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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**THURSDAY**  
 JUNE 27, 2013  
  
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VOLUME 108, NUMBER 217      COPYRIGHT 2013      50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

## Final touches being put on Pops



**By STEVE REAGAN**  
 Staff Writer

There's only a week to go before the fireworks literally start.

The 16<sup>th</sup> annual Pops in the Park Independence Day celebration, featuring music, food, fun and fireworks, is set for next Wednesday at the Comanche Trail Park Amphitheater.

While the highlight of the

evening will undoubtedly be the annual fireworks display — complete with musical accompaniment from the Big Spring Symphony — there will be lots more for people to enjoy, Pops Committee Chairperson Kelly Seales said.

The amphitheater will open to the public at 5 p.m. More than 20 vendors have been confirmed for the event, supplying food and much-needed

drink to help people deal with expected high temperatures.

The pre-show portion of the festivities will feature Vocal Trash, the Metroplex-based musical group which will perform at Pops in the Park for the first time since 2008. The group has been compared to such successful specialty acts as legendary acapella group

See **POPS**, Page 3

**All four Big Spring Little League All-Star teams won their tournament games Wednesday. For details, see Page 7.**

## Voter ID law OK'd for now

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
 Staff Writer

Texas voters looking to cast a ballot in upcoming elections can prepare to pony-up a picture ID, as a landmark Supreme Court ruling issued this week will allow the state to activate its controversial voter ID law, according to Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott.

After the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the formula that determines which states must petition Washington before making elections changes, Abbott said Texas' voter ID law would take effect immediately.

"With today's decision, the State's voter ID law will take effect immediately," Abbott said. "Redistricting maps passed by the Legislature may also take effect without approval from the federal government."

Starting today, Texas Department of Public Safety driver license offices will begin issuing photo IDs to anyone who doesn't already have one. Under the 2011 state law creating one of the state's most strict voter ID laws, the



**Big Spring State Hospital volunteers Sarah Dietz, left, and Ruth Nanny hand out ball caps and visors to the patients during the hospital's Summer Fun Day. Each year, the Volunteer Services Council kicks off summer at the state hospital by handing out tote bags, caps, sunglasses, t-shirts and serving soft drink floats and hot dogs for lunch. Big Spring State Hospital Activities Therapy Department employees provided an afternoon of fun with plenty of recreational activities, that included water fun to take the heat off the day.**

## West Texas VA hires three

**Special to the Herald**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced this week it has met the goal to hire 1,600 new mental health professionals to improve access to mental health services for veterans, service members and military families.

West Texas VA Health Care System has hired three new mental health professionals.

"I am proud of the hard work our staff has completed to bring these new staff members on board," said Andrew Welch, WTVAHCS interim director. "We are not slowing our efforts however,

and will continue to actively recruit for any vacant mental health positions for the future so veterans will get the care they need. The expanded mental health services further solidifies WTVAHCS's commitment to provide the right care at the right place and at the right time. In an effort to maximize the resources available to veterans, mental health professionals are utilizing telehealth services to reach veterans in rural West Texas."

As of May 31, the VA has hired 1,607 mental health clinical providers to meet the goal of 1,600 new mental



George H. O'Brien Jr. VA Medical Center

health professionals outlined in President Barak Obama's executive order to improve services. Additionally, the VA has hired 2,005 mental health clinical providers

See **HIRES**, Page 3

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## Obituaries

### Douglas E. Beams



Douglas E. Beams, 61, formerly of Big Spring, died Thursday, June 20, 2013 in Hawaii. The family will receive friends 9:00 AM until 10:30 AM Saturday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 10:30 AM Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Jake Merritt, Jr. officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

He was born January 11, 1952, to Estelle Mays Beams and Douglas Eugene Beams. He lived most of his life in Big Spring, moving to San Antonio a few years ago. At the time of his death, he and his wife were in the process of moving to

Hawaii. Doug attended Texas Tech University and was an engineer for Union Pacific Railroad from 1973 until 1991. His passion was physical fitness and body building, which later became his profession. He had owned the Body Center in Big Spring and had been co-owner of World Gym in Midland. In San Antonio, he owned Anytime Fitness Centers and was co-owner of Full Life Fitness, later sold to Gold's Gym. He was also an independent realtor in San Antonio.

He is survived by his wife Carla. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Pallbearers will be Donny Ashinhurst, John Lyons, Jake Merritt, Sr., Phil Barber, Don Swisher, Jarroll Carroll, and Van Lewis.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

## Police/Sheriff

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. June 26, 2013 and 7 a.m. today:

- JOSEPHINE BALDAZAR, 55, of 2001 Morrison, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant from another agency.
- DELORES RUTH DAILY, 51, of 2525 Chanute, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant from another agency.
- ALEXANDER EUGENE HERNANDEZ, 20, of 510 Donley, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant from another agency.
- TERRY WAYNE BLIESNER, 48, of 914 Angela Rd., was arrested Thursday on a charge of failure to obtain Texas drivers license within 90 days.
- KASSAUNDRA DYHAN MUNOZ, 22, of 1007 Sycamore, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.
- RONDA RENAE VICKERS, 30, OF 308 Todd Rd., was arrested Wednesday on a warrant for speeding.
- TERRILL JAMES MONROE BEASON, 18, was arrested Thursday on a charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor.
- THEFT was reported at the 1400 block of Stamford Ave. and the 1300 block of E. Highway 350.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported at the 3600 block of W. Highway 80 and the 600 block of McEwen.
- BURGLARY IN PROGRESS was reported at the 1000 block of N. Main.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported at the 2600 block of Langley and the 1200 block of Grafa.

- MINOR ACCIDENT was reported at the 500 block of S. Main.
- DISTURBANCE was reported at the 4200 block of Wasson.
- DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported at the 1600 block of Bluebird.

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 86 inmates at the time of this report.
- JOSIE BALCAZAR was booked by the BSPD on a charge of theft of property less than or equal to \$20 but less than \$500.
- DELORES THOMASY was booked by the BSPD on a charge of theft of property less than or equal to \$20 but less than \$500.
- JENNIFER ELIZABETH HUERTA was booked by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- ALEXANDER EUGENE HERNANDEZ was booked by the BSPD on a charge of assault causing bodily injury.
- RONDA DAWN VICKERS was booked by the HCSO on a charge of speeding – 93 mph/70 mph.
- TERRILL JAMES MONROE BEASON was booked by the HCSO on a charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor.
- TERRY WAYNE BLIESNER was booked by the BSPD on a charge of failure to obtain a Texas drivers license within 90 days.
- KASSAUNDRA DYHAN MUNOZ was booked by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

## Take Note

- Howard County Fair Association is seeking volunteers to help with the Howard County Fair which will be held Sept. 26-28. To find out more information or to volunteer, contact Jamey Stegall at 214-717-9210 or [jamey.stegall@gmail.com](mailto:jamey.stegall@gmail.com). The fair association is also accepting applications for exhibitors at the fair. All booths rent for \$100. Contact Stegall for more information.

