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H BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY

JANUARY 8, 2013



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Jr. stock show set to open Wednesday

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Call it, "Everything You Wanted to Know About Farm Animals (But Was Afraid to Ask)."

Hundreds of area youngsters will display their work when the Howard County Junior Livestock Show debuts Wednesday at the Howard County Fair Barns.

This is the final year the livestock show will be held at the fair barns — in 2013, it will shift to the newly constructed agriculture pavilion on the Howard College campus.

The annual event begins with weigh-ins for lambs and goats Wednesday morning. Judging of lambs will begin at 3 p.m., with the goat show following immediately afterward.

On Thursday, rabbits take center stage at 6:30 p.m. The long-eared critters may be considered more of a pest than farm animal to many, but officials say it is the perfect "starter kit" of sorts for those learning how to raise and care for show animals.

The "big boys" of the livestock show circuit — steers and barrows — will be judged Friday. The steer show will be held at 9 a.m., followed by barrows at 1 p.m.

The show concludes Saturday with the buyers' barbecue lunch at noon, followed by the premium sale at 1:30 p.m.

Show officials said they are in need of volunteers to man the concession booth. For more information, contact the county extension agent's office at 264-2236.

Howard County Junior Stock Show Schedule

- WEDNESDAY**
10:00 a.m., Lamb weights due
11:00 a.m., Goat weights due
3:00 p.m., Lamb Show
Goat Show will follow immediately
- THURSDAY**
4:30 p.m., Rabbit Check-In
6:00 p.m., Steer weights due
6:30 p.m., Rabbit Show
8:00 p.m., Barrow weights due
- FRIDAY**
9:00 a.m., Steer Show
1:00 p.m., Barrow Show
- SATURDAY**
12:00 p.m., Buyers' barbecue lunch
1:30 p.m., Premium Auction

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



Courtesy photo
Brody Halfmann, a senior at Garden City High School, is shown with his entry which won the grand champion lamb ribbon at the recently concluded Glasscock County Junior Livestock Show. The Howard County Junior Livestock Show begins Wednesday at the county fair barns.

Texas Legislature opens 2013 session

By **JIM VERTUNO** and **PAUL J. WEBER**

Associated Press
AUSTIN, Texas — They're back. The Texas Legislature starts

another session today with 140 days to figure out how to pay for public schools after slashing \$5.4 billion from classrooms in 2011, whether unemployment recipients should be drug-tested and perhaps finally confront a mounting water crisis under the strain of a rapidly growing population.

And that's just to name a

few problems. That also says nothing about the significant political backdrop of the 83rd legislative session that is poised to renew hot-button issues over abortion access and gun laws. Not only will this be among the most inexperienced Legislatures in recent history — there are 43 freshman in the 150-member House, the

most in four decades — but Gov. Rick Perry and Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst are out to reassert their power following failed runs for bigger offices last year.

As they have for a decade, Republicans run the show in Austin with commanding majorities in the House and

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To reach us:
Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. Sunday.



Tax season cometh

Aides getting out their pens and pads to help you file

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

While the U.S. government's self-built "fiscal cliff" may theoretically be behind Crossroads residents, another time filled with red tape and legalese is just on the horizon, as tax season prepares to get into full swing. Despite the pitfalls of tax

preparations and filing options, area residents won't be forced to face the task alone, as the volunteers with the annual AARP Tax-Aide program will be ready to lend a helping hand weekly until the April deadline.

According to AARP program coordinator Ray Alexander, he and his team of

volunteers will begin classes to prepare for the tax season Jan. 14, with the team prepared to begin assisting local residents with filing their taxes Jan. 28.

"I have one volunteer from last year returning and two new ones, so things are shaping up nicely," Alexander said. "We'll have approxi-

mately seven volunteers ready to go by the time we begin the program."

While Alexander said he's pleased with the number of volunteers willing to donate their time for the program, he said he's always looking for more help.

See **FILING**, Page 3

2nd Week! **13th Month Closeout!**
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Obituaries

Jimmie O. Huitt



Jimmie O. Huitt, 96, of Big Spring died Sunday, Jan. 6, 2013, at his residence. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2013, at Trinity Baptist Church with Dr. Randy Cotton, pastor, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2013, at the funeral home.

He was born June 19, 1916, in Eastland, Texas, and married Vera Mae McCarty on May 22, 1937, in Big Spring, Texas. She preceded him in death Jan. 15, 1997.

Jimmie worked for T&P Railroad while farming. He later began working for Cosden Oil Refinery, retiring after 35 years. He still loved farming and watching his family grow up. He was a member of Trinity Baptist Church.

Survivors include one daughter-in-law, Becky Huitt of Big Spring; two grandsons, Quert Huitt and wife Denise of Big Spring and Terry Huitt and wife Oleta of Tyler; five great-grandchildren, Jeffery Huitt of Fredericksburg, Clint Bingham of San Antonio, Brandon Bingham of Snyder and Kara Bingham and Taylor Heckler, both of Big Spring; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was also preceded in death by one son, Kenneth Huitt; four brothers, Billy Ray Huitt, John Lee Huitt, Charlie Huitt and Calvin Huitt; and two sisters, Mary Maurine Huitt and Ruby Nix.

The family suggests memorials be made to Trinity Baptist Church Building Fund, P.O. Box 1448, Big Spring, TX 79721-1448.

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

Marguerite Orfali Haddad



Marguerite Orfali Haddad, 91, of Big Spring died Sunday, Jan. 6, 2013, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2013, at First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Bill Ivins, pastor, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2013, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

She was born Jan. 7, 1921, in Alexandria, Egypt, and married Dr. Issa Haddad in 1947. He preceded her in death Dec. 31, 1967.

Mrs. Haddad came to the United States in 1976 and became a United States citizen in 1981. She was a member of First United Methodist Church and the Philathia Sunday School Class. She loved bridge, reading and traveling and was fluent in six languages. Her greatest love was her family and friends.

She is survived by four children, Dr. Rudy Haddad and wife Maureen of Big Spring, Dr. Nora Farkouch and husband Dr. Samir of East Chester, N.Y., Dr. Samia Farah of Virginia and Karl Haddad of Indiana; eight grandchildren, Dr. Rudy Haddad and wife Colleen and Dr. Christopher Haddad and wife Jill, all of San Angelo, Dr. Maggie Beitler and husband John Paul of Chicago, Ill., Dr. Christaina Karoleski and husband Anthony of New Jersey, Anna Coricone and husband Craig of East Chester, N.Y., Dr. Anthony Farah and wife Jenna of Philadelphia, Pa., Dr. Christine Stang and husband Eric of New Jersey and Robert Haddad of Indianapolis, Ind.; and numerous great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials be made to First United Methodist Church, P.O. Drawer 1229, Big Spring, Texas 79721-1229.

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

Gerald F. 'Jerry' Anderson



Gerald F. "Jerry" Anderson, 70, of Big Spring died Friday, Jan. 4, 2013, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Pastor Jim Binnix of Midway Baptist Church officiating. Burial will be at Trinity

Memorial Park.

He was born Feb. 6, 1942, in Brady to Velma Alice and John Anderson. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and lived most of his life in Big Spring. He was a retired electrician, having worked many years for Colorado River Municipal Water District. He was a member of the Pentecostal Church.

He is survived by his son, Gary Anderson of Big Spring; one daughter, Amber Anderson of Big Spring; three sisters, Wanda Young and husband Dale of Big Spring, Anita Mallett of Oklahoma City and Johnnye V. Black of Denver, Colo.; three grandchildren, Kali Marie Anderson, Bailie Renay Anderson and Kalie MaNay Banks; and one great-grandchild, Brinleigh Tindol.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one sister, Doris Rink.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersand-smith.com

Paid obituary

Police blotter

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

- JASON KYLE WOODS, 41, of 1202 Center Point Rd., was arrested Monday on a charge of shoplifting - less than \$50.
- ALEX FERRELL PAREDEZ, 21, of 901 E. 16th St., was arrested Monday on a warrant for theft with a previous conviction - \$50 or less.
- MICHAEL DEAN NALL, 34, of 4201 W. Highway 80 Apt. 6, was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction.
- DAVID MARTINE ARMENDARIZ, 42, of 804 Magnolia, was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while license invalid/suspended - no insurance.
- LYDIA MARIE HERNANDEZ, 19, of 1519 Wood, was arrested Monday on a warrant for theft - more than \$500 and less than \$1,500.
- SAUNDRA JO GARRARD, 38, of 1502 W. Third St., was arrested Monday on warrants for driving while license invalid and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- JAMES EARL MAGERS, 51, of 1511 Tucson, was arrested Monday on warrants for criminal mischief - more than \$50 and less than \$500, driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction, assault causing bodily injury and terroristic threat.
- THEFT was reported:
In the 2300 block of Wasson Road.
In the 1700 block of Runnels.
In the 1300 block of Mt. Vernon.
In the 2900 block of E. Interstate Highway 20.
In the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.
In the 600 block of Caylor.
- STOLEN VEHICLE was reported in the 1400 block of S. Johnson.

Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 72 inmates at the time of this report.

