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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**WEDNESDAY**

APRIL 24, 2013



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VOLUME 108, NUMBER 163

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

A Price Construction employee works on the sidewalk at Third and Owens streets. Renovation of Business 20 is expected to continue until 2014, officials say.

## City OKs landfill contract

*Though county has not agreed to participate*

**90-day moratorium imposed on camps, modular housing**

By THOMAS JENKINS  
 Staff Writer

Big Spring City Council approved an inter-local agreement with Howard County for funding of a new municipal landfill Tuesday night, although city officials said they have not yet reached an agreement with county representatives.

The council approved final reading of the agreement — which calls for the city to provide two-thirds of the necessary funding and the county to chip in one-third — on a 5-1 vote, with District 4 Councilman Bobby McDonald voting against the measure and District 2 Councilwoman Carmen Harbour absent from the proceedings.

The agreement has been the source of heated debate between the council and the Howard County commissioners for several weeks now. Both governmental bodies are struggling to come to terms with the impending closure of the existing landfill and the opening of a new facility, expected to cost approximately \$5 million.

According to Mayor Tommy Duncan, talks between the city and county have proceeded since the matter was first brought to

See CITY, Page 3

## Prescription drug Take Back set Saturday at super center

By THOMAS JENKINS  
 Staff Writer

Area residents are being asked to clean out their medicine cabinets, as the Big Spring Police Department, Drug Enforcement Administration and Walmart department store are teaming up to keep unwanted prescription drugs off the streets.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the BSPD, area residents will have the opportunity to hand over their

unwanted drugs from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday at the local super center, located at 201 W. FM 700.

"The service is free, anonymous and no questions asked," Everett said. "This gives the community the opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs."

"This is a chance for those who missed the previous events, or who have subsequently accumulated unwanted, unused prescription drugs, to safely dispose of those medications."

According to Everett, similar efforts have netted more than 375,000 pounds of prescription drugs at



Everett

nearly 5,400 sites operated by the DEA and more than 3,000 state and local law enforcement drop-off points.

"Americans turned in 376,593 pounds of prescription drugs during a similar push in 2011. That's 188 tons of prescription drugs we don't have to worry about ending up in the hands of criminals," Everett said. "This initiative addresses a vital public safety and health issue. Medicines that hang around in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse and abuse."

"Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs

See DRUGS, Page 3

## Senate OKs Rainy Day Fund spending for schools

By PAUL J. WEBER  
 Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas public schools pummeled by historic budget cuts in 2011 would recover nearly 70 percent of that funding under a Senate plan approved late Tuesday and made possible by Republicans softening on a longstanding reluctance to tap the state's Rainy Day Fund for education.

A major part of the bipartisan deal, which emerged during daylong negotiations, is pulling \$800 million

from the state's emergency piggybank for schools. That component may be at odds with Gov. Rick Perry, who said this month he supports using the Rainy Day Fund for water and road projects but not classrooms.

Under the proposal unanimously passed by the Senate, schools would also get another \$1.4 billion thanks to what lawmakers say are freshly revised local property tax estimates from the state comptroller.

Combined with extra education funding the Senate

has previously approved, and Texas schools now appear in line under the Senate plan to win back \$3.7 billion of the \$5.4 billion lost two years ago.

"We are within spitting distance," Democratic state Sen. Wendy Davis said.

Voters would ultimately decide in November through a proposed constitutional amendment whether to allow the state to raid the Rainy Day Fund for public schools. The plan sets aside \$300 million of the spending for merit raises for teachers

in low-income school districts.

"This is going to allow us to put a substantial amount of new money into public education," said Republican state Sen. Tommy Williams, the Senate's chief budget-writer.

Classroom spending is the smallest portion of the Senate's proposed \$5.7 billion draw down the Rainy Day Fund, which is projected to reach a nearly \$12 billion balance by 2015 if left

See SCHOOLS, Page 3

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## Loretta Gail 'Mimi' Earls



God welcomed home another angel April 21, 2013. Gail is now holding hands with Floyd and rejoicing with the angels. Services will be held at 3 p.m. Thursday, April 25, 2013, at the First Church of the Nazarene. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 24, 2013, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Mimi loved the Lord and made sure everyone around her was taken care of and loved. Her greatest joys, besides being married to Floyd for 48 years, were her kids, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Mimi invented the word "spoiled rotten." They never wanted for anything and never had a dull moment. Going for ice cream after school and play dates in her living room are just a few memories to be cherished and never forgotten.

Gail was born in Oklahoma City, Okla., on March 16, 1938, and married Floyd Edward Earls on June 7, 1956. They were married for 48 years when Floyd went to be with the Lord in 2004. Gail was active in her community, volunteering her time and energy. She was involved in teen court, city council and the veterans home.

She was one of the founders of the Rape Crisis Center in Big Spring, devoting her life to it because it was so dear to her heart. Mimi was such a strong and loving person. Everyone who knew her was touched forever. Gail leaves such a legacy through her love and devotion to God, family and friends. We are truly grateful for the chance to be part of her life.

Gail devoted the first 14 years of marriage to being a stay at home mom and raising her kids while Floyd served his country through the Air Force. She then worked for the County Agent Office for 21 years, giving herself to the county, community and many, many 4-H kids who loved her.

Mimi also volunteered many years as a clown, making so many kids laugh by painting faces, too many to count. She enjoyed watching the kid's ball games and was a true Texas Ranger fan. Besides her kids and all her grandkids, she loved her sisters and brothers and enjoyed the relationship they all shared.

Gail leaves several loved ones to carry on her traditions and legacy, including her son, Eddie and daughter-in-law Tina Earls; a daughter, Karen Bearden and son-in-law Kenny Bearden; five grandchildren, Krysha Bearden, Kendra Davila and husband Benjie, Cashea Shockley and husband Michael, Stetson Earls and Keagan Earls; seven great-grandchildren, Dylan, Karlee, Kelbee, Paryse, Lucas, Kaidyn and Maddox; three sisters, Joy Maxwell, Donna Kelley and Judy Baughn; one brother, Clifford Luckens; and two sisters-in-law, Barbara Knight and husband Ted and Lin Rahle and husband Bob. Many, many nieces, nephews and cousins are also left to carry on the legacy.

Gail is preceded in death by her mother, Idamae Luckens; and her brother, Larry Maxwell.

A special thanks to all our friends who stood by us and helped us through this difficult, but joyous time. Momma (Mimi) will be missed, but now she is where she wants to be, dancing with Floyd and giving God an earful. We love and miss you and we will always be grateful for how you raised us, taught us and loved us.

The family suggests memorials to First Church of the Nazarene, 1400 S. Lancaster, Big Spring, Texas 79720; or to Rape Crisis Center of Big Spring, P.O. Box 2137, Big Spring, Texas 79721-2137.

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*

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## Obituaries

## Donald 'Don' L. Rodricks



Donald "Don" L. Rodricks, 79, of Mesa, Ariz., formerly of Big Spring, Texas, has gone to be with the Lord with his wife, Carolyn; sons, Wayne, Gene and Steve; and his granddaughter, Kristie, by his side on Saturday, April 20, 2013, in Gilbert, Ariz.

He was born Aug. 23, 1933, in Los Angeles, Calif., to Orville and Gertrude Rodricks. Don grew up in Southern California and enjoyed

spending time at the beaches and mountains of Big Bear. Graduating from Canoga Park High School in 1952, Don served in the Army during the Korean War.

He moved to Big Spring, Texas, in 1961. On March 22, 2013, he and Carolyn celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Don worked at Webb Air Force Base as a civilian in the human resources department. In 1977, when the base closed, the family moved to Mesa, Ariz.

Don's humor was known by everyone and his smile was infectious. Don enjoyed talking about his children, his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He will be missed.

Don is preceded in death by his parents, Orville Rodricks of Odessa, Texas, and Gertrude Rodricks of Big Spring, Texas; and his sister, Patricia Fitzgerald of California. Don leaves behind his wife, Carolyn; his sons, Wayne, Gene (Laurel) and Steve Rodricks; his grandchildren, Kristie and Michael Rodricks; and his great-grandsons, Ryan and Andrew Bromley.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, April 25, 2013, with a visitation one-hour prior, at First Southern Baptist Church, 851 North Stapley Dr., Mesa, Ariz.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Hospice of the Valley at www.hov.org; or the Alzheimer's Foundation, www.alzfdn.org.

Arrangements are entrusted to Tempe Mortuary, Tempe, Ariz., 480-967-1643.

*Paid obituary*

## Ray Davis Brashears

ROCKPORT — Ray Davis Brashears was born to Virgil Jessie and Isla Roberta Brashears in Weatherford, Texas, on Feb. 12, 1928. Ray passed away on April 20, 2013, in San Marcos, Texas.

Ray and his bride, Sylvia Lucille, raised their family in Odessa and Big Spring, Texas. Ray moved up through many positions as a longtime employee of Southwestern Bell Telephone. During his 37-year career, he began on a line crew building toll leads to parts of West Texas. He then became a telephone installer/repairman and later a PBX installer/repairman. In 1974, he moved to Rockport, Texas, to serve as the wire chief for several years. He later took a PBX supervisory position in Corpus Christi.

After his retirement, he started Ray's Contracting and served the gulf coast area for the next 25 years. He loved his hometown of Rockport and made countless friends. He and Lucille were very active in forming and organizing the American Legion Hall in Rockport and were also active in the local GI Forum.

Early in life Ray joined the Navy at the tender of age of 17, was found out to be under age and released from service. When he turned 18, he enlisted again and worked on a sea going tug boat. During his military career he was a part of the A-Bomb testing task force on Bikini Island.

