners.

**3 Pa. sisters give birth in 10 days; 2 on same day**

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Lauren Kosalec just gave birth four weeks early, but circumstances suggest the western Pennsylvania woman's delivery was right on time.

That's because the 26-year-old West Deer Township woman gave birth to a son on Monday, just a few hours after her sister, 30-year-old Kristi Mellinger, gave birth to a daughter during a scheduled C-section. Both gave birth at Magee-Women's Hospital in Pittsburgh.

The births came 10 days after a third sister, 28-year-old Becky Kosalec, gave birth to a girl on

show off the Speedo-style suit and made inappropriate gestures and comments while a group of female students were nearby.

Harris will receive training to work in the patrol division.

**Alaska man gets stuck in tree**

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (AP) — An Alaska man had to be rescued after he climbed a tree for exercise but got stuck upside down by one leg.

Fairbanks firefighters had to use a ladder truck to reach the 53-year-old man, who was dangling nearly 30 feet off the ground. He was uninjured.

Assistant Fire Chief Ernie Misewicz said the man decided to climb the tree because "it was something he wanted to do."

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Olivia Gonzales, 64, died Tuesday. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

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

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**AN ENCOURAGING WORD**

By Eddy Pitchford

We learn a very important lesson in Acts 8:22-24. Simon, a baptized believer (verse 13) tried to buy the power to give The Holy Spirit to people. He was sharply rebuked by the apostle Peter, who said, "May your silver perish with you because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity."

From this text, baptized believers (Christians) learn what to do when their heart is not right before God: *Repent and pray!*

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# EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

<b>Bill McClellan</b> Managing Editor	<b>Brian McCormack</b> Sports Editor	<b>Steve Reagan</b> Staff Writer
<b>Amanda Moreno</b> Staff Writer	<b>Thomas Jenkins</b> Staff Writer	

## Magician-in-Chief

Our long national nightmare is over. Mitt Romney has won the Republican nomination for president. Let the etch-a-sketching begin.

Romney was officially put over the top by the Texas primary last month, although in truth his victory had been a foregone conclusion ever since Rick Santorum (remember him?) packed it in weeks before.

His task now is to persuade moderates and independents that he's not as crazy as he's sounded so far, while simultaneously convincing the Republican right wing that he is. It's not an easy task, but it's one he's well suited to.

Pick your issue — health care, abortion, gay rights, immigration, gun control, Planned Parenthood, Libya — and at one time or another Romney has been on two sides of it. Sometimes three.

It's likely, however, that he'll try to finesse the question of what he's for in favor of attacking the incumbent. President Barack Obama just can't seem to do anything right, according to Mitt. He's too soft on Russia and China, too hard on Israel, too mean to business, and too nice to unions. Romney admits the economy is getting better, but he thinks that's despite Obama's policies rather than because of them.

"Obamacare" is a terrible idea. Romney would get rid of it on "Day One" of his presidency. Oh yes, he would also cut the deficit and lower the price of gas, all the while spending more on the military without raising taxes.

In other words, Romney isn't running for president. He's running for Magician-in-Chief.

So far it seems to be working pretty well for him. He's nearly even with Obama in the polls and the election is five months away. Anything can happen.

I must admit, I don't quite get it. The Republican Party has turned its back on immigrants, gays, blacks, Latinos, unions, and women.

Who's left? Most white guys, I suppose. Homophobes, women threatened by feminism, people who don't believe in the separation of church and state, and those who don't believe in evolution or global warming. Rich people.

It puts me in mind of the passage from Huckleberry Finn where one con man says to the other:

"Hain't we got all the fools in town on our side? And ain't that a big enough majority in any town?"

I suppose both candidates will, at some point or other, announce that this is the most important election of our lifetime. Presidential candidates always say that.

It's not. Campaign rhetoric always overstates the power of the president, who is hostage to events beyond his control.

If the European Union goes down, for example, we go down with it, regardless of who's residing in the White House.

And that doesn't even factor in the dangers of Marxism embraced by Republicans in Congress. I mean the philosophy Groucho espoused, of course.

Our Republican legislators resemble nothing so much as the faculty of Huxley College in the 1932 Marx brothers film *Horse Feathers*.

The opening scene features Groucho Marx as Quincy Adams Wagstaff, the school's newly installed president, bouncing around in his academic robes singing:

I don't know what they have to say, It makes no difference anyway — Whatever it is, I'm against it! No matter what it is or who commenced it, I'm against it.

Your proposition may be good, but let's have one thing understood — whatever it is, I'm against it! And even when you've changed it or condensed it, I'm against it.

Now we know where Mitch McConnell and John Boehner get their material.

This could be an historic election if the electorate were to rise up and throw the Republicans out into the middle of the street, but I can't see it happening.

And even then, we'd still be left with Democrats, who look good only when compared to Republicans.

The election is less than five months away. A new nightmare begins.

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

## Seem to be losing my tech edge

It may very well be only a matter of time before I'm calling my daughter and asking her to come over to set the clock on my VCR.

OK, so there are a huge number of timeline inconsistencies with that opening statement, so before you pick up the phone or e-mail me to let me know I've officially gone off the proverbial reservation, hear me out.

First of all, I don't even own a VCR anymore. I'm pretty sure I chucked out the last of the "just in case" units hiding in the back of my closet quite a few years ago, a rather shining inconsistency considering I still have about a half-dozen milk crates full of VCR tapes and movies in my garage.

I get greeted by the visage of Steven Seagal from the cover of my copy of "On Deadly Ground" every time I walk in my laundry room and the door is open at just the right angle. Hey, it could be worse.

Another timeline faux pas would be me calling my daughter to come over since she's 12 and still lives with me. Bear in mind, I'm well aware of just how close we're getting to 16, at which time the roads of Big Spring — and quite possibly Texas as a whole — will no longer be safe. I wake up screaming often enough, but we're still a few years away.

The biggest oddity, however, would be me asking my daughter — or anyone else, for that matter — for help with technol-

ogy. I've been a gadget geek since I was a kid. My mother will back me up on this one, mainly because she eventually found just about every piece of electronics I owned as a kid in a shoe box in the top of my closet, all of its parts neatly separated and marked.

My first computer? A Texas Instruments TI-994A. You remember those, right? The ones where the computer was basically built into the keyboard — or maybe it was vice-versa — and you hooked it up to your television set. I spent hours upon hours learning BASIC (Beginner's All Purpose Symbolic Instruction Code), a computer language that would basically become outdated a couple of years after I mastered it.

