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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**THURSDAY**

JULY 5, 2012



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## Oh beautiful Howard County celebrates America's independence

By **AMANDA MORENO**  
 Staff Writer

Fireworks, music and an all around good time is what Pops in the Park offered once again.

This year's celebration marked another success for the 15-year tradition held at

the Comanche Trail Park Amphitheater. The evening kicked off with former Big Spring resident Don Turner and his Dixieland band taking the stage at 6:30 p.m.

Turner, a contractor for the  
 See **POPS**, Page 3



## 45th parade Highland celebrates

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
 Staff Writer

By foot, stroller, pedal and motor power, Highland South's smallest residents showed their patriotism in colorful ways Wednesday.

The 45th Annual Highland South Fourth of July Parade attracted more than 30 entries this year. That number was down slightly from 2011, but Parade Coordinator Melanie Lawdermilk said the quality of the entries was as strong as ever.

Lawdermilk credited her fellow volunteers with helping make the event a success.

"I think it went really smoothly this year," she said. "We had a lot of good helpers ... We had a lot of good cookies and refreshments for everyone to enjoy after the



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan  
 Twins Zack, left, and Zane Folsom sit in their red, white and blue stroller prior to the start of Highland South Fourth of July Parade Wednesday. More than 30 entries were received for the event, organizers said. At top left, fireworks explode over the Comanche Trail Park Amphitheater during Pops in the Park. At top right, grilled hamburgers await celebrants.

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See **PARADE**, Page 3

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## Camouflage, Camouflage

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## Obituaries

### Jeremiah Gary Hart

Jeremiah Gary Hart, 23, of Big Spring died Wednesday, July 4, 2012, in Big Spring. Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 7, 2012, at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Jeremiah was born April 13, 1989, in Big Spring, Texas.

Survivors include his parents, Kristie Hart and Frankie Pennington of Big Spring; three brothers, Michael Neel of Big Spring, Cody Pennington of Charleston, S.C., and Frankie Pennington Jr. of Ben

Salem, Pa.; two sisters, Amanda Hart and Kimberly Hart, both of Big Spring; maternal grandparents, Gary Swann, Rachel Swann and Leah Fuller, all of Colorado City; paternal grandparents, Clifford Sr. and Joetta Hart of Big Spring; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins, and his caregiver.

He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Eddie McCormick.

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

### James Lee Henderson



James Lee Henderson, 72, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, July 3, 2012, at his residence. Graveside funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, July 6, 2012, at the Texas State Veterans Cemetery, Abilene.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, July 5, 2012, at the funeral home.

He was born Oct. 4, 1939, in Brownwood, Texas and married Gayla L. Cook on Jan. 4, 1974, in Floresville, Texas.

James was a veteran of the United States Army. He was a member of the Non-commissioned Officers Association, the VFW and the National Uniform Association. After retiring from the Army, he was a ranch manager for 35 years.

He was a member of Trinity Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Gayla L. Henderson of Big Spring; three daughters, Oleta Huitt and husband, Terry and Tina Henderson all of Big Spring, and Gina Parton and husband, Everett of Sand Springs; one brother, Joe Henderson of Ballinger; one sister, Barbara Degilia of Bryan; five grandsons and one great grandson.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Minnie Oleta (Bagley) Henderson.

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

### Levi Pearson



Levi Pearson, 80, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, July 3, 2012, at his residence. The family will receive friends from 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Memorial services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday, July 6, 2012, at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Craig Felty officiating.

He was born Oct. 18, 1931, in Stanton to Maudie and Claude Pearson. He lived most of his life in Big Spring. He was a veteran of the U. S. Army.

He married Betty Lou Rohus on March 31, 1982, in Lovington, N.M. He was a welder in the oilfield and in recent years he and his wife owned D & R

Casing Services. He was a member of the Pentecostal Church, and served many years as a Pentecostal Minister.

He is survived by his wife, Betty Lou Pearson of Big Spring; six daughters, Dona Lee, Sheila Palmer and her husband Tom, Sharon Pearson, Sandra Hayman and her husband Jimmy, Rhonda Paredez and her husband Ismael, and Pamela Harris and her husband James; three sons, Bobby Pearson and his wife Teri, Don Pearson and his wife Lisa, and Timothy Pearson and his wife Kendra; three step-sons, John Wesley Martin and his wife Karen, David Altom and his wife Michelle, and Rodney Martin; and a number of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

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

### Loyce Ballard



Loyce Ballard, age 79, of Snyder, Texas, died Wednesday, July 4, 2012, at Cogdell Memorial Hospital in Snyder, Texas after a lengthy illness.

Services for Mrs. Ballard will be held Friday, July 6, 2012, at 10 a.m. at Faith Baptist Church with Pastor Nicky Johnson officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park in Big

Spring under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Mrs. Ballard was born July 16, 1932, in Big Spring, Texas to Corbet and Mary Lee (Mosely) Lawder-

milk. She married Lloyd D. Ballard on Jan. 20, 1954, in Big Spring, Texas. She was a housewife and a member of Faith Baptist Church in Snyder.

She is survived by her husband, Lloyd Ballard of Snyder; a daughter, Karen Remmler of Snyder; two sisters, Carydine Hopper of Tarzan, Texas and Billie Schultz, of Enid, Okla.; a granddaughter, Danielle Dosier; and a great-granddaughter, Abbagail Ballard.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Ricky Dan Ballard; and two brothers; Lee Lawdermilk and Edwin Lawdermilk.

Visitation will be Thursday, July 5, 2012, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Memorials can be made to Roloff Home, P.O. Box 1177, Corpus Christi, Texas, 78403.

*Paid obituary*

### Mike Carter

Mike Carter, 64, of Big Spring died Tuesday, July

3, 2012, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. His services are pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Police/Sheriff/EMS

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

- CHRISTOPHER RYAN COLEGROVE, 20, of 1311 Madison, was arrested Wednesday on charges of evading arrest or detention, disorderly conduct – fighting, failure to appear (eight counts), driving without safety belt secured, criminal mischief – more than \$500 and less than \$1,500 and a warrant from another agency.
- ANDRES NIETO, 42, of 1901 Hilltop Rd., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of failure to stop and render aid injury/death.
- VIRGINIA LOUISA DUENEZ, 43, of 6412 N. County Rd. 25, was arrested Wednesday on charges of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction, expired registration, failure to appear (five counts), driving while license invalid (two counts) and a warrant from another agency.
- ALFONSO BACA III, 30, of 506 State, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant for driving while license invalid.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported: In the 1900 block of Winston Street.
- In the 1300 block of Ridgeroad.
- ASSAULT was reported: In the 1600 block of Lincoln.
- In the 1900 block of N. Highway 87.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 1000 block of Wood Street.
- THEFT was reported in the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 69 inmates at the time of this report.

- MORGAN LEE WATSON, 49, was booked into the county detention center Tuesday by the BSPD on municipal capias warrants for expired driver's license (two counts), violation of a promise to appear (two counts), failure to appear (two counts), failure to maintain financial responsibility (two counts), weedy lot – first offense and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.
- DONALD CRAIG BAKER, 40, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for forgery of a financial instrument.
- LAHOMA L. JURDAN, 43, was booked into the county detention center Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of assault causing bodily injury.

## Support Groups

### THURSDAY

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

• Spring Tabernacle Ministries has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and

continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m. until noon and again at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.. The classes take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.

• Visual Awareness Support Group (VASG) will meet at 5:30 p.m. May 24, at St. Mary's Episcopal Church Parish Hall.

### Roger J. Demers



Roger J. Demers, 62, passed away Saturday, June 30, 2012, his home in Newark, Del.

He moved to Big Spring in 1975 and worked at Malone & Hogan Clinic as a physician's assistant with the local surgeons until 1987. He had also served in the U.S. Navy.

He was preceded in death by his father, Roland J. Demers.

Survivors include his wife, Sue Demers; two children, Melissa Baker of Clearwater, Fla. and Jason Demers of Bear, Del.; his mother, Irene Demers; a sister, Elaine Wilk; and three grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday, July 8, 2012, at Beeson Funeral Home in Newark, Del. Funeral services with military honors will be Monday, July 9, 2012, at the National Cemetery in Newark, Del.

### Teodora T. Ramirez

Teodora T. Ramirez, 79, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, July 3, 2012, at her residence. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 7, 2012, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

A prayer vigil will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, July 6, 2012, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

Teodora was born May 1, 1933, in Del Rio, Texas and married Canuto Ramirez Sr. on Nov. 7, 1958, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death July 16, 2010.

She was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Parish.

Survivors include four sons, Canuto "J.R." Ramirez Jr. and wife, Christina and Francisco Ramirez and wife, Mary, all of Big Spring, Jose Luis Ramirez and wife, Diana of Homestead, Fla., and Gustavo Ramirez and wife, Olivia of Midland; three daughters, Alicia Ramirez of San Angelo, Maria Enriqueta and husband, Marlin Johnke of Lubbock, and Adela Ramirez and husband, Noe Arguello of Big Spring; one sister, Guadalupe Gonzales of Big Spring; 22 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, Felipe and Teodora (Tellez) Ramirez; one daughter, Celia Moran; four brothers, Jose Ramirez, Camilo Ramirez, Octaviano Ramirez and Felipe Ramirez, Jr.; and one sister, Francisca Carillo.

Memorials be made to Holy Trinity Catholic Parish, P. O. Box 951, Big Spring, Texas 79721-0951.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.



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Two killed in Glasscock County crash...

Mexican national arrested for manslaughter

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

A 41-year-old Mexican man has been charged with two counts of manslaughter and booked into the Howard County Detention Center following a fatal traffic accident Tuesday in Glasscock County.

Ruben Montes Garces was arrested by DPS at 4:32 p.m. Wednesday on Texas Department of Public Safety warrants for manslaughter (two

counts), according to records provided by the Howard County Sheriff's Office.

