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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**TUESDAY**

SEPTEMBER 11, 2012



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## 3 teens make bond in vandalism case

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Three of the four Big Spring teens arrested Monday in connection with August's vandalism of the local Vietnam Memorial have been released on bond, according to law enforcement officials.

Four teens — all students at Big Spring High School — were arrested Monday morning as a result of the investigation into the vandalism, which is believed to have happened the weekend of Aug. 25.

Those arrested were:  
• Devan James Cook, 17, of 2613 Albrook, on charges of



Cook



Lewis



Sharp



Towner

criminal mischief — damage to school, church or monument and tampering with or fabricating physical evidence with intent to impair.

• Anthony Alphonso Lewis, 17, of 806 E. 15<sup>th</sup> St., on a charge of criminal mischief — damage to school, church or monument.

• Nicholas Lee Sharp, 17, of 2611 Chanute, on charges of

criminal mischief — damage to school, church or monument and tampering with or fabricating physical evidence with intent to impair.

• Kevin Logan Towner, 17, of 2414 N. Anderson Rd., on charges of criminal mischief — damage to school, church or monument and tampering

See **ARRESTS**, Page 3



HERALD file photo

Howard County Library Director Hollis McCright looks through books prior to a previous Friends of the Library Book Sale. This year's sale will begin Friday morning.

## Commissioners approve 2012-13 tax rate, budget

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners approved the government entity's 2012-2013 budget and tax rate during their meeting Monday morning, adopting a levy that will bring in approximately \$750,000 more than last year.

Commissioners voted in favor of adopting a tax rate of 33 cents per \$100 valuation to support its fiscal plan, which totals approximately \$19.32 million.

According to county records, the effective tax rate — the rate which would

bring in the same levy as last year — is 30.9221 cents per \$100 valuation. The rollback rate, which is comprised of the effective rate plus an 8 percent increase in the levy, has been calculated at 33.1460 cents per \$100 valuation.

County Auditor Jackie Olson said the approved tax rate — which is slightly less than the rollback rate — will generate \$753,000 more tax dollars for the county than last year's levy, which was 43.6720 cents per \$100 valuation.

County Judge Mark Barr said the additional funding is

necessary to pay for repairs to county roads, which are in desperate need of repairs due to the increase in oilfield traffic.

Commissioners have considered utilizing road use agreements — which would have the oilfield companies using the roadways paying for a percentage of the upkeep — however, Barr said little to no progress has been made on the issue.

"It makes sense to have the businesses who are damaging the roads pay for the

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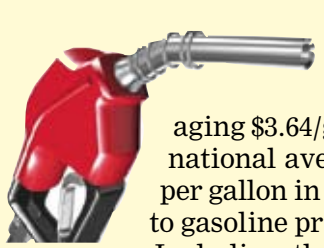
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Opinion	4
Sports	8,14



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## Gas prices dip



Average retail gasoline prices in Texas have fallen 0.9 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$3.64/g Sunday. This compares with the national average that has increased 1.3 cents per gallon in the last week to \$3.81/g, according to gasoline price website TexasGasPrices.com.

Including the change in gas prices in Texas during the past week, prices Sunday were 16.9 cents per gallon higher than the same day one year ago and are 15.9 cents per gallon higher than a month ago. The national average has increased 14.6 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 14.9 cents per gallon higher than this day one year ago.

"Even with Isaac long gone, the oil industry is still bringing capacity back online — at refineries and oil rigs, which is keeping pressure on prices," said GasBuddy.com Senior Petroleum Analyst Patrick DeHaan. "Supply remains tight across the country as we slowly approach the transition to winter-spec gasoline, but I continue to be firm in believing that the national average will start to decline towards the end of September, as is typically the case," DeHaan said.

Read all about it!

# Book sale starts this weekend

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Book lovers will think they have found nirvana — rows and rows of literature, some in hard cover, some in paperback, all cheaply priced.



Staulcup

The Friends of the Howard County Library's annual book sale will be held this weekend and organizers promise to have something for just about every fan of the written word.

Sale hours will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday at the library, located at 500 S. Main

Organizers said there are thousands of books — most priced below \$4 — for sale, along with books on tape and CD, movies on DVD and even a large selection of jigsaw puzzles.

"From all the books I've had to carry in, it seems like we've got about 16 million for sale," FotL member JoAnn Staulcup said with a laugh. "Seriously, we've got thousands and thousands of books this year ... and they're still coming in.

Books for the sale came from public donations. The book sale is the FotL's major fundraiser of the year.

See **BOOKS**, Page 3

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## Obituaries

### Elvira Cantu

Elvira Cantu, 88, of Big Spring died Monday, Sept. 10, 2012, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

### Elesha Thompson

Elesha Thompson, 31, of Dallas, formerly of Big Spring died Sunday, Sept. 9, 2012, at her residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Police blotter

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

- AUTHUR MORENO ORTEGA, 49, of 603 S. Bell, was arrested Monday on a warrant from another agency.
- DIMITRI ANDREW LEOS, 20, of 314 N.E. Eighth St., was arrested Monday on warrants for consumption of alcohol by a minor and failure to appear.
- ANDREW AGUIRRE DUENES, 38, of 700 N. Moss Lake Rd., was arrested Monday on a warrant for interfering with an emergency phone call.
- NICHOLAS LEE SHARP, 17, of 2611 Chanute, was arrested Monday on charges of criminal mischief – damage to school, church or monument and tampering with or fabricating physical evidence with intent to impair.
- KEVIN LOGAN TOWNER, 17, of 2414 N. Anderson Rd., was arrested Monday on charges of criminal mischief – damage to school, church or monument and tampering with or fabricating physical evidence with intent to impair.
- DEVAN JAMES COOK, 17, of 2613 Albrook, was arrested Monday on charges of criminal mischief – damage to school, church or monument and tampering with or fabricating physical evidence with intent to impair.
- ANTHONY ALPHONSO LEWIS II, 17, of 806 E. 15<sup>th</sup> St., was arrested Monday on a charge of criminal mischief – damage to school, church or monument.
- MELVIN CHILDRESS, 18, of Waco, Texas, was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- CHRISTOPHER LANCE ROBERTS, 25, of 300 Jill Rd. in Coahoma, was arrested Monday on a warrant for failure to appear.
- DAVID JERRY MIDDLETON, 36, of North Carolina, was arrested Monday on a charge of assault causing bodily injury.
- EDWIN POTEET BLACK JR., 48, of North Carolina, was arrested Monday on a charge of assault causing bodily injury.
- ANDREW AGUIRRE DUENES, 38, of 700 N. Moss Lake Rd., was arrested Monday on warrants for interfering with an emergency phone call and burglary of a habitation with intent to commit other felony (two counts).
- MARCUS LOPEZ YANEZ, 46, of 3607 Hamilton, was arrested Monday on a charge of theft – less than \$50.
- ALFREDO ANGEL TREVINO, 32, of 600 S. Lancaster, was arrested Monday on warrants for failure to appear and driving while license invalid.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported: In the 400 block of N. Gregg Street. In the 1500 block of Sunset.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported: In the 1900 block of E. 25<sup>th</sup> Street. In the 1700 block of Purdue.
- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported: In the 1000 block of N. Main Street. In the area of First Avenue and Permenter.
- THEFT was reported: In the 400 block of E. Fourth Street. In the 1600 block of E. Highway 350.
- ASSAULT was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87.

## Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 74 inmates at the time of this report.

- ANDREW AGUIRRE DUENES, 38, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of burglary of a habitation with intent to commit other felony (two counts) and interfering with an emergency phone call.
- NICHOLAS LEE SHARP, 17, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the BSPD on charges of criminal mischief – damage to school, church or monument and tampering with or fabricating physical evidence with intent to impair.
- DEVAN JAMES COOK, 17, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the BSPD on charges of criminal mischief – damage to school, church or monument and tampering with or fabricating physical evidence with intent to impair.
- KEVIN LOGAN TOWNER, 17, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the BSPD on charges of criminal mischief – damage to school, church or monument and tampering with or fabricating physical evidence with intent to impair.
- ANTHONY ALPHONSO LEWIS II, 17, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief – damage to school, church or monument

• DIMITRI ANDREW LEOS, 20, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the BSPD on charges of minor in consumption of alcoholic beverage and failure to appear in court.

• ALFREDO ANGEL TREVINO, 32, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on municipal capias warrants for driving while license invalid and failure to appear.

• MARCUS LOPEZ YANEZ, 46, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a municipal capias warrant for theft.

• MELVIN RAY CHILDRESS JR., 18, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

• CHRISTOPHER LANCE ROBERTS, 25, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the BSPD on capias warrants for driving while license invalid, violation of a promise to appear and municipal warrants for expired motor vehicle inspection certificate, driving while license invalid, violation of a promise to appear (two counts) and failure to appear (four counts).

• EDWIN POTEET BLACK JR., 48, was booked into the county detention center Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of assault causing bodily injury.

• DAVID JERRY MIDDLETON, 36, was booked into the county detention center Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of assault causing bodily injury.

## Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of Lockhart. Service refused.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 2500 block of Wasson Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of S. Abrams. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 1800 block of S. Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of E. Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1300 block of Tucson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of E. Sixth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

## Take Note

• Compass Hospice is in need of your help. If you would be interested in offering your love and God's comfort to those who are suffering, or to their families, contact Michelle Coutermarsh at 263-5999 or come by 602 S. Main. Volunteers are needed in many categories including patient care. You may give as much or as little time as you wish. Any amount of time is greatly appreciated. Training is offered free of charge.

• 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.

• Northside Community Center will be offering 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 Friends of the Library of Howard County request donations of books in good condition for the book sale to be held Friday through Sunday. 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.