One of Ray's proudest accomplishments was becoming a 32nd Degree Mason. He later became a Chapter Dad, sponsoring two of his sons in their Demolay Chapter in Big Spring. Two of his sons were involved in Boy Scouts of America and Ray was right there with them. While in West Texas, he and Lucille were members of the local Elks Club and Pioneers of the Telephone. Ray loved people and had a very generous nature about him. Will be greatly missed by his family and those he served for so many years.

Ray was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years; 2-year-old twin brother, Robert Brashears; son, Douglas Kent Brashears; and sister, Betty Nimitz.

Survivors include a daughter, June Mitchell and husband John Mitchell of Rockport, Texas; sons, Rodney Brashears and wife Anne Marie of Rockhill, S.C., and Maxey Brashears and wife Markay Brashears of San Marcos, Texas. His grandchildren include LeeAnn Arnold of Florida, Shane and Jeremy Brashears of South Carolina, Lori Kading, Matthew Brashears and Shelle Roberson of Texas. Included in his life line are eight great-grandchildren, Keely Boren of Michigan, Max and Madeleine Kading, Zachary Roberson of Texas, and Amanda and Ashley Brashears and Faegan and Flynn Brashears, all of South Carolina. Also, he was blessed with two great-great-grandchildren of Michigan, Sky and Kalli Boren.

Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. Wednesday, April 24, 2013, at Charlie Marshall Funeral Chapel, Rockport, Texas. Services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 25, 2013, under the direction of Charlie Marshall Funeral Home of Rockport, Texas, with a graveside service to follow at Rockport Cemetery.

*Paid obituary*

## Police blotter

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

- ALFONSO GARCIA POSADA, 47, of Austin, Texas, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.

- TERELL HOUSTON, 21, of 2609 Hunter Dr., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance.

## Candy Andrews



Candy Andrews, 81, of North Richland Hills, formerly of Big Spring died Friday, April 19, 2013, in a Fort Worth hospital. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, April 25, 2013, at the First Presbyterian Church. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 24, 2013, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Candy was born April 15, 1932, in Potter County, Texas, and married Raymond Andrews on Feb. 5, 1949, in San Angelo. He preceded her in death Dec. 7, 2001.

She attended Howard County Junior College and was very community oriented. She was a member of the Daughters of the Nile, Chapter 676; Big Spring Chapter 67, Order of the Eastern Star; and the American Legion. Candy was a member of the Big Spring Art Association and a Texas State Blue Ribbon Winning artist. She had been an officer and was active in Woodmen of the World. Her first love though, was the Lord Jesus Christ.

She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church.

Survivors include one daughter, Sharon Lee Dunne and husband James of North Richland Hills; one son, Raymond Lee Andrews of Big Spring; four grandsons, Robin V. Hood of Oklahoma City, Okla., Gary Jr. Engelson of Virginia Beach, Va., James Douglas Hood of Nashville, Tenn., and James J. Dunne Jr. of North Richland Hills; four great grandchildren and three nieces.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by an infant son, Lonnie Lee Andrews; one daughter, Mary Ann Hood-Sweeney; her parents, Vester and Edith Bray; and one brother, Bobby Bray.

The family suggests memorials be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Big Spring, P.O. Box 2222, Big Spring, TX 79721.

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*

- STEPHANIE ELAINE BAKER, 32, of 1606 Settles, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.

- MARY BETH KLINGENBERG, 27, of 1104.5 S. Nolan, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.

- SAMUEL DAVID PITTMAN, 29, of 705 E. 15<sup>th</sup> St., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of burglary of a building.

- THEFT was reported in the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.

- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 1800 block of Mittel.

- FORGERY was reported in the 200 block of W. FM 700.

- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 2000 block of Rickabaugh Drive.

- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1500 block of Nolan.

## Sheriff

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

See **SHERIFF**, Page 3

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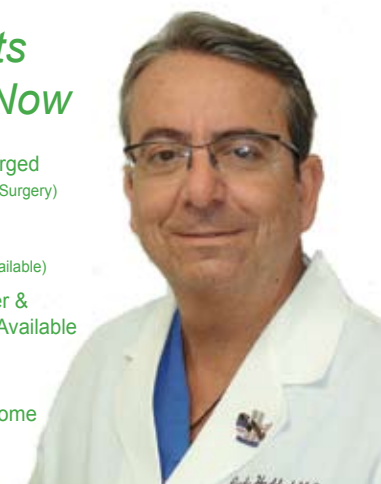
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SHERIFF

Continued from Page 2

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 75 inmates at the time of this report.

- STEPHANIE ELAINE BAKER, 32, was booked into the county detention center Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- MARY BETH KLINGENBERG, 27, was booked into the county 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 300 block of Veterans Blvd. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of I-20 and Highway 350. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1600 block of Canary. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 200 block of E. 16<sup>th</sup> Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1900 block of S. Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

DRUGS

Continued from Page 1

are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now being advised that their usual method of disposing of unused medicines — flushing them down a toilet or throwing them in the trash — both pose potential safety and health hazards.”

Four days after the first Take-Back event in September 2010, Congress passed the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010, which amended the Controlled Substances Act to allow an “ultimate user” of controlled substance medications to dispose of them by delivering them to entities authorized by the U.S. Attorney General.

The act also allows the Attorney General to authorize long-term care facilities to dispose of their residents’ controlled substances in certain instances.

For more information on the take-back event, contact the BSPD at 432-263-2550.

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

CITY

Continued from Page 1

light during the March 26 meeting of the council, which approved first reading of the inter-local agreement on a unanimous vote.

“There were certain numbers — whether they got them from the Internet or other sources — the county was previously using that I feel like we’ve been able to show are incorrect,” Duncan said. “The agreement on the existing landfill was supposed to be 50/50, with the city providing 50 percent of the funding and the county providing the remaining 50 percent. The same is true of the closure fund, which is currently around \$3 million.

“However, when you go back and look at how much has been put into

that closure fund, you’ll find the city has put in approximately two-thirds of the \$3 million and the county has put in one-third. I believe the county walked away from that meeting feeling like the one-third to two-third ratio was fair and equitable. However, they wanted time to look at their options and try to decide what is best for the county.”

According to District 1 Councilman Marcus Fernandez — who has served on the city committee that has handled negotiations with the county — commissioners have asked for more time to study the matter.

“We told them we would wait for them,” Fernandez said. “We will vote on this today, but we will continue to meet with them and negotiate. We made sure they knew our door is open.”

According to Duncan, county officials have until Aug. 1 to decide whether or not they want to approve an inter-local agreement with the city for funding the new landfill.

McDonald said he wouldn’t vote for the inter-local agreement until the city had a solid deal with county officials in hopes of preserving the relationship between the two entities.

“When it comes back with the county’s approval, I’ll vote in favor of it,” McDonald said. “However, until then I won’t vote in favor of it. We have to do what we can to preserve our good relationship with the county. I can remember 10 or 15 years ago when we didn’t have that relationship and it hurt us.”

According to City Attorney Linda Sjogren, county officials appear to have accepted the idea the proposed division of the cost are equitable, however, they want time to explore other options.

“They want to look at all of their options,” she said. “Whether that’s joining with the city, developing their own landfill facility or having some sort of pickup service in the county.

They simply want time to look at everything so they can do what they feel is best for county residents.”

Also Tuesday, the council approved the emergency reading of an ordinance imposing a moratorium on permitting of modular or industrialized housing units and developments and the use of travel trailers or recreational vehicles as living quarters for extended periods within the city limits with a moratorium to be made effective for 90 days.

Because the ordinance was presented as an emergency reading, it had to receive unanimous favor from the council — which is did — to pass.

According to Interim City Manager Todd Darden, the 90-day moratorium is necessary to give the city staff time to research the issue of possible man camps and modular living quarters being used within the city limits, which is expected as the oil boom surrounding the Cline Shale play continues to grow in and around Howard County.

“The moratorium gives us 90 days, however, if we get it done quicker than that we can repeal the ordinance earlier,” Darden said. “We need time to study this issue and do what’s best for Big Spring’s future.”

The moratorium didn’t meet with the same kind of approval, however, as local resident and businessman Dale Avant addressed the council, urging it to move forward with studies but not with the moratorium.

“In terms of money, 90 days is a very long time,” Avant said. “If you approve this, it will tie everyone’s hands for 90 days. The need for this type of housing is already here.”

Avant has already developed a number of modular homes built from sea containers, and according to him, the demand is dizzying. “I could fill 100 of them right now,” he said. “There are guys who are living out of their

trucks. I had one guy and his wife rent one of them (sea container homes) and I told them I wasn’t sure if that was going to be enough space for them. They told me they had been living out of a truck for the past three months and paying \$12 each at the truck stop for showers every two days. They said it would do just fine.”

According to Darden, the problem modular homes — including Avant’s sea container homes — present is the lack of code requirements for them in the current laws.

“I can walk into a home and know what type of boards need to be used just by looking at the height of the gable,” Darden said. “However, if I look at one of these containers, I have no idea what’s safe. The only thing we can do is have Mr. Avant have an engineer look at it and tell us whether it’s safe, and then we have to determine whether or not we can trust that engineer’s work. So, we have to bring in our own engineer ... as you can see, it gets pretty complicated and puts a tremendous burden on the city.”

Because the ordinance was presented as an emergency reading, it requires no final vote.

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

Choir Kids in concert

The Coahoma Choir Kids and Third Grade Singers will perform a spring concert at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the school cafeteria.

The concert is free to the public and will be followed by an ice cream social fundraiser sponsored by the Coahoma Elementary PTO.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Delores Scott, 74, died Sunday. Funeral Service will be at 2 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Fort Bliss National Cemetery in El Paso.