Enforcement reports indicate, the traffic accident was reported near the intersection of FM 1357 and FM 2401 at approximately 5 p.m. Tuesday. Garces was driving an 18-wheel truck and failed to stop at the stop sign located at the intersection, crashing into a pickup truck.

Jacob Power, 18, and

Brian McBride, 28, both of Midland, were killed in the accident, according to officials with the Glasscock County Sheriff's Office. Power was a senior at Midland Lee High School during the previous school year and was a member of the football team.

Unconfirmed reports indicate Garces currently resides in Odessa, but is originally from Chihuahua, Mexico. He is believed to be in the

United States illegally, but law enforcement officials said they could neither confirm or deny that belief at this time.

Officials with the Howard County Detention Center, said bond had not been set for Garces at the time of this report.

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



Garces

Immunization clinic slated for Monday

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.

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

POPS

Continued from Page 1

Big Spring Symphony, and his four-man band — three of whom are members of the symphony — brought a little bit of jazz to the Big Spring community. Their line up included several original scores, including one written by a Big Spring resident.

"This year went very well. The pre-show was wonderful, the symphony played beautifully and the fireworks were amazing," Pops in the Park Co-Chair Kelly Grant said. "I am very impressed at how well it went and we are already looking forward to putting on a bigger and better show next year."

Official attendance numbers were not taken, but according to Debbye ValVerde, Pops in the Park treasurer, the amphitheater was packed. Attendance numbers didn't stop there though; people didn't only fill the amphitheater, but the numbers spread throughout the park and along Highway 87.

"You could stand at

the top of the amphitheater and look out and just see cars lined up all along the highway in addition to all those who were in the park," ValVerde said.

Those watching from the amphitheater were able to take advantage of the more than 25 vendors serving food and selling Fourth of July memorabilia. Several churches and Relay For Life teams were providing food and refreshments as a way of raising donations for their local causes.

Once again, the Commemorative Air Force provided a special moment with their fly over and missing man formation. The fly-over took place right before the tribute video aired recognizing local men and women in the military.

"The most memorable, touching moment of the evening — not to take away from the symphony or the fireworks — was the fly over," ValVerde said. "The missing man formation just takes your breath away."

The Big Spring Symphony once again provided the backdrop

music for the firework display, which was provided by a Fort Worth company, Atlas.

"This is truly an event that is unique to the area," Grant said. "We have this beautiful amphitheater and this is one of the ways we can put it to use. I don't know of many other communities regionally who put on this big of a show. We need to continue to come together and show our support for the event."

Of course, Pops in the Park and Fourth of July are not only about fireworks. The soldiers who have fought for the nation's freedom and ensuring Big Spring residents are able to enjoy moments like Pops in the Park are the real reasons behind the celebration.

"It is so important that we honor our soldiers who fight and make this the great place to live that it is," Pops in the Park Co-Chair Jan Hansen said. "I appreciate all that they have done to make our community what it is."

"Our community needs to stay behind them and show them

support."

This year, not only were Big Spring residents in attendance, but some people traveled from as far away as Houston to enjoy the show. Other area communities such as San Angelo, Midland and Snyder were represented at this year's Pops in the Park.

The entire celebration is made possible through community support — donations made by corporate sponsors as well as individual donations. KBST was a sponsor, as usual, and joined in the festivities. Throughout the evening, members of KBST launched commemorative Pops in the Park shirts to the audience.

"All of this is done by contributions. We have big contributions of course, but we all so have lots of little ones and each dollar counts," ValVerde said. "Every bit of the money that is donated goes to pops and serves as seed money for the next year in order for us to continue to bring a bigger and better show."

"This is a community event all around,"

ValVerde added. "It is a wonderful way for us to pay tribute to the men and women who serve. It is really exciting to see Big Spring and Howard County residents come together for this purpose, just as they do for many things, and show our support for all those fighting for our country."

Donations were collected at the amphitheater entrance and will be used to help with expenses from this year as well as go toward funding next year's event.

"It really has been a blessing to me to be able to serve on the committee and be a part of all this committee has done," Hansen said.

For those wanting to make a donation or find out how to support next year's Pops in the Park, contact ValVerde at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce by calling 263-7641.

"This is just another example of the depth of pride that Big Springers have for their city and country. So many entities joined forces to make the afternoon and evening a spectacular event for every-

one," Dana Byrd, event attendee, said. "It's a great tradition that I sure hope lasts a really long time."

PARADE

Continued from Page 1

parade; there's a group of ladies who have been doing that for years. Overall, I thought things went really well."

Here are results from Wednesday's Highland South Fourth of July Parade:

- Strollers — First, Zack and Zane Folsom; second, Brooklyn Or-

tega; third, Berkley Smith.

- Wagons — First, Dallin Palmer; second, Madi and Deegan.

- Golf Carts — First, Max and Mckenna Piercefield; second, Jaydon and Kinsey McCullough.

- Battery Operated Vehicle — Caden and Joseph; second, Samuel and Julian; third, Delaney Davis.

- Bicycles (ages 1-7) — First, Kambree Lawder-

milk; second, Tucker Tranum; third, Logan Smith.

- Bicycles (ages 8 and up) — First, Kyndel Lawdermilk; second, Bailey Smith; third, Celestiana Luna.

- Four-Wheelers — First, Tyler Seymore; second, Ricky Adams; third, Brodie Wash and John Witherspoon.

- Motorized Vehicles — First, Callie Berry.
- Mailbox — First, 510 Highland; second,

500 Highland; third, 6 Coachman Circle.

- House/Lawn — First, 510 Highland; second,

607 Highland; third (tie), 2904 Hunters Glenn and 8 Coachman Circle.

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD



By Eddy Pitchford

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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	

## OUR VIEWS

### School's out, but sports are not

Area school's have been out for about a month and the "I'm bored" statements are starting to come out. With all the extra time on their hands, kids are running out of things to do.

However, for those wanting to get involved in sports, they don't have to wait until school starts again to get on the field. Actually, they even have a chance to play sports that aren't offered in school.

Oh and for those adults who have the time to be bored, there are a few opportunities to play sports too.

The Big Spring YMCA has started registration for their summer youth and adult programs.

Summer soccer leagues are in the process of sign ups and will be until July 14. Registration per child is \$50 and will include uniform.

A coaches meeting will take place at the YMCA on July 16 at 7 p.m. The season will get rolling July 24. Those ages 3 to 15 can take part in this league.

For those wanting to be a little adventurous, summer dodge ball is also in the process of sign ups. However, time is running out to join. Friday is the last day to pay the registration fee of \$25 and join in the fun. Games will begin July 16 with the coaches meeting scheduled at the YMCA for Monday at 7 p.m. The league is open for those in first grade through adults.

Adults wanting to take part in slow-pitch softball can do just that if they register by Sunday. A coaches meeting is scheduled for Tuesday at 7 p.m. Games are set to begin July 22. Registration is \$100 per team and each team must have 16 members to play.

To find out more information about any of the YMCA programs or to register, call 267-8234 or stop by 801 Owens.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

## LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to [newsdesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:newsdesk@bigspringherald.com)

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we not make an irrevocable commitment without consulting You first, Lord, through prayer.

Amen

# Save all the austerity measures for our next upcoming boom

There are two competing theories on how to pull us out of the economic slump we're in, but you'd hardly know it from the debate going on in Washington. Conservatives, who want us to cut our way to prosperity, keep drowning out those who think we should be pumping money into the economy by spending more on teachers, research, roads, bridges, and other public works.

The small-government, budget-cutting "austerity" advocates speak in strident, confident voices, while the proponents of more government spending — the people called "Keynesians" (after the 20th-century British economist, John Maynard Keynes) — speak in apologetic, barely audible tones, as though they're afraid of offending someone.

President Barack Obama is the latter. He sounds defensive when he puts forward one of his anemic "stimulus" plans and is always careful to balance expenditures with money from a tax increase for the rich.

He's even gone so far as to bring out the stale comparison equating a government in debt with families that live beyond their means. There's only one solution for indebted households and nations, conservatives say — belt-tightening.



DONALD KAUL

And that's pretty much what Obama said last year: We've run up too much debt, and now we have to start tightening our belts. It was a shot into every Keynesian's heart.

"No, no," I wanted to shout. "That's their argument, not yours." Fortunately, I didn't shout it. (When you start yelling at the television set, you're only one step away from wearing a tag with your name and address on it, so when you go out, you can find your way back home.)

New York Times columnist Paul Krugman is a Keynesian, but not of the shrinking-violet variety. He's a Nobel-Prize-winning economist who speaks in a loud, clear voice that irritates the heck out of conservatives. That is to say, he speaks sense.

But not "common sense." Common sense is on the budget-cutters' side.

When your family has run up a lot of debt, cutting back on spending seems self-evidently the right thing to do. Why are governments different?

Krugman answers that as well and succinctly as anyone I've read.

"An economy is not like an indebted family," he wrote a few weeks ago.

"Our debt is mostly money we owe to each other; even more important, our income mostly comes from selling things to each other. Your spending is my income, and my spending is your income. So what happens if everyone simultaneously slashes spending in an attempt

to pay down debt? The answer is everyone's income falls ... and, as our incomes plunge, our debt problem gets worse, not better."

"When the private sector is frantically trying to pay down debt," he adds, "the public sector should do the opposite, spending when the private sector can't or won't. By all means let's balance our budget once the economy has recovered — but not now. The boom, not the slump, is the right time for austerity."

Sounds good to me, but they were still teaching Keynes when I was in school.

In Europe today, apparently not so much. But there's some indication that the hardliners are backing off from their most draconian prescriptions.

Not all conservatives are stupid, you know. The intelligent ones fear that more deficit spending in the face of a huge national debt will trigger inflation that, in the long run, will mean ruination. It's better to let the economy crash and rebuild it from the ground up, they say.