- MICHAEL DEAN NALL, 34, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
- LYDIA MARIE HERNANDEZ, 19, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of theft of property - more than \$500 and less than \$1,500.
- ALEX FERRELL PAREDEZ, 21, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the BSPD on a charge of theft of property with a previous conviction - \$50 or less.
- CLARENCE JOHNEL WHITE, 36, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the Glasscock County Sheriff's Office on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
- TONY CASTELLANO, 39, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension and evading arrest or detention.
- JAMES EARL MAGERS, 51, was arrested Monday on judgments/sentences for assault causing bodily injury, criminal mischief - more than \$50 and less than \$500, terroristic threat and driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
- JOE LOPEZ BERNAL, 51, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated.
- DAVID MARTINE ARMENDARIZ, 42, was booked into the county detention center Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
- ISAAC J. TARIN, 20, was booked into the county

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Wed 1/9	Thu 1/10	Fri 1/11
47/42 Cloudy skies early. A few showers developing later in the day. High 47F. Winds ENE at 5 to 10 mph.	45/38 Rain. Highs in the mid 40s and lows in the upper 30s.	63/42 Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 40s.
Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:58 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:59 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 6:00 PM



Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	47	41	rain
Amarillo	56	32	sunny
Austin	54	52	t-storm
Beaumont	62	57	rain
Brownsville	75	64	rain
Brownwood	49	45	rain
Corpus Christi	69	63	t-storm
Corsicana	51	48	rain
Dallas	52	48	rain
Del Rio	56	47	rain
El Paso	52	34	mixed
Fort Stockton	46	37	rain
Gainesville	50	44	rain
Greenville	51	46	rain
Houston	62	59	t-storm
Kingsville	74	63	t-storm
Livingston	58	55	t-storm
Longview	55	51	rain
Lubbock	54	38	mst sunny
Lufkin	58	55	rain
Midland	46	42	rain
Raymondville	75	63	rain
Rosenberg	62	60	t-storm
San Antonio	54	53	t-storm
San Marcos	55	53	t-storm
Sulphur Springs	55	49	rain
Sweetwater	47	42	rain
Tyler	54	51	rain
Weatherford	48	44	rain
Wichita Falls	51	43	rain

detention center Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 2200 block of Nolan. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported near the intersection of N. County Road 9 and W. County Road 50. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1600 block of Goliad. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2900 block of Cherokee. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2900 block of Stonehaven. One person was transported to SMMC.
- GAS LEAK was reported in the 3300 block of Connally.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of S. Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of E. 14th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3600 block of Connally. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1200 block of W. Third Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1300 block of Colby. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

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Texas company: Microwave keeps bread mold at bay

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Attention, bread shoppers: A Texas company could have the answer to some consumers' unwelcome discovery that just-purchased loaves contain mold.

MicroZap Inc. claims its technology allows bread to stay mold-free for 60 days. The bread is bombarded with microwaves for about 10 seconds, which kills the mold spores, said chief executive officer Don Stull said.

The process could eliminate bakers' need for preservatives and ingredients used to mask preservatives' flavor, as well as reduce food waste and increase bread's shelf life, he said.

Researchers at Texas Tech University also see using the technology in bread made in developing countries, where there are fewer food safety standards and spoilage is a problem.

"It could help us provide an abundant food source for those in need," said Mindy Brashear, director of the Lubbock university's Center for Food Industry Excellence. The prospect of helping peo-

ple in developing countries is what motivated the microbiology professor to help develop the technology over the last eight years.

After 60 days, researchers found the treated bread that remained packaged had the same mold content when compared to a freshly baked loaf, Stull said. In the end, though, he knows it comes down to consumers' palates.

"The consumers saw no discernible quality difference in the breads," Stull said of testers who found the treated bread's taste and texture unchanged.

An Associated Press reporter found the same. Though slightly warm from the microwaves, a piece of whole-grain white bread was soft and tasted like one that hadn't been zapped. Sixty-day-old bread was not available to taste.

Estimates from the Natural Resources Defense Council this year indicated that in 2008, in-store food losses in the U.S. totaled an estimated 43 billion pounds — 10 percent of all foods supplied to retail outlets — most of which are perishables, including bread.

Unrefrigerated bread in plastic packaging will succumb to mold in about 10 days, so keeping it at bay for 60 days presents a fresh proposition.

Not so fast, says Ruth MacDonald, professor and chair of food science and human nutrition at Iowa State University. There are thousands of airborne mold spores everywhere, she said, adding that though bread producers might like the technology for storage and transportation, those spores are problematic at home.

"Once you open (the bag of bread), all bets are off," she said.

Mold is a type of fungus that forms because bread wrapped in plastic packaging still has water inside it. When that trapped water begins to evaporate inside the bag, the bread's surface becomes moist, creating the ideal environment for mold.

Researchers with the university tested the MicroZap on three different mold types on breads inside plastic bags with twist ties, and the microwaves destroyed each one.

But there are characteristics that the zapping won't improve; it won't keep bread from going stale. As for touch, firmness and flavor after 60 days, one scientist had his doubts.

"There would certainly be some questions that I would have around the texture of the bread holding for 60 days," said Brian Strouts, head of experimental baking for the Manhattan, Kan.-based non-profit American Institute of Baking. "It would not be the answer to all the problems with baked goods. There's a lot of things that can start happening," including bread becoming rancid.

MicroZap is not a commercial bakery and has no plans to package its own bread or operate a plant where bread is treated. For now, its goal is to find a bread manufacturer that wants to implement a pilot program — using a similar metallic device as the testing prototype — in a production line.

A patent is pending on the technology, Stull said, adding that they're in talks with investors. The U.S. Depart-

ment of Agriculture also has contacted MicroZap about possibly using the technology for exported fruits and vegetables.

Stull said MicroZap has just completed drawings for an in-home unit, so that consumers could treat bread and other foods themselves. He estimated an in-home unit would cost about \$100 more than a regular microwave.

Microwaving bread is not the same as irradiation — a technique that kills food pathogens — as no gamma rays are used. The U.S. government has approved irradiation for a variety of foods — meat, spices, certain imported fruits, the seeds used to grow sprouts. It does not make the food radioactive.

The technology — an effort funded by \$1.5 million from Texas' Emerging Technology Fund — was initially intended to kill bacteria such as MRSA, a contagious bacterial infection that's resistant to many commonly used antibiotics, and salmonella. But researchers discovered it also killed mold spores in bread.

SESSION

Continued from Page 1

Senate. Democrats were able to snag the handful of seats needed in November to break up the GOP supermajority in the House, but the pink hues of the state Capitol remain dominated by the underlying red-state nature of the politics inside the building.

Republicans still rule Texas and the leadership intends to push the state even further to the right. Dewhurst has said he wants Texas to be "the most fiscally and socially conservative state in the country."

Leading the conservative charge once again is Perry, who many are watching for signs that he's ready for another

run in 2014, or another run for president in 2016. Perry, whose 2011-12 campaign for the White House collapsed under a series of public gaffes, has said he won't discuss his political plans until after the session ends in May.

But Perry is already trying to lay out a conservative agenda for state lawmakers, calling on them to continue to place tight controls on state spending, even after historic cuts in 2011 and backing a bill that would ban abortion after 20 weeks of gestation, and drug testing for welfare and unemployment recipients.

The two-year state budget is the only bill lawmakers are required to pass and will be the focal point of the session as Democrats fight

to restore money cut from public education in 2011 and try to push back against any further cuts in health care programs for the poor, disabled and elderly.

The comptroller has set \$101.4 billion in available spending for the next two-year budget cycle — which Democrats say is a healthy enough forecast to reverse the slashed spending of two years ago — but Republicans are already signaling they want to hold the line on spending.

Other top issues for 2013 include:

—Public education: Senate leaders are eager to expand the number of charter schools in Texas and allow parents to use public money to send their children to private schools. And lawmakers will be considering an

overhaul of the state's rigid student testing an accountability system, which has been criticized by parents and business groups.

—Water: After the historic drought and wildfires of 2011, House Speaker Joe Straus and Dewhurst have both urged lawmakers to address the state's shrinking water supply. Dewhurst had said he'd like to use \$1 billion from the state's Rainy Day Fund as seed money for future water projects such as reservoir construction.

—Guns: The Newtown school shooting has lawmakers considering whether to provide state-funding training for security personnel, including teachers with state handgun licenses. Other gun bills will

likely include another attempt to allow license holders to bring concealed handguns into college classrooms.

—Cancer: An unprecedented \$3 billion cancer-fighting agency launched in 2009 is nothing for Texas to brag about anymore. The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas is at a standstill while under criminal investigation over how leaders doled out funding, and lawmakers may decide to withhold taxpayer money from the agency in the face of widespread scrutiny.

While the opening day of the session is mostly ceremonial, it will include a key piece of business in the election of House speaker. Straus, a San Antonio Republican, has held the post

since 2009 but has had to fight off criticism from some Republicans that he's not conservative enough and has been too willing to work with House Democrats.

Rep. David Simpson, R-Longview, wants the job and Straus could face a push from a large freshman class of tea party-influenced newcomers who are eager to flex their muscle.

Straus has said he enjoys broad bipartisan support in the House and doesn't consider his tenure as leader of the chamber to be in danger.