- Kid's Klub registration is open. There is a limited amount of space. Kid's Klub will be July 8-12. Our theme is Bombardier Boot Camp. It is going to be a wonderful opportunity for children to learn and have fun at the same time. Registration forms are due June 28. For more information, email the Hangar at [hangar25@crcom.net](mailto:hangar25@crcom.net) or give us a call 432-264-1999.

- Big Spring and surrounding counties are in need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

- Crossroads Hospice is in need of volunteers. Volunteers are the backbone of the hospice team, by bringing light and love into people's lives. For more information on joining, contact Eva Robison at 432-263-5300 or come by 421 S. Main.

- Do you have a minute? An hour? How about making a difference in someone's life? Become a hospice volunteer. One hour a month can make a difference. Whether it's visiting a patient or working in the office or helping with a craft, you can make a difference. We can work around your schedule. If interested, please call Kara Daniels at Compass Hospice, 432-263-5999, or apply in person at 602 S. Main St.

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

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

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

- Home Hospice is seeking volunteers. Volunteers are needed for in office duties as well as sitters, deliveries and crafts. To find out more information or to volunteer contact Manny Negron at Home Hos-

pice by calling 264-7599.

- The Salvation Army is holding its annual fan drive and is in need of fans. Community members can donate new or used fans. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Donations can be made at the main office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

- The Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) is an independent national nonprofit dedicated to helping distressed homeowners navigate financial challenges and avoid mortgage foreclosure. If you want to stop foreclosure and are in need of foreclosure help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now. The Homeowner's HOPE hotline is a counseling service provided by HPF to work with you to find a solution to your problem. HPF can provide counseling free of charge, in English and 170 other languages, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Free free foreclosure help, call the hotline.

- The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We need your help. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Sara Basaldua at 1-877-316-8346 or visit [www.BecomeaCASA.org](http://www.BecomeaCASA.org) or [www.casawtx.org](http://www.casawtx.org).

- Legal Aid of Northwest Texas is accepting appointments from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

- Road to Recovery, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call (877) 277-1618.

### Holston Banks Sr.

Holston Banks Sr., 72, of Big Spring died Friday, June 21, 2013, in Temple. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

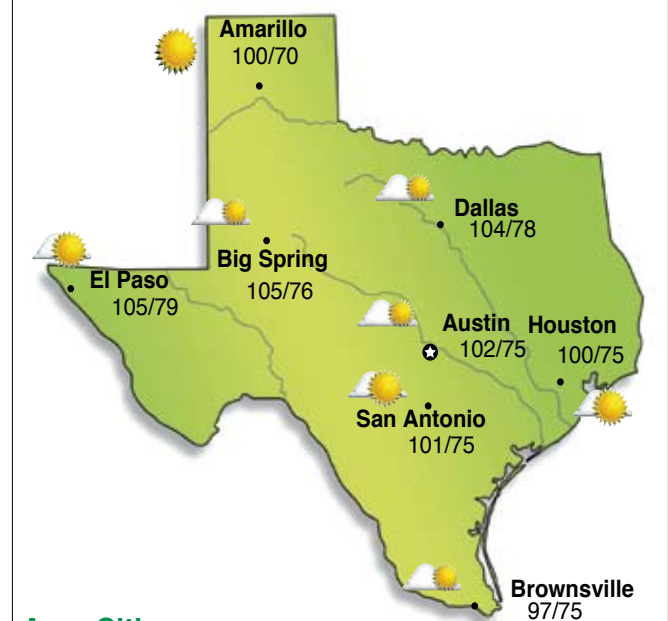
## Today's Weather

### Local 3-Day Forecast

Fri 6/28	Sat 6/29	Sun 6/30
<b>105/76</b> Sunshine and clouds mixed. Very hot. High around 105F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph.	<b>103/76</b> Considerable cloudiness. Highs 101 to 105F and lows in the mid 70s.	<b>97/72</b> Partly cloudy, chance of a thunderstorm. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the low 70s.
<b>Sunrise:</b> 6:42 AM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 6:42 AM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 6:43 AM
<b>Sunset:</b> 8:57 PM	<b>Sunset:</b> 8:57 PM	<b>Sunset:</b> 8:57 PM



## Texas At A Glance



### Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	104	77	mst sunny	Kingsville	100	74	pt sunny
Amarillo	100	70	sunny	Livingston	102	72	mst sunny
Austin	102	75	pt sunny	Longview	101	75	pt sunny
Beaumont	98	75	mst sunny	Lubbock	102	74	pt sunny
Brownsville	97	75	pt sunny	Lufkin	101	75	mst sunny
Brownwood	107	76	pt sunny	Midland	105	77	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	97	77	pt sunny	Raymondville	100	74	mst sunny
Corsicana	103	76	pt sunny	Rosenberg	101	74	mst sunny
Dallas	104	78	pt sunny	San Antonio	101	75	mst sunny
Del Rio	102	78	sunny	San Marcos	103	75	pt sunny
El Paso	105	79	mst sunny	Sulphur Springs	100	75	pt sunny
Fort Stockton	102	73	mst sunny	Sweetwater	104	76	pt sunny
Gainesville	100	73	pt sunny	Tyler	103	77	pt sunny
Greenville	101	74	pt sunny	Weatherford	103	75	pt sunny
Houston	100	75	mst sunny	Wichita Falls	103	73	pt sunny

### National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	92	70	t-storm	Minneapolis	75	63	t-storm
Boston	79	69	rain	New York	85	72	t-storm
Chicago	78	60	t-storm	Phoenix	115	87	mst sunny
Dallas	104	78	pt sunny	San Francisco	73	59	sunny
Denver	91	63	t-storm	Seattle	82	63	pt sunny
Houston	100	75	mst sunny	St. Louis	90	67	windy
Los Angeles	88	69	pt sunny	Washington, DC	90	72	t-storm
Miami	89	78	t-storm				

### Moon Phases



### UV Index

Fri 6/28	Sat 6/29	Sun 6/30
<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
Extreme	Very High	Very High

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, 0 being the lowest and 11 the highest. A higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

## Lottery

The winning numbers in Wednesday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Lotto" game were: 02-11-18-26-29-41.

The winning numbers in Wednesday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Cash 5" game were: 08-20-21-24-25.

The winning numbers in Wednesday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Pick 3 Night" game were: 2-1-7, Sum It Up: 10.

The winning numbers in Wednesday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Daily 4 Night" game were: 7-9-4-0, Sum It Up: 20.

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The Lone Star District of the Buffalo Trail Council, Boy Scouts of America held its annual day camp at Camp Thomas in Big Spring.

There were 40 Cub Scouts in attendance from Snyder, Coahoma, Sterling City, Colorado City, Elbow and Big Spring.