Abner Shellman, Sr., 68, died Saturday. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Mt. Bethel Baptist Church. Burial will be at 3 p.m. Friday at Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Abilene

SCHOOLS

Continued from Page 1

unspent.

The other withdrawals are \$2 billion for water projects and \$2.9 billion to improve the state’s crumbling and congested roads. Both are less than what Senate budget-writers originally proposed earlier this month, and like the education spending, taking the rainy day money for roads and water would also require voter approval in November.

Perry and fiscally conservative Republicans have fiercely safeguarded the Rainy Day Fund

in recent years, even as the balance soared and state budgets were slashed. They have argued that the fund was created for one-time expenses and natural disasters, and not recurring costs such as school funding.

Earlier this month, Perry did not waver when asked whether lawmakers should tap the Rainy Day Fund for schools.

“The dollars for education are there in our regular general revenue,” Perry said following an appearance at an Austin transportation summit on April 12.

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst was not in the

Senate for one of the biggest votes passed by the chamber this session. He issued a statement calling the deal a chance that “will allow voters

to decide if they want to utilize the resources of our state’s savings account to prepare for our future in a meaningful and transparent way.”

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

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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

# Courage and grace in West

Last week, the small town of West, Texas suffered a terrible tragedy when an explosion at a fertilizer storage facility ripped through the community. Approximately 200 people were wounded, and at least 14 lost their lives. Among these are many of the volunteer first responders who bravely sacrificed their own lives in order to protect the lives of others. I traveled to West last Friday to meet with local officials and make sure the community was not wanting of anything in the ongoing relief effort. The devastation was heart-wrenching and the images of destruction will be with me forever. Yet I will also carry with me the uplifting scenes of grace and humanity that I witnessed in West.

Make no mistake: the people of West are resilient. The town traces its roots to the 1840s, as settlers migrated from the east across the young Republic of Texas. Blessed with fertile soil and fresh spring water, the community grew. Like many Texas towns, West has thrived through the years because of a citizenry that emphasizes both self-sufficiency and the importance of community. I can report that these traits are alive and well, and they have been on full display to the world in the wake of last week's tragedy.

Upon feeling the explosion and seeing the mushroom cloud billowing into the sky, people's immediate concerns were not for themselves, but for others. We saw this both in the actions of first responders and ordinary citizens, who instinctively ran towards the danger, not away. Residents could be seen loading their cars with victims and making trip after trip to the hospital. At the local nursing home, located just a couple of blocks from the site of the explosion, the quick-thinking and heroic disregard for personal safety demonstrated by the staff saved the lives of scores of elderly residents.

In the aftermath, businesses stayed open around the clock and neighbors threw open their doors to help support victims. Restaurants and cafes refused to charge for meals, and people from all over descended on West with food, supplies, and a simple question: "How can I help?"

In the face of devastation, the people of West and countless other Texans from the surrounding area have come together in a truly awe-inspiring outpouring of goodwill and community strength. We are commanded to love our neighbors, and the people of West are showing us how.

I know I join all Texans in mourning the tragic loss of life in West. We pray for comfort to come to the grieving and for healing to come to the wounded. For those wishing to contribute to the relief effort, I encourage you to visit my website for information on ways to help.

I have no doubt that West will recover from this tragedy. The abundance of love, faith, and selflessness that exists in this town would sustain it through any disaster. The best of the Texas spirit is embodied by the people of West. As one resident put it to me, "Being a Texan doesn't describe where you're from, it describes who your family is."

Let us strive to embody these words. Let us not forget West in her time of need. And when we find ourselves in our time of need, may we be blessed with the same courage and resolve that this small town has shown the world.

*Senator Cornyn serves on the Finance and Judiciary Committees. He serves as the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee's Immigration, Refugees and Border Security subcommittee. He served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice and Bexar County District Judge.*



SEN. JOHN CORNYN

# What has happened to our world?

That famous world-renowned statesman, Author Unknown, said, "Politicians are like diapers. They both need changing regularly and for the same reason." Doug Larson reflected, "Instead of giving a politician the keys to the city, it might be better to change the locks." Ronald Reagan stated, "Politics is supposed to be the second-oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first." P.J. O'Rourke said, "When buying and selling are controlled by legislation, the first things to be bought and sold are legislators."

Yes, I am in the mood to hurl eggs at corrupt politicians and I don't intend to toss them softly. I will, however in an effort to display my gentle-spirit, pass along my favorite observation of the theater we call politics, a quote by former General and President of the French Republic, Charles De Gaulle, who prophetically stated, "In order to become the master, the politician poses as the servant." His comment is poignant and frighteningly apropos for the state of affairs in 2013.

What has happened to our world? I hardly recognize the planet I lived on way back when. I'm almost sorry for all the times I have good-naturedly mocked the people who say they miss the "good old days". Seriously, folks, sometimes it really is astounding how corrupted the government has become and how insanely iniquitous society is. Government malfeasance on every level has become so endemic in our society that most people have just kind of accepted it as "normal". We foolishly seem to think that things are just somehow going to work out fine no matter what we do and that passivity has led us to the threshold of devastation. Yet folks just keep being manipulated and deceived by smooth talkers and charismatic personalities.

I am a vocational minister by calling and I have a lot of tolerance toward my fellow man, but I

am also an American citizen who passionately cares about my nation, state, and city and I'm wondering how folks can be so passive about corruption in politics at any level? For instance, why aren't we all hopping mad when we learn that the Federal Reserve sent billions of dollars in bailout money to millionaire's addresses in the Cayman Islands? Where is the outrage when Nancy Pelosi gives a speech in which she says that "elections shouldn't matter"? Shouldn't we all demand that someone be held accountable when we find out that a CBO analysis shows that the "\$38.5 billion" in spending cuts will only reduce the budget deficit for this year by \$352 million dollars? The reality is that U.S. government is increasing by over 2 million dollars every single minute. So the entire "savings" from the "budget deal" will account for approximately 3 hours of government spending. I could literally list dozens more valid questions concerning political shenanigans and corruption that need to be answered, but probably never will be.

Now, if you read this column with any degree of regularity you know that I am an unapologetic optimist. I decry negativity in most every arena of life, but I want to know how in the name of all things decent and honorable can our President and his cohorts continue to literally bankrupt our nation's present and future with ridiculous uncontrolled spending and get away with it? How can he refuse to even consider cutting back on his family's own perversely lavish lifestyle funded by our tax dollars and continue to bury our nation in debt? The U.S. government ran a budget deficit of \$188 billion dollars for the month of March alone. Yet they keep giving billions of dollars away, much of it to nations that hate America and would love nothing more than for it to die.

Most Americans don't even understand what the Federal Reserve is, and yet they get to throw trillions of dollars around while being more or less completely unaccountable the entire time. We are in debt up to our eyeballs and it is getting worse at a mind blowing pace and Ameri-

cans just blink like frogs in a hailstorm and think it's all going to be alright because we are, after all, invincible America. And those few observations represent only the proverbial tip of the iceberg when you talk about how dysfunctional our government, society and the world in general has become.

Perhaps the saddest commentary illustrating the passivity of the American public toward political corruption is how it is allowed to flourish in almost every neighborhood. It is prevalent in Washington, of course, but it also rears its ugly head in State Capitols, county and city elections, and even small town school board elections. I can hear some saying, "Lighten up, it's just politics and that's the way it has always been and always will be." In response to that I would say, "Yes, and corruption is unacceptable no matter how you dress it up and just because it's always been that way doesn't make it right."

Will we ever wake up? Will our nation and every precious thing it represents end up shipwrecked on the rocks of apathy because we refuse to tackle the issues that become our social, political, and spiritual albatross? Will we ever rise up and speak out against the manipulators and users in our world who are able to successfully perpetuate their vile agendas because people are intimidated by their perceived power? As many statesmen have said, "Bad politicians are elected by good people who don't vote."

Our foundation as a nation, and even our state and city, unequivocally must not be determined or defined by who has the most powerful and popular political machine or talks the best game, but rather by who best represents integrity, decency and a genuine love and concern for life the way Almighty God intended it to be. Corruption is far too costly and destructive to be ignored at any level.

You may not agree with anything I've said, but I column as I see 'em.

*Eddy Prince is senior pastor at Grace Fellowship Church of God in Big Spring. He can be reached by email at pastorprince@msn.com.*

# Stop me before I buy food

There is no problem too flimsy for California's nanny lawmakers, as witnessed by the many laws that state solons have proposed to keep constituents from getting free plastic bags at the grocery. Those teensy plastic bags are cheap. They're lightweight.

They're energy-efficient. People use them a lot, which means that they can end up as litter. That can be ugly. So Sacramento Democrats keep concocting bills to outlaw their idea of blight — not the homeless and not unemployment but bags. When Sacramento lawmakers see an opportunity to stick it to employed people who buy things, nothing can stop them.

State Sen. Alex Padilla has a bill similar to a bill by Assemblyman Marc Levine that would ban grocers and big retailers from giving away single-use plastic bags but would allow them to charge for recycled paper bags.

"The goal and purpose behind the legislation is to wean us off of single-use bags period," Padilla told me. Single-use bags, he explained, create litter and drive up recycling costs for local governments.

As if to prove that the law is aimed at working stiffs who pay taxes, Padilla's SB 405 even exempts participants in California's Women, Infants and Children supplemental food program by requiring stores to provide reusable

grocery bags or recycled paper bags to WIC participants.

Can't WIC participants recycle? I asked Padilla. "That's done out of a concern, which some have raised, on the impact on low-income families," he explained.

When making laws, California's lawmakers often ignore the most abiding of all laws, the law of unintended consequences.

