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VOLUME 107, NUMBER 252 COPYRIGHT 2012 50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

ISDs fall short of fed standards

Big Spring, Coahoma, Forsan are by no means alone, however

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer
 All three Howard County school districts received sub-par ratings in the latest round of federal accountability listings. Almost three quarters of Texas' public school district failed to meet Average Yearly Performance (AYP) benchmarks this year, according to information released Wednesday by the Texas Education Agency.

"Obviously, 100 percent of our students are not going to pass their state tests. So, we're reaching the point where they'll raise the standards to the point of meaninglessness."



—Randy Johnson, Forsan ISD superintendent

TEA noted that only 28 percent of the state's school districts — and 44 percent of individual campuses — received passing AYP marks this year, a fact the agency blamed on a substantial increase in requirements. Districts and campuses met AYP standards this year if 87

percent or more of their students passed the state reading/English language arts test; 83 percent of their students passed the state mathematics test; 95 percent of their students participated in the state testing program and, depending on the grade level, had either a 75 percent graduation rate or a 90 percent attendance rate. Twenty-eight percent of Texas districts met these high standards. Howard County AYP results

are as follows:
 • Big Spring ISD — The district and all but two campuses failed to meet AYP requirements in both reading and mathematics.
 • Coahoma ISD — The district and Coahoma Junior High didn't meet AYP benchmarks in mathematics.
 • Forsan ISD — The district and the high school/junior high campus failed to meet

See **AYP**, Page 3

HARD AT WORK ALREADY



HERALD photo/Brian McCormack

Classes may not begin until Aug. 27, but football players, volleyball players, band members and a host of other students are already working hard.

Health care providers to get scrutiny

By AMANDA DUFORAT
 Staff Writer
 For those wanting to know where the medical community stands this year, the State of the Community Series Part 3: Medical Update — set for Aug. 21 — will provide that information. Reports will be delivered by Ed Moughon, CEO of Big Spring State Hospital; Dr. Judith Madura, CEO of South Plains Rural Health Services; Larry Rodgers, CEO of Scenic Mountain Medical Center; and Dan Marsh, CEO of West Texas VA Health Care Systems. "All of our community series have been education for the entire community. We have fantastic medical facilities and they provide great services," Debbye ValVerde, Executive Director of Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce said. "This

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Sally to hold Bingo fundraiser Saturday

By AMANDA DUFORAT
 Staff Writer
 And Bingo was its name-O. Fundraising in a fun way will take place at the first Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club at 811 W. Fifth St. from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. Saturday. The Bingo fundraiser comes by way of Greg Pridemore, staff member at the Boys and Girls Club. Pridemore had been involved in other youth projects with churches and youth groups before coming to the Boys and Girls Club four months ago. "One of the fundraisers I have always had success (with) is Bingo and I thought it would be something fun to bring to the community," Pridemore said. A \$15 entry fee will allow for the play of 20 games, with a winner resulting from each game. Several businesses have contributed to the prizes, including Walmart, H.E.B., Allan's Gallery, Elrod's Furniture and Chaney's. "The majority of the funding received for the Boys and

See **BINGO**, Page 3

Circuit Rider cutting planned at Elbow

By AMANDA DUFORAT
 Staff Writer
 "Come one, come all" is the call sent out by Circuit Riders Cowboy Church for the first Ranch Cutting on Saturday. The event will be at 5108 Nichols Road, across from Elbow Elementary. Books are set to open at 7 a.m. with events starting at 9 a.m. There will be seven classes — pee wee for 12 and younger; youth for ages 13 to 18; novice for novice riders and horse; junior for 5-year-old or younger horses; amateur for novice rider on NCHA money earners; limited open; and open for any age horses — for competition. "This is something that we are trying to not only get the cowboys involved because you don't have to be a cowboy to be a part of it, but also those who are not familiar with the church," Kim Armstead, arena team leader, said. Entry fee is \$30, for youths and adults, plus a \$20 cattle charge. "We are not looking to make money; that is not the reason we are doing this," Armstead said. "If there is any profit then it will go toward our Circuit Riders arena team." One of the hopes, according to Armstead, is to begin a circuit for traveling to other cowboy churches located in Andrews, San Angelo and Fort Stockton. For those taking part, a negative coggins is required

See **CUTTING**, Page 3



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Obituaries

Annette Howard



Annette Howard, 75, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2012, at her residence. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 10, 2012, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Walter McCall officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 9, 2012, at the funeral home.

Annette was born Jan. 19, 1937, in Tarzan, Texas. She retired from Pollard Chevrolet-Buick-Cadillac

as office manager after 50 years of service.

She was a member of Baptist Temple.

Survivors include two sisters, Andrea Howard of Big Spring and Patsy Ford of Midland; and several nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Andrew "Dick" and Willie (Hobbs) Howard; and three brothers, Richard Howard, James Howard, and Keith Howard.

The family suggests memorials be made to the American Cancer Society, c/o Carolyn Brooks, P.O. Box 2121, Big Spring, Texas 79721-2121.

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

Police/Sheriff/EMS

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

- **SETH SAVAGE SLAYTON**, 19, of 506 N. Second St., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of aggravated robbery.

- **BERNARDO FRAUSTO PEREZ JR.**, 48, of 2910 Cherokee St., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.

- **JENNIFER CANALES**, 25, of 2605 W. Dow, was arrested Wednesday on charges of manufacture delivery of controlled substance between four grams and 200 grams, failed to maintain financial responsibility and no drivers license when unlicensed.

- **HOWARD BRANDON JOHNSON**, 28, of 1511 S. Scurry St. A, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of manufacture delivery controlled substance between four grams and 200 grams and warrant from other agency.

- **EDDIE GLENN OVERTON**, 20, of 1808 N. CR 1330, was arrested Thursday on a charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor.

- **CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL REECE**, 34, of 1919 E. 11th Place, was arrested Thursday on charges of evading arrest/detention using vehicle or watercraft, speeding and expired drivers license.

- **ROBBERY** was reported in the 100 block of E. Third Street.

- **THEFT** was reported:

In the 100 block of N.E. Broadway Street.

In the 3900 block of W. Hwy 80.

- **ASSAULT** was reported in the 1400 block of N. Hwy 87.

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 80 inmates at the time of this report.

- **SETH SAVAGE SLAYTON**, 19, was transferred to the county detention center Wednesday by BSPD on a charge of aggravated robbery.

- **NANCY ANNE CUELLAR**, 24, was transferred to the county detention center Wednesday by DPS on a charge of assault family violence.

- **MICHELLE LYNN CUELLAR**, 26, was transferred to the county detention center Wednesday

by DPS on a charge of minor in consumption of alcohol beverage.

- **RAUL MENDEZ JR.**, 33, was transferred to the county detention center Wednesday by DPS on a charge of bail jumping and fail to appear, evading arrest/detention, fail to identify fugitive intent to give false information, capias/no drivers license, capias/fail to maintain financial responsibility.

- **EDUARDO RAMIREZ GALLARDO**, 52, was arrested Wednesday by HCSO on a charge of sentenced/driving while intoxicated third or more.

- **HOWARD BRANDON JOHNSON**, 28, was transferred to the county detention center Wednesday by BSPD on a charge of driving with license invalid with previous conviction/suspension without final responsibility and manufacture/deliver controlled substance between four and 200 grams.

- **JENNIFER ANN CANALES**, 25, was transferred to the county detention center Thursday by BSPD on a charge of capias/fail to maintain financial responsibility, capias/no drivers license, manufacture/deliver controlled substance between four and 200 grams.

- **BERNARDO FRAUSTO PEREZ, JR.**, was transferred to the county detention center Thursday by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- **EDDIE GLENN OVERTON**, 20, was arrested Thursday by HCSO on a charge of minor in consumption of alcohol/beverage.

- **CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL REECE**, 34, was arrested Thursday by HCSO on a charge of evading arrest detention with vehicle, speeding and expired drivers license.

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2700 block of Central. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2300 block of Carl. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **MEDICAL** was reported in 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1200 block of Ridgeroad. Service refused.

Take Note

- The Class of 2014 will be raising money for prom Saturday, Sept. 15 outside Walmart from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. There will be Krispy Kreme donuts, roasted corn and brisket burritos. For more information, contact Julie Alvarez at 432-816-1278.

- Baptist Temple Church has set Vacation Bible School for Aug. 11. Sign ups will be from 8:30 a.m. until 9 a.m. Class will run from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Lunch and snacks will be provided with the closing ceremony from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. Parents and family are invited. Vans will run. Call 267-8287 and leave message with name and number for a call back.

- Northside Community Center will offer after school program starting Sept. 5 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Free ESL or SSL will be offered from 10 a.m. until noon Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Free basic computer sessions will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. until noon and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Call 263-2673.

- The Compassionate Friends is a grief support group for those who have lost a child. The local chapter will meet Tuesday at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church. Please use the doors on the southeast corner of the family life center.

- The Friends of the Library of Howard County request donations of books in good condition for the book sale to be held Sept. 14-16. If you have books to donate take them to the Howard County Library, Monday through Friday during regular library hours. Please no National Geographic magazines, other magazines or condensed books. Friends of the Library is a non-profit organization which provides supplemental support for our public library outside the budget furnished by Howard County. At the present time the Friends is financially supporting the library's summer reading program. Our assistance is not possible without the generosity and cooperation of the wonderful people of this county. Anyone who wishes to join the Friends of the Library, stop by the library for an application. Dues are \$5 a year.

- Registration of students new to Big Spring Independent School District is being held Mondays through Thursdays at the Student Registration

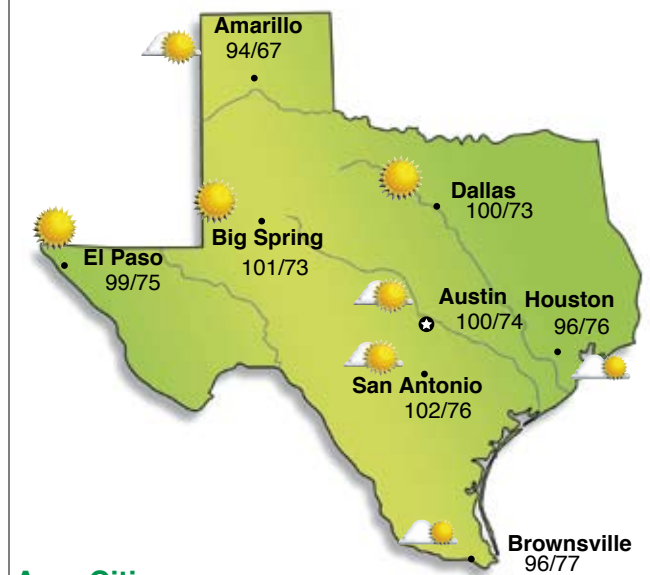
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Sat 8/11	Sun 8/12	Mon 8/13	Tue 8/14	Wed 8/15
101/73 Sunny. Highs 99 to 103F and lows in the low 70s.	104/76 Sunny. Highs 102 to 106F and lows in the mid 70s.	103/75 Mostly sunny. Highs 101 to 105F and lows in the mid 70s.	99/75 A few clouds. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the mid 70s.	101/74 Plenty of sun. Highs 99 to 103F and lows in the mid 70s.
Sunrise: 7:07 AM Sunset: 8:35 PM	Sunrise: 7:08 AM Sunset: 8:34 PM	Sunrise: 7:09 AM Sunset: 8:33 PM	Sunrise: 7:09 AM Sunset: 8:32 PM	Sunrise: 7:10 AM Sunset: 8:31 PM