Personally, I prefer to delay whatever long-term medicine we might need, because it's entirely possible that we're able to make things better now without government austerity. As Keynes, a witty man, once said of economists who counseled the long view:

"In the long run, we are all dead."

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

# Keeping young Texans safe on the digital playgrounds out there

With the end of the school year and the arrival of summer, young Texans are more likely to have unsupervised time at home — and in an increasingly digital world, that means more opportunities to visit potentially dangerous online playgrounds. Unfortunately, cyber predators do not take summer breaks. Texas parents are the first line of defense against criminals who use the Internet to prey upon children. Families must stay engaged in their child's activities online, set boundaries and know the capabilities of minors' mobile phones and handheld gaming devices.



GREG ABBOTT

Police officers across the state who specialize in cyber crimes investigations know all too well that dangerous criminals lurk online. Texas parents must remain vigilant and remind their children that cyber predators pose a constant and very real threat to their safety and well-being. Parents should warn their children not to share personal information with strangers online — and to never agree to a face-to-face meeting with someone they meet on the Internet.

Informed and active parents can help protect their children from all types of online threats. By surfing the Internet with their children and fostering open conversations about the websites they visit, parents can both teach and learn from their children. Parents should ground rules for their Internet usage — including the hours they can access the Web and the types of websites children can visit.

Texas parents should also establish boundaries for children's mobile phone usage. Cyber Crimes Unit investigators with the Attorney General's Office

have arrested several sexual predators who used wireless devices in an attempt to call or text children. These communications often include sexually explicit language or images and are intended to lure children into a sexual encounter. Wireless devices that allow users to surf the Internet may also give children an opportunity to go online and access sexually explicit content, chat rooms and social networking sites without a parent's knowledge.

Parents should monitor their children's mobile phone Web usage and teach them to avoid calling or texting anyone they do not actually know. Young Texans should also avoid giving out personal information through their wireless devices. Any child who receives a communication — including a photo or video — that is inappropriate, hurtful or otherwise makes them feel uncomfortable should immediately notify their parents. If parents suspect criminal activity or believe that their child is in danger, they should save the image or message and contact law enforcement authorities.

Fortunately, many wireless carriers offer controls that allow parents to monitor and manage their child's cell phone usage. These controls allow parents to set limits on incoming and outgoing text messages and phone calls. For example, parents can restrict specific phone numbers, limit the quantity of text messages and prohibit communications during certain hours. Depending on the provider, parents can also filter or completely block websites from being accessed by their child's wireless device. Increasingly, wireless devices are also equipped with global positioning system (GPS) features that give parents the ability to track their child's whereabouts.

Finally, Texas parents should be aware that video game systems now have many of the same capabilities as home computers. In particular, these gaming

devices allow users to interact with other players through typed messages, voice communication or even online video chats. Parents should be cognizant of the fact that child predators can use these game systems to prey upon children.

Although children may enjoy playing video games with their friends online, parents should carefully consider whether to enable a gaming system's online chat feature. During online conversations, predators may look for clues that reveal a child's physical location. Parents who choose to allow online chatting should strongly caution their children not to discuss anything personal while playing online games with players they do not know.

Video game systems typically have parental control features that can be used to restrict game features that pose increased risks.

These controls allow a parent to:

- Enable or disable a game console's chat features or manage with whom and how a user can communicate and play;
- Enable or disable Web browsing;
- Permit or block access to online games; and
- Restrict games based on maturity ratings.

Parental control features on a wireless phone or game system are designed to give parents peace of mind. While these tools are important, actual parental supervision and communication offers the best level of control.

To keep young Texans safe while they enjoy their summer break, parents should communicate openly with their kids and set clear limits on Internet, wireless device and gaming system usage.

*Greg Abbott is the Texas Attorney General. More articles can be read at <https://www.oag.state.tx.us/index.shtml>*



HERALD photos/Steve Reagan

At left, the Berry family drives their flag-festooned car in Wednesday's Highland South Fourth of July Parade. Above, Berkley Smith has a bit of patriotic decoration on her face as she views the parade entries.

## News in brief

### Texas' low special ed rate raises questions

HOUSTON (AP) — Teachers and parents say they don't know why Texas' public schools have the lowest percentage of special education students of any state in the country.

The Houston Chronicle reports that Texas listed 8.8 percent of students as having special needs last year. That's down from 12 percent in 2000. Houston reported 7.9 percent, and Dallas reported 7.7 percent.

The national figure has remained around 13 percent.

Jack Fletcher, a University of Houston professor on the executive committee of the Texas Center for Learning Disabilities, calls the trend encouraging and says state and federal reading programs are working.

But Houston special needs advocate Louis Geigerman accuses schools of doing "an atrocious job" teaching children to read. Some question whether students who might need help aren't getting it.

### Death row inmate: DNA tests could end 'nightmare'

LIVINGSTON, Texas (AP) — A Texas death row inmate granted new DNA testing in his case says his "nightmare is almost over."

Hank Skinner was convicted in the 1993 killings of his girlfriend and her two grown children. He once came within an hour of execution. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals has granted a stay. Last month, the Texas Attorney General's office reversed its longstanding objection to running DNA tests on a list of 40 pieces of evidence.

Skinner tells the Houston Chronicle that he expects the tests will exonerate him. But like his attorneys, Skinner says he questions how prosecutors could not find a windbreaker found near the body of his girlfriend, Twila Busby.

His supporters argue Busby's now-deceased uncle may have committed the stabbings in Pampa, in the Texas Panhandle.

### Firefighters: Cigarette ignited deadly house fire

HOUSTON (AP) — Firefighters say a deadly fire northeast of Houston may have started with a cigarette.

Houston television station KTRK reports that a fire late Wednesday engulfed a house in Humble Road Place. Firefighters found an elderly woman near the front door of the home. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

The victim has not been identified yet.

Her husband was at the store when the fire ignited.

Eastex Fire Chief Bryan Harris tells the television station that the wooden home was almost entirely in flames when firefighters got to the scene at about 10:20 p.m.

### Sheriff: Man escapes captors after 4 days' torture

MISSION, Texas (AP) — A man whom investigators say had been wrestled into a van at gunpoint has escaped his captors after what he says was four days of beatings and torture.

Hidalgo County Sheriff Lupe Trevino tells The Monitor of McAllen that Alton mechanic Alejandro Gomez has no obvious links to organized crime.

Nevertheless, witnesses say he was bundled into van outside his home Friday. According to Trevino, Gomez was taken to a mobile home in Mission, where he was beaten and burned with a butter knife headed on an open flame. The men eventually left, allowing Gomez to escape Tuesday night.

Trevino says he "just can't seem to find the basis" for the abduction, "but we're going to find it."

### 3 detained in ICE agent shooting case

HARGILL, Texas (AP) — Three people have been detained for questioning in the shooting of a federal immigration agent in South Texas.

Hidalgo County Sheriff Lupe Trevino isn't speci-

fying where the three fit into the investigation of the Tuesday wounding of Kelton Harrison. However, he said his investigators are developing strong leads and the investigation is moving swiftly.

The agent with Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations was listed in stable condition at McAllen Medical Center after he was shot during surveillance in a criminal investigation near Hargill, 25 miles northeast of McAllen.

### Woman divorces husband accused in hitman case

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A San Antonio woman has divorced her husband, who is accused of trying to hire someone to kill her.

A state district judge on Tuesday granted the divorce of Mike and Tina Yuchnitz, with the couple agreeing to the terms of a jury-ordered 50-50 split of their community property. Mike Yuchnitz is an area businessman known for sporting colorful outfits in television commercials for his optical and tattoo shops.

The San Antonio Express-News reports that Tina Yuchnitz filed for divorce shortly after her husband was arrested in October 2010.

Mike Yuchnitz, charged with solicitation of capital murder, is set to go to trial next month.

The divorce trial included Tina Yuchnitz's attorney reading from transcribed recordings of Mike Yuchnitz discussing with an alleged police informant having Tina Yuchnitz killed.

### Police: Suspect in Wylie teen's death bullied him

DALLAS (AP) — A 15-year-old boy from North Texas who was shot in the forehead at close range had been bullied by another teenager accused in his killing, a police detective has testified.

The suspect was 14 when he and another 14-year-old were arrested and charged in the March death of Nahum Martinez in Wylie, about 30 miles northeast of Dallas.

Prosecutors say Martinez, a freshman at Wylie East High School and a member of the cross-country team, was shot in the accused teen's bedroom, then wrapped in a comforter and dropped out of a second story window. According to testimony, his body was left in the street and evidence including a gun and ammunition were found in a nearby park.

Wylie police Detective Venece Perepiczka testified Tuesday at a hearing to determine if the suspect, now 15, should be tried as an adult, said she found a school assignment in Martinez's room titled "If You Really Knew Me, You Would Know," in which the boy talked about being bullied.

The Dallas Morning News reports that Perepiczka said a card she found addressed to Martinez and signed by the accused teen read in part: "I'm sorry for calling you names. It was just a joke."

She agreed under questioning that the card also stated that the accused teen and Martinez were "buddies."

### North Texas motorcyclist dies while fleeing police

GARLAND, Texas (AP) — A 22-year-old motorcyclist has died after striking the back of a vehicle while fleeing from police in the Dallas suburb of

Garland.

Garland police say they attempted to pull the man over after he was observed travelling at a speed of more than 100 mph on an interstate Tuesday evening, but the man fled.

Police say as the motorcyclist lost control as he approached an intersection, striking the back of a Cadillac. The rider was ejected and the motorcycle came to rest on the sidewalk. A woman waiting for a bus sustained a minor injury when she was struck by the motorcycle, but refused to go to the hospital.

The motorcyclist's name has not been released.

Police will conduct a review of the chase to ensure it was within guidelines.