The American Progressive Bag Alliance, which represents makers of plastic bags, held a conference call Tuesday to warn of adverse consequences to the state's effort to combat global warming. (I like how the group calls itself "progressive" as if they were a bunch of San Francisco supervisors.) Paper bags require more water to make than plastic bags, Chairman Mark Daniels argued.

Reusable bags save energy only if people wash and reuse them. Then there's the California jobs issue.

Padilla is confident that Californians will use reusable bags. Hence, his bill would help the environment.

A California Senate Environmental Quality Committee analysis of Padilla's SB 405 discusses the possible "public health implications," as reusable bags "can harbor bacteria such as coliform bacteria." Washing bags can help, the analysis noted; alas, a study found that 97 percent of Californians and Arizonans said they never wash their bags.

No worries. SB 405 would require reusable bags to include cleaning care instructions. Because people always read the many warnings and instructions mandated by state law — yes, that was sarcasm — the Padilla warn-

ing just might reduce the number of consumers who don't wash their bags so that — what? — maybe only 96 percent of consumers will be at risk of getting sick from their unwashed reused bags.

That's why the Romans cooked up the term "caveat emptor" (let the buyer beware).

It may well be that in another 10 years, Sacramento will have to come up with a new law to deal with a glut of unused reusable bags.

I look around California and see serious problems — undereducated children, one of the country's highest unemployment rates, homeless people and violent crime. In San Francisco, the sidewalks often smell, and it's not because of single-use plastic bags.

To sum up, the Padilla bill probably would reduce litter, but it could increase greenhouse gases and could make people sick. And it most definitely would inconvenience consumers.

But in this state, if there's one group Sacramento can push around, it's not people who make the streets unseemly, and it's not the menaces to society; it's hardworking taxpayers who buy things. They are the softest target.

*Email Debra J. Saunders at dsanders@schronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.*

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## DAILY PRAYER

Bring us rain, we pray, dear Lord, so we can revel in the beauty of the world.

Amen

# Why not check this out?

## ... at the county library

Before we dive into the pile of non-fiction I have for you, here is a cute mystery book: "Drop Dead on Recall" (M BON S) by Sheila Webster Boneham. The passions aroused by canine competition can inspire violent fantasies. But when a talented handler falls flat on her face during the obedience trials, Australian Shepherd lover Janet MacPhail can hardly believe someone would actually resort to murder. As she takes care of her mother and falls for a hunky black Lab owner, the last thing Janet needs is to find out she's become a "person of interest." While nosing around for clues that might clear her good name, Janet and her friends, Australian Shepherd Jay, tabby cat Leo and eccentric neighbor Goldie Sunshine, discover the hard way that killers don't like snoops. And it soon becomes apparent that the next victim might just be Janet herself.



HOLLIS McCRIGHT

For all the tireless volunteers who coach the young people in our community, I encourage you to come in and check out the following: "Coaching Youth Basketball" (796.323 SHO D) with Don Showalter and the second edition of "Youth Basketball Skill" (796.323 PAY B) by Burrall and Patrick Paye. Each of these have drills and pointers on teaching young people basketball. I opened a random page and did you know that you only use the pads of your hand to dribble the ball? You don't ever use the palm; and

when dribbling the ball off the wall, don't look at the ball, but look straight ahead. Guess that is why I am not a basketball player and Kobe Bryant is.

Additional books for strength and endurance: "Powerlifting" (796.47 AUS D) by Dan Austin — this will help those who need assistance in technique, training and competition; the next three could work together: "The Everything Running Book" (796.42 LIB A) by Art Liberman, founder of Marthon-Training.com; "Developing Endurance" (613.7 REU B) edited by Ben Reuter; and then "Complete Triathlon Guide" (796.425 USA T) which was compiled by USA Triathlon, the national governing body of the sport.

For those who choose a different way of training for strength, "Tai Chi Illustrated" (613.714 QUI M) by Master Pixian Qiu and Weimo Zhu will assist you in increasing muscle strength, improve flexibility and reduce pain and stiffness. Qiu and Zhu will demonstrate the most effective forms for harnessing the healing power of chi (energy). There are step by step guides with detailed instructions for the basic movements and popular forms; and you will connect the forms to follow a routine that will meet your needs. We also have "A Woman's Guide to Muscle and Strength" (613.704 LEW I) by Irene Lewis-McCormick which addresses the special needs of women who desire to build their body mass.

Now that you have "refinished your body," let's go on to your home: From This Old House "Built-Ins, Shelves, and Storage" (684.16 THI O) This Old

House; "Finishing a House" (398 OSB R) by Ron Osborne; "Renovation-4th Ed." (643.7 LIT M) by Michael W. Litchfield; Taunton's Press "Carpentry Complete" (694 TAU P), "Foundations & Concrete Work" (690.11 TAU P) and "Home Remodeling: Planning-Design-Construction" and; Mike Holmes' "The Holmes Inspection" (643.12 HOL M). From

by Eric Kleinert. This is a huge book. It covers both gas and electric appliances, automatic

tell you. It is an excellent resource.

Now that you have built your body and remodeled your home,

(all we had on hand or oatmeal for five kids and three adults on a limited income.) She suggests bread crumbs, crushed butter crack-

ers, oyster crackers or panko. Of course, eggs and some milk, too — I am getting ahead of myself. Suffice it to say, check out the book. There are some vegan recipes included.

Now for the potato/potato side-dish: "Haute Potato" (641.652 PHA J) by Jacqueline Pham has 75 gourmet recipes for you to liven up the steak or meat-loaf dinner. Surprise your ole' cowboy with Mashed Purple Potatoes with Herb Goat Cheese, (see p. 136) or how about Pommes Chateau with Fried Calamari, Basil and Tomato Cherry Relish? Here is a basic one: Baked Potatoes filled with Caviar and Tangerine Fraiche Sauce. Though I am being a little facetious, do check this book out. While some of the recipes may sound outrageous to our ears, they can be tweaked to fit your individual palate. Or even try the original recipe once, twice or even three times (just like a new hymn in church) and sooner or later the family may even request it.

We are open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 10 until 2; the internet/video room closes at 5:30. You may reach us at 264-2260; fax number is 264-2263. Our website is <http://wtls.tsl.state.tx.us/howard-county>.

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.



you need some comfort food! What is more comforting than meatloaf and potatoes? From Cynthia Kallile comes "The Meatloaf Bakery Cookbook" (641.824 KAL C). Cynthia begins with the premise that "ingredients make the loaf." That is very true; who likes their food swimming in a pool of grease? She uses different kinds of meat in your "loaf" — adding pork, turkey, Italian sausage, chorizo, lamb

or even salmon. What kind of filler to use? My mother used Saltine cracker crumbs

washers, microwaves — so many, I couldn't even

McGrawHill, we were able to purchase "Trouble Shooting and Repairing Major Appliances" (683.802 KLE E)



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# Some games take points to win, others go to the most popular

## Canines VS. Cats

**SUE MANNING**  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — It's a Super Bowl matchup for the ages: cats vs. dogs.

The Puppy Bowl, a fixture on Animal Planet during the Super Bowl for nearly a decade, will have new competition next year from the Kitten Bowl, the Hallmark Channel announced this month.

"We would like to own the day," said Bill Abbott, president and CEO of Crown Media Family Networks, which is home to the Hallmark Channel and Hallmark Movie Channel.

"Copycats," chided Animal Planet in a statement.

Win or lose in the ratings, all the animals stand to benefit. Hallmark will use between 50 and 100 kittens from animal shelters around the country, and Abbott vowed to place each one

in a home.

Animal Planet placed every dog and cat on this year's show — 63 puppies and 21 kittens. (Cats serve as halftime entertainment for the two-hour Puppy Bowl.)

The annual Puppy Bowl has a football theme, with the dogs scoring "touchdowns" if they cross a goal line with a chew toy.

Kittens in the Kitten Bowl will compete on an agility course set up with hurdles, scratchers, tunnels, hoops and weave poles. Laser pointers and toys on strings will be used to entice the kittens.

Judges will look at each kitten's ability to cuddle and win the hearts of viewers.

"We had to develop some kind of framework to show what wonderful animals they are. They are their own little souls," Abbott said. "Many people don't realize how entertaining



Photo by Keith Barraclough / The Animal Planet

Dogs score touchdowns on a 10-by-19-foot gridiron carpet when they cross the goal line with a toy during "Puppy Bowl IX," in New York.

cats are and what great companions they are for people."

Most of the competition will be unscripted. Kittens can't be expected to figure out a timed course, so not doing it in the cutest way will

determine the winner, Abbott said. The Most Valuable Kitten will be the cutest of them all.

The show is part of Hallmark's Pet Project Initiative and will be done with a partner, the American Humane As-

sociation.

Is the showdown between puppies and kitties on different cable channels likely to answer the age-old question about which one is the most popular?

Well, there are cat people and there are dog people. And then there are people like Ana Bustilloz at the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles. "I love dogs and cats equally. I like to have everything. Puppies are a lot of fun, and kittens are wildly amusing," she said.

on Feb. 2, 2014.

"There is no way anybody will beat the Super Bowl ratings," Abbott said. "We are all playing for a little bit of a different share."

This year, a record 12.4 million people watched during the 12-hour Puppy Bowl X broadcast. By comparison, the Super Bowl was watched by 108.4 million people to become the third most watched show in TV history.

The National Football League also supports the efforts to raise awareness about animals and shelters.

"I will channel surf, for sure."

For the past two years, the spcaLA has sponsored a dog in the Puppy Bowl. The first one, Fumble, was even named Most Valuable Puppy. Bustilloz said she hopes to get an animal from the shelter in each bowl this year.

