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BIG SPRING HERALD

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HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
 Robert and Cynthia Miles, pictured above, both won best of show during last week's Mustang Draw Woodcarvers Club show here. At left is Lloyd Claxton's cowboy, outfitted with a longhorn bolo.

Mustang Draw Club crew carves up some good times

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Herald Staff Writer

If wood shavings are the largest by-product put forth by the members of the Mustang Draw Woodcarvers Club, then plenty of smiles and tall

tales would have to come in a close second and third place.

The group finished its annual show and sale last week at the Dora Roberts Community Center, giving area residents a chance to not only purchase

unique works of art, but to learn a little more about what it takes to turn a block of wood into a piece of art.

During the show, members See **CARVING**, Page 3

Offenders to be grouped on gouls day

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Registered sex offenders currently on probation won't have the chance to go trick-or-treating Halloween, as officials with the District Adult Probation get ready to once again hold mandatory meetings during the holiday evening.

Dean Barriball, sex offender officer with the adult probation for the district, said sex offenders from Howard, Martin and Glasscock counties will gather for a probation meeting at the Adult Probation Office — located in the county courthouse annex — during traditional trick-or-treat hours from 5 p.m. until 10 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 31.

See **OFFENDERS**, Page 3



HERALD file photo/Lyndel Moody
 Catherine Harris, a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, carries the Scottish flag, followed by bagpiper EJ Jones during the processional of the 2010 St. Andrews Day festival. This year, the annual Scottish Music Festival sponsored by St. Mary's will be held a week earlier, at 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 11. Jones, along with bagpipers Doug Frosbese, Richard Kean and drummer Stephen Cameron, will return for the popular event.

St. Andrews Day Celebration slated for Nov. 11

Special to the Herald

It may be a week early, but it is still the same great music and feast.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church parish host its 11th annual St. Andrew's Day Celebration and Scottish Music Festival at 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 11. The celebration has traditionally been held on the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving, but has been moved a week forward this year.

Returning guest musicians for this year will include professional pipers EJ Jones of Asheville, N.C.; Doug Frosbese of Dallas; and Richard Kean of Houston. Stephen Cameron of Austin will play the Scottish snare drums.

Dr. Keith Graumann, conductor of the Big Spring Symphony, will serve as conductor for the event, and Darryl Knapp of Midland will serve as organist. Special musical guests will include The

Tardy Bells under the direction of Susan Dawes, a brass quartet including Dan Riley, trumpet; Sam Hale, horn; and Rocky Harris, trombone; and singers from area choirs.

The St. Andrew's Celebration begins with a service of evening prayer that includes congregational hymns and patriotic songs along with instrumental and choral works. Special highlights of the service are a drum solo, and a selection of pieces for pipes and drums.

Immediately following the service the celebration moves to the courtyard for a gala reception featuring traditional Scottish fare. The women of St. Mary's are already busy preparing dishes to be served at the reception.

There is no admission charge for the St. Andrew's Day Celebration, and everyone is invited to attend. St. Mary's is located at Tenth and South Goliad in Big Spring.

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Obituaries

Russ McEwen, 63



Robert Russell McEwen III died Oct. 21, 2012, in Big Spring, Texas, at the home he shared with Laura, his wife of 43 years. A memorial service to celebrate his life will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2012, at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring, and a public viewing will be held from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2012, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

Russ was born May 21, 1949, in Big Spring to Robert and Nettie McEwen. His father was a long-time Big Spring resident and local businessman, and his mother was a loving wife, nurturing mother and devoted grandmother whose influence helped mold a six-decade bond of friendship between Russ, his sister and his brother.

Russ graduated from Big Spring High School in 1967 and then attended college at Howard Junior College in Big Spring for two years. During his second year at Howard, Russ married his true love, Laura Suzanne Parks, on Dec. 27, 1968. Russ and Laura soon moved to Austin, where he attended the University of Texas and earned a bachelors of business administration degree in 1971. Several years later, Russ and Laura returned to Big Spring, the community he would proudly call home for the rest of his life. He established the Russ McEwen Agency in 1975, and it has continued strong for 37 years.

Russ had so many passions in life: anything involving the University of Texas; coaching gymnastics over a 20-year career that positively affected the lives of so many (he coached teams to two national championships and numerous individuals to

national top 10 finishes); and proudly serving the great community of Big Spring on the city council from 1981 until 1988, as mayor from 2000 until 2010, and through other various civic capacities.

Russ' ultimate passion, however, was his family. He was a faithful servant of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He was a devoted, loving, and giving husband to the wife that he felt so lucky to have. He was a loving, caring, and influential father of three children. And he was simply the greatest Papa in the world to four grandchildren.

Russ is survived by his wife, Laura; mother-in-law, Doraine Parks of Kingsland; children and families, Torbin McEwen and Lynn McNeill of Austin; Kisa McEwen Stevens and Josh Stevens of Lamesa; and Drew McEwen and Melisa McEwen of Austin; grandchildren, River Stevens, Bella Stevens, Crichton McEwen and Kensington McEwen; sister, Diane James McEwen and Ron James of Austin; brother, Scott McEwen and Melanie Mitchell McEwen and their children, Kaitlin McEwen Lipe and family and Grant McEwen and family, all of The Woodlands; and sister-in-law, Lana Parks of Arlington.

Russ was preceded in death by his mother, father and infant brother, Carter McEwen.

Donations may be sent to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 841125, Dallas, Texas 75284-1125, Big Spring Humane Society, P. O. Box 823, Big Spring, Texas 79721-0823 or to Trinity Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1448, Big Spring, Texas 79721-2448.

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

Paid obituary

Correction

A recent article about the Adopt a Military Hero Howard County's Christmas for the Troops indicated boxes were 12x12x55 in size. In fact, the box size is 12x12x5. For more information, call 432-270-8554.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 10/24	Thu 10/25	Fri 10/26	Sat 10/27	Sun 10/28
86/63	86/49	62/43	57/41	66/48
Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the low 60s.	Mainly sunny. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the upper 40s.	Few showers. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 40s.	Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the low 40s.	Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the upper 40s.
Sunrise: 7:57 AM Sunset: 7:03 PM	Sunrise: 7:58 AM Sunset: 7:02 PM	Sunrise: 7:58 AM Sunset: 7:01 PM	Sunrise: 7:59 AM Sunset: 7:00 PM	Sunrise: 8:00 AM Sunset: 6:59 PM



Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	85	65	pt sunny	Kingsville	91	70	pt sunny
Amarillo	87	53	pt sunny	Livingston	86	66	pt sunny
Austin	84	67	pt sunny	Longview	82	67	pt sunny
Beaumont	84	68	pt sunny	Lubbock	86	56	pt sunny
Brownsville	90	72	mst sunny	Lufkin	86	69	pt sunny
Brownwood	87	65	pt sunny	Midland	87	63	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	88	73	pt sunny	Raymondville	93	69	mst sunny
Corsicana	85	66	pt sunny	Rosenberg	87	69	pt sunny
Dallas	86	67	pt sunny	San Antonio	85	68	pt sunny
Del Rio	86	67	pt sunny	San Marcos	84	66	pt sunny
El Paso	86	57	mst sunny	Sulphur Springs	83	68	pt sunny
Fort Stockton	92	63	mst sunny	Sweetwater	84	64	pt sunny
Gainesville	84	64	pt sunny	Tyler	84	68	pt sunny
Greenville	84	65	pt sunny	Weatherford	83	63	pt sunny
Houston	86	70	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	84	63	pt sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	79	55	sunny	Minneapolis	63	45	rain
Boston	53	46	rain	New York	66	58	rain
Chicago	72	60	pt sunny	Phoenix	80	55	sunny
Dallas	86	67	pt sunny	San Francisco	60	53	rain
Denver	61	32	pt sunny	Seattle	49	36	rain
Houston	86	70	pt sunny	St. Louis	81	63	pt sunny
Los Angeles	72	56	sunny	Washington, DC	80	61	mst sunny
Miami	83	75	t-storm				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Wed 10/24	Thu 10/25	Fri 10/26	Sat 10/27	Sun 10/28
6	6	5	6	6
High	High	Moderate	High	High

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

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Take Note

• Crispy's Cafe is the featured Dine Out Day sponsor for United Way through Saturday. As a Dine Out Day sponsor, a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County 2013 campaign. Other sponsors for this year have included, Papa Chons, Carlos, KC Steakhouse, Yellow Rose Café at Scenic Mountain and Cowboys. Next week's Dine Out Days sponsor will be Chicken Express. To find out how to contribute to the campaign, call Sandy Stewart at 267-5201.

• Dr. Barbara Matthews will be the guest speaker for the next Visual Awareness Support Group meeting set for 5:30 p.m. Thursday at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 S. Goliad. Dr. Matthews will speak about depression as it relates to vision loss. VASG is a support group to help to individuals that have poor or deteriorating vision. The meeting is open to everyone but will be focused on people who have significant vision problems, their family members, friends and care givers. It is the goal of this group to provide, through education, a sense of hope to people that have vision problems and help them and their care givers cope with vision loss. Please call 263-2501 for more information or email us at: eyeassococone@crcom.net.