### Man dies in fire after cigarette ignites oxygen

BORGER, Texas (AP) — A fire official says a 73-year-old Panhandle man died in an apartment fire after his cigarette ignited a home oxygen supply used to help him breathe.

Kenneth Herin died in the Sunday afternoon fire in Borger. Preliminary autopsy results show the initial flash fire burned his throat and lungs.

Fire Marshal Jerry Langwell tells the Amarillo Globe-News that investigators have not yet determined exactly how the cigarette ignited the oxygen.

Langwell says that the fire was out by the time firefighters arrived, but Herin was dead.

Langwell says, "Smoking while on oxygen is just never, never ever a good idea."

### Pilot in disturbance not guilty due to insanity

AMARILLO, Texas (AP) — A JetBlue Airways pilot who left the cockpit during a flight and screamed about religion and terrorists has been found not guilty by reason of insanity, and a federal judge ordered him sent to a mental health facility for further examination.

The judge noted during the bench trial Tuesday in Amarillo that Clayton F. Osborn suffered from a "severe mental disease or defect." Osborn's attorney, Dean Roper, declined to comment.

Osborn was indicted on one charge of interfering with a flight crew after the March 27 incident on a flight from Las Vegas to New York. Passengers said they wrestled him to the floor after he ran through the plane's cabin yelling about Jesus and al-Qaida.

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

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# Even without power, Americans mark Fourth

MOUNT VERNON, Va. (AP) — George Washington never had air conditioning, but he knew how to keep cool: a mansion with lots of windows elevated on the banks of a wide, rolling river and lots of ice cream, maybe with a little brandy.

It was a little like the old days without electricity Wednesday, as the nation's capital region celebrated Independence Day the better part of a week into a widespread blackout that left millions of residents sweltering in 90-plus degree heat without air conditioning. Utilities have slowly been restoring service knocked out by a freak storm Friday from the Midwest to the Mid-Atlantic, and at least 26 people have died in the storm or its aftermath.

At George Washington's Mount Vernon estate, one of the most popular Fourth of July attractions was a demonstration of 18th-century ice cream making, one of Washington's favorite desserts. Historical interpreters Gail Cassidy and Anette Ahrens showed the crowds how co-

coa beans were roasted and ground into a paste for chocolate ice cream, made using ice hauled up in massive blocks from the Potomac River and stored underground to last as long into the summer as possible.

As for beverages, Washington was no stranger to alcohol, enjoying imported Madeira wine from Portugal, distilling his own whiskey and enjoying a fruity brandy cocktail called Cherry Bounce.

Washington was his own architect at Mount Vernon, "and he was very good at it," said Dennis Pogue, associate director for preservation at Mount Vernon. The piazza, which runs the length of the mansion, is "kind of California living in the 18th century," Pogue said.

The location, atop a sloping hill along the Potomac, catches cool breezes. Lots of windows and shutters allow for the regulation of sun and wind. And the distinctive cupola on the mansion roof serves as the mansion's air conditioning unit, funneling hot air out the top and draw-

ing cooler air in at the ground level.

Visitors on Wednesday gathered on the mansion's back porch, a piazza overlooking the Potomac where breezes rolled through.

"It feels good out here. It's the same thing we do in Texas," said Chris Moore of Austin, Texas, sitting with his wife, Dina. The two had come to Virginia to see their son graduate from officer training at The Basic School at Quantico Marine Corps Base.

Moore said he opted for the smaller crowds at Mount Vernon as opposed to the massive Fourth of July Celebration on the National Mall because it afforded a better place to relax and contemplate the founding of the nation, especially since Mount Vernon on Wednesday hosted a naturalization ceremony for 100 new citizens from 47 different countries.

"This place is incredible. It's just the kind of place that people need to see," he said, noting the divided nature of the country's current politics. "We all need to step back and

look at where we started."

Up the river in Washington, President Barack Obama also attended a naturalization ceremony at the White House, this one for active service members from 17 countries. Military families were invited for a barbecue and to watch fireworks on the South Lawn.

Obama said the varied backgrounds of those taking the oath typified America's long tradition of welcoming immigrants from around the world to its shores.

"Unless you are one of the first Americans, a native American, we are all descended from folks who came from somewhere else," he said. "The story of immigrants in America isn't a story of them. It's a story of us."

Presumptive GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney has spent most of the week off the campaign trail with his family in in Wolfeboro, N.H., but took time Wednesday to march in the town's Fourth of July parade.

In New York, about a dozen disabled soldiers — most tri-

ple or quadruple amputees — visited ground zero ahead of the usual throng of tourists. The visit was intended to salute service members who survived the post-9/11 wars to become miracles of modern medicine, and to promote two charities raising money for homes custom-built to ease their burdens.

On Coney Island, Joey Chestnut ate his way to a sixth straight win at the Fourth of July hot dog eating contest, tying his personal best in a sweaty, gag-inducing spectacle. The 28-year-old nicknamed "Jaws" scarfed down 68 hot dogs in 10 minutes in the sweltering summer heat to take home \$10,000.

The city's celebration was expected to capped with the Macy's 4th of July Fireworks show off Manhattan later in the night, with 40,000 aerial shells will be launched from five barges.

Many Americans abandoned their holiday plans after going without power from violent storms that hit Friday across the Mid-Atlantic and Midwest.

## News in brief

### Subprime lender Countrywide bought influence with Washington elite with mortgage discounts

WASHINGTON (AP) — The former Countrywide Financial Corp., whose subprime loans helped start the nation's foreclosure crisis, made hundreds of discount loans to buy influence with members of Congress, congressional staff, top government officials and executives of troubled mortgage giant Fannie Mae, according to a House report.

The report, obtained by The Associated Press, said the discounts — from January 1996 to June 2008 — were not only aimed at gaining influence for the company but to help mortgage giant Fannie Mae. Countrywide's business depended largely on Fannie, which at the time was trying to fend off more government regulation but eventually had to come under government control.

Fannie Mae was responsible for purchasing a large volume of Countrywide's subprime mortgages. Countrywide was taken over by Bank of America in January 2008, relieving the financial services industry and regulators from the messy task of cleaning up the bankruptcy of a company that was servicing 9 million U.S. home loans worth \$1.5 trillion at a time when the nation faced a widening credit crisis, massive foreclosures and an economic downturn.

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee also named six current and former members of Congress who received discount loans, but all of their names had surfaced previously. Other previously mentioned names included former top executive branch officials and three chief executives of Fannie Mae.

"Documents and testimony obtained by the committee show the VIP loan program was a tool used by Countrywide to build goodwill with lawmak-

ers and other individuals positioned to benefit the company," the report said. "In the years that led up to the 2007 housing market decline, Countrywide VIPs were positioned to affect dozens of pieces of legislation that would have reformed Fannie" and its rival Freddie Mac, the committee said.

### Mexico's new leader could focus law-enforcement on small local gangs that rob, extort, kidnap

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's next president has boldly promised to halve the number of kidnappings and murders during his six-year term by moving law enforcement away from showy drug busts and focusing on protecting ordinary citizens from gangs.

Yet Enrique Pena Nieto said remarkably little specific about his anti-crime strategy during the three-month campaign that ended with his still-contested victory in Sunday's election.

That ambiguity has fed fears at home and abroad that Pena Nieto might look the other way if cartels smuggle drugs northward without creating violence in Mexico. Many analysts wonder if Pena Nieto is holding back politically sensitive details of his plans, or simply doesn't know yet how he'll be prosecute the next stage of Mexico's drug war.

Some hints are starting to seep out. A close acquaintance, U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar of Texas, told The Associated Press that the president-elect has discussed a new offensive against the smaller, local gangs that have cropped up in many Mexican states and earn money through kidnapping and extortion in addition to drug dealing.

President Felipe Calderon's 5 1/2-year war against the big cartels has been criticized by some for fracturing control of territory and smuggling routes, spawning smaller gangs like La Linea in Chihuahua state and La Barredora in the city of Acapulco that view ordinary citizens as their primary source of illicit income.

### Head of Syria's observer mission says violence is 'unprecedented'

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — The violence in Syria has reached unprecedented levels, the head of the

country's U.N. observer mission said Thursday, insisting there must be a cease-fire in order for his teams to resume their work.

About 300 U.N. monitors were sent to Syria to provide an unbiased look at the violence, but they have been confined to their hotels since June 15 because of the bloodshed.

"The escalation of violence, allow me to say, to an unprecedented level, obstructed our ability to observe, verify, report as well as assist in local dialogue," Norwegian Maj. Gen. Robert Mood told reporters in the Syrian capital Damascus.

More than 14,000 people have been killed since the Syrian uprising began in March 2011, according to activists. As the conflict grinds on, the violence has become widespread and chaotic. Besides the government crackdown on dissent, rebel fighters are launching increasingly deadly attacks on regime targets, and several massive suicide attacks this year suggest al-Qaida or other extremists are joining the fray.

Syria severely restricts the media in the country, making it difficult to gain a credible account of events on the ground.

### Pakistani official: First NATO truck has crossed into Afghanistan after 7-month closure ends

CHAMAN, Pakistan (AP) — The first truck carrying supplies to American and NATO troops in Afghanistan has crossed the Pakistani border after a seven-month long closure of the supply routes by Pakistan ended earlier this week.

The reopening is a rare bright spot in relations between the U.S. and Pakistan, which had closed the routes in retaliation for American airstrikes in November that killed 24 Pakistani border troops. Disagreements over issues like American drone strikes and Islamabad's alleged support for Taliban militants still hamper a relationship vital to stabilizing neighboring Afghanistan.

During the closure, the U.S. was forced to use more costly and lengthy routes through the former Soviet Union. After months of back-and-forth negotiation, Pakistan reopened the routes on Tuesday after Secretary of State Hillary Clinton apologized for the border deaths.

