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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**WEDNESDAY**

JULY 4, 2012



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VOLUME 107, NUMBER 224

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## 118th officials warn of telephone scam

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Officials with the 118<sup>th</sup> District Court are warning area residents of a telephone scam where con artists are claiming to be collecting fines from locals who allegedly owe fines for missing jury duty.

According to 118<sup>th</sup> District Judge Timothy Yeats, his office was recently made aware of the scam, which is targeting local residents.



Yeats

"Reports have been received concerning a telephone scam operation regarding payment of fines for missing jury duty," Yeats said. "Someone is apparently calling citizens and informing them that they have missed a call for jury duty and demanding the citizen pay a fine or provide certain financial in-

formation in order to avoid a warrant being issued for their arrest."

Yeats said the calls are in no way related to or authorized by the court or its officers.

"I want to make it clear that this court, as well as law enforcement, will never request personal financial information over the telephone," Yeats said. "If you have missed jury duty, it is possible that some-

See **SCAM**, Page 3

## Stars & Stripes forever!



The staff of the Herald wishes everyone a safe and happy July 4 holiday.



HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

From left, Joyce Ditto, Daun Taylor and Ron Taylor put up a quilt in the Wells Fargo lobby Tuesday. The quilt will be given away at this year's Howard County Fair. The king-size quilt will always be on display for the next month before being moved to another local bank. Tickets can be purchased at Wells Fargo. All proceeds will go to benefit the Howard County Fair.

## Stanton preps for 79th Old Settlers' event

**By AMANDA MORENO**  
Staff Writer

STANTON — Stanton residents will focus on "Big Dreams in a Small Town" as a 79-year-old tradition continues this year — the Old Settlers Reunion returns July 14, 2012.

"We are celebrating a time of growth and prosperity, as well as remembering our predecessors who made it possible," Marsha Todd, event organizer, said in a press release.

Events will start at 9:15 a.m. with the bicycle, golf cart and ATV decorating contest and continue until the closing program at 7 p.m. in the community center. The downtown parade will be at 10 a.m. with reunion registration beginning right after and continuing until 4 p.m.

"This is a tradition that people tend to look forward to. It is the big celebration of the year where lots of people come back and visit," Kristi Peterson, publicity chairman, said. "Lots of reunions will be happen-

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## Senior water exercise program offered

**By AMANDA MORENO**  
Staff Writer

Yet another use for the water park has arisen.

Senior citizens in the community will soon be able to take part in the Senior Citizen Water Exercise Program at the Big Spring Family Aquatic Center.

"This is just another level of involvement for the senior population in the community," Chamber of Commerce Board Retirement Community Ex-officio Gloria McDonald said.

The classes will take place from 11 a.m. until noon Tuesdays — during the time the aquatic center is closed to the public — until the closing day of the water park for the year. A lifeguard will be on duty during this time. The class is

open to senior citizens in the community age 50 and older.

The classes will include low impact water exercise in the lazy river. According to McDonald, the lazy river will be turned on a low setting and participants will be able to utilize it as a form of resistance as they walk up stream during the allotted hour.

"This is the only place in the community that seniors can get this type of water resistance exercise," McDonald said. "This gives them a chance to get outdoors and exercise instead of having to be on a treadmill inside. It offers another option."



McDonald

By taking part in the activity, benefits can effect the lungs, legs, hips and knees. The process serves as a low impact aerobic exercise.

"The idea of allowing a senior activity at the aquatic center is an idea that was seen in other communities with an aquatic center and it seemed to work for those communities," McDonald said. "This is something that could serve a good purpose in our community as well."

For those wanting to take part in these classes, the cost is \$4 per visit. Once the allotted time has concluded and the aquatic center opens back up to the public, participants will be allowed to stay and enjoy the entire facility.

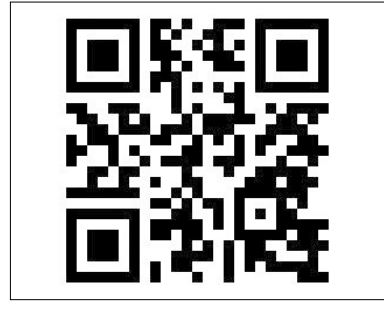
Registration can be mailed to P.O. Box 1391 or taken by

the Chamber office at 215 W. Third Street.

"Remember we have already lost a month and a half of use at the facility. The faster we get the people signed up the more time we will have to take advantage of this time," McDonald said.

For more information, call the chamber at 263-7641.

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




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Obituaries

Cheryl Marie Cawthon Kight

It is with a heavy heart that Charles and Patsy Cawthon announce the passing of their daughter. She joined our Lord in Heaven on June 26, 2012.

Cheryl Marie Cawthon was born in Wichita Kansas on April 19, 1955. She was a very pretty, outgoing gregarious child who never met a stranger. During her junior year of high school her father was transferred to Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nev. It was there she would meet the love of her life and future husband, Martin Phillip Kight, whose father was also stationed at Nellis AFB.

The two married Aug. 3, 1974, and remained in Las Vegas to build their life together. They had a wide circle of friends and were known for their parties, barbecues and family celebrations. Cher was an unbelievable cook and gracious hostess who loved to entertain her friends and family.

After a career in the sign business, Cher decided to open her own company and became the first female electrical contractor in the state of Nevada. While operating Metro Neon and Lighting, Cher pursued civic duties, including chairing the Las Vegas Community Development Recommending Board.

After closing her company, Cher joined Martin-Harris Construction in a position that allowed her to continue her enthusiasm for community involvement. As the federal programs director, Cher became actively involved in organizations such as the National Association of Minority Contractors, National Association of Women Business Owners and Society of Military Engineers.

She became a distinguished panelist and keynote speaker at many events, including the Annual Department of Energy Small Business Conference and various Small Business Administration Conferences in Washington D.C.

Cher was a remarkable and compassionate woman. She was an adoring wife, devoted daughter, amazing mother, caring sister, thoughtful sister-in-law, loving aunt, loyal friend and a wonderfully overindulgent, marvelous grandmother.

Cher is survived by her devoted husband, Martin Kight; her parents, Charles and Patsy Cawthon; her sisters, Charmain Beall and Vanessa Falkoff; her daughter and son-in-law, Austin Kight and Robert Ashby; and the second love of her life, her grandson, Jack Ashby.

*Paid obituary*

Carrie Mae Matthews



Carrie Mae Matthews, 65, of Big Spring died Sunday, July 1, 2012, in a local hospital. Private services will be held at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

She was born March 25, 1947, in Grand Bay, Ala. Carrie Mae was a personal chef and also had served as chef for several restaurants in Mississippi. She moved to Big Spring in 2001 to be closer to family.

Survivors include her daughters, Jessie Cunningham of Big Spring, Almertine Jordan-Pompey of Biloxi, Miss., and Lahoma Jordan of Big Spring; her sons, Robert Jordan of Columbia, Miss., George Jordan and Robin Jordan, both of Big Spring; 16 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; one sister, Patricia Thomas of Gulf Port, Miss.; and one brother, William Cunningham of Tampa, Fla.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ernest and Jessie Lee (Hill) Cunningham; one daughter, Carrie Jordan; four brothers, Leroy Cunningham, Randolph Cunningham, Otis Cunningham and Ernest Cunningham; one grandson, Melvin Presley; and one great-grandson, Demarion Jordan.

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

*Paid obituary*

Take Note

• An immunization clinic for school children will be held from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday, July 9 at the DSHS Big Spring Health Clinic, 501 Birdwell, Suite 28-B. Children age 2 months to 18 years, CHIP, Medicaid or uninsured only. \$5 per visit, per family. Call 432-263-9775 for an appointment.

• An account has been established at Wells Fargo Bank to help defray medical costs for Brittney Phillips Smith. Brittney will be undergoing a kidney transplant in San Antonio on June 14. Brittney is a graduate of BSBS and is the daughter of Karan and Gary Phillips. All donations and prayers will be greatly appreciated.

• Every Friday night from 7:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. is dance night at the Senior Citizen Center. The cost is \$8 per person.

• An account has been established at American State Bank to help defray medical expense for Brad "Ghost" Ugstad, a local resident who was severely injured in a motorcycle accident. All donations will be appreciated.

• Mobile Meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you can donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.

• Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St., has a brief, inspirational message before giving away food and clothing on Thursday mornings. It's a great way to work off community service and get help, too. Be there at 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and get two for one plus a rehab meeting.

• Home Hospice is seeking volunteers. A training will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. May 18. Volunteers are needed for in office duties as well as sitters, deliveries and crafts. To find out more information or to volunteer contact Sherry Hodnett at Home Hospice by calling 264-7599.

