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THURSDAY

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Tax-free weekend upon us

By **BILL McCLELLAN**
Managing Editor

If you purchase clothes for your school-aged children this weekend, you won't have to pay state sales tax. But if you want the materials to sew clothes for your children ... well, you're gonna pay.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday are the dates for this year's Sales Tax Holiday in Texas. State officials anticipate shoppers will save an estimated \$64.8 million in state and local sales taxes over the three-day period.

Shoppers can save money on everything from pens, jeans and shoes to backpacks and other items priced under \$100.

"Shoppers across Texas can take advantage of the sales tax holiday and save extra money for their budgets," Texas Comptroller Susan Combs said. "Families gearing up for the new school year would not pay any sales tax for many back-to-school items from clothing and footwear to school supplies this weekend."

Most clothing, including baby clothes and bibs, will be tax exempt. This includes blouses, shirts, pants, undergarments, caps and bow ties. Chef uniforms and children's novelty costumes — think Halloween — are also exempt.

However, buttons and zippers are taxable, as are cloth and lace, knitting yarn and other fabrics, thread and iron-on patches. Ladies, your hair nets, bows, clips and barrettes are taxable, as are handbags and purses — but men, you can go ahead and get a hunting vest tax-free. Go figure.

Fact is, most back to school and clothing items are tax exempt — with the exception of athletic gear. If you have a question about a particular item, check the Comptroller's website at www.TexasTax-Holiday.org.



HERALD photo/Amanda Duforat
Rep. Drew Darby — also vice chairman of state transportation committee — spoke to residents in Big Spring Wednesday afternoon in regards to the growing issue regarding less funding for repairs to Texas roadways.

Funds lacking for Texas roads, Rep. Darby says

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
Staff Writer

No new money for Texas roads. Big Spring residents found out during the Texas Good Roads conference that within the next year and a half, there will be no new money for Texas roadways.

A tour of Texas brought State Rep. Drew Darby to Big Spring on Wednesday afternoon to address this transportation funding issue.

Since 2001, the federal government has increased its debt by 234 percent as a result of wars and other circumstances, according to Darby. In that same time period, the state government has increased its debt 281 percent. Total numbers of debt have gone from \$17 billion in debt to \$41 billion.

"We have maxed out our credit cards. Instead of addressing our funding issue, projects were moved forward and we were able to get more bang for our buck and were able to build more roads at a time of lower interest rates," Darby said. "But now, all that bond money is out; we have spent all our credit cards and we are left paying that back first, which leaves less and less dollars to maintain our current road structures."

As a result of abandoning the pay as you go structure for roadways and moving to the use of bonds, the projection is no new money will be available as of 2014 for Texas roadways.

See **ROADS**, Page 3



Darby

Nellie Gray, founder of anti-abortion march and Big Spring native, dies

By **BEN NUCKOLS**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Nellie Gray, the founder and chief organizer of an annual anti-abortion march in Washington and a leader in efforts to overturn the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, has died. She was 88.

Gray was found dead Monday morning in her Washington home, where she had lived alone, and her death appeared to be from natural

causes, said Gene Ruane, an administrator with the March for Life Education and Defense Fund. Ruane said Tuesday that he found her body when he arrived at her home for a meeting.

Ruane said a medical examiner would determine the cause of death.

Gray was a lawyer and former federal employee who devoted herself full-time to the anti-abortion movement after the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision.

"The government must understand that they are participating in a crime against humanity which cannot be made legal."



—Nellie Gray

The first March for Life was held the following year on the anniversary of the ruling. Despite the January date, it's consistently one of the largest protests of the year in Washington and leading anti-abortion politicians frequently address the crowd.

Gray was the primary organizer of the march

See **GRAY**, Page 3

HC sets hearing on proposed tax levy

□ Howard College trustees will meet at 12:30 p.m. Friday in the Tumbleweed Room on campus.

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Junior college district taxpayers will have an opportunity to sound off about Howard College's plans to increase its tax levy when trustees hold a public hearing on the proposed new tax rate at 12:30 p.m. Friday in the student union

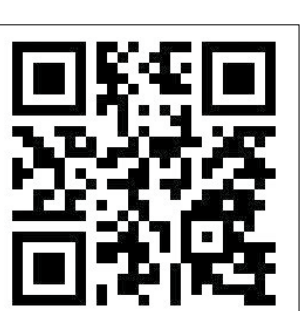
building's Tumbleweed Room. The proposed new tax rate — 17.66 cents per \$100 valuation — is actually 6 cents lower than the current rate, but a \$1 billion increase in the district's certified valuations will result in the college pulling in more local tax money this coming fiscal year, College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks said.

The tax levy increase is necessitated by three straight years of cuts in the state's appropriation to Howard, the latest of which will leave the district with

a budget shortfall of at least \$300,000.

A recent "hold harmless" proposal from state leadership would have increased the outlay to Texas community colleges. The catch, however, was that all 50 of the state's junior colleges would have to sign off on the proposal, and two — South Plains College in Levelland and Trinity Valley Community College in Palestine — refused to agree to the proposal.

See **LEVY**, Page 3

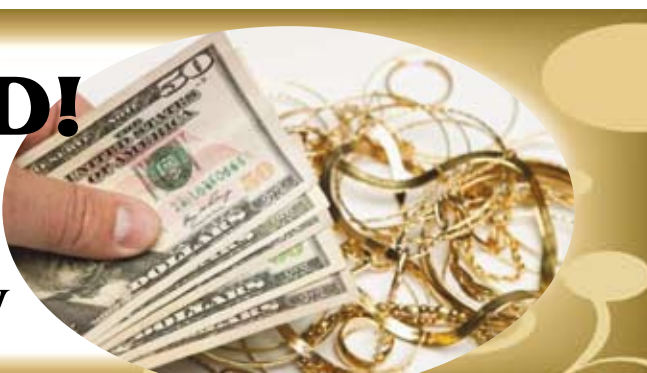


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State briefs

Fire at San Antonio group home kills 3 residents

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A fire at a San Antonio group home for the mentally disabled has left three male residents dead and one critically hurt.

Arson investigators were at the scene Thursday in an attempt to determine what started the house fire.

San Antonio Fire Department spokesman Christian Bove says a neighbor called 911 Wednesday night after seeing smoke and flames. Bove says the group caretaker and nine residents escaped unharmed.

Bove says the four victims were located on the second floor of the house. One man was dead at the scene, while two others were dead on arrival at a hospital.

Bove had no other details on the critically injured man, who remains hospitalized.

Names of the victims have not been released.

Austin capital murder charge dropped in 1995 case

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A capital murder charge has been dropped against a man sought for years over the 1995 killing of a Central Texas neighbor.

Prosecutors in Austin on Wednesday dismissed the count against 45-year-old Luis Reyes. Reyes was arrested in 2010 near Houston on a DWI charge.

The case involves the August 1995 beating death and robbery of Simon Urdiera. Reyes disappeared after a warrant was issued in October 1995.

A judge Wednesday ruled that statements Reyes gave police before he fled were secured in violation of his rights. Prosecutors also cited a lack of physical evidence. Some witnesses have died or been deported.

The *Austin American-Statesman* reports Reyes is in the U.S. illegally and remains in custody for immigration agents.

Defense attorney Guillermo Gonzalez says Reyes is from Central America.

Amarillo dentist indicted in health fraud case

AMARILLO, Texas (AP) — A Texas dentist who also sees patients in Indiana has been indicted in an alleged \$1.5 million Medicaid scheme.

Prosecutors in Amarillo say 63-year-old Dr. Michael David Goodwin was indicted Wednesday on 11 counts of health care fraud.

Investigators say the Amarillo orthodontist, who also practices in Crown Point, Ind., billed the government program for more services than provided or for unnecessary procedures. The time frame was 2008 through March 2011.

The indictment says employees sometimes scheduled more than 100 patients per day at times when Goodwin was not to be in the office. Prosecutors say unqualified dental assistants did some procedures. Some dentists not enrolled in the Medicaid program allegedly provided care on behalf of Goodwin.

Goodwin could not immediately be reached for comment Thursday.

Texan gets prison for nearly \$500K in fake cash

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston-area man has been sentenced to nearly 22 years in prison for passing almost \$500,000 in fake cash.

A federal judge in Houston on Wednesday sentenced 35-year-old Synaca Thomas of Cypress.