• An account has been established at Big Spring Community Federal Credit Union in the name of Glenda Berger, who was recently diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer. Donations will be used to






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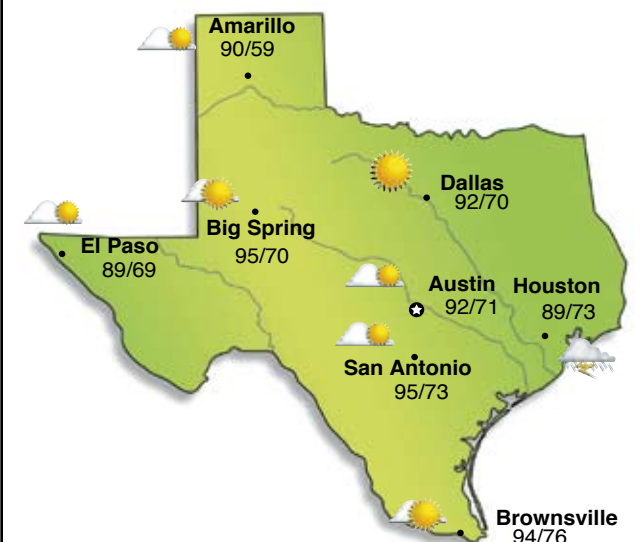
## Today's Weather

### Local 5-Day Forecast

Thu 9/13	Fri 9/14	Sat 9/15	Sun 9/16	Mon 9/17
 <b>95/70</b> Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.	 <b>85/62</b> Scattered thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the low 60s.	 <b>75/59</b> Chance of showers. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the upper 50s.	 <b>77/62</b> Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the low 60s.	 <b>88/66</b> Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the mid 60s.
<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:28 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 7:55 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:29 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 7:54 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:30 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 7:53 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:30 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 7:51 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:31 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 7:50 PM



## Texas At A Glance



### Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	93	69	mst sunny	Kingsville	96	75	mst sunny
Amarillo	90	59	pt sunny	Livingston	90	68	pt sunny
Austin	92	71	pt sunny	Longview	91	69	mst sunny
Beaumont	87	71	pt sunny	Lubbock	92	64	mst sunny
Brownsville	94	76	mst sunny	Lufkin	92	71	pt sunny
Brownwood	94	69	mst sunny	Midland	95	71	mst sunny
Corpus Christi	93	77	mst sunny	Raymondville	96	74	mst sunny
Corsicana	91	67	sunny	Rosenberg	89	71	pt sunny
Dallas	92	70	sunny	San Antonio	95	73	pt sunny
Del Rio	97	77	sunny	San Marcos	93	70	pt sunny
El Paso	89	69	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	91	69	sunny
Fort Stockton	96	69	mst sunny	Sweetwater	93	68	mst sunny
Gainesville	91	67	sunny	Tyler	92	69	mst sunny
Greenville	91	67	sunny	Weatherford	91	67	sunny
Houston	89	73	t-storm	Wichita Falls	95	68	sunny

### National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	81	60	pt sunny	Minneapolis	70	54	rain
Boston	79	58	sunny	New York	80	63	sunny
Chicago	87	63	pt sunny	Phoenix	90	77	sunny
Dallas	92	70	sunny	San Francisco	69	56	sunny
Denver	70	50	rain	Seattle	70	52	sunny
Houston	89	73	t-storm	St. Louis	91	66	sunny
Los Angeles	83	66	sunny	Washington, DC	82	62	sunny
Miami	86	78	rain				

### Moon Phases



### UV Index

Thu 9/13	Fri 9/14	Sat 9/15	Sun 9/16	Mon 9/17
10	10	6	9	9
Very High	Very High	High	Very High	Very High

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

help defer medical costs and mounting bills. All donations are greatly appreciated. Call Big Spring Community Federal Credit Union at 800-299-6761.

• The Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council needs assistance in The Chalet Resale Shoppe, 115 East Second St. The Chalet Resale Shoppe is a fast-paced retail shop specializing in gently worn clothing and small household appliance. Volunteers are needed to sort, price, check out and stock donated items. Volunteer hours are flexible. The Chalet is open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, contact Jamey Stegall at james.stegall@dshs.state.tx.us or 432-268-7535.

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

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

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# News Briefs

## Obama and Romney plan a day free from politics on anniversary of 9/11

WASHINGTON (AP) — It could be the only day before Nov. 6 without explicit partisan rancor. Both President Barack Obama and Republican challenger Mitt Romney plan to take down their negative ads in honor of the 11th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Neither planned to appear at overtly political events, although Election Day is never far from their agendas.

Obama has scheduled a moment of silence at the White House and a trip to the Pentagon, the target of one of four planes al-Qaida hijacked 11 years ago. Romney, meanwhile, is set to address the National Guard, whose members deployed as part of the U.S. response to the attacks.

"On this most somber day, those who would attack us should know that we are united, one nation under God, in our determination to stop them and to stand tall for peace and freedom at home and across the world," Romney said in a statement released before his speech.

Vice President Joe Biden is expected to attend a memorial service at Shanksville, Pa., where one of the hijacked airliners crashed. Biden grew up in Scranton, Pa.

**Crossroads residents are reminded of the 9/11 service set for 6:30 p.m. today at the Big Spring Mall.**

## Chicago parents scramble to find safe place for students as teacher strike rolls into 2nd day

CHICAGO (AP) — Rose Davis wasn't about to let her two young grandchildren walk alone through one of the city's most violent neighborhoods, even though they were going to a school kept open for students who needed a safe haven while teachers walked the picket line.

So Davis, who has a painful diabetic condition that affects nerves in her legs, walked with them Monday the six blocks to Benjamin E. Mays Elementary Academy in Englewood — about five blocks farther than the school they normally attend — where they ate breakfast and lunch, read books, worked on computers and played games. She went back four hours later to escort them home.

"They had to go out of their home zone, and you never know what gang violence is going on on the other side of the zone," said Davis, 47, who said she will continue making the difficult trek until teach-

ers return to the classroom.

But Davis and other parents and caregivers who scrambled Monday to figure out what to do with more than 350,000 idle children must do it all again Tuesday — and perhaps longer — after the teachers union and district failed to reach a settlement to end the first strike in a quarter century.

Chicago School Board President David Vitale said he thought an agreement could be reached on Tuesday. But Chicago Teachers Union President Karen Lewis sounded less optimistic, saying the district has not changed its offers on the two most contentious issues, performance evaluations and recall rights for laid-off teachers.

## Dry Northwest burns after weekend storms as arid West's wildfire season extends into September

WENATCHEE, Wash. (AP) — Homeowners in an upscale neighborhood of central Washington gathered in a cul-de-sac and watched helplessly as a wall of flames inched down a distant hill, a stark reminder that the 2012 fire season is far from over across the arid West.

Firefighters east of the state's Cascade Range scrambled to contain dozens of fires sparked by a weekend lightning storm. They were aided by diminishing winds late Monday.

But across the West, high winds and temperatures exacerbated already dangerous fire conditions, prompting the National Weather Service to issue red-flag warnings for wide swaths of eastern Washington and Oregon, Idaho, Montana and all of Wyoming.

In Wyoming, authorities evacuated 500 people from homes and cabins as a wildfire about 10 miles southeast of Casper quickly grew.

The Sheep Herder Hill Fire, which started Sunday, burned at least six structures and more than 15 square miles of pine forest and sagebrush. State Forester Bill Crapser wasn't sure if the structures were homes and that more buildings may have been lost.

## China sends patrol ships to contested islands after Japan buys them in assertion of its claim

BEIJING (AP) — A territorial flare-up between China and Japan intensified Tuesday as two Beijing-sent patrol ships arrived near disputed East China Sea islands in a show of anger over Tokyo's purchase of the largely barren outcroppings from their private owners.

The China Marine Surveillance has drawn up a plan to safeguard China's sovereignty of the islands and the ships were sent to assert those claims, said the Chinese government's official news agency, Xinhua. The marine agency is a paramilitary force whose ships are often lightly armed.

The rocky islands, known as Senkaku to Japanese and Diaoyu to Chinese, have been the focus of recurring spats between the countries and also are claimed by Taiwan. The China-Japan dispute has been heating up in recent months, in part because the nationalist governor of Tokyo had proposed buying the islands and developing them.

Japan's central government announced its own deal this week with the Japanese family it recognizes as the owner. Chief Cabinet Secretary Osamu Fujimura told reporters the government budgeted 2.05 billion yen (\$26 million) for the purchase "to maintain the Senkakus peacefully and stably."

Public broadcaster NHK said the government and the family signed a deal Tuesday.

## YouTube releases own iPhone app as Apple prepares to drop video service as built-in program

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — YouTube is being reprogrammed for the iPhone and iPad amid the latest fallout from the growing hostility between Google and Apple.

The changes are being made because Google Inc. and Apple Inc. didn't renew a five-year licensing agreement that established YouTube's video service as one of the built-in applications in the operating system that runs the iPhone and iPad.

YouTube is being bumped from the menu of pre-installed apps on the next version of Apple's mobile operating system, or iOS, which could be released as early as Wednesday when the latest iPhone is expected to be unveiled.

Google is making a pre-emptive strike on Tuesday with the release of a revamped YouTube application. The app is designed to make it as easy as possible for the tens of millions of iPhone and iPad owners to continue watching clips from the world's most popular video site.

The new YouTube app will create more money-making opportunities for Google and video producers because it allows advertising to be shown with the clips. That's something Apple hasn't allowed on the pre-installed YouTube app. The ban on ads prevented many music videos and other widely watched clips from being shown in the iOS app because some copyright owners don't allow their content to be shown if there is no way for them to be paid.

## ARRESTS

Continued from Page 1

with or fabricating physical evidence with intent to impair.

According to officials with the Howard County Detention Center, bond was set for all four students Monday, with the criminal mischief charges drawing a \$2,500 bond and the charge of tampering with or

fabricating physical evidence with intent to impair drawing a \$3,000 bond.

As of this morning, all of the teens except Sharp had been released on bond. Sharp was still in the custody of the county detention center.

Damage at the memorial was limited mainly to the AH-1 "Apache" helicopter and the Fallen Soldier Memorial case.

Sgt. Tony Everett,

public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department, said the suspects climbed onto the helicopter display and broke a window valued at approximately \$2,000, taking the mannequin inside.

The teens also allegedly broke into the memorial's Fallen Soldier Memorial case, taking a web belt and canteen and causing major damage to the display.

Everett said Monday

morning some of the items taken have been recovered.

"Last weekend, one of the members of the Vietnam Memorial Committee who takes care of the grounds discovered several items had been dropped off," Everett said. "A white helmet, the mannequin's head, the flight suit the mannequin was wearing and the canteen from the memorial case were found, along with a note.

The note said they were sorry for taking the items and didn't mean to offend anyone."