FILING

Continued from Page 1

"We're in pretty good shape right now, but that doesn't mean one of our volunteers won't have an emergency or be unable to help out," he said. "So, we're always looking for more folks willing to donate their time. I'd be happy to talk to prospective volunteers and set things up so they can either help or even back up the people we already have. You can never have too much help."

Alexander said this year's program will operate very similar to years past.

"The AARP program provides free federal tax preparation assistance to people who cannot afford professional tax help, such as seniors, people with disabilities, those that don't speak English and people with low-to-moderate income," Alexander added. "AARP volunteers explain many special tax credits and deduc-

tions and how people may claim them on their tax returns. These volunteers help people complete their returns, right down to any refunds that may be due them."

While the process is fairly simple, Alexander said the red tape coming out of Washington, D.C., didn't necessarily end with avoidance of the fiscal cliff.

"Right now, it's rather unclear when we'll be able to start transmitting returns," he said. "Because the fiscal cliff went down to the wire, the government is just now printing much of the law books and manuals necessary for this year's tax season. We'll be starting class on Monday, regardless, but it's a bit unclear right now whether the whole deadline situation will effect when we can begin transmitting returns.

"People need to be sure to bring all of the pertinent information with them, including W-2 forms and 1099 forms, when they come in to see us. They also need to bring any forms that show their 2012 earnings and their 2011 tax returns. We also need a social security card for

every person named on the return and a photo ID for the person filing."

The program will begin Monday, Jan. 28 and continue each Monday through April 8 at the Big Spring Senior Center — located at 1901 Simler Dr. in the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark —

from 8 a.m. until noon. For more information, contact Alexander at 263-4992.

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



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Carol Anderson, 66, died Friday. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Gerald F. "Jerry" Anderson, 70, died Friday. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Viola Johnson, 94, died Thursday, December 20, 2012. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

2013 Travel Showcases
You are invited to one or both!

<p>Big Spring Travel Show Thursday, January 10 10:00 AM Dora Roberts Community Center Comanche Trail Park 100 Whipkey Drive Big Spring, Texas</p>	<p>Permian Basin Travel Show Thursday, January 10 2:00 PM Holiday Inn Express Hotel 5309 West Loop 250 North Midland, Texas</p>
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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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OTHER VIEWS

BBB's top consumer tips for 2013

As it goes every year, when the clock strikes midnight and the new year begins, I look back on the year I had and look forward to the year to come. I make my new year's resolutions which ultimately lead me to becoming a smarter, healthier, and overall better person.

This year, Better Business Bureau is challenging consumers to be smarter, safer consumers in 2013. These 10 simple New Year's resolutions will help consumers combat scammers and protect themselves from fraud:

- Do your research. Whether it's a business you're looking to hire or a product you're looking to buy, take the time to do your research. Check out a business at bbb.org to see its BBB Business Review. For product information, go to the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

- Keep your computer safe. Install anti-virus software on your computer and regularly check for software and operating system updates. Don't open attachments or click on links in emails unless the email came from someone you know and trust.

- Get it in writing. Don't just take a business's word for it. Get every verbal agreement in writing to limit miscommunication and misunderstandings.

- Never wire money to someone you don't know. Many scams require money to be wired back to the scammers. Tracking money sent via a money wiring service is almost impossible.

- Protect your identity. Always shred paper documents that include sensitive financial data and dispose of computers, cell phones and digital data safely. Safely store all personal documents, such as your Social Security card, pull your credit report at least once a year and check your credit and debit card statements frequently.

- Shop on trustworthy websites. Online shopping is increasingly become more popular, so before you provide any personal or banking information over the web make sure you're using a trusted site. Look for the "s" in <https://> as opposed to <http://> in the address box.

- Give wisely. Most philanthropists give year-round. To ensure your time, treasure and talent are going to the cause you're looking to support, research all charities at www.give.org to check their legitimacy and to see how their monetary donations are distributed.

- Don't be pressured. If a company, organization, or salesperson uses overly-aggressive sales tactics to pressure you into making a purchase or on-the-spot decision, that's a red flag. Walk away.

- Limit the amount of information shared on social media pages. Scammers use social media sites to gather information on potential victims. Avoid sharing too much personal information and check your privacy settings. Additionally, never announce through a social media site that you are going out of town, or won't be home for a specified amount of time.

- Let your BBB help. BBB is here to promote marketplace trust. If you have an issue with a business or feel you have been scammed, file a complaint with your BBB.

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May you give us patience dear Lord as we work with others.

Amen

Unwitting Obama apologists

I hate to break it to those deniers who believe that President Obama's tax-guzzling capacity has somehow been diminished by the fiscal cliff provision to fix "permanent" tax rates. You're dreaming.

Several smart columnists and respected conservative editorial pieces tell us that a major silver lining in the crisis deal just concluded is that by agreeing not to reinstitute the Clinton tax rates (and leave the Bush rates in place) for all but the "wealthy" (income of \$400,000 for single filers and \$450,000 for marrieds), Obama and the Democrats made a major concession. They argue that if Democrats couldn't do better after Obama was just re-elected and when the debt is so high, they'll never be able to. They'll have to realize that they will never be able to sustain their desired welfare state through raising taxes alone and have to come to the table on serious spending cuts and entitlement reform.

This assumes that Obama and the Democrats have any real interest in reducing spending or curbing entitlements. They have shown no interest in doing so, despite the crushing debt problem threatening the nation's solvency.

Obama doesn't base his spending plans on projected revenues, except on a micro level when the law requires him to present bills with revenue-neutral scoring, at which point he manipulates the numbers to make it work out. He spends as much as he can get away with because spending (and taxing) are his tools to fundamentally transform America and to right the myriad economic and social injustices he perceives. I am convinced that the enormity of our deficits and

debt never cost him a minute's sleep.

The silver lining proponents also assume Obama has now exhausted his avenues for extracting more taxes. I frankly don't have any idea how anyone could assume that. After all, during the presidential campaign, Mitt Romney capitulated to Obama's class warfare theme that the rich weren't paying their fair share and promised to eliminate deductions and "loopholes" to remedy this. Then House Speaker John Boehner, in one of his early fiscal cliff offers, surrendered on the very same point.

Is it any wonder today's Republicans have so much trouble with voters? Here we have a class A demagogue running up our deficits and debt to nation-bankrupting levels through runaway spending and obstructing entitlement reform, and Republicans allow him to establish the counterfactual narrative that we have a revenue problem — caused by the rich, no less.

Even if it were a revenue problem, we couldn't solve it by punishing the rich. Increasing taxes on everyone wouldn't put a serious dent in our deficits and debt.

Only entitlement reform and major discretionary spending cuts would do that — coupled with policies designed to generate economic growth, which, by the way, do not include tax hikes on the wealthy and major job producers. But how can we possibly win arguments when we don't even articulate them?

So here we have Obama for his entire first term obstructing entitlement and spending reform and railing about the alleged unfairness of the tax code, which has nothing to do with the debt. During the fiscal cliff negotiations, this distorted dialogue continued unabated, with the main things being discussed having nothing to do with the problems we're facing. It's no surprise, then, that the budget deal finally reached will not only

not improve our debt picture but exacerbate it.

But that's all fine, we are told. Round two is coming up in two months, in which Obama will take "revenues" off the table and really focus on spending cuts and entitlement reform. Really?

I don't know what is more disheartening, Obama's obvious determination to take this nation into socialism and bankruptcy or the deniers on our side of the aisle who insist on pretending we're dealing with a man who eventually will be reasonable and work in good faith on balancing the budget.

Be offended if you choose, but Obama is either trying to bankrupt the country or so addicted to spending and determined to fundamentally transform the nation that he refuses to be bothered about the reckless spending he is causing. We remain blind to this at the nation's peril.

I hate to say I told you so, but after the budget deal, Obama wasn't humbled; he was emboldened. He was ungracious toward Republicans, chastising them and promising there would be more revenue increases coming and absolutely no negotiation over the debt ceiling. Now reports have emerged that, indeed, the deal has emboldened Obama to demand more revenues.

If Obama cared about this nation's solvency and prosperity, he wouldn't have to be enticed through budget bargaining to agree to spending cuts and entitlement reform. He would be initiating dramatic reforms himself. He isn't, and he won't. Peace in our time.

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney. 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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Will it take a revolution?

If you haven't seen the new movie "Les Misérables," you must. It is a staggeringly powerful presentation of revolution in 19th century France, and once you see it you will never forget it. The haunting music and lyrics will stay top-of-mind for weeks.

*"Do you hear the people sing?
Singing the song of angry men ..."*

Now wait. I haven't suddenly become a film critic, not at all. But I must say as I watched this monumental movie about peasants seeking justice, I was struck by the comparisons one could make to the growing turmoil in modern America. Today, it is all about the percolating economic upheaval in the U.S. that is certain to crush us all in the years ahead if something isn't done — and fast.

Politicians in Washington may be patting themselves on the back for preventing a fall off what they called the nation's "fiscal cliff," but really what they have done is just put off the hard decisions until another day.

They failed to do their job until the last possible moment, and when they finally acted, their solution was disappointingly lackluster. Their kick-the-can-down-the-road compromise solution doesn't help the economy in the long run, and it certainly does nothing for future generations who will likely drown in the red ink we leave behind.