Thomas in January pleaded guilty to conspiracy to make and possess counterfeit currency, plus illegal possession of a firearm by a felon.

Investigators say Thomas and his wife would take genuine \$5 bills and reprint them to appear to be \$100 bills.

Brittany Jordan earlier pleaded guilty to conspiracy to make counterfeit currency and passing counterfeit currency. The 26-year-old woman is free on bond pending sentencing.

Prosecutors say the husband's punishment was enhanced because he attempted to smuggle contraband, which was disguised as candy, into a facility where he was being held.

Dallas-area aerial spraying starts Thursday night

DALLAS (AP) — Aerial spraying of mosquitoes is scheduled to begin across Dallas and most of its northern suburbs.

The scheduled Thursday night spraying of Dallas and 10 northern Dallas County suburbs is the first time the Dallas area has had such aerial spraying of insecticide in almost a half century.

County and city officials approved the spraying because of a growing West Nile virus epidemic that has infected more than 200 Dallas County residents and killed 10 of them. The Dallas County death toll accounts for the lion's share of the 14 West Nile deaths reported in Texas.

Fort Hood suspect's trial on hold over beard

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP) — For the past two months, the military judge presiding over the high-profile case of the Army psychiatrist charged in the deadly 2009 Fort Hood shooting rampage has said he wanted to avoid disruptions in court.

So after Maj. Nidal Hasan showed up for a June pretrial hearing wearing a beard, a violation of Army regulations, Col. Gregory Gross banned him from the courtroom until he shaves.

Now Hasan's facial hair has become a bigger disruption than anyone might have foreseen. All hearings and the murder trial, set to start next week, were put on hold Wednesday while an appeals court considers Hasan's objections to being forcibly shaved.

The delay is frustrating for many involved in the case, although some victims' relatives say they have grown accustomed to waiting for the trial to start. It's been almost three years since the shooting rampage left 13 dead and more than two dozen wounded on the Texas Army post.

Lubbock man jailed in biodiesel fuel fraud case

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — A West Texas businessman indicted on 79 counts in a \$42 million biodiesel fuel fraud investigation has reported to jail.

Jeffrey David Gunselman was booked into the Lubbock County Jail on Wednesday. No bond has been set.

A federal grand jury in Lubbock indicted the former Absolute Fuels chief executive officer on counts of wire fraud, money laundering and making false statements.

Prosecutors say Gunselman sold federal renewable fuel credits to oil refiners and brokers without making the biodiesel to go with the credits. They say he used proceeds to buy a \$2.65 million house, a \$1.6 million Gulfstream G3 jet and \$166,720 in San Antonio Spurs season tickets.

ROADS

Continued from Page 1

"If we are going to move this state forward we are going to have some stability in how we fund roads and that's the challenge," Darby said.

"There are always one or two ways to deal with funding, either use cash or use credit cards, but we have maxed out

both," he said.

Since 1985, Texas roadways have been funded by registration tax with added help from the inclusion of the gasoline sales tax. The registration tax has not been increased since 1985. Texas sits 44th in the nation when it comes to registration tax. The gasoline tax has been sitting at 15 cents since 1991.

"Our income stream has become static. The

gasoline tax, which provided 15 cents in 1991, is now equivalent to 8 cents in road repairs," Darby said.

Since 2000, the population has grown by 20 percent — 5 million people — and the number of registered vehicles has grown by 52 percent. However, the capacity on roadways has only increased by 6 percent.

There has been five times more spent on repairs and accidents.

The deterioration of roadways and increase of repairs needed has also resulted in 15 cents being added to the cost of milk and about \$800 added to the cost of making a vehicle, according to statistics provided during the conference.

"We need to address the income stream we have at this point while protecting it at the same time," Darby said.

"We have more than \$1 billion in repairs

needing to be made on farm to market roads funded by the state with another \$1 billion being provided by counties.

"The purpose of this meeting is to get the message out that we have a serious transportation funding problem," Darby said. "I am asking everyone to reach out and say we have a problem. We want the legislature to turn this problem into a priority and help find a

solution."

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

GRAY

Continued from Page 1

throughout its 38-year history. She used the phrase "no exceptions, no compromise" to sum up her belief that life begins at conception and abortion should be illegal.

At this year's march,

she referred to abortion as genocide and the Roe v. Wade decision as "an evil imposed upon our country."

"The government must understand that they are participating in a crime against humanity which cannot be made legal," she said.

Born and raised in Big Spring, Texas, Gray

joined the Women's Army Corps during World War II and served in Europe. After the war, she worked for both the State Department and the Labor Department and earned a law degree from Georgetown University.

She was one of a few dozen abortion opponents who organized the

first march in 1974, and shortly thereafter, she founded the nonprofit March for Life Education and Defense Fund. She served as president of the group until her death.

"Nellie Gray was a pro-life pioneer who will be dearly missed," said Carol Tobias, president of the National Right to

Life Committee. "The indelible mark she has left in this world can be seen in the generations of lives saved as a result of her dedicated work on behalf of the unborn."

Gray, who was single and had no children, was a longtime parishioner of St. Mary Mother of God Catholic Church

LEVY

Continued from Page 1

Sparks said last week the issue wasn't entirely dead, however.

"The Texas Association of Community Colleges is going to be in contact with state leadership, and they will try to make the case that support for the proposal was so overwhelming that it would be appropriate for the state to go forward with the proposed financing," Sparks said.

"But we have no idea at this point whether

the state leadership will go forward with the proposal or when they will make a decision on the matter," Sparks added.

Formal adoption of the new budget and tax rate will occur Aug. 27.

After the public hearing, trustees will hold a

brief meeting in which they will hear an update on the new budget and consider bids for district

insurance renewal.


Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD



By Eddy Pitchford

The presidential campaigns are getting a lot of attention. Candidates are publicizing their agendas, accomplishments and concerns. Voters are bracing themselves for an onslaught of advertisements, speeches and reports.

If you wanted people to choose a specific leader, what would you do? Would you ignore opportunities to highlight the character and strength of your candidate? Would you tell people one leader is as good as another? Would you speak favorably of your preference today and then deny him tomorrow? Would you be a credible campaigner if your life choices violated the views and goals of your selected leader?

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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

An important job unlike any other

As a journalist, there are many people who cross my path. I have met Congressmen, State Representatives, city council members, directors of different organizations and more.

However, the impact and impression left behind after meeting a veteran never ceases to amaze me.



AMANDA DUFORAT

There are those who serve our community, our state, our nation, and they are important, but forgive me if this is wrong, there is no job more important (at least in my opinion) than those who have served our country.

I am sure the duties involved in running a country, local government or organization can be tedious and stressful, but from what I have seen they can't be anywhere near what those who are fighting for our freedom deal with daily. The job for most people stops at 5 p.m. or whatever time it is that they walk out the door and head home. But, for those men and women who are fighting, the job doesn't stop at five. There is no guaranteed time off, no set hours and no set office.

The sacrifices made by the soldiers continue to pile up with little improvement or recognition.

In my experience, those soldiers, whether they be continuing to fight for our country or have retired, the job is not over.

The older generation of veterans may not be fighting the war elsewhere, but they continue to fight for the veterans in each of their respective communities.

It amazes me and renews my hope in society that there are still people who will continue to remember the importance of the sacrifices being made. It is amazing and rejuvenating to know there are people who have not forgotten the sacrifices made and still see reason for these people to not be forgotten.

A soldier's work is never done, no matter how long it has been since they fought the battle. In a veterans eye and in their heart, their duty is still and will forever be to continue to not only protect their country, but their brothers and sisters who have chosen to do the same.

As a community, as a nation, we could all learn a little if we would do our best to never forget.

Contact staff writer Amanda Duforat by email at life@bigspringherald.com.

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

You, Lord, are the best opportunity we could ever have for a heavenly future.

Amen

Paul Ryan grabs for the gusto

A thrill is going up my leg. The hairs are standing up on the back of my neck.

My palms are sweaty; my eyes are glazed.

I am the Republican base. And Paul Ryan has come to save me.

He is everything we could have dreamed of and hoped for. He is — as the young people like to say — groovy.

Paul Ryan believes in the deserving rich. He believes that the Lord gave us two hands to grab everything we can with them.

Ayn Rand, the philosopher, was Paul Ryan's inspiration.