Then came the Internet. I was all over that, let me tell ya'. Learning the ins and outs of information technology and how it was moved from one place to the next, encrypted then decrypted. Yes, those were the glory days.

Most recently, I began working more with my smartphone than my PC, however. It's nothing short of amazing what hurdles have been overcome in computing these last 10 years, as the computers in our pockets begin to surpass those on our desktops, with much of that credit going to the use of opensource software and the hackers-turned-designers who are making it all do things we never dreamed possible.

However, while recently talking to another computer savvy Herald employee I realized how little time I've put into any kind of software work or design as of late. I don't even play games on my PC anymore, opting for the

smooth play of my Playstation 3, instead.

Windows 8 is being offered in demos and I haven't even downloaded it yet, much less installed it. In fact, my PC informed me just the other day it's been nearly two months since I sat down and gave it any kind of lovin' — before your mind hits the gutter, that's how we describe updating and cleaning the virtual environment in my house.

Am I simply taking a break from my beloved world of electronics? Or is it something much, much more sinister? Have I begun the same downward technological spiral my parents began at some undetermined point in their lives that soon ended with, "Thomas, get in here and fix the VCR!"

How long before I'm hanging onto some outdated operating system, writing line after line of angry blogs extolling its virtues and downplaying the progress of newer versions? It's the equivalent of hearing my father grip about how much better Coca-Cola used to taste when it came in glass bottles.

I suppose it's bound to happen at some point, but seriously, folks ... at 38 years old? No, I think it's time for me to sit back down and play catch up for a bit, seeing what new systems are hot and getting back in touch with my computer nerd friends.

However, just in case ... I'm gonna' keep my daughter on speed dial.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)



DONALD KAUL



## Think before you choose to speak

When it comes to making a life changing decision — whether it's forced upon you or comes by your own choosing — the best thing to do is make the choice with a rational head.

Too often things happen in our lives and we find ourselves speaking without thinking, acting without pausing and in that moment when we should stop and think about the next move, we change our entire course — usually, not for the better.

No life-altering decisions should ever be made in a moment when emotions are running high.

It is when we make decisions in that moment of anger, hatred or with a feeling of vengence that times of regret are etched into our past.

In the past week, I have seen first hand what words not carefully thought of can do and what damage decisions out of anger can cause.

In that moment — well actually series of moments to be more specific, I learned a few les-

sons that I should have already known, but like they say, hindsight is 20/20.

The most important lesson learned: Thinking before we speak isn't exactly a bad piece of advice. In my experience, it's one of the best pieces of advice out there.

Yes, for most of the population, the mouth works faster than the brain. All too often we see the effects of not being able to fix that filter, however, it is one I would advise everyone to take the time to repair.

Once words are spoken what's left behind is worse than that of a permanent marker.

Once permanent marker makes contact with something the ability to take it off becomes impossible or at least time extensive. Sometimes, depending on the surface it touches the mark is forever left behind, even if it is faded.

Spoken words are like that in the way that once they are spoken they are imprinted in our minds and impossible to forget, especially the negative ones.

The old saying goes, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me."

I have to admit when certain words are spoken they can cause more pain than a thrown stone.

People tend to forget just how

powerful words can be. Just as positive remarks can boost a person's self esteem, negative words, hateful words can destroy a person's soul.

The words spoken in anger have the power to break a person's heart, tear away dreams and bring on full destruction.

Words are not something to be toyed with; they are something we should cherish and use wisely.

Yes overtime the wounds they created will heal. The pain associated with them will subside, but once spoken the imprint, the repetition of that moment is forever there.

My advice, do your best to make sure no words slip through that filter. Make it a point to make yourself think before you speak, especially in moments of anger.

Our futures, our lives are ours to make, but don't forget our words sometimes have a much further reach than just our own future.

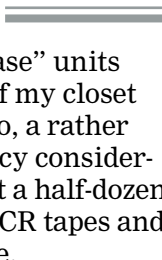
Speak slowly, speak softly, and most importantly ... speak with love.

Don't let one moment of anger destroy everything.

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno by email at [life@bigspringherald.com](mailto:life@bigspringherald.com) or by calling the office at 432-263-7331 ext. 234.



THOMAS JENKINS



AMANDA MORENO

# News in brief

## AP sources: House GOP officials say they're willing to negotiate before Holder contempt vote

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republican officials say they're willing to negotiate an end to a potential constitutional confrontation in a document dispute, but only if the Obama administration turns over more emails and memos related to the flawed "Fast and Furious" gun-tracking operation.

The dispute got a little nastier Wednesday. A House committee voted to hold Attorney General Eric Holder in contempt, the Obama administration invoked a legal stance that could prevent turning over the documents and the confrontation was elevated to the White House and the top House GOP leadership.

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, and Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., said the House would vote next week on accepting the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee's contempt of Congress vote.

Committee officials who would conduct any negotiations in the coming days for Oversight Committee Chairman Darrell Issa, R-Calif., said they're looking for at least some additional documents on Fast and Furious — plus some "signs of good faith."

The latter could include substantive responses to future committee requests for documents, reforming the approval process for wiretap applications, acknowledging mistakes in misleading Congress about Fast and Furious, taking whistle-blowers seriously and producing a log of documents to be turned over, according to the officials, who spoke only on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the issue by name.

## Poll: Obama loses advantage over Romney

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fewer Americans believe the economy is getting better and a majority disapproves of how President Barack Obama is handling it, according to a new Associated Press-GfK poll.

Republican challenger Mitt Romney has exploited those concerns and moved into a virtually even position with the president.

Three months of declining job creation have left the public increasingly glum, with only 3 out of 10 adults saying the country is headed in the right direction. Five months before the election, the economy remains Obama's top liability.

Obama has lost the narrow lead he had held just a month ago among registered voters. In the new poll, 47 percent say they will vote for the president and 44 percent for Romney, a difference that is not statistically significant. The poll also shows that Romney has recovered well from a bruising Republican primary, with more of his supporters saying they are certain to vote for him now.

Still, in a measure of Romney's own vulnerabilities, even some voters who say they support Romney believe the president will still be re-elected. Of all adults polled, 56 percent believe Obama will win a second term.

## Fed's messages: Little economic improvement likely by end of year

WASHINGTON (AP) — The economy we've got today is more or less the economy we've got for the rest of the year.