The theme for this year's camp was CSI: Cub Scout Investigators. The Scouts participated in BB gun shooting, archery, and a craft station, followed by the crime scene unit and Big Spring Police Department talking about a career in law enforcement.

To conclude the day camp this year, the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department and Big Spring Fire Department came out and cooled the Scouts down.

Anyone interested in joining the Scouts should contact Brian Sweeney, district executive, at 432-212-3577.

Courtesy photo

POPS

Continued from Page 1

Nylons, and Stomp, a popular drum act of which the members are known to play everything from trash cans to kitchen sinks.

"We wanted to come up with something completely different from the norm," group founder Steve Linder said in a 2007 Herald interview. "Everyone has a band,

but nobody's doing this."

Vocal Trash is scheduled to perform at 6:30 p.m..

After the group's performance, there will be an intermission before the evening portion of the celebration begins at 7:45 p.m., highlighted by the annual flag ceremony and a fly-over by Commemorative Air Force planes based out of Midland.

Following that, the symphony, under the baton of Dr. Keith Graumann will take

the stage to perform a selection of popular and patriotic tunes before a video tribute to Howard County military personnel and veterans is shown at 9 p.m.

The highlight of the night, a \$20,000 fireworks display conducted by Terry Hurt of Odessa, is scheduled to begin at 9:45 p.m. The display will be synced to a performance of patriotic tunes by the symphony.

The celebration is free to

the public, although donations will be gladly accepted.

"We still need donations — we always need them," Seales said. "But, more than anything else, we need people to come out and show their support for our military and the sacrifices they make for our freedoms."

As for parking, handicap parking will be directed through the Wasson Main Gate entrance to the lot between the aquatic center and

amphitheater and in designated spots on top of the amphitheater. General parking will be located in numerous areas throughout the park, including off Highway 87, at Kid Zone and overflow will be behind the Pro Shop. Vendors are asked to park vehicles and trailers behind the clubhouse at the golf course.

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

ID

Continued from Page 1

certificates are free and valid for six years. To qualify, an applicant must show U.S. citizenship and Texas residency.

While state offices brace themselves to handle the expected demand for the photo IDs, Howard County Elections Administrator Saundra Bloom said the new law is expected to have a minimal effect on the Crossroads area.

"Approximately 50 percent of the voters in Howard County already use their photo ID — usually their Texas driv-

er's license — when they go to the polls," Bloom said. "So, I don't really see this law having a very pronounced effect on elections held in Howard County."

Bloom said the new requirement isn't expected to have an adverse effect on polling places, either.

"When they announced the law more than a year ago, we were ready to handle it then," she said. "It's possible it could slow things down a bit at the polls — at least for the first few elections — but that will likely be caused by the election clerks and judges having to explain the new law. Even then, I really don't see it slow-

ing things down enough to be a problem."

Likely the first election to be held under the new requirements in Howard and surrounding counties will be the constitutional amendment election slated for November, according to Bloom.

"We haven't received a rundown of what amendments will be on the November election yet," Bloom said. "The Legislature just finished a special session and Gov. Perry has called for another one, so it's a bit unclear at this time when we'll get that information."

After the Legislature enacted the voter ID law, the Jus-

Department invoked Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act to block implementation. The Obama administration, siding with minority advocates, said the law will discriminate against low-income and minority voters. An appeal is still pending in the Supreme Court.

The historic 5-4 ruling this week found that the current formula for picking which states face such hurdles is outdated and unconstitutional. Until Congress devises a new formula that passes muster, these states no longer need to seek Justice Department approval ahead of time for new voter ID rules, congressional

maps and other changes. "Today's ruling ensures that Texas is no longer one of just a few states that must seek approval from the federal government before its election laws can take effect," Abbott said. Gov. Perry called the ruling "a clear victory for federalism and the states. Texas may now implement the will of the people without being subject to outdated and unnecessary oversight and the overreach of federal power."

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

HIRES

Continued from Page 1

to fill existing vacancies.

"Meeting this hiring milestone significantly enhances our ability to improve access to care for those veterans seeking mental health services and demonstrates our continued commitment to the health and well-being of the men and women who have served the nation," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "Meeting this goal is an important achievement, but we recognize that we must continue to increase access to the quality mental health care veterans have earned and deserve."

The VA provides a full range of comprehensive

mental health services across the country. In fiscal year 2012, more than 1.3 million veterans received specialized mental health care from the VA. This number has risen each year from 927,052 in fiscal year 2006. In addition to hiring more mental health professionals, VA is expanding the use of innovative technology to serve Veterans in rural or underserved areas. VA expects to increase the number of veterans receiving care from tele-mental health services in fiscal year 2013,

and has increased the number of Vet Centers, which provide readjustment counseling and referral services, from 233 in 2008 to 300 in 2012.

In November 2011, VA launched an award-winning, national public awareness campaign called Make the Connection, aimed at reducing the stigma associated with seeking mental health care and informing veterans, their families, friends and members of their communities about VA resources. More information on Make

the Connection can be found at www.maketheconnection.net.

Mental health professionals interested in seeking employment with the Department of Veterans Affairs can obtain information at

www.vacareers.va.gov. Veterans and their families interested in learning more about the mental health services provided by VA can go to: www.mentalhealth.va.gov.

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Douglas E. Beams, 61, died Thursday. The family will receive friends 9 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park. Holston Banks, Sr., 72, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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**sudoku**  
ANSWERS

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net



# 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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## DAILY PRAYER

Help us, dear Lord, to have a better understanding of how you want us to live each day.  
Amen

# Dishonest immigration reform

The newly amended 1,198-page "comprehensive" immigration bill was plunked on Senate desks last Friday afternoon. On Monday, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid forced through an initial vote over the objections of senators who said they had not read it. Sen. Mike Lee labeled the ploy "banana republic" politics.

The bill bribes reluctant senators to get their votes. A provision slipped in to extend taxpayer-financed advertising for Las Vegas casinos and other tourist attractions converted Sen. Dean Heller of Nevada into a last-minute co-sponsor. A \$1.3 billion jobs program mollified Sen. Bernie Sanders (Sec. 1102(f), Sec. 1501).

Top banana Harry Reid is spending your money to buy support for his agenda and power. The nation is reeling under the Obama health law, rammed through the Senate by Reid in a similarly corrupt manner. The hurried vote on Monday produced a 67 to 27 majority (including 15 Republicans) that will move immigration reform to a final Senate vote later this week, and then on to the House of Representatives.

The House should discard the Senate bill and give us a series of 20-page bills in plain, honest English that members will read before voting. Opponents of the Senate bill object to its failure to secure the borders. Last week, the Congressional Budget Office report validated their concern, concluding that the bill would reduce illegal immigration by a meager 25 percent, making future amnesty crises inevitable.