"The reason I got involved in public service, by and large, if I had to credit one thinker, one person, it would be Ayn Rand," Ryan said in 2005.

It is said that in one of her books, Ayn Rand called the poor "lice" and "parasites." We do not know. We are not pointy-headed intellectuals. We are the base.

Ayn Rand was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, and wrote: "My philosophy, in essence, is the concept of man as a heroic being, with his own happiness as the moral purpose of his life ..."

We like that idea. It means we don't have to spend time worrying about anybody else's happiness.

Take Medicare. Please. What is Medicare except a program that lavishes tax dollars on the old and sick, people who are no longer paying much in taxes and who are a drain on society?

Talk to any old person. All they say is, "Gimme, gimme, gimme." Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security. Me, me, me.

Shouldn't money be saved for

the strong? For the productive? For the superior individuals who are amassing happiness through their own sheer will, drive and, perhaps, large inheritances?

Some think Paul Ryan's Medicare plan would "end Medicare as we know it." Well, maybe it does and maybe it doesn't. But you should have seen the plan we argued him out of. We don't want to go into details, but let's just say it involved ice floes.

We are totally jazzed by Ryan. The other guy on the ticket? Not so much. We have a personality conflict with Romney. We have personalities, and he has conflicts.

The left-wing lackey media — and we have plans for them that are going to make ice floes look like a picnic — have figured out that under Ryan's budget plan, Mitt Romney would pay an effective tax rate of around 0.82 percent.

But you know what? That's more than Romney has averaged for the last 20 years! Why else do you think he is refusing to release years of back tax returns?

Mitt is a problem. We, the base, never liked him that much. We believe the winner of the Ames Straw Poll should automatically become the Republican nominee. And Michele Bachmann agrees with us.

But Paul Ryan was a brilliant choice for us, the base. Maybe it won't attract others. Who cares?

Hispanics? Who needs them?

The elderly? All we need to do is throw a few butterfly ballots and hanging chads at them and watch them walk around in a daze.

The independents? Yeah, right. They will be too busy listening to NPR's 10-part "History of Quilting in Bhutan" to vote.

Does Ryan help us secure the three states — Florida, Virginia and Ohio — that we absolutely need to win the presidency?



ROGER SIMON

Identity theft protection and detection can go a long way

Identity theft remains one of the state's most expensive criminal enterprises. In the Federal Trade Commission's most recent Consumer Sentinel Network report, Texas ranks fifth in the nation for the most reported cases of identity theft per 100,000 residents. The FTC's report indicates that in 2011, there were more than 24,000 reported cases of identity theft in Texas — and that young adults aged 20-29 were the most heavily targeted group.



GREG ABBOTT

Professional identity thieves are relying upon increasingly sophisticated tactics to support their thriving criminal enterprise. For example, one recently uncovered scam attempted to steal victims' identities by falsely offering federal financial assistance to help cover the cost of utility bills.

Using in-person solicitations, social media, fliers, phone calls and text messages, identity thieves contact utility customers and claim that a new federal program provides free utility bill payment credits or will apply payments on customers' behalf.

To benefit from the purported program, utility customers are told they must provide their Social Security and bank routing numbers. Victims who provide their sensitive personal information are given a so-called "Federal Reserve bank routing number" to pay their utility bills. Customers are led to believe that the federal government will pay their utility bill if they use that routing number and insert their Social Security number as the bank account number.

In reality, there is no such program, no federal money and no payments ever applied to the customers' accounts. Customers who use the fraudulent bank routing number are still responsible for their utility bills and must make payments on their own. Unfortunately, the identity thieves benefit because they obtain victims' Social Security numbers and bank account information.

When personally identifying information — including Social Security and bank account numbers — falls into the wrong hands, Texans may suffer ruined credit and huge, undeserved debts.

Identity thieves may use an individual's personal information to open new credit card accounts or commit other financial crimes. When the identity thief fails to pay the bills on the accounts created in the victim's name, the delinquent accounts show up on the ID theft victim's credit report. Inaccurate credit history, if left uncorrected, may affect an ID theft victim's ability to get credit, insurance or even a job.

Every Texan should protect their personal information and never disclose sensitive information over an unsolicited phone call or at-home visit. Efforts to collect Texans' personal information should always signal a red flag. Another wise step Texans can take to protect themselves from identity theft is to shred or otherwise properly discard financial statements and other sensitive documents.

Texans who believe an identity theft scam may have affected them should access the Attorney General's Identity Theft Victim's Kit online at www.TexasAttorneyGeneral.gov. The kit is designed to help victims navigate the process of protecting their credit. It includes rel-

No. But he is a total foe of abortion, wants to cut off funds for Planned Parenthood, is pro-gun and not only can kill a deer with a bow and arrow, but, in a pinch, can dispense with the bow. Or the arrow.

This is what the base likes. This is what the base needs. We haven't been this excited since John McCain chose Sarah Palin. OK, bad example. We haven't been this excited since Bob Dole chose Jack Kemp. OK, another bad example. We haven't been this excited since George H.W. Bush chose Dan Quayle. Ha! Gotcha, there.

The fact is that Paul Ryan has spent virtually his entire adult life in politics and, therefore, is insulated from time-wasting side issues like understanding how ordinary people live.

He has seen life from the top, and the top is where you want to be. Believe us. We are the base, and we know the difference between coach and Premier Executive seating.

Does Ryan lack any real foreign policy experience? Yes. So what? How much did George W. Bush have when he plunged us into a tragic and unnecessary war for mythical weapons of mass destruction in Iraq?

But let us tell you the upside: There are a lot of people who made out like bandits on that war. They made fortunes. And they are up there flying in first class. Or on their own jets.

And that is the real lesson that any kid from Wisconsin knows: You only go around once in life, so you've got to grab for all the gusto you can.

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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evant forms and agency contact information that is necessary to help restore credit and prevent further financial harm.

Whether they use e-mail, telephone calls, or even face-to-face visits, con artists dangle baited hooks in front of honest Texans every day of the week. By recognizing the warning signs of an identity theft scam and sharing prevention tips with family and neighbors, Texans can help strengthen their communities and stop identity thieves in their tracks.

Points to Remember

Identity Theft Scams

Tips to avoid falling for the recent utility bill identity theft scam:

- Never provide Social Security numbers, credit card numbers or bank account information to anyone who requests it during an unsolicited phone call or in-home visit.
- If someone calls claiming to represent the local utility company and demands immediate payment or personal information, call recipients should hang up the phone and call the customer service number on their utility bill.

To obtain a free credit report: Annual Credit Report Request Service
P.O. Box 105281
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To learn more about how to avoid common identity theft scams, contact the Office of the Attorney General at (800) 252-8011 or visit www.texasattorneygeneral.gov.

News in brief

On eve of Assange asylum decision, Ecuador bristles at British 'threat'

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — In the two months since Julian Assange ducked into Ecuador's London embassy to seek political asylum, President Rafael Correa has been consistently deferential to Britain while insisting on his right to protect what he sees as a free speech advocate facing persecution.

Asked earlier this week if he felt solidarity with the WikiLeaks founder, Ecuador's leftist president told a TV interviewer "of course, but we also feel solidarity for England and for English and international law."

The decision on Assange's petition, which his government said it would announce Thursday, would come only after careful scrutiny of the law and consultations with the governments involved, Correa insisted. And after London's Olympics fest was over.

On Wednesday, the cordiality ended.

More than 40 civilians killed in airstrike in northern Syria, says Human Rights Watch

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian government airstrikes on a residential neighborhood in a rebel-held town killed over 40 people and wounded at least 100 others including many women and children, international watchdog Human Rights Watch said Thursday.

The strikes on the town of Azaz in northern Syria a day earlier leveled the better part of a poor neighborhood and sent panicked civilians fleeing for cover. So many were wounded that the local hospital locked its doors, directing residents to drive to the nearby Turkish border so the injured could be treated on the other side.

Reporters from The Associated Press saw nine bodies in the bombings' immediate aftermath, including a baby.

Human Rights Watch, which investigated the site of the bombing two hours after the attack, put the number at over 40.

"This horrific attack killed and wounded scores of civilians and destroyed a whole residential block," said Anna Neistat, the group's acting emergencies director. "Yet again, Syrian government forces attacked with callous disregard for civilian life."