That's the message from the Federal Reserve, which has sharply reduced its forecast for U.S. growth. It sees unemployment barely budging in the rest of 2012.

The Fed also says the economy is under threat from Europe's debt crisis and from the prospect of sharp spending cuts and tax increases that will kick in at year's end unless Congress acts.

None of which is comforting for companies, job seekers or President Barack Obama, whose reelection hinges in part on whether the economy improves between now and November.

Until recently, many economists were hopeful that the economy would strengthen in the second half of the year. But optimism is fading as hiring and growth have slowed for a third straight spring.

## Another day of high heat expected for Northeast

NEW YORK (AP) — The high temperatures that made life hot and miserable throughout the Northeast are expected to return, with readings in the mid- to high-90s.

Water-guzzling residents who stayed close to their air conditioners will have to get through Thursday before temperatures are expected to start cooling down.

Wednesday, the first official day of summer, saw record-setting temperatures from New York City to Burlington, Vt.

Several relatives of high school graduates were treated for heat exhaustion at an outdoor ceremony in North Bergen, N.J., and taken to a hospital. Ambulances were on standby at the event, which was held outside to accommodate about 5,000 people, said Capt. Gerald Sanzari of the North Bergen Police Department.

A similar scene took place in New Britain, Conn., where several people were taken to a hospital after suffering heat-related symptoms while attending the New Britain High School graduation. Captain David Kosciuk of the New Britain EMS told the New Britain Herald that 24 people suffered from heat exhaustion or fainting and half of them were taken to area hospitals.

## Illinois prosecutors refuse to defend state ban on gay marriage, claim law is unconstitutional

CHICAGO (AP) — Twenty-five Illinois couples were prepared for a long legal fight when they joined lawsuits challenging the state's ban on gay marriage. Turns out they won't get one — at least not from the attorneys who would normally be responsible for defending the state's laws.

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan and Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez have refused to defend the 16-year-old ban, which defines marriage as between a man and a woman, saying it violates the state constitution's equal protection clause.

The decision has raised eyebrows among some legal experts who believe prosecutors are legally bound to defend Illinois law, and sets up a scenario where a judge could quickly strike down the marriage statute. Supporters of the ban say it's unconscionable that there might be nobody in court to defend it, and some are strategizing over how to intervene.

"I took an oath when I was sworn in to defend

the constitution of the state of Illinois and I believe that's what I'm doing," Alvarez said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I'm not going to defend something I believe is in violation of the constitution."

Madigan, who did not respond to a request for comment, plans to file arguments next week in support of the lawsuits, which could be consolidated into one case.

## Uruguay considers putting government in charge of selling marijuana

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (AP) — Peaceful Uruguay is planning a novel approach to fighting its rising crime: having its government sell marijuana to take drug profits out of the hands of dealers.

Under the plan backed by President Jose Mujica's leftist administration, only the government would be allowed to sell marijuana and only to adults who register on a government database, letting officials keep track of their purchases over time. Profits would reportedly go toward rehabilitating drug addicts.

"It's a fight on both fronts: against consumption and drug trafficking. We think the prohibition of some drugs is creating more problems to society than the drug itself," Defense Minister Eleuterio Fernandez Huidobro told reporters late Wednesday.

Fernandez said the bill would soon be sent to Congress, which is dominated by Mujica's party, but that an exact date had not been set. If approved, Uruguay's national government would be the first in the world to directly sell marijuana to its citizens. Some local governments do so.

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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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

## 'Today' considers dropping Ann Curry as host

NEW YORK (AP) — In the midst of the first prolonged challenge to its morning supremacy in 16 years, NBC News is discussing a plan to remove Ann Curry as co-host of the "Today" show with Matt Lauer.

Curry, who has been with "Today" since 1997, replaced Meredith Vieira last June as Lauer's partner. Lauer agreed to a long-term contract this spring to stay with the show.

It's still uncertain whether Curry, who has discovered a passion for international reporting in recent years, will remain with "Today," according to a source with knowledge of the show who spoke on condition of anonymity on Wednesday because the source was not authorized to speak on the matter. The New York Times first reported the discussions about the possible change on Wednesday.

NBC News President Steve Capus and the "Today" executive producer, Jim Bell, did not immediately return requests for comment.

# Big Spring YMCA

## Summer Youth & Adult Programs

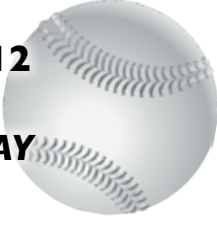
**SUMMER SOCCER:**  
Sign-ups - June 23rd-July 14th  
@ The Big Spring YMCA  
Coaches Meeting: July 16th @ Big Spring YMCA @ 7:00pm  
Games Begin - July 24th, 2012  
Cost: \$50.00 per kid  
Ages: 3-15



**SUMMER DODGE BALL:**  
Sign-ups - June 23rd-July 6th  
@ The Big Spring YMCA  
Coaches Meeting: July 9th @ Big Spring YMCA @ 7:00pm  
Games Begin - July 16th, 2012  
Cost: \$25.00 per kid  
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**SUMMER ADULT CO-ED SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL:**  
Sign-ups - June 30th-July 8th  
Coaches Meeting: July 10th @ Big Spring YMCA @ 7:00pm  
Games Begin - July 22nd, 2012  
Cost: \$100.00 per team  
MUST BE AT LEAST 16 TO PLAY



# Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

## It Pays to be Pessimistic

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.  
NORTH  
♠ 10 8 5 3  
♥ A J 7 6 5  
♦ K 2  
♣ 6 4

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

SOUTH  
♠ A  
♥ A Q J 10 9 6 3  
♦ A K 8 5 2

The bidding:  
South West North East  
2♠\* Pass 2♥ Pass  
3♦ Pass 4♦ Pass  
6♦

\* strong, artificial  
Opening lead — queen of clubs.

When declarer is confronted with what appears to be a laydown contract, his first obligation is to ask himself, "What can defeat me?" The failure to ask this one simple question has been responsible for the demise of many a makable hand.

Consider today's deal where South was in six diamonds and West led the queen of clubs. Declarer won with the ace and promptly played the king, ruffed by East. East returned a trump, and South found himself

fighting a losing battle.

He won the trump in his hand, ruffed a club with the diamond king and discarded another club on the heart ace. But South had no place to put his remaining small club, and he eventually went down one.