A paramilitary official at the Chaman border crossing, Fazal Bari, said the first truck moved across the border around noon local time on Thursday. The Chaman border crossing in the province of Balochistan is one of two used by trucks carrying supplies to Afghanistan. The other called the Torkham crossing is further north in the Khyber Pass, a high mountainous area.

### Some Western cities ban fireworks on Fourth; blazes grow throughout region

DENVER (AP) — Parts of Colorado celebrated Independence Day sans fireworks with some communities banning the holiday displays to guard against the further spread of wildfire across the region.

Though rain cooled Colorado's blazes Wednesday, more than a dozen wildfires elsewhere in the West chewed through bone-dry timber and brush.

Wildfires in Wyoming, Utah and Colorado sent haze and smoke across Colorado's Front Range, prompting air-quality health advisories as firefighters warned of growing fires in sparsely populated areas.

In Colorado Springs, there was good news in the fight against the most destructive fire in state history.

Light rains that fell early Wednesday helped calm the Waldo Canyon Fire, which has scorched 28 square miles, killed two and destroyed almost 350 homes. Firefighters predicted full containment of the fire by Sunday.



By Steve Becker

### The Art of Slam Bidding

South dealer.  
Neither side vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♠ A J 8 2  
♥ K 10 3  
♦ K Q 10 6 4  
♣ 4

**WEST**  
♠ 7 4 3  
♥ 7 2  
♦ 9 5 2  
♣ K Q 9 8 6

**EAST**  
♠ Q 10 9 6  
♥ 8 6 4  
♦ A 7 3  
♣ J 5 3

**SOUTH**  
♠ K 5  
♥ A Q J 9 5  
♦ J 8  
♣ A 10 7 2

The bidding:  
1♥ West 2♦ East  
2♥ Pass 2♠ Pass  
2NT Pass 4♥ Pass  
6♥

Opening lead — king of clubs.  
**Point count**, whether based on high cards or distributional values, does not necessarily provide the best guide to reaching the optimum contract. Good judgment and long experience are much more reliable guidelines than the arithmetical calculation of the worth of the combined hands. This is especially true in slam bidding.  
Consider the present case where

North-South arrived at six hearts. South opened one heart, and North, knowing that a game was already virtually certain and also that slam was a distinct possibility, responded with two diamonds. It was the first of three bids made by North that were specifically designed to describe both his high-card values and his distribution.

After South rebid his hearts, North continued the piecemeal description of his hand by bidding two spades. One effect of North's first two bids was that he indicated longer diamonds than spades, since he had bid diamonds first. Two spades was forcing because it was a new suit named by responder. It also implied extra values beyond those indicated by North's first response.

After South's two-notrump bid, North completed the picture of his hand by jumping to four hearts. This strongly suggested a 4-3-5-1 pattern and greater high-card values than a three-heart bid would have indicated.

South needed no further prodding. Recognizing that North had a very good hand with at most one club, he leaped to six hearts. After winning the opening club lead with the ace, he led the diamond jack at trick two, and there was nothing the defenders could do to stop the slam.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.  
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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.

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

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# Rangers fall to White Sox in 10 innings



**A.J. Pierzynski collides with Mike Napoli at homeplate, causing Napoli to lose control of the ball during the Rangers' 5-4 extra innings loss to the White Sox on Wednesday.**

AP photo

CHICAGO (AP) — A day after getting blown out, losing in extra innings was not any easier for the Texas Rangers.

Kevin Youkilis hit a game-ending RBI single in the bottom of the 10th inning and the Chicago White Sox beat the Rangers 5-4 on Wednesday night.

The Rangers lost 19-2 on Tuesday. "It's tough when you lose any game, it doesn't matter the score," Rangers manager Ron Washington said.

In the 10th inning, Alejandro De Aza, who fouled a ball off his right knee during the at-bat, led off the inning with a walk against Rangers reliever Mike Adams (1-3) then stole second.

On the ninth pitch he saw, Youkilis ended the game with an RBI single to score De Aza, prompting the crowd to shout "Youuuuk!" for the player acquired in a trade from the Red Sox on June 24.

"Youkilis just kept battling and finally he got the best of me," said Adams, who threw a perfect ninth inning. "The first inning is the probably the best I felt all season."

"I was a little jumpy on the slider," Youkilis said. "I was out in front of it but I saw it good. The last time I just told myself to stay calm a little bit and if there is a fastball throw my hands in as quick as I can. That happened and I got the pitch."

Josh Hamilton hit his 26th home run for the Rangers, who had won their previous seven series.

Addison Reed (2-1) pitched a scoreless 10th for the White Sox.

The Rangers scored three runs in the first inning off White Sox starter Dylan Axelrod. With two outs, Hamilton and Adrian Beltre hit back-to-back singles. Then Michael Young

snapped a 0-for-13 skid with a two-run double and scored on Nelson Cruz's RBI single. Axelrod threw 25 pitches in 97-degree heat in the first inning.

The White Sox came right back and scored four runs to take the lead.

With one out in the second, Alex Rios doubled to right off Rangers starter Scott Feldman.

Feldman then hit A.J. Pierzynski with a pitch. Dayan Viciedo followed with an RBI single, then Alexei Ramirez lined a single to right. Right fielder David Murphy's throw short-hopped to catcher Mike Napoli.

Although he was in front of the plate and in position to tag out Pierzynski, Napoli got barreled over by Pierzynski and lost the ball. Gordon Beckham added a two-run double.

"Giving up the four spot right there after we put up three wasn't the ideal situation," Feldman said. "I was just kind of leaving the ball up and they put the bat on the ball and found some holes."

Hamilton's homer tied the game at four and it stayed that way until the 10th.

Axelrod rebounded after a rough first inning to pitch 5 2-3 innings. He allowed four runs and seven hits.

Feldman went six innings and allowed four runs and six hits.

"I wish Feldman hadn't given up four runs in the second inning, but after that he put up four zeroes and gave us a chance," Washington said.

Before the game, the Rangers announced that Yu Darvish will not make his final scheduled start of the first half as the Rangers attempt to get him some extra rest in his first season in the majors.

## Suns send Nash to Lakers

PHOENIX (AP) — Steve Nash wanted to go to the Los Angeles Lakers. He just needed an assist.

The Phoenix Suns would have to reach a sign-and-trade deal to facilitate the move and, according to Nash, they were reluctant.

Eventually, they relented and the two-time MVP point guard is going to the Pacific Division rival he tried so hard to beat, with little success, in his eight seasons with the Suns.

In one of those odd NBA twists, the Lakers' trade of Lamar Odom to Dallas before last season paved the way for Nash's arrival. Los Angeles used the trade exception it got in the Odom deal to make the Nash move work.

The 38-year-old Nash was a free agent, but a sign-and-trade agreement was necessary for the Lakers to afford him.

He agreed to a three-year, \$27 million contract. In return, the Suns get four draft picks — first-rounders in 2013 and 2015 and second-rounders in 2013 and 2014.

Nash's agent, Bill Duffy, said the deal was completed Wednesday about 9 p.m., EDT.

In a statement released by Duffy, Nash said that after he and the Suns agreed to part ways, he went back to the team and asked it to pursue a sign-and-trade deal with Los Angeles "because it is very important to me to stay near my children and family," who live in Phoenix.

"They were very apprehensive and didn't want to do it," Nash said. "Fortunately for me, they reconsidered. They saw that they were able to get assets for their team that will make them better, assets they would not

have otherwise had, and it made sense for them to do a deal that helps their team get better."

There had been sign-and-trade talks with New York and a lucrative free agent offer from Toronto.

The deal will put Nash on the floor with the team he tried to unseat as a Western Conference power, teaming him with Kobe Bryant, Andrew Bynum and Pau Gasol. That could be enough to lift the Lakers back into title contention.

The Suns at least get something for the loss of their longtime leader and one of the city's most popular athletes, although no one to help immediately, unless some or all of the picks are used in future trades.

Nash's Phoenix teammate Jared Dudley

See **NASH**, Page 12

## Federer to meet Djokovic in marquee Wimbledon semifinal

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — With "Murray Mania" gripping Britain, it's the other men's semifinal at Wimbledon that has many tennis fans anticipating a gripping matchup on Friday afternoon.

Six-time champion Roger Federer and last year's winner Novak Djokovic will face each other on the grass of Wimbledon for the first time — in their 27th head-to-head meeting.

"It is interesting that this is our first grass-court match. I'm looking forward to it," said Federer, who can win a record-equaling seventh Wimbledon title after losing in the quarterfinals the past two years.

"I haven't put too much thought into it, to be quite honest, yet. I'm just happy that I'm around further than I've been the last couple years."

The 30-year-old Federer already

owns the most major tennis titles with 16. He completed a career Grand Slam in 2009 by winning the French Open. But his last major came more than two years ago, at the 2010 Australian Open.

A win over Djokovic on Friday, and another in Sunday's final, would put Federer back at the top of the game as the No. 1-ranked player. Two more wins at the All England Club also would equal Pete Sampras' seven Wimbledon titles and tie the American's record for weeks spent at No. 1 with 286.

"I know it's possible. I know I'm playing really well," said Federer, who is 14-12 against Djokovic overall but 1-6 since the start of 2011. "I am aware things are going to get complicated in the next match. I better prepare well, because it's going to be a tough match."

## Former Armstrong teammates deny ban

ROUEN, France (AP) — A director of Garmin-Sharp denied that any of the cycling team's riders have been banned for six months by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency as part of its doping probe into seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong.

Jonathan Vaughters said on Thursday that a Dutch media report about six-month bans is "completely untrue."

Dutch newspaper De Telegraaf reported that Vaughters and four other former teammates of Armstrong have been given six-month bans that are to begin in late September.

De Telegraaf cited unnamed "well-informed sources" in its report that Vaughters, George Hincapie, Levi

Leipheimer, David Zabriskie and Christian Vande Velde received the bans after admitting to doping and agreeing to give evidence against Armstrong.