Think you would be able to keep your job if you failed day after day, year after year to perform your duties in a timely fashion? Honestly, I don't know

how these "leaders" in Congress — who earn between \$193,400 and \$223,500 a year (plus perks) — can look at themselves in the mirror. Their actions border on criminal, in my opinion.

In the wake of Congress's recent fiscal cliff votes, increasing segments of America are getting angrier. The poor who struggle to feed their families and pay the bills are angry. People who can't find jobs after searching for months or years are angry. Now, those individuals making more than \$400,000 are angry because they are facing substantial tax increases that many of them say will keep them from hiring new employees or buying big-ticket items like new homes, cars or major appliances. That spending could have helped ignite the nation's sputtering economy, but now it never will.

*"Do you hear the people sing?
Singing the song of angry men ..."*

The simple truth that few speak is that tax increases are never going to fix an economy that borrows up to \$1 trillion a year for entitlement programs (Social Security, Medicare/Medicaid and food stamps), defense spending, tax credits and other government programs. America is simply going to have to substantially cut spending — period.

Don't politicians get that? Reminds me of the movie's song "Beggars at the Feast."

*"Everywhere you go
Law-abiding folk
Doing what is decent — but
they're mostly broke!"*

It's time for everyone — from lawmakers who continue to push for funding of non-vital hometown projects to the countless thousands of special interest

lobbyists — to reign in the urge to hold out their hand for more money. There isn't any more money. And logic tells us that to print more is sheer insanity. It's time for elected officials in Washington to do what must be done, otherwise within the next decade the national debt will overtake us all. It is as clear as black and white — or as the French revolutionary's final call for change put it in the song, "Red and Black":

*"The color of the world is
changing day by day
Red — the blood of angry men!
Black — the dark of ages past!
Red — A world about to dawn!
Black — the night that ends at last!"*

If we truly want America's economic slide to end, if we really want to reclaim superpower status for the country, we will have to regain our economic footing. The dirty little secret solution to America's fiscal woes is that even more segments of the population will have to be made angry if we are ever going to get a grip on this slippery slope to total insolvency. We have all become slaves to past bad thinking that we could simply throw money at things and social problems would magically disappear. Most important, more of us have to care about the economic slavery we all endure these days. I know, just getting through the week is hard. Paying the rent or mortgage is sometimes impossible. Finding enough time away from working for children, elderly parents or just plain relaxation is nearly impossible.

We've all become slaves in our own way to the shrinking power of the American dollar. But somehow we citizens have to find time to pick up the revolu-

See **DIMOND**, Page 6

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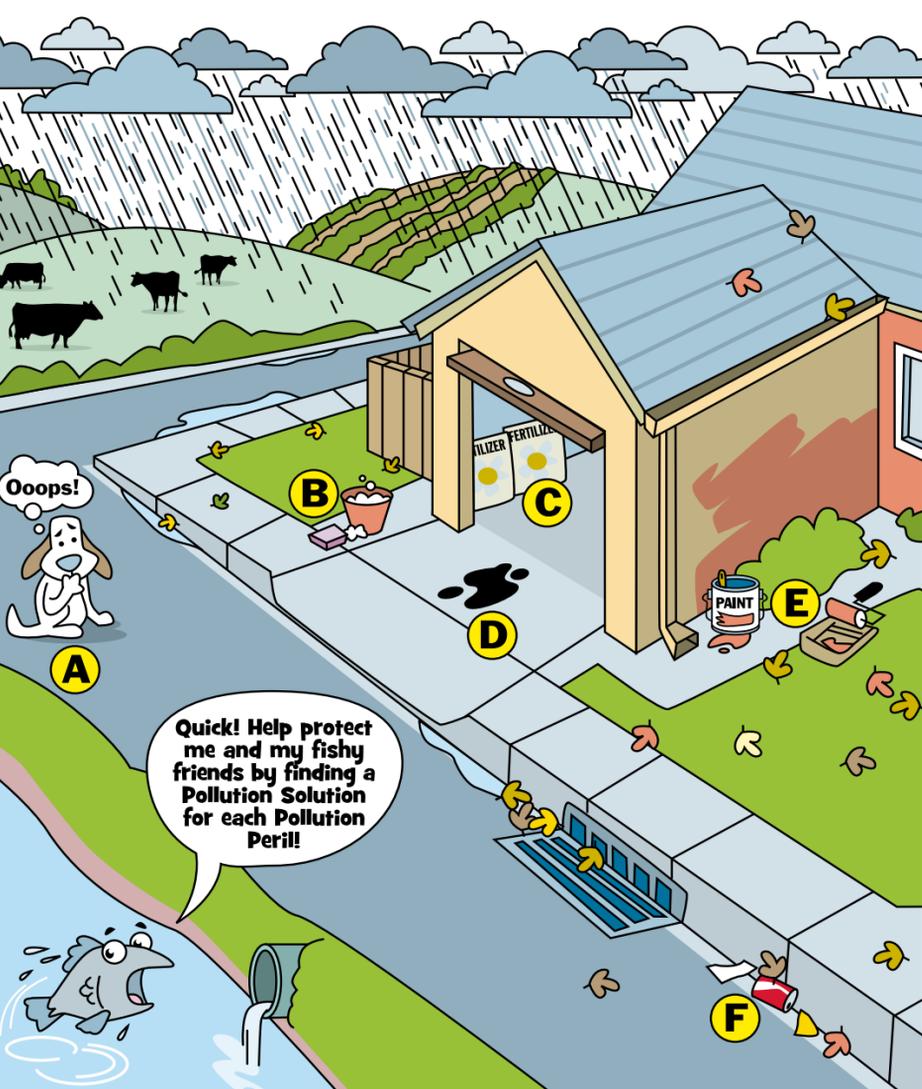
Kid Scoop Together:

REUSE IT!

Storm Water Starts Clean But Can End Up Polluted

When it rains or snows, most of that water seeps into the ground. But what if the ground is covered with a paved surface like a sidewalk or parking lot? In that case, the water flows into gutters or storm drains.

Water picks up **pollutants** as it runs through city streets, gutters and storm drains. These pollutants can make water in our creeks unsafe for humans, plants and animals. This pollution is called *non-point source pollution*.



POLLUTION PERIL	POLLUTION SOLUTION
A. Pet waste on streets and sidewalks can end up in storm drains. Gross!	1. Purchase household detergents low in phosphorous. Reduce run-off by washing your car on a lawn or other permeable (able to absorb liquids) surface.
B. Soapy water from car washing travels to storm drains.	2. Clean up after pets. Dispose of waste in the trash.
C. Fertilizer, pesticides and other garden chemicals can wash into storm water.	3. Keep litter, leaves and debris out of the street gutters and storm drains. These drain directly to lakes, streams, rivers and wetlands.
D. When it rains, oil and gas that has dripped from cars washes into storm drains.	4. Keep a drip pan under parked cars and dispose of used motor oil at an official recycling center.
E. Paint enters drains when brushes are cleaned outside.	5. Apply lawn and garden chemicals sparingly and according to directions.
F. Trash in gutters and sidewalks.	6. Brushes and painting equipment soiled with water-based paint may be rinsed in a sink.

We can change trash into something useful. Before you toss anything into the recycle bin, think about how it could be used again. Jars can be washed and used to store things. Plastic butter tubs can be used to pack food for school lunches. Some trash can even be turned into toys!

The Mighty Scoop

- To make a scoop, cut away the bottom and one side of a plastic milk jug as shown. Cut here
- Use the scoop to toss a ball back and forth. See who can catch the ball most often in one minute!

Plastic Power Bowling

- Save six or more plastic bottles (such as soda or dishwashing liquid).
- Clean bottles thoroughly and remove labels.
- Place bottles in a triangle shape and try to knock down with a small ball.



Kids Can Help! Here are three simple ways to help keep pollution out of our waterways and eliminate waste. Create a fourth tip. Post these in your classroom.

 Use reusable cups instead of disposable ones. Cans and plastic bottles are major sources of pollution.	 Use reusable bags when you go to the grocery store. Plastic grocery bags can blow away and end up in creeks.	 Always pack your lunch in a reusable container. Bring it home, wash it and use it again to help prevent lunchbag litter.
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Standards Link: Environmental Science: Know how people affect the environment in negative and positive ways.

Weather Report

Most newspapers and newspaper websites contain some form of weather report. Design your own symbols for different kinds of weather conditions including frost, snow, wind, clouds, fog, thunder and lightning.

Standards Link: Visual Arts: Use a variety of media to convey meaning.

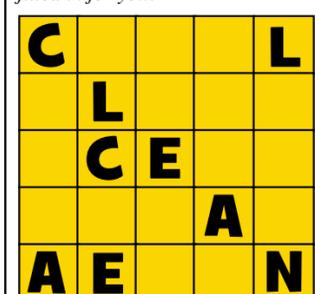
Quick Tips

- Baby wipe containers can be washed and reused to store toys with lots of small parts (such as LEGOs or Barbies).
- Used gift wrap can make a terrific addition to your art supplies. Use it to make collages, for scrapbooking or link it into a paper chain to decorate next year's tree.
- Empty peanut butter jars are great for storing crayons and also for saving spare change.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow multiple-step directions.

Kid Scoop-doku

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



Kid Scoop Puzzler

Draw the fish that should come next to continue the pattern in each row.