• The Salvation Army is holding its annual fan drive and is in need of fans. Community members can donate new or used fans. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Donations can be made at the main office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

• The Salvation Army has funding for Texas Military Personnel now serving or has served in Iraq or Afghanistan. The military member or their family member may apply at 811 W. Fifth St. or call 267-8239. The grant is funded by the TRIAD Fund of Permian Basin Area Foundation.

James Lee Henderson

James Lee Henderson, 73, of Big Spring died Tuesday, July 3, 2012, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

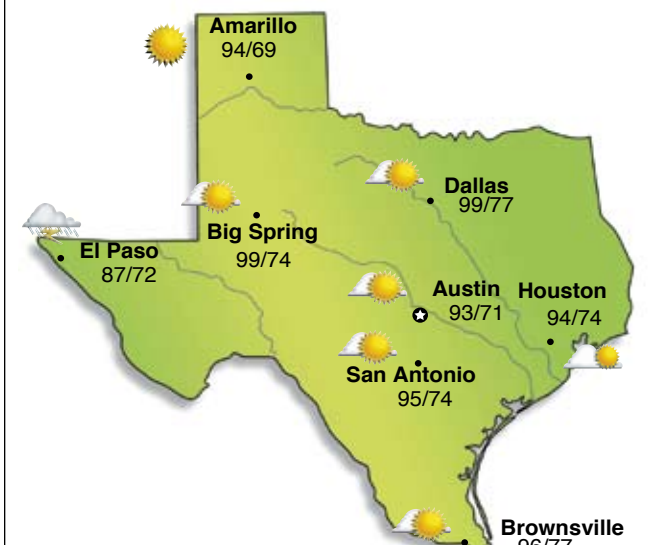
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Thu 7/5	Fri 7/6	Sat 7/7	Sun 7/8	Mon 7/9
99/74 More sun than clouds. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the mid 70s.	100/74 Abundant sunshine. Highs 98 to 102F and lows in the mid 70s.	100/75 Mostly sunny. Highs 98 to 102F and lows in the mid 70s.	99/76 More sun than clouds. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the mid 70s.	99/77 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the upper 70s.
Sunrise: 6:45 AM Sunset: 8:56 PM	Sunrise: 6:46 AM Sunset: 8:56 PM	Sunrise: 6:46 AM Sunset: 8:56 PM	Sunrise: 6:47 AM Sunset: 8:56 PM	Sunrise: 6:47 AM Sunset: 8:55 PM

American Profile We Celebrate Hometown Life  
Stories for and about hometowns just like yours.  
Look for us each week in this paper.

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	98	73	mst sunny	Kingsville	95	75	mst sunny
Amarillo	94	69	sunny	Livingston	95	71	pt sunny
Austin	93	71	mst sunny	Longview	96	74	pt sunny
Beaumont	93	74	pt sunny	Lubbock	93	69	mst sunny
Brownsville	96	77	mst sunny	Lufkin	97	72	pt sunny
Brownwood	98	72	mst sunny	Midland	98	74	mst sunny
Corpus Christi	92	78	mst sunny	Raymondville	96	75	mst sunny
Corsicana	96	74	mst sunny	Rosenberg	94	73	pt sunny
Dallas	99	77	mst sunny	San Antonio	95	74	mst sunny
Del Rio	100	77	mst sunny	San Marcos	94	72	mst sunny
El Paso	87	72	t-storm	Sulphur Springs	97	74	mst sunny
Fort Stockton	90	70	pt sunny	Sweetwater	98	73	mst sunny
Gainesville	97	74	mst sunny	Tyler	97	75	pt sunny
Greenville	97	73	mst sunny	Weatherford	97	74	mst sunny
Houston	94	74	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	101	74	mst sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	90	74	t-storm	Minneapolis	99	77	t-storm
Boston	81	66	pt sunny	New York	92	72	sunny
Chicago	96	76	pt sunny	Phoenix	95	78	t-storm
Dallas	99	77	mst sunny	San Francisco	64	54	pt sunny
Denver	90	65	pt sunny	Seattle	73	53	sunny
Houston	94	74	pt sunny	St. Louis	104	82	mst sunny
Los Angeles	71	60	pt sunny	Washington, DC	100	78	pt sunny
Miami	87	79	t-storm				

Moon Phases



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# Soldier fights to recover after losing limbs

VASSAR, Mich. (AP) — Army Staff Sgt. Travis Mills served two deployments to Afghanistan without suffering anything close to a major injury. Then, in a second, everything changed. On patrol during his third tour in April, Mills put his bag down on an improvised explosive device, which tore through the decorated high school athlete's muscular 6-foot-3 frame. Within 20 seconds of the IED explosion, a fast-working medic affixed tourniquets to all four of Mills' limbs to ensure he wouldn't bleed to death. "I was yelling at him to get away from me," Mills remembers. "I told him to leave me alone and go help my guys. "And he told me: 'With all due respect, Sgt. Mills, shut up. Let me do my job.'" The medic was able to save Mills' life but not his limbs. Today, the 25-year-old Mills is a quadruple amputee, one of only five servicemen from any military branch to have survived such an injury during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, said Maria Tolleson, a spokeswoman at U.S. Army Medical Command. And instead of serving alongside his unit, he has been spending his days based at Walter Reed Medical Center, working on rehabilitation after the accident that dramatically altered the trajectory of his life. Mills doesn't dwell on that. Sitting in his hospital bed, he describes his situation plainly: "I just had a bad day

at work." His family — especially his wife, Kelsey — admires him for that. "I think he's Superman. I really do," she said. "It's amazing to see just how lucky he is. I mean, he's the luckiest unlucky guy." Mills' recovery is expected to last at least a year. Already, there have been victories: A procedure performed at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center alleviated the excruciating phantom limb pains Mills was experiencing in the first weeks he was stateside. He approaches each therapy session methodically, practically. "There's no reason to sit here and look out the window and feel sorry for myself," Mills told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from Walter Reed. "It happened. I can't change the fact that it happened. I can't turn back time." At Walter Reed, Mills is doing exercises designed to make his body leaner while strengthening his core, hip flexors, pectorals and shoulders. He bounces on a trampoline, trying to execute 90-degree turns with his torso. "There's nothing I really don't like (about PT), except I can't do two-a-days yet," Mills jokes. While he's in the midst of getting his permanent prosthetics, Mills currently needs assistance to do things that most people take for granted, such as cooking and cleaning, or walking and running. As often as

Walter Reed doctors let him, Mills makes his way to the Military Advanced Training Center to strengthen his body and prepare for long-term prosthetics. He currently has all four beginner prosthetics. "They push you to your limit, then they push you a little more," said Mills, a high school football, basketball and baseball star who is more accustomed to bench-pressing and squatting to get bigger. While he works at learning to use his new artificial limbs, Mills has an army of supporters behind him. On the Facebook page, nearly 20,000 people are tracking his progress and cheering him on virtually through messages. The page serves as a window into his recovery, and his supporters watch eagerly as he surpasses milestones. When he began to walk on his prosthetics for the first time, a camera followed him as he nudged forward on a small track. With red and white sneakers laced on his prosthetic legs, and crutches gripping his artificial hands, he methodically takes one step at a time while tethered with a harness to the ceiling. He doesn't just take a few steps. He walks the whole track. "This is your first day?" an incredulous voice says from nearby. "Yes, yes it is," he responds proudly, taking another step. A short time later, another video showed more progress: He walks faster now, swifter than his first deliberate gait. Videos also show him learning to roll and come to

a sitting position in his bed, and learning, patiently, to use an artificial hand. One clip shows him removing colorful clamps from a bar and dropping them in a bucket. Another shows him using that same hand to feed baby food to his infant daughter, Chloe. "Turkey and rice, tastes so nice!" he sings, as the baby girl opens wide and flaps her hands. Only a half-year older than his injuries, Chloe has been a significant source of inspiration to Mills. He was there when she was born on the base at Fort Bragg, N.C. He left 4 months later for Afghanistan. Now, she sees him every day — sometimes helping him with his recovery. Some videos show Mills doing crunches on his bed with an elated Chloe on his torso. In another video, he straps her into his wheelchair and zips around as she waves her hands in excitement. Mills repeatedly talks of how "blessed" he is to be alive. "Now I can watch my little girl grow up and see my wife and family again, and everything's good to go," he said. "I didn't die, so that's good. You've got to look at the positive things." Mills' prognosis moving forward isn't clear, but there have been advances in working with patients who suffer similar injuries. Dr. Karen Pechman, who runs the amputee rehabilitation program at Burke Rehabilitation Hospital in White Plains, N.Y., said "only

in the past few decades has the medical care existed that enables" people who incur the trauma or disease states that would result in quadruple amputees to survive, so it's not yet known whether those who lose all their limbs have their life expectancy diminished. "There is nothing inherent medically about amputation that would affect subsequent health," Pechman said. "It is ... the activity level achieved by the patient that may impact on subsequent health." As he recovers, Mills' story is compelling thousands to take notice and offer support. Recognizing that the family will face costs not covered by the Army and insurance, a fund has been set up for his family. There have been 5K runs held in his honor. T-shirts printed. Concerts, golf tournaments, motorcycle rides. Under the banner of hundreds who call themselves "Team Mills," fundraisers have been held in Kelsey's home state of Texas, in North Carolina where the couple lived and many places in between. Nowhere has more been done, though, than in Michigan, where a recent spaghetti dinner at an American Legion post netted tens of thousands in donations. In Mills' hometown of Vassar, it's hard to find a tree, lamppost or telephone pole without a yellow or red, white and blue ribbon attached. Businesses throughout the 2,700-resident town feature signs encouraging prayer for the Mills family.