Everett said the charges for tampering with evidence stems from the returned items.

"They wiped all of the items they returned down, getting rid of any fingerprints," he said. "That's why they are being charged with tampering with evidence." Everett said the arrests were made thanks

to a tip from Crimestoppers.

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

## COUNTY

Continued from Page 1

repairs," Barr said. "However, we've had no luck at all opening up a line of communication with the oil companies on this issue. We've gone to them several times and tried to get them involved, but we just haven't had any luck

with it and their input is going to be vital in trying to move forward with something like this."

Despite the court's decision to adopt a tax rate higher than the effective rate, Barr said the increase in mineral values could still spell some relief for local taxpayers.

"Because of the increase in mineral values,

most taxpayers will see a decrease in their tax bill for the coming year," Barr said. "It all depends on their valuation and how much it may or may not have changed since last year."

Last year's tax levy was set at 43.6720 cents per \$100 valuation, more than 10 cents higher than the 33 cents per \$100 valuation adopted

Monday.

Barr said the budgetary process has gone smoothly.

"During the beginning of the process we had the department heads come in and tell us what they needed," Barr said. "After that, we sat down and looked at what we could actually afford. It's a tough balancing act

each year, but everyone involved put in a lot of hours and effort to make it happen."

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

## BOOKS

Continued from Page 1

All funds go to help the library in areas where the county can't provide funds, organizers said.

Items purchased thanks to past book sales include furniture, computer equipment and a photocopier. And, when in years where the county's budget has been especially tight, FotL have

even purchased books for the library, group members said.

Staulcup said book sale prices are 10 cents for most children's books, 50 cents to 75 cents for paperbacks and from \$1 to \$4 for hardcover editions. "Coffee table" books will be individu-

ally priced.

For more information, contact the library at 264-2260.

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

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# EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Even when dreams don't work out quite as we expected, Lord, our life will bring us rewards and fabulous opportunities when we trust in You.

Amen

# Mitt Romney suffers from his pre-existing positions

What Mitt Romney truly believes is anybody's guess. Whether Romney as president would act on those beliefs is also a guess. And we can't rule out the possibility that he doesn't have any beliefs outside of religion and investment strategies. Why he's running for president remains unclear, though commander in chief looks impressive on a nametag.

Asked over the weekend whether by killing Obamacare he would let insurers again deny coverage to those with pre-existing conditions, Romney replied that there were parts of the health care reforms he likes, that being one of them. Coverage for pre-existing conditions would stay. Later in the day, his people said, actually, he would not support a federal ban on denial of coverage for pre-existing conditions. Still later, his campaign harkened to an earlier position in which he'd require coverage for pre-existing conditions, but only for those who already had insurance.

We get it. He likes the popular parts of the Affordable Care Act that cost money but not the unpopular parts that would pay for the popular parts. We speak of the individual mandate and a variety of fees.

Hey, anyone who likes hav-

# Time for Team Mitt Romney to be sharpening its message

The November elections are a Republican landslide begging to materialize, but will the GOP make it happen? I believe so. I'm not buying these negative polls, but to increase our chances, let's sharpen the message, not dilute it.

A recent Fox News story reports that Romney and Ryan are both beginning to emphasize a bipartisan message rather than sharpen the contrasts between Obama's manifest failures and their plan for America. They must not follow this suicidal path.

Now is not the time for them to go all John McCain on us and downplay what Obama has done or to apologize for their own winning message. In the campaign's homestretch, they must bring more passion and urgency. It's not enough to calmly assure the American people that they'll do better. They must convince them they believe with every fiber of their beings that the nation, as we know it, would not survive four more years of Obama's assault — that unless Obama is defeated, their children will not enjoy the same America they have enjoyed.

Their message should be: Sure, President Obama inherited a tough economy. But enough already. He knew and stated how bad it was, and he promised that if we implemented his agenda, the economy and debt would vastly improve. He implemented his agenda, yet the economy is still doing terribly, and the debt is dramatically worse. He still refuses to accept responsibility for his failures. He has no new ideas and offers the same failed policies and promises nothing but prolonged malaise if he's re-elected. Under a second Obama term, we'd experience catastrophic financial collapse.

Romney/Ryan rejects the defeatist idea that economic

ing to pay for things, raise your hand. Anyone? Next, you who don't like writing checks but agree that we should pay for what we buy, raise your hand. That's better — a respectable showing by responsible citizens. Not in attendance is the Republican base, whose fiscal fantasies Romney courted to win the nomination, and now he's stuck with these pre-existing positions. As Romney tries to win over the more realistic general electorate, he finds himself defending past nonsense. It pained me to watch him squirm at a question about his ridiculous vow to reject \$10 of spending cuts if it included just \$1 of new revenues.

Romney said he wants more defense spending, but he didn't say why. He never says why. Romney said he disagreed with fellow Republicans who voted for the budget "sequester" a year ago. That was a deal whereby certain cuts in programs dear to both parties would automatically happen, if a supercommittee didn't agree on a deficit-cutting plan — and it didn't. Defense was one of the targeted items. Recall that the sequester was forced by the House Republicans' unprecedented threat to let America go into default if Democrats wouldn't accept massive spending cuts and insisted on any new revenues whatsoever.

Obama's plan to reduce defense spending plus sequestration would leave a military budget the same size it was at the height of the Cold War. Instead of spending 10 times as much on

defense as China, we'd be spending twice as much. Can't we live with spending twice as much as our main rival?

It could be that Romney is planning new wars. If so, he should let us in on it. Romney insists that cuts in defense spending costs jobs. That is undeniably true, but the same can be said about cuts in road spending, research spending and education spending.

Romney wants to lower the marginal tax rates for all federal taxpayers, including those in the top bracket. He says he would help pay for it by closing tax loopholes. Closing loopholes is an excellent idea. What loopholes does he have in mind? Every tax break, however unwarranted, has its fans, and those fans have lobbyists. What about the deduction for mortgage interest, a middle-class favorite and one of the most costly tax breaks? Romney's not saying, even though the matter gets a mention in the Republican Party's 2012 platform.

Perhaps he doesn't have any tax loopholes in mind. Or perhaps he does. What Romney truly believes is anybody's guess.

To find out more about Froma Harrop, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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malaise is inevitable. Historically, the worse the recession the stronger the recovery, except with Obama, who has given us the worst recovery in 50 years. Romney/Ryan would implement tax and entitlement reform that would spur economic growth and greatly reduce our deficits and debt.

The shorter version should be: Obama is bearish on America. Under Obama, we'd fail. Romney is bullish on America. Under Romney, we'd get America back.

Millions of Americans abhor what Obama has been doing to the nation they love. Many didn't pay enough attention when he promised to fundamentally transform the nation, but they're paying attention now, and they're horrified and outraged. Most assumed he meant he would advance policies to turn the economy around. They never imagined he would turn the American dream on its head, from "if you work hard in America, you can make something of yourself and succeed" to "the system is rigged such that those who have succeeded haven't earned it ('you didn't build that') and will be forced to give more to others."

Obama is obliterating the promise of equal opportunity for all, exploiting class, racial, gender and ethnic divisions, destroying our domestic energy industry, demonizing business, smothering the private sector, shoving Obamacare down our throats, giving us double-digit actual unemployment, bankrupting the nation and pushing America toward decline.

Romney must make Obama own his failures.

For starters, Romney must unpack this horror picture known as the most recent jobs report. Though the nominal unemployment rate went "down" to 8.1 percent, when you factor in those who've quit looking for a job, actual unemployment exceeds 11 percent.

As Mortimer Zuckerman wrote in The Wall Street Journal, 8 million people are no longer counted as unemployed, be-

cause they are no longer looking for a job. The economy only added 96,000 jobs last month; the monthly average for 2012 had been 139,000. A staggering 5.2 million have been out of work for at least 27 weeks. Though our population has grown by 31 million since April 2000, we now have fewer people working. Our employment numbers are way worse off than they were when the recession began at the end of 2007.

In addition, millions more are on food stamps and Social Security disability, and millions fewer are paying any federal income taxes in Obama's America. Obama, in consciously choosing to adopt the Jimmy Carter vision of malaise and resigning himself to America's inevitable decline, has thrown Romney a high-hanging curveball, and Romney must oblige him and knock it out of the park, with an abundant dose of optimistic, winning Reagan conservatism.

Experts are saying that Romney must give more specifics about how he would turn the economy around. Yes, he and Ryan have detailed plans and must communicate them. But it is equally important that they present their competing vision. They must underscore their pride in America and their commitment to the American idea and American exceptionalism. They can and will turn things around. Our best days are still ahead.

Above all, Romney/Ryan must not sell the American people short and assume they can't handle the truth. Hit them between the eyes with it and they'll return you a decisive victory.

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney. His latest book, "The Great Destroyer," reached No. 2 on the New York Times best-seller list for nonfiction. Follow him on Twitter @davidlimbaugh and his website at [www.davidlimbaugh.com](http://www.davidlimbaugh.com). To read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).



FROMA HARROP



DAVID LIMBAUGH



# In Remembrance

# 9.11.01

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**Kid Scoop Together**

**Photo Finish**

Look at the pictures below. Then write three facts and three opinions about each photo.

**Advertising: Fact or Opinion?**

**KNOW THE DIFFERENCE**

When companies want you to see something, they advertise their products. Their ads are carefully crafted to make you want to buy what is being advertised.

**Just the Facts**

Look at the bike ad at right. Some things an advertiser claims to be true are **facts** and some are **opinions**. **Facts are statements that can be proven true or false.** Such as:

- ✓ The bike has three gears.
- ✓ The bike is available in red or blue.
- ✓ The price of the bike is \$99.

**That's Your Opinion**

Opinions, on the other hand, are true for some people, but may not be true for others. For example:

- ✗ This bike is the best.
- ✗ This bike is more fun to ride.
- ✗ This bike will make you popular.

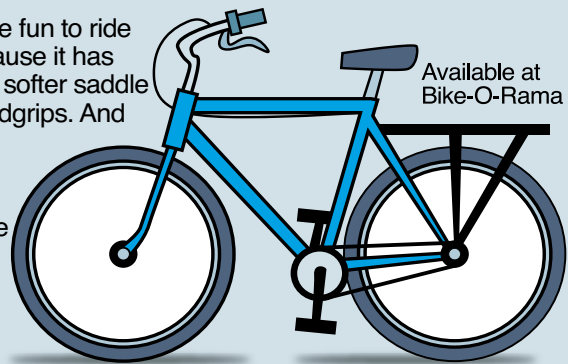
Look at these two ads. With a **GREEN** crayon, circle the **FACTS**. With a **RED** crayon, circle the **OPINIONS**.