Declarer was very unlucky to run into a 5-1 club division, but if he had taken this possibility into account and sought a means to deal with it, he might have found the way to assure the contract.

South can see that the slam is sure to make if the adverse clubs are divided 3-3 or 4-2. He can ruff a club with the diamond king in either case, guaranteeing at least 12 tricks.

However, he should also think about the possibility of a 5-1 club split. Should that division exist, the contract is in danger. If declarer tries to cash a second high club prior to ruffing a club in dummy, an opponent might ruff, as in the actual deal.

To cater to this possibility, as well as the normal 3-3 and 4-2 breaks, declarer should invoke a safety play. Rather than try to cash his second high club, he should lead a low one instead!

West wins the trick but cannot do anything to stop the contract. South has only two small clubs left, one of which can be trumped with dummy's king while the other can be discarded on the ace of hearts.

Tomorrow: Test your play.  
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# 79th Annual Big Spring Reunion & Rodeo

## June 21, 22, 23

### 79th Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo

Date: June 21, 22, 23

Starting Time: 8 PM NIGHTLY • GATES OPEN AT 7 PM

Where: Big Spring Rodeo Bowl (near FM 700 & Bus. 20 West)

#### RODEO EVENTS:

Mutton Bustin' Each Night

Friday Night Concert: Noel Olivas - 9:30 pm - \$5 per person

Saturday Night Concert: Aaron Watson - 9:30 pm - \$20 per person

Opening Band: Lenorah

Rodeo Parade - Saturday - Downtown - 10 am

TICKET PRICES: AT GATE; ADULTS \$12, CHILDREN \$8

PRE-SALE: ADULTS \$10, CHILDREN \$6

BOX SEAT \$250

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# Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo kicks off tonight



HERALD file photo

Bull rider Shea Banister hangs on for the ride during a previous Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo. The 79th annual event is set to begin at 8 tonight at the Rodeo Bowl.

### Special to the Herald

One of the toughest jobs in a bull rider is being a bull rider.

Just try staying on nearly a ton of twisting, spinning muscle that was bred to do this.

But, hanging on doesn't necessarily guarantee a cowboy will win a big check. In fact, once the first task is done, the next is riding well enough to beat most of the contestants in the field — only the very best in each rodeo earn the money they want for placing.

That's the plan of attack for bull riders competing in the 79th Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo, which begins tonight and continues through Saturday at the Rodeo Bowl.

The three nights will feature some of the greatest bull riders in the game, and they're planning to test their skills against the bulls from Carr Pro Rodeo.

"Pete Carr, in general, is a great stock contractor," said bull rider D.J. Domangue of Wharton, Texas. "He spends a lot of money

and tries real hard to try to improve his stock. He's already got great horses, and he is trying to put together a good pen of bulls.

"Plus he's a great guy, and that's hard to come by when you're talking about stock contractors in rodeo. He listens to the cowboys. He wants to know what we think, and he wants our opinions. He wants to get the top guys."

Domangue has been one of the top guys for years, having qualified for the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo three times. J.W. Harris of Mullin, Texas, is a three-time world champion bull rider who has been on the top of the game for most of his professional career. He, too, realizes the role stock contractors play in his business of rodeo.

"The greatest thing about Pete is that he went out and bought some new bulls," Harris said. "He's actually trying to get a better bull herd, which is more than you can say for a lot of stock contractors."

See **RODEO**, Page 12

## BCS takes step toward college football playoff

RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer

CHICAGO — College football has always relied on polls and bowls to crown a national championship. It is an inexact science that has left many fans frustrated and wondering why they can't settle it on the field — like every other sport — with a playoff.

Finally, the people in charge agree with the people in the stands.

A major college football playoff, albeit a small one, is closer than ever to becoming a reality.

The BCS commissioners have backed a plan for a four-team playoff with the sites for the national semifinals rotating among the major bowl games and a selection committee picking the participants. The plan will be presented to university presidents next week for approval.

Once the presidents sign off — and that seems likely — major college football's champion will be decided by a playoff for the first time, starting in 2014.

The Bowl Championship Series is on its death bed. Even the name is likely to go away.

"We are excited to be on the threshold of creating a new postseason structure for college football that builds on the great popularity of our sport," Notre Dame athletic director Jack Swarbrick said Wednesday.

All 11 commissioners stood shoulder-to-shoulder behind Swarbrick, who read the BCS statement from a podium set up in a hotel conference room.

The commissioners have been working on reshaping college foot-

ball's postseason since January. The meeting was the sixth formal get-together of the year. They met for four hours and emerged with a commitment to stand behind a plan.

"I think we're very unified," said Vice Ten Commissioner Jim Delany, who for years had been a staunch opponent of even the smallest playoff.

For decades, major college football didn't even try to organize a championship game. The top teams played in marquee bowl games and if it happened to work out that No. 1 and No. 2 squared off on New Year's Day, well, all the better. When all the games were done, the voters in the AP poll would crown a champion and so would the coaches who vote in their poll. Sometimes there would be two No. 1s.

In the 1990s, the commissioners of the major conferences came up with the idea to create a national title game, matching No. 1 vs. No. 2 every year. Eventually, that spawned the Bowl Championship Series, which was implemented in 1998. Instead of solving the problem of crowning a champion, the BCS only seemed to exasperate fans even more. Too often, using polls and computer ratings to narrow the field to two teams was all but impossible.

Like last year, when Alabama lost to LSU in the regular season, but ended up getting a second crack at the Tigers in the BCS title game — despite having the same record as Big 12 champion Oklahoma State. The Crimson Tide validated their appearance by trouncing LSU and winning the

See **PLAYOFF**, Page 12

## Darvish leads Rangers over Padres

BERNIE WILSON

AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO — Once Yu Darvish settled down after the second inning, the San Diego Padres didn't have a chance.

Darvish held San Diego to five hits over eight innings and got his first major league hit to help the Texas Rangers beat the Padres 4-2 on Wednesday for their sixth straight win.

Darvish (9-4), who struck out eight and walked three, leads all big league rookies with nine victories. He pitched for Japan at Petco Park in the 2009 World Baseball Classic.

"He just couldn't find his rhythm to get the ball where he wanted to," manager Ron Washington said of Darvish, who allowed a two-run single to Padres starter Anthony Bass in the second inning. "He just kept emphasizing what he needed to do. After the

second inning, when they scored those runs, he finally did it. Once he found it, he was on from there on. He just began to pound the strike zone. The sixth, seventh and eighth innings were innings that a good pitcher shows you he's not going to be denied. Once we took the lead, it was over."