In response, Sen. Bob Corker

put forward the amendment voted on Monday night that purports to secure the border. In truth, it requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to present a plan that includes 700 miles of fencing, an elaborate list of technologies, such as drones, ground sensors and seismic imaging, a "surge" of border agents from the current 18,000 to 38,000, an e-verify employment system and tracking to identify visa overstaying.

The bill guarantees a tough plan, not implementation. Slippery language affords the secretary discretion to weasel out of fencing.

The target of 38,000 agents doesn't have to be met until 2021, turning a surge into a trickle. Sec. 5(b)(5), and Sec. 1102(a).

The bill's authors seem incapable of honest dealing.

They label numerous provisions "emergency" legislation to avoid Congress's own "pay as you go" rule, which requires that any new mandatory spending be offset by reductions elsewhere or tax hikes. Labeling this bill an emergency is cooking the books.

Shockingly, the bill exploits immigration reform for partisan purposes, pouring hundreds of millions of dollars of taxpayer funds into "non profits," meaning immigrant advocacy groups and community activists.

This is a replay of the Obama health law, which is providing truckloads of money to the NAACP, SEIU and local groups for "outreach" to the uninsured. The money is said to go for door-to-door canvassing and phone banks — the same techniques used to register voters and get them to the polls.

Numerous sections of the immigration bill empower the Secretary of Homeland Security to make grants to "community organizations." Here is a sample:



BETSY  
MCCAUGHEY

Secs. 2106 and 2537 funnel \$150 million in grants to non-profits to provide legal assistance, screen aliens for eligibility and assemble proof of residence and employment, and complete applications for family members and waivers. These functions belong in the Office of Immigration. Why outsource? Because community activists can say and do things government employees can't.

Sec. 2531 of the bill sets up a nonprofit United States Citizenship Foundation run by 10 directors from national community organizations. They will develop "citizenship preparation" materials to teach newcomers about American history and civics. That job is currently done by the Federal Office of Immigration, but outsourcing will allow it to be done with a partisan slant and without public scrutiny.

Just as the Obama health law elevates community activists into the "go-to" people for health benefits and other social services, the immigration bill would make them the "go-to" people for amnesty.

Empowering and funding these groups will tilt the scales against a two-party system and make it difficult for Republicans to compete fairly in another national election.

And that's a step closer to one-party, banana republic government.

*Betsy McCaughey is a former lieutenant governor of New York, founder of the Committee to Reduce Infection Deaths and the author of "Beating Obamacare." She reads the law so you don't have to. Visit [www.betsymc-caughey.com](http://www.betsymc-caughey.com). To find out more about Betsy McCaughey and read features by other Creators Syndicate columnists and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).*

# Snowden's fantasy grim reality

International man of mystery, leaker of secrets and self-proclaimed spy Edward Snowden is now deep into his own martyrdom.

"All I can say right now is the U.S. government is not going to be able to cover this up by jailing or murdering me," Snowden said recently.

Asked what advice he had for future leakers, he said, "This country is worth dying for."

Snowden also believes it is worth fleeing from. And not just with a toothbrush and a change of undies, but with four laptops and at least one thumb drive packed with U.S. intelligence secrets.

Snowden, who just turned 30, dropped out of high school, college and the military, but nonetheless became an American success story. He achieved a six-figure salary and cushy job in Hawaii with the one industry that seems to require no real qualifications or serious background checks: the United States intelligence community.

About a third of U.S. intelligence workers are employed by private companies, whose guiding force appears to be maximizing profit rather than protecting the nation. Surprise.

Snowden was given a top secret security clearance, even though he had scant qualifications. He revealed a bunch of secrets and then flew the coop to Hong Kong. Over the weekend, Snowden flew the coop again, this time to Russia.

According to The Wall Street Journal, "In part, Mr. Snowden's determination to leave Hong Kong was based on the fear of losing access to the Internet."

Giving up your country, your friends and family was one

thing, but giving up the Internet? C'mon, let's not get crazy

Snowden is now learning that the life of the super-snoop is not quite as cushy a life as he had in Hawaii. First of all, he has become a hot potato.

According to The New York Times: "Two Western intelligence experts, who worked for major government spy agencies, said they believed that the Chinese government had managed to drain the contents of the four laptops that Mr. Snowden said he brought to Hong Kong. ... If that were the case, they said, China would no longer need or want to have Mr. Snowden remain in Hong Kong."

So Snowden hightailed it to the friendly confines of Russia, where he ended up at a "capsule hotel" at Sheremetyevo Airport outside Moscow, a far cry from the luxury hotel he once occupied in Hong Kong.

Capsule hotels have teeny-tiny rooms, some without windows, that are stacked on top of each other like coffins.

Further, the Russian authorities, perhaps wondering if all of Snowden's thumb drives had been located, made Snowden undergo "a medical exam" before being taken to his hotel. I imagine the Russians checked cavities Snowden did not know he possessed.

Nothing Snowden has ever faced in his life has prepared him for this. He appears to have been a young man who drifted back and forth between the real world and the fantasy world of computer games.

"His fascination with games continued even as he rose to more responsible positions" in the intelligence community, The Washington Post wrote.

"I woke this morning with a new name," he announced excitedly in 2010, referring to his gaming avatar. "That name is Wolfking. Wolfking Awesome-fox."

Though he flirted with the idea of becoming a male model, Snowden decided the world of secret intelligence held certain advantages. "If somebody likes you, it doesn't even matter if you put your pants on before your underwear in the morning — you will get the job," he wrote.

"Get a (security) clearance," he also wrote. "If you're cleared, have a lifestyle and have specialized IT skills, you can go anywhere in the world right now. Thank god for wars."

About eight years ago, Snowden began dating a pole-dancing instructor, and according to The Washington Post: "He boasted online about relations with his girlfriend, noting at one point: 'You have not lived until you've rolled over to post-coital Krispy Kremes. That's what being an American is all about.'"

As I write this, Snowden is thought still to be in Russia, but possibly on his way to Ecuador via Cuba and Venezuela.

I don't know what he expects to find at the end of his rainbow, but I think he will learn that once his secrets are used up, he will be just another fugitive, eager to recount to anyone who will still listen what a big deal he used to be.

He is not Wolfking Awesome-fox. And he eventually will come to the realization that America is about more than sex and doughnuts.

It is the country that gave him everything.

And I think he is going to miss it very much.

*Roger Simon is POLITICO's chief political columnist. His new e-book, "RECKONING: Campaign 2012 and the Fight for the Soul of America," can be found on Amazon, BarnesandNoble.com and iTunes. To find out more about Roger Simon, and read features by other Creators writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators webpage at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).*



ROGER  
SIMON



# Texas news in brief

## Dewhurst praises Perry for calling new session

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst is praising Gov. Rick Perry for calling lawmakers back into special session to address abortion.

Dewhurst has been taking blame from fellow Republicans for the raucous protests in the Senate chamber that stopped an abortion restrictions bill Tuesday night.