UN to debate setting up a new office to support peace efforts in Syria after observers leave

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The

Security Council on Thursday will debate whether to establish a new civilian office to support U.N. and Arab League efforts to end the 18-month conflict in Syria as the U.N. military observer mission comes to an end Sunday.

The council had set two conditions for possibly extending the mission of the unarmed observers past Aug. 19: a halt to the government's use of heavy weapons and a significant reduction in violence. In a letter to the council last Friday, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said neither condition was met and Syria now risks "a descent into a full-scale civil war."

But with the end of the unarmed observer mission looming, Ban said, "it is imperative for the United Nations to have a presence in Syria" aside from its humanitarian operation in order to support U.N. and Arab League efforts "in mediating and facilitating a peaceful resolution to the crisis."

"I intend therefore to work in the immediate future towards establishing an effective and flexible United Nations presence in Syria that will support our efforts with the parties to end hostilities," Ban said.

France's U.N. Ambassador Gerard Araud, the current Security Council president, said members will be discussing the observer mission and Ban's proposal at a closed meeting on Thursday where they will be briefed by Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Edmond Mulet.

Reversing Obama Medicare cuts may backfire on Romney by speeding up program's insolvency

WASHINGTON (AP) — GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney's new promise to restore the Medicare cuts made by President Barack Obama's health care overhaul law could backfire if he's elected.

The reason: Obama's cuts also extended the life of Medicare's giant trust fund, and by repealing them Romney would move the insolvency date of the program closer, toward the end of what would be his first term in office.

Instead of running out of money in 2024, Medicare says its trust fund for inpatient care would go broke in 2016 without the cuts. That could leave a President Romney little political breathing room to finalize his own Medicare plan.

The Romney campaign says there's no problem with the candidate's pledge.

"The idea that restoring funding to Medicare could somehow hasten its bankruptcy is on its face absurd,"

said spokeswoman Andrea Saul.

Syria civil war shatters unity in tight-knit Druse community

MAJDAL SHAMS, Golan Heights (AP) — Civil war in neighboring Syria is tearing apart the once tight-knit Druse community on the Golan Heights. Angry arguments between supporters and foes of Syrian President Bashar Assad have pitted husbands against wives, driven a wedge between neighbors and even threatened to ruin an upcoming wedding.

The two camps scrawl tit-for-tat graffiti on walls and run rival news websites. At a brawl last month, regime supporters pelted their rivals with eggs, shoes and rocks, prompting religious leaders to declare a ban on political demonstrations in the Golan's four Druse villages.

"We shout at each other, when before, we used to say hello," lamented Assad supporter Ghandi Kahlouni, a 53-year-old pharmacist.

The growing divisions between those backing Assad and those sympathizing with Syrian rebels are surprising, considering the tight weave of the 22,000-strong Druse community on the Golan, a fenced-off plateau Israel captured from Syria in 1967 and annexed in 1981.

Since the capture by Israel, most of the Golan Druse — followers of a secretive offshoot of Islam — have continued to identify themselves as Syrian, even though many have never been to Syria, and in public at least they all backed Assad's regime as their one-day savior from Israeli rule.

Study says 26 'kingpin' CEOs made more last year than their companies paid in federal tax

NEW YORK (AP) — Twenty-six big U.S. companies paid their CEOs more last year than they paid the federal government in tax, according to a

study released Thursday by a liberal-leaning think tank.

The study, by the Institute for Policy Studies, said the companies, including AT&T, Boeing and Citigroup, paid their CEOs an average of \$20.4 million last year while paying little or no federal tax on ample profits, according to regulatory filings.

On average, the 26 companies generated net income of more than \$1 billion in the U.S., the study said.

The study blasted tax rules allowing unlimited deductions for CEO "performance-based" pay, like many stock options. It said the five biggest performance payers among the 26 companies took \$232 million of these deductions last year.

Among the "kingpins" it criticized was CEO James McNerney Jr. of Boeing. It said he got \$18.4 million in pay last year while his company received a tax refund of \$605 million.

Poll: NYC racially divided over stop and frisk

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City voters are divided along racial lines over the New York Police Department's "stop-and-frisk" strategy, according to a poll released Thursday.

The Quinnipiac University survey found that 57 percent of white city voters approve of the Police Department's practice of detaining and sometimes searching anyone officers deem suspicious. But only 25 percent of black voters surveyed said they approve of the policy, which affects many more minorities than white residents. Of those surveyed, 53 percent of Hispanics said they approve of the practice.

The NYPD stopped close to 700,000 people on the street last year. Nearly 87 percent were black or Hispanic, and about half were frisked. About 10 percent were arrested.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg argues that the program is an indispensable tool in the fight against illegal guns. But critics argue the practice unfairly targets minorities.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Forsan Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 7:00 P.M., August 28, 2012, in the Forsan High School Board Room, 411 W. 6th Street, Forsan, Texas. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$1.0400 / \$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax Approved by Local Voters	\$0.04090 / \$100 (Proposed rate for bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and Operations	28.77%	increase
Debt Service	0.10%	increase
Total Expenditures	28.87%	increase

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value * of all property	\$ 875,791,135	\$ 1,151,890,172
Total appraised value * of new property **	\$ 1,722,336	\$ 1,480,687
Total taxable value *** of all property	\$ 816,209,102	\$ 906,697,197
Total taxable value *** of new property **	\$ 1,442,136	\$ 1,444,328

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
 ** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
 *** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness *	\$ 3,070,000
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* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund **	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	1.04000	0.05680	1.09680	8,936	663
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	1.00000	0.05073	1.05073	10,630	374
Proposed Rate	1.04000	0.04090	1.08090	11,179	451

* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$63,948	\$72,048
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$38,675	\$44,176
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.0968	\$1.0809
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$424.18	\$477.49
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$53.31

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Note of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at

an election is \$1.080912. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of \$1.080912.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$5,560,000.00
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$79,043.00

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Thousands line up for work permits

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) — Nathaly Uribe has all the papers she needs to get a work permit — something the 17-year-old daughter of a construction worker only dreamed of growing up as an illegal immigrant in the United States.

The high school senior said she hopes a federal program beginning Wednesday that defers deportation for illegal immigrants will make it easier to get a decent job and help pay for college.

"This is my country. It's where my roots are," said Uribe, who moved from Chile when she was a toddler and lives in Glen Burnie, Md. "It feels great to know that the country that I call home is finally accepting me."

Thousands of young illegal immigrants lined up Wednesday hoping for the right to work legally in America without being deported. The Obama administration's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals could expand the rights of more than 1 million young illegal immigrants by giving them work permits,

though they would not obtain legal residency here or a path to citizenship.

At least 13,000 people stood in line in Chicago, clutching reams of paperwork, for a workshop led by immigrant rights advocates at the city's Navy Pier. Hundreds of potential applicants waited outside nonprofit offices in Los Angeles for help filing paperwork to open the door to the staples of success in America — a work permit, and then later a Social Security number and driver's license.

"It's something I have been waiting for since I was two years old," said Bupendra Ram, a 25-year-old communications graduate student in Fullerton, Calif., who still needs supporting documents from his Fiji Islands home before he can apply. "This offers us an opportunity to fulfill the dreams I've had since I was a child."

Less than three months before an expected tight presidential election, the new immigration program is mired in controversy.

Republican critics accuse

President Barack Obama of drafting the plan to boost his political standing with Latinos ahead of November's vote and say the program favors illegal immigrants over unemployed American citizens during dismal economic times.

In Arizona, which passed one of the nation's toughest anti-immigration laws, Gov. Jan Brewer signed an executive order Wednesday directing state agencies to deny driver's licenses and other public benefits to illegal immigrants who obtain work authorizations under the program.

Brewer said the federal program doesn't give immigrants legal status and she's following the intent of the current state law denying public benefits to them.

To be eligible for the federal program, immigrants must prove they arrived in the United States before they turned 16, are 30 or younger, have been living in the country at least five years and are in school or graduated or served in the military. They

cannot have been convicted of certain crimes or otherwise pose a safety threat.

Initial concerns that federal authorities might take a tough approach on applications or that a Republican presidential victory could unravel applicants' gains have largely been pushed aside by massive interest from thousands of young people eager to work.