Yorvit Torrealba, who was with the Padres in 2010, drew a bases-loaded walk with two outs in the sixth to bring in Josh Hamilton with the go-ahead run. The Rangers swept the three-game series and improved to 12-3 in interleague play, the best in the majors this year.

"I asked the interpreter to tell the pitching coach, Mike Maddux, and Wash, I think it was somewhere around maybe after the third inning, I know my pitch count is up a little bit, but please don't base me getting taken out just on pitch

count," Darvish said through an interpreter. "I can throw into the seventh, eighth still, it's no problem. But if you guys feel like it's the right situation to take me out, or maybe my approach or the substance of my pitching is not good, then that's fine. I have no problem with that."

Washington had reliever Mike Adams warming up in the eighth just in case, but Darvish finished the inning.

Joe Nathan pitched the ninth for his 15th save in 16 chances.

The Padres have lost five of six since their only three-game sweep of the season, at Seattle last week. San Diego (24-46) has the worst record in the majors.

Darvish allowed multiple baserunners in the first two innings. He walked consecutive batters with one out in the first before getting Chase Headley to line out to second baseman Ian Kinsler, who dou-

bled Cameron Maybin off second to end the inning.

Alberto Gonzalez, who was with San Diego last year, singled with two outs in the fifth to bring in David Murphy, who walked and stole second.

Bass left with inflammation in his right shoulder after allowing one run and three hits in five innings. He struck out two and walked one.

The Rangers went ahead in the sixth with two runs on two hits and three walks off three relievers.

With one out, Michael Young singled, Hamilton doubled and Adrian Beltre walked to load the bases against Dale Thayer (0-2). Nelson Cruz grounded to Headley at third base. Rather than going for the bag and then throwing to second, Headley threw to second for the second out but Amarista's throw to first didn't get Cruz, and Young scored.

## Astros leave 11 on base, fall to K.C.

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Astros had runners on second and third when Chris Snyder struck out to end the sixth inning and slammed his bat to the ground in frustration.

It was that kind of day. Jordan Lyles pitched seven solid innings, but the Astros left 11 runners on base in a 2-1 loss to the Kansas City Royals on Wednesday.

"It's the key situations where we're just not able to find the holes," Astros manager Brad Mills said. "There's a lot of things we can point to like guys trying too hard and putting a little too much pressure on themselves. When you start to struggle in those situations, it starts to mount."

Houston put runners on the corners with one out in the ninth, but Jonathan Broxton struck out Brian Bixler and retired Jordan Schafer to earn his

18th save in 21 chances. Royals manager Ned Yost was impressed with Broxton's poise.

"The thing about him is he doesn't panic," Yost said. "He stays calm and continues to make pitches."

The Astros had eight hits, compared to just four for Kansas City, but they went 1 for 12 with runners in scoring position. They dropped to 3-8 when standing 10 or more runners.

Houston has lost seven of nine overall.

"I had a little snap there in the sixth inning, but it's not about pressing but just being in the game and wanting to come through there," Snyder said. "When the guy you're catching has been dealing, you want to do something for him."

Lyles (1-4) allowed two runs and three hits while matching his longest outing of the season.

He has bounced around between the Astros and Triple-A Oklahoma City this season.

"I've been looking for an outing where I can just turn that corner," Lyles said. "Hopefully, this was it and that's what I'm striving for. It is big because I know I can pitch up here and get outs."

Lyles recorded 11 outs on ground balls and struck out four, success he attributed to his curveball. He said he incorporated a new curveball grip that he learned from teammate Wandy Rodriguez.

Lyles didn't seem worried about the lack of run support.

"I know we got the loss, but we're going to put things together soon and get on a hot streak," Lyles said.

Kansas City tacked on another run in the sixth when Alex Gordon tripled and scored when on shortstop Jed Lowrie's error.





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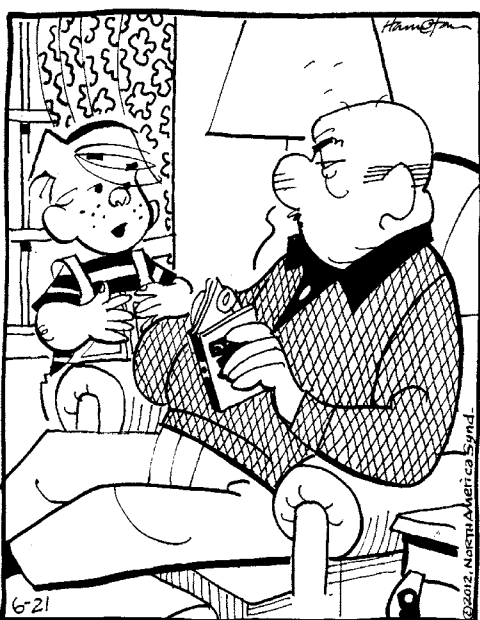
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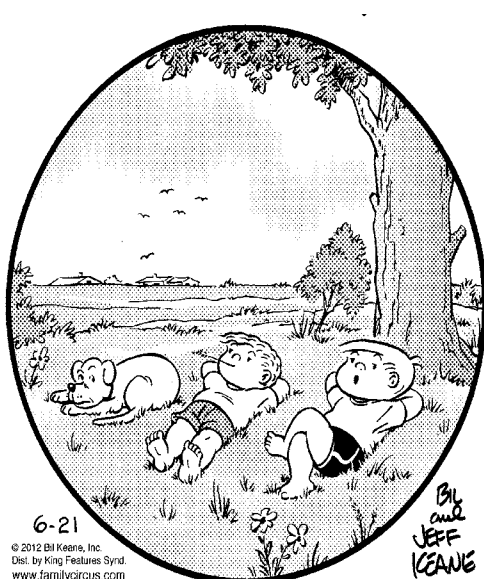
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5:PM	News ABC	La Mujer Notic.	Two Men	News	Noticias	News	King	Schwarz	Charlie Rose	King	Auction	CSI: Miami	Jail	The Mentalist	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas	NCAA World Series, Game 11: Teams TBA.	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Un Refugio para el Amor (SS)	Big Bang	News	Especial	News	King	Dr. Wil	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld	Auction	CSI: Miami	Tenants	The Mentalist	Good	Good	Good	
7:PM	J. Kimmel	NBA	Take Me Out	Ent	Una Maid en	Millionaire	Justin Bieber	Fam. Guy	Daytrip	Breaking Pointe	Auction	Movie: Sahara, Penelope Cruz	Tenants	The Mentalist	Movie: John Q. James Woods	Good	Pardon	NFL Live
8:PM	2012 NBA Finals: Oklahoma City Thunder at TBA.	Abismo de Pasión	(7-58) The Choice	Person of Interest	Corazón Valiente	Saving Hope	Big Bang	Fam. Guy	Frontline (DVS)	The Vampire Diaries	Auction	Movie: UFC Un-leashed	The Mentalist	CSI: NY	Game	Shake It	EURO	NFL Live
9:PM	Impacto	Noticiero	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Conan	Dr. Diana	Mustang	Auction	Movie: Collateral Damage, Francesca Neri	MMA	Rizzoli & Isles	Game	Wizards	College	EURO	
10:PM	Nightline	Hasta-Dinero	Law Order: CI	Ferguson	Decisiones (SS)	Jimmy Fallon	Office	Sala	T. Smiley (Off Air)	South Pk	Auction	Ways Die	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Wizards	Baseball Tonight	SportsCenter	
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:37) Extra	Mañana-Siempre	Raymond	Insider	Pagado	News	Conan	Dr. Wil	ACTIVE	Auction	Breaking Bad	Entourage	Movie: Belly, Taral Hicks	Deck	NBA	SportsCenter	
12:AM	Paid	Par Ases	TMZ	Paid	Paid	Paid	(:06) Today	Seinfeld	Light of the Southwest	God	Auction	(:34) Break-in Red	Entourage	Leverage	Good	MMA Live		