Dewhurst says the bill was derailed by an “angry mob” that came to support a filibuster by Democratic Sen. Wendy Davis. Dewhurst had warned senators they would be called back,

Texas Republicans want to place tough new restrictions on abortion clinics to operate. Abortion rights supporters and opponents agree the bill would likely close most abortion clinics in the state.

The new special session begins July 1.

## Congressman files suit to stop Texas voter ID law

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A Democratic congressman joined seven others Wednesday in filing a federal lawsuit to keep Texas from enforcing its voter ID law.

U.S. Rep. Marc Veasey of Fort Worth filed the papers in Corpus Christi federal court, calling the requirement to show a state-issued photo ID card at the ballot box unconstitutional.

The law “would have the effect of denying thousands of Texas voters the ability to vote in person, a large number of whom would be disenfranchised entirely since absentee voting in Texas is available to only certain specified categories of voters,” according to the lawsuit.

The case comes just one day after the U.S. Supreme Court declared a section of the Voting Rights Act unconstitutional. That decision overthrew a decision by federal judges in Washington that Texas could not enforce the voter ID law.

The Washington court had determined that the voter ID law was an example of “intentional discrimination” against minorities, and used its authority under the Voting Rights Act to stop its enforcement. But when the Supreme Court ruled the act wrongfully singled out Texas and other southern states for such preclearance, the court lost jurisdiction.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott welcomed the court’s decision and announced he would begin enforcing the voter ID law immediately.

The Veasey suit asks the Corpus Christi court to take over the case filed in Washington and to use the same evidence to determine if the law violates the Constitution. In the meantime, he asks the court to block implementation of the law pending a trial.

## Issues to be resolved at Fort Hood suspect hearing

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP) — An Army psychiatrist charged with gunning down fellow soldiers in a deadly 2009 attack at Fort Hood is to appear at a hearing less than two weeks before he goes on trial.

A military judge is to rule on pending matters Thursday in Maj. Nidal Hasan’s case.

They include whether to allow certain evidence to be presented during his court-martial.

The matters have been on hold since last month, when Hasan asked to serve as his own attorney less than a week before jury selection. His request was granted.

Jury selection is now set to start July 9. Testimony could begin as early as Aug. 6.

Hasan faces the death penalty or life without parole if convicted in the rampage that left 13 dead and nearly three dozen wounded.

## Dermatologist gets probation in sex assault

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A South Texas dermatologist convicted of sexually assaulting a female patient has been sentenced to 10 years of probation.

Jurors in San Antonio on Wednesday decided the penalty for 61-year-old Dr. Calvin Day. A judge also ordered Day to serve six months of house arrest, pay a \$10,000 fine and register as a sex offender.

Day was convicted June 17 of assaulting the patient in August 2010 when she stopped at his office on a Sunday for a follow-up after a Botox treatment. The woman says Day kissed and groped her.

Prosecutors had sought 20 years in prison for Day, who had no previous felony convictions. His medical license was suspended amid the investigation.

## Ex-Lackland trainer gets 2 years in sex scandal

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A former trainer at a South Texas military installation has been convicted of sexual misconduct and sentenced to two years in custody.

The San Antonio Express-News reports Senior Airman Christopher Oliver on Wednesday was also given a dishonorable discharge.

Oliver is a former elite training instructor at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. He pleaded guilty to having adulterous relationships with three female trainees but had contested other charges dating back about two years when he was a staff sergeant.

A military judge convicted Oliver of consensual sodomy, wrongful sexual contact, adultery, dereliction of duty and having unprofessional relationships.

More than 30 instructors at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland have been charged with sexual misconduct. Most of those tried so far have been convicted.

## Boy’s body found in yard of empty Fort Worth house

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — The body of boy has been found in the backyard of a vacant North Texas house and police are investigating the death as a homicide.

Officials with the Tarrant County medical examiner on Thursday did not immediately identify the body or provide a cause of death.

Fort Worth police say the body was discovered Wednesday afternoon during the search for a 5-year-old boy reported missing by this family. Police have said officers were looking for Sida Osman.

Sida was last seen Tuesday night near the apartment complex where the family lives.

The vacant house property where a body was found is about a block from the apartments.

## Synthetic marijuana indictment returned

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — At least 18 people have been arrested in an alleged synthetic marijuana production and distribution ring operating in Texas and Oklahoma.

Federal investigators say the cases involve synthetic marijuana and bath salts sold in San Antonio, Houston, Austin, Dallas and Laredo, plus Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Okla.

Prosecutors say a five-count federal indictment unsealed Wednesday in Austin charges six people with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute synthetic marijuana — known as cannabinoids.

A criminal complaint filed in San Antonio names 19 suspects facing the same charge.

The defendants include the operators of some tobacco, smoke shop and convenience stores.

## 4 get prison in Houston black market peso scam

HOUSTON (AP) — The alleged ring-leader of a \$20 million black market peso exchange scheme using drug money in Texas has been sentenced to nearly 16 years in prison.

Prosecutors say 43-year-old Enrique Morales of Houston and Guadalajara, Mexico, led the money laundering scam going back to 2009.

Morales pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit money laundering and conspiracy to operate an unlicensed money transmitting business. A federal judge in Houston on Wednesday ordered Morales to serve 188 months behind bars.

Investigators say drug money laun-

dered through Texas sham business bank accounts was then sent to accounts in the U.S. and Mexico. In exchange, pesos were transferred back to accounts owned by the organization’s clients.

Three money couriers who also pleaded guilty were sentenced Wednesday to prison terms of up to 10 years.

## La. arrest made in Texas bank robbery

LAKE CHARLES, La. (AP) — A 49-year-old Louisiana man has been arrested and is facing extradition in connection with a Texas bank robbery.

Calcasieu Parish Sheriff’s Office spokeswoman Kim Myers tells the American Press Allen K. Miller, of Cameron, La., was arrested Tuesday, hours after a bank in Orange, Texas, was robbed.

Myers said Miller was stopped on Interstate 10 near Sulphur after Orange police released a description of the vehicle and suspect involved in the robbery.

## Houston man gets more prison time in sex ring

HOUSTON (AP) — A Texan linked to a sex trafficking ring in which a woman was branded with a panther image to mark her as property must serve 6½ more years in prison.

A federal judge in Houston on Wednesday sentenced 43-year-old Andre McDaniels for witness tampering.

McDaniels and two other Houston men in January were sentenced to eight-year terms after pleading guilty to conspiracy to commit sex trafficking. All three were also convicted of transportation, coercion and enticement related to sex businesses disguised as spas and modeling studios.

McDaniels was also convicted of nine counts of witness tampering. Investigators say McDaniels tried to pay witnesses to change their testimony and to gather personal information about federal agents and prosecutors.

## Houston-area drug bust yields 6-foot alligator

SPLENDORA, Texas (AP) — A drug bust at a Houston-area house has yielded some exotic creatures such as a 6-foot alligator that apparently liked to snooze inside on a couch.