## REUNION

Continued from Page 1

ing throughout the day and it will be a good time for people to see the things that have changed and visit with friends." This year, Jimmy Stallings will serve as parade marshal. Those wanting to take part in the parade need to have entries turned in by 9 a.m. at the Methodist church. Judging will begin at 9:15 a.m. Judging will be based on attractiveness and artistic work and originality and use of theme. The amount of work and effort put into the float will account for up

to 40 points. The floats ranked in the top three spots will be awarded a cash prize. Certificates will be presented for best non-theme float and best class reunion float. Once again, the the parade will feature a mystery. Ballots on guessing who the mystery rider is can be turned in at Stanton Drug or the community center. "We would like to see lots of involvement in the parade this year," Peterson said. "The more we have involved the better it is." After the parade concludes, the high school cheerleaders will host a number of games at the community center. According to Peterson, even though there

are many traditions that have been kept intact, there are several new things scattered throughout the event this year. "We tried to keep lots of the same traditions, but we added a few new things too," Peterson said. "This year the decorating of the golf carts is something new. As far as the games are concerned, this year we have added a 'tug of war' between the Stanton and Lenorah Fire Departments and area coaching staff." In order to help preserve the memories made during the this year's reunion, local photographer Shasta Kreis will take photos of families and class re-

unions in the community center. There will be a chance for specialty photos, as well as regular photos. More information can be obtained by calling Kreis at 432-661-6905. In conjunction with the reunion, the Martin County Museum honors a local family. The honorees this year are the Jose and Guadalupe Villa family. There will be a reception at the museum from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. Tours of the museum will also be available at that time. For those wanting to see the new Martin County Hospital, tours will be available from 11 a.m. until noon, as well.

"The culmination of the event will take place with a barbecue and program at 6 p.m.," Peterson said. The evening meal will be \$10 per plate and be catered by Lester and Kim Baker. Tickets can be purchased starting at 3 p.m. in the community center. After the program, there will be a dance — sponsored by the Martin County Chamber of Commerce — outside the commu-

nity center around 7 p.m. Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com

## SCAM

Continued from Page 1

one from the sheriff's office may visit you in person and bring you to court. However, no one will ever call and ask or demand that you pay a fine. Do not, under any circumstances, provide

bank or credit card information to anyone over the telephone." In the meantime, Yeats encourages anyone receiving such a call to contact law enforcement. "If you have received such a call, please contact the Howard County Sheriff's Office immediately," he said.

Reports of the scam come weeks after Yeats issued a warning to Howard County residents to heed jury summons, as turnouts for jury pools had become

week, at best, during the summer months. For more information on jury summons, contact the 118<sup>th</sup> District Judge's Office at 432-264-2225.



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The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811  
BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$9.00 monthly; \$97.20 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$14.58 monthly Howard; \$18.33 elsewhere.

## 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

## Freedom fighter award

Open and transparent government is both fundamental to our democracy and essential to inspiring the confidence and accountability that taxpayers deserve from their government. Fortunately, the State of Texas has some of the nation's most robust public information laws. As the state agency charged with administering and enforcing the Texas Public Information Act, the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) is committed to ensuring that public records and other information are accessible to all Texans.

Given our demonstrated commitment to transparency and accountability in government, we were particularly thrilled when the Baylor Lariat recently honored our Open Records Division by selecting Hadassah Schloss for this year's First Amendment Freedom Fighter Award. A long-serving and dedicated member of our Open Records Division's staff, Hadassah was formally presented this distinguished award when she attended the School of Journalism, Public Relations &

News Media's student awards banquet at Baylor University.

As the OAG's Cost Rules Administrator, Hadassah regularly fields calls from Texans who need help gaining access to public records and other information from a variety of state, local and municipal government entities. When one of these governmental bodies seeks to avoid responding to an individual's public information request, Hadassah and her colleagues in the Open Records Division are often the requestor's first line of defense.

In an average day, Hadassah cheerfully answers Texans' questions about the rules governing the costs of producing requested records, reviews cost estimates from governmental bodies that demanded excessive deposits from citizen requestors, and fields inquiries from government officials seeking an exemption from the standard cost rules. Although responding to requests for help keeps Hadassah awfully busy, she also works to improve government transparency by teaching classes about the cost rules, which helps ensure that officials do not overcharge Texans for public information.

Never one to miss an opportunity to espouse the virtues of open government, when Hadassah spoke to journalism students at the awards banquet, she reminded her audience that democracy can only function in the sunshine. Journalists who encounter obstacles during their quest for information should not let interference from government officials dissuade them from pursuing their stories, she told the students.

Indeed, by developing a working understanding about the Public Information Act, any Texan can use that knowledge as a key that opens a vault of information. The overwhelming majority of the complaints Hadassah receives each year stem from a misunderstanding of the law and the cost rules — a misunderstanding that can be avoided by learning about the Public Information Act.

For example, Hadassah recently fielded complaints from two separate journalists after misinformed municipal officials demanded \$10 for a one-page police report. Once Hadassah placed a phone call to inquire about the inflated charges, the city secretary explained that she was not aware the OAG sets the rules that govern the amount agencies are authorized to charge. Thanks to Hadassah's quick action, the reporters received full refunds from the city.

In another notable case, county officials would not allow a requestor to inspect public records unless a \$730 payment was submitted in advance. After Hadassah received a phone call from the requestor, she contacted the county to educate the misinformed officials about the cost rules and the applicable limits when citizens want to inspect public records. The \$730 mishap occurred because documents sought by the requestor were public — but contained certain information that had to be redacted before the records could be reviewed. The county was allowed to charge 10 cents for each page containing information that had to be redacted. County officials had made a mistake when they attempted to charge the requestor for all the documents — not just the documents that had to be redacted. After Hadassah explained the rules, the county lowered its estimate, and the requestor was able to inspect all the information upon payment of \$21.50 for 215 redacted pages.

When Hadassah received the First Amendment Freedom Fighter Award in May, it marked the third time she was recognized for her dedication to open government. In 1996, Hadassah received the James Madison Award from the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. Hadassah also received the 2006 Open Doors Award from the Fort Worth Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Greg Abbott is the Texas Attorney General.



GREG ABBOTT

Thankful to be an American  
this Fourth of July holiday

Like most of you I will enjoy a family celebration today for the Fourth of July and be thankful that I am an American.

This is the week to celebrate our freedom as we commemorate that on July 4th in 1776, the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress, setting the 13 colonies on the road to freedom as a sovereign nation. As always, this most American of holidays will be marked by parades, fireworks and backyard barbecues across the country.

In 1776 there were approximately 2.5 million citizens in America, and approximately 314 million will celebrate tomorrow. Through the years our patriotism has been expressed in many ways, even to naming towns in honor of the nation.

Thirty-one places have "liberty" in their names. The most populous one as of April 1, 2010, was Liberty, Mo. (29,149). Iowa, with four, has more of these places than any other state: Libertyville, New Liberty, North Liberty and West Liberty.

Thirty-five places have "eagle" in their names.

The most populous one is Eagle Pass, Texas, with a population of 26,248.

Eleven places have "independence" in their names. The most populous one is Independence, Mo., with a population of 116,830.

Nine places have "freedom" in their names. The most populous one is New Freedom, Pa., with a population of 4,464.

One place has "patriot" in its name. Patriot, Ind., has a population of 209.

Five places have "America" in their names. The most populous is American Fork, Utah, with a population of 26,263.

To be born in the USA, or become a citizen of this nation, is a great privilege and one that

I am sadly afraid many take for granted and even abuse.

In spite of our enormous problems and seemingly insurmountable challenges we are a very blessed nation and I am very thankful to my Creator for allowing me to be born and raised in the United States of America.

Tomorrow, and hopefully every day, I will be mindful of that honor and give thanks to God and all who have lived and died throughout the generations to keep this nation great.