DENNIS THE MENACE



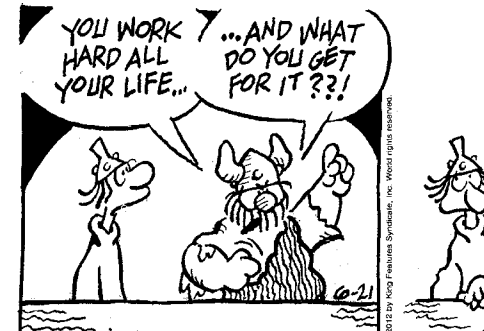
"MY DAD SAYS YOU'RE AN 'OLD CODGER.' DOES THAT MAKE ME A YOUNG ONE?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

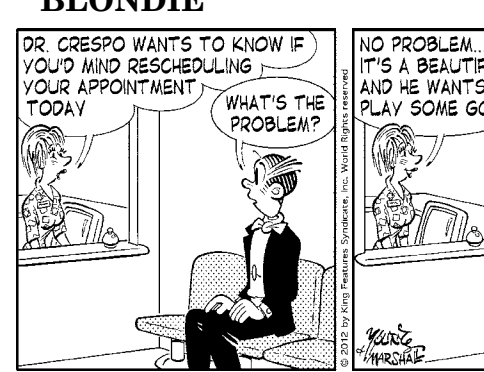


"The only thing that would make this a better day would be building a snowman."

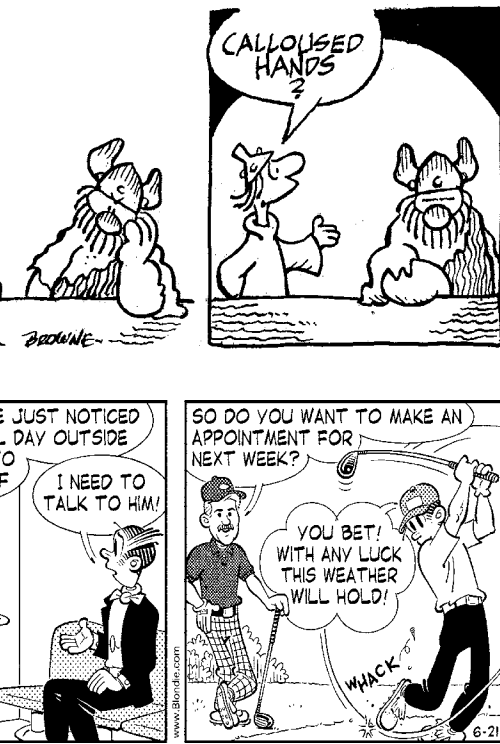
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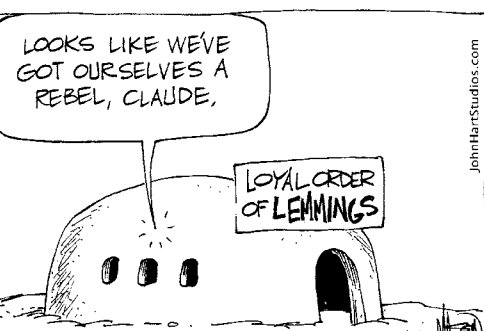
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BC



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, June 21, the 173rd day of 2012. There are 193 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

- On June 21, 1942, German forces led by Generaloberst (Colonel General) Erwin Rommel captured the Libyan city of Tobruk during World War II. (Following his victory, Rommel was promoted to Field Marshal; Tobruk was retaken by the Allies in November 1942.) An Imperial Japanese submarine fired shells at Fort Stevens on the Oregon coast, causing little damage.
- On this date: In 1788, the United States Constitution went into effect as New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify it.
- In 1834, Cyrus Hall McCormick received a patent for his reaping machine.
- In 1912, author and critic Mary McCarthy was born in Seattle.
- In 1932, heavyweight Max

Schmeling lost a title fight rematch in New York by decision to Jack Sharkey, prompting Schmeling's manager, Joe Jacobs, to exclaim: "We was robbed!"

In 1948, the Republican national convention opened in Philadelphia. (The delegates ended up choosing Thomas E. Dewey to be their presidential nominee.)

In 1963, Cardinal Giovanni Battista Montini was chosen to succeed the late Pope John XXIII; the new pope took the name Paul VI.

In 1964, civil rights workers Michael H. Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James E. Chaney were murdered in Philadelphia, Miss.; their bodies were found buried in an earthen dam six weeks later.

In 1970, former Indonesian President Sukarno died at 69.

In 1982, a jury in Washington D.C. found John Hinckley Jr. not guilty by reason of insanity in the shootings of President Ronald Reagan and three other men.