In Los Angeles, one immigrant rights' group started hosting hourly information sessions over the last month to keep up with the frenzy. The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles has handed out 12,000 information packets about the program and is encouraging all eligible immigrants to apply as long as they have stayed out of legal trouble, said Angelica Salas, the organization's director.

Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney does not support so-called Dream Act legislation for illegal immigrants who attend college — a key group that Obama aims to reach with this pro-

gram. The former Massachusetts governor has also criticized the deferred action program but has not said if he would reverse it, pledging instead an unspecified "civil but resolute" long-term fix to illegal immigration.

So far, the measure has won favor for Obama along Latinos — many who view immigration as a litmus test when choosing a political candidate, said Manuel Pastor, director of the University of Southern California's Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration.

"What this has done is to signal that the president, who was unable to get comprehensive immigration reform, does at least care about the situation of these immigrants," Pastor said. "This is something that has been overwhelmingly popular in the immigrant population and in the Latino population in general."

Some Republican lawmakers have accused Obama of sidestepping Congress and creating a backdoor amnesty program.

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Bulldogs are hungry for playoffs — and then some

By **BRIAN MCCORMACK**

Sports Editor

The Coahoma Bulldogs have a new attitude this year.

Now in his third year as head football coach, Trey Gardner is not just hoping for a third straight playoff appearance, he wants to move beyond bi-district — which is as far as his squads have gotten thus far.

“What we are building off of this year is what I call ‘And then some,’” Gardner said. “We want to win — win district, then keep playing.”

In 2010, the Bulldogs played, according to Gardner, “Like we were just happy to be there.”

Coahoma fell to the Spearman Lynx.

In 2011, Gardner’s team again earned a playoff spot, but were ousted yet again by Spearman.

“We really felt like we were the better team last year,” Gardner said. “We made three mistakes that cost us. We felt like we should have won, but we didn’t get it done.”

Despite the defeat, Gardner has a lot to work with this year.

About 18 starters from last year have returned, as well as around 15 seniors who are familiar with Gardner’s signature Wing-T offense.

“We have some good players to rely on,” Gardner said. “We aren’t drastically changing anything. We will primarily be a running team, but we want to throw the ball enough to make the other teams



HERALD photo/Brian McCormack

Coahoma Head Coach Trey Gardner instructs his team during a practice Wednesday. The Bulldogs have their first scrimmage today against Jim Ned and will open regular season play in Midland at the ASCO Football Kickoff Classic where they will meet rival Forsan.

See **BULLDOGS**, Page 12



Stanton Buffaloes 2012

Aug. 18 — Kermit/Ft. Stockton (Scrimmage) (T), 9 a.m.

Aug. 23 — Tahoka (Scrimmage) (H), 6 p.m.

Aug. 31 — Denver City (H), 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 7 — Morton (T), 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 14 — Forsan (T), 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 21 — McCamey (H), 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 28 — Seagraves (Homecoming), 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 5 — O P E N

Oct. 12 — *Coahoma (T), 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 19 — *Crane (T), 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 26 — *Alpine (H), 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 2 — *Sonora (T), 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 9 — *Reagan County (H), 7:30 p.m.

*Denotes district game

Sports Calendar

TODAY

Football

- Jim Ned at Coahoma (Scrimmage), 10 a.m.
- Tahoka at Stanton (Scrimmage), 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

Football

- Big Spring at Lubbock High (Scrimmage), 6 p.m.
- Crane at Garden City (Scrimmage), 6 p.m.
- Grady vs. Chillicothe (At Patton Springs) (Scrimmage), 11 a.m.
- Forsan at Grap Creek (Scrimmage), 7 p.m.

Volleyball

- Big Spring at Bev Ball Classic Tournament in Abilene, (Varsity), TBA.
- Big Spring at Sweetwater Tournament (Freshmen & J.V.), TBA.

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

Hamilton's homers not enough for Texas

NEW YORK (AP) — Texas Rangers manager Ron Washington has no problem with his offense. It's the New York Yankees pitchers who are causing the trouble.

Freddy Garcia worked around two homers by Josh Hamilton to remain undefeated against Texas for eight years and the Yankees beat the Rangers for the third straight night, 3-2 on Wednesday.

The Rangers have been limited to four runs in the first three games of the four-game series between the teams with the best records in the AL.

“I wasn’t expecting that. But, once again, pitching stops everything,” Washington said. “You’ve got to give them credit. Their pitching stopped us. That’s the difference right there.”

Hamilton became the second RB player to reach 100 RBIs this season —

Detroit’s Miguel Cabrera was first — with his career-high 33rd homer, a line drive to right in the fourth inning. His majestic drive in the sixth was all Texas could muster in their eighth straight loss in the Bronx.

The lefty slugger had a shot for a third homer but struck out against Rafael Soriano in the ninth inning of a game that was delayed by rain 1 hour, 45 minutes at the start.

“When you’re seeing the ball good, you feel like you can pretty much hit anything,” Hamilton said.

“But, at that point in the game, you just want to get somebody on base and give yourself a chance to tie the ball-game up.”

Nick Swisher gave the Yankees the lead with an RBI double off Scott Feldman in a three-run third inning. He hit a grand slam Monday and

a two-run shot Tuesday night in a matchup between the teams with the best records in the AL.

Garcia (7-5) matched David Phelps and Hiroki Kuroda with another stellar start for the Yankees. He followed up Kuroda’s two-hitter Tuesday by giving up four hits in 6 2-3 innings.

Garcia has not lost to the Rangers since 2004, going 4-0 with a 1.75 ERA in six starts coming in.

A well-rested bullpen then finished for the Yankees’ seventh win in eight games.

Boone Logan got one out. David Robertson struck out two in a perfect eighth and, after the strikeout of Hamilton, Soriano worked around a throwing error by Eric Chavez for his 29th save.

With second baseman Robinson Cano getting a night off because of a

stiff neck, Mark Teixeira serving as the designated hitter. Alex Rodriguez out with a broken hand, Derek Jeter was the only regular in the infield, and the Rangers tested the group in the fourth inning.

After Hamilton’s homer, Adrian Beltre singled. Nelson Cruz then hit a grounder to Chavez, who chose to try for second but his throw was late. Curtis Granderson had a sacrifice fly and Chavez added an RBI single, the first of his three hits.

But Feldman (6-8) pitched out of trouble in the fourth, fifth and six innings, working around three walks and two hits. In six innings overall, he allowed three runs, seven hits and four walks. He struck out seven.

“I didn’t feel I was throwing the ball bad, even when that (the third inning) was going on”.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Under the current arrangement of Venus and Uranus, love and relationships are not as carefree as they once were. People are quirky. Learning those quirks and determining how they might jibe with one's own idiosyncrasies takes time, persistence and a belief that the effort will



HOLIDAY MATHIS

prove worthwhile. Tomorrow's new moon is a fresh start.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). No matter how busy you get, your creative whims are still important. They connect you with your heart. And now you could follow your muse to personal and financial rewards.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's a fine time to plot your next professional move. Consider putting ideals over income. This will make you happy, and when you're happy, you'll either earn more or do more with what you earn.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Sometimes the show makes the show, and sometimes the audience makes the show. Today involves a team effort between performer and onlooker, each feeding a need for the other.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Procrastination only delays the inevitable. Steel yourself, and fulfill the obligation before you. Your weekend starts the moment you get it over with.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's not just you; the heat has been getting to everyone. Don't let your temper flare out of

control in the face of summertime frustration. Keeping physically cool will help you keep your mental cool.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Someone in your neighborhood is in need of a helping hand, but is too proud to ask. Keep your awareness open. You'll sense the silent need and offer a hand.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Too many evenings out and on the run have left you feeling frazzled. Time to unplug, go to the grocery store and prepare a good home-cooked meal for yourself and your loved ones.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your talent extends beyond what you're comfortable doing. Just because you're not an expert doesn't mean you won't do the best job. If there's no harm in trying, go for it!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When old resentments surface, you may wonder what it's going to take to make them go away forever. Each time you forgive, the hurt dissolves a little more. Eventually, it will be gone.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Before you leap,

aim at a soft landing place. If you don't have time to look for such a thing before you leap, you'll still scramble to safety, but it won't be graceful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The ones you look up to need you, too. You don't understand the full extent of it, and you may not for many years, but you can trust that your interactions matter immensely.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Comparing your relationships will only drain your personal power. The attachments you form don't have to be like everyone else's to be valid, meaningful and just right for you.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 16). You'll love and be loved. What could be better? Matters of responsibility lead to professional success. Whatever you dislike, handle it first and get it over with. Paradoxically, you will reach Easy Street because you're willing to do what's hard. December brings a spotlight. Financial luck is strongest in November and June. Aries and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky numbers are:

19, 3, 22, 48 and 6.