Animal Planet and Hallmark have a good relationship.

"We're just happy that pet adoption is being promoted and more animals are finding their fur-ever homes," Animal Planet's statement said.

Abbott said there will be little competition between the networks, and neither expects to overshadow Super Bowl XLVIII, which airs on Fox Sports. The three bowls will be televised around the same time

"The Super Bowl brings families together, and we love the idea that it includes the adoption of dogs and cats on Super Bowl Sunday," spokesman Greg Aiello said.

"We love animals here at the NFL, including cats and dogs," spokesman Brian McCarthy added. "We also love Dolphins, Ravens, Bengals, Colts, Jaguars, Broncos, Eagles, Bears, Lions, Falcons, Panthers, Cardinals, Rams and Seahawks."

- Online:
- Hallmark Channel [www.hallmarkchannel.com](http://www.hallmarkchannel.com)
  - Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles [www.spcala.com](http://www.spcala.com)
  - Animal Planet [www.animal.discovery.com](http://www.animal.discovery.com)

### Sudoku Answer on Page 16

## sudoku

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

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

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

### Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

#### Think Before You Leap

**NORTH**  
♠ 10 9 8  
♥ K J 10  
♦ 10 9 8  
♣ A 4 3

**WEST**  
♠ 7  
♥ 10 9 8  
♦ 10 9 8  
♣ 10 9 8

**EAST**  
♠ K Q  
♥ A  
♦ K  
♣ 10 9 8

**SOUTH**  
♠ A J 10  
♥ 7 6  
♦ K 9 7  
♣ K Q J 10

East: ♠ 7, ♥ 10 9 8, ♦ 10 9 8, ♣ 10 9 8  
South: ♠ A J 10, ♥ 7 6, ♦ K 9 7, ♣ K Q J 10  
West: ♠ 7, ♥ 10 9 8, ♦ 10 9 8, ♣ 10 9 8  
North: ♠ 10 9 8, ♥ K J 10, ♦ 10 9 8, ♣ A 4 3

When dummy is short of entries, a variety of combinations of the declarer's own hand can be used to set up a cross-court play. In this example, the declarer can use the ace of spades to reach the dummy's hand and then use the king of hearts to reach the dummy's hand. This is a very effective way to reach the dummy's hand and then use the king of hearts to reach the dummy's hand.

Lynn W. Johnson is a frequent author of bridge columns for the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner and the Los Angeles Daily News. She can be reached at [ljohnson@earthlink.net](mailto:ljohnson@earthlink.net).

## In Sunday's Big Spring Herald

**American Profile**  
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# News in brief

## House panel mulls charter school expansion bill

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Top education leaders in the Texas House began discussing a major proposal late Tuesday to increase the number of charter schools allowed to operate statewide. The plan sailed through the Senate but may face a tougher road in the lower chamber.

Supporters and opponents waited hours to address the House Public Education Committee on Senate Bill 5, which would raise the cap on the number of public charter school licenses that Texas issues from 215 to 305 over the next six years. If approved, the plan could be the most dramatic expansion of charters since they were first authorized in 1995.

Peggy Venable of the conservative Americans for Prosperity, which supports limited government, said the expansion was needed to allow more choice for parents.

"A kid's future really rides on a five-digit zip code right now," she told the committee.

Ed Martin, a spokesman for the Texas State Teachers Association, said state accountability ratings show charter schools don't generally outperform traditional public schools — and therefore can't really improve classrooms as much as activists claim.

"A lot of times people come with silver bullets," Martin said. "I think one of the things we have to keep in mind is, some silver bullets are blanks."

For now, the state has issued 209 licenses. But because operators can use a single license to run multiple campuses, Texas has about 500 total charter schools educating about 154,000 children, or 3 percent of its more than 5 million public school students.

## In reversal, House reauthorizes Lottery Commission

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Texas House cast a shocking vote on Tuesday to potentially dismantle the state lottery — only to reverse itself after a few frantic hours.

House Bill 2197 began as a seemingly routine proposal to continue the operations of the Texas Lottery Commission until September 2025. But opposition mounted after tea party lawmakers called the lottery a de-facto tax on the state's low-income residents.

Republican Rep. Scott Sanford of McKinney told the body he was opposing the bill on "the moral grounds that the lottery is a tax on poor people."

"It is therefore immoral and wrong," Sanford said, noting that state residents without high school degrees tend to spend \$600 annually on the lottery while those with graduate school-level educations spend about a fourth of that.

Suddenly, the GOP-controlled chamber was voting 82-64 to defeat the measure and abolish the commission gradually over the next year, with the support of some liberal Democrats. The House then went into a hastily called lunch break.

The lottery was created in 1991, af-

ter Texas voters approved a constitutional amendment. The commission overseeing it was authorized by the Legislature two years later. So-called "Sunset bills," or regularly scheduled measures allowing state commissions to continue their work, are usually fairly innocuous.

Those leading the charge to oppose reauthorization were largely first-year Republican representatives — and during the break, party leadership urged many to change their vote.

Despite some continued tea party opposition, the House eventually approved a measure to reconsider. It then voted to reauthorize the Lottery Commission by a vote of 91-53.

## Lawmakers set to hear bills on civil rights

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Lawmakers are set to consider several proposals on the rights of workers in Texas.

The House Committee on Economic & Small Business Development plans to convene Wednesday morning. One bill scheduled to come before it is a proposal by Rep. Senfronia Thompson. The Houston Democrat proposes increasing how much information the state gathers on wage discrimination complaints.

Another by Democratic Sen. Jose Rodriguez of El Paso would penalize companies that "act in bad faith" by failing to pay their workers.

Bills by Democratic Reps. Mike Villarreal of San Antonio and Eric Johnson of Dallas would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Similar bills have failed in past legislative sessions, and a companion Senate bill has been left pending since a hearing three weeks ago.

## Senate approve electronic voter registration

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Texas Senate has voted to allow voters with driver's licenses and state identification cards to register to vote over the Internet.

The Senate approved the measure on Tuesday, and it now goes to the House for consideration.

The bill by San Antonio Democrat Carlos Uresti would not allow people without state ID cards to use the system. He said the aim is to eliminate the errors created when people fill out voter registration cards by hand. Those have to be transcribed and may not perfectly match state records.

The Texas Secretary of State's office often checks the voter rolls against other state records. Minor differences in spelling or hyphenation can create discrepancies.

## Texas man gets prison in son's starving death

DALLAS (AP) — A Texas father accused of slowly starving his 10-year-old son to death, slipping his body into a sleeping bag and dumping it in a rural area where it went undiscovered for a year was sentenced late Tuesday to life in prison.

A Dallas County jury took less than an hour to convict Aaron Ramsey ear-

lier Tuesday of severely injuring a child in the death of his son, Johnathan. Jurors later decided that the 35-year-old Dallas man should receive a life sentence.

Prosecutors said the father locked his son in his room, where he slowly starved on a diet of bread and water. They contend Ramsey dumped the child's emaciated body in a rural area south of Dallas in 2011. The boy's remains were found in the area a year ago in a creek.

Aaron Ramsey allegedly told police he limited the boy's meals to bread, water and sometimes milk for several months. According to police records, the boy was confined to his bedroom in the family's Dallas home.

The boy's mother, Judy Williams, and other relatives did not see him for months. Williams lives in New Mexico and has custody of the couple's other son, according to relatives.

Johnathan's grandfather, Edward Ramsey, had contacted police early last year to ask them to search for the child because he had not seen the boy for more than a year.

Police said Aaron and Elizabeth Ramsey, the child's stepmother, initially claimed the boy had gone to live with his mother but later confessed to starving the boy to death.

According to police, Aaron Ramsey said he put his son on "military rations" because the boy began to misbehave early last year. Ramsey said the boy had punched his stepmother in the stomach when she was pregnant, causing a miscarriage. Ramsey said he hit Johnathan in the chest and then locked him in a bedroom, according to the records.

## Houston firefighters discover body in burned house

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston firefighters have discovered the body of a man in a burned house and police are trying to determine what led to the death.

The Houston Fire Department says the body was located early Wednesday. Homicide investigators were called to the scene after the fire was extinguished.

The name of the man and further details on the case weren't immediately released.

Arson investigators are trying to determine what started the fire.

## Gunman who robbed 2 Beaumont banks gets prison

BEAUMONT, Texas (AP) — A Southeast Texas man has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for rob-

bing two banks in Beaumont.

A federal judge on Tuesday sentenced 39-year-old Jonathan Keith Roberts of Beaumont. Roberts last August pleaded guilty to two counts of bank robbery and brandishing a firearm during a violent crime.

Beaumont police say a BBVA Compass Bank was held up in December 2009. A masked gunman fled with about \$29,000. A Guaranty Bank was robbed the next month by an armed man wearing a mask. Police didn't immediately say how much cash was stolen in that holdup as a dye pack in the bag of money exploded.

Roberts was linked to the bank robberies when police questioned him about a business holdup.

Details weren't immediately available about recovery of the money.

## Texas chiropractor convicted of patient sex abuse

MCKINNEY, Texas (AP) — A North Texas chiropractor has been convicted of five counts of sexual abuse of female patients during examinations.

The penalty phase begins Wednesday for 44-year-old David Allen Russell of McKinney. He faces up to life in prison.

Investigators say some of the victims were teenagers.

A Collin County jury Tuesday night convicted Russell of sexual assault of a child, two counts of sexual assault and two counts of indecency with a child by contact.

Russell did not testify during his trial involving abuse allegations between 2002 and 2011.