**The best bike in town!**

The 2012 Cruise Star is more fun to ride than other bikes. That's because it has an easy shift for 3 speeds, a softer saddle and cushion-grip rubber handgrips. And you get it all for just \$99.

Available in red or blue, the Cruise Star will make you the coolest kid on the block.

**Cruise Star**  
Made in the USA since 1923.



Available at Bike-O-Rama

**A movie packed with double-decker laughs!**

The non-stop comedy hit for the whole family is now on DVD and Blu-Ray. Available for a limited time only at BigBox Mart.

★★★★★  
—Meghan Usher, Film Fans  
From the director of RUNAWAY POPCORN CART

**\$19.99**



Photos: www.pachd.com

**Chips so crunchy, they'll wake your neighbors.**

We've been making potato chips for 100 years. They're the crispiest, most delicious chips in America. Try a bag today.



**Let's Talk About It**

Which would you rely on to decide whether or not to buy a product: Fact, opinion or both? Discuss this with your family this evening.

**Try This:**

Watch a TV commercial. How many facts can you count? How many opinions can you count?

**Design an Ad**

In the space at right, design an ad for a product you like. Include at least two facts but no more than two opinions. Have a friend circle the facts and opinions.



Standards Link: Language Arts: Distinguish between fact and opinion.

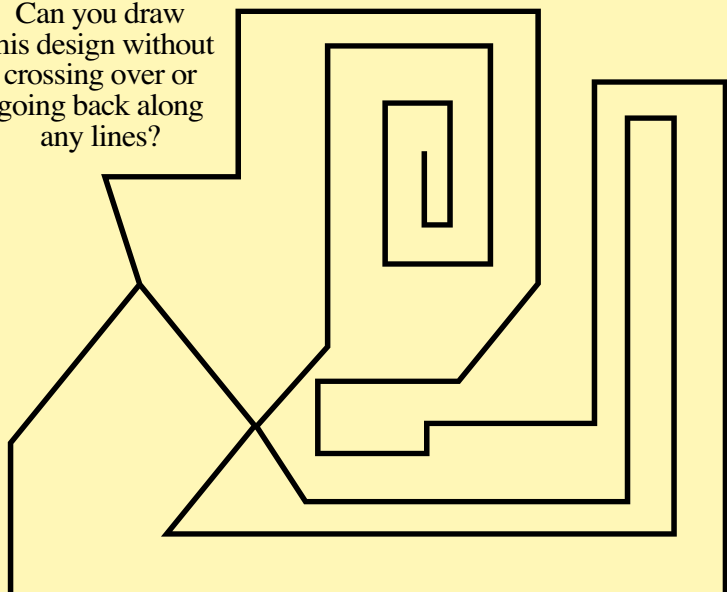
**Extra! Extra! Ad Study**

Look through the newspaper and select five or more ads. Count the number of facts in each ad. Count the number of opinions. Draw a graph to show your results.

Standards Link: Math: Summarize informational data in a graph.

**Kid Scoop Puzzler**

Can you draw this design without crossing over or going back along any lines?



Standards Link: Visual Discrimination: Hand-eye coordination.

**Double Double Word Search**

- ADVERTISE
- COMPANIES
- PRODUCTS
- OPINION
- CLAIMS
- DESIGN
- CREATE
- PROVEN
- CRUISE
- FALSE
- FACT
- TRUE
- KNOW
- BUY

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

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

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FACTS:

OPINIONS:

Standards Link: Language Arts: Distinguish between fact and opinion.

**Kid Scoop-doku**

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word **FACTS** in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

<b>A</b>			<b>F</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>C</b>		<b>S</b>
<b>C</b>			<b>T</b>

**FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY**  
www.kidscoop.com

**Ad Funnies**

Select an ad in today's newspaper that has five or more adjectives. Replace each of the adjectives with one that means the opposite. Then read the ad aloud to a friend.

Standards Link: Vocabulary Development: Identify adjectives and antonyms.



**What is green and crawls through the grass?**

ANSWER: A Girl Scout who has lost her cookie.

**Write On!**

**The Amazing Pencil!**

Create an ad for the pencil. Be sure to include both facts and opinions about this amazing instrument.

# Bird Poop: Better takeoffs on water

Another September, and no relief in sight, thought the woman. As she enjoyed a cool morning breeze by relaxing in a lawn chair, she heard a rustling sound coming from the large clumps of iris in her flowerbed.



BEBE McCASLAND

Remembering her pledge to thin the bulbs, she had decided to wait until mornings were a little cooler. "There it is again," she thought. As the tall, stately leaves and dried stalks moved once again, she noticed a tapered, whitish object poking between the individual plants. Knowing it had to be a bird, she sat mesmerized by its disappearance, and then reappearance, among the iris.

Suddenly, a small, black head followed a milk-white bill into a gap between the leaves. The bird's red eyes searched the entire yard before stopping at the discovery of her presence. Since the woman didn't move, the bird continued to forage for any insects in the humus surrounding the lush growth.

Then its large, slate colored body, wiggled through and out of the iris. Its physique almost seemed too large for its wings, and its bill was a stark contrast to its head and gray body.

As the bird stretched one green leg, then the

other, the woman could see its long, lobed toes. Noticing the difficulty it had in walking, and sensing the panic it experienced when she slowly rose from her chair, made her wonder if it was injured. When it chose to return to the clumps of iris instead of taking flight, she decided to seek help.

Through the caller's excitement and concern came the recurring comment, "It can't fly." When I asked where its legs and feet were in relationship to its body, the woman immediately replied, "Toward the rear."

After telling her she had an American coot came my explanation that the chunky bird was a member of the rail family. It was in typical, seasonal trouble.

Mostly a water and shore bird, it needed a lengthy body of water in order to leave an area. Running on top of the surface, it would gain enough forward momentum to become airborne. For some reason, it had landed in her yard and was essentially grounded.

Although the coot was limited in mobility on land, in water it would be enabled to be a superb swimmer and diver. "Put it in your bathtub."

For a moment, there was silence. "If its legs and feet begin to 'dog paddle,' then you can release it."

Calling back in about 30 minutes, the woman was ecstatic. "It can swim, dive, paddle...oh, you should have seen it!"

"By the way, where are you?" I asked.

Since she lived in Lamesa, I hoped the



Courtesy photo

**Moving to another part of a lake after sensing danger, American coots run on top of the water. Often called marsh or mud hens, they nest on the muddy margins of lakes, ponds, rivers, and creeks. Similar to doves or hens in nodding their heads with the cadence of their feet, the birds have been likened to chickens or guinea fowl.**

pond behind the Boy's Club still had water. Rather than allowing the body of water to disappear in one of the worst droughts in Texas, she said a group of citizens had provided well water to keep the pond replenished.

Having already visited that area, we had assumed it was a city park since residents used it often as a picnic area. At different times of the year it had also been an attraction for wildlife.

"I'm on my way to the pond. Will let you know what happens," she said hurriedly.

Later, the excitement in her voice was promising. Having lowered the coot to the surface, she had moved her hands away from the bird's wings. Without entering the water, it immediately began to run on the tips of its toes as its feet sprayed water outward and its wings flapped furiously. Twenty-five feet away from her, it sensed it was safe.

Back in its own

environment, it settled into the pond. Sitting high in the water, the bird paddled along the shoreline. It dove and resurfaced repeatedly.

"What happens next?" she asked. My answer was that coots find food on, near, or under the water. They also forage along the shore and access roots of tender, aquatic growth.

Although the pond was not overly endowed with everything the bird needed, it was a proper launching area.

"Hunger is a great motivator," I added. Instinctively, when it was ready, it would rise up, flap its wings, and run its way out of the water and down the pond.

This temporary, watery haven would give it a

chance for survival during its long, migratory struggle.

Later that day, a call came from a Midland volunteer who had driven to Andrews to rescue another coot.

When she approached the bird, it started running clumsily across an open field. "If I hadn't seen it, I never would have believed it," she continued. Only determination could have inspired the coot to flee over the dried, dusty terrain before becoming airborne.

The following day we heard from the Lamesa woman. During the stillness of the approaching evening, the coot had risen up, flapped its wings, and run out of the water.

With the strength of its wings, it had slowly risen through a gap in the surrounding trees. In the open at last, the ungainly, grounded bird had attained the safety of a night's sky.

When I shared the story of the Andrews bird, the woman laughed. "I guess 'desperate times call for desperate measures.'"

Although we both realized there's a first time for everything, I added that the Andrews bird would be cause enough to rewrite the bird books.

*Bebe McCasland is author of "The Scoop from Bird Poop." She is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.*

## Parent's Corner: ADHD

Every year we hear more and more about attention deficit hyperactivity disorder or ADHD. It is the most common psychiatric childhood disorder in the United States, but it's not bound by geography; diagnosis of ADHD is increasing globally and the use of stimulant drugs to treat it has more than tripled worldwide, since 1993.



DARRELL RYAN

Symptoms for the disorder include impulsiveness, hyperactivity and poor concentration, and can develop over several months. Though most people outgrow the hyperactivity aspect, characterized by having trouble sitting still, moving around when others are seated, or talking while others are talking, about a quarter to a third of children and teenagers carry their ADHD into adulthood.

Some environmental factors like lead exposure, smoking during pregnancy and food additives have been linked with increased

risk of the disorder, but there's still debate in the mental health community about whether the cause is mostly genetic or environmental. A recent article I was reading explained that ADHD is highly heritable; if one parent has or had it, their child has about a 70 percent chance of inheriting it. The article went on to explain that as doctors continue learning about the ADHD brain, more and more alternative treatments, such as attention training and psychotherapy, are gaining traction.

Research shows that the brain is not static, that it can physically change with experience. Recently, a study by researchers at the National Institutes of Health has found that the brain development of children with ADHD is delayed but otherwise typical. Comparing brain scans of children aged 6 to 16 who had the common psychiatric disorder with scans of those who did not, researchers found that some areas in the ADHD brain, particularly those involved in thinking, attention and planning, matured an average of three years later but otherwise followed normal patterns of development.