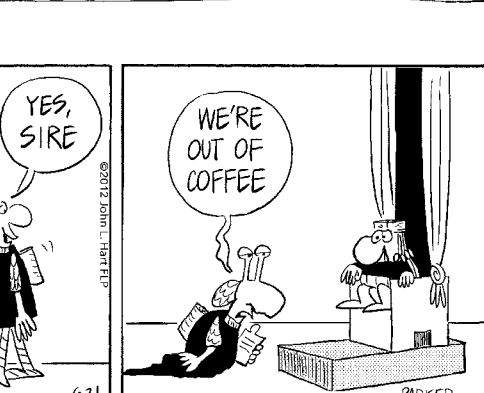
In 1989, a sharply divided Supreme Court ruled that burning the American flag as a form of political protest was protected by the First Amendment.

In 1997, the WNBA made its debut as the New York Liberty defeated the host Los Angeles Sparks 67-57.

In 2005, 41 years to the day after three civil rights workers were beaten and shot to death, Edgar Ray Killen, an 80-year-old former Ku Klux Klansman, was found guilty of manslaughter in a Mississippi court. (Killen was sentenced to 60 years in prison.)

Today's Birthdays: Composer Lalo Schiffrin is 80. Actor Bernie Kopell is 79. Actor Monte Markham is 77. Songwriter Don Black is 74. Actress Mariette Hartley is 72. Comedian Joe Flaherty is 71. Rock singer-musician Ray Davies (The Kinks) is 68.

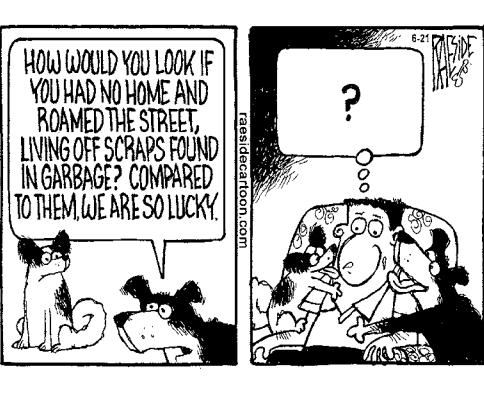
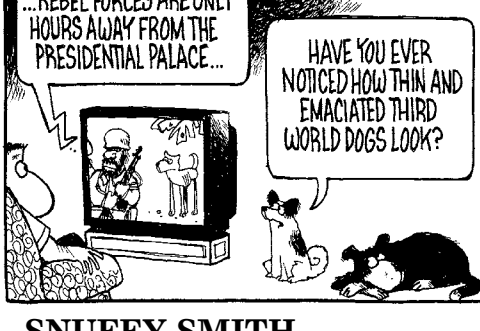
AGNES



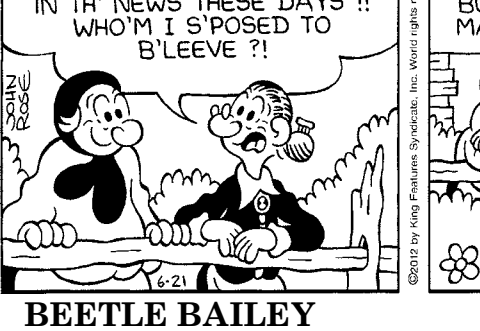
HI AND LOIS



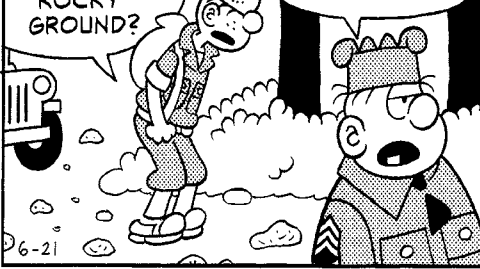
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



Answer to previous puzzle

CLUB	CHUGS	ADAM
PURR	SATIN	TAXI
ARGO	PLAZA	TREX
SEE	WHAT	HAPPENS
SUN	SAN	
WAFER	MEW	IDTAG
ONE	TOUCH	NERVE
RIDS	DROID	DIOR
SMELL	DANGER	KIM
TEXAS	LOS	OPEDS
	PAD	ATE
TASTE	OF	VICTORY
BACH	MOLAR	SHOO
ONTO	OZONE	IMOK
PSIST	SEWED	TYKIE

Newsday Crossword

IN THE BANK by David W. Cromer  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Deer in a Disney film
  - 6 Makes a scene
  - 11 Super Bowl scores
  - 14 Cited
  - 15 Orlando-area attraction
  - 16 Tiny
  - 17 Neck warmer
  - 18 Keep in touch, perhaps
  - 20 Stadium sound
  - 22 Unemotional
  - 23 Bouquet holder
  - 26 Some opera singers
  - 29 Source of shade
  - 30 Gone, as an opportunity
  - 33 Raising the roof
  - 34 Yuletide tune
  - 35 Timecard nos.
  - 38 Balloon material
  - 39 Caught visually
  - 40 "In other words..."
  - 42 Serving on draught
  - 43 Coup d'
  - 45 Swedish auto
  - 46 Manhattan Project VIP
  - 49 Doll call
  - 52 Sotomayor's selector
  - 53 First-rate
  - 54 Baloney
  - 56 Bed-and-breakfasts
  - 58 Decathlon event
  - 61 Bonfire remnants
  - 65 Medical insurance org.
  - 66 Derive
- DOWN**
- 1 Train alternative
  - 2 Path of a fly ball
  - 3 Finance degree
  - 4 Hair clip
  - 5 Factual data
  - 6 Make, as a new map
  - 7 Truth in Lending no.
  - 8 Sgt., for one
  - 9 On deck, on ships
  - 10 Doctor's directive
  - 11 Suit fabric
  - 12 Pants fabric
  - 13 Planter's purchase
  - 19 MGM cofounder
  - 21 Bart Simpson's grandpa
  - 23 "And here it is!"
  - 24 Of hearing
  - 25 Oldest Cabinet department
  - 27 Grammy Legend Award recipient
  - 28 Winter fall
  - 31 Bewitched
  - 32 Oil source
  - 35 Conversation starter
  - 36 Magpie cousin
  - 37 Something boring, so to speak
  - 39 Swedish auto
  - 41 Rum source
  - 44 Like a narrow road
  - 46 Icicle site
  - 47 One of the Karamazovs
  - 48 Work with leather
  - 49 Dual degree
  - 50 Nasal appraisal
  - 51 Greek island where a "Venus" was found
  - 55 Nefarious
  - 57 Astronaut insignia
  - 59 Radar mystery
  - 60 Superman foe
  - 62 "Hold on there!"
  - 63 Needle hole
  - 64 Remained idle

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# Former Astro Oswalt to take mound for Rangers on Friday

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Roy Oswalt will return to a major league mound Friday night in Texas, familiar ground for the veteran right-hander who started his career in Houston 11 years ago.