## Police: Man arrested after claiming to have bomb

HALTOM CITY, Texas (AP) — Authorities have identified the man they say threatened to detonate a bomb at a North Texas apartment complex where his baby sitter lives after learning his child was injured while in her care.

They said Tuesday that 29-year-old Javier Payan of Watauga (wah-TAW-guh) is charged with making a terrorist threat. He was taken to the North Richland Hills jail but is no longer being held.

Police say they found an upset Payan at the complex Monday. He refused to exit his vehicle and threatened to discharge an explosive. He surrendered hours later and no device was found.

The child remained at a hospital Tuesday and a condition was not available.

Police say the unidentified baby sitter is in custody Tuesday facing a charge of injury to a child.

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# Lady Buffs ready for playoff action



Courtesy photo/Shawn McVicars

Forsan (12-2) will open the playoffs with a bi-district outing against Clyde-Eula on Saturday. The first pitch is set for noon at San Angelo Central. In eight years, the Lady Buffs have not lost a bi-district or area playoff game.

By **BRIAN MCCORMACK**

Sports Editor

For the past eight years, the Forsan softball program has been dominant. Under the tutelage of Head Coach Shanna Taylor, the Lady Buffaloes — who recorded a 12-2 district record — have not only made the playoffs each season, they have not been knocked out until the regional quarterfinal round or later.

After the recent University Interscholastic league realignment, Forsan dropped from Class 2A to 1A — making it an even bigger fish in an even smaller pond. And that's just fine with Taylor, who hopes to take her girls all the way to the state championship in 2013.

"We kind of had a slow start," Taylor said. "Partly because we got our basketball players later than usual. It's great for them, but it put us in a bind as far as getting ready for district quickly. As the season progressed, we got in our groove. I started to feel confident in both our hitting and fielding. For the most part, we outhit the other teams in our district. I feel we have a good, strong defense."

Forsan's pitching could be stronger, according to Taylor, but Ali Knight and Maddie Munsell have done a fine job of keeping opponents in check from the circle.

"Ali has pitched for us before, so

See **PLAYOFFS**, Page 16

# Rangers fall to Angels in 11th

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — For the second time in three days, the Los Angeles Angels went extra innings and got a game-ending home run.

Howie Kendrick hit his second homer of the night in the 11th inning Tuesday and finished with four RBIs, leading the Angels to a 5-4 victory over the Texas Rangers.

On Sunday against Detroit, it was Mark Trumbo who provided the winning drive in the 13th.

"It's a great feeling to know that you can leave the other team on the field," Kendrick said. "But to get the victory is the most important thing. Every game against these guys is really tough because neither team lays down, and it seems like by the time the ninth inning rolls around, it's always a tie score."

In the series opener

Monday, A.J. Pierzynski hit a go-ahead homer in the ninth against Angels closer Ernesto Frieri.

Kendrick, who hit a two-run shot in the sixth off Alexi Ogando and an RBI single in the first, drove a four-seam fastball from rookie Joe Ortiz (2-1) to left-center on a 1-1 count with one out for his third homer of the season.

"I was just trying to get a pitch to drive," Kendrick said. "He was trying to go in there and just left it out over the plate a little bit. He threw me a really good changeup the pitch before, and he was working pretty quick. So I was trying to take my time before I got back in the box."

Dane De La Rosa (1-0) pitched two perfect innings for his first major league win.

The Rangers tied it 4-all in the eighth with an un-

earned run against Scott Downs, following a couple of costly errors by the Angels — one physical and one mental.

Andrew Romaine, who replaced Brendan Harris at shortstop to start the inning, allowed Nelson Cruz's grounder to skip between his legs after Adrian Beltre's leadoff single. That put runners at the corners for Pierzynski, who hit a routine grounder to first base.

Trumbo saw Beltre break for the plate and immediately threw to catcher Chris Iannetta without looking the runner back to third, and Beltre alertly stayed put.

With the bases loaded, David Murphy grounded into a double play as Beltre scored the tying run. Downs minimized the damage by striking out Mitch Moreland after an intentional walk to Craig

Gentry.

The Rangers had a runner at third with two outs in the ninth against Frieri, but left fielder Mike Trout robbed Beltre of an extra-base hit with a full-out diving catch on the warning track.

"That was phenomenal. That saved the game right there," Kendrick said. "I mean, with guys like him and Peter Bourjos out there covering that much ground, two of the fastest guys in baseball, not much really falls out there. And then to have him come up with a clutch play like that was huge for our team."

Beltre couldn't believe that Trout was able to catch up with the ball.

"When I hit it and I saw where he was playing, I thought he had no chance to get there because

See **RANGERS**, Page 16

# MLB is likely to discuss security

NEW YORK (AP) — Stadium operations officials from the 30 big league baseball teams will meet this week and are expected to discuss whether to make any security changes in the wake of the Boston Marathon bombings.

Major League Baseball said the session Thursday in New York was planned before the attacks last week.

"This stadium operations meeting scheduled for later this week was not a product of the incidents in Boston," MLB spokesman Michael Teevan said Tuesday. "It is a part of our ongoing efforts to discuss state-of-the-art secu-

rity measures with the clubs, and it's standard operating procedure."

Among the security topics that could be discussed are backpacks that fans bring into ballparks.

Each team has different policies for fans, although the general major league limitation on bag sizes is 16 inches by 16 inches by 8 inches. Teams might talk about whether they want to cut that down from the size of a standard school backpack to something such as a laptop carrying bag.

At Yankee Stadium, "briefcases, coolers and other hard-sided bags

See **SECURITY**, Page 16

# College football playoff system goes into effect in 2014

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — The name says it all: College Football Playoff.

The major college football conference commissioners named the new postseason system that starts in 2014 on Tuesday, the first of three days of meetings at a resort hotel in the Rose Bowl's backyard.

Out with the Bowl Championship Series and in with the College Football Playoff.

"I don't think you can ever go too wrong calling something what it is," Pac-12 Commissioner Larry Scott said. "Things that make sense tend to stand the test of time."

Next on the agenda is to pick three more bowls for the six-bowl semifinal rotation — the Rose, Orange and Sugar are already in — and where the first championship game will

be held on Jan. 12, 2015. That comes Wednesday.

Four bowls have bid to be part of the rotation. The clear front-runners are the Cotton, Chick-fil-A and Fiesta. The Holiday Bowl in San Diego also put in a bid, but even its organizers acknowledged they are a long shot at best.

The finalists to host the first championship game are Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas, the billion dollar home of the NFL's Buccaneers and the Outback Bowl.

Arlington is the favorite, but the competition has been serious.

"I'm glad it has," Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby said Tuesday. "I

See **SYSTEM**, Page 16

# NASCAR's Kenseth's engine fails inspection

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Matt Kenseth's race-winning car from Kansas failed inspection at NASCAR's Research and Development Center, The Associated Press has learned.

NASCAR officials were discussing Wednesday what penalties to levy against Kenseth and Joe Gibbs Racing, multiple people familiar with the inspection told the AP on the condition of anonymity because no decision has been made.

The engine, which is supplied by Toyota Racing Development out of Costa Mesa, Calif., failed because one of the eight connecting rods did not meet the minimum weight requirement. While it could be a quality control issue that did not provide Kenseth any advantage, NASCAR would still hold JGR and the No. 20 team responsible.

Penalties could include a loss of points for

Kenseth, a fine for crew chief Jason Ratcliff and suspensions of six weeks or more for Ratcliff and other members of the JGR organization.

Comes the failed inspection on the heels of NASCAR penalizing Penske Racing for using parts it said were unapproved in the rear suspension of its cars at Texas. NASCAR docked 25 points each from defending champion Brad Keselowski and teammate Joey Logano, fined the crew chiefs \$100,000 each and suspended seven Penske employees for six races.

NASCAR is far stricter about engine infractions and severely punished the last violator, Carl Long, who was found to have an illegal engine at the 2009 All-Star Race. Long was docked 200 points — which would be about 50 points under the current points system — fined \$200,000 and suspended 12 races.

# Area Sports Calendar

FRIDAY

**Track**

- Big Spring at regional meet (through Saturday), Fuller Track, Texas Tech.
- Coahoma at regional meet (through Saturday), Odessa.

**Baseball**

- Howard College at Clarendon College (four-games, through Saturday), noon.
- Wylie at Big Spring, Steer Park, 7 p.m.
- Winters at Forsan, 7 p.m.

**Softball**

- Howard College at Clarendon College (doubleheader), 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

SATURDAY

**Softball**

- Forsan vs. Clyde-Eula, bi-district playoff (one game), San Angelo Central field, noon.
- Howard College at Frank Phillips College (doubleheader), 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.

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



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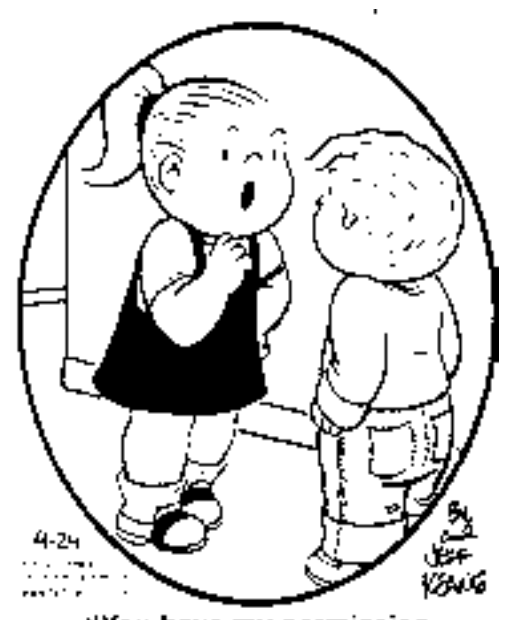
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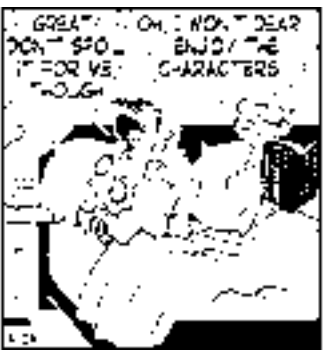
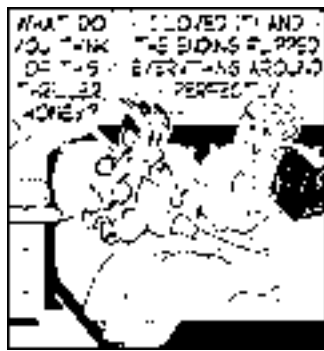


"You have my permission to idolize me."