As I survey the social landscape of our nation I am deeply disturbed that so many today are arrogant and flippant about America's future.

There are far too many people who think everything will just automatically be fine because we are America.

I am constantly hearing commentators say we have always survived and we always will. That is a very dangerous and shallow evaluation of anything as vast and complex as our nation and her moral, social and economic issues.

The fact is that nothing with genuine and lasting value comes easy or cheap and that includes our country and her foundation.

The freedoms we embrace have not been totally earned by our affluence, creativity, intelligence or because we have slick politicians.

We celebrate today because millions of Americans through the years have been committed to fighting for truth and justice on battle fields, in courtrooms, and in offices and factories without concern for the cost.

If Americans do not wake up and remain committed to the same principles that have made this nation great there is no guarantee that everything will, in fact, automatically be alright.

There are far too many Americans who think they are owed something just because they are living in this nation.

I am thankful every day for the opportunities afforded me by calling the USA home.

I don't feel my country owes

me anything I have not paid for or earned simply because I live on her soil.

The more this entitlement mentality gains momentum in our country the less security we have and it amazes me that people can't grasp that fact.

I don't endorse any political candidates in this column, but New Jersey Governor Chris Christie made some astounding and sobering statements this week based on factual government numbers and projections.

Speaking of American citizens and their pessimistic outlook he said, "It's because government's now telling them, stop dreaming, stop striving, we'll take care of you. We're turning into a paternalistic entitlement society. That will not just bankrupt us financially, it will bankrupt us morally."

"When the American people no longer believe that this is a place where only their willingness to work hard and to act with honor and integrity and ingenuity determines their success in life, then we'll have a bunch of people sitting on a couch waiting for their next government check," Christie said.

I love America and I want her to be stronger and more secure than ever before and I wish that every American would take this week to evaluate their own personal commitment to do what has to be done to keep the USA the most blessed and prosperous nation on this planet.

Don't be afraid of the truth. After all, the only one who ever lived in this world that was perfect and understood everything said it was the truth that would set us free and I submit that the truth is the only thing that will keep us free.

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.*

## No way GOP could win when it comes to health care decision

In the court of public opinion, Republican officials cannot win. It's a known fact, made more evident with each news cycle, that many campaign issues are lose-lose for the GOP.

If the Supreme Court had overturned Obamacare, the public no doubt would have turned against the GOP for being too obstructionist, the GOP-led Supreme Court for being too judicially activist and presumptive GOP nominee Mitt Romney for flip-flopping on the individual mandate.

When the big bench upheld the Affordable Care Act, Team Obama won the glory.

Republican-appointed Chief Justice John Roberts joined the court's four liberal justices; opinion writers praised him for his statesmanship.

The New Yorker's Jeffrey Toobin, for example, saluted Roberts' "singular act of courage."

Likewise when Roberts and Justice Anthony Kennedy joined three Democratic-appointed justices to nullify three provisions of the Arizona immigration law.

When one of the four Democratic-appointed justices joined the five GOP justices in a deci-

sion — but wait; that never happens in a big case.

The Dem justices stuck together in favor of the Affordable Care Act, against Citizens United in Montana and in an opinion to strike down most of the Arizona immigration law.

When conservative justices stick together, they are rigid ideologues, party hacks or both. When liberal justices stick together, it's because they are true to their vaunted principles. All bow.

Republicans can't win. The former Massachusetts governor, the party's all-but-certain nominee, is the only Republican in the country who imposed a health care plan with an individual mandate on his state.

Romney used to call the provision "the ultimate conservative idea," as it told citizens that they'd get government help only if they couldn't afford to take care of themselves.

Team Obama is so smitten with Romney's past that White House aides often credit Romney with coming up with the template for Obamacare.

In case you missed Romney's one-time embrace of the individual mandate, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a Clinton appointee, made note of that salient fact when she wrote in her concurring opinion that Massachusetts had "cracked the adverse selection problem" by requiring that most Bay State residents obtain

insurance.

The worst part: Romney will be the GOP nominee because he was the best candidate in a crowded field. Romney was the heavyweight in the primaries.

Now, I believe that Romney can win in November.

But if he does, it won't be so much a function of Romney as it will be a function of President Barack Obama.

Many voters do not believe that Obama's government-centric approach to fixing the economy will work. They have little reason to believe that the Affordable Care Act actually will make health care more affordable.

Besides, Obama has spent the past year telling voters he can't pass vital legislation because Republicans are mean obstructionists.

So why would voters re-elect a man who can't get things done?

That important question could be the one contest Republicans can win.

*Email Debra J. Saunders at dsanders@sfchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.*

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EDDY PRINCE



DEBRA SAUNDERS

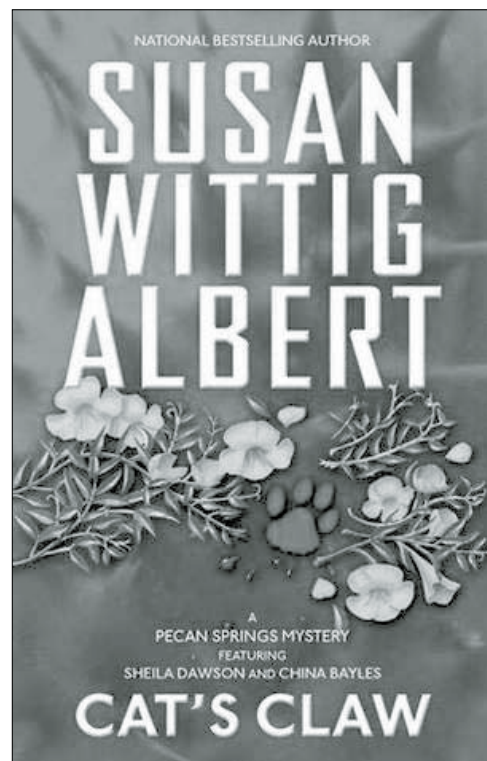
# Why not check this out at the library?

There was a deathly pall over the library on Monday morning after Martha's retirement reception. The five of us commiserated with each other, wiping away our tears. Then we said, "Well, let's get on with it," and started to work. Again, best wishes for Martha Vierra on her new found career — retirement. If you have a very, very long road trip to go on, then we have the perfect series of books on CD

to listen to; it is Jean Auel's acclaimed Earth's Children series. In 1980, Auel became a literary legend with "The Clan of the Cave Bear" (F AUE J), her first book in the series. We have the first five books of the series on CD and each volume will range from 22 hours to 33 hours in listening time.

You can start with her first book and travel the United States listening to Ayala's adventures. We can, of course, arrange extended checkout times to accommodate you.

A favorite mystery author of mine is Susan Wittig Albert. Her newest China Bayles mystery is out: "Cat's Claw" (M ALB S) takes place, of course, in Pecan Springs and features "Smart Cookie" Sheila Dawson, police chief



of Pecan Springs.

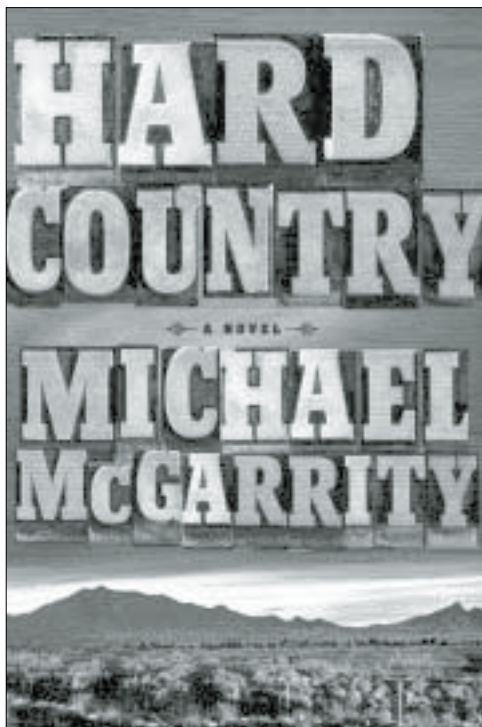
Dawson, newly married to ex-sheriff "Blackie" Blackstone, is confronted with the murder of computer shop owner Larry Kirk. Kirk ostensibly committed suicide, but the kill shot was in his right temple and Larry is left handed, plus he was very anti-gun and didn't own a gun. Between Sheila and China, and interactions of life in a small town, the case gets solved, but not before nature plays a part, too.

A mystery concerning Christopher Columbus, a disgraced investigative reporter, and a kidnapped daughter hold the key to the alleged facts of the discovery of America. From Steve Berry, comes "The Columbus

Affair" (F BER S). He was called by many names, but we know him as Christopher Columbus. Many questions about him exist: Where was he born, raised, and educated? Where did he die? How did he discover the New World? None have ever been properly answered. Berry attempts to answer those questions.