TIPS FOR TURNING UP YOUR A.Q. (Attraction Quotient): **SAGITTARIUS:** Take advantage of opportunity! What use is good luck if you don't follow through? For instance, when you hit it off with new people, be the first to call and establish the relationship beyond the original circumstance that brought you together.

BONUS TIP: Channel your fiery passion into mundane tasks. You never know whom you'll run into while washing the car or going on a daily jog. **CAPRICORN:** Put your style stamp on everything you do. You tend to be results-oriented. But how you get things done is really more important than what you get done. Approaching even mundane tasks with great and fanciful gusto makes you feel like a winner. And you can use the previous sentence as an explanation when anyone asks why you're sharpening your pencil while wearing a tiara or top hat — or the currently popular (and gender-neutral) stick-on handlebar moustache.

BONUS TIP: Be merciful with your romantic power. Power, if abused, is fleeting. Romantic power, if abused, usually flees on the arm of another. — *Excerpted from Holiday Mathis' "Rock Your Stars: Your Astrological Guide to Getting It All."*

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Madonna may very well be the quintessential Leo. Having arrived in New York City with zero connections and \$35 in her pocket, she rose to superstardom on blonde ambition and a talent for capturing people's attention both on stage and off. Madonna was born when the sun, Venus and Uranus were all in the sign of entertainment.

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

Legals

NOTICE OF TAX REVENUE INCREASE

The Howard County conducted public hearings on August 20, 2012 and September 10, 2012 on a proposal to increase the total tax revenues of the Howard County from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 6.72 percent. The total tax revenue proposed to be raised last year at last year's tax rate of \$0.436720 for each \$100 of taxable value was \$11,048,162. The total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of \$0.330000 for each \$100 of taxable value, excluding tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is \$11,782,503. The total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of \$0.330000 for each \$100 of taxable value, including tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is \$11,801,999. The Howard County of Howard County is scheduled to vote on the tax rate that will result in that tax increase at a public meeting to be held on September 24, 2012 at 300 Main Big Spring Tx 3rd Floor Courthouse at 10:00 am. #7471 August 16, 2012

Legals

NOTICE OF SALE ABANDONED VEHICLE

In compliance with article 683.02 Transportation Code. I will proceed to sell at the Glasscock County Sheriff's Office on Wednesday August 22, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. to the highest bidder. **Abandoned Motor Vehicles at the described locations and the times listed below.**
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Vin# 4S2CK58V1T4306582
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Tag# FCS035
1996 Ford Pickup
Vin# 2FTHF25H6TCA16373
Tag# BD19879
2000 Mercury Marquis
Any questions, please contact the Glasscock County Sheriff's Office. The successful bidder upon payment of the money to The Glasscock County Sheriff's Office, is entitled to take possession of the vehicle and apply for a title free and clear of all liens and claims to ownership. All vehicles are sold as is, without warranty or guarantee of performance. #7474 August 15,16,17,19,20 and 21, 2012V

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: Many years ago, my husband, "Sam," and I divorced. I started seeing someone else and became pregnant. That man left me, saying he didn't want more children.

Sam and I began dating again, and he said we could remarry if his name went on the baby's birth certificate. The biological father didn't care, so I agreed. Three months after the baby was born, Sam and I married again.

That was 13 years ago. The problem is, sometimes Sam and I will argue, and he'll say, "Just take your daughter and get out," and other hurtful things indicating he's not her real father and so there's nothing to tie us together.

I'm worried that our daughter will find out about her parentage and be hurt. Should we tell her about her biological father?

I know her bio dad recently got out of prison after a year's sentence for child molestation. I don't know where he's living, but I don't really want him around my daughter. Any suggestions? — *Living a Lie*

Dear Living: The biological father no longer has any claim

on your daughter. He gave up his rights. Your daughter is old enough to know about her background, although due to the particular circumstances, we suggest you first discuss it with a therapist who specializes in such issues.

It would help to bring Sam into the sessions, as well, because his comments are not only reprehensible, but could cause all kinds of repercussions in his relationship with his daughter.

He may be too angry with you during these arguments to fully realize how much he can hurt this child.

Dear Annie: Two of our closest friends are getting a divorce. We are godparents to their adorable and sweet 9-year-old child.

This couple wants to cause as little disruption as possible to their child's home environment. They plan to rent a nearby house, and the parents will swap living there so the child gets to stay in the original home.

Annie, I'm sure they're not the first to think of this arrangement, even though it's new to us.

As disruptive as a divorce is, would this add a sense of security for the child as opposed to sending her off to the estranged parent's house for a short period of time as is commonly done? — *Puzzled in Florida*

Dear Puzzled: Quite a few parents have this arrangement, whereby the children stay in the home while the parents trade a rental space, or in some cases, both parents have their own place.

While children are resilient and can adjust to almost any living situation, we suspect it is easier if they don't have to pack up every weekend.

It also lessens the stigma for the non-custodial parent whose residence is "Dad's place" or "Mom's house" but not "home."

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Washington," who said her feelings for her husband are completely gone.

Many Catholic dioceses have weekend programs for married couples, and other denominations may have similar programs.

Our diocese offers Marriage

Encounter to help a couple rediscover the spark. The program is for those whose marriage is basically OK but could be better.

The other program is Retrouvaille, a French word meaning "rediscovery."

It helps heal problems in a troubled marriage by reopening communication and providing tools that can make a difference.

It's for those who feel lost, alone or bored, or are constantly fighting, arguing or thinking about separating.

In neither case does the couple have to be Catholic, although they should be married. — *Father B.*

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2012 CREATORS.COM

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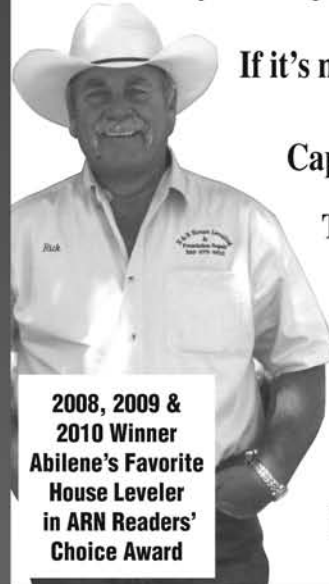
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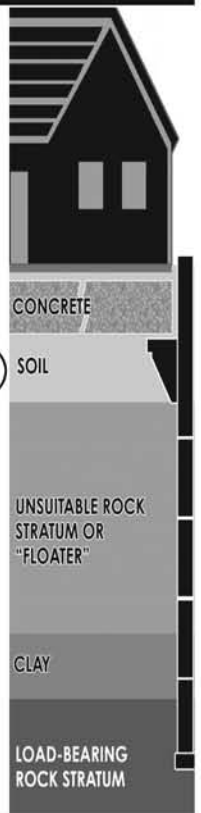
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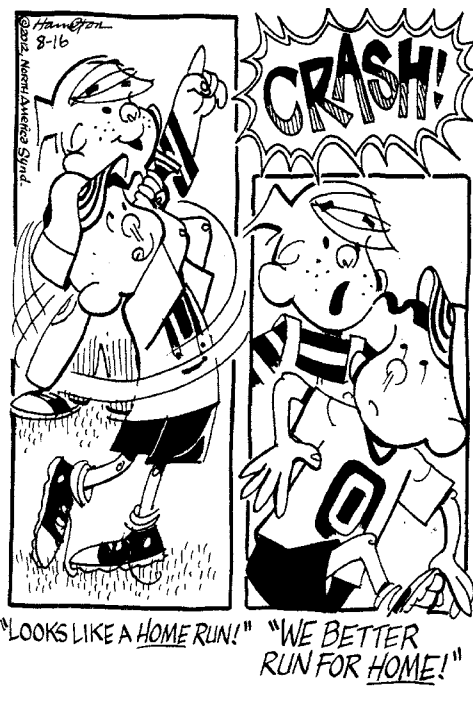