• Adopt a Military Hero, Howard County's Christmas for the Troops, is now accepting APO addresses for military members deployed to Afghanistan. Send APOs adoptmilitaryhero@sb-cglobal.net. All APOs should be turned in by Nov. 10. If you would like to "Adopt a Military Hero," boxes are available at 1606

E. Third or call 432-270-8554 for more information. All donations must be turned in by Nov. 21.

• An account has been set up at Western Bank for Kristen Lasater and family, who lost their home to a house fire. The account number, for those wanting to make a donation, is 1004597.

• An account has been set up at Citizen's Credit Union for Emma Leos, who was recently diagnosed with colon cancer.

• Jo Anna Bailey, an aide for many years at Washington Elementary School, has been diagnosed with cancer. A medical donation account has been established for her at the Big Spring Education Credit Union, located at 1110 Benton. Your generosity will enable her to have much-needed tests and treatment.

• 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.

• 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 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.

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

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

Support Groups

WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

THURSDAY

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

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

again at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.. The classes take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.

• Circle of Hope, a Celebrate Recovery group, meets at 6:30-8 p.m. at Spring Creek Fellowship, located in the College Park Shopping Center. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery program dealing with life's hang-ups, hurts and habits, covering many areas. Circle of Hope group is a ministry of Spring Creek Fellowship. For further information, contact

Dale at 432-270-8462.

FRIDAY

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

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

• Stepping Stone Group of

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

SATURDAY

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

VOTE!

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VOTE!



Marcy Elementary hosted a Reading Night and Carnival on Saturday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Approximately 350 children and parents, plus Marcy staff and volunteers, took part in the festivities. Community members and staff read stories to students, food and drinks abounded and students took part in many activities, including face painting, a book walk, football toss, duck pond, ring toss, bull's eye, etc. Many children and adults wore Halloween costumes. From left to right above are Rita Faulkner, Leslie Clements, Ann McClarty, Dalia Benavides and Molly Smith. Pumpkins, decorated by each class, were also displayed.

Courtesy photo

CARVING

Continued from Page 1

Robert and Cynthia Miles each won best of show — the couple tied for first place — a prospect that could leave a sink full of dirty dishes at the couple's country home for some time to come.

"There's a bit of a competitive spirit between us," Robert Miles said with a laugh. "We have a deal for these types of shows. Whoever wins the most ribbons or best of show, well, the other one has to do the dishes. People run around all day looking to see which of us has won more ribbons, giving us a hard time the entire show."

Beside the friendly competition with his wife, Miles said the woodcarving club has much, much more to offer.

"It's mostly just the fun and fellowship that keeps us coming back each year," Miles said. "I've never met a woodcarver who wasn't a nice person. It's just a good group of people to be around."

Cynthia Miles agrees with her husband, saying the fellowship with her husband and the other woodcarvers makes it all worthwhile.

"I think the part of woodcarving I like the most is the camaraderie I have with my husband," Miles said. "Back when I was crocheting, he would crochet. Now, we carve together. Before that, I was a bit of a carving widow because my husband spent so much time on it. I figured I couldn't break him from it, so I decided to join in."

Taking chunks of wood — pieces most people wouldn't give a second look — and

turning them into works of art begins with an idea, according to Miles.

"Sometimes we use patterns out of books. However, I try not to do that. Most of the time I just pick up a knife and a block of wood and sketch out a pattern," Miles said. "You get ideas everywhere and from everything. You see somebody walking down the road and you think, 'Man, that would make a good face for my carving.' So, the next time you sit down to do a carving, you think about that face and just go from there. You get inspiration from just about everywhere."

Fellow carver and club member Lloyd Claxton said ideas for carvings can come from anywhere.

"I like to find pictures in books or magazines. I subscribe to Woodcarving Illus-

trated and they have a lot of good hints and tips in their magazine," Claxton said. "Once I have my idea, I'll draw it off on a square piece of wood and then bandsaw the blank out. After that's done, that's when you just begin your process of woodcarving and just sort of let the piece evolve."

"The fellow who started the Mustang Draw Woodcarvers Club, Jerry Bob Taylor, got me interested in it. This was about 23 years ago and I saw some of his carvings and thought I might like to try my hand at it. He had an extra knife — it's a smaller knife, the kind you really need to get intricate with the details — and he gave me a piece of wood, and I started carving. I've been doing it ever since and I love every minute of it."

And while there's little doubt Claxton loves woodcarving — his hand-carved wooden bolo tie made in the visage of a longhorn bull is a dead giveaway — you might be surprised to find out what his favorite part of the hobby is.

"My favorite part of woodcarving is the painting. I was an artist before I ever started carving and I love to paint. So that's one of my weaknesses, getting out a paint brush. Mind you, not one of those big ones you'd paint a house with," he said with a chuckle. "I like the little ones. I also enjoy the fellowship. A lot of great people are woodcarvers so it's a real treat to get to be one and be around them."

For more information on the Mustang Draw Woodcarving Club, call 432-399-4510 or 432-270-251.

OFFENDERS

Continued from Page 1

"Most of these people are eager to comply with the meeting because it not only keeps the public safe, it keeps them safe as well," Barriball said. "They're all for it because they can't be accused of violating their probation because we know where they are and what they're doing."

"If they don't attend, I alert the Big Spring Police Department or the Howard County Sheriff's Office and have them pick them up. If they don't have an officer available, then I'll drive to their home and pick them up. Either way, they have to attend."

Barriball said the meeting — which is expected to draw a little more than a dozen sex

offenders currently on probation — consists of counseling, as well as a presentation by Victim Services, and marks the fourth year the probation office has held the mandatory gathering, which was based on a similar program used in San Angelo.

"In the past, we would just drive to their homes and make sure their porch lights were off and they weren't doing anything to encourage trick-or-treaters," Barriball said. "It is much easier just to have them all at one central location. We expect to have about 15 of them participating, which is a little less than in years past."

The District Adult Probation Office won't be the only local agency looking out for children this Halloween.

"We'll have our officers out in support of the Adult Probation's

program, just as we have in past years," said Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department. "We'll be keeping a close eye on the trick-or-treaters. Unfortunately, we can't be everywhere at once, so as always, it's extremely important for parents to make sure their children are well supervised and as visible as possible when they go out trick-or-treating."

Everett said parents can find a list of sex offenders and their addresses by going to www.bigspringpd.net and visiting the Texas Department of Public Safety portal.

"That's really the best

way for parents to protect their children from predators in a situation like this," said Everett.

Sheriff Stan Parker said he and his deputies will also be paying special attention to children trick-or-treating during the weekend.

"We're not planning any special patrols Halloween night, but the deputies on duty will be paying special attention to the children," said Parker. "However, even with patrols looking after the children, there's a lot parents can do to help protect their children before they leave home."

"Flashlights, glow sticks, reflective tape, basically anything they can do to make them

more visible to motorists. Halloween is a lot of fun for the children, but as parents we have to do everything in our power to make sure they stay safe."

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

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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.

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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

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- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
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- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we remain diligent about reading
Your word, Lord, for our life.

Amen

Etch a Sketch, made in China

Nine years ago, the Ohio Art Co. closed its Etch A Sketch operation in Bryan, Ohio, and moved the jobs to Shenzhen, China. The 100 laid-off American workers weren't surprised. They'd been training their Chinese replacements.

Months ago, a Mitt Romney aide famously declared an "Etch A Sketch" campaign — whereby the candidate would erase what he'd done before (like shaking an Etch A Sketch toy) and draw a more appealing portrait for a general electorate. That image is apt, in an unwelcome way, for a Romney now bashing China for taking American jobs. Romney's private equity company, Bain Capital, did its bit to help China win the work, and with enthusiasm.

In the second presidential debate, Romney accused China of "cheating," mainly by holding down the value of its currency. But that doesn't shake clean the Bain prospectus promoting China's "strong fundamentals" — among them, wages 85 percent lower than Americans.' "Accordingly," the prospectus reads, "Bain Capital expects to see an increasing array of high-growth companies available for investment."

Does that sound like anyone wanting to see the Chinese currency rise in value? The stron-

ger the Chinese currency, the harder it is for Bain's (or anyone else's) Chinese factories to sell their wares on world markets.

Offering another viewpoint, workers from Freeport, Ill., demonstrated this week at the Massachusetts headquarters of Sensata Technologies, a Bain Capital creation that has moved thousands of Americans jobs offshore. Sensata made the Illinois workers train the Chinese who will take their jobs as a condition of receiving their meager severance pay. Sound familiar? Part of Romney's rap against China is the stealing of U.S. technology. But Microsoft had accused Bain's Chinese retailer, Gome Electrical Appliances, of pirating its software.