From Joe Hartlaub's Amazon.com review of Michael McGarrity's "Hard Country" (F McGM): It was just about time, though, that an epic Western in the classic sense shoulder itself to the forefront of the public's attention. "Hard Country," the sprawling new novel by Michael McGarrity, fills that need, and then some. The book is divided into three sections and takes place in the American Southwest — primarily the New Mexico territory — between 1875 and 1918.

The tale is thus book-ended by two horrific wars — the Civil War of the 1860s and World War I — and overlaps yet a third, the Spanish-American War. It is the story of the Kerney family, beginning with John, the Irish immigrant who wore Union blue in the American Civil War and made his way to Texas on the promise of a better life. That life comes



with hard and bitter strings attached.

And so it is that on what is probably the most tragic day of Kerney's life — he loses his wife, brother and nephew — he must give up his infant son while attempting to build a life for both of them. Kerney's travels and employment lead him to an encounter with Cal Doran. An incident shows each man the character of the other, and as a result they forge a friendship that will affect them both for the rest of their lives.

Kerney eventually recovers his son, and a great deal of the book follows Patrick Kerney from his childhood years to adulthood, as he slowly assumes the reins of the Double K cattle ranch,

which his father and Doran established in southwestern New Mexico.

"Hard Country" is also Doran's story. Doran is somewhat of an enigma, but McGarrity drops a hint or two about certain aspects of his make-up. What is truly and surely revealed is that Doran is a man of his word and of strong character, an iconic Western figure if there ever was one.

"Hard Country" is a true Western, but its most compelling element is McGarrity's storytelling ability,

which moves the narrative along at a stallion's pace through its generous page count. Western aficionados will be more than pleased at what they find here. Additionally, fans of McGarrity's fine series of Kevin Kerney novels will enjoy this marvelous account of Kerney's ancestral backstory. This may be the first in a trilogy, so be on the lookout for books two and three.

The library is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. until 6 p.m., with the internet/video room closing at 5:30 p.m. The library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260.

*Hollis McCright is Howard County Librarian.*

# 1.4 million still without power in storm's aftermath

WASHINGTON (AP) — Utility crews struggled to catch up with a backlog of millions of people without electricity for a fourth hot day Tuesday as frustration grew and authorities feared the toll of 22 storm deaths could rise because of stifling conditions and generator fumes.

Power was back for more than a million customers but lights — and air-conditioning — were still out for about 1.4 million homes and businesses in seven states and the District of Columbia. The damage was done by powerful wind storms that swept from the Midwest to the Mid-Atlantic late Friday, toppling trees and branches into power lines and knocking out big transmission towers and electrical substations.

Utilities were warning that many neighborhoods could remain in the dark for much of the week, if not beyond. Public officials and residents were growing impatient.

"This has happened time after time and year after year, and it seems as if they're always unprepared," said John Murphy, a professional chauffeur from

Burtonsville, Md., who was waiting for Pepco to restore power Monday to the homes of himself and his mother and sister, who live nearby.

The wave of late Friday evening storms, called a derecho, moved quickly across the region with little warning. The straight-line winds were just as destructive as any hurricane — but when a tropical system strikes, officials usually have several days to get extra personnel in place.

So utility companies had to wait days for extra crews traveling from as far away as Quebec and Oklahoma. And workers found that the toppled trees and power lines often entangled broken equipment in debris that had to be removed before workers could even get started. Adding to the urgency of the repairs are the sick and elderly, who are especially vulnerable without air conditioning in the sweltering triple-digit heat. Many sought refuge in hotels or basements.

Officials feared the death toll, already at 22, could climb because of the heat and widespread use of generators, which emit fumes that can be dangerous in enclosed

spaces. After Maryland reported Monday that three people had died in the recent heat wave — the deaths were not storm-related — Deputy Secretary Fran Phillips stressed that people who are in areas without power need to take advantage of cooling centers.

At the Springvale Terrace nursing home and senior center in Silver Spring, Md., generators were brought in to provide electricity, and air-conditioning units were installed in windows in large common rooms to offer respite from the heat and darkness.

Residents using walkers struggled to navigate doors that were supposed to open automatically. Nurses had to throw out spoiled food, sometimes over the loud objections of residents.

**sudoku**

ANSWERS

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

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The lack of power completely upended many daily routines. Supermarkets struggled to keep groceries from going bad. People on perishable medication called pharmacies to see how long their medicine would keep. In Washington, officials set up collection sites for people to drop off rotting food. Others held weekend cookouts in an attempt to use their food while it lasted. And in West Virginia, National Guard troops handed out food and water and made door-to-door checks.

When it comes to getting the power running

again, all utilities take a top-down approach that seeks to get the largest number of people back online as quickly as possible. First, crews repair substations that send power to thousands of homes and businesses. Next, they fix distribution lines. Last are the transformers that can restore power to a few customers at a time.

Some people said the destruction over the weekend was reminiscent of that caused by Tropical Storm Isabel in 2003 and Hurricane Irene in 2011.

Last year, it took Bal-

timore Gas and Electric company eight and a half days to restore service to all 750,000 customers who lost power during Hurricane Irene. This time, the power company initially confronted more than 600,000 people without power. It said restoration efforts will extend into the weekend.

Baltimore Gas and Electric said in a letter posted on its website that it would take hundreds of thousands of man-hours to clear debris and work through outages. Crews were working around the clock in 16-hour shifts.

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# Beloved TV icon Griffith dead at 86

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Andy Griffith, who made homespun Southern wisdom his trademark as the wise sheriff in “The Andy Griffith Show” and the rumpled defense lawyer in “Matlock,” died Tuesday. He was 86.

Griffith died about 7 a.m. at his coastal home in Manteo, Dare County. Sheriff Doug Doughtie said in a statement. The family will release further information, Doughtie said.

He had suffered a heart attack and underwent quadruple bypass surgery in 2000.

Griffith's career spanned more than a half-century on stage, film and television, but he would always be best known as Sheriff Andy Taylor in the television show set in a North Carolina town not too different from Griffith's own hometown of Mount Airy, N.C.

Griffith set the show

in the fictional town of Mayberry, N.C., where Sheriff Taylor was the dutiful nephew who ate pickles that tasted like kerosene because they were made by his loving Aunt Bee, played by the late Frances Bavier.

He was a widowed father who offered gentle guidance to son Opie, played by Ron Howard, who grew up to become the Oscar-winning director of “A Beautiful Mind.”

Knotts was the goofy Deputy Barney Fife, while Jim Nabors joined the show as Gomer Pyle, the unworldly, lovable gas pumper.

On “Matlock,” which aired from 1986 through 1995, Griffith played a cagey Harvard-educated defense attorney who was Southern-bred and -mannered with a practice in Atlanta.

In his rumpled seersucker suit in a steamy courtroom (air conditioning would have



**File photo**  
Andy Griffith, right, is shown with co-stars Don Knotts, left, and Ron Howard on the set of “The Andy Griffith Show” in this file photo. Griffith died Tuesday at the age of 86.

spoiled the mood), Matlock could toy with a witness and tease out a confession like a folksy Perry Mason.

The character — law-abiding, fatherly and lovable — was much like Sheriff Andy Taylor with silver hair and a shingle.

In a 2007 interview with The Associated Press, Griffith said “The Andy Griffith Show,” which initially aired from 1960 to 1968, was seen somewhere in the world every day. A reunion movie, “Return to Mayberry,” was the top-rated TV movie of the 1985-86 season.

“The Andy Griffith Show” was a loving portrait of the town where few grew up but many wished they did — a place where all foibles are forgiven and friendships are forever. Villains came through town

and moved on, usually changed by their stay in Mayberry.

That was all a credit to Griffith, said Craig Fincannon, who met Griffith in 1974.

“I see so many TV shows about the South where the creative powers behind it have no life experience in the South,” Fincannon said. “What made ‘The Andy Griffith Show’ work was Andy Griffith himself — the fact that he was of this dirt and had such deep respect for the people and places of his childhood. A character might be broadly eccentric, but the character had an ethical and moral base that allowed us to laugh with them and not at them. And Andy Griffith's the reason for that.”

Griffith's career included stints on Broadway, notably “No Time

for Sergeants”; movies such as Elia Kazan's “A Face in the Crowd”; and records.

He was inducted into the Academy of Television Arts Hall of Fame in 1992 and in 2005, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, one of the country's highest civilian honors.

“The Andy Griffith Show” was one of only three series in TV history to bow out at the top of the ratings. (The others were “I Love Lucy” and “Seinfeld.”) Griffith said he decided to end it “because I thought it was slipping, and I didn't want it to go down further.”