The results offer new

insight into why kids usually seem to outgrow their ADHD. The findings complement what psychiatrists have been saying for years, that most kids with ADHD do get better. It's interesting that the lag is most obvious in the prefrontal cortex, the area of the brain critical to cognitive functions like memory, attention focusing, higher-order motor control and the ability to suppress inappropriate responses and thoughts.

One region of the brain, the primary motor cortex, however, appears to develop faster in those with ADHD. This could explain why kids with ADHD are so fidgety and restless. Aside from the timing of maturation, the brains of children with ADHD appear to develop the same way typical brains do, from back to front. Kids with ADHD have basically the same sequence of brain development.

Researchers are still studying whether these kids completely catch up with other kids and are hopeful that future studies will answer their questions.

*Darryl Ryan is director of federal programs for the Big Spring Independent School District.*

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# Ravens take down Bengals

BALTIMORE (AP) — In one exciting jaunt down the sideline, Ed Reed ran his way into the record book and took the heart out of the Cincinnati Bengals.

The Baltimore Ravens standout safety also tweaked his hamstring, which gave him an opportunity to work on his standup routine at the podium after Baltimore's 44-13 rout on Monday night.

Reed's 34-yard interception return for a touchdown was the highlight of a solid performance by the Baltimore defense and one of the key plays in the game.

The score put the Ravens on 34-13 late in the third quarter and sealed the Bengals' fate.

"I think it was part of it," said Cincinnati quarterback Andy Dalton, who threw the pass.

The interception gave Reed 1,497 yards in interception returns, eclipsing the previous NFL mark of 1,483 by Rod Woodson. Reed's dash for the end zone was punctuated by a desperate dive at the front pylon in the left corner.

"I wasn't going to let an O-lineman catch



Baltimore's Ray Rice runs in a touchdown as Cincinnati's Domata Peko can only watch. The Ravens opened their season with a 44-13 rout of the Bengals on Monday. AP photo

See RAVENS, Page 14

## Inaugural 'Meet the Hawks' event to be held tonight

By BRIAN MCCORMACK

Sports Editor

Howard College has brought a lot to Big Spring — academia, collegiate sports, tourism — the list goes on.

Tonight, the staff, coaches and athletes of Howard College's sports programs will be holding the Inaugural Meet the Hawks event at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on the HC campus from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

The Hawk cheer squad, as well as the mini-cheer squad will be on hand giving away special prizes. Refreshments will also be served.

According to a HC press release about the event, it is being held for

fans and the community to meet and greet this year's Hawk athletes and their coaches.

"Hawk athletes come from all over the state, country and even the world, bringing with them some interesting background stories. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet them and get to know more about their personal history before they became Hawks."

Kids are urged to bring balls, gloves or other sports equipment, as the Hawks will be glad to sign autographs. Admission is free.

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

## Coahoma x-country opens season, places 10th and 12th respectively

By BRIAN MCCORMACK

Sports Editor

SAN ANGELO — It was the first cross country meet of the season, but Coahoma Head Coach Paul Hartman thought his teams performed well Saturday.

"On the girls side, we had a couple finish really well," Hartman said. "We had a couple of our girls missing. The boys did well, too. It was the first meet of the season and the kids ran hard."

Hartman, a first year coach at Coahoma is hoping to turn the school's cross country program around.

"We are starting from the bottom up," Hartman added. "We are trying to start over. We will keep working — these kids have a lot of potential

to do well and I think they did really well at the first meet."

### Results:

**Girls (2-mile course)**  
Finished: 12<sup>th</sup> place out of 24 teams.  
Individual Times:  
Kaeli Yager: 14:18; 27<sup>th</sup>.  
Alex Gibbs: 14:38; 32<sup>nd</sup>.  
Hannah Hobby: 15:45; 39<sup>th</sup>.  
Sarina Klug: 16:19; 81<sup>st</sup>.  
Meagan Hurst: 26:58; 119<sup>th</sup>.

### Boys (3-mile course)

Finished: 10<sup>th</sup> place out of 15 teams  
Christopher McPherson: 19:44; 29<sup>th</sup>.  
Hunter Lowery: 19:47; 32<sup>nd</sup>.  
Kaleb McAdams: 21:04; 56<sup>th</sup>.  
Josh Dean: 22:15; 68<sup>th</sup>.  
Branson Kennedy: 26:52; 88<sup>th</sup>.  
Tyler Powell: 27:30; 91<sup>st</sup>.  
Devin Barbee: 28:58; 92<sup>nd</sup>.

## Comanche Trail G.C. news

The Comanche Trail Ladies Golf Association held its weekly playday Aug. 27. JoAnn Hillger won low gross, Annie Ward took low net and Mary Gilbreath had the fewest putts.

Couples play the following Thursday saw Bill and Bobbie Holden and Nick and Linda Dewaters earn a first place finish after shooting a 3-under par on the day. Second place was claimed by Jerry Roach, Annie Ward and Betty and George Murphy with a 2-under par. Third place went to Donny and Shirley Long, Vaughn Martin and Connie Fowler with

1-under par.

Landing closest to the pin on Hole No. 3 was George Murphy. Shirley Long took the honors on Hole No. 6.

Last week's playday was cancelled due to the Labor Day holiday, but couple's play resumed Thursday.

Jerry Roach, Annie Ward, Trish Gabbard and Ron Daury Booth shot 4-under par and nabbed the first place finish.

Coming in second were Ray and Sue Russell and Bill and Bobbie Holden after shooting 1-under par.

A scorecard playoff determined the third place

team to be George and Betty Murphy and Jim and Deanna Foresyth.

Shooting closest to the pin on Hole No. 3 was Ray Russell. Daury Booth took the honors on Hole No. 6.

In other Comanche Trail Golf Course news, Ike Low shot his first hole in one Aug. 13 on Hole No. 6. The feat was witnessed by Roger Battle. Low used an 8-iron.

Rachel Gee one-stroked it using a pitching wedge on Hole No. 15 on Sept. 4, also her first ever. Witnesses were Mark Cox, Manuel Hinojosa, Jesse Flores and Carlos Carresalez.

## Hapless Cubs beat helpless Astros

HOUSTON (AP) — With 21 games left in this dreadfull season, the Chicago Cubs are eyeing a magic number.

No, not the number playoff contending teams are looking at to seal their trip to the postseason. With 86 losses, this club is determined to avoid becoming

the first Cubs team to lose 100 games since 1966.

On Monday night they moved a bit closer to that goal with a 4-1 win over the Houston Astros — owners of the only record in baseball worse than theirs.

Dave Sappelt scored the go-ahead run on a wild pitch and had three RBIs to

lead the team to the victory.

"Oh yeah, we count down every day — our magic number to not get 100," Sappelt said. "So we definitely have that in the back of our minds."

Sappelt, who was recalled from Triple-A Iowa on Sept. 1, drove in his first run for the Cubs with a

double to the left field corner to put Chicago up 1-0 in the second inning.

The game was tied 1-all in the sixth before Sappelt scored on a wild pitch by Fernando Rodriguez (1-10) that bounced in the dirt and rolled between catcher Jason Castro's legs.

## Chargers down Raiders in opener

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — The San Diego Chargers know quite well how shoddy special teams can doom a team. They were happy to be on the receiving end of kicking woes for a change.

Nate Kaeding kicked five field goals in his first game back from a torn knee ligament and the Chargers capitalized on three botched punts following an injury to Oakland's long snapper to beat the Raiders 22-14 Monday night.

"A couple years back, we had some serious issues on our special teams," Kaeding said. "Pretty much everything. Kicks returned, punts blocked, that sort of thing. I can imagine you're going to see 31 other teams working a lot of backup long snappers come Wednesday. It's something a lot of teams honestly don't do a lot of. It's just one play away from someone having to go in there and get it done. It was unfortunate for them, obviously."

It was just two years ago that the Chargers allowed three kickoff returns for touchdowns, a punt return for a TD and had five punts blocked, ultimately costing them an AFC West title.

This time they got three field goals off the Raiders' punting problems to win the season opener.

"We've been in that situation. It makes it more complicated, it makes it tougher and we were able to take advantage of it," coach Norv Turner said.

Philip Rivers threw for 231 yards and a 6-yard touchdown to Malcolm Floyd in a turnover-free game as San Diego won despite starting undrafted rookie Mike Harris at left tackle and missing starting running back Ryan Mathews and receiver Vincent Brown to injuries.

San Diego protected Harris by throwing short often with 16 of Rivers' 24 completions going to running backs and tight ends. Rivers was sacked just once

and did not turn the ball over after having 20 interceptions a year ago.

"I've always tried to take care of the football and be smart, but you have to be able to manage the situation," Rivers said. "The situation today was our defense was playing good, our special teams is getting the ball. ... If you go back since I've been playing here and we don't turn the ball over, it's 90-something percent we win. That was the key for the offense tonight."

Oakland had its own problems with injuries. The absence of deep-threat receivers Denarius Moore (hamstring) and Jacoby Ford (left foot) left Carson Palmer mostly throwing underneath to Darren McFadden, who caught a career-high 13 passes. A head injury to Pro Bowl long snapper Jon Condo in the second quarter proved to be even more significant when backup long snapper Travis Goethel had to fill in.





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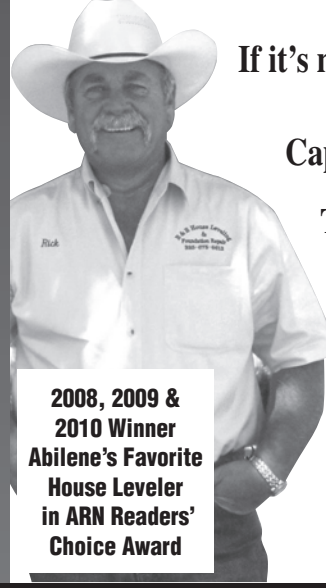
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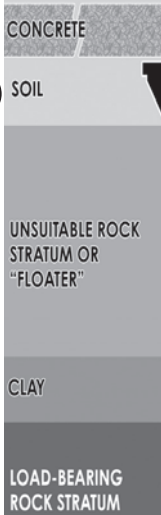
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## Tips to get on the right track



Photo by Getty Images

(Family Features) When it comes to planning for retirement, there are many factors to consider. For instance, when is the ideal time to retire? How much should you save and contribute annually? How do you know which type of retirement investments will fit your needs, goals and risk tolerance?