									<input type="text"/>
									<input type="text"/>
									<input type="text"/>
									<input type="text"/>

Standards Link: Mathematical Reasoning: Extend simple patterns.

The Online Scoop Try these online games that teach you how to take care of the environment. Go to: www.kidscoop.com/kids/

Double Double Word Search

POLLUTION RECYCLING SOLUTION WETLANDS GUTTERS DISPOSE PROTECT DRAINS STORM TRASH PAINT SOAPY WATER WASTE LAWN

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

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

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Water Journal
Clip and collect articles about creeks, rivers, lakes and all kinds of water. Make lists of people, agencies and places that appear in the articles. What are the main topics of discussion or issues about water in your newspaper?
Standards Link: History/Social Science: Understand environmental issues in your local community.

What do you get by mixing an elephant and a fish?
ANSWER: Swimming trunks.

Write On!

Clean Water Team
The first rainstorms of winter can bring a lot of debris into storm drains. What can you do to keep rivers and creeks clean?

BIRD POOP:

Thanks to Margaret Lloyd

As she approached the building, a cold gust of wind blew the last remnants of a dust storm into her face. Wincing from the irritating particle that hit her eye, she paused long enough to hunt for a tissue buried inside one of the many pockets of her coat.

Blotting her teary eye, she started up the stairs. As another swirling mass of dried grass and dirt caused her to miss a step, she regained her balance only to have the tissue wrenched from her hand by the frigid wind.

Her only recourse was to go back down the steps. Fortunately, the wind had blown her only "sponge" into the shrubbery under the front windows.

Kneeling to retrieve it, she desperately needed the tissue to clear her blurry eye. Just as it became airborne again, she was able to grab the errant "handkerchief." It was at that moment she saw it.

About three feet away and facing her way, was a bird with a brown head and black body. It did not move. Since she was so close to it and on the same level, she decided to crawl toward it. Her next decision was based upon its looking dazed and being totally unresponsive.

Inside, the administrator had noticed his appointment was late in arriving. Deciding to stretch his legs, he walked over to the windows to watch another January version of the "dust bowl."

Movement beneath the window caused him to check with his secretary. "Are all the patients accounted for?" he asked. Although her affirmative reply was reassuring, he wondered about the person outside.

From his vantage point, all he could see was the posterior of a heavy coat



Courtesy photo

Brood parasitism is evident in the feeding process of this cardinal and a cowbird. Having raised the youngster as its own, a parent is in the process of teaching it to fly and discover food.

crawling in front of the hedge. It became even more interesting when the figure lunged forward with both arms extended.

Rushing from the window, he left his office and charged out the front door. The person he had seen in front of the shrubs was coming up the steps with her hands around a bird. "Margaret, I should have known it was you!" he exclaimed.

Outside, with the overcast sky and clouds of dust, the bird's attire had been greatly muted. Inside the building and under the bright office lights, the iridescent green and purple hues accenting the black plumage of its wings, tail, and body glimmered while its head reminded one of a rich coffee.

As office personnel oohed and aahed over the colorful bird, the administrator asked one of them to get a box for Mrs. Lloyd.

When our phone rang, an old friend described her recent situation. "They didn't know if I was a patient or what was happening," she added. Surmising that the bird had either flown or been blown into a window, Margaret

had realized the bird wouldn't fly until it could recover from such a trauma.

Some time later she delivered it. Resting in its box, a male, brown-headed cowbird was fortunate. Impact events often result in broken necks or internal damage. With time, her bird might be releasable.

Calls from the state hospital had often resulted in our receiving hawks, owls, and other species of varying sizes. With bruised or broken wings, these birds had been victims of natural events. Many, with rehab, had returned to the sky.

Employees had learned over the years that in late spring and early summer young birds were learning how to fly, and often were also found on the ground. Letting their parents teach them survival skills was better than taking them out of their environment.

In this instance, Margaret had rescued a bird that was equated with grackles as the "lowest of the low" in desirability. To her, however, it was a life. Its pedigree didn't matter.

Large, migrating flocks of brown-headed cowbirds and grackles were usually unwelcome because of the waste they left behind. In addition, while other members of the blackbird family constructed yearly homes for their young, the cowbird was one of the few species that did not build a nest.

Accused of being lazy and parasitic, the brownish-gray female would hunt for nests of other species of birds, which then would hatch her eggs and raise her young. Removing one egg from each host nest, she would lay an egg as a replacement. With hungry mouths to feed, foster parents willingly fed all that hatched and begged for food.

Preferring insects and seeds, the lowly brown-headed cowbird was first attracted to our country because of huge buffalo herds. As these were decimated, cattle offered the same benefits. Insects stirred up from the hooves, and grains used for feed were a tempting alternative.

To insure its chance for survival and release, we took the brown-headed cowbird to the Eos Wildlife Sanctuary in Midland. Hopefully, its stay would guarantee a successful migration in the spring. Thanks to Margaret Lloyd, the bird that nobody seemed to want had been given another chance.

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

DIMOND

Continued from Page 4

tionary banner that reads, "NO MORE RED INK." It will surely be painful for everyone, but it's a revolution in thinking that's long overdue.

*"Will you join in our crusade?
Who will be strong and stand with me?
Beyond the barricade is there a world you long to see?
Then join the fight
That will give you the right to be free."*

It might very well take a modern-day revolution to install leaders bold and brave enough to get done what must be done — to stop spending

Who
are you,
anyway?

As we are entering into a new year, allow me to share a comment recently that took me by surprise by the depth of its philosophy. It was by Neale Donald Walsch. He stated: Every decision you make — every decision — is not a decision about what to do. It's a decision about Who You Are.

When you see this, when you understand it, everything changes. You begin to see life in a new way. All events, occurrences, and situations turn into opportunities to do what you came here to do.

As I read this statement I have to admit, it made me think about what it really meant. It tells me that

each decision I make explains who I am. That decision to watch TV or read for an extra hour rather than getting a job finished tells the world I would much rather give way to my pleasure rather than to finish the work that I have waiting for me. That dessert with my meal tells that I will give way to my pleasure rather than try to improve my health.

I had never thought about how each simple life decision really tells about our character and the kind of person we are. It certainly does change my point of view. The question is, will it change my actions?

I remember a comment I heard years ago which stated: Life isn't about finding ourselves, it is about creating ourselves. If we are in the process of creating ourselves and our decisions define who we are, then our decision-making process will control the person we are creating.

This means that each decision we make needs to be thought out carefully before any action is performed. We must consider each possible solution and think through the process of possible outcomes before making the decision.

It's not hard to make decisions when we know what our values are. We must listen to our intuition and balance it as best we can with truthful rational analysis of the situation we face.

I've heard it said that to live is to choose; but to choose, we must know who we are and what we stand for, where we want to go, and why we want to get there. Life is not something ready-made. It comes from our own actions which come from our own decisions. Therefore, if we make shallow decisions then we will have a shallow life. If our decisions are with deeper meanings then our lives will have more depth.

I guess in conclusion I will quote two different sources. Yogi Berra once said, "Don't corner something meaner than you!" But then there is the old Chinese proverb: "Half an orange tastes as sweet as a whole one."

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

money that simply isn't there. And voters must begin to insist upon it ... or else.

*"Do you hear the people sing?
Singing the song of angry men
It is the music of a people
Who will not be slaves again."*

You in? If you're wavering, you might want to see the movie to understand what's at stake.

Visit Diane Dimond's official website at www.dianedimond.com for investigative reporting, polls and more. To find out more about Diane Dimond and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

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Bulldogs earn All-District nods



Morgan Luce, senior



Peyton Rodriguez, senior



Tanner Ruiz, senior



Braxton Iden, sophomore

By BRIAN MCCORMACK

Sports Editor

COAHOMA — There likely wasn't a team in the Crossroads area who dealt with more adversity by way of injuries than the Bulldogs. With most starters injured at some point during the season, Coahoma Head Coach Trey Gardner was forced to improvise — rotating players at different positions, bumping up junior varsity kids — the list goes on.

In the end, the Bulldogs finished 2-8. Though not an impressive statistic at first glance, it hardly accounts for the effort and teams had to exert to defeat them.

"Nobody overlooked us," Gardner said. "They all knew our kids would go out there and play four quarters."

The grit and talent was recognized by the other District 3-2A coaches as well.

Despite the disappointing season

and myriad injuries, four Bulldogs were named to the first team All-District squad, with five others to the second team.

Senior Tanner Ruiz, who quarterbacked as much as an injured wrist would allow, was chosen as a first team running back. Others named to the first team include senior Morgan Luce (OL), senior Peyton Rodriguez (DE) and sophomore Braxton Iden — whom Gardner said will most likely start at quarterback next season — was named to the first team as a defensive back.

"The coaches recognize effort more than anything else," Gardner remarked. "Considering how we finished, we had more chosen than we thought we would. We really expected to have a good year this year and we would have if it weren't for all the injuries. It will be hard to replace the the seniors who won't

be coming back. Some of them have been playing for us since they were sophomores, but we also have some kids who really stepped up. (Iden) had that huge pick in the Sonora game, Of course, we are going to miss (Ruiz), Alex Hill, (Rodriguez) and the rest of the seniors."