HAGAR



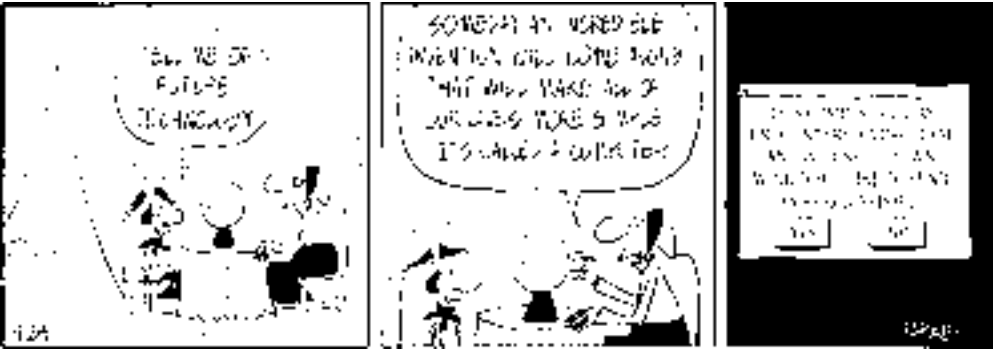
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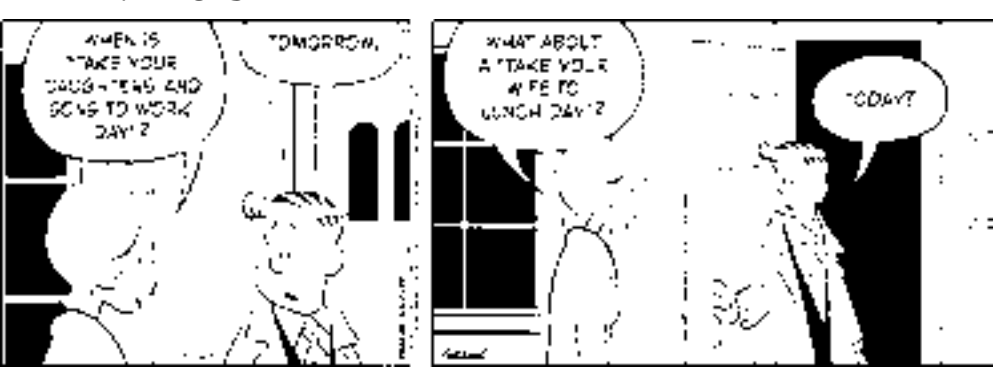
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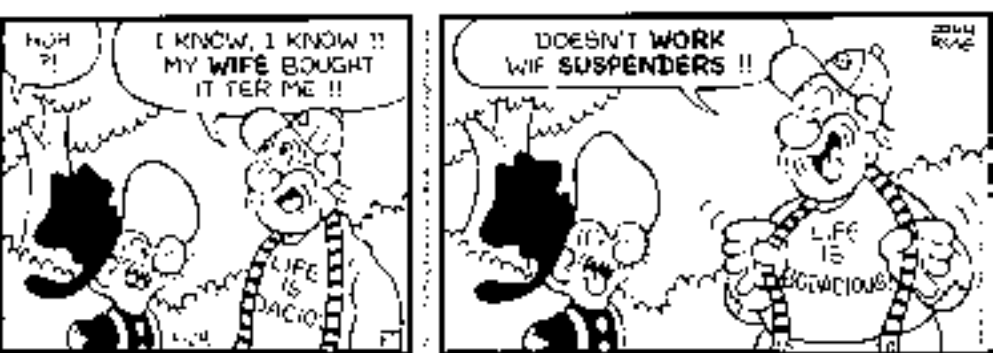
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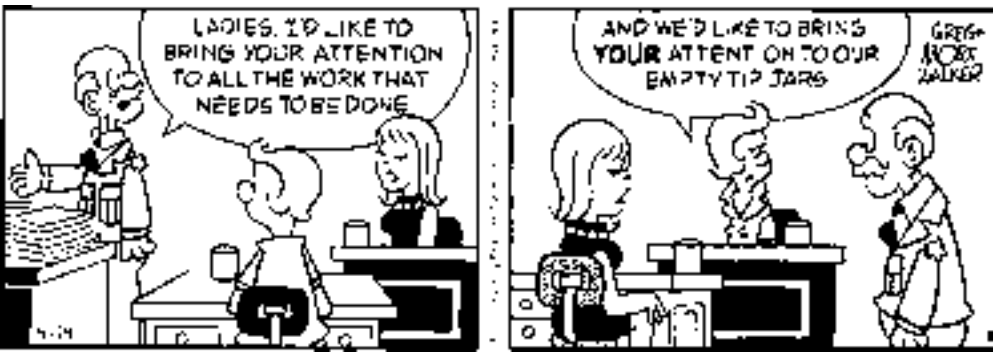
THE OTHER COAST



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This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, April 24, the 114th day of 2013. There are 251 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On April 24, 1913, the 792-foot Woolworth Building, at that time the tallest skyscraper in the world, officially opened in Manhattan as President Woodrow Wilson pressed a button at the White House to signal the lighting of the towering structure. On this date: In 1792, the national anthem of France, "La Marseillaise" (lah mahr-say-YEHZ'), was composed by Captain Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle. In 1800, Congress approved a bill establishing the Library of Congress. In 1898, Spain declared war on the United States. (The United States responded in kind the next day.) In 1915, what's regarded as the start of the Armenian genocide began as the Ottoman

Empire rounded up Armenian political and cultural leaders in Constantinople. In 1916, some 1,600 Irish nationalists launched the Easter Rising by seizing several key sites in Dublin. (The rising was put down by British forces almost a week later.) In 1932, in the Free State of Prussia, the Nazi Party gained a plurality of seats in parliamentary elections. In 1953, British statesman Winston Churchill was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II. In 1962, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology achieved the first satellite relay of a television signal, using NASA's Echo 1 balloon satellite to bounce a video image from Camp Parks, Calif., to Westford, Mass. In 1963, the Boston Celtics won the NBA Finals in Game 6, defeating the Los Angeles Lakers 112-109. In 1970, the People's Republic of China launched its first satellite, which kept transmitting a song, "The East is Red." In 1980, the United States launched an unsuccessful attempt to free the American hostages in Iran, a mission that resulted in the deaths of eight

U.S. servicemen. In 1993, former African National Congress president Oliver Tambo died in Johannesburg, South Africa, at age 75. Today's Birthdays: Film and dramatic critic Stanley Kauffmann is 97. Movie director-producer Richard Donner is 83. Actress Shirley MacLaine is 79. Author Sue Grafton is 73. Actor-singer Michael Parks is 73. Actress-singer-director Barbra Streisand is 71. Former Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley is 71. Country singer Richard Sterban (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 70. Rock musician Doug Clifford (Creedence Clearwater Revival) is 68. Rock singer-musician Rob Hyman is 63. © 2013 The Associated Press.

Answer to previous puzzle: TRAPS, BRO, SCUFF, AEIOU, IOU, ALGAE, UNDERFOOT, YOLKE, TOE, POSSE, IYKET, ALL TRADE, BERMUDA, GOSSIP, ALOES, TIME, ETTÉ, BEAR, DOMES, CAWS, AND, BUMPS, GOTAT, RASCAL, BARKER'S, ALLOT, MOD, FROST, TLETO, ARF, LANCE, TAXIMETER, OCCUR, ERA, ERODE, PEEPS, RAM DEPOT.

Newsday Crossword NOT FOR EVERYONE by David W. Cromer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: 1 Great weight, 5 Sound frightened, 9 Interlune, 14 Prefix for nautical, 15 Where, 17 Mac title, 17 Pak star neighbor, 18 See '2 Down, 19 Bread with pockets, 20 Numbered collectible, 23 Take care of, 24 Speed contest, 25 Online periodical, 28 Furnishes fangs for, 33 Salesperson, for short, 36 U.S. who inspired Cats, 39 Film-making org., 40 Credit rating, mail service, 44 Presidential lurchdown, 45 Madison Avenue workers, 46 S&L offerings, 47 Motor's partner, 50 Lima's and, 52 Time: ne segments, 55 Reality se, 59 Where the unauthorized can't enter, 64 Lawlil, informally, 65 Das Kapital author, 66 Notion, 67 Reality se, 68 Sector, 69 Name of '2 popes, 70 Tough question, 71 Overflow (with), 72 '90s when fall starts, 12 W/18 Across, Mystic River star, 13 NFL scoring plays, 21 Oscar actress, Mansa, 22 W/18 driving hazard, 26 Pic mode, 27 monster, (southwest com zard), 29 D: ver's I cense aggy, 30 Oil cartel, 31 Hepel, with 'u'l', 32 Utters, 33 Invitation, abbreviation, 34 Sporting sword, 35 Vet patients, 37 U-canny, 38 Office fill-in, 41 Barracks bed, 42 General Grant's opponent, 43 How losses are entered, 48 Bl of a monogram, 49 Go wrong, 51 Opens as some jackets, 53 Imply, 54 Close call, 56 Foster of li ras, 57 Slightly ahead, 58 Baker's ingredient, 59 Hire a decorator for, 60 Swelled heads, 61 King's address, 62 Source of shade, 63 Something lo cram for, 64 Once around a track.