The 34-year-old Oswalt will make his de-

but for the Rangers at home against the Colorado Rockies after starting four minor league games since signing with Texas on May 29.

Oswalt's last major league appearance was with Philadelphia in a Game 4 loss to St. Louis in the NL Divi-

sion Series. He allowed five earned runs in six innings. He threw six shutout innings against Atlanta in his last regular season appearance last Sept. 27.

Oswalt said Wednesday he didn't have as much soreness as he expected after his last minor league start, when he threw 100 pitches and allowed six hits and two runs in six innings Sunday for Triple-A Round Rock. He said he was regaining command of his curveball.

The Rangers figured it would be at least a month before Oswalt could pitch in a big league game after he went unsigned through free agency and the first two months of the regular season. But his first start will come just 20 days after his first minor league appearance.

"I think I'm ready as far as arm strength. Body's doing great," said Oswalt, who was 1-1 with a 5.87 ERA in the four minor league starts.

"He brings big-time experience," manager Ron Washington said. "He's healthy and he's throwing the ball well. That's why we signed him. He can help anchor our young pitching staff with Colby Lewis. We're looking for him to come here and help us win some ballgames."


In his major league career with Houston (2001-10) and Philadelphia (2010-11), Oswalt has a 159-93 record with a 3.21 ERA in 339 career games. He had two stints

on the disabled list last season because of lower back inflammation, but the Rangers haven't been concerned about that since Oswalt's back doctor also has worked with the team.

Oswalt went 9-10 with a 3.69 ERA in 23 starts for the Phillies last season, the 139 innings pitched his fewest since 2003. But he said Wednesday he felt as good as he did in 2010, when he went 7-1 with the Phillies after a midseason trade from the Astros.

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## PLAYOFF

Continued from Page 7

BCS title, but many outside of SEC country were left unsatisfied.

Under the commissioners' proposal, Alabama and Oklahoma State likely would have played in one semifinal while LSU played Pac-12 champion Oregon in the other.

No doubt many will wonder, "Why only four?"

"I'm sure it won't satisfy everyone," Pac-12 Commissioner Larry Scott said. "Until you have an eight-team or 16-team seeded playoff, there will be folks out there that aren't completely satisfied.

We get that. But we're trying to balance other important parties, like the value of the regular season, the bowls, the academic calendar."

The commissioners refrained from providing many specifics of the plan in their announcement.

Scott did say the two semifinals would be worked into the existing major bowls and the site of the national championship game will be bid out to any city that wants it, the way the NFL does with the Super Bowl.

People with firsthand knowledge of the deci-

sion told The Associated Press that the semifinals of the proposed plan would rotate among the major bowls and not be tied to traditional conference relationships.

They also said that under the plan a selection committee would choose the schools that play for the national title.

The people spoke on condition of anonymity because the commissioners did not want to reveal many details before talking to their bosses.

"I am delighted," said SEC Commissioner Mike Slive, whose push for a four-team playoff in 2008 was shot down. "I am pleased with the progress we have made. There are some differences, but we will work them out. We're trying to do what is in the best interest of the game."

It will certainly be in the best financial interest.

The BCS television contract with ESPN — along with the Rose Bowl's separate contract with ABC — pays the participating schools \$155 million per year. BCS officials won't put an exact number on it, but they aren't shy about saying that a

playoff would be worth much more. Probably more than double.

How that money will be split up among the conferences is still to be determined, and will likely be a point of contention with high-profile and high revenue generating leagues such as the SEC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12 and Atlantic Coast Conference getting more than the likes of the Mountain West and Conference USA.

The rebuilt Big East could be looking at being bumped to second-tier status.

But before they split up the pot, there were other details that needed to be sorted out.

There was some debate about whether to have semifinal sites rotate between the current BCS bowls — the Orange, Sugar, Rose and Fiesta — or link the sites of the games to traditional conference affiliations. By linking sites to leagues Southeastern Conference teams could host games at the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans and Pac-12 and Big Ten teams could host games at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif.

But the logistical issues that come with

not having the sites for the semifinals set in advance were too big a problem. Now it will be possible for Ohio State and Oregon to play a semifinal in Miami, the site of the Orange Bowl.

How the teams will be selected also has been hotly debated; the current Bowl Championship Series uses a combination of polls and computer rankings.

There are still major details to be worked out, such as who exactly makes up the selection committee, but college football will take a page from college basketball, which uses a committee of athletic directors and commissioners to pick the teams for its championship tournament.

The 12-member BCS Presidential Oversight Committee meets Tuesday in Washington.

The commissioners and Swarbrick all stressed that ultimately the decision lies with the presidents. And that they will have more than just one model to talk about at their meeting.

But unless something unexpected happens in Washington, a playoff will take another step to becoming a reality.

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## RODEO

Continued from Page 7

Domangue and Harris are two of ProRodeo's elite bull riders who are scheduled to ride in this

year's event.

What they'll see once inside the Rodeo Bowl is a herd of outstanding animal athletes.

"I've always tried to get the best animals I can get, whether they're bulls or horses," Carr

said. "Everybody thinks I'm a horse guy, and I am; I just want to be a bull guy, too."

The cowboys have definitely taken notice. For instance, Trey Benton III of Rock Island, Texas, is fourth in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association world standings, he won the rodeo in Mercedes, Texas, this past spring, scoring 91 points on Carr's Missing Parts.

"Whenever a guy's trying to make a perfect pen of bucking bulls, that's great," said Benton, 20, who is in the middle of the world championship race and run for the rookie of the year award in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, ranked in the top five in the world standings by mid-April. "When you're trying to improve your pen all the time like Mr. Carr, then that means a lot to us."

Not only is Benton working toward his first NFR qualification, he's also on track to win the coveted Rookie of the Year title. Chandler Bownds of Lubbock did both a year ago and sits in the top 15 in the world standings this year.

"I always try to make it to Pete's rodeos," Bownds said. "They're always good rodeos, and you always get a chance to get on a good set of bulls, so that helps make them good rodeos to go to."



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