Second team picks included seniors Eddie Hagins (TE), T.J. White (DB) and Daniel Solis (OL); junior wide receiver, Armani Guillama and sophomore OLB Melendez. An honorable mention went to senior DT Jose Niño. Ruiz was also named as a second team kick returner.

With a junior varsity squad which went 9-1 and several underclassmen gaining valuable experience as a result of the injuries, the Bulldogs could come out even stronger next season.

"We stole from our J.V. A lot,

Gardner added. "They definitely have a big future, but a lot of them were freshmen, we still have to get them up and see if they can play at the varsity level."

Buffaloes west down I-20, the Stanton Bulldogs also received All-District honors.

First team selections included juniors Tim Anderson (RB) and Ruben Cazares (ILB), as well as seniors Logan Fryar (OL), Luke Swiger (DT), Bryce Breeding (DB) and Andres Chaves (K).

Earning second team honors were senior DB Seth Gonzales and juniors Drew Snellgrove (WR), Andrew Saldana (OL), Mason Myrick (DT), Kevin Kline (OLB) and utility player Jonathon Ramos.

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

Hawks fall to Chaps in WJCAC openers

By BRIAN MCCORMACK

Sports Editor

It was a rough night for the Hawks — both the men and women — as they opened conference play against rival Midland College on Monday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on the Howard College campus.

Moments prior to tipoff, HC Head Women's Basketball Coach Earl Diddle was confident his squad would come out on top.

"I'm excited," Diddle said. "It's been a long fall. We have played through some unfortunate circumstances and we are ready to get started. I think it will be a good matchup for us."

Diddle was correct, it was a good matchup.

Too good, in fact, as a late rally powered the Lady Chaparrals past the Hawks, 56-54.

The Hawks fell behind early, but managed to come back, leading by as many as 12 late in the first half.

A strong start in the second half proved the disaster for MC, who couldn't seem to build any real steam offensively. Until the final minutes of the game.

A flat HC team seemed to unrav-

el as the Chaps heated up. A free throw tied the game at 54 with 2:30 left to play.

The Hawks took possession with 30 seconds on the clock and down by two, but missed a layup — as well as a chance to send the game into OT.

Midland then drove down the court to make the winning basket.

"We took a time out with seven minutes to go," Diddle said. "I think we were up by 11 and I said 'Whoever is the most aggressive team is going to win this game. And so, we didn't score the last six minutes and 30 seconds and there you go."

We certainly let this one go, but I was proud of the way they played in between the first two minutes and the last seven minutes. We're just a little bit young, but that's no excuse, either. In junior college, you have to learn quick."

The 11-5 women will meet Clarendon College at home Thursday. Game time is slated for 5:45 p.m.

As for the men's squad, the Hawks (13-2) and the Chaps went back-and-forth early in the outing, but the Hawks steadily built a lead throughout the first half of play.

Trailing by 14, MC responded. Minutes before halftime, the Chaps began dominating Howard defensively.

HC couldn't mount a comeback and they lost their second game of the season, 81-69.

With just seconds before halftime, MC took a 35-33 lead, as the stunned Hawks tried to regroup.

Midland was relentless, however, and they led Howard throughout the second half.

"It was a very disappointing loss," Head Men's Coach Mark Adams said.

"It exposed a lot of our weaknesses and we are just going to have to move forward and try to turn it into a positive."

Lost rebounds, loose balls recovered by MC and poor shooting is what cost the usually sharp Hawks the game, according to Adams.

"We kept shooting ourselves in the foot," Adams added. "Not to take anything away from Midland — they had a stronger will to win than we did."

Adams hopes to get back on track Thursday at the Dorothy when the Hawks battle Clarendon College, beginning at 7:45 p.m.

Steers stopped by Mustangs

By BRIAN MCCORMACK

Sports Editor

ANDREWS — It was another disappointing evening for the Big Spring boys, as they traveled to Andrews on Monday to take on the Mustangs.

Big Spring (5-14) played well in the opening minutes of the bout, scoring six-of-seven from the three-point line.

The performance was short-lived, according to Head Coach Cliff Thompson.

"We started off pretty well," he said. "Then we just absolutely collapsed the rest of the game. We missed our shots — we only scored four points in the second quarter. We showed

some signs of life in the third quarter and we closed it to 14 in the fourth, keeping (Andrews' lead) to under 20 points."

With District 4-3A action to kick off against Wylie on Friday, Thompson remains focused on playing consistently throughout the game.

"We haven't put four quarters together all year," Thompson added.

"We haven't been able to get into a rhythm."

Tavaris Walker and Tyler Graves each scored 13 points for the Steers and Tyler Wiggins put up 10.

The Steers play at Abilene Wylie on Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Sports Calendar

TODAY

Girl's Basketball

- Big Spring at Snyder, Ninth, 5 p.m.; J.V., 5 p.m. p.m.; Varsity, 6:15 p.m.
- Coahoma at Lamesa, TBA.
- Forsan at Sundown, TBA.
- Stanton at Colorado City, J.V., 5 p.m.; Varsity, 6:30 p.m.
- Garden City at Robert Lee, J.V., 4 p.m.; Varsity, 6:30 p.m.
- Grady at Loop, TBA.
- Sands at Dawson, TBA.

Boy's Basketball

- Coahoma at Lamesa, TBA.
- Forsan at Sundown, TBA.
- Pecos at Stanton, J.V., 5 p.m.; Varsity, 6:30 p.m.
- Garden City at Robert Lee, J.V.; 5 p.m.; Varsity, 8 p.m.
- Grady at Loop, TBA.
- Sands at Dawson, TBA.



The Grady girl's junior varsity basketball squad took first place in a tournament in Forsan over the weekend. The Lady Wildcats dispatched Coahoma, Stanton and Borden County to claim the championship.

Courtesy photo/Valerie Avery

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

It's All in the Mind

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 9 8 4 3
♥ Q 9 8 5 2
♦ A 7 6
♣ 10
WEST
♠ K J 2
♥ 4
♦ K Q 9 5 3
♣ Q 7 6 2
SOUTH
♠ A Q 7
♥ A K J 10 6 3
♦ J
♣ A J 8

The bidding:
South 1♥
West Pass
North 4♥
East Pass

Opening lead — King of diamonds.
Some endplay situations are dealt ready-made for declarer to execute. All he has to do is to recognize the setup and put the required wheels into motion.

In other hands, though, the setup does not exist naturally but must be created. In these cases, the test of a player's skill lies in being able to visualize the end position he wants to achieve and then taking the steps

necessary to bring it to fruition.
Thus, if South uses his foresight in today's deal, he realizes at trick one that the slam is in the bag. He sees that rather than stake the outcome entirely on a spade finesse against the king, which would offer only a 50 percent chance of success, he can instead develop an end position where he will have only trumps and spades in dummy and his own hand. Once he reaches that position, the defenders will be helpless.

Declarer starts by winning the opening diamond lead with the ace, ruffs a diamond, cashes the ace of trumps and ace of clubs, then ruffs a club, a diamond and a club. Having eliminated the minor suits from both his hand and the dummy, he next leads a spade from dummy and, assuming East follows low, plays the seven.

West wins with the jack but has no safe exit. He must either return a spade into the A-Q or lead a club or a diamond, allowing South to ruff in dummy while discarding the queen of spades from his hand.

Note that it doesn't help East to put up the ten on the spade lead from dummy. In that case, South plays the queen, and West finds himself in the same hopeless predicament.

Tomorrow: Second-hand low?

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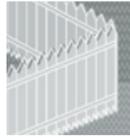
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Venus Gets Real

How do I love thee? Ten minutes at a time. That's the best way to love as love goddess Venus takes a journey through the practical, proof-oriented sign of Capricorn. Making commitments is all well and good, but we'll only believe what is actually happening. The future is a question mark. Now is the only moment that exists, and even that is debatable.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If you can't gain insight into another person's nature, try to gain insight into your own. By doing this, you'll align yourself with the forces of greater understanding.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The bull doesn't always rage. So powerful a creature needn't prove how powerful he or she is at every juncture. And just now, you're about as peaceful, docile and content as a cow in the meadow.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's much to process in social dynamics right now, and

you are game. You know how you want this chapter of your life story to end, but you just may get a cliffhanger instead. Certainty is overrated anyhow!

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Even though there are challenges in your financial sector, they can all be worked out. This feels like the most of your worries, and it's really the least. Relax and let heaven reflect your inner beauty back to you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Within you is the power to strike a fire in someone's heart. You may even sense that you could do this in the heart of everyone you meet if you were so inclined. And you wouldn't be out of line, either.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It may seem that you're helpless to make a difference, but it's not true. The world is big, but you can always do something to make it better. By resolving conflicts within yourself you'll bring harmony to your environment.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's a bit like when you're watching your favorite drama and you come to an episode in which surprisingly little happens. Don't lose interest, though. There are more exciting days around the bend.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Humans have been on Earth for hundreds of thousands of years, and yet articles on basic topics like how to stretch and eat are still popular. Trust your human instinct, not the latest trend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). According to Greek legend, fire was intended for the gods only. But then Prometheus stole a flame or two and gave it to the humans. He was punished for this act of kindness, and maybe right now you can relate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Don't let your quest for knowledge consume you. There is no reason to make a grab for the distant bits. Let things come to you. Everyone knows what happens to people who overreach: They lose their balance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). True to your sign, you'll share what's in your vessel and still have more left over for you. But instead of water, or perhaps in addition to it, you have insight, wisdom and health to

give. **PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You don't need a complicated mind map to find out what you really want to do. It's obvious. The only thing stopping you from going forward is fear, and that will slowly disappear as you take more steps toward your desire.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 8). Your cosmic birthday gift is a new level of personal freedom. Breezy energy comes into your professional life, and suddenly the one who held you back gets out of your way in February. Your social life rocks in March. Singles love the relationship options. September travel unites family in common fun. Cancer and Virgo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 4, 44, 49 and 30.