"Retirement today is, not surprisingly, being redefined for many people," says Lule Demmissie, managing director of investment products and retirement at TD Ameritrade, Inc., a broker dealer subsidiary of TD Ameritrade Holding Corporation.

In fact, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, the average life expectancy is now 78 years. In addition, the Families and Work Institute reports that nearly 75 percent of people age 50 and older expect to work during retirement.

"If you're not prepared, you may find yourself having to work in some capacity to supplement your retirement savings. For some, this may not be an available option due to health issues

as they get older," says Demmissie. "So taking careful consideration when planning for your financial future can help you retire when the time is right for you and your family."

With that in mind, Demmissie shares the following retirement planning tips:

### Focus on the key areas

There are four areas that can directly impact your retirement plan - your budget, resources, investments and lifestyle:

- **Lifestyle** — Consider factors such as where you live, what hobbies you will pursue, and whether or not you will continue to work in some capacity.

- **Budget** — Make sure you have a clear understanding of your expenses during retirement, from medical needs to the cost of housing and inflation.

- **Resources** — Determine where your money will come from during retirement.

- **Investments** — Develop a plan that will try to make your money last throughout your retirement.

Utilize online resources  
In addition to focusing on the key areas, there are a number of

free online resources that can help investors, including TD Ameritrade's online retirement center, [www.tdameritrade.com/retire](http://www.tdameritrade.com/retire).

Understand the benefits of a Roth IRA versus a Traditional IRA

It's also important to keep in mind that retirement accounts can lead to tax benefits, such as:

- **Roth IRA** — Affords the ability for tax-free growth and federal tax-free withdrawals (for those investors meeting IRS requirements, such as age).

- **Traditional IRA** — The ability to deduct contributions on your

income taxes now and pay the taxes when you make qualified withdrawals in retirement. In the meantime, savers can benefit from tax-free growth in the account.

"While some may think they're too young to begin planning for retirement, it's actually never too soon," advises Demmissie. "It can be difficult to understand the different plans, but there are many resources available to make the decision making process easier. It's important to ensure that you are prepared for retirement, with the tools and knowledge to live the life you've worked for, and the ability to enjoy retirement when the time is right."

For help deciding which retirement plan may be right for you, visit [www.tdameritrade.com/retire](http://www.tdameritrade.com/retire).

*Provided by: TD Ameritrade, Inc. Member FINRA/SIPC/NFA  
TD Ameritrade does not provide tax or legal advice. It is recommended that you consult with a tax advisor regarding your personal tax situation.*

The nurturing Cancer moon rules the day, pumping empathetic vibrations into the atmosphere. "Resolve to be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant with the weak and wrong. Sometime in your life, you will have been all of these." — *Siddhartha Gautama*

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You have principles that keep you good even when you don't feel like being good. You like the way your principles restrain you and guide you into being the best possible version of you.

HOLIDAY  
MATHIS

## Tomorrow's Horoscope

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You have a strong desire for variety. Explore different modes of interaction. There are many ways to express what's in your heart. Today the best ways of speaking out won't be verbal.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Normally, you could ignore certain irritations, causing them to fade away. But now it's better to handle them before they grow into something big enough to interrupt your rhythm.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). You will direct your energy well, thinking about happy things, opportunities and beauty. When tempted to go negative, you'll gently redirect yourself. You'll accomplish what needs doing to move in a joyful direction.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You may refrain from playing a game because you sense that you're not on the same level as the other players. Saying "not now" is different from saying "never." You'll be rewarded for seeking arrangements that are a good fit.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your emotions are friends. They are there to keep you safe. With this in mind, try to determine the purpose of an emo-

tion when it starts. Ask where the feelings are coming from. The inquiry will change how you feel.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's no question: You are good at what you do. Whether or not it's acknowledged now, you know it. It makes you feel confident. And though you may wear a poker face, inside you're all smiles.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The amount of work before you may seem daunting. Expect some ups and downs. Time will fly when you're having fun and also when you're not. At the end of the day, you'll feel accomplished.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The most successful people are those who do not back down in the face of possible failure, setbacks or pain. You'll be among the successful because you go forward no matter what.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're naturally interesting. You'll get a gift: boring subject matter that begs you to spice it up. You can make anything fascinating by adding your personal spin to it.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You think you know what's going to happen today; you planned it, after all. Still, you have no idea how it's going to happen, which makes for an exciting, intriguing experience.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You may get positive attention by saying the opposite of what people expect. Later, you will cash in on the points you win by being so amusing.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Sept. 11). People will look up to you because you're a person of action. Your instincts about people are right on through the next seven weeks, so move on them to great personal and spiritual effect. You'll make a professional leap in October. November brings a renovation. New relationships make 2013 exciting. Pisces and Leo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 49, 2, 35, 19 and 28.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Lovely Virgo Virginia Madsen has several projects in the works, including a screen adaptation of Sylvia Plath's "The Bell Jar" and "The Hot Flashes," a movie with an all-star cast about an unlikely basketball team. The Academy Award-nominated actress was born when the moon, Mercury and Mars were in Libra, the sign of art and relationships, and she has Venus and Uranus in entertaining Leo.

*If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to [www.creators.com](http://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](http://www.creators.com).*

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## Annie's Mailbox®

**Dear Annie:** I live far away from my family, but try to keep in touch. The problem is my sister, "Diane," who always misinterprets what I say.

Last month, for example, we were talking about Dr. Oz when I commented that we'd have to wait 20 years to see whether some of those suggestions work. That night, Diane told my brother that I said I wouldn't care if she died. I tried to call, email and text to smooth things over, but she wouldn't answer. My mom doesn't want us to fight. I had no idea we were "fighting" until my brother told me.

A week later, Diane allowed me to apologize, and things were fine, but it has happened again. I suggested that we limit our Thanksgiving guests to the immediate family (24 people). Again, I got a call from my brother saying Diane thinks I hate her in-laws. I tried to contact her to explain, but she is ignoring me.

I am tired of being the bad guy. I can't help that she interprets my comments in the worst possible way. How can I end the cycle? — *Not a Meanie*

**Dear Not:** Diane sounds as if she is hypersensitive and looking for excuses to be upset with you. One of the reasons she doesn't tell you directly is because she's still mulling it over, and it's much more effective if she waits and then tells your brother her own version. Then she punishes you by staying out of contact until you are groveling. She has her technique down cold, and you fall for it every time.

If you think you can discuss this with her rationally, then do so. Otherwise, keep conversations short and neutral. If she becomes upset, send a sweet email saying you're sorry she's so unhappy. Then leave it alone. If your brother calls, say the same thing. Let her fight with herself. You stay out of it.

**Dear Annie:** "Miffed Guest" said someone stood up at a wedding shower and announced that the bride didn't need to send thank-you notes. And she didn't. If that had happened to me, I would have replied, "Obviously, the bride has received far too many gifts. I'll help out by taking mine back."

I recently received a photo of a bridal couple holding "thank you" signs with their names printed on the back — no note whatsoever expressing appreciation for the gift. — *What's Become of Us?*

**Dear What's:** Some misguided people think thank-you notes are antiquated. They are not. Showing appreciation never goes out of style.

*Annie's Snippet for Patriot Day (credit Thomas Bailey Aldrich):  
With the tears a Land hath shed/Their graves should ever be green.*

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## sudoku

ANSWERS

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

[www.sudoku-puzzles.net](http://www.sudoku-puzzles.net)

## Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

### The Odds Are 20-to-1

East dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A Q 7  
♥ 7 6 3  
♦ 8 4  
♣ K Q 7 5 4

**WEST**  
♠ 9 5  
♥ A 10 8 5 4  
♦ K 7 5 2  
♣ 8 3

**EAST**  
♠ J 10 8 3  
♥ J 2  
♦ Q 10 9  
♣ J 9 6 2

The bidding:  
East South West North  
Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT

Opening lead — five of hearts.

Assume you're in three notrump and West leads a heart. You win East's jack with the king, and, after noting that you have only eight sure tricks, the problem is what to do next.

One possible approach is to cash the A-K-Q of both black suits in the hope of finding one or the other divided 3-3. If either suit divided favorably, you'd make at least nine tricks.

However, the possibility of finding at least one of the black suits divided 3-3 is only about 60 percent, so you should start looking for a different line of play that might offer a better chance.

The method that stands out a mile is to cross to dummy with a spade at trick two, return a low club and finesse the ten. This makes you about a 20-1 favorite to bring in the contract.

One strong reason for the club finesse is that, even if the ten loses to the jack, West cannot harm you with any return. In that case, you will still have the contract in tow if the clubs are divided either 3-3 or 4-2, or, failing that, if the spades are divided 3-3.

In the actual deal, the ten of clubs wins, so you wind up making four notrump. But note that if you had followed the more routine approach of cashing the A-K-Q of both black suits, you would wind up down one.

What the play boils down to is that you can greatly increase your chances of making the contract by relying on the ten-of-clubs finesse, which offers the added advantage of preventing East from gaining the lead. With him out of the picture, you are almost sure to succeed.

Tomorrow: Extra chance.