Texas At A Glance



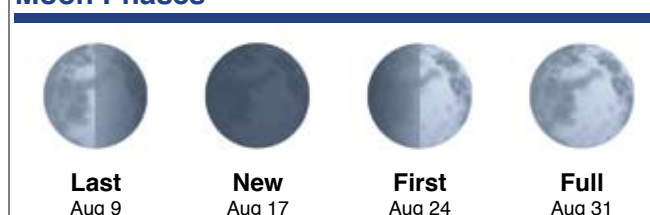
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	99	71	sunny	Kingsville	101	75	sunny
Amarillo	94	67	mst sunny	Livingston	97	72	mst sunny
Austin	100	74	mst sunny	Longview	96	73	mst sunny
Beaumont	94	75	pt sunny	Lubbock	95	68	sunny
Brownsville	96	77	pt sunny	Lufkin	97	74	mst sunny
Brownwood	102	71	sunny	Midland	100	75	sunny
Corpus Christi	98	78	sunny	Raymondville	99	75	pt sunny
Corsicana	99	72	sunny	Rosenberg	97	75	pt sunny
Dallas	100	73	sunny	San Antonio	102	76	mst sunny
Del Rio	103	80	mst sunny	San Marcos	100	74	mst sunny
El Paso	99	75	sunny	Sulphur Springs	97	72	sunny
Fort Stockton	98	73	sunny	Sweetwater	98	71	sunny
Gainesville	97	68	sunny	Tyler	99	74	sunny
Greenville	97	69	sunny	Weatherford	99	70	sunny
Houston	96	76	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	101	69	sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	89	67	t-storm	Minneapolis	78	56	sunny
Boston	83	72	t-storm	New York	83	76	t-storm
Chicago	74	55	rain	Phoenix	109	86	mst sunny
Dallas	100	73	sunny	San Francisco	70	57	pt sunny
Denver	91	65	sunny	Seattle	75	57	sunny
Houston	96	76	pt sunny	St. Louis	85	62	sunny
Los Angeles	89	69	sunny	Washington, DC	88	73	t-storm
Miami	86	78	t-storm				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Sat 8/11	Sun 8/12	Mon 8/13	Tue 8/14	Wed 8/15
11	11	11	11	11
Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, 0 with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

Lottery

The winning numbers in Wednesday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Lotto Texas" game were: 16-20-29-43-48-53.

The winning numbers in Wednesday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Cash 5" game were: 02-24-28-33-36.

The winning numbers in Wednesday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Daily 4 Night" game were: 0-8-5-6, Sum It Up: 19.

The winning numbers in Wednesday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Pick 3 Night" game were: 9-9-3, Sum It Up: 21.

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Tony Hernandez Production Manager... Ext. 256
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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.

Odds & Ends

PennDOT crew paints road line over dead raccoon

JOHNSTOWN, Pa. (AP) — The “squirrely” configuration of a western Pennsylvania road helped cause a state road crew to paint a double-yellow line over a dead raccoon, an agency official said.

Motorcyclist Sean McAfee pointed out the mistake before it could be cleaned up.

“When I saw it, I almost wrecked my motorcycle because I was laughing so hard,” McAfee said.

PennDOT traffic engineer John Ambrosini told the newspaper that paint crews know to avoid such animals and usually have a foreman on the job to clear any dead animals off the road before the paint-spraying truck equipment passes by. This crew didn’t have a foreman that day, Aug. 2, and the equipment was too big to turn around in traffic on the curvy, narrow road so the line could be repainted without the carcasses in the way.

“They did try to stop the paint gun,” Ambrosini said. “But with the amount of congestion Thursday, the squirrely geometry of the road, and the size of the equipment, they couldn’t turn around to go back and fix the mistake.”

“We were out the next morning to clean it up,” Ambrosini said. Another crew must still return to fill in a gap in the yellow lines where the carcass had been.

Pittsburgh-area man to put ashes in bowling ball

TURTLE CREEK, Pa. (AP) — A Pittsburgh-area bowling fanatic has gotten a Utah company to fashion a bowling ball urn for his ashes.

Forty-eight-year-old Tony Guarino said his wife Stacy called Storm Products Inc. of Brigham City, Utah, when he began wondering if the bowling ball company could make such a container.

Company official Mike Stewart says Storm was “honored” by the request and has since delivered the ball.

Guarino, of Wilkins Township, is an avid bowler whose only perfect, 300 game was bowled using a Storm ball. But he can no longer bowl because his terminal prostate cancer has spread to his lower back and pelvis.

MONDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, noon-1 p.m., 615 Settles.

- PEP — Parent Education Program for CPS participating and non-participating parents, single parent, grandparents, adoptive or fostering parents. Every first and fourth Monday of the month from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Northside Community Center. Classes are free. For information, call 263-2673.

- Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting, 8-9 p.m., fourth floor, VA Medical Center.

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

TUESDAY

- Big Spring Parkinsons Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month. This is a group for those with Parkinson’s Disease, Young Onset Parkinson’s, caregivers, and those interested in learning more about the illness. There is time for socializing and information. For more information about the support group or about Parkinson’s Disease, contact Jody at 432-699-6640 or midlandparkinsons@yahoo.com or Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-2732.

- Special Parents for Special Children support group meets

the first Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at Elbow Elementary. Contact Kerri Rosenbaum at 432-816-3320 or kerrirosenbaum9488@msn.com

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

- Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

THURSDAY

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

- Spring Tabernacle Ministries has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m. un-

til 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) is open to the public but specifically aimed for people who suffer from vision problems and their caregivers. For more information, call 263-2501.

FRIDAY

- AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

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

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

SATURDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 7 p.m. until 8 p.m.

AYP

Continued from Page 1

AYP requirements in mathematics.

Other area school district AYP results included:

- Glasscock County ISD — met AYP requirements at both the district and campus level.

- Grady ISD — met AYP requirements at both the district and campus level.

- Sands CISD — met AYP requirements at the district and campus level.

- Stanton ISD — met AYP requirements at

the district level and at the high school and junior high, but failed to meet the benchmarks for reading and mathematics at the elementary school.

This is the third consecutive year Big Spring ISD has failed to meet AYP standards, but Superintendent Steven Saldivar vowed the district would continue working to improve student performance

“We’re not going to make any excuses for it, we’re just going to focus on making improvements,” Saldivar said. “We’re going to look at the data and see where we need to go academi-

cally ... above all, our focus will remain doing everything we can to provide the best education for our kids.”

Forsan ISD Superintendent Randy Johnson was quick to agree with TEA that increased standards were the major reason his district failed to meet the AYP guidelines.

“To say Forsan met AYP for the past 10 years or however long it’s been, and then didn’t meet it this year doesn’t mean our test scores were any worse,” Johnson said. “It just means the passing standards keep going up and up.”

And standards are go-

ing to keep increasing to the point that all students will be required to pass state reading and math tests by the year 2014, a point that drew scorn from Johnson.

“Obviously, 100 percent of our students are not going to pass their state tests,” he said. “So, we’re reaching the point where they’ll raise the standards to the point of meaninglessness.”

Saldivar said increased standards are just something Big Spring ISD will have to contend with.

“We’ll just concern ourselves with things we can control,” he said. “To that point, we’ve in-

stituted a system that we believe will help us meet those academic needs ... Our teachers already work hard and we’re going to work smarter.”

FISD missed AYP standards by fewer than 5 points in two socioeconomic subgroups, he added.

This marks the second consecutive year that Coahoma ISD has failed to meet AYP standards, Superintendent Amy Jacobs said.

“I’m not surprised by the overall state ratings, because we knew the passing standards were going up so considerably,” Jacobs said. “It

was a high bar that was set ... and we’re going to use it as motivation to improve our students’ performance in the classroom.”

Failure to meet AYP for more than one year forces districts to submit an improvement plan to TEA. If standards aren’t met in the future, districts could be faced with more severe sanctions.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

HEALTH

Continued from Page 1

is a great way for residents to gain insight on how to utilize the health care centers we have in

Howard County.”

The program will take place on the Howard College campus in the Cactus Room. The serving line will open at 7:30 a.m. and the program is set to start at 7:50 a.m.

It should conclude before 9 a.m. Tickets can be purchased through Aug. 16 for \$12.

“There will be lots of information provided on how our community and county residents

can make all of our facilities better and how we can utilize what is right here in our own backyard,” ValVerde said.

To purchase tickets, stop by the chamber office, located at 215 W.

Third. For more information, call 263-7641.

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

BINGO

Continued from Page 1

Girls Club comes in the form of private donations,” he said. “There are grants we can apply

for, but most of the time they are small ones.”

Money raised through yearly fundraisers helps support the after-school program, summer program and the maintenance of the building as

well as the purchase of equipment.

“One of the big things we are needing funding for is so that we are able to take the kids on field trips,” Pridemore said.

For those wanting to see what the Boys and Girls Club is all about, there will be a ribbon cutting Aug. 23 at noon. The event will be in recognition of the newly built facility.

For more information,

stop by 811 W. Fifth St. or call 264-7344.

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

CUTTING

Continued from Page 1

upon registration. Circuit Riders Ranch Cutting will take place at CircuitRidersCowboy Church across from Elbow. Trailer parking will be located on the south side of Elbow Elementary.

For more information, call 432-816-7314.

Directions
Travel south on U.S. Highway 87 past Buffalo Fina. Turn right onto FM 33 and then right onto FM 818. Turn south on Nichols Road and the event will be taking place on the right, past Elbow Elementary.

sudoku
ANSWERS

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

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Any Entree \$7.95 or above
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Must Be Presented For Discount
Expires 8-31-12

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8288


Lacy Edwards, 69, died Monday. Funeral services were at 10:30 a.m. this morning at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial with Military Honors followed at Trinity Memorial Park.

Devotion To Saint Jude

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored, loved, preserved & glorified throughout the world now and forever. The sacred heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, Helper of the Hopeless, pray for us. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ for the help of your servant St. Jude in listening to my prayers. Say this prayer nine times for nine days. By the end of the eighth, your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you Sacred Heart of Jesus & St. Jude for prayers answered.

M.E.H. 238850

AN ENCOURAGING WORD



By Eddy Pitchford

Watching the Olympics may equip you to talk about the Olympics; it does not mean you win a gold medal. Gold medals are the result of desire, discipline and dedication. Watching other people trust and obey the Lord does not mean you are faithful to God.

“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the game goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.” (1 Corinthians 9:24-25).

“...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus...” (Hebrews 12: 1-2).

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Sunday Class.....9:30 AM
Sunday Worship.....10:20 AM
Sunday Worship.....5:00 PM
Wednesday Class.....7:00 PM

EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Bill McClellan Managing Editor	Brian McCormack Sports Editor	Steve Reagan Staff Writer
Amanda Duforat Staff Writer	Thomas Jenkins Staff Writer	

OUR VIEWS

New schools, new year = more excitement ahead

The tour of schools — featuring the four new Big Spring ISD elementaries — was the event to be at Tuesday afternoon.

The first stop on the tour was Moss Elementary. The one school which is considered to be further behind in the construction phase due to construction not started until after school was released for the summer.

The celebrations continued with a whirlwind of ribbon cuttings at Washington Elementary, Goliad Elementary and finally, concluding at Marcy Elementary.

The tour not only concluded with a fourth and final ribbon cutting, but with speeches from several of those involved in the project. Finally, the time came for the unveiling of the schools as the public received the first tour of the new facility.

Each of the four elementaries are based on the same layout, minus a few cosmetic differences. All are equipped with state of the art equipment and modern-day style furniture.

All four campuses are ready for the students to arrive on the first day of the coming semester, Aug. 27. As the school year kicks off, landscaping and exterior touch ups will continue.