When asked in 2007 to name his favorite episodes, the ones atop Griffith's list were the shows that emphasized Knotts' character. Griffith and Knotts had become friends while performing in “No Time for Sergeants,” and remained so until Knotts' death in 2006 at 81.

“The second episode that we shot, I knew Don should be funny and I should play straight for him,” Griffith said. “That opened up the whole series because I could play straight for everybody else. And I didn't have to be funny. I just let them be funny.”

Letting others get the laughs was something of a role reversal for Griffith, whose career took off after he recorded the comedic monologue “What It Was, Was Football.”

That led to his first national television exposure on “The Ed Sullivan Show” in 1954, and the stage and screen versions as the bumbling draftee in “No Time for Sergeants.”

In the drama “A

Face in the Crowd,” he starred as Larry “Lonesome” Rhodes, a local jailbird and amateur singer who becomes a homespun philosopher on national television. As his influence rises, his drinking, womanizing and lust for power are hidden by his handlers.

“Mr. Griffith plays him with thunderous vigor,” The New York Times wrote. Said The Washington Post: “He seems to have one of those personalities that sets film blazing.”

Griffith said Kazan led him through his role, and it was all a bit overwhelming for someone with, as he put it, just “one little acting course in college.”

“He would call me in the morning into his little office there, and he'd tell me all the colors that he wanted to see from my character that day,” he recalled in 2007.

“Lonesome Rhodes had wild mood swings. He'd be very happy, he'd be very said, he'd be very angry, very depressed,” he said. “And I had to pull all of these emotions out of myself. And it wasn't easy.”

His role as Sheriff Taylor seemingly obliterated Hollywood's memory of Griffith as a bad guy. But then, after that show ended, he found roles scarce until he landed a bad-guy role in “Pray for the Wildcats.”

Hollywood's memory bank dried up again, he said. “I couldn't get anything but heavies. It's funny how that town is out there. They see you one way.”

More recently, Griffith won a Grammy in 1997 for his album of gospel music “I Love to Tell the Story — 25 Timeless Hymns.”

## Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

### The Rationale of Dummy Play

West dealer.  
East-West vulnerable.

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

**WEST**  
♠ Q J 2  
♥ Q 10 7 6  
♦ 6 4  
♣ J 10 9 8

**EAST**  
♠ 7  
♥ A J 4 3 2  
♦ J 8 5  
♣ K 7 5 3

**SOUTH**  
♠ 10 9 6 5 4  
♥ 8 5  
♦ A 9 3  
♣ A 4 2

The bidding:  
West North East South  
Pass 1♦ Pass 1♠  
Pass 3♣ Pass 4♣

Opening lead — jack of clubs.

A fine declarer does everything he possibly can to guard against unfavorable distribution. Today's deal illustrates the type of reasoning required in a potentially dangerous situation.

West leads the jack of clubs against four spades, and declarer covers the jack with the queen, hoping West has led from a combination headed by the K-J-10. But East produces the king, and declarer runs into his first problem — whether to take East's king with the ace.

South correctly concludes that it would be a mistake to win the trick. This is because he knows that East on lead can do him no harm, whereas if South takes the king with the ace, the contract might fail if West later gained the lead with a club and shifted to a heart.

So declarer ducks the king and wins East's club continuation with the ace. South then leads a low trump and, after West follows with the deuce, plays the eight from dummy!

When the eight unexpectedly wins, declarer draws trumps, cashes five diamond tricks, discarding his two heart losers, and later ruffs a club in dummy to finish with 12 tricks.

It is true that any declarer seeing all four hands would do just as well. However, the deep trump finesse at trick three is not based on a peek at the opponents' cards. Looking at only the North-South hands, the trump finesse is clearly the right play. South fully expects the eight to lose to the jack or queen — which is what would normally happen — but also expects to be in an excellent position thereafter.

Note what happens if declarer plays the king of trumps from dummy at trick three instead of the eight. Regardless of what he does next, he eventually goes down one, losing a trump, two hearts and a club.

Tomorrow: The art of slam bidding.  
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## 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.

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

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Sweetwater Reporter THE SPRING HERALD

## In Sunday's Big Spring Herald

Actor Kevin Sorbo

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### Fourth of July fun at Comanche Trail Golf Course

HERALD photo/Brian McCormack  
Chick Madry (left) goes for the cup Tuesday during a leisurely day on the links at Comanche Trail Golf Course. Fellow golfer Jack White looks on.

### Next stop: PGA Tour?

HERALD photo/Brian McCormack  
Comanche Trail golfers (from left), Chick Madry, Jack White, Dean Fleharty, Jimmy Foresyth and Forrest West enjoy striking fear in the hearts of opponents on the links. As you can see, these men mean business. At least two of them insisted that they birdied the entire course.



### Phelps drops 200 free, won't be going for eight gold medals

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Eight was enough for Michael Phelps in Beijing.

The world's greatest swimmer dropped one of his eight Olympic events on Monday, leaving him with seven at the London Games. That means the 14-time gold medalist won't equal the record eight golds he won four years ago.

And Phelps is just fine with that. "Four years ago, we were trying to literally do everything," he told The Associated Press in an interview Monday. "That was what we wanted to do but at this point, it's let's go out, let's have some fun, let's relax a little bit."

Phelps' coach, Bob Bowman, announced Monday on the final day of the U.S. trials that Phelps was scratching the 200-meter freestyle.

"It's so much smarter for me to do that," Phelps said. "We're not trying to recreate what happened in Beijing. It just makes more sense."

Phelps qualified in five individual events for London and is expected to swim all three relays. But, on Bowman's recommendation, he will focus on the 200 and 100 and 200 butterfly.

"This is an event program that I'm very confident that I can do and do better than I did here," he said, referring to his results in Omaha.

Bowman said his main concern was Phelps being fresh for the 400 freestyle relay. While the U.S. has traditionally dominated that event, Australia is favored in London. The relay was one of Phelps' closest calls in Beijing, with teammate Jason Lezak coming from behind on the anchor leg to beat

a strong French squad.

The relay final is on the same day as the preliminaries and semifinals of the 200 freestyle.

"The 400 free relay is going to be harder than it was last time," Phelps said between bites of French toast, scrambled eggs and bacon over a late breakfast. "It just allows me to put my energy elsewhere instead of trying to control it for another three races."

Phelps has to swim preliminaries, semifinals and finals in the 200 IM, and the 100 and 200 butterfly. The grueling 400 IM, which opens the swimming competition on July 28, has prelims and finals.

"It's a lot and it is going to be stressful," he said. "My body is not going to feel the same as it did after the Beijing 400 IM. I was fresh and still ready to go."

Now 27, Phelps hasn't adhered to the rigid training schedule he was on for years leading up to Beijing. After the Great Haul of China, he took time off and showed little interest in resuming the grind that had prepared him to win eight events.

"No one should be expected to do that twice," Bowman said of the program Phelps swam in Beijing. "Once was more than enough."

Eventually, Phelps recommitted to coming to practice and doing the work.

He and Bowman viewed the eight-day trials as a barometer for how Phelps' body would handle the busy schedule.

"We were, I guess, pretty happy with it," Phelps said. "I was able to swim

See **PHELPS**, Page 12

### Judge denies compensation for Clemens

WASHINGTON (AP) — Roger Clemens won't be getting back the money he spent on his first perjury trial, the one that ended in a mistrial.

U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton on Tuesday denied the former pitcher's request for fees and other costs associated with the trial

that ended abruptly last July when prosecutors showed jurors a snippet of videotaped evidence that had been previously ruled inadmissible.

Walton said last fall that "it doesn't seem fair" for Clemens to pay for the government's mistake, but the judge's ruling found that the law doesn't allow for

such compensation because it wasn't shown that the prosecutors deliberately introduced the barred evidence.

Clemens was charged with lying to Congress when he denied using performance-enhancing drugs. He was retried this year and found not guilty on all counts.

### ACC announces 12-year deal with Orange Bowl

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — The Atlantic Coast Conference is remaining tied to the Orange Bowl.

The league on Tuesday announced a 12-year agreement with the bowl beginning after the 2014 season. It says details on the opponent and broadcast partner will come later.

The ACC has sent its champion to the South Florida-based bowl every year since 2006, and this announcement means that relationship will continue when the Bowl Subdivision makes the switch to a four-team playoff in two years.

"As we look ahead to the future of postseason college football, this will further an already beneficial partnership for both organizations,"

ACC Commissioner John Swofford said. "The Discover Orange Bowl has a rich history of prestige, is located within the league's footprint and is a great destination for our student-athletes, alumni and fans. In addition to our continued partnership, we are very pleased to be playing annually on New Year's Day."