Vande Velde and Zabriskie are part of the Garmin team.

Leipheimer, who rides for Omega Pharma-QuickStep, declined to comment on the report.

"I'm just here to ride the Tour de France, and so far I'm still in the hunt for the general classification," he said. "I can't say anything."

Hincapie also declined to comment, the BMC rider saying he just wanted to help Cadel Evans defend his Tour title.

"I'm here to help Cadel win the Tour. This has nothing to do

with BMC," said Hincapie, who added that he hadn't spoken to Armstrong recently. "I'm sad he is going through this. He's done so many things for the sport. His accomplishments are incredible."

BMC team manager Jim Ochowicz also denied knowledge of the bans.

"We've not received any information from any authority about this issue at all," he said.

Armstrong has always strenuously denied doping and a two-year federal probe ended in February with no criminal charges against the Texan.

However, USADA has filed formal charges against Armstrong, accusing him of using performance-enhancing drugs.

## Astros ship Lee to Marlins

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Ozzie Guillen knows Carlos Lee from their time together with the Chicago White Sox. Now Guillen hopes Lee can provide his typical brand of slugging on the field for the Miami Marlins, and give them some leadership off of it.

The Marlins acquired Lee from the Houston Astros in a trade on Wednesday, sending a pair of minor leaguers to Houston.

"It's a huge move, I think, the front office, showing people how much we want to win," Guillen said. "They show how much we care about winning this year, they showed the players that they're willing to do anything to help this ballclub."

The Astros acquired third baseman Matt Dominguez and left-handed pitcher Rob Rasmussen in the deal. Marlins general manager Michael Hill said the club also received cash considerations

from Houston in the deal.

"We felt like it was a good time to infuse a veteran, professional, experienced bat into the lineup," Hill said.

The 36-year-old Lee spent five-plus seasons with the Astros and is hitting .287 with five homers and 29 RBI this year.

Houston manager Brad Mills removed Lee in the seventh inning of a 6-4 loss to the Pittsburgh Pirates on Wednesday.

Lee's locker was already empty by the time the clubhouse opened after the game.

The right-hander gives the Marlins a veteran hitter as they try to get back into the race in the NL East.

First base has been a problem for Miami this season, where regular Gaby Sanchez came into Wednesday's game hitting .194 with two homers and 16 RBIs.





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In the after-party of the full moon, we sort through the fallout of decisions made on Tuesday. If the Capricorn moon were a government, it would operate on a spoils system, not a meritocracy. The winner gives all supporters a position to reward their loyalty. Today's Aquarius moon keeps us busy trying to figure out how everyone fits in.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). At moments today you'll feel like you're in a movie and will find yourself looking around for the camera. But don't be self-conscious. Go with the flow, and enjoy a new adventure.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). It's good to sometimes be involved in helping others or fixing their problems. But if things don't feel right when you're not helping, there's a bigger problem to handle.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Pet peeves have a way of growing from Chihuahuas into Great Danes. Don't let minor irritations overwhelm you today. Smile and keep little annoyances on a short leash.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Be aware of what you can do to affect your

**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

distant future. A few timely measures made over the course of the next six weeks will make a remarkable difference in where you stand five years from now.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Unfinished business is simply love that hasn't been put in motion yet. Give your love. When you're feeling afraid, it's a signal that you have more love to give, and you should do so ASAP.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There are knowledgeable people around you. You will be actively learning and taking the notes to prove it. You'll need this information later, so be sure to keep it in an accessible place.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Whatever mood you're in, you'll get more of the same. So the ability to change an uncomfortable mood or raise a neutral one to something cheerful will be the key to your well-being.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Seize the day -- but not too hard. Clinging will restrict the flow of spontaneity that makes your time so engaging. Remember that slow, steady steps are just as important as big leaps.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The Norse deity Thor threw his hammer and caused lightning and thunder. Someone you know has an equally intimidating temper, but you have a way of neutralizing this person's negative powers.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Others may upset your timetable. They are not intentionally trying to mess you up; it's just that their needs don't fit nicely into the schedule. You'll rise to the challenge by staying flexible and positive.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Usually it's not about the money. Your other interests have to be fulfilled before a dollar amount matters to you. This won't be the case now, though. A dollar amount will be crucial to your satisfaction.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). There's a certain urgency to your work objectives. A job must be done right and done quickly. You have a short amount of time to get things up to speed and on track.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY:** (July 5). The guidance you seek shows up in the next five weeks. You'll know what you're supposed to be doing, and you'll follow through with it. This month features exciting dates. August is a social high, as well. New doors open on the work front in September. An investment brings easy profit in November. March is educational. Aries and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 25, 49, 15 and 18.

**ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS:** "I'm a Pisces and am having trouble with my feet. I had a sprained ankle, and it never really healed right. I keep falling

off of my shoes at inopportune times, not that there is any good time to fall off of your shoe. Thank goodness I haven't been seriously hurt, but I've been left scraped up, limping and embarrassed numerous times now. I wonder whether there's some spiritual reason for why I keep reinjuring myself. I know that Pisces rules the feet."

Feet are the lowliest parts of the body, and yet they are magnificent strength and balance machines. Reflexology experts believe the massaging the feet can have a restorative effect on the rest of the body. In Asia, it is rude to point the sole of your foot at another person, because it's such a humble and potentially filthy body part. And yet many Asians celebrate the footprint of Buddha as a holy symbol. In summary, the feet are more complex than they seem. Take that, brain and heart! As for your recent penchant for tripping yourself up in embarrassing ways, you can probably take it as a metaphor. The tripping problem can be fixed with shoes that fit and support you. The life problem can be fixed with people who do the same.

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**Legals**

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION** CLERK OF THE COURT: Colleen Barton, Howard County District Clerk, P.O. Box 2138, Big Spring, Texas 79721-2138. PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY: George S. Bishop, 401 Cypress Street, Suite 210, Abilene, Texas 79601.

**THE STATE OF TEXAS** NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two (42) days after the date of issuance of this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you."

**MIDSUN OIL CORPORATION, and ITS SUCCESSORS, SHAREHOLDERS, ASSIGNS, AND/OR THEIR UNKNOWN HEIRS,** Defendant in the cause herein described. You are hereby commanded to appear and answer before the 118th Judicial District Court in the Howard County Courthouse located in Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, at or before 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from the date of issuance hereof, being at or before 10:00 a.m. on

Monday the 13th day of August, 2012, then and there to answer the petition of Athlon FE OPERATING LLC, Plaintiff in Cause No. 48604. The said petition, filed on the 25th day of June, 2012, discloses that the nature of said suit is as follows:

This suit is brought to have a receiver appointed under the provisions of Sections 64.091 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code for undivided mineral interest owned by the Defendant in the following described lands in Howard County, Texas, to-wit:

Southwest Quarter (SW/4) of Section 19, Block 33, T-1-N, T&P Ry. Co. Survey, Howard County, Texas, and to execute oil, gas and mineral leases thereof to the Plaintiff and take such other action deemed necessary under the provisions of said statute.

If this citation is not served within ninety (90) days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

**ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT** on this the 25th day of June, 2012, at Big Spring, Howard County, Texas.

Colleen Barton, District Clerk of Howard County, Texas  
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**Dear Annie:** My younger brother, "Gary," is 27 years old and lives in a two-bedroom apartment. I recently found out from a mutual friend that he is living with "Debbie," a 17-year-old dropout. This girl quit high school, had a fight with her parents and showed up on Gary's doorstep asking to use his spare bedroom. He reluctantly agreed to let her stay temporarily. On the second night there, Debbie decided to sleep in Gary's bed, and you can guess what happened.

I love my brother, and he is the most considerate and straitlaced person I know, but he is very immature when it comes to the opposite sex. I was shocked by his bad judgment and asked what he possibly could have been thinking. Gary said he didn't know Debbie was underage until after the fact. He worried about what Debbie's parents might do. As it turns out, her parents were glad their daughter wasn't living on the streets.

**Annie's Mailbox**

Debbie will be 18 in four months, but isn't this still against the law? I can't believe her parents are so nonchalant about it. My parents live out of state and know nothing about it. Should I tell them? Should I express my concerns to Debbie's parents or just hope that Gary will come to his senses? -- Disappointed Sister

**Dear Sister:** The age of consent varies by state, and even in states where the age is 18, there are variations on the severity of the punishment. But we agree that if this is illegal in your state, Gary could be in a world of trouble. Decide what you hope to accomplish by telling your parents or chastising Debbie's folks. Then urge Gary to help this almost-adult find a decent job and her own place. Soon.

**Dear Annie:** My husband is a chain cigar smoker. He refuses to acknowledge that the secondhand smoke is hazardous to my son and me, not to mention to his

own health. Somewhere along the way, he was convinced that cigars aren't as bad as cigarettes. However, I think the secondhand smoke is heavier and therefore more dangerous to those around him. Any information you can provide on the dangers would be appreciated. -- Frustrated Nonsmoker

**Dear Frustrated:** Insist that your husband smoke outside. According to the American Cancer Society, cigars give off more secondhand smoke than cigarettes because they contain more tobacco and often burn longer. One large cigar can contain as much tobacco as a pack of cigarettes. All tobacco smoke, regardless of the source, is known to cause cancer. Secondhand smoke from cigars contains toxins and carcinogens, just like cigarettes. And because the cigar wrapper is less porous, the tobacco doesn't burn as completely, and the result is a higher concentration of nitrogen oxides, ammonia, carbon

monoxide and tar. Regular cigar smokers are four to 10 times more likely to die from cancers of the lung, lip, oral cavity, esophagus and larynx than nonsmokers. For those who inhale, cigar smoke appears to be linked to death from cancer of the pancreas and bladder, and also increases the risk of heart and lung diseases.