Construction will continue at Big Spring High School on several areas and is not expected to wrap up until next year.

As the new school year approaches, Big Spring ISD officials, staff, students and parents are gearing up to experience a new school year in the new facilities.

This project is one that has been waited on for many, many years and — by the show of people at the ribbon cuttings — is welcomed with open arms and great excitement.

Registration is ongoing at the former Goliad Intermediate campus.

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.
- 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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we approach temptations, Lord,
with You in mind.

Amen

Shock, awe, life and death

It was a most extraordinary day. Americans got to sit in front of their TVs and watch a man with no legs run in the Olympics, a massacre occur in Wisconsin and a nuclear-powered rover land on Mars after traveling 352 million miles, blazing through the Martian atmosphere at 13,000 mph and set down safely, after requiring a correction of only 10 feet.

All extraordinary. Except for the massacre. That's becoming pretty ordinary. Only six people were murdered by a lone gunman. That's half the number murdered by a lone gunman in Aurora, Colo., two weeks before.

So maybe things are looking up.

After all, the people killed in both cases were engaging in high-risk activities. In Wisconsin, they were worshipping in a temple. In Colorado, they were going to a movie.

So what do you expect?

A safe activity in America these days is staying home and watching TV. With the doors locked. And not opening them for anybody. Including the pizza guy, who could be packing a .40 caliber Glock along with the pepperoni. (Suggestion: Order thin crust and have him slip it under the door.)

But why dwell on the negative?

Oscar Pistorius, the 25-year-old runner from South Africa, often called "the fastest man on no legs," became the first double amputee to compete in the Olympics this weekend.

He has been the object of controversy, some charging that his carbon fiber, curved-blade legs give him an unfair advantage because they are both springier and lighter than real legs.

The charges were examined by one athletic body, which banned Pistorius from competing against able-bodied athletes, and then by a higher athletic body that reversed the ban.

The Olympics has banned performance-enhancing drugs and

performance-enhancing swimsuits, and it is not unreasonable to consider whether prosthetics unfairly enhance performance.

As The New York Times pointed out in a lengthy magazine piece on Pistorius, his running legs weigh only 5.4 pounds each, while a flesh-and-blood leg for somebody his size would weigh about 12.6 pounds.

And the blade legs are springy. But you have to consider that when Pistorius' legs were amputated when he was 11 months old, his muscles and nerves were amputated, too. He has to use different muscles to move those legs and different nerves.

The human body has had about 7 million years to evolve in its upright form, and Pistorius is using his body in ways that it was not designed for. Prosthetics rarely, if ever, make you as good as new, let alone better than new. His blade legs lack feet, for instance, and feet are another miracle of evolution.

(When Pistorius is not running he wears ordinary prosthetic legs that, I imagine, are similar to my own.)

Like all athletes, Pistorius lives to compete, and on Saturday in London, he competed in the Olympics, coming in second in his 400-meter heat. On Sunday, he ran in the semifinals and came in dead last.

But that was not the extraordinary moment. The extraordinary moment came seconds after the finish when Grenada's Kirani James, a world champion and the winner of the heat, came over and exchanged his bib with Pistorius.

Pistorius looked very surprised and very pleased, and after the two hugged, James held up Pistorius' bib to the crowd, celebrating the triumph of the loser.

Also on Sunday, Barack Obama and Mitt Romney expressed their regrets about the murder of six Sikhs at a temple outside Milwaukee. Obama said he and Michelle were "deeply saddened." Romney said he and Ann extended their "thoughts and prayers to the victims."

On Monday, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney held his regular press briefing and got about 15 questions — a high

number — about gun control.

He answered all the same way: The president and first lady felt terrible, our country has been enriched by Sikhs, and President Obama will continue "towards common-sense measures that protect the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens" but make it more difficult for "those who should not have weapons under existing law to obtain them."

But what about new laws, considering that existing laws are clearly inadequate? The questioning by reporters on the subject went on and on, but ended thusly:

"Q: My last question — so is the White House Office of Legislative Affairs actively working with congressional leaders, congressional staffers, now on issues of gun control and a new assault weapons ban?"

"Mr. Carney: I don't have any legislative update for you. I think Congress is out of session at the moment."

Ah, America. Space is clearly a happier place at the moment. Nor is exploring it as expensive as people think. The NASA annual budget is about \$17.8 billion. Sound high?

Our current military budget is more than \$680 billion a year.

According to The Wall Street Journal's "Market Watch," writing last Dec. 15: "The nine-year-old Iraq war came to an official end on Thursday, but paying for it will continue for decades until U.S. taxpayers have shelled out an estimated \$4 trillion."

All to find imaginary weapons of mass destruction. By comparison, space exploration is not expensive. War is expensive.

Nor is space exploration foolish. Easy access to deadly weapons is foolish.

Our exploration of space should continue. And then our next goal should be to search for signs of intelligent life on Earth.

To find out more about Roger Simon, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com.

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Democrat double-standard

The Western Hemisphere, from Mexico on down, traditionally served as a happy hunting ground for American business. From the Rio Grande to Cape Horn, cheap labor, cheap oil, cheap copper, cheap gold, cheap bananas, cheap beef, cheap wheat, cheap palm oil, and cheap politicians made Latin American countries attractive places to extract profits.

The U.S. military kept the region safe for our business exploits for decades. Beginning in the 1890s, Nicaragua, Haiti, Panama, and other corners of our "backyard" were periodically occupied by nimble U.S. Marine detachments. Later, our nation proudly subsidized Latin American and Caribbean dictators, and the Pentagon supplied their regimes with counter-insurgency training. Throughout the Cold War, our federal budget included big bucks that the government funneled to autocratic thugs who expressed respect for democracy as they "disappeared" leftist activists.

Washington has grown more sophisticated. The Marines gave way to Special Forces. The National Endowment for Democracy now parcels out our tax dollars to the region's "non-profit" pro-business organizations.

Sure, Washington hasn't called all the shots in Latin America and the Caribbean for more than half a century. The Bay of Pigs debacle failed to bring Cuba back into our sphere of influence and the Contras didn't accom-

plish all their reactionary goals in Nicaragua. But now, things have really changed.

Even when he was weakened by chemotherapy and a series of operations, our agents in Caracas couldn't force Hugo Chavez to step down. The Venezuelan leader, who is running yet again for re-election and first took office in 1999, recently declared that he'd defeated the cancer that seemed bound to kill him. Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Uruguay have all veered leftward. Along with this increasing political independence from Uncle Sam, Latin American countries are diversifying their trade and becoming far less reliant on U.S. markets.

This independence can frighten a country accustomed to calling the shots, and not just the government. In late July, The Washington Post ran a lengthy opinion piece disguised as straight reporting by Juan Forero, which decried the "autocratic" threat posed by Latin America's new wave of "charismatic populists."

Oddly, that article didn't dwell on the hemisphere's newest and most clear-cut kind of attack on democracy: parliamentary coups. Juntas are out, and law-breaking lawmakers are in. Unruly legislators ousted Fernando Lugo, Paraguay's democratically elected president and a former Catholic bishop, earlier this summer. They were following a formula that debuted in Honduras during the summer of 2009, when masked soldiers hauled Honduran President Manuel Zelaya into a plane headed out of the country — without even letting him change out of his pajamas.

The Obama administration's response to both parliamentary

coups was distinctly mealy-mouthed. "We have been closely following events in Paraguay," the State Department muttered after Lugo got booted from power. Latin American leaders, meanwhile, are vociferously condemning the rapidfire way he was "impeached." Notably, MERCOSUR suspended Paraguay — a founding member of that South American trade bloc — and then welcomed Venezuela as a full-fledged member.

Three years after Zelaya's ouster, Honduras is one of the world's most dangerous countries, especially for the practitioners of democratic discourse. Its free-for-all capitalist order features regular attacks on farm cooperatives and murder of union organizers, human rights activists, and journalists. And bloodshed driven by drug trafficking and U.S.-funded efforts to stamp it out is out of control.

Faced with the alarming upheavals in Paraguay and Honduras, President Barack Obama proceeded no differently than we would have expected had George W. Bush been in the White House. That's no surprise. Whether a Democrat or a Republican rules the roost, Washington doesn't mind when old-school brutality rears its ugly head in Latin America. And it's always leery of those charismatic populists.

Emily Schwartz Greco, the managing editor of OtherWords, covered Latin American finance and U.S. foreign policy toward the region for the Dow Jones and Bloomberg news services. Columnist William A. Collins is a former state representative and a former mayor of Norwalk, Connecticut. otherwords.org



ROGER SIMON



WILLIAM COLLINS

News in brief

West Texas deputy mourned as man of integrity

BIG LAKE, Texas (AP) — A West Texas deputy fatally shot last week has been remembered as a man of dignity and integrity at a packed funeral. Mourners filled First Baptist Church in Big Lake on Wednesday to honor Reagan County sheriff's Deputy Josh Mitchell.

Pastor Bryan Bitner said the 26-year-old became a lawman while still in high school and "could wrestle you down, handcuff you, and by the time you got to the jail, be your best friend."

The San Angelo Standard Times (<http://bit.ly/MPU2dh>) reports that others remembered Mitchell as someone who enjoyed farming, ranching, jewelry-making and baking.

Mitchell was killed Aug. 1 after he went to talk to 42-year-old Marcus Wade Madison about a complaint. Madison, who surrendered with a self-inflicted gunshot wound after a 17-hour standoff, died in a hospital Tuesday.

Police shooting in Abilene leaves armed man dead

ABILENE, Texas (AP) — Police in Abilene have shot and killed a gunman who allegedly slipped into his estranged wife's home by removing an air conditioner.

Abilene Police Chief Stan Standridge says the man died at a hospital following Wednesday morning's shooting. The wife wasn't hurt.

The woman called 911 to say her estranged spouse was in her bedroom. Police say the man apparently removed a window air conditioning unit to get inside and threatened to kill her. He then allegedly walked to the backyard.

Standridge says the 49-year-old man, whose name wasn't immediately released, had a loaded revolver. The suspect allegedly pointed the gun at officers and wouldn't surrender.

Both officers opened fire and shot him several times.

The officers have been put on administrative leave during a review of the incident.

Terrorism expert may testify at Fort Hood trial

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP) — A military judge is to decide if a terrorism expert will testify during the trial of the Army psychiatrist charged in the deadly Fort Hood shooting rampage.

Maj. Nidal Hasan's defense team is trying to stop Evan Kohlmann from testifying at the court-martial starting in less than two weeks. They are questioning the methods Kohlmann used in his study of the case in which he concluded that Hasan is a homegrown terrorist.

Kohlmann is expected to be questioned during a pretrial hearing Thursday. He has testified for the government in more than two dozen terrorism cases.

Hasan is charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder and 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder in the November 2009 shootings at the Texas Army post.

Hasan faces the death penalty if convicted.

Audit: Texas traffic fatalities down since 2006

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A state audit indicates traffic fatalities in Texas have declined nearly 15 percent since 2006.

Details of the audit of the Texas Department of Transportation were released Wednesday.

Transportation officials say increased seat belt usage and "Click It or Ticket" traffic campaigns have led to safer travel.

The Austin American-Statesman reports Texas in 2010, the most recent year in the report, had 3,028 traffic deaths and about 234 billion miles of driving.

That works out to 1.29 deaths per 100 million miles driven. The formula is used by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for evaluating road safety. Texas in 2006 had a rate of 1.5 deaths per 100 million miles traveled.

The nationwide rate in 2010 was 1.11 deaths per 100 million miles traveled.

Houston day care center in van crash closes

HOUSTON (AP) — State regulators have closed a Houston day care center a month after one of its vans crashed and injured 16 children on board.