And Global-Tech, a Bain Chinese appliance company, was found to have violated a U.S. patent held by a French company.

Around the time Etch A Sketch left for China, Asimco Technologies bought two auto parts factories in Michigan, closed them and laid off 500 Americans. Bain saw the "strong fundamentals" of Asimco's operations and acquired the company. Today, Asimco makes the same camshafts on land donated by the Chinese government. China has designated this area as an export metropolis, showering the companies that move there with a variety of government subsidies.

Romney counts himself among the American heroes who built a business, but what his business built above all was an army of crack Washington lobbyists. For example, the profits Romney collects from Bain are taxed at

a low 15 percent, rather than the top rate of 35 percent. Even many Wall Streeters regard this as an outrageous loophole, but private equity lobbyists fight to preserve the deal, which Romney has no plan to change. Forget the malarkey about a blind trust managing his Bain investments. It is run by Ropes & Gray, the Boston law firm that advises Bain.

The head spins over Bain's offshore holdings in the Cayman Islands, Luxembourg and so forth, all tasked with exploiting the U.S. tax code — or put in less neutral terms, tax-dodging. Sadly, too many of our paid-for representatives in Washington cast a blind eye toward such tax games. (The direct subsidies come from China.)

Once stripped of their jobs, the laid-off Americans apply for unemployment and other government benefits to survive. Guess that turns them into the "takers" whom Romney holds in contempt.

Romney didn't create globalization, but having made a pile off it, you'd think he'd at least spare some change for its American victims. A 9.5 magnitude earthquake couldn't shake that unpleasant a picture off the Etch A Sketch.

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.

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Mr. President, won't you help us avert national bankruptcy?

President Obama, I'd like to follow up on my most recent column and ask you a few more questions, please.

I am assuming you don't dispute that our nation faces a very serious financial problem, with unfunded liabilities in excess of \$100 trillion. I use the word "assuming" because I don't remember you ever spending much time talking about this problem, which is odd because the very subject haunts so many Americans and makes them fearful for the future of this country.

Yet if you do recognize that these liabilities threaten our nation's solvency, how is it conceivable that you've not made the problem one of your foremost priorities? Yes, you established a bipartisan deficit commission, but you refused to meet with it and you ignored its findings, so that doesn't get you off the hook.

When Rep. Paul Ryan presented his "Path to Prosperity" and the Republican Congress passed a budget largely along the lines Ryan proposed, you publicly ridiculed Ryan, and your Democratic-controlled Senate summarily rejected the bill.

When Ryan questioned your treasury secretary, Timothy Geithner, about entitlements and our national debt, Geithner claimed that the administration stabilized the deficit and debt issues over the next 10 years but admitted that you have no plans for attacking the long-term problem. But what Geithner refers to as stabilization actually amounts to adding approximately \$1 trillion per year to our national debt over the next decade, which, incidentally, makes your statement that you would not add a dime to the national debt just outright bizarre — and disturbing.

More troubling, though, than the \$10 trillion your budget admits you'd add to the debt over the next 10 years is Geithner's brazen confession that you have no plan to tackle the explosion of our unfunded liabilities. When Ryan pressed Geithner on that point, Geithner merely responded that he and you didn't like Ryan's plan, because it wouldn't adequately protect seniors and middle-income earners. But as you know, Mr. President, that is also blatantly false. Ryan's plan carves out special protection for those groups. You must know, unless you are as negligent about informing yourself on Republican ideas you oppose as you are regarding national security matters, that Ryan's plan would preserve Medicare benefits exactly as they are for those who are now at least 55 years of age.

But you keep saying otherwise.

It's not your dissembling that is most troubling, as bad as it is. It's that you haven't bothered to come up with any plan of your own to restructure entitlements. None — not even fragments of a plan. Even when Ryan pressed him, all Geithner could say was that he doesn't like Ryan's plan. Ryan said, "Fine. Then present one of your own." Had more people been watching that disgraceful exchange, you might have plummeted in the polls far sooner.

So where does that leave us? You must acknowledge we face a catastrophic financial calamity if we don't address entitlements and our ongoing yearly federal spending, yet you've contributed nothing to this discussion. You've not only failed to show leadership but also obstructed those who are trying, in earnest, to save this nation from national bankruptcy. Indeed, when you appeared on David Letterman's show, you betrayed a shocking ignorance about the national debt. When Lettermen asked whether it is \$10 trillion (it is \$16 trillion), you brushed him off, saying you didn't know the precise figure. I'll say you don't.

Not even a clue — because you obviously don't care.

Instead, you said that we face a long-term problem but that "we don't have to worry about it short term." How can you be so casual about this when experts have warned that we could go the way of Greece within two or three years unless we get the problem under control? How can you be so dismissive when our nation's credit rating, under your watch, has been downgraded already?

We face an existential threat to our nation, and you not only have insisted on ignoring it and blocking solutions to it but also aren't even addressing it in your presidential campaign — and the media are letting you get away with it.

I believe that you are acting more like Mr. Magoo than you are the president of the United States, because your whole purpose for being in office, apart from ego gratification, is to fundamentally transform America. You know you cannot achieve that aspiration unless you keep spending money recklessly regardless of how much more you add to the debt.

Others have gone so far as to argue that your goal is precisely to destroy the nation financially. Whether or not that is your goal, there is no longer any way people can call those making the claim unreasonable. For regardless of your intent, you are bankrupting us and have no intention of reversing yourself.

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. To read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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FROMA HARROP



DAVID LIMBAUGH

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Kid Scoop Together:

How to Draw a VAMPIRE

ELECTION TIME IN MONSTROLOT CITY

Find one or more **facts** and **opinions** in each monster candidate's speech.



Uh-oh! This little monster chewed up some of the words in the article below. Can you find where each word belongs?

support candidates work
factory election parents kissing
costumes

A-6 MONSTEROUS NEWS

Candidates try to scare up votes

By Rancid Casserole
MONSTEROUS NEWS STAFF WRITER

MONSTROLOT CITY – The Shrieker and Lurker are campaigning across Monstrolot City during these last few days leading up to the _____.



Howie Jumpalott was in Chillsville yesterday, _____ monster babies and helping plant more weeds in the schoolyard. The Shrieker candidate told local monsters that he will _____ for more Halloween candy on school lunch menus.

Howie Jumpalott

"I'm the Family Candidate," said Jumpalott while pushing monster tots on crocodile tail swings. "I love meeting with all these little monsters and their _____."

Meanwhile, Lurker candidate Flora Whisp was visiting with monster costume designer Countess Von Plasma at her _____, where she employs thousands of monsters. In a late afternoon speech, Whisp told monsters that she will _____ making the road to the factory smoother so they can ship _____ faster.



Flora Whisp

"I mean business," said Whisp. "My eek-o-nomic plan will help businesses prosper."

This election is about the **future** of Monstrolot City. Do we want to spend the year sneaking around, vanishing when seen, and being reduced to causing goose bumps? **I think not!**

Right now, we can only scare between midnight and 5 a.m. Monsters should not have limits!

Vote for me and **every** monster, great and small, will screech **whenever** he or she wants, **leap out** during quiet campfires and **howl** at **ALL** hours!

It's no secret that scares are down 10%. More monsters are leaving our city than are moving in. This election is about maintaining the **dignity** of monsters everywhere.

My plan for mysterious creepiness will result in **more shivers** and **runaway imaginations!**

I believe it's what we **can't see** that scares us most. A vote for me is a vote for the **creepy traditions** that have made Monstrolot City **great!**

TIME DAYLIGHT END NOW SAVINGS!

BLACK THE MURKY KEEP LAGOON!



Monstrous Mix-up

Can you rearrange the words on each sign so that these monsters make sense?

Extra! Extra!

The Winner is ...

Cut out and paste numbers from the newspaper into each box. Add these "votes" and see who wins the election!

Flora Whisp
 + + =

Howie Jumpalott
 + + =

Standards Link: Math: Calculate sums.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Expository Critique, students distinguish between fact and opinion in text.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Pretend you are a reporter for the Monstrolot City newspaper. Write a news story telling the results of the election. Be sure to tell who, what, when, where, why and how! Cut and paste the pictures below into your article.



Standards Link: Writing Applications: Write expository compositions using newspaper format.

Double Double Word Search

BUMPS
MURKY
DAYLIGHT
CROCODILE
WHISP
SHIVERS
HOWL
CREAKY
SHADOWS
FACTS
HOWIE
RANCID
SCARES
BLACK
GOOSE

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

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

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

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written instructions.

Kid Scoop-doku™

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

			T	
T				E
			V	
			O	
V	O	T	E	S

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Facts vs. Opinions

People, like the monsters in Monstrolot City, use both facts and opinions to persuade others to vote for them. Choose a Letter to the Editor from this newspaper. Underline the **facts** in red and the **opinions** in blue.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Expository critique, students distinguish between fact and opinion in text.