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	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KPBT (13)	KWTT (14)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPIKE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)
	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports
5:30 PM	News ABC	Casa	Two Men Notic.	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News CBS	King King	Yohan House	Charlie Rose	King King	Ultimate Air Jaws	CSI: Miami	Police Videos	The Mentalist	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Good		SportsCenter
6:30 PM	Jeopardy!	Un Refugio	Big Bang Big Bang	News CBS	Especial	News CBS	Seinfeld	Swallow Alan Lee	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld	Air Jaws Apoc.	CSI: Miami	Police Videos	The Mentalist	Sparkle	Movie: Camp Rock 2: The Final Jam	ATP Tennis: U.S. Open Series: Western & Southern Open Round of 16.	SportsCenter
7:30 PM	Wipeout	Por Ella Soy Eva	NFL Preseason Football: Cincinnati Bengals at Atlanta Falcons.	Big Brother	Rosa Diamante (SS)	Office Parks	Fam. Guy	Upd Mark Blitz	Doo Wop Love Songs (My Music)	Oh Sit!	White Invasion	Movie: GoodFellas, Joe Pesci	IMPACT Wrestling	The Mentalist	Movie: Ray, Regina King			Little League Baseball
8:30 PM	Time Machine Chefs	Abismo de Pasión	Person of Interest	Escobar Rostro de	Rock Center	Big Bang	Sullivan	Light of the Southwest		The Next	Great White			The Mentalist				Baseball Tonight
9:30 PM	Rookie Blue	La Que No	Person of Interest	Escobar Rostro de	Rock Center	Big Bang	Sullivan	Light of the Southwest		Cops	Shark Week			The Mentalist				Baseball Tonight
10:30 PM	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	How I Met Raymond	News Letterman	Noticias Titulares	News Jay Leno	Conan	Dr. Diana Justice	Rock, Pop and Doo Wop (My Music)	'Til Death '70s	Great White	Movie: Donnie Brasco, Michael Madsen	Crank: High Voltage	Rizzoli & Isles				SportsCenter
11:30 PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Hasta-Dinero	Law Order: CI	Ferguson	Decisiones (SS)	Jimmy Fallon	Conan	Dr.		South Pk	White Invasion		Ways Die	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	ANT Farm Vampire	NFL Yrbk.	SportsCenter
12:30 AM	Extra	Mar de Amor (SS)	Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	News	Conan	Dr. Wil		South Pk	White Invasion		Ways Die	CSI: NY	Movie: Dead Presidents, Chris Tucker	Deck Deck	Baseball Tonight	SportsCenter
1 AM	Paid	La Jaula	American	Ent	Pagado	News	Conan	Dr. Wil		Influence	Ultimate Air Jaws	Movie: Wise Guys, Harvey Keitel	Ways Die	Rizzoli & Isles	Good Good	NASCAR MMA Live	SportsCenter	

DENNIS THE MENACE



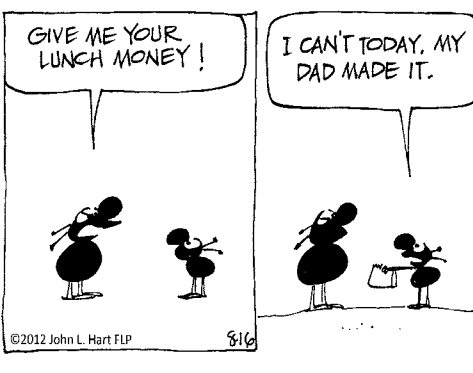
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



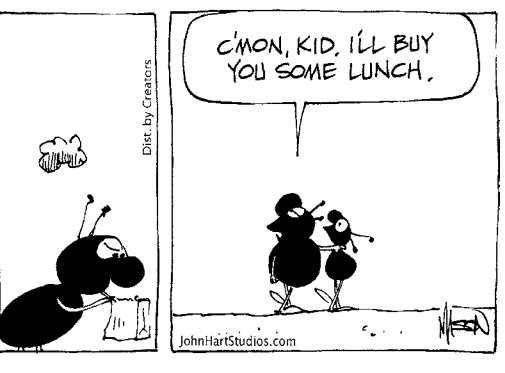
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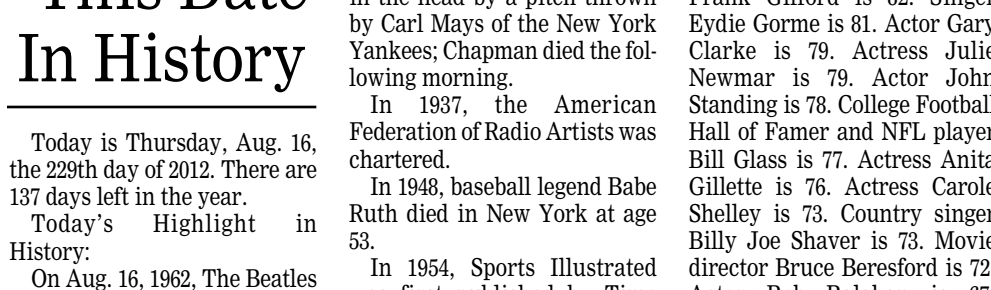
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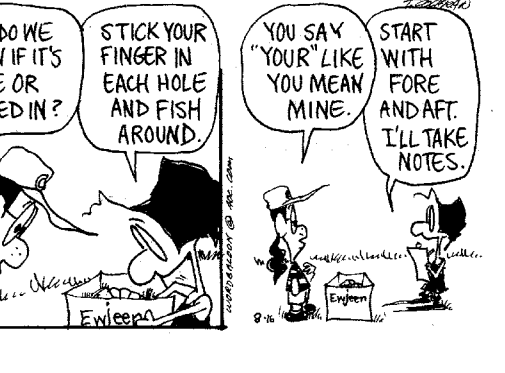
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This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Aug. 16, the 229th day of 2012. There are 137 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 16, 1962, The Beatles fired their original drummer, Pete Best, replacing him with Ringo Starr.

On this date:

In 1777, American forces won the Revolutionary War Battle of Bennington.

In 1812, Detroit fell to British and Indian forces in the War of 1812.

In 1861, President Abraham Lincoln issued Proclamation 86, which prohibited the states of the Union from engaging in commercial trade with states in rebellion — i.e., the Confederacy.

In 1858, a telegraphed message from Britain's Queen Victoria to President James Buchanan was transmitted over the recently laid trans-Atlantic cable.

In 1920, Ray Chapman of the Cleveland Indians was struck in the head by a pitch thrown by Carl Mays of the New York Yankees; Chapman died the following morning.

In 1937, the American Federation of Radio Artists was chartered.

In 1948, baseball legend Babe Ruth died in New York at age 53.

In 1954, Sports Illustrated was first published by Time Inc.

In 1956, Adlai E. Stevenson was nominated for president at the Democratic national convention in Chicago.

In 1977, Elvis Presley died at his Graceland estate in Memphis, Tenn., at age 42.

In 1987, 156 people were killed when Northwest Airlines Flight 255 crashed while trying to take off from Detroit; the sole survivor was 4-year-old Cecelia Cichan (SHEE'an). People worldwide began a two-day celebration of the "harmonic convergence," which heralded what believers called the start of a new, purer age of mankind.

In 1991, Pope John Paul II began his first-ever papal visit to Hungary.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Ann Blyth is 84. Sportscaster Frank Gifford is 82. Singer Eydie Gorme is 81. Actor Gary Clarke is 79. Actress Julie Newmar is 79. Actor John Standing is 78. College Football Hall of Famer and NFL player Bill Glass is 77. Actress Anita Gillette is 76. Actress Carole Shelley is 73. Country singer Billy Joe Shaver is 73. Movie director Bruce Beresford is 72. Actor Bob Balaban is 67. Ballerina Suzanne Farrell is 67. Actress Lesley Ann Warren is 66. Rock singer-musician Joey Spampinato is 62. Actor Reginald VelJohnson is 60. TV personality Kathie Lee Gifford is 59. Rhythm-and-blues singer J.T. Taylor is 59. Movie director James Cameron is 58.