KHOU-TV reported Wednesday that the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services has revoked the operating permit of Alpha Kids Center No. 2. The center has 15 days to appeal.

Records show state inspectors cited the center

with 18 violations related to the July 9 accident. The 15-passenger van allegedly carried 18 people. Some of the youngsters allegedly were not in required booster or safety seats when the van collided with a pickup truck.

The van driver and the center operator were charged with criminal negligence following the accident.

Center officials did not immediately comment Wednesday. A message left with the center Thursday was not immediately returned.

4 injured in bees' attack in Central Texas

PFLUGERVILLE, Texas (AP) — Authorities say a Central Texas warehouse worker has been hospitalized after being stung more than 300 times by Africanized honey bees.

Pflugerville police say two other workers and an officer who responded to 911 calls Wednesday were also stung but have minor injuries. The name of the hospitalized worker, who was stable when transported, and further details on his condition were not immediately available Thursday.

Experts say the colony, which was found in a cabinet, had as many as 125,000 bees.

The incident forced the closure of a nearby road for several hours Wednesday morning as the queen bee and the honeycombs were removed.

Pflugerville is about 15 miles north of Austin.

Judge to sentence AWOL soldier who plotted attack

WACO, Texas (AP) — An AWOL soldier convicted of planning a massive attack on a restaurant full of Fort Hood soldiers as part of his religious mission faces up to life in prison when he is sentenced in Texas federal court.

Army Pfc. Naser Jason Abdo has said he will represent himself in court when he is sentenced Thursday.

Abdo, 22, said during an earlier hearing that he and his attorneys weren't communicating effectively. He was convicted in May on six federal charges, including attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction.

Abdo was AWOL from Fort Campbell, Ky., when he was arrested last summer at a motel near Fort Hood with bomb-making materials.

Death row off table in Texas Syndicate case

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The Obama administration has chosen not to seek the death penalty in capital cases against alleged members of the Texas Syndicate gang accused of a wave of shootings in San Antonio, some fatal.

The San Antonio Express-News reports court documents reflect Attorney General Eric Holder's decision in cases against 13 people accused of being members of the prison-based gang. They've been indicted on racketeering-related charges.

The indictment includes charges of murder, attempted murder, conspiracy to commit murder and drug trafficking. Authorities say four slayings since 2008 have been linked to the gang members.

The investigation began in 2010 with a traffic stop in Bexar County that led to the seizure of an undisclosed amount of drugs.

Pilots reject contract with American Airlines

DALLAS (AP) — Pilots for American Airlines have strongly rejected a contract offer that would have helped the company cut labor costs, dashing American's hopes of winning voluntary concessions from all its labor unions.

American said that it was disappointed by the vote. The company will ask a federal bankruptcy judge to let it impose terms on pilots that would be harsher than the rejected deal.

Mechanics and maintenance-stock clerks ratified new contracts, their union said Wednesday. Flight attendants are voting through Aug. 19.

In the most closely watched contest, the Allied Pilots Association said 61 percent of its 7,500 members who cast ballots voted to reject American's final offer. American had offered pay raises and a 13.5 percent stake in the new company in exchange for more flexibility to shift flying to partner airlines.

"We are disappointed with the outcome of today's APA voting results, as ratification of the pilot tentative agreement would have been an important step forward in our restructuring," said Bruce Hicks, a spokesman for American parent AMR Corp.

The union has fought against management for years, and many pilots hope that American will be forced into a merger with US Airways. Some believed that ratifying the final offer from American would have strengthened the position of Ameri-

can's management and made a merger less likely.

Union spokesman Gregg Overman said pilots were concerned about the long term of the contract — six years — and a potential two-tier pay scale with lower pay for pilots of new Airbus A319 aircraft that the company is expected to add to its fleet.

But the overarching theme of Wednesday's vote was more visceral: "It's a decade's worth of accumulated frustration with management," Overman said.

Texas man accused of murder in ND oil patch shooting

WILLISTON, N.D. (AP) — Bond was set at \$1 million Wednesday for a Texas man accused in a fatal shooting at a worker camp in the western North Dakota oil patch.

Victor Lamont, 24, of Lufkin, Texas, is charged with murder, attempted murder and terrorizing. He is accused of killing 57-year-old Gerald Schild, of Katy, Texas, and injuring 38-year-old Travis Lomax of Fort Smith, Ark. A friend said Schild, a former NASCAR racer, was a local legend in the Houston racing scene.

Authorities said the shooting happened late Saturday at the crew camp near Tioga. Lomax was treated at a Minot hospital and released. A judge set Lamont's bond on Wednesday.

All three men were working for Wisconsin-based pipeline company Michels Corp., which has said the shooting happened when the men were off work. Lamont also is accused of threatening two other company workers with a gun, Williams County Chief Deputy Verlan Kvande told The Forum newspaper. Authorities have not released details of the incident or a possible motive.

Court documents do not list an attorney for Lamont.

John Mandabach, whose family owns the Houston Motorsports Park racetrack, told the Williston Herald that Schild — who competed in a handful of NASCAR races in the 1970s — has won many races at the local track. The track will dedicate the Aug. 18 races to Schild and hold a moment of silence in his memory.

"I'd be surprised at anyone at our racetrack who doesn't know who Jerry was and wouldn't be able to share some humorous story," Mandabach said. "He's just a real memorable guy that had a positive impact on anyone he was around."

JetBlue pilot has psychotic episode in prison

DALLAS (AP) — The JetBlue Airways pilot who disrupted a cross-country flight by leaving the cockpit and yelling about religion and terrorists has had a psychotic episode in prison and requires further mental evaluation, a judge said Wednesday.

Clayton Osbon was charged with interference with a flight crew, but was found not guilty by reason of insanity last month. A forensic neuropsychologist testified in a short, unpublicized trial that Osbon had a "brief psychotic disorder" at the time of the flight brought on by lack of sleep.

Passengers said Osbon left the cockpit during a March 27 flight from New York to Las Vegas. He ran through the plane's cabin yelling about Jesus and al-Qaida. The flight was diverted and safely landed in Amarillo, Texas.

After the trial, Osbon was sent to a prison medical facility in North Carolina for evaluation. He was scheduled to return to Amarillo federal court this week for another hearing on whether he should go free or be sent to a mental health facility.

Instead, U.S. District Judge Mary Lou Robinson on Wednesday extended Osbon's evaluation period to Oct. 15, with a final evaluation report due to her by the end of that month.

Robinson said she was notified by a forensic psychologist that Osbon "had suffered a psychotic episode." She did not say what the nature of the episode was, if it was connected to his previous disorder or what prompted it. A message seeking comment was left for Osbon's attorney, Dean Roper.

Robinson's order said attorneys on both sides did not oppose the extension.

To submit a news item, call 263-7331, ext. 230

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News in brief

Syrian activists: Clashes rage in rebel bastions of Aleppo as regime presses on with assault

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's foreign ministry says Moscow will attend talks on the Syrian crisis organized by Iran.

The ministry says that Russia will be represented by its ambassador in Tehran if the talks set for Thursday take place. It said in a statement late Wednesday that the meeting was called at short notice, leaving little time to prepare.

Russia in the past has urged the West to allow Tehran to take part in international discussions on how to settle the crisis, arguing that the Islamic republic could play an important role.

Russia has been the main protector and ally of Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime, shielding it from the United Nations sanctions over its brutal crackdown on an uprising that evolved into a full-blown civil war.

Even before Romney makes VP pick, Obama campaign begins effort to pick apart GOP running mate

CINCINNATI (AP) — President Barack Obama and his Democratic allies aren't waiting for Republican Mitt Romney to reveal his vice presidential choice. They're already trying to scuff up those considered by political insiders to be most likely to join the GOP ticket.

The president's campaign started swinging at the potential Republican running mates this week while urging home-state Democrats to chime in about the shortcomings that — as emails to donors and supporters put it — “Americans need to know.” The pre-emptive strikes are an effort to define a possible No. 2 in a negative light and reflect a sense that time is precious to sway opinion in a stubbornly close presidential race dashing quickly toward November.

Tim Pawlenty? The former Minnesota governor is a fee-raiser whose record “is painful for the middle-class families who lived under his leadership,” the Obama campaign argues.

Rob Portman? The Ohio senator is “one of the architects of the top-down Bush budget” that the Obama team blames for “crashing our economy.”

Marco Rubio? The rookie Florida senator has “led the way on almost every extreme position Mitt Romney has embraced,” according to the missive that seeks examples of “the good, the bad and ugly” of Rubio.

Scientists: Crater where Mars rover touched down looks like Earth, feels ‘comfortable’

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — The ancient Martian crater where the Curiosity rover landed looks strikingly similar to the Mojave Desert in California with its looming mountains and hanging haze, scientists say.

“The first impression that you get is how Earth-like this seems looking at that landscape,” chief scientist John Grotzinger of the California Institute of Technology said Wednesday.

Overnight, the car-size rover poked its head out for the first time since settling in Gale Crater, peered around and returned a black-and-white self-portrait and panorama that's still being processed.

It provided the best view so far of its destination since touching down Sunday night after nailing an intricate choreography. During the last few seconds, a rocket-powered spacecraft hovered as cables lowered Curiosity to the ground.

In the latest photos, Curiosity looked out toward

the northern horizon. Nearby were scour marks in the surface blasted by thrusters, which kicked up a swirl of dust. There were concerns that Curiosity got dusty, but scientists said that was not the case.

Official says court heard that wife of disgraced Chinese politician poisoned businessman

HEFEI, China (AP) — The wife of disgraced politician Bo Xilai invited a British businessman to a hotel room, where she got him drunk on wine and fed him poison, according to the evidence presented Thursday in one of China's highest-profile murder trials in years.

The trial of Gu Kailai and a household aide, who are accused of murdering Bo family associate Neil Heywood, lasted all of four hours. International media were barred from the courtroom, so details of the case against Gu were provided by Tang Yigan, deputy director of the Hefei Intermediate People's Court in eastern China.

He did not say when a verdict was expected, but said Gu and the aide, Zhang Xiaojun, did not contest the murder charges.

The secretive and tightly orchestrated court proceeding marks a step toward resolving the messiest scandal the leadership has faced in two decades. Observers say the Communist Party leadership's main objective in the case is to keep the focus tightly on the murder case and not on larger allegations of corruption that could further taint the Chinese regime.

Tang said prosecutors told the court that Gu sent Zhang to meet and accompany Heywood from Beijing to the southwestern mega-city of Chongqing. On the night of Nov. 13, Gu went to Heywood's hotel and drank wine and tea with him.

Tropical Storm Ernesto skirts along Gulf of Mexico on its way flood-prone inland area

VERACRUZ, Mexico (AP) — Tropical Storm Ernesto skirted along Mexico's far-southern Gulf coast early Thursday, passing among some of the country's offshore oil wells while building again toward hurricane strength before landfall in a region prone to flooding.

Ernesto moved out over open water late Wednesday after crossing the Yucatan Peninsula without doing serious damage. It was expected to stay close to shore while heading westward, raising the threat of heavy rains for coastal communities.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said the storm's sustained winds had increased to about 70 mph (110 kph) after getting over the water and was expected to gain more strength, probably growing into a hurricane again. It was a hurricane when it made landfall in Yucatan just before midnight Tuesday but weakened over land.

The Interior Department said Ernesto was expected to come ashore between the oil port of Coatzacoalcos and the coastal city of Alvarado in the Gulf of Mexico state of Veracruz. The U.S. hurricane center said it should make landfall by late afternoon or early evening.