Where did the baby ghost stay while his parents were at work?

ANSWER: Day Care.

Write On!

Vote for Me!

Imagine that you are the first human to run for office in Monstrolot City. What campaign promises would you make to monsters?

Bird Poop: A geography lesson

Highlighted with pink, orange and purple, the clouds on the horizon enhanced the rapidly waning day. Momentarily, the barren landscape was ablaze with color.

Anticipating the soft buoyancy of the water below, a bird quickly made its approach toward the sheen reflected in the last rays of an October evening.

With its small wings unable to slow its momentum, the bird was accustomed to hitting surfaces with its breast after a rapid descent. Once its heavy body had created a huge spray on either side, it would settle into the watery domain to feed and rest.

Smacking the asphalt surface of a truck yard, the bird tumbled recklessly. As dust and feathers slowly settled around it, the large gray bird struggled to right itself. With night came the darkness that would at least protect its presence.

Having just poured a cup of coffee, I jumped when the phone rang so early in the morning. The caller said Texas Parks & Wildlife had given her our number. After identifying herself as being with animal control, she described the inability of a bird to stand, let alone take flight. When asked about the

placement of its legs, the officer answered, "They're near the back of its body." "And its feet?" I asked.

After describing them as webbed, she added how helpless it appeared on land. "It can only push itself forward and has hardly any balance." When she estimated its weight at nine pounds, and noted its color as brownish gray, I realized she was describing a loon.

Tapered at both ends with the largest heft in the middle, the sleek bird was the epitome of aquatic and aerodynamic planning. Whether in the water or air, by stretching its long bill and neck and extending its legs and feet, it could pierce watery depths or air with ease and grace. On land, its legs and feet were useless.

"Where are you?" I asked. "Rankin, in Upton County," she replied.

"If its legs and feet work, then it will be a matter of finding a proper release site," I cautioned. To become airborne again, it would rise above the water's surface with a downward thrust of its feet and the beating of its powerful wings. It would then run on top of the water until gaining enough speed to sustain its departure.

When asked if she would be willing to put it in her bathtub to make sure it could paddle and dive, her answer was an emphatic "Sure!" Understanding the importance of such a test, she promised to call back.

Later in the morning, the



Courtesy photo

Hard frosts in northern climes prompt the common loon to migrate southward. During winter, it is found on both coasts of North America, the Gulf Coast and Baja, California. Mating for life, a pair will return to the same northern lake to breed for many years. Diet includes fish, frogs, insects and aquatic vegetation.

phone rang. Kicking and squirming, the loon had been a handful of resistance. After nipping at her arms with its long, sharp bill, it had seemed to appreciate the soothing return to a watery environment. "Everything worked perfectly," she added excitedly.

Since the loon needed a large, long body of water to become airborne again, the officer was going to contact a deputy in the sheriff's department. With knowledge of every ranch in the county, he could help her return the loon to a natural environment. "Call you back later!"

Hours passed. By mid-afternoon I began to wonder if the bird had been released.

Since I had often thought Rankin was in the middle of nowhere, I hoped the two officers had been successful.

An hour later, the phone rang. The delay in calling had been due to the distance the deputy had had to drive to access a stock tank suitable for the needs of the bird.

Hidden in what appears to be an arid wasteland, the body of water was rife with minnows and aquatic insects. For years, the rancher and his family had enjoyed fall and spring migrations. In addition to shorebirds and waterfowl had come raptors, and even songbirds.

As soon as the loon's feet touched moisture, it began to paddle. Eager to put some

distance between itself and the deputy, it dove beneath the surface. Reappearing some fifty feet away, it continued diving and resurfacing.

The ranching family, and deputy had been fortunate to experience the return of the loon to a watery domain. Its drab, winter camouflage could not foretell its colorful display of breeding attire the following year.

Then this bird would be accented with a glossy black head and neck. Vertical black and white streaks would adorn its throat. Its black back would be checkered with white squares, while white dots decorated its black wings, sides, and flanks.

Its call or cry of absolute wildness would be saved for another season. Guttural, melodic, its mournful sounds would echo across the solitude of northern lakes during a summer evening.

On its migratory journey, the common loon had caused me to look at maps of Rankin and nearby parts of Upton County. In searching for a body of water that I assumed did not exist, I discovered local landmarks. Square Top Mountain, Rattlesnake Butte, and Noelke Hill would never again let me take for granted that nothing was there!

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

Health talk

Q: I've been seeing flavored olive oil infused with herbs at gourmet shops, but it's

very expensive. Can I make my own?

A: Yes, you can. The procedure for making it safely depends on how long you want to keep your flavored oil. Either way, you need to start with a clean bottle or jar with a tight-fitting lid to store it. If you are going to use up your flavored oil within a week you can use any fresh herb or mixture of herbs that you like. The moisture in fresh

herbs, garlic and citrus support the growth of deadly Clostridium botulinum bacteria, which can cause botulism, so you should date your oil and throw away within seven days of making. These bacteria can grow rapidly in an oxygen-free environment like oil.

If using fresh herbs, wash thoroughly before combining with oil, and store the mixture in the refrigerator. Try adding other ingredients, too, such as garlic and lemon or orange peel, to these oils you'll use up quickly.

If you want to make homemade herb-infused olive oil that you can store up to three months unrefrigerated in your cabinet, it's important that you use only dried herbs.

You can use commercial dried herbs you buy in jars,

or fresh herbs that you have washed and then dried to remove all their natural moisture. These must be thoroughly dried in a food dehydrator or by leaving them in the sun; then you can add them to the olive oil. All you need to do is mix this pre-flavored oil with lemon juice or the vinegar of your choice, and you'll have a delicious, practically zero-sodium salad dressing.

Q: I've been hearing that excess fat in the liver is a serious health problem becoming more common. How do I know if I've got it, and what can I do to avoid it?

A: Studies suggest that 20 to 30 percent of adults in the U.S. and Europe may have this unhealthy accumulation of fat in the liver known as

nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD).

The risk is that it can progress to further, very serious liver damage. Some evidence suggests it may contribute to heart disease risk independently of its tie to metabolic syndrome, which signals increased risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and possibly some types of cancer.

Doctors can screen people for NAFLD by looking for elevation of a certain liver enzyme, alanine aminotransferase, (known as ALT or SGPT) from a blood test. They may also use ultrasound for screening.

The "gold standard" for diagnosing NAFLD is a liver biopsy. This fat accumulation in the liver seems to occur because of insulin resistance, in which the

body produces plenty of insulin but cannot use it effectively, resulting in abnormal metabolism of both carbohydrate and fat. NAFLD is linked with chronic, low-grade inflammation, which may also be indicated in lab tests.

To avoid or resolve this excess fat in the liver, the most important steps are to lose excess weight (or at least some of it) and to get daily moderate physical activity to help bring insulin function back to normal. At this time, no specific food choices or eating patterns have been identified to reduce or avoid NAFLD, but because of its link to insulin resistance, a predominantly plant-based diet with plenty of vegetables, fruits, whole grains and beans is likely to help.

Parent's Corner: Story of the pencil

It's interesting to watch how children play together and how they get along.

Some children seem to have their life in perspective while others seem to need a little help. What is the difference between these

children and what we do to assist our kids? What do our children need from us?

They look to us for our encouragement and our support. They look to us for our involvement in their activities. They also look to us as models and examples. Many of their actions

mirror our actions. What image do we give to our children? Do we set a positive or negative example?

I heard a story that could assist us in answering this question. A pencil maker, just before putting the pencil into the box, took the pencil aside and

gave him the following instructions. There are five things you need to know, he told the pencil, before I send you out into the world. Always remember these things, never forget and you will become the best pencil you can be. 1. You will be able to do many great things, but only if you allow yourself to be guided by someone's hand.

2. You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, but you'll need it to become a better pencil. 3. You will be able to correct any mistakes you might make. 4. You will be able to recognize that the most important part of you will always be what's inside. 5. You must learn to leave your mark everywhere you go. No matter what the condition, you must continue to write.

The pencil understood and promised to remember, and went into the box with purpose in its heart.

Now put yourself in the place of the pencil. Always remember these five things and never forget, and you will become the best person you can be. How we approach life affects

everything we do, say or think. The best part is that we have complete control of our attitudes, they are ours to choose.

We should choose the positive instead of the negative. A wise man once said, "Live every moment, laugh every day, and love beyond words." What a marvelous way to look at life.

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



KAREN COLLINS
MS, RD, CDN



DARRELL RYAN



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sudoku

ANSWERS

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Giants down Cards, await Tigers in World Series

JANIE McCAULEY

AP Baseball Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco's players, soaked to the core in a driving rain, began running around the field slapping high-fives with fans. Sergio Romo danced through the raindrops and Angel Pagan waved a black Giants flag as he ran, then stayed outside with his daughter well after everyone else had taken the celebration indoors to the clubhouse.