Montgomery County authorities acted on a tip Tuesday afternoon and found the gator and about a dozen snakes — including a boa constrictor. The homeowner in Splendora, about 30 miles northeast of Houston, was detained on a marijuana possession charge.

Investigators believe the 100-pound alligator and the other reptiles were pets.

# Federal agency finds lax regulation of chemicals at West plant

HOUSTON (AP) — A federal agency investigating a deadly explosion at a Texas fertilizer plant will tell a Senate committee Thursday that regulation of the dangerous chemicals used in the industry fall under a “patchwork” of standards that are decades old and are far weaker than rules used by other countries.

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board is the first federal agency to acknowledge the lax oversight of ammonium nitrate, the chemical blamed for an explosion

in West so massive that it registered as a small earthquake, flattened swaths of the small town and killed 15 people. The agency, one of several investigating the April incident, made 18 recommendations in a preliminary report obtained by The Associated Press. The findings will be presented to the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

The West Fertilizer Co. had no sprinkler systems, stored the chemical in wooden bins and did not report to local

emergency responders the potential hazards of storing tons of ammonium nitrate because the law does not require them to do so, the report states. Firefighters are given only vague guidelines on how to battle a blaze involving ammonium nitrate — a chemical often used as a cheap alternative to dynamite in mining operations that has been used in terrorist bomb attacks.

The volunteer firefighters who arrived at the plant “were not made aware of the explosion hazard of am-

monium nitrate ... and were caught in harm’s way when the blast occurred,” the report says. Of the 15 people killed, 10 were firefighters, and two others were residents who tried to help them battle the massive blaze.

“To summarize, the safety of ammonium nitrate fertilizer storage falls under a patchwork of U.S. regulatory

standards and guidance — a patchwork that has many large holes,” according to the report that will be presented by Rafael Moure-Eraso, the board’s chairman.

The agency notes that in 1985, a comprehensive review of ammonium nitrate’s dangers stated it should not be stored near a source of heat or combustible materials.

“As simple as this sounds, this principle has not been fully adopted across the U.S., and was not implemented at West Fertilizer,” Moure-Eraso will tell the panel.

The Chemical Safety Board does not have regulatory authority, but its scientists probe accidents and make recommendations on how they can be avoided.



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## News in brief

### Weddings must wait, but couples celebrate as Supreme Court rulings push gay marriage forward

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Backed by rainbow flags and confetti, thousands celebrated in California's streets after U.S. Supreme Court rulings brought major advances for gay marriage proponents in the state and across the country.

Though wedding bells may be weeks away, same-sex couples and their supporters filled city blocks of San Francisco and West Hollywood on Wednesday night to savor the long awaited decisions as thumping music resounded.

"Today the words emblazoned across the Supreme Court ring true: equal justice under law," said Paul Katami, one of the plaintiffs who challenged California's gay marriage ban, as he celebrated in West Hollywood.

In one of two 5-4 rulings, the high court cleared the way for gay marriages to resume in California, holding that the coalition of religious conservative groups that qualified a voter-approved ban for the ballot did not have the authority to defend it after state officials refused. The justices thus let stand a San Francisco trial court's ruling in August 2010 that overturned the ban.

In the other, the court wiped away part of a federal anti-gay marriage law, the Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA, putting legally married gay couples on equal federal footing with all other married Americans, allowing them to receive the same tax, health and pension benefits.

### Concern for Nelson Mandela grows in South Africa as president cancels international trip

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Members of a South African choir have prayed and sung outside a hospital where Nelson Mandela, the country's former president, is reported to be in critical condition.

In addition to the choir from the Salvation Army, other people arrived Thursday to deliver flowers and messages of support for 94-year-old Mandela at the hospital in Pretoria, the South African capital.

Members of the youth league of the country's ruling party, the African National Congress, were planning prayer meetings Thursday to honor the anti-apartheid leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

President Jacob Zuma canceled a trip to Mozambique on Thursday in an indication of heightened concern about Mandela, whose health deteriorated last weekend.

### Senate nearing OK of historic immigration bill offering citizenship to millions here illegally

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate is on the cusp of approving historic immigration legislation offering citizenship to millions in the U.S. illegally and spending billions of dollars to secure the border.

The vote on final passage of the White House-backed bill was expected as early as Thursday, after a series of test votes so far this week demonstrated supporters command a bipartisan majority well over the 60 votes needed to secure passage and send the bill to the House. First must come two more procedural tests set for Thursday.

"We're on the edge of passing one of the most significant pieces of legislation that this body has passed in a very long time," Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said on the Senate floor Wednesday. "The vast majority of members in this body realize that the immigration system is broken and needs fixing."

Supporters posted 67 votes or more on each of three procedural tests Wednesday. More than a dozen Republicans sided with Democrats on each, ensuring bipartisan support that the bill's backers hope will change minds in the House.

The outlook there is uncertain. Many in the GOP-controlled House oppose the pathway to citizenship at the center of the Senate bill. And many prefer a piecemeal approach rather than a sweeping bill like the one the Senate is producing.

### Abortion still center stage in Texas as Perry, state GOP try again to impose strict limits

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry is set to address a national convention of anti-abortion activists — and now he's made sure he can give them something to cheer about.

The Republican leader has called a second special legislative session beginning July 1, allowing the GOP-controlled statehouse another crack at passing restrictions that opponents say could shutter nearly all of the abortion clinics across the country's second-largest state.

Perry's announcement came mere hours after the much-watched proposal failed in the face of a Democratic filibuster in the Senate that turned chaotic when Republicans used parliamentary rules to cut it short. Jeering abortion-rights protesters looking on from the public gallery became so deafening that it halted all action on the floor.

Perry, who has said he'd like to make abortion at any stage of pregnancy a thing of the past in Texas, called the special session after lawmakers finished the regular session May 27, but didn't add the abortion measure to the issues to be discussed until late in the session.

The omnibus abortion measure passed the Texas House after nearly an entire night of heated debate Sunday, but the effort to get Senate approval before the session ended at midnight Tuesday failed.

### Obama kicks off visit to re-engage Africa with the hopeful democratic example of Senegal

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — The hopeful story President Barack Obama wants to tell about Africa is represented in the first stop of his weeklong trip to re-engage the continent, in a country where democracy recently overcame an impending electoral crisis.

During his visit to Senegal on Thursday, Obama also will reflect on the ties many African-Americans share with the continent as he takes a tour of Goree Island, Africa's westernmost point. By some accounts, millions of Africans were shipped off into slavery across the Atlantic Ocean through the island's "Door of No Return."

It's the first of two island visits Obama planned to highlight racial atrocities of the past. The second was scheduled for Sunday at South Africa's Robben Island, where anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for 18 years.

But Mandela's condition could affect Obama's plans. The former South African president is gravely ill, and Obama foreign policy adviser Ben Rhodes said it would be left to the Mandela family to decide whether he is up for a visit from Obama this weekend.