Officials in Veracruz have readied about 20 storm shelters, said Victor Hugo Ceron of the state civil defense agency. The port captain for Veracruz city, Enrique Casarrubias, said the port there was closed to smaller vessels. The Carnival Elation cruise ship canceled a Wednesday stop, he added.

U.S. starts landmark cleanup of Agent Orange nearly 4 decades after Vietnam War's end

DANANG, Vietnam (AP) — The United States on Thursday began a landmark project to clean up a dangerous chemical left from the defoliant Agent Orange — 50 years after it was first sprayed by American planes on Vietnam's jungles to destroy enemy cover.

Dioxin, which has been linked to cancer, birth defects and other disabilities, will be removed from the site of a former U.S. air base in Danang in central Vietnam. The effort is seen as a long-overdue step toward removing a thorn in relations between the former foes nearly four decades after the Vietnam War ended.

“We are both moving earth and taking the first steps to bury the legacies of our past,” U.S. Ambassador David Shear said during the groundbreaking ceremony near the area where a rusty barbed wire fence marks the site's boundary. “I look forward to even more success to follow.”

The \$43 million joint project with Vietnam is expected to be completed in four years on the 19-hectare (47-acre) contaminated site, located near Danang's commercial airport and an active Vietnamese military base.

Washington has been slow to respond, quibbling for years over the need for more scientific research to show that the herbicide caused health problems and birth defects among Vietnamese. It has given about \$60 million for environmental restoration and social services in Vietnam since 2007, but this is its first direct involvement in cleaning up dioxin, which has seeped into Vietnam's soil and watersheds for generations.

News organizations go to court to challenge seal on documents in Colo. theater shooting case

CENTENNIAL, Colo. (AP) — News media organizations were set Thursday to ask the judge in the Colorado theater shooting case to unseal court documents and scale back a gag order that bars a university from releasing details about a former student who is the alleged gunman.

The Associated Press and 20 other news organizations want Chief District Judge William Sylvester to unseal documents that could provide the public with details about James Holmes and the massacre in Aurora on July 20.

The shooting during a midnight showing of the latest Batman movie left 12 people dead and injured 58 others. Holmes, a 24-year-old former Ph.D. student at the University of Colorado, is charged with multiple counts of first-degree murder and attempted first-degree murder.

Court officials said Holmes was expected to attend the hearing.

Arapahoe County prosecutors argue releasing documents could jeopardize their investigation. Holmes' attorneys want to ensure he receives a fair trial.

Amid severe drought, livestock producers seek pause in ethanol production to help corn prices

WASHINGTON (AP) — Livestock farmers and ranchers seeing their feed costs rise because of the worst drought in a quarter-century are demanding that the Environmental Protection Agency waive production requirements for corn-based ethanol.

The Obama administration sees no need for a waiver, siding with corn growers — many of them in presidential election battleground states Iowa and Ohio — who continue to support the mandate.

“If not now, when?” Randy Spronk, a Minnesota pork farmer, said of the EPA's authority to defer the ethanol production requirement when it threatens to severely harm the economy of a state or region. “Everyone should feel the pain of rationing.”

Spronk, who is president-elect of the National Pork Producers Council, said livestock producers will have to reduce their herds and flocks because feed is becoming scarce and too expensive. Cattle-men and chicken farmers have the same concern.

“We do support the American ethanol industry,” said Kristina Butts, executive director of legislative affairs at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. “All we are asking for is that competition for that bushel of corn be on a level playing field.”

Rent a backyard in NYC for \$100 an hour

NEW YORK (AP) — The first sign that something strange is happening on Ludlow Street is the fence, which is long and green and decidedly out of place amid a cluster of city buildings. Peer through its holes and things get even more confusing: Is that a backyard? In the middle of Manhattan?


Yes, yes it is. And it's yours to rent for just \$100 an hour.

Weged between two buildings in the East Village, the “Timeshare Backyard” is back for the second summer in a row — and New Yorkers desperate for some fresh air are taking full advantage of it. Aside from the taxis honking their horns just beyond the fence — not to mention the graffiti-covered brick walls — the place actually bears some resemblance to a real backyard, albeit a very hip one.

It's more like a backyard with an ironic smirk on its face.

“I thought I was definitely moving away from the, you know, barbecue set,” said Elliot Firestone, a 22-year-old from Portland, Ore., who recently moved to New York City and was pouring lighter fluid over the charcoals. “I was thinking more of going out to eat at restaurants all the time. And, you know, pizza. Not exactly barbecues.”

But barbecues are exactly the sort of thing that Jessica Resler and her business partner, Jacqui Kavanagh, had in mind when they dreamed up the Timeshare Backyard last year. The idea was rooted in nostalgia for the backyards they left behind upon becoming New Yorkers. What they really wanted, Resler said, was a green refuge from sweltering summers in the city.



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Rescuing a Lost Cause

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q 5
♥ K 6 5 3
♦ 9 8 4 2
♣ A K Q

WEST
♠ J 10 9 4
♥ 8 7 4 2
♦ Q J
♣ 9 3

EAST
♠ 8 6 3 2
♥ —
♦ A K 10 5
♣ J 8 6 5 2

SOUTH
♠ A K 7
♥ A Q J 10
♦ 7 6 3
♣ 10 7 4

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

Assume you're declarer at four hearts and West leads the jack of spades. There seems to be nothing to the play, but when you win the spade with dummy's queen and lead a trump to your queen, East shows out, and you discover that the 10 “sure” tricks you started with are not nearly as certain as you thought they were. Let's say you next cash the A-K

of spades, discarding a diamond from dummy, and then, with fingers crossed, play the A-K-Q of clubs, hoping West will follow suit. But West ruffs the third club and shifts to a diamond, and you go down one.

You might lament that you were extremely unlucky to run into a 5-0 trump split as well as a 5-2 club division, but when you think about it a bit more, you realize that you could — and should — have made the contract.

Instead of discarding a diamond from dummy when you cashed the A-K of spades, you should have discarded the queen of clubs! You could then play dummy's A-K of clubs, lead a low trump to your ten and play the ten of clubs, ruffing it with dummy's king if necessary. This sequence of plays would have yielded your 10th trick.

Actually, there's nothing fancy about this play — it just looks fancy. It cannot cost you a trick to discard the queen of clubs, and at the same time it significantly increases your chances of making the contract. Indeed, had the queen of clubs been the deuce of clubs, you would surely have adopted this approach and easily made the contract.

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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net



HERALD file photo

The Forsan Buffaloes open their season against Howard County rival Coahoma on Aug. 30 in Midland. Area schools began preseason practice this week.

Buffalo Football 2012

- Aug. 18 — Miles (Scrimmage) (T), TBA
- Aug. 24 — Reagan County (Scrimmage) (H), TBA
- Aug. 30 — Coahoma (At Midland), 4 p.m.
- Sept. 7 — Plains (T), 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 14 — Stanton (H), 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 21 — Jim Ned (T), 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 28 — Crane (T), 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 5 — Sundown (H), 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 12 — Haskell (T), 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 19 — O P E N
- Oct. 26 — Stamford (H), 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 2 — Anson (T), 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 9 — Winters (H), 7:30 p.m.

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

Comanche Trail Golf Course news

City Championship results (Aug. 4-5)	Second Flight Teddy Latham, 162 Don Belew, 164 Robert Jackman, 164	Luven Flores, 143
Championship Flight Charlie Garcia, 138 Ben Garcia Jr., 143 Josh Helmstetler, 144	Third Flight Buddy Everett, 168 Cruz Del Toro, 169 Russell Hidnett, 171	Recent Holes in One June 15, Ben Garcia Sr. , 7-iron Witnesses: Amador Gonzales, Johnny Yanez, Bill Diaz and JR Jiminez
Presidents Flight Tommy Billabla Jr., 144 Tyler Bryan, 149 Justin Myers, 149	Fourth Flight Terry Spears, 173 Junior Barber, 183 Jim Strain, 183	June 28, Doc Mathews , 7-iron Witnesses: Daniel Silen, Jerry Dudley and Andrew Fillingim
First Flight Kelly Kemper, 156 Victor Rodriguez, 159 Sammy Reyna, 159	Ladies Debra Lusk, 161 Linda DeWaters, 173	July 16, Donnie Long , 7-iron Witnesses: Dean Fleharty, Joey Pate and Jimmy Foresyth.
	Seniors Mike Weaver, 139	

Men's hoops team two games from gold

LONDON (AP) — Now that Kobe Bryant, strangely missing, has finally joined the fun, the U.S. appears complete.

Oh, there are some major defensive flaws, but that hardly matters to this suped-up, American-manufactured scoring machine that goes from zero to 100 points in seconds.

Overpowering and dominant in a way not seen since the 1992 Dream Team, the Americans are now two wins from a second straight Olympic gold medal.

Argentina awaits.

"We're ready," Carmelo Anthony said.

Pushed by teammate Kevin Durant to "turn it on," Bryant scored 20 points — all in the second half — and the U.S. team stomped its way into the semifinals with a 119-86 win on Wednesday night over Australia, which scrapped as hard as it could until the world's best team put the game away.

Bryant made six 3-pointers, LeBron James racked up a triple-double with 11 points, 14 rebounds and 12 assists and the U.S. moved a step closer to gold on the 20th anniversary of the '92 team's historic rampage in Barcelona. With NBA Commissioner David Stern and two-

time Olympian Dwyane Wade watching from the stands, the Americans set up a rematch in the semifinals with Argentina — a team they argued by 29 in the preliminary round.

Unless the Argentines, with their roster of thirty-somethings, can find a way to slow down the U.S., another lopsided loss seems inevitable.

"We have maybe a five-percent chance of winning," forward Manu Ginobili said after Argentina beat Brazil 82-77 to set up a third straight meeting with the U.S. in the semifinals. "But we are going to fight for that."

Bryant had been more spectator than spectacular since coming to London. He entered the quarterfinals averaging just 9.4 points per game, touching off questions about whether he was hurt, disinterested or perhaps unable to produce the same way Anthony, Durant and James have been.

Nobody's wondering any longer.

At halftime, Anthony and Durant both pushed the man nicknamed the Black Mamba to do more, and Bryant struck back with a barrage of 3-pointers that sent the U.S. bench into a towel-waving frenzy.

"He was a little sleepy

out there," Anthony said. "I guess I woke up the Mamba and he responded."

Deron Williams added 18 points, Anthony 17 and Durant 14 for the Americans, who pounded Argentina 126-97 on Monday night in their preliminary-round finale. Tempers flared in that one when Argentina guard Facundo Campazzo intentionally punched Anthony in the groin. Campazzo said he retaliated for being punched earlier by U.S. guard Chris Paul, who never denied that he took a swipe at Campazzo.

"Which time," Paul said. "We tangled 1,000 times."

Anthony doesn't expect the Argentines to play nice again.

"You just have to go out there and take them punches — not literally," he said. "We're excited about it. Just now in the huddle we said we gotta ahead by six before Bryant, who had struggled with his shot and foul trouble in

Down by 14 at half-time, Australia was determined to make it a game and scored the first 11 points of the second half, cutting the Americans' lead to three. The U.S. was only ahead by six before Bryant, who had struggled with his shot and foul trouble in

See **HOOPS**, Page 12

Hamilton racks up 4 RBI, Rangers outslug Boston 10-9

BOSTON (AP) — Following Josh Hamilton's resurgence, the Texas Rangers outslugged the Boston Red Sox.

Hamilton continued to work his way back from a prolonged slump and the Rangers belted four homers to beat the Red Sox 10-9 despite blowing a late four-run lead Wednesday.

Hamilton homered among his three hits and had four RBIs for Texas, which couldn't hold a 9-5 edge before pulling out its sixth win in eight games.