TAURUS YEAR AT A GLANCE: **JANUARY:** Those who've tasted the honey of success will inspire you to reach for your own sweet dreams. **FEBRUARY:** Mars and Venus challenge your former definitions of success. **MARCH:** Mercury suggests that finesse makes things possible that sheer power and authority can't manage. **APRIL:** Secret wishes start to form in your mind. **MAY:** Visitors, romantic drama and career demands make this a whirlwind month. **JUNE:** Uranus and Pluto help you bravely break down a barrier and move forward. **JULY:** Family wants your time. You may have to compromise to fit their expectations, but you're better for the sacrifice. **AUGUST:** An orderly living situation gives you a platform on which to build your next venture. **SEPTEMBER:** You'll tweak your routine so that your life supports you better; your success depends on it. **OCTOBER:** Venus pulls at your heartstrings, and you will be reminded of what longing feels like. **NOVEMBER:** Someone will want to know where you stand, and the answer will set you on a particular course. Choose well. **DECEMBER:** The new moon on the 2nd pushes you to find untapped resources and combine them in extraordinary ways.

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sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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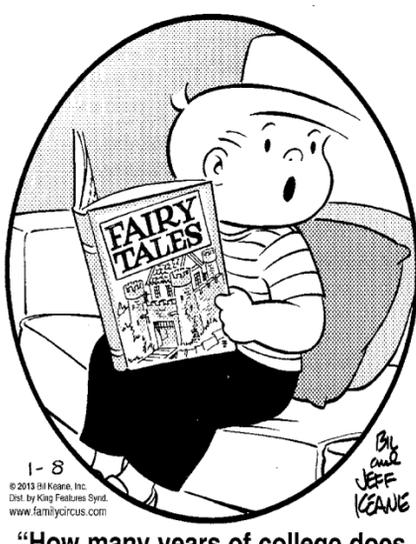
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5:PM	News ABC	Casa Notic.	Two Men CBS	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News News	Seinfeld A. Shelby	Justice A. Shelby	Charlie Rose	King King	Deadliest Catch		Repo Repo	Castle	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good Jessie	SportsNation	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy! Wheel	Corona de Lágrimas	Big Bang Big Bang	News Ent	Caso Cer-rado	Millionaire	Seinfeld Sala	Dr. Diana Sala	PBS News-Hour	Rules Rules	Deadliest Catch		Repo Repo	Castle	Movie: Soul Plane, Method Man	ANT Farm Dog	College Basketball: Baylor at Texas Tech.	College Basketball: Alabama at Missouri.
7:PM	Mod Fam Middle	Por Ella Soy Eva	Raising Ben-Kate	NCIS (DVS)	Rosa Diamante (SS)	Betty Betty	Big Bang Big Bang	Upd Alewine	History Detectives	Hart of Dixie	Deadliest Catch	Movie: Jerry Maguire, Renee Zellweger	Movie: Dodgeball: A True Under-dog Story	Castle		Movie: The Lion King	NBA Coast to Coast	College Basketball: Ohio State at Purdue.
8:PM	Happy Apts. 23	Amores Verdaderos	New Girl Mindy	NCIS: Los Angeles	La Patrona (SS)	Go On Normal	Big Bang Big Bang	Light of the Southwest	Abolitionists	Emily Owens, M.D.	Deadliest Catch		Castle					
9:PM	Private Practice	Amor Bravío (SS)	Simpsons How I Met	Vegas	Escobar Rostro de	Parenthood	Cougar Big Bang		Frontline	Seinfeld Africa			J. Schmo	Castle	Movie: 35 & Ticking, Kevin Hart	ANT Farm Jessie Good		
10:PM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Conan	Shepherd's Heart	Charlie Rose	Til Death Til Death	Deadliest Catch	(:01) Movie: Jerry Maguire, Renee Zellweger	J. Schmo	CSI: NY		Jessie	NFL Live	SportsCenter
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero Al Diablo	Raymond Law Order: CI	Ferguson	Victorinos (SS)	Jimmy Fallon	Cougar Office	Ministerios Vida	World T. Smiley	'70s '70s	Deadly Seas		J. Schmo	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Wizards Wizards	SportsNation	SportsCenter
12:AM	Extra Paid	Mar de Amor (SS)	Raymond Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	Daly	Conan	Upd Chevalme		Browns Browns	Deadliest Catch		J. Schmo	Cold Case	Movie: Soul Plane, Method Man	Deck Deck	NBA Basket	SportsCenter
1:AM	Paid	La Jaula Par Ases	TMZ	Paid	De'siones	Movie: Disaster Movie		Light of the Southwest		Cops Gaither	Deadliest Catch	Movie: Keeping the Faith	Entourage Entourage	Southland		Good Good	NFL Live	SportsCenter

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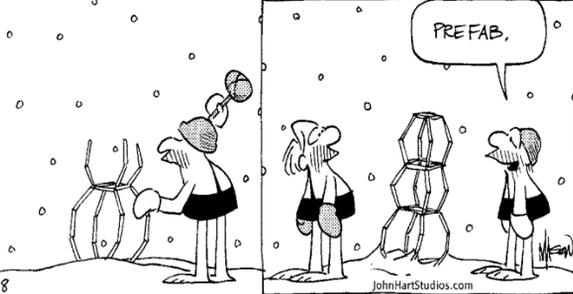
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This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 8, the eighth day of 2013. There are 357 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 8, 1663, Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa," on loan to the United States from the Louvre Museum in Paris, went on display at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., with President John F. Kennedy and his wife, Jacqueline, in attendance.

On this date:

In 1790, President George Washington delivered his first State of the Union address to Congress in New York.

In 1815, U.S. forces led by Gen. Andrew Jackson defeated the British in the Battle of New Orleans — the closing engagement of the War of 1812.

In 1863, America's First Transcontinental Railroad had its beginnings as California Gov. Leland Stanford broke ground for the Central Pacific Railroad in Sacramento. (The

transcontinental railroad was completed in Promontory, Utah, in May 1869.)

In 1912, the African National Congress was founded in Bloemfontein, South Africa.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson outlined his Fourteen Points for lasting peace after World War I. Mississippi became the first state to ratify the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, which established Prohibition.

In 1935, rock-and-roll legend Elvis Presley was born in Tupelo, Miss.

In 1959, Charles de Gaulle was inaugurated as president of France's Fifth Republic.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson declared a "War on Poverty" in his State of the Union address.

In 1973, the Paris peace talks between the United States and North Vietnam resumed.

In 1982, American Telephone and Telegraph settled the Justice Department's antitrust lawsuit against it by agreeing to divest itself of the 22 Bell System companies.

In 1989, 47 people were killed when a British Midland Boeing 737-400 carrying 126 people crashed in central England.

In 2011, U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., was shot and critically wounded when a gunman opened fire at the congresswoman met with constituents in Tucson; six other people were killed, 12 others also injured. (Jared Lee Loughner (LAWF-nur) has pleaded not guilty to 49 charges in connection with the shooting.)

Today's Birthdays: Former Independent Counsel Lawrence E. Walsh is 101. Actor-comedian Larry Storch is 90. Actor Ron Moody is 89. Broadcast journalist Sander Vanocur is 85. CBS newsman Charles Osgood is 80. Singer Shirley Bassey is 76. Game show host Bob Eubanks is 75. Country-gospel singer Cristy Lane is 73.