Mandela's legacy hangs over the entire trip, with Senegal among many African countries that have benefited from his example of a peaceful transition to power. "So much of the democratic progress that we see across the continent I think can be tied in some way to the inspiration that Nelson Mandela set," Rhodes said.

### Victim's family says Texas' 500th execution was simply justice promised to them by state

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Family and friends of Dorothy Booth waited 16 years — enduring two trials and countless appeals — for the measure of closure that came Wednesday evening when the woman who brutally beat and fatally stabbed their loved one was executed for her crime.

Because Kimberly McCarthy's execution marked the 500th in Texas since the state resumed carrying out capital punishment in 1982, it drew increased attention from protesters and the media. But for Booth's loved ones, it was personal.

"It doesn't matter if this is the 500th execution or not," said Randall Browning, Booth's godson. "We're just thinking about the justice that was promised to us by the state of Texas."

McCarthy, who was put to death Wednesday evening, was also the first woman executed in the U.S. in nearly three years.

McCarthy, 52, was executed for the 1997 robbery, beating and fatal stabbing of Booth, a 71-year-old retired college psychology professor who was McCarthy's neighbor. Booth had agreed to give McCarthy a cup of sugar before she was attacked with a butcher knife and candelabra at her home in Lancaster, about 15 miles south of Dallas. Authorities say McCarthy cut off Booth's finger to remove the woman's wedding ring.

### Michael Jackson's oldest son describes his upbringing, father's death and aftermath to jury


LOS ANGELES (AP) — Michael Jackson's oldest son described the frantic efforts to revive his father to a jury, a scene of tears and agony that ended a dozen idyllic years being raised by one of pop music's superstars.

Michael Joseph "Prince" Jackson Jr. told the panel Wednesday how he knew there was trouble in the singer's rented mansion when heard screaming upstairs and went into his father's bedroom. His father was laying halfway off the bed, eyes rolled up into the back of his head as his physician tried CPR.

His sister Paris screamed for her father and Prince, now 16, told jurors that he was crying. On the ride to a hospital, the teenager recounted how he tried to calm the fears of his sister and younger brother by telling them that angels were watching over their father and everything would be fine.

It wasn't until his father's doctor, Conrad Murray, came out of the emergency room and announced, "Sorry kids, dad's dead," that Prince knew his father was gone.

"Nothing will ever be the same," the teenager told jurors. He said while his younger brother doesn't totally realize the loss, his sister has had the hardest time of them all and he has had many sleepless nights since his father died four years ago.



## Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

### Putting It All Together

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

<b>NORTH</b>			
♠ K 9 8 2			
♥ A 10 7			
♦ K Q 2			
♣ 9 7 3			
		<b>EAST</b>	
♠ 6			
♥ 3			
♦ 10 7 5 4 3			
♣ K 10 6 5 4 2			
<b>SOUTH</b>			
♠ A Q 10 7 5			
♥ K J 6			
♦ A J 9			
♣ A 8			

The bidding:  
 South West North East  
 1♠ Pass 3♠ Pass  
 6♣

Opening lead — queen of clubs.

**There are hands** where declarer must guess which of two feasible lines of play to pursue. In such cases, though, there are nearly always clues to lead declarer out of the realm of guesswork and into the sphere of precise reasoning.

**The methods employed** to achieve this goal are certainly not a state secret. Basically, what declarer does is assemble all the information he possibly can about the defenders' hands before he must commit himself one way or the other.

**Consider this deal** where the only problem is which way to take the two-way heart finesse. South wins the club lead with the ace, draws trumps, cashes the A-K-Q of diamonds and exits with a club.

**If West's jack holds the trick**, the contest is over because he is forced to return a heart and thereby relieve declarer of the guess in that suit. So let's assume East overtakes the jack with the king and continues with the ten. South ruffs and must now decide which way to take the heart finesse.

**Despite East's alert defense**, South's sequence of plays has yielded enough information to assure success. West has thus far shown up with precisely three spades, two diamonds and two clubs — neither more nor less — and so must have started with exactly six hearts. Cross-checking this, East has shown up with precisely one spade, five diamonds and six clubs — so he must have started with a singleton heart.

**Accordingly**, South cashes the king of hearts as East follows with his only heart, then takes a heart finesse through West with complete confidence that the finesse will succeed.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.  
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## Sudoku Answer on Page 3

# 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.

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

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# Four local All-Star squads win



By BRIAN MCCORMACK

Little League Editor

ODESSA — The 10-year-old Big Spring Little League All-Stars trailed of Jim Parker 3-1 after the first inning, but turned the tide in the second inning, scoring four runs to take a 5-3 lead over the host team.

Big Spring went on to add 10 more runs in the outing, winning by a score of 15-5.

Jim Parker's offense floundered, while Big Spring's bats were relentless.

Manager of the Big Spring 10-year-old squad Isaac Miramontes cited aggressive hitting and effective base running as the keys to the victory, as well as a strong performance by pitcher Brandon Valdez.

Next up for the 10s is North Ector, which they will meet today at Jim Parker in Odessa.

MIDLAND — A late-game surge powered Big Spring's 11-year-old All-Stars past Midland Mid-City on Tuesday. Down 11-5 in their final at-bats of the game, the offense came alive, scoring eight runs in the sixth inning to give Big Spring a 13-11 win, staving off elimination.

Chris Ibanez was the winning

See **ALL-STARS**, Page 12



Courtesy photos (top)/HERALD file photo/Tony Claxton (left)  
**Big Spring's Little League All-Stars had a perfect night Wednesday, with four-of-five teams playing and winning. Pictured are (clockwise from top): Manager of the 11-year-old team Corey Wood has a word with his team after a 12-2 win over North Ector, Joshua Miramontes prepares to deliver a pitch during the 10-year-old squad's win 15-5 win over Jim Parker and Junior Leaguer Brantz Burchett catches a throw at first base during Monday's game against Odessa Eastside at Steer Park.**

## Hernandez charged with murder, cut by Pats

(AP) — The New England Patriots did not wait until Aaron Hernandez was charged with murder to cut ties with the troubled tight end, releasing him from the roster on Wednesday morning soon after police led him from his house in handcuffs.

In a rare instance of public relations before football for one of the league's most successful teams, the Patriots released a statement saying, "At this time, we believe this transaction is simply the right thing to do."

The swift dissociation came the same day the Cleveland Browns released rookie linebacker Ausar Walcott, who has been charged with attempted murder and accused of punching a man outside a New Jersey strip club. And it comes the same week NFL rookies are gathering at the Browns' facilities for lectures and workshops designed to help them avoid the pitfalls of professional sports.

From Atlanta quarterback Michael Vick's dogfighting ring to the murder-suicide involving Kansas City linebacker Jovan

Belcher, the league has struggled to keep pace with its players' off-field problems, some of them violent. Hernandez was charged Wednesday with the slaying of semi-pro football player Odin Lloyd, whose bullet-riddled body was found in an industrial park about a mile away from Hernandez's North Attleborough, Mass., home.