"He's the heart of the lineup," said right fielder Nelson Cruz, who added a two-run homer. "When he's doing good, everybody's seeing more pitches to hit and drive runners in."

Mitch Moreland and Geovany Soto also homered for the Rangers. It was Soto's first with Texas since being acquired from the Chicago Cubs in a non-waiver deadline deal last week.

It was only Hamilton's fourth multi-hit game in his last 27. Before Wednesday, he had just two homers and 16 RBIs since the All-Star break.

"I saw him coming out of it a week

or so ago," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "He's laying off the real bad pitches. Because Josh is a swinger, he's going to swing at some pitches. ... He's swinging the bat well. When he's going real well is when there's RBIs out there, and he's not missing very many."

The AL West-leading Rangers took two of three from Boston, closing their road trip at 4-2.

Will Middlebrooks had a three-run homer for the second straight game, and Cody Ross added a solo shot and drove in two runs for Boston, which has lost six of eight and went 4-6 on its longest homestand of the season.

Adrian Gonzalez added three RBIs double for the Red Sox.

Alexi Ogando (2-0) worked two perfect innings of relief for the win. Joe Nathan pitched the ninth for his 23rd save, striking out the last two batters with a runner on second.

But with all the power displayed, it took Adrian Beltre's tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the ninth inning to lift

See **RANGERS**, Page 12

U.S. duo takes gold again

LONDON (AP) — For 11 years, they have been Kerri and Misty, the most recognizable faces in Olympic beach volleyball and a team that dominated the sport.

No one could beat them in the Summer Games.

And no one will get another chance.

In their final competition together, Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh Jennings beat fellow Americans Jennifer Kessy and April Ross to extend their Olympic record to 21-0 and win their third gold medal in a row. May-Treanor said she will retire from international play, perhaps to coach and definitely to spend time with her husband, Matt, a catcher for the Los Angeles Dodgers who also travels often for his job.

"This is my last match," May-Treanor said. "Beach volleyball's not going to be my career anymore. ... It's time for me to be a mom. I want to be a mom and share time with my family. All of us as athletes sacrifice more on the family end than people realize. And it's getting back to that. My mind says it's time. My body says it's time. And it's the right time."

The match started with nearby Big Ben pealing the hour and ended with the "Star-Spangled Banner" rising from the iconic venue in the Prime Minister's backyard, just down the Mall from the royal residence at Buckingham Palace. Playing on

Henry VIII's former jousting tilt-yard, with the current Prince Harry in the crowd, Walsh Jennings and May-Treanor continued their reign as champions of the beach.

"I'm just really proud to finish the journey with Misty how we finished it," Walsh Jennings said. "It's been 11 years of really, really fun and crazy times. She's the best there ever has been. To have been with her so long and call her a dear, dear friend and a sister now is the greatest gift ever. I'm glad she went out on top."

Dominating the sport for three Olympiads, Walsh Jennings and May-Treanor have won every match they've ever played at the Summer Games and lost just one of 43 sets.

No one had ever won even two beach volleyball gold medals before the Americans won their second straight in Beijing.

No woman had ever won three Olympic beach volleyball medals of any kind.

"I know how hard it is to win one tournament. And the amount of tournaments they've won is crazy," said Kessy, who jumped for joy on the medal podium after she and Ross won silver in their Olympic debuts. "For them to do it for years and years and to be on top is just really impressive. We learn a lot from them."

Walsh Jennings and May-Treanor pulled away midway through the first set of the title match.

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Cemetery Lots

CEMETERY PLOTS- Trinity Memorial Park "Garden of Galilee" Lot 44, spaces 1 & 2, valued at \$1840.00/each. All offers considered. Please call Kevin at 830/598-2744.

Garage Sales

2 FAMILY Garage Sale: 2907 Stonehaven Drive (Highland), Friday & Saturday 8:00-2:00. Baby toys, Girls clothing (3mon-24mon), girls clothing ages from 10-15, bunk bed, bedroom furniture, living room table, frog aquarium, and lots of misc. items.

CARPET SALE: 2200 Carl, Friday & Saturday 7am-7pm. Miscellaneous house items, juniors clothes and kids toys, basketball goal, kids bikes, Avon.

ESTATE SALE of Melissa Brown. 2409 East 25th Street (Backyard), Saturday 8:00am-Noon. No Early Birds Please. Beds, tables, chairs, pictures and etc.....

GARAGE SALE 501 North 5th Coahoma. Saturday 8/11 and Sunday 8/12 8-? Clothing, shoes, home decor, boat motor, lots of misc. items

GARAGE SALE- 2608 Central. Friday 6pm to dark. Saturday 7am-2pm. Wedding and Party supplies, lanterns, electronics, comic books, decorative items, lots of misc.

GARAGE SALE: 205 Washington Blvd. Saturday 8-Noon. Toys, boys clothing 4T-6, men's & women's clothing, Christmas deco., couch & love seat, race car bed, household items and lots more.

GARAGE SALE: 3213 Fenn St., Saturday 8:00-Noon. Baby furniture, infant clothes (boys) up to 18 months, toys, college dorm refrigerator, adult clothes, lots of misc.

GARAGE SALE: 508 Vicky, Friday & Saturday 8:00-1:00. Furniture, household items, deco., clothing, knick-knack and lots more.

GARAGE SALE: 802 West 17th, Saturday 7:00-? Clothing (adults & kids), shoes, knick-knacks and lots more.

GARAGE SALE: Down Sizing Lots of furniture & toys. Saturday 8-?, 2806 Ann Drive.

MOVING SALE: 1804 Laurie, Saturday 7am-12pm. *No Early Birds!!! Lots of kids back-to-school clothing and lots more.

MULTI FAMILY Sale: 1307 Runnels, Saturday 7:00am till all is gone. Name brand clothing (back-to-school, casual and formal) for entire family all sizes- including plus sizes, shoes, boots, household items, lots more. Rock Bottom Prices.

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CDL DRIVERS needed. Must be over 18 yrs. old. Call (432)517-0780 for more info..

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Customer Service Representative II

John Crane Production Solutions has an immediate opening for a Customer Service Representative II at our Big Spring Texas facility. Responsibilities include: answering customer calls, taking sales orders provide price quotes, input and processing of customer orders. Understanding and appropriate use of company pricing system and policies, process invoices. Qualified individual must be able to work in an extremely busy environment and attention to detail is a must. Have knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel, and 10-key by touch. This full-time position offers competitive wages, health insurance, and 401k. Apply on line at www.johncrane.com



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WEST TEXAS Opportunities, Inc. is accepting applications for a **Teacher** position with the Stanton Head Start Program: Applicants must have a Bachelor's Degree with one of the following: Early Childhood Certification/Endorsement or Child Development associate credential. Applicant must have experience in an early childhood program or similar setting. Applicant must have the ability to plan and implement appropriate activities for children, demonstrate an ability to relate sensitively to children and families, the ability to supervise other staff, and good record-keeping skills. 40 hour work week and a benefit package are included. Applicants must pass a criminal background check and pre-employment drug testing. Applications may be obtained at the Stanton Head Start Center located at 101 N. Francis, Stanton, Texas or printed online at www.gowto.org. Submit applications to West Texas Opportunities, Inc. Head Start PO Box 1308 Lamesa, Texas 79331. WTO,I is an equal opportunity employer.

WEST TEXAS Opportunities, Inc. is accepting applications for the following position with Stanton Head Start:

Teacher Assistant: Applicant must be high school graduate; have experience working with young children; good written and verbal communication skills; ability to implement lesson plans; must relate positively to children and families; ability to speak, read and write Spanish is preferred. Applications may be obtained at the Stanton Head Start Center located at 101 N. Francis, Stanton, Texas or printed online at www.gowto.org. Submit applications to West Texas Opportunities, Inc. Head Start PO Box 1308 Lamesa, Texas 79331. WTO,I is an equal opportunity employer.

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1205 COLLEGE- 3 bedroom, 1 bath, fenced yard, CH/A. \$725. month, \$625. deposit. Call 432-263-3375 or 816-6992.

1409 MT Vernon- 3bdr, 1 bath, CH/CA, laminate and tile floors. Credit check required. \$950/month, \$900/deposit. (432)816-1255.

2606 SOUTH Chanute Drive, 3 bdrm, 1-1/2 bath, fenced yard, CH/A. \$1000. month, plus deposit. One Year Lease Required. No indoor pets. Call (432)263-6514 Owner/ Broker.

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Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF FORSAN TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
The City of Forsan will hold a public hearing at 7:00 PM on August 14, 2012 at City Hall, 409 Ave. D, Forsan, Texas, in regard to the submission of an application to the Texas Department of Agriculture for a Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TxCDBG) grant. The purpose of this meeting is to allow citizens an opportunity to discuss the citizens' participation plan, the development of local housing and community development needs, the amount of TxCDBG funding available, all eligible TxCDBG activities and the use of past TxCDBG funds. The City encourages citizens to participate in the development of this TxCDBG application and to make their views known at this public hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to Pat Hudgins, City Secretary, at the City Hall. Persons with disabilities who wish to attend this meeting should contact City Hall for assistance. Individuals who wish to attend this meeting should contact City Hall for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact City Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made. For further information, contact Pat Hudgins, City Secretary, at the City Hall, 432-457-2355. #7465 August 9, 2012

Legals

CITATION BY PUBLICATION- CIVIL THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS OF LELDON GENE NIX, DECEASED; UNKNOWN STOCKHOLDERS OF L.G. NIX CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.; AND UNKNOWN OWNERS OR CLAIMANTS OF INTEREST IN LAND HERETOFORE GIVEN TO L.G. NIX DIRT COMPANY, INC. OF P.O. BOX 2395, BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79720, collectively Defendants. Defendants Greeting: **NOTICE**
You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney does not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 AM on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two (42) days after the date of issuance of this Citation, default judgment may be taken against you.
Said Plaintiff's Petition in Condemnation was filed with the 118th District Court of Howard County, Texas on July 3, 2012, the file number of said suit being Cause No. 48615.
You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Petition in Condemnation at or before ten o'clock AM of the Monday next after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from the date of issuance of this Citation before the Honorable 118th District Court of Howard County, Texas at the Courthouse of said County in Big Spring, Texas.
The names of the parties in said suit are:
Wind Energy Transmission Texas, LLC (Plaintiff)
v.
L.G. Nix Dirt Company, Inc.; R. Dirt Company, LLC aka or fka L.G. Nix Dirt Company, Inc. and aka or fka L.G. Nix Construction Company, Inc.; L. G. Nix Construction Company, Inc. aka

Tomorrow's Horoscope

The last quarter moon in Taurus is a sensual beast, craving luxury in every aspect of life. And though luxuries are often expensive, today's focus won't be on material things. Venus in Cancer forms a trine with Neptune in Scorpio emphasizing the spiritual nature of our attractions. We'll feel deep down the best things in life are free.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A strong inner will guides you, and it seems to be making plans so secretive that you do not even know about them until you are in full swing. Surprises are in store.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You celebrate the obvious, and you also celebrate for no reason at all. The latter will involve your loved ones today, and they will know that you

truly appreciate and love them.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Though you work to get to a place of "no regrets," there is something good about regret to consider. Whatever you wish you would have done differently you can use to inform your next move.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Where many would grow impatient, you'll excel. It's because you are willing to invest great attention in things for their own sake without expecting an immediate return.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You may come across work you did long ago and discover that it makes no sense to you now, or you may be utterly baffled by a decision you made way back when. See how far you've come?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Some people are fond of saying "the time is now" at any ol' time. But you've learned through the years that the time is not always now for everything you want to do. You have the maturity for deep strategy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