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Answer to previous puzzle

STEP	APLUS	TREK
PAGE	IRANI	WORE
ODOR	MONTG	GOBAY
TASSEL	DIVA	ESS
ITEM	LEND	
HARRASSE	DATA	
ATON	SANE	ENACT
SLUGS	TAX	RUMMY
HASUP	SKIS	BEEP
SELL	ESPRESSO	
	FIND	TIER
SLO	NORM	EDIBLE
PUGET	SOUND	VEAL
ABLE	INTRO	EARS
REEL	REITAN	RUDE

Newsday Crossword

NOT SO HOT by Billie Truitt

- ACROSS
- 1 Recipe abbr.
 - 5 Admired celebrity
 - 9 Garden shovel
 - 14 Compete in a meet
 - 15 ___ Scotia, Canada
 - 16 Hot chocolate drink
 - 17 Property measure
 - 18 No longer fizzy
 - 19 Bye-bye, in Barcelona
 - 20 Large sum, slangily
 - 23 Not moist
 - 24 Finishes with
 - 25 Bar snacks
 - 27 Ready for harvesting
 - 30 Competitive personalities
 - 34 Former fast flier: Abbr.
 - 37 Parts of molecules
 - 39 Car wheels' connector
 - 40 Unwelcoming welcome
 - 44 First-class
 - 45 Prefix meaning "across"
 - 46 Media mogul Turner
 - 47 Snuggle up
 - 50 Neighborhood swimming site: Abbr.
 - 51 Wise person
 - 53 Camels' Peruvian cousins
 - 58 Ave. crossers

- 61 No real consolation
 - 64 Mall booth
 - 66 Prejudice
 - 67 Creative inspiration
 - 68 Non-studio film, for short
 - 69 "The joke's ___!"
 - 70 Genuine
 - 71 Full of substance
 - 72 Garden intruder
 - 73 "If all ___ fails..."
- DOWN
- 1 Tiny remnant
 - 2 The B of BLT
 - 3 Boston fish dish
 - 4 Rinds
 - 5 Endless time or space
 - 6 Raggedy Ann, for one
 - 7 Cameo shape
 - 8 Caesar's language
 - 9 Sparse
 - 10 Pea's place
 - 11 Battery fluid
 - 12 Entryway
 - 13 Simple to do
 - 21 Virtuous
 - 22 No longer chic
 - 26 Small squabble
 - 28 Place where ships stop
 - 29 Nail file mineral
 - 31 Leave the stage
 - 32 Lotion additive
 - 33 Mail out
 - 34 Look over quickly
 - 35 Loafer or pump

- 36 Pie pans
- 38 Con game
- 41 Allows
- 42 In the envelope
- 43 Biblical song
- 48 Yes-man
- 49 Conceit
- 52 Arc-shaped pasta bit
- 54 In flames
- 55 Fashion show walker
- 56 Regions
- 57 No longer edible
- 58 Fat-free milk
- 59 Fork prong
- 60 Any fizzy drink
- 62 Enjoy a banquet
- 63 Arrived
- 65 Take a chair

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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'Bama bashes Notre Dame in championship

PAUL NEWBERRY

AP National Writer

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — Barely taking time to celebrate their latest national championship, Nick Saban and the Alabama Crimson Tide are ready to get back to work.

That's how they make it look so easy.

In what must be an increasingly frustrating scene for the rest of college football, another season ended with Saban and his players frolicking in the middle of a confetti-strewn field. Eddie Lacy ran all over Notre Dame, AJ McCarron turned in another dazzling performance through the air, and the Tide defense shut down the Fighting Irish until it was no longer in doubt.

The result was a 42-14 blowout in the BCS title game Monday night, not only making Alabama a back-to-back champion, but a full-fledged dynasty with three crowns in four years.

This one was especially satisfying to Saban.

"People talk about how the most difficult thing is to win your first championship," he said. "Really, the most difficult one to win is the next one, because there's always a feeling of entitlement."

Rest assured, that feeling won't last long in Tuscaloosa.

While Saban insisted he was "happy as hell" and "has never been prouder of a group of young men," it was hard to tell. He was already talking

about reporting to the office Wednesday morning and getting started on next season.

"One of these days, when I'm sitting on the side of the hill watching the stream go by, I'll probably figure it out even more," Saban said. "But what about next year's team? You've got to think about that, too."

So, in short order, he'll be talking with underclassmen about entering the NFL draft, making sure everyone goes back to class on schedule, and getting started on that next depth chart.

"The Process," as he calls it, never stops.

"We're going to enjoy it for 24 hours or so," Saban said.

No. 2 Alabama quieted the top-ranked Irish on the very first drive — so much for waking up the echoes — and could've started the celebration at halftime, heading to the locker room with a commanding 28-0 lead.

The Tide (13-1) pushed it out to 35-0 midway through the third quarter on the third of McCarron's four touchdown passes, a 34-yarder to Amari Cooper with a defender nowhere in sight.

At that point, Alabama was on a 69-0 blitz in national title games, having scored the last 13 points in its 2010 triumph over Texas and blanked LSU 21-0 for last year's BCS crown.

When Everett Golson finally scored for Notre Dame (12-1) with about 4 minutes remaining in the third, it snapped a scoreless stretch of nearly two full games — 108 minutes

and 7 seconds — by the Tide.

"It was just a complete game by the offense, defense and special teams," said Alabama linebacker C.J. Mosley, the defensive MVP with eight tackles, one of them behind the line.

Despite the dazzling numbers by McCarron — 20 of 28 for 264 yards — he was denied a second straight offensive MVP award in the title game. That went to Lacy, who finished with 140 yards rushing on 20 carries and scored two TDs. Not a bad finish for the junior, who surely helped his status in the NFL draft should he decide to turn pro.

Lacy also was MVP of the Southeastern Conference championship game, rushing for a career-best 181 yards in the thrilling victory over Georgia that gave Alabama a chance to repeat as champion.

The Tide will have some big holes to fill, no matter who decides to leave school early, with offensive tackle D.J. Fluker and cornerback Dee Milliner also pondering their draft prospects.

There's not a lot of seniors on the roster, but All-American linemen Barrett Jones and Chance Warmack and safety Robert Lester are among those who definitely won't be back.

But Alabama had some huge holes to fill a year ago, too, with five players drafted in the first 35 picks.

That worked out just fine.

The Crimson Tide wrapped up its ninth Associated Press national title, breaking a tie

with Notre Dame for the most by any school and gaining a measure of redemption for a bitter loss to the Irish almost four decades ago: the epic 1973 Sugar Bowl in which Ara Parseghian's team edged Bear Bryant's powerhouse 24-23.

"The process is ongoing," said Saban, tightlipped as ever and showing little emotion after the fourth BCS national title of his coaching career.

"We have a 24-hour rule around here. We enjoy everything for 24 hours."

Notre Dame went from unranked in the preseason to the top spot in the rankings by the end of the regular season, winning two games in overtime and three other times by seven points or less.

But the long wait for a championship — the Irish haven't finished No. 1 since 1988 — will have to wait at least one more year.

"They just did what Alabama does," moaned Manti Te'o, Notre Dame's star linebacker and Heisman Trophy finalist, trying to digest an embarrassing loss in his final college game.

Golson will be back.

He completed his first season as the starter by going 21 of 36 for 270 yards, with a touchdown and an interception. But the young quarterback got no help from the running game, which was held to 32 yards — 170 below its season average.

"We've got to get physically stronger, continue close the gap there," said Brian Kelly,

the Irish's third-year coach. "Just overall, we need to see what it looks like. Our guys clearly know what it looks like now — a championship football team. That's back-to-back national champions. That's what it looks like. That's what you measure yourself against there. It's pretty clear across the board what we have to do."

Kelly vowed this was only beginning, insisting the bar has been raised in South Bend no matter what the outcome.

"We made incredible strides to get to this point," he said. "Now it's pretty clear what we've got to do to get over the top."

Alabama is already there but still longing for more, not content even after the second-biggest rout of the BCS era that began in 1999. The only title game that was more of a blowout was USC's 55-19 victory over Oklahoma in the 2005 Orange Bowl, a title that was later vacated because of NCAA violations.

You could almost hear television sets around the country flipping to other channels as Alabama poured it on, a hugely anticipated matchup between two of the nation's most storied programs reduced to a laughter when the Tide scored on its first three possessions.

"We're going for it next year again," said offensive tackle Cyrus Kouandijo, only a sophomore and already the owner of two rings. "And again. And again. And again. I love to win. That's why I came here."

ACL in question as Redskins' RG3 undergoes more tests

ASHBURN, Va. (AP) — It doesn't sound good for Robert Griffin III. An injury that sidelined RG3 well into next season is a

very real possibility — or at least it seemed that way Monday after coach Mike Shanahan described the results of tests on the rook-

ie's right knee.

Shanahan said the results are prompting the team to send Griffin to Florida on Tuesday to see renowned orthopedist James Andrews for more examinations, essentially a second opinion that will decide the team's fate for the 2013 season.

"There is a concern," Shanahan said. "That's why he's going to see him."

Griffin tore his ACL while playing for Baylor in 2009, and Shanahan said that old injury caused Griffin's latest MRI to prove inconclusive and produce "differences of opinion" in those who have looked at it.

"They want to take another look and have a physical exam with him," Shanahan said, "to make sure they're not looking at old injuries."

A torn ACL typically requires a rehabilitation period of nine to 12 months, although

some players don't return to full health until their second season after the injury. On the other hand, one of this season's remarkable stories was Adrian Peterson, who returned about eight months after tearing an ACL and nearly broke the NFL's single-season rushing record.

Notably, Shanahan referenced

Peterson Monday, pointing out that the Minnesota Vikings back had the big season without the benefit of an offsea-

son practice program. It could be a possible scenario for Griffin.

Shanahan was grilled about his handling of Griffin's injury.

MANUEL R. CARRASCO, MD

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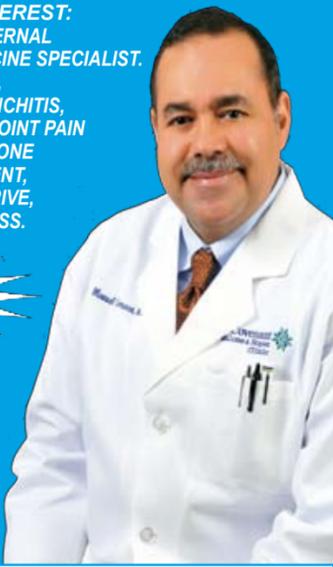
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