The Orange Bowl will be played annually at 1 p.m. on Jan. 1.

The league anticipates the Orange Bowl hosting at least four semifinal games and says in those years, its champion will play in one of the three other host bowls.

If the ACC champion makes the playoffs, another ACC team will play in the Orange Bowl.

The ACC becomes the fifth major conference to announce a tie with a bowl that expects to be part of the pool of six bowls from which two semifinal sites will rotate.

The Big 12 and Southeastern Conference are creating the Champions Bowl for their representatives, while the Big Ten and Pac-12 are committed to the Rose Bowl.

O. Ford Gibson, president and chair of the Orange Bowl Committee, says his bowl is "is extremely pleased to continue its relationship" with the ACC and is "looking forward to entering this new era of postseason collegiate football with a valued partner and its historically successful member institutions."





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Legal Authority: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil & 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 & Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, TX 78714-2967 (Telephone #(512)463-6815). #7426 Wednesday 4, 2012

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Happy birthday, America! With your sun, Mercury, Venus and Jupiter all in Cancer, you are truly an ever-changing nation in sync with the moon's rhythm. Your natal moon in the forward-thinking and humanitarian sign of

decide that that someone is you. You do this in a very humble, human way. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Everyone wants to be loved by a person who doesn't demand gratification in return. Unconditional love doesn't want anything. It's rare and hard to find, and it's the kind of love you feel for someone now.

lucrative. You'll make a stellar arrangement in August. September is the most romantic. Travel in November and June. Pisces and Taurus people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 49, 25, 4, 15 and 27.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS:

"My husband likes my hair long, and I like my hair short. My husband also likes his own hair long, and I like that short, too. This didn't used to be a problem when we were younger. I guess I've changed. I feel like he'll have a better chance at getting a good job if he cuts his hair. He calls me 'Delilah.' Who is right? I'm a Scorpio and he's a Leo."

Though these lovers have been depicted at times on Tuscan wedding trays, make no mistake, the tale of Samson and Delilah is no romance. In the Bible story, Samson is extraordinarily strong because he promised God he wouldn't cut his hair. It is very possible that Samson was a Leo, as they are especially fond of their mains. Delilah was hired by the enemy army to figure out the source of his strength. Samson lies to her several times, but finally she wins his trust and figures out his hair secret. Then she has him shaved, and in his weakened state, the enemy blinds and beats him, and he's forced to work in a prison. The moral of the story is clear: Love means staying out of each other's hair.

CELEBRITY PROFILES:

First daughter Malia Obama had the gracious timing to be born on Independence Day, which had to be considered a harbinger of good fortune for a father contemplating the presidency. Malia's natal Venus and Mars are both in Gemini, indicating verbal ease and an impressive intellect. Her Mercury in Leo suggests that she's cool in the spotlight and likes a certain amount of public attention.

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Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You can't force a plant to grow. You can only create the conditions that are most conducive to its thriving. There are many things about your life that will blossom in time if you plant the seed and then back off.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The simple desire to make another person feel positive and good is the essence of charm. You're feeling so confident now that you're able to focus on others without a worry as to your own gain from the situation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Other people's wants do not always require an automatic response from you. Think about the best way to help first. Be careful not to fly to someone's aid out of a compulsory need to be the rescuer.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You have an openness about you now. Maybe it's your smile or twinkling eyes, or maybe it's because your head is held high. Whatever it is, interesting people will approach you because of it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You don't believe that the leader is better than everyone else, only more experienced. Someone has to take charge, and you'll

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5:PM	News ABC	Casa Notic.	Two Men Two Men	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News News	King King	Swallow House	Charlie Rose	King King	American Guns							
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Un Refugio para el Amor (SS)	Big Bang Big Bang	News Ent	Caso Cer-rado	Millionaire Betty	Seinfeld Dr.	Dr. Diana Dr.	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld Seinfeld	American Guns							
7:PM	Middle Suburg.	New Girl	New Girl	Dogs in the City	Una Maid en	All Night	Fam. Guy Upd	Fam. Guy Chevalme	A Capitol Fourth	Top Model	American Guns							
8:PM	Mod Fam	Abismo de Pasión	New Girl	Criminal Minds	Corazón Valiente	July Fire-works	Fam. Guy Big Bang	Fam. Guy Light of the Southwest	A Capitol Fourth	Top Model	American Guns							
9:PM	(02) Final Witness	La Que No	Simpsons How I Met	Boston Pops	Relaciones Peli	July Fire-works	Big Bang Big Bang	Big Bang Big Bang	A Capitol Fourth	Cops	Fast N' Loud							
10:PM	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	How I Met	News Letterman	Noticias La Diosa Coronada	News Jay Leno	Conan	McGee McDonald	Charlie Rose	Til Death	American Guns							
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Hasta-Dinero	Law Order: CI	Ferguson	Decisiones (SS)	Jimmy Fallon	Conan	Yohanán	World (Off Air)	Til Death	American Guns							
12:AM	Extra Mazda	Mañana-Siempre	Raymond Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	News	Seinfeld	Light of the Southwest		South Pk	American Guns							
1:AM	Paid	La Jaula	American TMZ	Paid	Paid	(06) Today	Seinfeld	Light of the Southwest		Wretched L. Tripp	American Guns	Breaking Bad	Entourage	Leverage				

**DENNIS THE MENACE**



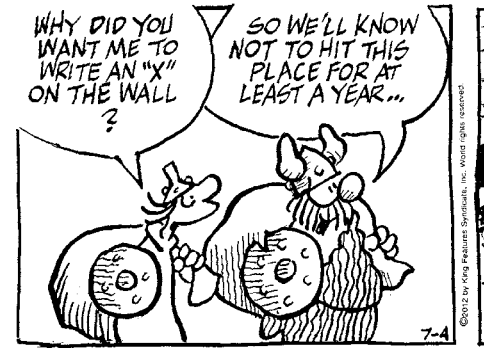
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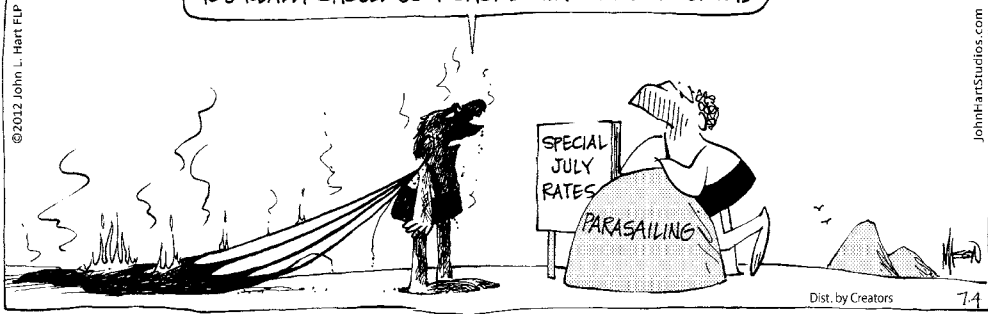
**HAGAR**



**BLONDIE**



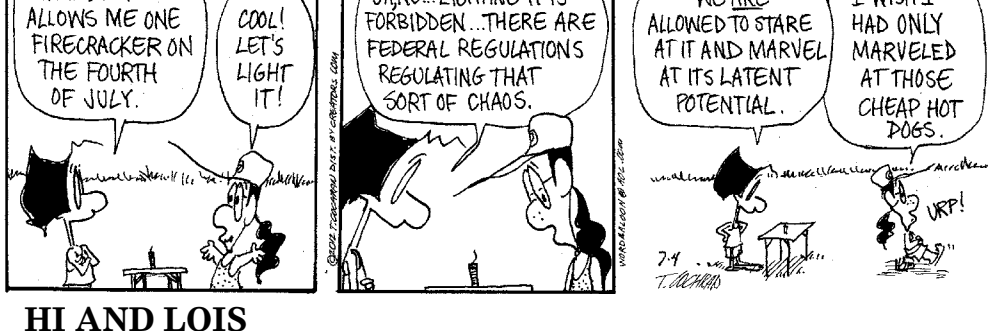
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**WIZARD OF ID**