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Newsday Crossword

GEARED UP by David W. Cromer
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS	62 Norwegian playwright	11 Chauffeur's auto	38 Rambled on
1 Keepsake holder	63 Cardiologist's readings	12 High point	39 Fall asleep, with "out"
6 Catch sight of	64 Picked out of a lineup	13 Call false	41 Proofreading mark
10 Gratified	65 Volatile liquid	18 Pupil's place	42 Set the dial to
14 Unethical one		22 Green sci.	44 Opens, in a way
15 Film rating org.		23 Concept that spreads via the Web	45 Went after
16 Matured		25 Bordeaux buddies	46 Bad-pun reaction
17 Attraction with animals		26 Unfeigned	49 Get rid of
19 "You said it!"	DOWN	27 Sunoco alternative	50 "Go help someone else"
20 Not oneself	1 What's more	28 Shopper's concern	51 Well-nestled
21 "Rapunzel" surname	2 Do nothing	29 Hoops star with a new doctorate	53 Hourly wage
22 Strong bond	3 Aficionado	30 Bumbling	54 Symbol of belligerence
23 '70s Israeli leader	4 NATO charter member	31 Strings of India	55 Through
24 Individually	5 Business page news	35 Apt to do nothing	56 ___-Tahoe Airport
26 Water filtration process	6 Despot's domain	37 Boathouse rental	58 X-Files org.
32 Semester-ending rituals	7 Email folder contents		59 Box-score column heading
33 Catch red-handed	8 Italian cheese		
34 Zilch	9 Ramble on		
36 Wheel bar	10 Business page illustrations		
37 Bets first			
39 Frat letter			
40 Telejournalist Dobbs			
41 Poet Teasdale			
42 November birthstone			
43 Peace-talks locale, often			
47 Hotbed			
48 Thick slice			
49 "Mephisto Waltzes" composer			
52 Tiny remnant			
54 On behalf of			
57 "everything"			
58 Portable data storage			
60 Winter warmer			
61 ___ noire (bugaboo)			

Super Bowl champs take back seat in NY

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Country music star Kenny Chesney strode along an extended stage at MetLife Stadium, holding aloft a Giants helmet in one hand, a Jets helmet in the other. Overwhelmingly, the loudest cheers came when he extended the blue Giants head gear.

Chesney knowingly mentioned, in reference to his 2011 hit song, that the "Boys of Fall" are coming back. And pretty much everywhere except on that night at the Meadowlands, the Super Bowl champions are

being overshadowed as we close in on another season.

Eclipsed by Tebowmania. By Rex Ryan and his entertaining proclamations. By a cornerback declaring he is the second-best receiver on the roster.

By the feuding and fighting during practice by Gang Green, which didn't even make the playoffs last season.

The Giants couldn't care less.

"This is just the way we like it," team owner John Mara said as he watched his team prepare for Saturday

night's annual "Battle of New York," which hasn't been played in New York in decades. "We are not trying to be on the front page, the back page, the lead story right now."

"That other stuff we see, I do find it amusing; they do have personalities on that team. But more than a commentary on the Jets or any of us in football, it's a commentary more on the media, isn't it?"

"But we don't worry about what the headlines will be the next day."

The Jets do, from owner Woody Johnson on down. Winning the back pages of the newspapers seems to be priority No. 1 for them.

The headlines rarely have belonged to the Giants (No. 3 in the AP Pro32) almost since

March. They enjoyed the spoils of winners, are trying not to be spoiled by winning, and have flown so far under the radar this summer that it doesn't seem like they left the ground.

While their co-owners of the two-year-old stadium can be found hourly, if not more often, on ESPN — some folks joke about an upcoming new channel, TSPN (T for Tim Tebow, of course) — as well as all over the tabloids, the Giants quietly go about business.

They're more concerned about avoiding any Super Bowl hangover than about being cast in the next sequel to "The Hangover."

If the Jets (No. 17 in the AP Pro32) are the NFL's version of Hollywood, the Gi-

ants are, well, Big Blue-collar New Jersey, far more Springsteen than Snooki.

"After we won (in 2007), we were playing better the next season than the team that won the Super Bowl," general manager Jerry Reese said. "But it didn't work

out at the end of the season, so I don't think you can say that (was a Super Bowl hangover). We just didn't play well in the first round of the playoffs after winning our division."

One thing these teams have almost always done is face off.

BULLDOGS

Continued from Page 7

think we will throw it."

One thing that has changed is the coaching staff. Since Gardner assumed head coaching duties, many faces have changed. This year's most notable change is the addition of Jimmy Whiddon as defensive coordinator. Like many of the team's coaches, Whiddon has ties to Coahoma.

"I grew up here," Whiddon said.

"Four-out-of-eight coaches went to school here," Gardner added. "And one has a father who went to school here."

The seniors on the roster are also ready to play their roles as leaders on and off the field.

"We want to set a good example," Tanner Ruiz, who looks to take the majority of snaps at the QB position said. "We (seniors) will be leaving. The younger kids will have to step up and be leaders. It's been a great experience. A lot of ups and downs, but hopefully we will finish with a great up."

Linebacker Peyton Rodriguez agrees.

"One thing we have tried to do is teach the young guys not to give up when things get tough," Rodriguez said. "We have a tough year this year. We play a lot of schools with experience in the playoffs. We are going to have to fight and hopefully we can go far this year."

The first step to going far will be a difficult task — Coahoma will travel to Midland to face Howard County rival Forsan at Grande Communications Stadium during the ASCO Football Kickoff Classic on Aug. 30.

"It's going to be a war," Gardner said of the upcoming game. "It's a big deal because it's Forsan. We may try to downplay it for the kids — like it's just another game — but, the kids know who we are playing. A lot of them know each other. We will have to contain their speed and try to keep them inside. If you let them get outside, you may not catch them. We know (Forsan) will give us their best effort."

Last year, Coahoma got the best of the Buffaloes — but won the affair by a single point.

One athlete off of each team who participates in the Kickoff Classic gets a \$2,000 collegiate scholarship. That is one reason, according to Gardner, that it is worth holding what may be Howard County's biggest rivalry in a neighboring city.

Coahoma seems poised to grab a playoff spot in District 3-2A. That doesn't mean the Bulldogs don't have their work cut out for them.

On top of a tough non-district schedule, Coahoma must contend with district foes such as Sonora, Crane, Alpine and Stanton.

Contact Sports Editor Brian McCormack at 263-7331 ext. 237 or by e-mail at sports@big-springherald.com

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker
A Little Extra Effort

West dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A J 3
♥ A Q 7
♦ A 7 6 4 2
♣ Q 5

WEST
♠ 6
♥ 9 4 2
♦ 3
♣ A K J 10 8 4 3 2

EAST
♠ Q 9 8 7 4
♥ 10 6
♦ K Q 10 9 8
♣ 9

SOUTH
♠ K 10 5 2
♥ K J 8 5 3
♦ J 5
♣ 7 6

The bidding:
West North East South
4♣ Dble Pass 4♥

Opening lead king of clubs.

The ability to utilize information picked up during the bidding and play is a primary prerequisite to good declarer play. Admittedly, it entails extra effort on declarer's part, but the energy expended usually is returned with interest.

Consider this case where South reached four hearts as shown and West led the K-A of clubs. After East discarded the diamond ten on the second club, West shifted to the three of diamonds.

With every reason to believe that the three was a singleton, declarer put up dummy's ace and drew three rounds of trumps. When West turned

up with three hearts, the hand became virtually an open book.

West was known to have started with eight clubs, three hearts and apparently two singletons. This in turn meant that East had the K-Q of diamonds and, in all likelihood, the queen of spades. Although one successful spade finesse could be taken against East, declarer was still in danger of losing his fourth spade as well as a diamond.

South's knowledge of East's hand enabled him to circumvent the spade loser. At trick seven, he cashed a fourth heart, bringing about this position:

North
♠ A J 3
♥ 7 6 4

West
Immaterial

East
♠ Q 9 8 7
♦ K Q

South
♠ K 10 5 2
♥ 8
♦ J

When South next played his last trump, discarding a diamond from dummy, East was a dead duck. If he discarded a spade, declarer could score four tricks in the suit, so he pitched a diamond instead. South then led the diamond jack to East's king, establishing dummy's diamond seven as a trick. East's forced spade return rode to dummy's jack, and declarer had the rest of the tricks.

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

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sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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Camilla from Italy, 16 yrs. Knows dancing, playing the piano and swimming. Camilla looks forward to cooking with her American host family.

David from Denmark, 17 yrs. Loves skiing, playing soccer and watching American movies. David hopes to learn to play football and live as a real American.

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