The World Series is back in the Bay Area — two years after the Giants won their first championship in San Francisco.

"We showed up here to win," Pagan said. "And we're going to carry that over into the World Series."

The Giants got there with another improbable comeback, stunning the defending champion St. Louis Cardinals

with a 9-0 victory in Game 7 of the NL championship series after falling behind 3-1 at Busch Stadium.

Hunter Pence got the Giants going with a weird double, Matt Cain pitched his second clincher of October and San Francisco rode Marco Scutaro's steady bat yet again.

"The rain never felt so good," Scutaro said. "We're going to the World Series, this is unbelievable."

San Francisco won its record-tying sixth elimination game of the postseason, completing a lopsided rally from a 3-1 deficit.

The Giants, who won it all in 2010, will host reigning AL MVP and Cy Young winner Justin Verlander, Triple Crown slugger Miguel Cabrera and the Detroit Tigers in Game 1 on Wednesday night.

See **GIANTS**, Page 14



The San Francisco Giants celebrate after punching their ticket to the World Series by defeating the St. Louis Cardinals in a seven-game series. The Giants won the final game 9-0 and will play the Detroit Tigers.

AP photo

World Series: Cabrera, Tigers vs. Posey, Giants

BEN WALKER

AP Baseball Writer

Way back in spring training, Hunter Pence hit a wicked grounder that smacked Miguel Cabrera in the face. A few months later, Pablo Sandoval launched a bases-loaded triple off Justin Verlander in the All-Star game.

Here they all are again, with everything at stake.

Tigers-Giants in the World Series.

A driven team from Detroit, loaded with power bats and arms, guided by wily Jim Leyland and coming off an impressive sweep. A surging squad from San Francisco, boosted by its rotation and talented catcher Buster Posey, fresh from a Game 7 win over defending champion St. Louis.

A Triple Crown winner in Cabrera versus a

perfect-game pitcher in Matt Cain. The Motor City vs. the City by the Bay, starting with Game 1 on Wednesday in the California twilight.

"I'll have to learn a lot about them real soon, to be honest," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said.

"I know what a great club they are. And we know all about the guy we're going to be facing opening day and their whole staff," he said. "They swept the Yankees. That tells you how good they are."

Verlander will throw the first pitch for the Tigers. Bochy said he hasn't looked that far in advance.

It's certainly a unique pairing. Both franchises have been around for well over a century and are stacked with Hall of Famers — Willie Mays, Ty Cobb, Carl Hubbell, Al Kaline and many

more — yet they've never faced each other in the postseason.

Not too much recent history, either.

The clubs have played only 12 games since interleague action began in 1997, most recently last year at Comerica Park. That series was notable because the Tigers fired pitching coach Rick Knapp following the final game, a day after Barry Zito and the Giants trounced Max Scherzer in a 15-3 romp.

"From Day One of spring training, we're getting ready for this," Giants center fielder Angel Pagan said. "We're going to be ready. We're going to just keep playing baseball like we do."

Much has changed since then.

Prince Fielder arrived in Detroit this year after

a season-ending injury to Victor Martinez, and teamed with Cabrera as a most formidable tandem in the middle of the lineup.

Melky Cabrera joined the Giants and won MVP honors at the All-Star game. A month later, he was suspended 50 games by Major League Baseball for a positive testosterone test. He isn't on the postseason roster.

The Giants bolstered their infield by trading for scrappy Marco Scutaro in late July, and he became the MVP of the NL championship series. They fortified their outfield a few days later by getting Pence from Philadelphia.

Earlier this year, Pence's bad-hop grounder broke a bone below Cabrera's eye and caused a

See **SERIES**, Page 14

Cowboys have chance to make move in NFC East

STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

IRVING, Texas (AP) — This time, being a .500 team gives the Dallas Cowboys a chance to make a significant move in the NFC East.

Without that imperfect win at Carolina after consecutive losses, the Cowboys (3-3) really would have been in a scramble going into a stretch of four division games over the next six weeks.

"I looked at it last night, I saw the games we have coming up and how big they are for us," linebacker Anthony Spencer said Monday. "If we can get a couple of wins here in a row, it's going to help us out more toward the end of the season."

The Cowboys play Sunday against the NFC East-leading and defending Super Bowl champion New York Giants (5-2), who have won five of six since their season-opening home loss against Dallas.

It's the only home game in a six-week span for the Cowboys, against the only division opponent they've already played this season.

While acknowledging the importance of division games, coach Jason Garrett said his focus is solely on this week's matchup against the Giants. Not the upcoming stretch when Dallas has both of its games against Philadelphia (3-3) and plays division rival Washington (3-4) at home as well.

"That's how we do things around here. We're focused on cleaning up yesterday's game in our meetings today, getting our lifts in, our run in, and pointing our attention to the Giants," Garrett said. "They're in our division, so there's no reason to look anywhere else but this game."

The Giants have never lost at Cowboys Sta-

dium, winning three games there. The facility opened in 2009 with New York winning the first-ever regular-season game.

DeMarcus Ware knows this is a big week for Dallas, and is aware of the significance of a potential sweep of the Giants.

"When you think about NFC East games, the way that they are playing, if you're not able to get wins early against big teams, it can come back to haunt you," Ware said. "So when you have the opportunity to get big wins against NFC East teams, we have to do it."

Dallas got a sorely needed 19-14 victory Sunday despite being outgained by the Panthers and scoring only one touchdown.

Dan Bailey kicked four field goals, including a go-ahead 28-yarder with 3:25 left. The defense stopped Carolina on fourth down with just over 2 minutes left, and Bailey added another field goal before Cam Newton and the Panthers got one more chance.

"Just lean on each other. We got to depend on each other," Spencer said. "We know that our offense is going to have to put points on the board and we're going to have to stop teams from scoring. It's going to come down to when our offense is going to have to put points on the board to win the game and it just happened be that we had to stop them to win the game."

Spencer was back after a strained pectoral muscle shelved him for two games over a three-week span when Dallas had its bye week. He said he felt good and was having fun, including a sack of Newton that set the Panthers up for a game-ending fourth-and-20 play.

The Cowboys got back to .500 for the season.

Texans enter bye after most complete game of season

KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — The Houston Texans rebounded from their only loss of the season with perhaps their most complete game of the year.

The Texans scored a franchise-best 43 points and the defense dominated in a win over the Ravens that gave Houston (6-1) the best record in the AFC heading into its bye week.

Now the Texans have a week to rest and recharge before returning to their quest for the Super Bowl when they host Buffalo in two weeks.

"We got a long way to go," coach Gary Kubiak said. "We're almost at the halfway point. We got a good football team. We got to freshen some guys up. We got a long, hard road ahead of us, but we got some good character on this team, just need to keep working."

Connor Barwin started Houston's scoring Sunday when he sacked Joe Flacco in the end zone for the team's first safety since 2009. A tipped pass by J.J. Watt on the first play of the second quarter led to an interception by Johnathan Joseph which he returned 52 yards for a touchdown.

The Texans had 181 yards rushing and added another 239 passing.

"Everyone contributed all across the board, all three phases," tight end Owen Daniels said. "We were as balanced as we could be offensively, running the ball and throwing the ball. We were pretty darn good on third downs, staying on the field was huge to keep their offense off the field. Our defense made some huge plays and got things rolling for us. When they're scoring points it just makes things easier for us. It was a very well-rounded game for our team."

Houston was coming off a 42-24 loss to Green Bay last week in which the offense struggled and the defense allowed Aaron Rodgers to throw six touchdown passes. On Sunday, the Texans held Baltimore to a season-low 176 yards.

"You're tested sometimes," defensive coordinator Wade Phillips said. "You're tested mentally. You get beat down sometimes. You get knocked up and fight. That's what they did. That game was a tremendous accomplishment."

The offense was helped by a season-high nine catches by Andre Johnson.

He finished with 86 yards receiving, which is the most he's had since gaining 119 yards in Week 1. Kubiak thinks he'll get better as the season progresses, and offensive coordinator Rick

Dennison agrees.

"He went through just a little bit of a slump, but he's working his tail off every day," Dennison said. "(Sunday) he was really explosive. He did a great job of catching the ball and getting up field."

It also didn't hurt that Kevin Walters and Daniels both added more than 50 yards receiving and a touchdown on Sunday.

"(Daniels) has had a tremendous year catching the ball," Dennison said. "It's hard for people to cover underneath and we know that especially with having Andre outside and them having to work their coverage around him. Owen has done a great job and we're working him down the field."

Daniels has 33 receptions for 416 yards and four touchdowns this season.

The win gave Houston its best start through seven games and was the second-most lopsided victory in team history. Phillips loves the start the Texans have gotten off to this season.

"It's really nice to have a team that does things that have never been done before," he said. "It's an accomplishment. It's something that you strive for — records to be broken and that kind of thing. We've been able to do that this year and that's pretty impressive."