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## sudoku

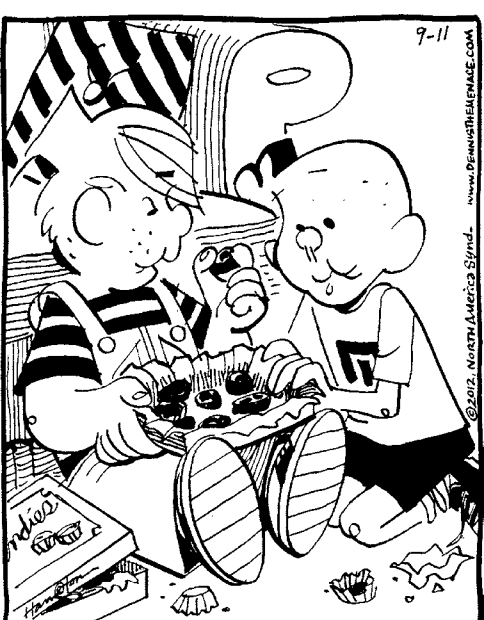
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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

[www.sudoku-puzzles.net](http://www.sudoku-puzzles.net)

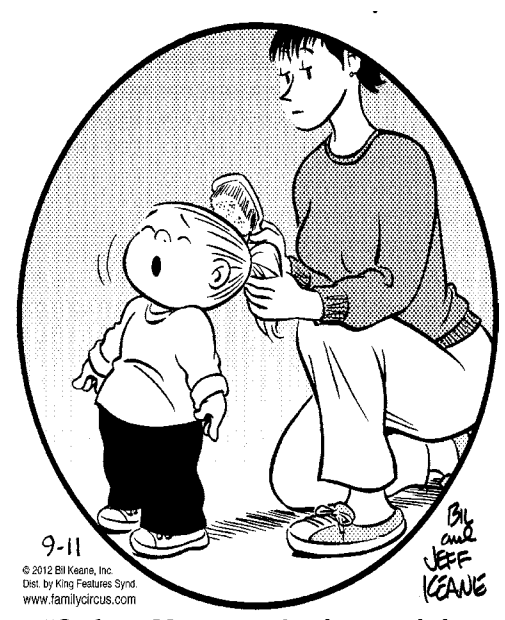
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM	News ABC	Casa	Two Men	News	Noticias	News	King	Justice	Charlie Rose	King	Deadliest Catch		Flip Men	The Mentalist	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Good	NFL32	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Un Refugio	Big Bang	News	Caso Cerado	News	King	Schwarz	PBS News-Hour	Rules	Deadliest Catch	Movie: The Green Mile, Michael Clarke Duncan	Movie: The Mentalist	Bones	Movie: Coming to America, John Amos	Jessie	Hey Rookie	E:60
7:PM	Middle	Por Ella Soy Eva	So You Think You Can Dance	NCIS (DVS)	Rosa Diamante (SS)	The Voice	Big Bang	Upd	NOVA (DVS)	Hart of Dixie	Deadliest Catch		(:36) Bar Rescue	Bones	Movie: ANT Farm	Austin	Soccer	World/Poker
8:PM	Happy	Abismo de Pasión		NCIS: Los Angeles	Corazón Valiente	Go On Normal	Big Bang	Light of the Southwest	Great Performances at the Met	The Next	Deadliest Catch		(:45) Bar Rescue	Bones	Movie: Let It Shine, Trevor Jackson			World/Poker
9:PM	Private Practice	Amor Bravío (SS)	Simpsons	CSI: Crime Scene	Escobar	Parenthood	Big Bang	Conan		Seinfeld	Deadly Seas		(8:54) Bar Rescue	Rizzoli & Isles	Key	Phineas	CrossFit Games	Baseball Tonight
10:PM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Conan	Shepherd's Heart		'Til Death	Deadliest Catch	Movie: The Green Mile, Michael Clarke Duncan	(:03) Bar Rescue	CSI: NY	Game	Vampire	CrossFit	SportsCenter
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Hasta-Dinero	Law Order: CI	Ferguson	Decisiones (SS)	Jimmy Fallon	Office	Ministerios	World	'70s	Deadly Seas		(:12) Bar Rescue	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Wizards	Baseball Tonight	SportsCenter
12:AM	Extra	Mar de Amor (SS)	Raymond		Decisiones (SS)		Conan	Upd	Payne	Focus 4	Deadliest Catch		Entourage	CSI: NY	Movie: All Things Fall Apart, Mario Van Peebles	Deck	World/Poker	SportsCenter
1:AM	Paid	La Jaula	Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	News	McGee		Homecoming	Entourage	Deadliest Catch		The Great Escape			Good	World/Poker	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



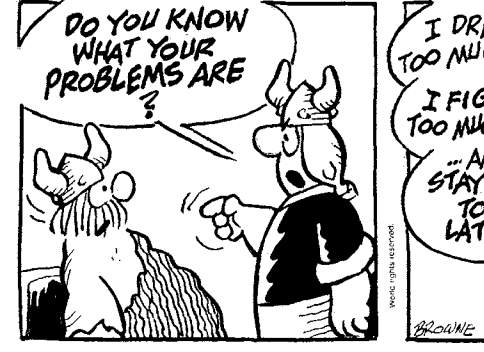
"I think too much candy is just the right amount."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Softer, Mommy, that's too tight. I can't keep my eyes open."

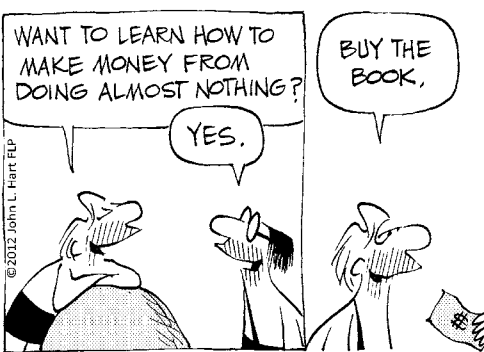
HAGAR



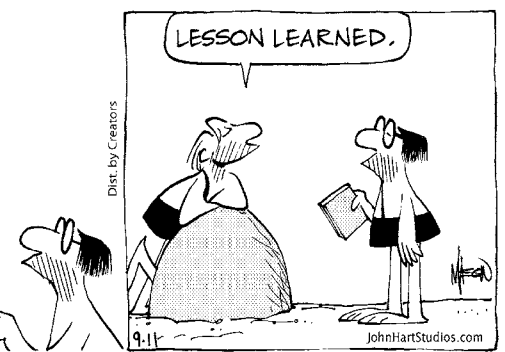
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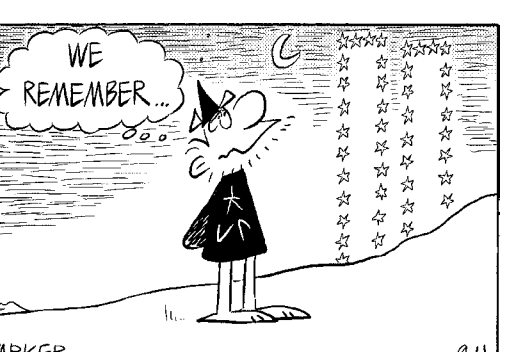
WIZARD OF ID



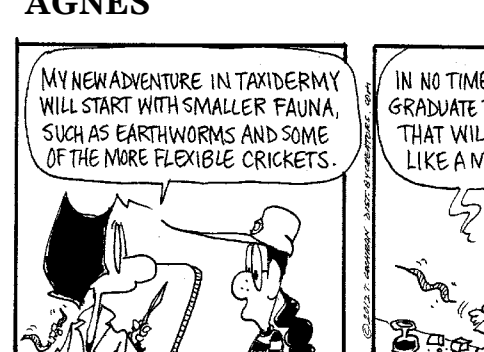
AGNES



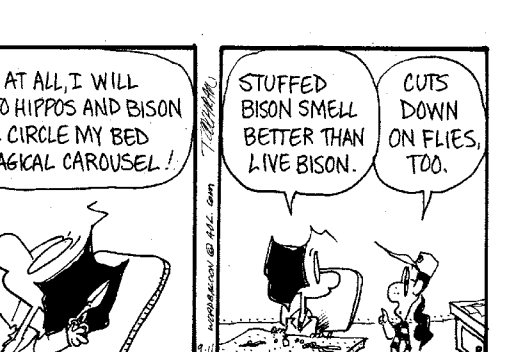
HI AND LOIS



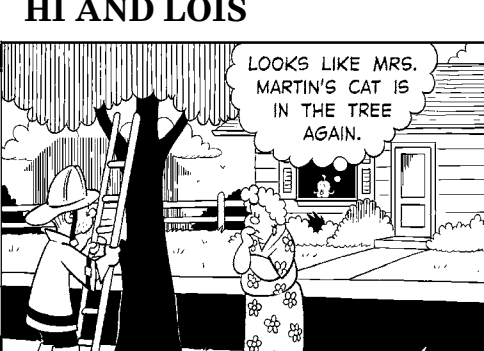
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



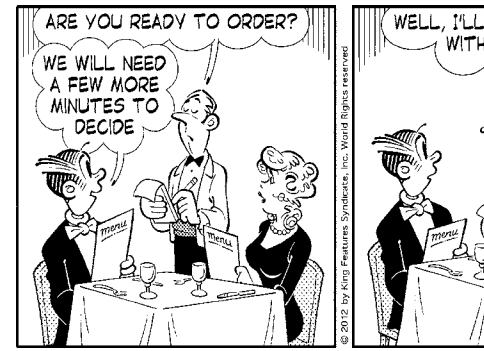
BEEBLE BAILEY



NEWSDAY CROSSWORD



BLONDIE



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 11, the 255th day of 2012. There are 111 days left in the year. This is Patriot Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 11, 2001, nearly 3,000 people were killed on America's worst day of terrorism as 19 al-Qaida terrorists hijacked four passenger jetliners. Two planes smashed into New York's World Trade Center, causing the twin towers to fall; one plowed into the Pentagon; and the fourth was crashed into a field in western Pennsylvania.

On this date:

In 1777, during the American Revolution, forces under Gen. George Washington were defeated by the British in the Battle of Brandywine.

In 1814, an American fleet scored a decisive victory over the British in the Battle of Lake Champlain in the War of 1812.

In 1857, the Mountain Meadows Massacre took place in present-day southern Utah as a 120-member Arkansas

immigrant party was slaughtered by Mormon militiamen aided by Paiute Indians.

In 1862, short-story writer William Sydney Porter, better known as "O. Henry," was born in Greensboro, N.C.

In 1922, the British Mandate for Palestine went into effect.

In 1936, Boulder Dam (now Hoover Dam) began operation as President Franklin D. Roosevelt pressed a key in Washington to signal the start-up of the dam's first hydroelectric generator.

In 1941, groundbreaking took place for the Pentagon, now headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense. In a speech that drew accusations of anti-Semitism, Charles A. Lindbergh told an America First rally in Des Moines, Iowa, "the British, the Jewish and the Roosevelt administration" were pushing the United States toward war.

In 1962, The Beatles completed their first single for EMI, "Love Me Do" and "P.S. I Love You," at EMI studios in London.

In 1971, former Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev died at age 77.