All snowflakes are about the same color and melt at the exact same temperature, and yet each one is completely unique. Someone will appreciate your originality this afternoon, which may make you melt a little, too.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's little to be gained from speculating about someone's odd behavior. The only way to get to the bottom of it is to ask. If that seems impolite to you, it probably is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It may seem rather glamorous to be "in the loop," when in actuality it could be much better for you to stay on the outside of said loop, where there's little chance you'll be tainted by the residue of drama.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll listen to others to try to understand where they are coming from and what they are going through. It's because you care, but also because you want to know their motivation and what they want from you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Nothing is predetermined. Considering the glorious flexibility of human consciousness, there's no telling what any one individual will do to maximize opportunities or overcome disadvantages.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll spend many hours of highly focused attention on productive and practical activities. By evening, you may feel like you have very little psychic energy to invest in your loved ones. Then love will recharge and empower you.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 9). This year brings a breakthrough. You'll feel that you've finally passed into a realm you've long wanted to know. The sensation is that of trumpets announcing your arrival and your being warmly presented and accepted. There's extra money to be made in August, October and November. Wedding bells ring in June. Pisces and Sagittarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 9, 25, 41 and 10.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2012 CREATORS.COM

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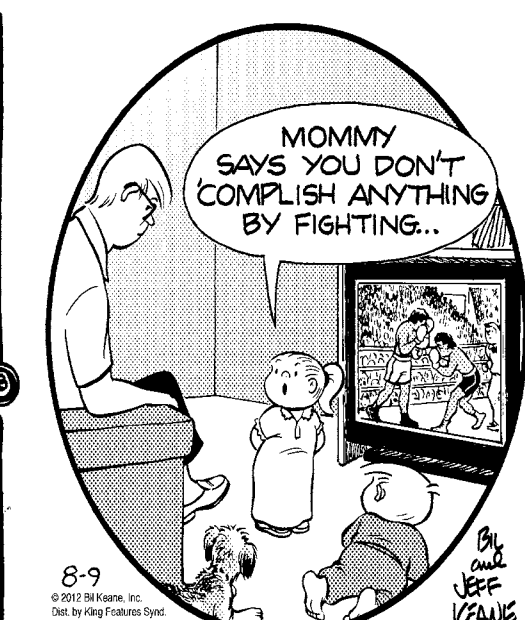
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWTT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM	News	Casa	Two Men	News	Noticias	News	King	Yohanah	Charlie Rose	King	Auction	Geronimo: An American Legend	Jail			106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Good	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Notic. Un Refugio	Two Men Big Bang	News	Noticiero Especial	News	King	Swallow	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld	Property Wars		Tenants	The Mentalist		ANT Farm Vampire	Little League Baseball	Monday Night
7:PM	Wipeout	Por Ella Soy Eva	Raising Big Bang	Ent	Rosa Diamante (SS)	XXX Summer Olympics: Track and Field, Diving, Beach Volleyball, Cycling.	Fam. Guy	Alan Lee	CEO	Seinfeld	Property Wars	Movie: The Last of the Mohicans	Tenants	The Mentalist	Movie: Storm the Yard 2: Homecoming	Good Shake It	NFL Preseason Football: Packers at Chargers	
8:PM	Wipeout	Abismo de Pasión	Glee	Big Brother	Corazón Valiente		Fam. Guy	Mark Blitz	Ideas	The National Parks: America's Best Idea	Auction		The Mentalist	Movie: He's Mine Not Yours, Jason Weaver	Adventures of Sharkboy	Little League Baseball		
9:PM	Rookie Blue	La Que No	Simpsons	Person of Interest	Pablo Escobar		Big Bang	Sullivan	Charlie Rose	Cops	Auction Kings	Movie: Hidalgo, Louise Lombard	UFC Un-leashed	The Mentalist		Gravity		
10:PM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias		Big Bang	Conan	Charlie Rose	'70s Death	Auction Kings		MMA	CSI: NY	Phineas ANT Farm	Little League Baseball	SportsCenter	
11:PM	News	Noticiero	Raymond	Letterman	Rojo Vivo		Conan	Dr. Diana Justice	World	'70s	Auction Kings		Ways Die	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	ANT Farm Vampire	SportsCenter	
12:AM	News	Noticiero	Raymond	Letterman	Rojo Vivo		Conan	Dr. Diana Justice	World	'70s	Auction Kings		Ways Die	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	ANT Farm Vampire	SportsCenter	
1:AM	News	Noticiero	Raymond	Letterman	Rojo Vivo		Conan	Dr. Diana Justice	World	'70s	Auction Kings		Ways Die	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	ANT Farm Vampire	SportsCenter	
1:AM	News	Noticiero	Raymond	Letterman	Rojo Vivo		Conan	Dr. Diana Justice	World	'70s	Auction Kings		Ways Die	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	ANT Farm Vampire	SportsCenter	
1:AM	News	Noticiero	Raymond	Letterman	Rojo Vivo		Conan	Dr. Diana Justice	World	'70s	Auction Kings		Ways Die	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	ANT Farm Vampire	SportsCenter	
1:AM	News	Noticiero	Raymond	Letterman	Rojo Vivo		Conan	Dr. Diana Justice	World	'70s	Auction Kings		Ways Die	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	ANT Farm Vampire	SportsCenter	

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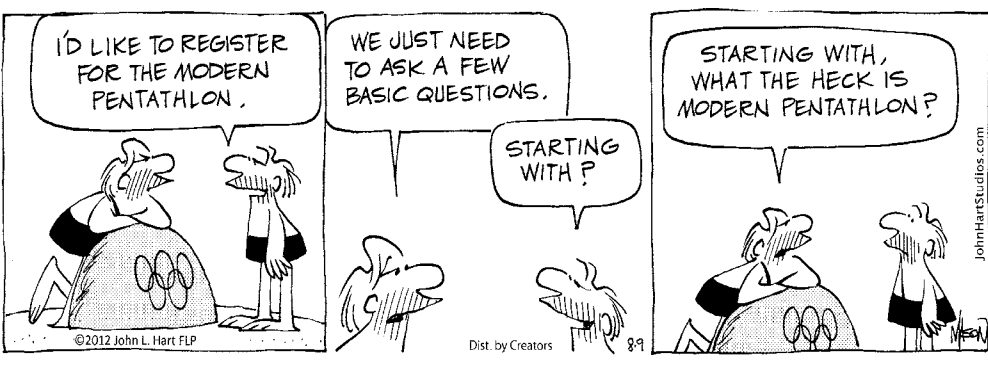
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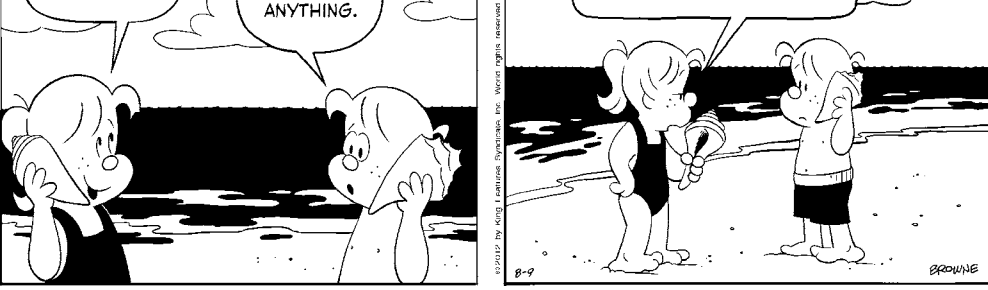
I'D LIKE TO REGISTER FOR THE MODERN PENTATHLON. WE JUST NEED TO ASK A FEW BASIC QUESTIONS. STARTING WITH? STARTING WITH? STARTING WITH, WHAT THE HECK IS MODERN PENTATHLON?

AGNES



MY NEIGHBOR IS BREAKING ASSOCIATION RULES WITH HIS VOLV YARD SIGN. WHAT? SHOW ME THIS SCOFFLAW! WE'LL SUE HIM FOR EVERYTHING HE'S GOT! WELL PLAYED. THREE LARSON E. PETTIFOGGER ATTORNEY AT LAW. OK THEN... MAKE MY NEW STYLE A CROSS BETWEEN THE CASUAL LOOK OF KEITH RICHARDS AND THE RIGID TRESSES SPORTED BY ETHEL MERTZ IN "I LOVE LUCY". AGNES, I'M HACKING OFF AN ELVIS PILLOW GLUED TO YOUR HEAD... YOU'LL TAKE WHAT YOU GET. "WASH AND GO" IT IS. LET ME KNOW IF I HIT SCALP!

HI AND LOIS



I CAN HEAR THE OCEAN. I DON'T HEAR ANYTHING. CLOSE YOUR EARS AND USE YOUR IMAGINATION!

THE OTHER COAST



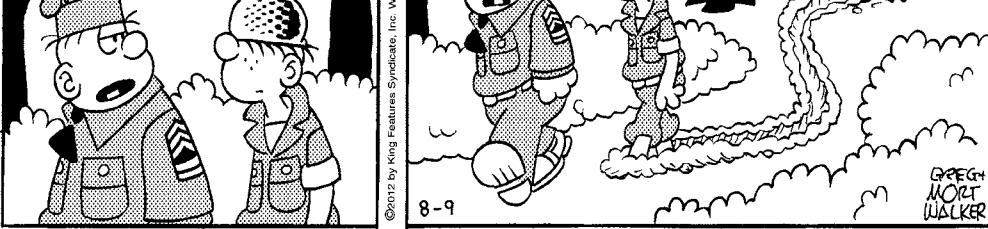
WITH EVERYONE ON SHORE LOOKING ON HELPLESSLY, IT'S UP TO ONE SMALL DOG TO MAKE THE RESCUE! WITH THE SEAS BUILDING, THERE'S NO GUARANTEE I CAN MAKE IT TO THE DROWNING VICTIM IN TIME! FINALLY, WITH ONE LAST KICK, I GET MY MOUTH AROUND HER AND PULL HER BACK TO SHORE. WHAT FUN! SHALL I TOSS SQUEAKY BEAR IN AGAIN? YOU ARE AN EVIL WOMAN.

SNUFFY SMITH



OH, DON'T WORRY, ELVINEY-- IT'S OLIVE OIL !! I JEST LIKE TO KEEP IT IN THIS TO FREAK PEOPLE OUT !! GLUK! GLUK! GLUK!

BEEBLE BAILEY



WE MIGHT GET THERE SOONER... IF YOU WOULD STOP DRAGGING YOUR FEET!

This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Aug. 9, the 222nd day of 2012. There are 144 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 9, 1974, President Richard Nixon and his family left the White House as his resignation took effect. Vice President Gerald R. Ford became the nation's 38th chief executive.

On this date:

In 1842, the United States and Canada resolved a border dispute by signing the Webster-Ashburton Treaty.

In 1854, Henry David Thoreau's "Walden," which described Thoreau's experiences while living near Walden Pond in Massachusetts, was first published.

In 1862, during the Civil War, Confederate forces drove back Union troops in the Battle of Cedar Mountain in Culpeper County, Va.

In 1902, Edward VII was crowned king of Britain following the death of his mother, Queen Victoria.

In 1936, Jesse Owens won his fourth gold medal at the Berlin Olympics as the United States took first place in the 400-meter relay.

In 1942, Britain arrested Indian nationalist Mohandas K. Gandhi; he was released in 1944.

In 1944, 258 African-American sailors based at Port Chicago, Calif., refused to load a munitions ship following an explosion on another ship that killed 320 men, many of them black. (Fifty of the sailors were convicted of mutiny, fined and imprisoned.)