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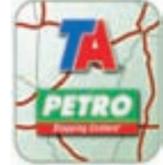
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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I recently married "Kevin," who has been divorced for four years. We decided to live in his house. I knew we'd have adjustment issues, but even so, things don't seem to be working out.

The house is in his name only, although I pay toward utilities, upkeep, etc. But everything has to be his way. Kevin likes the place to be "neat," which doesn't mean cleaning. It means shoving stuff into a cupboard so no one sees it.

Also, all of the furniture is from his first marriage. I want to update a few things, and he won't let me. He says his stuff is in good shape.

Everything reminds me of his ex and his previous life. I told Kevin I'd like to have a few things that we selected ourselves.

He told me the divorce drained him, and he wants to pay the house off before buying anything new. So I offered to purchase things with my own money. He said no.

When I moved in, he wanted my belongings thrown away, yet he has drawers of junk from 10 years ago. After five months of marriage, I figured my things would be out of storage.

Instead, Kevin says we have everything we need and my stuff is "duplicate." But some of my possessions are in better shape than his, and I'd at least like the option of going through them with him and seeing what is worth keeping.

I'm just so upset, and I'm wondering whether this marriage is a mistake. Any suggestions? — *Frustrated*

Dear Frustrated: Kevin doesn't seem ready to commit to a full partnership. The two of you should be able to discuss all issues instead of one of you mak-



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

ing unilateral decisions. But this doesn't have to be an insurmountable problem.

Explain to Kevin that you are deeply unhappy with the current situation, and ask him to come with you for some short-term counseling to work on combining your lives in a more positive way.

Dear Annie: I am tired of vulgar language, especially at work. Whenever my department head becomes frustrated, he thinks it's OK to use whatever words he wants. So if he's upset, he thinks it's fine to upset others by using offensive language.

He knows I don't care for it and has tried to tone it down. But not much has changed. I'm a quiet guy and keep to myself. I don't like conflict. So I have done nothing even though it bothers me and puts me in a bad mood when I hear such language. Any suggestions? — *North Carolina*

Dear North: You must speak up if you expect anything to change. You could talk to the department head, saying that you would appreciate it if he would control his use of unprofessional language a bit more during working hours.

He has already made a small effort, so your words will not go unheeded. You also could enlist other co-workers to speak to him, or you could go over his head and complain to a supervisor.

But if asserting yourself is not possible, we can only suggest that you indicate disapproval at the time, hoping he will eventually learn to modify his behavior. You also could leave the room, wear headphones or ignore him. Sorry.

Dear Annie: I understand the problem of "Pastor's Wife in the Midwest." I am a church organist and have been stifled by the wedding couple, as well. Playing for a wedding involves practice time, attending the rehearsal and additional hours on the day of the wedding. We also must purchase the music and deal with soloists.

I play in a small country church and know most of these people personally, so I don't feel comfortable demanding a certain amount. But pastors, soloists and organists are part of the wedding expenses and should be compensated for these important occasions that cannot take place without them. — *Here Comes the Bride and \$\$\$*

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

AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

At the Big Spring Animal Control Shelter

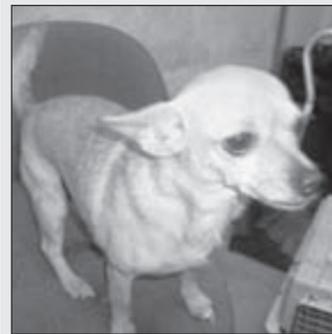


Lady

Spaniel Mix
Medium, Adult,
Female

Lady is about a year old and is sweet and very playful.

Available for Adoption until Today



Mona

Chihuahua Mix
Small, Adult,
Female

Mona is about two years old and is definitely a lap sitter. She has a great personality and is always smiling and wagging her tail.

Available for Adoption until Friday



Gizmo

Spaniel Mix
Small, Adult,
Male

This cute little fellow is very playful and sweet.

Available for Adoption until Friday

432-264-2372.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

If you look very closely at outward appearances, you'll see the start of a crack. It's just something that happens as the sun journeys through the early degrees of Scorpio. Also note that as comfortable as you may be with your view of things, your comfort level doesn't make the view accurate. Outward appearances can lie or tell only part of the story.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Because of your warrior spirit, you're willing to fight when it's right, meaningful and purposeful to do so. Fighting for no reason, however, is a waste. That's why you'll settle a dispute once and for all.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You don't think you need help, but that's because you haven't been down this road, and you don't know entirely what the job entails. If you're offered help, take it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You will be issued a challenge. The reason this comes to you is because you've already proved yourself. In a sense, this journey began long before you accepted the quest.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You might have to change a plan, postpone the action or break a date. Doing this decisively and as early as possible will keep relationships in good standing.



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You will work with a worthy partner and be filled with enthusiasm as you speculate about what you might create together. This kind of excitement makes all self-consciousness disappear.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). As good as you are at scientific guessing, this just isn't a fortuitous time to make assumptions. Gather information and wait as long as possible to make any decisions or declarations.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Can you keep a secret? You'll be asked to do so, and it won't be easy. The temptation to tell will be great, but so will the reward for not telling, namely the personal satisfaction of keeping your word.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The journey will be strenuous, but this is what's necessary if you're to prove what you're made of. For inspiration, think of your heroes and people who had to create themselves from scratch.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The potential for thrills is overshadowed by the need for purposeful action. For an endeavor to be worth your while, the answer to the "why" question has to be more than "why not?"

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The thing you can do to make your life lovelier won't cost a dime because you'll be rearranging your existing

resources. You'll need plenty of mental and physical energy to pull it off.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be judged by your ability to show up where and when you said you would. You'll need more time to get around. Don't let traffic and other considerations ruin your record for promptness.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll be unofficially assessed by a higher-up or a potential partner. Getting the answers right doesn't matter half as much as approaching problems with a can-do spirit.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 23). Small wins lead to bigger wins. You'll reach a short-term goal in six weeks; this is part of your grand plan. As you focus on your work (instead of on how much money you want to make), you will become wealthier. A new person in your life has much to teach and show you. You'll travel together in December and February. Virgo and Libra people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 8, 13, 20 and 39.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Taurus, and I want to be an entrepreneur. I'm not sure which of my ideas is the best one, though. Also, I only have \$300 to invest in this business, so I'll need a loan. Do you have any advice for getting a loan so I can build the right website for my business?"

This is an exciting time for you, Taurus, and may the fortunes be with you in this endeavor. I say don't worry about which idea is right. Focus on solving a problem for a particular customer. Luxury-minded Taurus entrepreneurs can have eyes too big for their budgets. Venus-ruled, you care immensely about the loveliness and quality of everything associated with you. What you need to remember is that those factors don't always have to cost money. Also note that making money doesn't depend on having the coolest web design; it depends on selling products to customers. In keeping with your sign's strengths, your best strategy will be down-to-earth. Start by letting your friends and family know about your business. Advertise in your community. Build your business one sale at a time. Invest in your business from the profits of those sales instead of going into debt before you even have a business.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Ryan Reynolds has appeared in several comic book adaptations as the likeable regular guy who leads a double life as a superhero. The spirit of transformation is very much alive in this Scorpio, who was born when the sun, the moon, Mars and Uranus were all in Scorpio. This preponderance of Scorpio energy also contributes a fair amount of sizzle, mystery and sensuality to Reynolds' natal chart.

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.

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Clementine is 5 years old. She is spayed.
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Medium • Adult • Female
Mixed

This smiling girl is about 4 years old. Gloria has one blue eye and one brown eye. She is spayed.
Adoption Fee: \$65
(includes shots)

267-7832

W IH 20 Service Road (past the Airport)