**AGNES**



**HI AND LOIS**



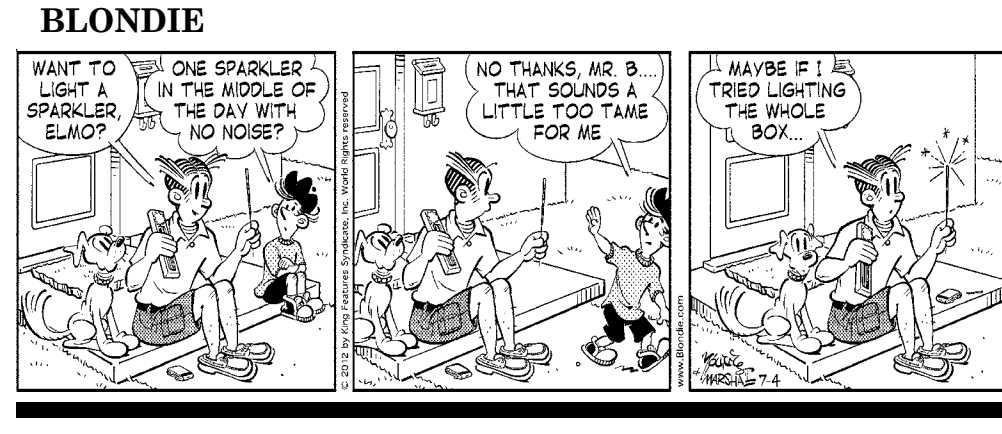
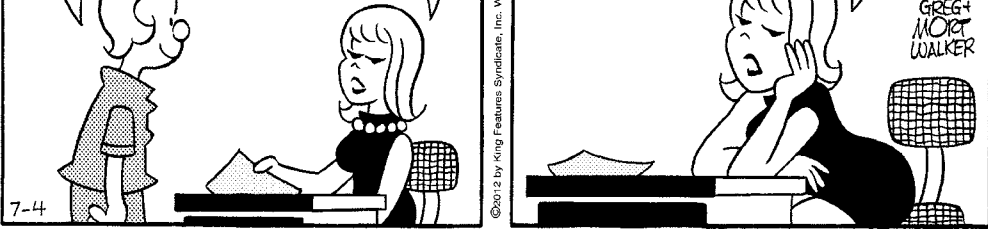
**THE OTHER COAST**



**SNUFFY SMITH**



**BEEBLE BAILEY**



**This Date In History**

Today is Wednesday, July 4, the 186th day of 2012. There are 180 days left in the year. This is Independence Day.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was adopted by delegates to the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia.

On this date:

- In 1802, the United States Military Academy officially opened at West Point, N.Y.
- In 1831, the fifth president of the United States, James Monroe, died in New York City at age 73.
- In 1862, English mathematician and clergyman Charles L. Dodgson ("Lewis Carroll") began devising the story of Alice in Wonderland for his young friend Alice Pleasance Liddell (LIH'-duhl) and her sisters during a boating trip.
- In 1872, the 30th president of the United States, Calvin Coolidge, was born in Plymouth, Vt.
- In 1912, the 48-star American flag, recognizing New Mexico statehood, was adopted. A train wreck near Corning, N.Y., claimed 39 lives.
- In 1939, Lou Gehrig of the New York Yankees delivered his famous farewell speech in which he called himself "the luckiest man on the face of the earth."
- In 1942, Irving Berlin's musical review "This Is the Army" opened at the Broadway Theater in New York.
- In 1959, America's 49-star flag, recognizing Alaskan statehood, was officially unfurled.
- In 1960, America's 50-star flag, recognizing Hawaiian statehood, was officially unfurled.
- In 1976, Israeli commandos raided Entebbe (en-TEH'-bee) airport in Uganda (yoo-GAHN'-dah), rescuing almost all of the passengers and crew of an Air France jetliner seized by pro-Palestinian hijackers.
- In 1982, the space shuttle Columbia concluded its fourth and final test flight with a smooth landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California. Heavy metal rocker Ozzy Osbourne married his manager, Sharon Arden, in Maui, Hawaii.
- In 1987, Klaus Barbie, the former Gestapo chief known as the "Butcher of Lyon," was convicted by a French court of crimes against humanity and sentenced to life in prison (he died in September 1991).

Answer to previous puzzle

STEW	CHAP	BASIL
HALO	RARE	ARISE
ACAR	ERIE	SELLS
GOLD	MEDAL	EAVES
LAKE	MDSE	
CABIN	RATIO	RCA
ALLSET	CORN	SUB
ROUT	ERUPT	ITRY
THE	SNIT	HARRAS
EAR	WAGES	MORES
ITEM	TOON	
LIBRA	BLACK	BELT
ATBAT	RAPT	ALOE
STOLE	IDLE	REIN
SONAR	MEET	SEND

**Newsday Crossword** MORE THAN WARM by David W. Cromer Edited by Stanley Newman

www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

- 1 Hapless fellow
- 6 Abbr. like
- 9 TRYing to homer, perhaps
- 14 Illegally made liquor
- 15 \_\_\_ de Cologne
- 16 Suffix meaning "eater"
- 17 Impressive display
- 18 Neighbor of Fla.
- 19 Part of many business addr.
- 20 Long-running sports feud
- 23 \_\_\_ Paulo, Brazil
- 24 Before, in poems
- 25 Flat-screen ancestor: Abbr.
- 28 Popular favorite
- 35 Hems and \_\_\_
- 37 Former Russian space station
- 38 Bolivian bucks
- 39 Bolivian "bye-bye"
- 41 Bowler's target
- 43 Barely defeated
- 44 End-of-semester rituals
- 46 Noticed
- 48 Keep on file
- 49 Short fuse
- 52 Zilch
- 53 Action movie prop
- 54 Summer zodiac sign
- 56 Hankering
- 63 Novel with 57 Down
- 65 "Golly!"
- 66 Swiss city
- 67 Eagle claw
- 68 Scratch up
- 69 Giraffe cousin
- 70 Use an iron on
- 71 Chair part
- 72 Bout enders

**DOWN**

- 1 Former Iranian ruler
- 2 Apple center
- 3 Circle dance
- 4 Would-be drs.' exams
- 5 "Sez who?"
- 6 Orchard fruit
- 7 Spanish surrealist
- 8 Tremble
- 9 Diner dessert
- 10 Odin's son
- 11 Crib dweller
- 12 In the past
- 13 \_\_\_-Mex cuisine
- 21 Dire fate
- 22 Yankee star's nickname
- 25 Grain refuse
- 26 Circle measures
- 27 Strong thread
- 29 Hint
- 30 Optics device
- 31 Calls a halt to daughter
- 32 King Lear
- 33 Rome fountain
- 34 Alpine song
- 36 Fly high
- 40 Mischievous expressions
- 42 Short break
- 45 Amaze
- 47 Fuse metal
- 50 Puzzling situation
- 51 Nike competitor
- 55 Japanese city
- 56 Liver product
- 57 Strange sky sightings: Abbr.
- 58 Not far away
- 59 Idea's beginning
- 60 Brit's exclamation
- 61 Item seized, for short
- 62 Yale students
- 63 Indy 500 advertiser
- 64 Indy 500 racer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
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### Arbitrator rules for Brees in franchise tag matter

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — An arbitrator in Philadelphia has ruled in Drew Brees' favor in a dispute over how much the Saints would have to pay him if they applied the franchise tag to the star quarterback again in 2013.

The ruling adds leverage to Brees, who has so far skipped the Saints' offseason practices

while holding out for a new long-term contract with New Orleans.

The Saints have already used the tag on Brees for 2012, meaning he can't negotiate with another team and could be forced to settle for a one-year, \$16.3 million deal if he cannot reach a new long-term deal. Arbitrator Stephen Burbank's ruling Tuesday

said if New Orleans tries to tag Brees a second year in a row, he would be entitled to a 44 percent raise to more than \$23 million because it would be his third-career franchise tag. The NFL had argued Brees would be due a 20 percent raise because it would have been only his second franchise tag with one team.

Burbank, however, ruled that while the NFL's CBA has some ambiguity on the matter, it is clear that the overarching purpose of the language regarding multiple franchise tags is meant to protect players from being denied their rights to free agency for an undue length of their careers.

### PHELPS

Continued from Page 7

some pretty good times and not really feel great, but over the next couple of weeks that's something that we're going to improve on and work on."

With Phelps dropping the 200 free, Ricky Berens moved up to claim an individual spot on the Olympic team for the first time. He was already scheduled to swim the 400 and 800 free relays.

"Dream come true!" Berens tweeted.

Dropping the 200 free also removes one of Phelps' showdowns with American rival Ryan Lochte, the defending world champion. They will now face each other in just the two individual medleys.

"It gives me a day off for recovery after the (400) IM," Phelps said. "It's something that's needed. Swimming that many times is brutal and there's no need to put myself through that."

Phelps is giving up the chance to defend his 200 free Olympic

title and regain the world record that Germany's Paul Biedermann set at the 2009 world championships wearing one of the high-tech bodysuits that are now banned.

Phelps will still have a chance to three-peat in his other four individual races. No swimmer has ever won the same event in three straight Olympics.

Phelps confirmed that he will retire after his last swim in London.

"I won't be coming back," he said. "Put it on record."

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