In 1945, three days after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, the United States exploded a nuclear device over Nagasaki, killing an estimated 74,000 people.

In 1962, German-born Swiss poet and author Hermann Hesse, 85, died in Montagnola, Switzerland.

In 1969, actress Sharon Tate and four other people were found brutally slain at Tate's Los Angeles home; cult leader Charles Manson and a group of his followers were later convicted of the crime.

In 1982, a federal judge in Washington ordered John W. Hinckley Jr., who'd been acquitted of shooting President Ronald Reagan and three others by reason of insanity, committed to a mental hospital.

In 1997, Haitian immigrant Abner Louima was brutalized in a Brooklyn, N.Y., station-house by officer Justin Volpe, who raped him with a broken broomstick. (Volpe was later sentenced to 30 years in prison.)

Newsday Crossword

ICEBREAKERS by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Toss in
 - 4 Is (probably will)
 - 9 Small bouquet
 - 13 Potpie tidbit
 - 14 "Over There" composer
 - 15 Ocean ray
 - 16 Stately tree
 - 17 Shocking swimmer
 - 19 Sawtooth mountain chain
 - 21 Amphitheater level
 - 22 Badminton gear
 - 23 Incantation opening
 - 25 Proprietor pair, perhaps
 - 27 Nuclear power
 - 31 Agcy. with auditors
 - 32 Great pains
 - 33 English Derby locale
 - 37 Retail complex
 - 39 Sulks
 - 42 Took the plunge
 - 43 Pamper
 - 45 Hamelin pests
 - 47 Little Women woman
 - 48 When reptiles first appeared
 - 52 LeBron James, for one
 - 55 Nothing but
 - 56 Right-angle shape
 - 57 Rhames of Pulp Fiction
 - 59 Fled and wed
 - 63 Danger to society
 - 66 Crackerjack
- DOWN**
- 1 Big galoots
 - 2 Supermarket section
 - 3 Julie Andrews title
 - 4 Biting
 - 5 High-latitude formation
 - 6 Most common English word
 - 7 Keen perception
 - 8 Promptly
 - 9 "Super" interest group
 - 10 Standing upright
 - 11 Pricy
 - 12 Ukraine resort
 - 15 It's not there
 - 18 Back
 - 20 Blow into
 - 24 "Flying" start
 - 26 Cops seen in Ghostbusters
 - 27 Purposes
 - 28 Lint collector
 - 29 Peace Prize city
 - 30 Medical prefix
 - 34 A few of
 - 35 Done with
 - 36 It means "huge" destination
 - 38 Gloss
 - 40 Salada competitor
 - 41 Masons
 - 44 Belarus neighbor
 - 46 "What a fool I am!"
 - 49 Secular
 - 50 Contemporary of F. Scott and Eudora
 - 51 Church-affiliated kids' grp.
 - 52 High land
 - 53 Double Fudge author
 - 54 The Zoo Story playwright
 - 58 Nibble (on)
 - 60 Behind us
 - 61 Sound effect
 - 62 Low-pitched
 - 64 Dog-food bag abbr.
 - 65 Ivy Leaguer



Local briefs

Youth Soccer registration ongoing

Want your child to get involved with the fastest growing sport in America? The Big Spring Youth Soccer Association signups are under way at the Big Spring Mall from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday, as well as Saturday, Aug. 18, also from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Additional times include Monday, Aug. 13-Friday, Aug. 17 from 5:30-7 p.m., also at the Big Spring Mall. Age groups are 4-U, 6-U, 8-U, 10-U, 12-U and 14-U. The cost per child is \$70. A full uniform is included. Business sponsorships are available for \$200.

Youth Football League signups open

The Crossroads Youth Football League is hold-

ing open registrations at the Big Spring Mall on Monday-Thursday from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. as well as each Saturday from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Registration will close Saturday, Aug. 18. The cost per athlete is \$75 for the 5-7 year old division and \$160 per child for Division 1 (8-9 years) and Division 2 (10-12 years). Payment arrangements are available but must be paid in full by Aug. 18. Any businesses wishing to sponsor a team for \$200 will receive an advertising spot at the field at the Roy Anderson Sports Complex. For more information, contact Manuel Baeza at 517-0225.

Benefit Ragball tourney slated for Aug 10-11

Ragball will be played for a good cause Fri-Sat. at the Roy Anderson Sports Complex. The tournament's proceeds will be donated to Alexia Solis, a

four-year old girl battling acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Registration will begin Friday, Aug. 10 at 6 p.m. at the sports complex and play will begin that evening at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Randy at 816-5487.

Country club to host Over 80 Scramble

A tournament benefitting the Big Spring Shrine Club will be held at the Big Spring Country Club on Aug. 18-19. The tourney will be a 2-person scramble format. The combined age of the two players on each team must be 80 or more. Entry fee is \$100 per player plus cart fees. Private carts are welcome. A shotgun start will kick off each day at 1 p.m. Entry fee includes barbeque on the course Saturday and mulligan. For more information, call the Pro Shop at 267-5354.

HOOPS

Continued from Page 7

previous games, finally broke out.

He made a 3-pointer, batted away a pass and chased it down along the left sideline. Feeling a rhythm that had been missing, Bryant pulled up and dropped another 3 that made it 70-58.

Two shots in 18 seconds was all it took.

Bryant was back.

"Somebody made him mad. I could see it in his eyes," Durant said. "I wanted him to kind of turn it on and that's what he did. That was the first time we've seen it here. He got so upset and when he does that he's in another world.

"It was just a matter of time."

Bryant laughed when told there were doubters back home.

The Aussies knew he was dead serious.

"Kobe got a little bit sniff," Patty Mills said. "And for great teams, that's all they need and they stretch it out."

Mills scored 26 points

and Joe Ingles had 19 for Australia, which had the misfortune of running into the U.S. in the quarterfinals for the second straight Olympics.

By the time Bryant got done, even the Australian fans were cheering for him as he walked to the locker room, bumping fists with a Aussie's kangaroo mascot wearing boxing gloves.

This was another knockout, albeit one in the late rounds, for the Americans.

All that's between the U.S. and a gold medal now is Argentina, a dangerous team with swagger and experience, and a matchup with the Russia-Spain semifinal winner.

The Americans have tangled with the Spaniards before, beating them in the gold-medal game four years ago. A matchup with Russia would rekindle Cold War memories and the 1972 final in Munich, when the U.S. had its 63-game winning streak stopped amid a controversial ending still debated today.

After gold, Fierce Five face uncertain future

LONDON (AP) — They stood together, arms locked, Olympic gold medals around their necks and — for just a moment — between their teeth.

The cameras flashed. The exhausted Fierce Five smiled and just like that, it was over.

The best women's gymnastics team in the world — Gabby Douglas, Aly Raisman, Jordyn Wieber, Kyla Ross and McKayla Maroney — then walked in single file toward the exit and into a busy but uncertain future.

Sure, they'll be together again when they return to the U.S. next week as part of the media blitz that comes when you storm to Olympic glory. And there will be the cross-country exhibition tour through the fall.

After that, who knows? While women's team coordinator Martha Karolyi believes the group could "physically and gymnastically go on for another quadrennium," reality might not let them.

They left home a month ago hoping to become the first American team to reach the top of the podium in 16 years. They'll leave the games famous.

All teenagers, there's a chance they could have a reunion in Rio de Janeiro in four years. That is,

if life doesn't get in the way.

None of them more than Douglas, who won the all-around title and has suddenly become an A-lister. She's going to hit the late-night TV circuit over the next few weeks and as the new face of her sport will be in high demand for advertisers eager to have her flashy smile hawking their product.

Finding a balance between the gym and newfound celebrity is going to be difficult. Throw in the burnout of a yearlong buildup to the games and a series of nagging injuries and the prospect of gunning for a second straight gold in Brazil sounds exhausting.

"We just finished the Olympics yesterday," Wieber said. "It's kind of hard to think about."

Maroney is in. At least for now. The feisty 16-year-old — who came up with the moniker "Fierce Five" during a brainstorming session — believes her stunning loss in the vault finals will be enough fuel to keep her primed.

Ross is ready to go too. The youngest member of the team at 15 is also the group's only amateur. She'll do a handful of tour stops then return to high school and focus on the world championships next year in Belgium.

Three-time medalist Raisman — who became the first American to grab gold on the floor exercise — isn't ruling out three Olympics.

Wieber's plan is to nurse an achy right leg, do the tour and then see where she's at. The games were a disappointment for the world champion, who failed to get out of all-around qualifying and finished seventh in the floor exercise finals.

Though she's contemplated college, she's still got a year of high school remaining.

And because she turned pro, she won't be able to compete on the college level. Besides, she can't imagine working under anyone other than lifelong coach John Geddert.

The same goes for Douglas, who Liang Chow molded from raw talent into champion in less than two years. Chow thinks Douglas is only halfway to her potential and thinks her lean frame lends itself to a lengthy career.

That is, if she can find the time.

"Gabby has captured people," said USA Gymnastics president Steve Penny. "We are looking to do what we can to grow our sport a little bit with her help."

RANGERS

Continued from Page 7

Texas to the win.

With the score tied 9-all, Elvis Andrus walked and moved to third on Hamilton's single off Clayton Mortensen (1-1). Alfredo Aceves relieved before Beltre's sacrifice fly.

Josh Beckett gave up a season-high eight runs

on eight hits — three homers — in his first start for Boston since leaving July 31 with a back spasm.

It's the seventh time he's given up eight or more runs at Fenway Park, four times against the Yankees, the last coming May 7, 2010.

Beckett's career-best streak of starts without surrendering a home run was halted at 12. It

was the longest in the majors' this season and most by a Red Sox starter since Mel Parnell's 14 straight in 1948.

"The back felt good. Just too many pitches down the middle of the plate and everything was up," he said. "Even when I was on the corners it was still up."

Trailing 9-5 in the seventh, Boston tied it when Gonzalez had his third

run-scoring double and Middlebrooks homered into the left-field seats off reliever Roy Oswalt.

The Rangers had chased Beckett and built an 8-5 lead in the sixth. Soto homered into the seats above the Green Monster after David Murphy singled. Beckett was booed loudly as he walked slowly off the mound after being pulled.

Cruz's homer off Mortensen made it 9-5 in the seventh.

Red Sox manager Bobby Valentine felt his lineup showed extra fight despite a poor outing by Beckett.

"I don't think it's deflating. I think the offense feels good when they're scoring runs," he said. "They think they're swinging the bats well and that they can come back."

With the score tied 3-3 in the fifth, Moreland led off with a homer off a TV stanchion in straightaway center. Andrus singled before Hamilton hit a shot deep into the right-field seats for his 30th home run, making it 6-3 and giving the slugger his third season of 30 or more homers.

Gonzalez's second RBI double had cut the score to 6-4 in the fifth. Texas starter Matt Harrison then loaded the bases with consecutive two-

out walks before he was lifted for Oswalt. Gonzalez scored on catcher Soto's passed ball, slicing it to 6-5, but Kelly Shoppach struck out to end the threat.

Harrison was charged with five runs — four earned — on eight hits in 4 2-3 innings. Washington said he was feeling sick and got an IV during the game.

The Rangers continued Beckett's season-long first-inning misery, jumping ahead 3-0. Hamilton had a two-run triple into the center-field triangle and scored on Beltre's sacrifice fly.

Beckett's ERA rose to 10.42 in the first innings of his starts.

In the first, Gonzalez's RBI double and Ross' run-scoring single made it 3-2.

Ross' homered in the third — his first in 18 games — just inside the left-field foul pole, tying it at 3.

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