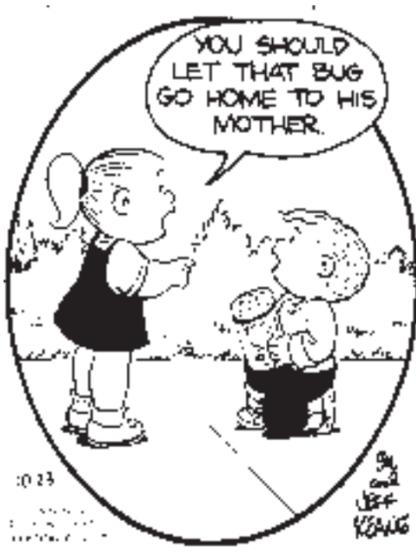
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	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports
5:PM	News	Casa	Two Men	News	Noticias	News	King	Justice	Charlie Rose	King	Deadliest	Halloween	Repo		106 & Park:	Phineas	NFL32	SportsCenter
5:30	ABC	Notic.	Two Men	CBS	Noticiero	News	King	Schwarz	King	Rules	Deadliest	4: Michael	Repo		BET's Top 10	Good	Best/NFL	
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Un Refugio	Big Bang	News	Caso Cer-	News	Seinfeld	Dr. Diana	PBS News-	Rules	Deadliest	Hour	Ink Master	The Mental-	Live	Jessie	Pardon	E:60
6:30	Wheel		Big Bang	Ent	Millionaire	Seinfeld	Sala									Austin	Football	
7:PM	Dancing/	Por Ella Soy	Raising	NCIS (DVS)	Rosa Dia-	The Voice	Big Bang	Upd	Cuban Mis-	Hart of Dixie	Deadliest	5: Revenge	Ink Master	The Mental-		Make Your	College	30 for 30
7:30	Stars	Eva	Ben-Kate		mante (SS)		Big Bang	Alwine	sile Crisis		Catch	of Michael			Mark: Shake	Football: Ar-		
8:PM	Happy	Abismo de	New Girl	NCIS: Los	Corazón	Go On	Big Bang	Light of	Secrets of	Emily Ow-	Deadliest	5: Revenge	Ink Master	The Mental-	It	Make	College	30 for 30
8:30	Apt. 23	Pasión	Mindy	Angeles	Valiente	Normal	Big Bang	of the Southwest	of the Dead	ens, M.D.	Catch	of Michael					Football: Ar-	
9:PM	Private	Amor Bravo	Simpsons	Vegas	Escobar	(:01) Parent-	Big Bang		Frontline	Seinfeld	Deadly Seas	(:15) Movie:	Ink Master	Rizzoli &	Family Fi.	Gravity	World/Poker	
9:30	Practice	(SS)	How I Met		Rostro de	hood	Big Bang			Seinfeld		Halloween:		Isles	Soul Man	Phineas	World/Poker	
10:PM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Conan	Shepherd's	Charlie Rose	'Til Death	Deadliest	Resurrection	Tattoo	Leverage	Sleep!	ANT Farm	SportCtr	
10:30	Nightline	Noticiero	Raymond	Letterman	Decisiones	Jay Leno		Heart		'Til Death	Catch			Game	Vampire	SportCtr	SportsCenter	
11:PM	Jimmy Kim-	Al Diablo	Law Order:		Decisiones	Jim Fallon		Office	World	'70s	Deadly Seas	Halloween	Ink Master	The Closer	Wendy Wil-	Wizards	Baseball	
11:30	mel Live	CI	CI	Ferguson	(SS)		Conan	Office	T. Smiley	'70s		5: Revenge			Williams	Wizards	Tonight	
12:AM	Extra	Mar de Amor	Raymond		Decisiones	(:36) News		Conan	(Off Air)	Browns	Deadliest	Myers	Ink Master	Cold Case	BET Hip	Deck	NFL Live	SportsCenter
12:30	Paid	(SS)	Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado			McGee		Browns	Catch			Hop Awards	2012	Deck		
1AM	Paid	La Jaula	American	Ent	Pagado			Earl		Cops	Deadliest	(:15) Movie:	Tattoo	Dallas	Good	Good	E:60	SportsCenter
1:30	Paid	Par Ases	TMZ	Paid	Pelicula: El			Earl		Gaither	Catch	Pet Sema-	Tattoo		Good	Good		

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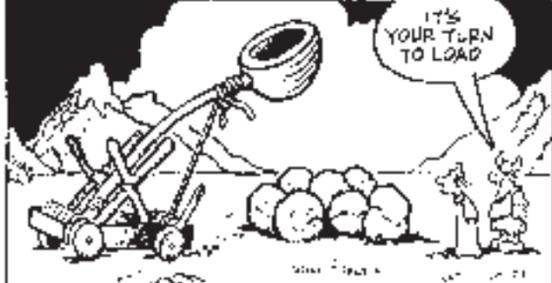


"What if he IS the mother!"

HAGAR



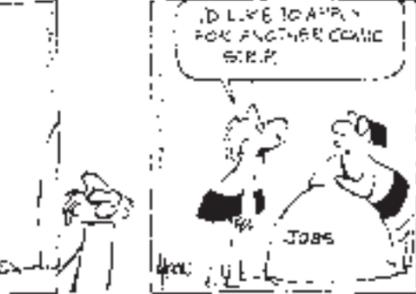
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BC



BLONDIE



WIZARD OF ID



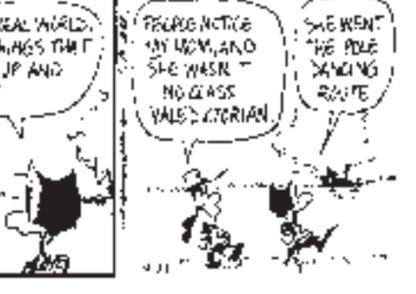
AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



BEETLE BAILEY



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 23, the 297th day of 2012. There are 69 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 23, 1942, during World War II, Britain launched a major offensive against Axis forces at El Alamein (el ah-lah-MAYN) in Egypt, resulting in an Allied victory.

On this date:

In 1862, King Otto of Greece was deposed in a revolt.

In 1915, tens of thousands of women marched in New York City, demanding the right to vote.

In 1932, comedian Fred Allen began his first regular radio show for CBS, "The Linit Bath Club Revue."

In 1935, mobster Dutch Schultz, 34, was shot and mortally wounded with three other men during a gangland hit at the Palace Chophouse in Newark, N.J. (Schultz died the following day.)

In 1954, West Germany was

invited to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which it did the following year.

In 1956, a student-sparked revolt against Hungary's Communist rule began; as the revolution spread, Soviet forces started entering the country, and the uprising was put down within weeks.

In 1972, the musical "Pippin" opened on Broadway.

In 1980, the resignation of Soviet Premier Alexei N. Kosygin (koh-SEE'-gihn) was announced.

In 1983, 241 U.S. service members, most of them Marines, were killed in a suicide truck-bombing at Beirut International Airport in Lebanon; a near-simultaneous attack on French forces killed 58 paratroopers.

In 1987, the U.S. Senate rejected, 58-42, the Supreme Court nomination of Robert H. Bork.

In 1992, Japanese Emperor Akihito began a visit to China, the first by a Japanese monarch.

In 1995, a jury in Houston convicted Yolanda Saldivar of murdering Tejano singing star Selena. (Saldivar is serving a life prison sentence.)

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall of Famer and former U.S. Senator Jim Bunning, R-Ky., is 81. Movie director Philip Kaufman is 76. Soccer great Pele (pay-lay) is 72. Rhythm-and-blues singer Barbara Ann Hawkins (The Dixie Cups) is 69. ABC News investigative reporter Brian Ross is 64. Actor Michael Rupert is 61. Movie director Ang Lee is 58. Jazz singer Diane Reeves is 56. Country singer Dwight Yoakam is 56. Community activist Martin Luther King III is 55. Movie director Sam Raimi is 53. Parodist "Weird Al" Yankovic is 53. Rock musician Robert Trujillo (Metallica) is 48. Christian/jazz singer David Thomas (Take 6) is 46.

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Answer to previous puzzle

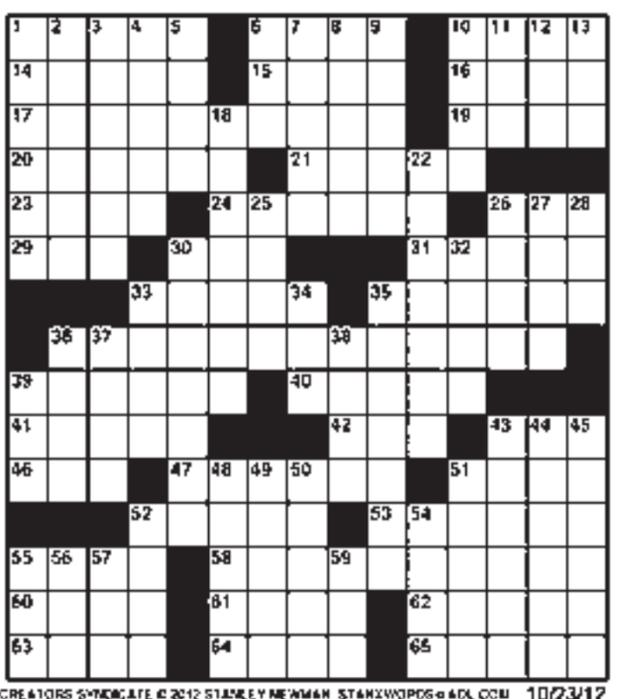
SUPER	FEET	LATE
ASIDE	AIDE	EURO
KETTLE	DRUM	ATION
ERA	ISEE	PIVOTS
BETS	ALOE	
ABAGE	LEN	CAP
TRIG	EDIT	SAUCE
OSLO	MADAM	LIRA
GOLFS	TOR	ONES
ONSTAGE	TONGS	
AND	CODE	
MANILA	PROD	SP
ALAK	WATER	MELON
DARK	ALAS	APART
ENOS	TEST	NAMES