In 1972, the troubled Munich

Summer Olympics ended. Northern California's Bay Area Rapid Transit system began operations.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Betsy Drake is 89. Sen. Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii, is 88. Actor Earl Holliman is 84. Comedian Tom Dreesen is 73. Movie director Brian De Palma is 72. Rock singer-musician Jack Ely (The Kingsmen) is 69. Rock musician Mickey Hart (The Dead) is 69. Singer-musician Leo Kottke is 67. Actor Phillip Alford is 64. Actress Amy Madigan is 62. Rock singer-musician Tommy Shaw (Styx) is 59. Sports reporter Lesley Visser is 58. Actor Reed Birney is 59. Singer-songwriter Diane Warren is 56.

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Answer to previous puzzle

TOLD	SPRY	SOSA
EBAY	ALOE	ANNOY
HOVE	YUMA	TITLE
HEART	SMART	FOOD
OMEN	ION	
STPETE	PER	AMS
ARENA	BOAT	SLOT
MIDDLE	OF	NOWHERE
BAAS	LIFE	HORSE
ALL	PAL	PEWTER
EAT	OGRE	
CENTER	FIELDERS	
PHASE	OARS	ORAL
PERUN	OGLE	TIRE
OWLET	TEST	SEED

PUT A LID ON IT by Billie Truitt

Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Bird of peace
- 5 Wineglass part
- 9 Biblical song
- 14 Get \_\_\_ the ground floor
- 15 Molten rock
- 16 Occur as a result
- 17 River residue
- 18 Yoked team
- 19 Transmission choices
- 20 Models seen on magazines
- 23 Gorillas, e.g.
- 24 Sleep sound
- 25 Albany, New \_\_\_
- 27 Entrap
- 31 \_\_\_ seeds (bun topping)
- 35 Australian bird
- 38 Swap
- 40 Tuckered out
- 41 Irish greeting
- 44 Place to say "I do"
- 45 Rudely sarcastic
- 46 Sowing (to)
- 47 Stirs up, as a fire
- 49 Teakettle vapor
- 51 Swarm (with)
- 53 Prom, for one
- 57 Practice punching
- 60 Toy guns
- 64 Imposed a levy on
- 66 Bearded farm animal
- 67 Duos
- 68 Was unwell

DOWN

- 1 Platters
- 2 Bagel flavoring
- 3 Swedish auto
- 4 Comes in
- 5 Plod along
- 6 Cab
- 7 At any time
- 8 Macho
- 9 Tent pin
- 10 Arrives stealthily
- 11 "Quickly!" in a memo
- 12 Artificial bait
- 13 Clutter
- 21 No-cost, as lodgings
- 22 Call for help
- 26 Good-as-new tires
- 28 Gallery display
- 29 Shows team spirit
- 30 Paradises
- 32 Bone-dry
- 33 List of options
- 34 Boundary
- 35 Announcements from cockpits: Abbr.
- 36 Lose feathers
- 37 \_\_\_ now (so far)
- 39 Give off, as light
- 42 They grow from acorns
- 43 Poem of tribute
- 48 "Wait just a \_\_\_"
- 50 Tangled, as hair
- 52 Illusionist's specialty
- 54 "Never!"
- 55 Shut down
- 56 Letters before tees
- 57 Rough guess
- 58 Bucket
- 59 Wheel rod
- 61 Luxurious
- 62 White as a sheet
- 63 Line on a list
- 65 Cavity filler's deg.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13				
14				15				16								
17				18				19								
20				21				22		23						
24								25		26						
27				27		28	29	30		31		32	33	34		
35	36	37		38				39		40						
41				42						43						
44								45					46			
47								48		49			50			
51										52			53	54	55	56
57	58	59		60		61	62	63								
64				65		66							67			
68						69							70			
71								72								73

# Baseball coach gets help with cancer fight

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — As a minor league baseball coach, Brian Rose has always been a competitor and tries to imbue his players with the same fire.

Now, the bench coach of the Wichita (Kan.) Wingnuts of the independent American Association is fighting for his life, diagnosed with stage 4 melanoma.

The suburban Austin resident recently won a battle to pay for his participation in a clinical trial, but it wouldn't have happened if not for the help of a pair of foundations and an Austin businessman.

The Austin American-Statesman (<http://bit.ly/NjyWrj>) reports Rose, who lacked medical insurance, got help from the Lance Armstrong Foundation's Cancer Navigation Center and the Patient Advocate Foundation.

Then Austin businessman and philanthropist Milton Verret pledged \$35,000 and issued a community challenge to raise the rest.

"It was absolutely unbelievable," Rose told the newspaper. "You hear these stories in the news where somebody steps up to help, but that's just another world to me."

Rose was diagnosed in April 2010 with cancer that, by the end of the year, had spread to his lungs, liver, spleen and brain. Rose had no medical insurance and was having no luck getting any because of the pre-existing condition.

Last month, Rose's insurance company agreed to cover the cost of the experimental treatment. But Rose says the support he got from the community boosted his spirits and, by itself, is helping with his recovery.

# Crane: Clemens may pitch for Astros this year

HOUSTON (AP) — Astros owner Jim Crane thinks Roger Clemens' comeback could continue in Houston. That would be news to the 50-year-old right-hander, who doesn't sound too interested in the idea.

Crane said Monday there's a possibility Clemens could pitch this season for the majors' worst team.

"We haven't heard from Roger, so that's still up in the air," he said.

The last-place Astros started a weeklong homestand on Monday that includes three

games against the Cubs and four against the Phillies. Their only remaining home games after this stretch are against the Pirates and the Cardinals — two teams in postseason contention.

Crane said he would not pitch the seven-time Cy Young Award winner against a contender, which leaves this week as the only option.

But Clemens said Monday night the only way he would pitch this season was against a team in contention.

"I can tell you right now and they would know too, that if I was

going to go do it, I am going to pitch against a contender, that's who I want to knock out," Clemens told Houston television station KRIV. "Why would I want to waste my time running around and getting in shape. I get over to Minute Maid (Park), I'll crank it up and get it over 90 for a contender. We'll knock them right out of the playoffs. That would be the fun. Pitching against somebody that's not in contention wouldn't be any fun for me."

"It's not going to happen."

A message was left

seeking comment from Clemens' agent, Randy Hendricks.

Crane wouldn't say whether the team will reach out and try to entice Clemens to return to the majors for the first time since pitching for the Yankees in 2007.

"We're just going to sit tight," Crane said. "We'll wait and see if he calls us, but we might call him, who knows?"

Clemens pitched 3 1-3 scoreless innings in his first start for Sugar Land of the independent Atlantic league, and didn't allow a run in 4 2-3 innings in his second start Friday.

## RAVENS

Continued from Page 8

me," he said with a grin. "That's why I dove. I strained my hamstring trying to dive. You know, I'm 34 in two hours (at midnight Tuesday). Father Time catches up to you."

He said the hamstring injury was "minor."

Joe Flacco had an outstanding game in Baltimore's no-huddle offense, going 21 for 29 for 299 yards and two touchdowns. That certainly was a huge part of the Ravens' 11th straight home win and ninth consecutive victory within the AFC North.

But the defense, playing its first game under coordinator Dean Pees, did its part. Haloti Ngata had two of Baltimore's four sacks, proving the Ravens just might survive without NFL Defensive Player of the Year Terrell Suggs,

who's out indefinitely with a torn right Achilles tendon.

"We didn't play perfectly as a defense," middle linebacker Ray Lewis said, "but when it got to where we needed to make plays, we made the plays we were supposed to make."

After letting an early 14-point lead dwindle to 17-13, the Ravens pulled away by scoring 24 straight points in just over six minutes. Ray Rice ran for 68 yards and two short scores, but instead of dominating the Baltimore attack in his usual fashion, the running back took a back seat to Flacco.

"Obviously, everything went pretty well for us tonight," Flacco said.

Not so for the Bengals, who made the playoffs last year without beating a team that qualified for postseason play. In this one, Cincinnati once again came up short against a high-caliber opponent.

"That certainly wasn't what we expected to have out there today," coach Marvin Lewis said. "We got outplayed and we got outcoached."

Defensive tackle Domata Peko said, "They just beat us today, and we've got to get better."

It's hard to imagine the Bengals playing much worse.

"They beat us in all three phases of the game and they played well," offensive tackle Andre Smith said. "We need to think about how we can get better. We need to go back to Cincinnati, get to work and improve."

Dalton went 22 for 37 for 221 yards, and BenJarvus Green-Ellis rushed for 91 yards and a score in his Cincinnati debut.

Dalton went 4 for 5 for 56 yards in the opening possession of the second half, and although the march stalled at the Baltimore 1, Mike Nugent kicked a 19-yard field goal to get the Bengals to 17-13.

Flacco brought the Ravens right back, throwing a bit of Rice into the mix with excellent results. Rice caught a screen pass for 18 yards and ran for 13 more during an 89-yard drive in which Flacco went 5 for 7 for 73 yards, including a 10-yard touchdown pass to tight end Dennis Pitta.

After a 40-yard field goal by Ravens rookie Justin Tucker made it 27-13 with 1:13 left in

the quarter, Reed struck exactly one minute later.

Flacco went 12 for 15 for 183 yards in the first half to stake Baltimore to a 17-10 lead.

Flacco set the tone for the shootout on the game's first offensive play, throwing deep to Torrey Smith for a 52-yard gain. That set up a 46-yard field goal by Tucker.

Baltimore quickly forced a punt, and Flacco went back to work.

He completed a 16-yarder to Jacoby Jones on a third-and-15, tossed a 1-yard pass to Rice on a fourth-and-1 and watched from the backfield as Rice completed the 12-play, 63-yard drive with a 7-yard touchdown run behind a fine block by fullback Vonta Leach.

"It was really fun for me. I barely got hit tonight," Rice said.

After Dalton got Cincinnati to 10-3 with a 76-yard march that ended with a field goal, Flacco capped an 82-yard drive by splitting two defenders with a 34-yard touchdown pass to Anquan Boldin.

The Ravens finally punted with 6 minutes left in the first half, and Dalton used the rest of the time to move the Bengals to their lone touchdown. The Bengals twice converted fourth downs on the 81-yard march, the last one a 6-yard run into the end zone by Green-Ellis on a fourth-and-1.

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