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

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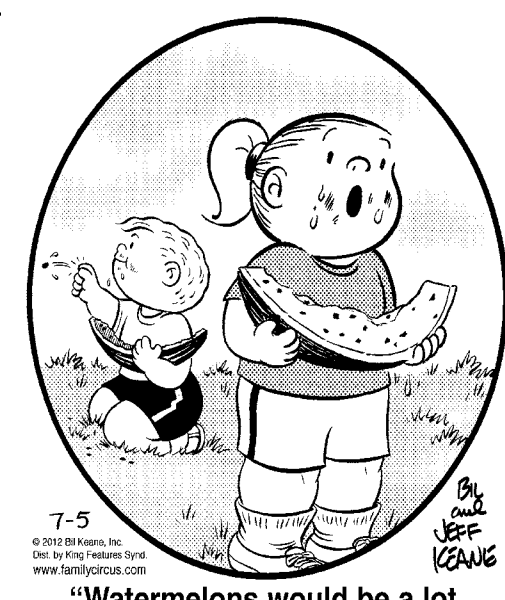
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM :30	News ABC	Casa Notic.	Two Men	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News	King King	Schwarz Andrew	Charlie Rose	King King	Auction Auction	CSI: Miami	Jail Jail	The Mentalist	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Good	First Hour	SportsCenter
6:PM :30	Jeopardy!	Un Refugio para el Amor (SS)	Big Bang	News Ent	Especial	News	Seinfeld	Dr. Wil Alan Lee	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Auction Auction	CSI: Miami	Tenants	The Mentalist	ANT Farm	Good	2012 World Series of Poker: The Big One	SportsCenter Spec.
7:PM :30	Duets	Take Me Out	Big Bang	Big Bang	Una Maid en	Office	Fam. Guy	Upd	CEO	Breaking Pointe	Auction Auction	Movie: The Matrix, Carrie-Anne Moss	iMPACT Wrestling	The Mentalist	ANT Farm	Good	2012 World Series of Poker: The Big One	SportsNation
8:PM :30	Wipeout	Abismo de Pasión	(7:58) The Choice	Person of Interest	Corazón Valiente	Saving Hope	Big Bang	Light of the Southwest	Frontline	The Vampire Diaries	Auction Auction	Movie: Hunt to Kill, Gil Bellows	CSI: NY	Movie: The Cookbook 2	Shake It	ANT Farm	Football	Baseball Tonight
9:PM :30	Rookie Blue	La Que No	Simpsons How I Met	The Mentalist	Relaciones Peli	Rock Center	Men-Work Big Bang		POV	Til Death	Auction Auction	Movie: The Matrix Reloaded, Carrie-Anne Moss	CSI: NY	CSI: NY	Good	NFL Yrbk.	SportsCenter	
10:PM :30	News Nightline	Noticiero Raymond	Letterman	Titulares	Jay Leno	Conan	Dr. Diana Justice		Charlie Rose	'70s	Auction Auction	Movie: The Matrix Reloaded, Carrie-Anne Moss	Ways Die Ways Die	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Wizards	Baseball Tonight	
11:PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Hasta-Dinero	Law Order: CI	Ferguson	Decisiones (SS)	Jimmy Fallon	Conan		World (Off Air)	South Pk	Auction Auction	Ways Die Ways Die	CSI: NY	Movie: The Cookbook 2	Deck	NFL Live	SportsCenter	
12:AM :30	Extra	Mañana-Siempre	Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	News	Seinfeld	Light of the Southwest		ACTIVE	Auction Auction	Breaking Bad	Ways Die	Leverage	Good	X Games	SportsCenter	
1:AM :30	La Jaula	American	Ent	Pagado	(:06) Today	Seinfeld	Seinfeld			Influence	Auction Auction		Ways Die		Good			

## DENNIS THE MENACE



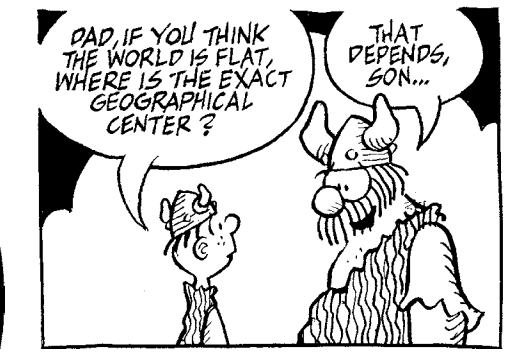
"I TOLD DENNIS THE TOOTH FAIRY TAKES ALL THE KIDS' TEETH AND MAKES THEM INTO BC"

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

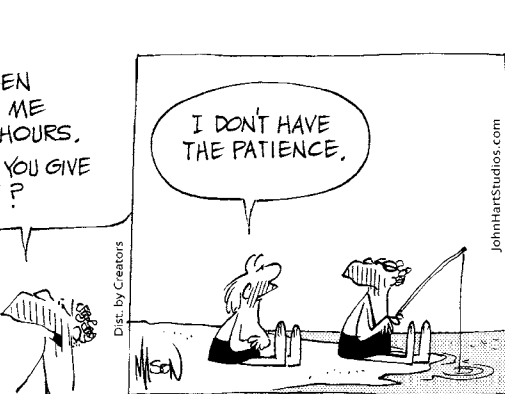
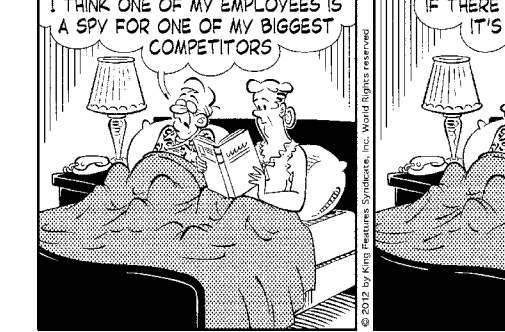


"Watermelons would be a lot easier to eat if they just had one big seed like a peach."

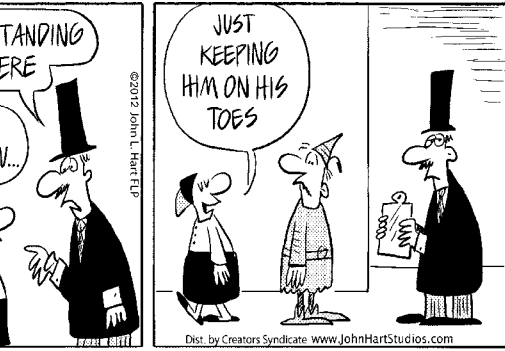
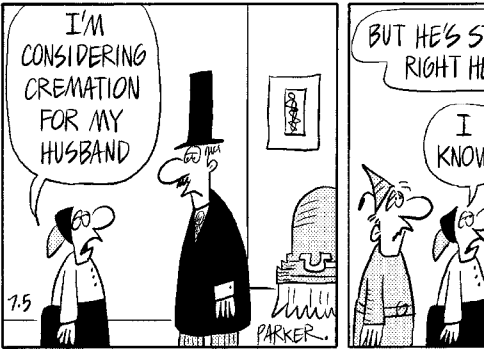
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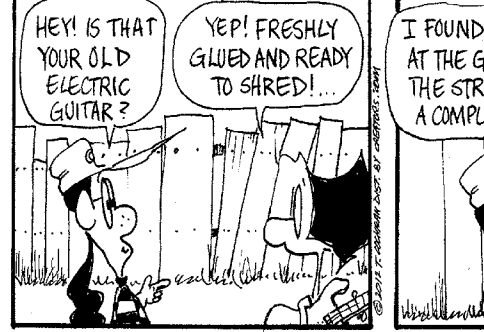
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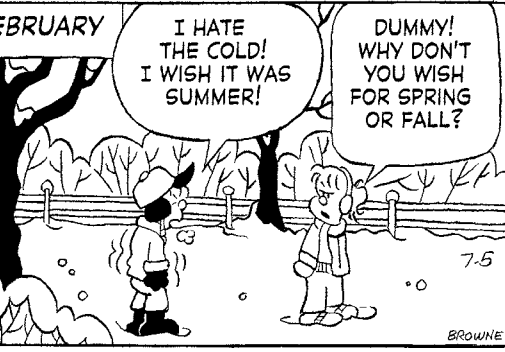
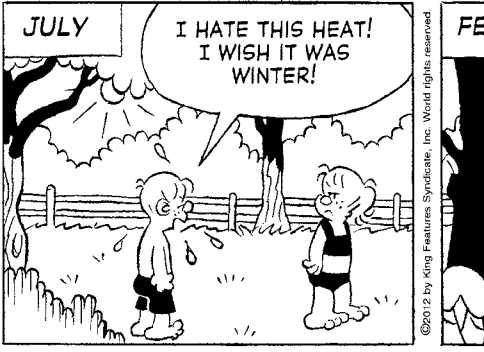
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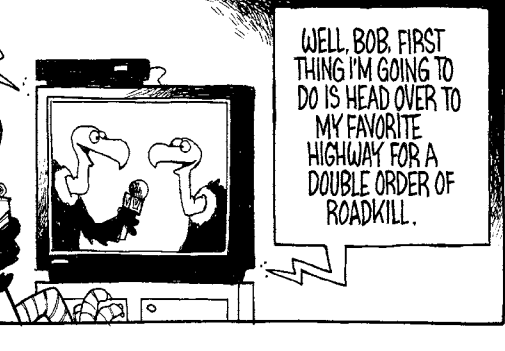
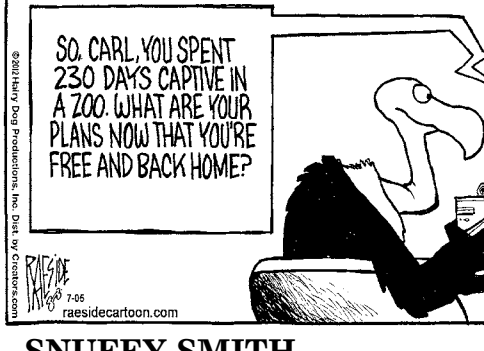
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## HI AND LOIS