Newsday Crossword

MARKETING MIX by Bill e Traft
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 Surgeon's assistant
 - 6 Office letter
 - 10 Beer, slangily
 - 14 Hr. after midnight
 - 15 Raindrop sound
 - 16 Largest continent
 - 17 Betraying
 - 19 Que. for a few
 - 20 Fly a plane
 - 21 Cost
 - 23 Expand credit
 - 24 Cr. pignity
 - 26 Agent. for short
 - 29 Opposite of WSW
 - 30 Hit the slopes
 - 31 Sa. ad. oil source
 - 33 Fence openings
 - 35 Moon depression
 - 36 Exchanging rates
 - 39 Trip on an ocean mer
 - 40 Very yours
 - 41 Blue Cross competitor
 - 42 Wide shoe width
 - 43 Cpl. for one
 - 46 Monies, IA
 - 47 Necklace fasteners
 - 51 Car horn sound
 - 52 Carottes cousin
 - 53 Phrases of disagreement
 - 55 Office messenger, e.g.
 - 58 Stalling
 - 60 Or. the house

- DOWN
- 1 Old cash register key
 - 2 Lopsided
 - 3 F.x. as brakes
 - 4 Bowl of greens
 - 5 Radiate, as light
 - 6 Car sticker stat
 - 7 Marry secretly
 - 8 Bewa
 - 9 Vision-related
 - 10 Unchanged
 - 11 Northern neighbor of Mex.
 - 12 Loud noise
 - 13 Speak
 - 18 Businessman's accessory
 - 22 Singing group
 - 25 Legal claim
 - 26 Religious ceremony
 - 27 Pre-holiday rights
 - 28 diem worker
 - 30 Inept person
 - 32 Gilly, as a gown
 - 33 "No pain, no gain"
 - 34 Cpl. s superior
 - 35 Intimus
 - 36 Genealogy diagram
 - 37 Boring routines
 - 38 Make ready for show
 - 39 Soudrel
 - 43 More inquisitive
 - 44 Swindler
 - 45 Paylt aquatic mammals
 - 48 Paces for earrings
 - 49 As. (usually)
 - 50 Mode of fashion
 - 51 Church conation
 - 52 B. l. of bird food
 - 54 "The weekend's almost here!"
 - 55 Toward the stem
 - 56 Angel
 - 57 Family room
 - 59 Suffix meaning "doctrina"



SERIES

Continued from Page 8

bloody gash that needed eight stitches to close. Cabrera recovered fine, and will be the first Triple Crown winner to play in the World Series since Carl Yastrzemski and Boston lost in 1967.

There's been a lot of shuffling in the bullpens this year.

Closer Brian Wilson helped San Francisco win the 2010 World Series, but is out this season because of an elbow injury. The bearded reliever became a loud cheerleader in the dugout as the Giants overcame a 2-0 deficit against Cincinnati in the best-of-five division series, then rallied from a 3-1 hole to beat the Cardinals in the NLCS.

San Francisco closed out the Cards 9-0 on Monday night, getting the final out in a driving rainstorm at AT&T Park.

The Tigers, back in the World Series for the

first time since 2006 and trying to win their first crown since Sparky Anderson's gang in 1984, relied on excitable closer Jose Valverde until the playoffs. But when he struggled against the Athletics and Yankees, Leyland looked for other options.

Leyland has certainly had time to prepare for this matchup — not that it's a good thing. The Tigers will have had five days off since dismantling the Yankees, and the 67-year-old manager has done more than figure out how to use ALCS MVP Delmon Young when there's no designated hitter at in San Francisco.

The Tigers also had nearly a week off before starting the 2006 World Series, and the team from the Rust Belt looked rusty. Detroit pitchers made five errors in a five-game wipeout by the Cardinals.

A troubling trend, perhaps: Three previous

times one LCS ended in a sweep while the other went seven games, and each time the team that played Game 7 easily won the World Series.

Then again, the Tigers have Verlander totally rested for the opener.

The reigning AL MVP and Cy Young Award winner is dominating this postseason, going 3-0 with a 0.74 ERA, striking out 25 in 24 1-3 innings.

Hardly the form he flashed in the All-Star game, when he couldn't control his 100 mph heat and Sandoval's triple highlighted a five-run first inning.

Cain wound up with the win, the NL romped and earned home-field advantage in the World Series.

Zito is likely to pitch Game 1 for Bochy's bunch. Left off the postseason roster in 2010 — his poor pitching didn't fit with the Giants' self-described group of "misfits" — he has resurrected his career this year and made a key start in the NLCS.

Brown: 'I didn't ask' for Longhorn Network

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas coach Mack Brown once welcomed the Longhorn Network. Now he sounds as though it's become a headache and a window for opposing coaches to get an unfair peek into his program.

"I didn't ask for it," Brown said Monday, noting he's worried that the six hours a week he spends taping three television shows and the network's access to the first 30 minutes of daily practice may tip opposing coaches to player injuries, tendencies and schemes.

Brown said he and Baylor coach Art Briles discussed it before Texas (5-2) beat Baylor 56-50 on Saturday.

"It's in Waco. Baylor sees every practice," Brown said. "We're a little overexposed."

Brown talked about the Longhorn Network for several minutes before a media relations assistant stepped in to limit questions: Brown had to get to a network show taping.

"I'm a soldier," Brown said. "They tell me to go work with the Longhorn Network, I'll go do it."

It's not the first time Brown has expressed frustration about living with the cameras and crews that come with the school's 20-year, \$300 million partnership with ESPN.

Texas and ESPN unveiled the contract for the Longhorn Network in January 2011, promising fans unparalleled reporting with behind-the-scenes coverage of one of the wealthiest and most prominent athletic programs in the country.

The move created a flashpoint of controversy within the Big 12 and was one of the reasons the league nearly split apart. Rivals Texas A&M and Missouri saw the network as creating an unfair recruiting advantage and financial boost that couldn't be matched.

Texas A&M and Missouri ultimately left the Big 12 for the Southeastern Conference and the split with the Aggies ended one of the longest rivalries in college football.

The network has since struggled to find broad distribution from most major cable and satellite providers. In August, AT&T Inc. agreed to carry the network on its U-verse TV service.

Brown says he knows opposing coaches watch it for any details they can get on the Longhorns. Texas school officials negotiated the network contract and the network's access to his program without asking his advice.

GIANTS

Continued from Page 8

Verlander is set to pitch Wednesday's opener at AT&T Park. Giants manager Bruce Bochy insisted before Monday's game he had not planned any further in advance.

Scutaro, the NLCS

MVP, produced his sixth multihit game of the series and matched an LCS record with 14 hits, and Pablo Sandoval drove in a run for his fifth straight game.

The Giants outscored the wild-card Cardinals 20-1 over the final three games behind stellar starting pitching from Barry Zito, Ryan Vogelsong and Cain.

"It's unbelievable, what else can you say?" Vogelsong said. "Just when you say we're down, we stand up again."

They also benefited from some strange bounces.

On Pence's double that highlighted a five-run third, his bat broke at the label on impact, then the broken barrel hit the ball twice more. That put a rolling, slicing spin on the ball and caused it to change directions — leaving shortstop Pete Kozma little chance to make the play. Kozma broke to his right, figuring that's where the ball would go, but it instead curved to left-center.

"It was going to go in the hole and it ended up going up the middle," Kozma said.

Injured closer Brian Wilson, with that out-of-control bushy black beard, danced in the dugout and fans in the sellout crowd of 43,056 kept twirling their orange rally towels even through rain in the late innings — a downright downpour when Romo retired Matt Holliday on a popup to Scutaro to end it.

Scutaro just told himself to make sure he caught the ball.

Romo embraced catcher Buster Posey as fireworks went off over McCovey Cove beyond right field.



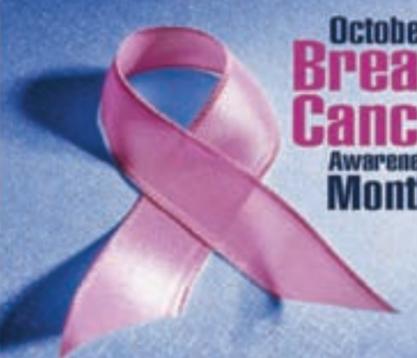
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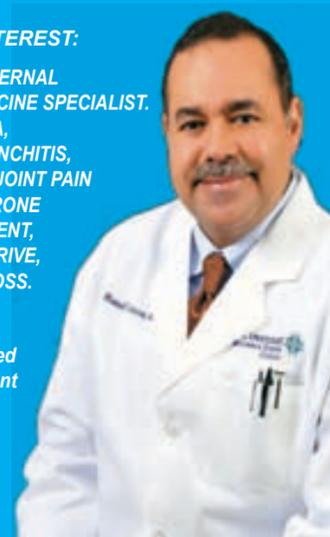


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