Annie's Mailbox

**Dear Annie:** When I was 11 years old, I made an insulting remark to one of my older sister's teenage friends, teasing her about her acne. The next day, my mother loudly confronted me about it, and my grandmother and sister joined in. For the next several months, if I said anything my mother didn't like, she'd angrily remind me of the horrible thing I'd done. For years after, she'd allude to it. This continued until I was close to 30. Last year, my mother told me this same girl had been working as a waitress after dropping out of college, and that my comments about her acne had ruined her self-esteem. At that point, I tracked her

down and asked her whether she was still upset with me over the incident all those years ago. She said she didn't remember it at all. She said her lifestyle choices were the result of her rebelling against her domineering parents and had nothing to do with me. During a recent car trip with my parents, my mother brought this up again. I loudly said, "That was 24 years ago, and I'm tired of hearing about it. If you don't stop, I will leave." My mother told me to "go," and I had my father pull over, and I took my bag and walked back home. I haven't spoken to my parents in six months, and I don't miss them. Really, Annie, when can a 35-year-old man

expect forgiveness for something he did when he was 11? I may have been a rude kid, but I had a mother who called me "fat" and "pudgy." I guess I learned it from her. Is my mother crazy, or do I have to do some penance? — *New Yorker*

**Dear New Yorker:** Your mother seems vindictive and obsessive. You have acknowledged your rudeness toward this young woman and, we assume, apologized to her at some point. But when a child is 11, a parent should use such incidents to teach kindness. Your mother used it as an excuse to hold something over your head for eternity. You are right not to tolerate such comments any longer.

**Dear Annie:** I am appalled by the way people dress. We dress so casually that women do not take pride in being women, and men are losing their dignity. I believe in equality, but do women have to dress like men? And everyone wears jeans with everything. We look sloppy. People from other countries must wonder why we don't take more care with our outward appearance. After all, it reflects a healthy mind, body and spirit, and shows we care about our American image. Can anything be done about it? — *Conscientious Observer*

**Dear Observer:** Probably not. People like to be comfortable, which can lead to being

sloppy and gender-neutral. Others like to show off their bodies, which can lead to overexposure. Fashions come and go. All you can do is hold out hope for a more formal future.

**Dear Readers:** Today is Administrative Professionals Day. If you have assistants who make your job easier, please let them know how much they are appreciated.

*Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to annies-mailbox@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.*

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# Gonzales helps Astros edge Mariner's 3-2

HOUSTON (AP) — What proved to be the key run in Houston's 3-2 victory over the Seattle Mariners on Tuesday night came with a big price.

Justin Maxwell was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded in the third inning and the Astros had to place the outfielder on the disabled list after the game with a broken left hand.

Maxwell doesn't yet know how long he'll be out.

"I have to see the hand specialist tomorrow," he said. "But at least we got the win out of it."

Marwin Gonzalez homered and Norris rebounded from a tough start last time out as the Astros snapped a three-game losing skid.

The game was tied at 1 when Gonzalez launched his homer about 10 rows into the stands in right field to start Houston's third. Gonzalez, who bats ninth, hit just

two home runs in 80 games last season and has three in 16 this year.

"Marwin has done a great job, not only defensively but offensively," Houston manager Bo Porter said.

"Another big hit tonight, and he's done a good job, him and (Jose) Altuve up the middle, of really just solid defense across the board."

## SECURITY

Continued from Page 10

or containers are not permitted."

At Kansas City's Kauffman Stadium, wrapped presents are banned along with cameras with lenses of 12 or more inches. The Orioles ban bags

with wheels at Camden Yards.

David Rose, who works in the New York financial world, noticed increased security at Citi Field for the Mets' game Tuesday night against the Los Angeles Dodgers. He came with a standard-sized backpack and got a thorough examina-

tion at the gate.

"I've never had anything like that going to a major league game," he said. "They went through everything, they even looked at my wallet. It was like going through security screening at an airport. But after what happened in Boston and the train

threat in Canada, people are jittery."

Rose said he hoped the permissible backpack size at stadiums wouldn't be reduced.

"A lot of people come to the ballpark straight from work," he said. "It would be inconvenient to have to leave it there."

## SYSTEM

Continued from Page 10

think it will give us a better outcome."

Even before an official announcement about the name was made on Tuesday, the website www.collegefootballplayoff.com was up and running and allowing fans to vote on a new logo. And there also was a Twitter handle: (at)cfbplayoff.

"It's really simple. It gets right to the point," BCS executive director Bill Hancock, who will hold the same position in the playoff system, said at a short news conference.

"Nothing cute. Nothing fancy. We decided it would be best to call it what it is."

Premiere Sports Management in Overland Park, Kan., was hired

to help come up with a name and brand the new system. A committee of commissioners handled the naming of the new system, and Hancock said they ran through "in the neighborhood of three dozen" names.

Scott said: "We're clearly trying to make a clear break from the BCS."

The new postseason format will create two national semifinals to be played New Year's Eve or New Year's Day, with the winners advancing. The six bowls in the playoff rotation will host marquee, BCS-type games on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day during the seasons they do not host a semifinal.

The first semifinals will be played at the Rose and Sugar bowls on Jan. 1, 2015.

Also on the agenda this week for the commissioners will be the composition of the selection com-

mittee that will set the field for the playoff. They have said they would like the committee to be similar to the one that picks the teams for the NCAA basketball tournament, made up of conference commissioners and athletic directors.

Bowlsby said he expected both current and former administrators to have a spot on the committee.

"The hardest thing is making sure we're arming whoever is on the committee with the tools that it takes to differentiate among closely proximal teams," Bowlsby said. "You have to have some metrics available to differentiate between three, four, five, six and seven."

"You can't just say we like blue uniforms and not gold uniforms. You've got to arm the committee with the tools that it takes to do their job."

## PLAYOFFS

Continued from Page 10

she has experience," Taylor explained. "She wasn't used to having to carry the whole load,

but she's done a good job for us. So has Maddie. I haven't seen a real dominant pitcher yet. I don't see it coming down to who has the best pitcher. I think it's

going to be who has the best hitters."

Taylor's three seniors — Kayla Tilley, Shelby Roemer and Stephanie Duffer — have provided valuable leadership on the field, though underclassmen comprise the brunt of the Lady Buffaloes.

"Kayla and Shelby are my veterans," Taylor said. "I rely on them heavily. And both of them had to come in and physically work to get themselves into softball shape. They put in extra sessions in the weight room to get back and they both did very well."

Stephanie had to work hard to fill her spot at second base and keep it. I'm pleased with all the players for what they have overcome."

The first opponent Taylor needs to dispatch in order to make a postseason run is Clyde-Eula. A school Taylor believes her squad should be able to handle.

"I feel good going into the playoffs," Taylor said. "I went and watched Eula play Albany. They hit the ball well, they scored 11 runs. I think our defense may be able to prevent some of those runs, though. And our offense is averaging 14-16 hits per game. It's a very strong lineup. You can't really pitch around anybody. They are all capable of hitting the ball."

As for now, Taylor's emphasis is on the mental aspect of the game — toughening her roster up before they face off

against the best teams in the region.

"We've had moments where we get down on ourselves," Taylor added. "We're trying to focus on pressure situations and how to get out of them. We want to avoid that bad inning. When we've had a bad inning, most of the runs started with a walk. If we can limit the walks to two or three per game — I don't want to say we can't be beaten, because anything can happen — but it would be harder to beat us. I think we will go very deep. We could have that bad game or bad inning, but we could go all the way and I tell the girls, we should go all the way."

The Lady Buffs will take the field at San Angelo Central on Saturday at noon.

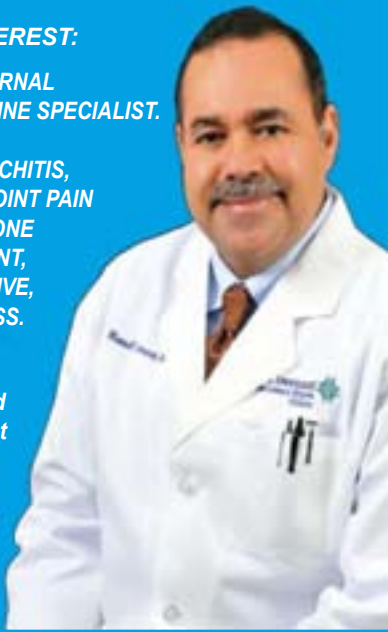
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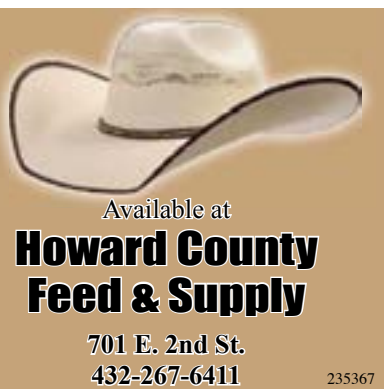
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6	8	9	4	7	2	3	1	5
3	7	6	2	8	1	9	5	4
5	2	4	9	6	3	1	8	7
8	9	1	5	4	7	2	6	3
4	6	8	7	1	9	5	3	2
9	3	2	6	5	8	4	7	1
1	5	7	3	2	4	6	9	8

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