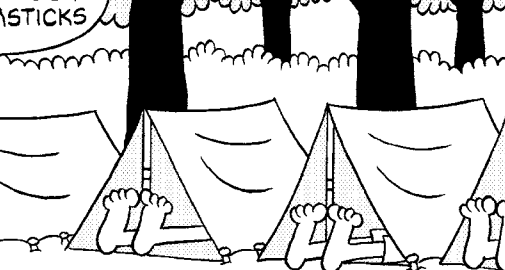
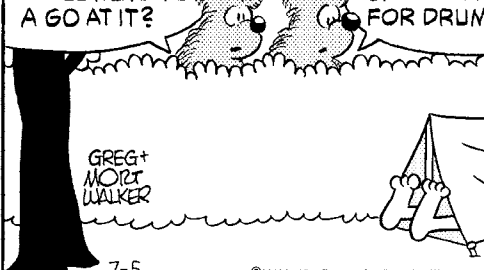
## THE OTHER COAST



## SNUFFY SMITH



## BEETLE BAILEY



## This Date In History

Today is Thursday, July 5, the 187th day of 2012. There are 179 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

- On July 5, 1687, Isaac Newton first published his Principia Mathematica, a three-volume work setting out his mathematical principles of natural philosophy.
- On this date: In 1811, Venezuela became the first South American country to declare independence from Spain.
- In 1865, William Booth founded the Salvation Army in London.
- In 1912, a collision between a passenger coach and a freight train near Wilpen, Pa., claimed 26 lives.
- In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the National Labor Relations Act.
- In 1946, the bikini, created by Louis Reard (ray-AHRD), was worn by Micheline Bernardini during a poolside fashion show in Paris.
- In 1947, Larry Doby made his debut with the Cleveland Indians, becoming the first black player in the American League.
- In 1962, independence took effect in Algeria; the same day, civilians of European descent, mostly French, came under attack by extremists in the port city of Oran (reports of the death toll vary from about a hundred to the thousands).
- In 1971, President Richard Nixon certified the 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which lowered the minimum voting age from 21 to 18.
- In 1975, Arthur Ashe became the first black man to win a Wimbledon singles title as he defeated Jimmy Connors.
- In 1984, the Supreme Court weakened the 70-year-old "exclusionary rule," deciding that evidence seized in good faith with defective court warrants could be used against defendants in criminal trials.
- In 1991, a worldwide financial scandal erupted as regulators in eight countries shut down the Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

## Answer to previous puzzle

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

## Newsday Crossword

**UNREAL** by Norma Steinberg  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 It's, in Metz
  - 5 From Bourbon cocktail
  - 14 Aloha Stadium locale
  - 15 Appoint
  - 16 Something seen
  - 17 Tilted type: Abbr.
  - 18 Roil
  - 19 Cameroon neighbor
  - 20 Ninth Commandment phrase
  - 23 Clambake fare
  - 24 Endured
  - 28 Vein contents
  - 29 Intimidate
  - 30 Keep out
  - 31 SAG member
  - 35 Microwave
  - 36 Carry on
  - 37 DeeJay pranks
  - 41 Lo-cal predecessor
  - 43 Gawks at
  - 44 Spanish article
  - 45 Bill line
  - 46 59 Down rank
  - 48 Standard western set
  - 50 Hasty and careless
  - 55 Part of some disguises
  - 57 Overfills
  - 60 Stamping machines

- 10 Amherst campus, familiarly
- 11 Sort of workshop
- 12 Freudian concept
- 13 Slammer
- 21 Atlanta university
- 22 Take the honey and run
- 25 Sport for tots
- 26 Colonel's insignia
- 27 Frock
- 29 Slammer
- 31 High mark
- 32 Fine dishes
- 33 Demolish
- 34 Unspecified person
- 35 Chaotic place
- 36 Witty one
- 38 Boardwalk piece
- 39 Enchant
- 40 Assimilate
- 45 Nicely warm
- 46 Drop a hint to
- 47 Elapse
- 49 Pretty regularly
- 50 Look amused
- 51 Inane
- 52 Lexus alternative
- 53 See-through
- 54 Mythical abductee
- 56 Brink
- 57 Deep ravine
- 58 Bayou State campus
- 59 Org. with a sub division

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15				16				
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# Double amputee to compete in Olympics

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Never count out Oscar Pistorius. The Blade Runner will be competing in the London Olympics after all, in his favorite event, the 400 meters. While his selection for the 4x400 relay team was expected, it was a

surprise last-minute turnaround by South African sports officials Wednesday that gave Pistorius the chance to run in the 400. With the decision, the 25-year-old will become the first amputee track athlete to compete at any games.

“Today is truly one of the proudest days of my life,” said Pistorius, a double amputee who spent his entire track career trying to prove he’s good enough to compete with the best. He now has the chance to do just that.

South Africa’s Olympic committee and national track federation suddenly decided to clear Pistorius for the 400 at the London Games on his carbon fiber blades despite him just missing out on the country’s strict qualifying criteria.

They added his name as the last on their team of 125 track and field athletes.

And now, the big Olympic stage being readied for Jamaican sprint sen-

sation Usain Bolt and American swimmer Michael Phelps just got a little more crowded.

Not bad for a kid who had both his legs amputated below the knee at 11 months old and originally didn’t like track and field when he took it up as a teenager to rehabilitate from a rugby injury.

“To have been selected to represent Team South Africa at the London 2012 Olympic Games in the individual 400m and the 4x400m relay is a real honor and I am so pleased that years of hard work, determination and sacrifice have all come together,” said Pistorius.

Set to realize his dream of competing at an Olympics and Paralym-

pics in the same year, his joy also was obvious in a post on Twitter.

“Will be in (at) London 2012 for both the Olympic and Paralympic Games!” the multiple Paralympic champion tweeted. “Thank you to everyone that has made me the athlete I am! God, family and friends, my competitors and supporters! You have all had a hand!”

Pistorius’ Olympic selection wasn’t clear cut. He forced his way in against all the odds as he’s done time and time again.

Just like his last-gasp qualifying time to make history at the world championships last year, Pistorius claimed his place at the Olympics late. He also needed

help. Pistorius ran a personal best 45.07 seconds last year and opened this season with a 45.20 — both Olympic-qualifying times.

But he needed another 45.30 or better at an international meet before last Saturday to seal a spot in the 400, according to his national Olympic committee’s regulations. He missed it by less than a quarter of a second in his final qualifying race at the African Championships.

“I have run two Olympic ‘A’ standard times over the past 12 months and with the time I ran at the African Championships last week I know my speed and fitness are constantly improving.”

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## NASH

Continued from Page 7

tweeted that Nash “has not only been the best but the most unselfish player I ever played with. I only wish him the best. He deserves everything. Steve Nash has made many players millions. Only fitting to trade to a team that has a chance to win the ship and pay what he deserves.”

Nash has never made it to the NBA Finals. He was last in the Western Conference finals against the Lakers in 2010, when the Suns lost in six games and Los

Angeles went on to win the NBA title.

The Suns drafted Nash in 1998, but traded him to Dallas after two seasons because Phoenix already had Kevin Johnson and Jason Kidd at the position. Nash played six seasons for Dallas, but bolted when owner Mark Cuban declined to spend big money to keep him. Then-Suns owner Jerry Colangelo brought a plane load of Phoenix players and officials to Dallas to woo Nash.

Nash thrived in Mike D’Antoni’s run-and-gun system, earning MVP honors in 2005, when he averaged 15.5 points and 11.5 assists, and again in 2006, when he averaged a career-high 18.8 points and 10.5 assists.

Nash averaged fewer

than 10 assists only once, 9.7 in 2008-09, and topped 11 per game five times in his eight years with Phoenix.

Despite his age and the fact his team failed to make the playoffs for the second year in a row, Nash was second in the NBA in assists last season at 10.7 and averaged 12.7 points. His 53 percent shooting rate was a career high.

He is one of the most accurate free throw shooters in NBA history at 90.4 percent.

His 9,916 assists rank him fifth in NBA history behind all-time leader John Stockton, Kidd, Mark Jackson and Magic Johnson.

The Suns resisted trading Nash during his final season and insisted they were interested

in bringing him back, but they never seriously were in the discussion. Toronto and New York dominated the talk until the Lakers came on quickly Tuesday.

Nash’s arrival should rejuvenate the Lakers, who lost in the second round for the second straight postseason after their back-to-back championships in 2009 and 2010. The Lakers struggled to move on from departed coach Phil Jackson’s triangle offense to new coach Mike Brown’s system during the lockout-shortened season, with four-time All-Star forward Gasol particularly failing to fit in while getting pushed to the third option on offense most nights.

Nash’s peerless play-making abilities and veteran presence could smooth over those problems, particularly after a full training camp to define the Lakers’ roles in Brown’s offense.

The draft picks probably don’t mean too much to the Lakers, who have traded away their first-round picks the past three seasons. They haven’t drafted a regular starter since 2005.

Nash’s deal was part of a busy 24 hours for the Suns, who are looking to get younger and more athletic.

On Tuesday, according to a person familiar with the talks, they agreed to a four-year, \$58 million offer with restricted free agent guard Eric Gordon, although the Hornets say they will match it.

After the Nash agreement Wednesday night, according to a source who requested anonymity because deals can’t be announced until July 11, the Suns reached a three-year, \$18 million deal with free agent forward Michael Beasley. Then, an hour or so before midnight, they reached an agreement to bring back point Goran Dragic in a three-year, \$30 million deal that can reach \$34 million with incentives. The fourth year is a player option.

Suns fans anticipated Nash’s departure. They gave him a roaring standing ovation when he took the court in Phoenix’s regular-season finale.

They knew he was probably headed somewhere. They doubtless would prefer it was not the hated Lakers.

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