Prosecutor Bill McCauley said at the arraignment that Hernandez "orchestrated the crime from the beginning." Hernandez, who was held without bail, did not enter a plea, but his lawyer said the case against the 23-year-old football player "is not a strong case."

If convicted, Hernandez faces life in prison without parole. "The involvement of an NFL player in a case of this nature is deeply troubling," the NFL said in a statement. "The Patriots have released Aaron Hernandez, who will have his day in court. At the same time, we should not forget the young man who was the victim in this case and take this opportunity to extend our deepest sympathy to Odin Lloyd's

family and friends."

Even as Hernandez was being arrested, the Patriots continued the business of football.

The decision to release him broke up the tight end tandem of Hernandez and Rob Gronkowski that had been one of the most effective in history, a pairing of Pro Bowl players who combined for 16 touchdowns and 1,479 yards receiving last season — the most for any team at the position, according to STATS. Two years ago, with 169 catches for 2,237 yards and 24 touchdowns, the New England tight ends set NFL records in each category.

Gronkowski has had five operations this offseason on his back and broken left forearm, leaving his future uncertain and New England — at least temporarily — with five other tight ends expected to be ready for the start of training camp; together they caught a total of nine passes last season. Tim Tebow, a quarterback who may be better suited for tight end, is also an option.

See **MURDER**, Page 12

## Rangers top Yanks, 8-5

NEW YORK (AP) — The heart of the order was in the middle of everything for Texas on Wednesday night.

Nelson Cruz homered and the Rangers got consecutive two-run doubles from Adrian Beltre and A.J. Pierzynski in an 8-5 victory over Andy Pettitte and the New York Yankees.

The 3-4-5-6 hitters in Texas' lineup combined to go 7 for 20 with three doubles and seven RBIs. Rangers rookie Justin Grimm pitched just well enough to beat Pettitte, and the AL West leaders won for the seventh time in nine games following a six-game slide — their longest of the season. Texas improved to 6-12 against the Yankees since the start of 2011, both perennial playoff teams this decade.

Lyle Overbay and Ichiro Suzuki homered for New York on a hectic day at Yankee Stadium, where baseball's most famous franchise announced that first baseman Mark Teixeira needs season-ending surgery on his right wrist.

Grimm (7-5) allowed three runs in five-plus innings for his second straight win over a 2012 division champion. Cruz, with little success against the Yankees in recent years, hit a two-run shot off struggling reliever Joba Chamberlain in the seventh to extend Texas' lead to 6-3 and tie a club record with his fifth consecutive 20-homer season.

Tanner Scheppers worked a perfect eighth, one night after serving up Suzuki's clutch home run.



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**ESTATE SALE:** 2516 Central Drive, Saturday 7-3. Dishes, furniture, misc. items and lots of tools.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Venus Enters Leo

Be careful how you wield your affections. Someone could accidentally fall in love with you! Venus is a vixen when she slips on the garb of the lioness, which she'll wear until more practical energies take over on July 22. If you are susceptible to flirting, this is a dangerous moment, blurring the lines between entertainment and intention.



HOLIDAY MATHS

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You can't rely on your drive to get a job done. Create a system that will carry you through whether or not the drive is there. A Virgo will be helpful in the situation.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You'll have the

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chance to include new people in a venture, but be careful. Like the colored gels that change the look of stage lights, what you add to your life right now will change the way you see everything else.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). There's something automatic in a loved one's response to you. Think of this as a challenge. Interrupt the pattern just for fun. This is how you keep from falling into a rut.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). There are times when being careless with personal information or money is of little consequence, but this is not one of them. You'll benefit from being a bit guarded with both.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Are you getting better? That's the only question you care about today. You fear sliding backward, but sometimes in order to take a big leap forward, you have to back up a bit to get momentum.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You may procrastinate most of the day, but finally, you won't be able to put it off any longer. Then you'll celebrate a personal victory when you finally do the thing you've been putting off.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Learning to talk and

walk are momentous times in a personal history, and after the driver's license, first kiss, etc., we tend to lose track. But momentous moments occur at every age. You could have one such moment today.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Sometimes you worry about whether other people are having much more fun than you. They're not. They're having just as much, maybe less. Does knowing this make you feel any better?

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Automate more of your life. A learning curve will be involved, but once the arc is bridged, you'll free up so much time that you'll wonder why you didn't do this ages ago.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The chasm between saying and doing can be deep and wide. You'll consider this when a person's talk doesn't ring quite true. Stay alert to the discrepancies.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). In your book, people prove themselves over time. Your "wait and see" approach will usually save you from future headache and heartache. This time, though, it won't hurt to give someone the benefit of the doubt.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). There are ideas

**Dear Annie:** A distant relative, whose family I had never heard of, contacted me on the Internet begging for family photos and history for her grandmother.

Out of the goodness of my heart and at great expense, I took a week and sorted through ancient photos and family history, scanned and labeled the photos, and emailed them to her. However, when I later checked Ancestry.com, I saw those photos and family history online. I

inside you waiting to be released. You can't teach yourself to be creative, but you can learn to get out of your own way and let your natural creativity flow.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (June 27). Your birthday present from the stars is the gift of accurate estimations. Sound too practical to be fun? This super power is just what you need to succeed again and again. You'll correctly assess what's necessary to reach a goal, how much it will cost and whether it's the right aim for you. You'll have winning down to a science. July brings your first prize. Pisces and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 13, 22, 24 and 7.

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Annie's Mailbox

didn't recognize any connection between her family and mine, although she insists there is one. Furthermore, our family is very private and has no interest in having our history and photographs published on the Internet for anyone to see. Last year, when my cousin had his identity stolen, the authorities said identity thieves often get information (like the mother's maiden name) from genealogical websites.

I wrote this woman a polite email and informed her of the identity theft and our family's request that our privacy be respected. I asked that she remove the family photos and history from the site. She wrote back a scathing email, calling me "rude" and saying she did not have to be at my beck and call. She finally agreed to remove the information, but when I checked later, she had actually added more.

This "cyber-bully's" hateful words and total breach of trust have made me physically and emotionally ill. She is a manipulative, lying, exploitative, ungrateful, self-entitled, abusive witch. I went to great expense, time and work, giving her copies of treasured family photos so that her "Nana" would know where her father

came from. Nana wrote to tell me she'd like to visit her "newly discovered family." I don't want to see or hear from any of these evil people again. How can I stop her from posting our family photos online? — *Bamboozled*

**Dear Bamboozled:** We contacted ancestry.com and asked what you can do about removing the offending photos and history from their website. They said to email customersolutions@ancestry.com, saying you did not intend for these photographs to be posted. Give as many details as possible, and they will try to resolve it. However, there are no guarantees.

To some extent, you have already lost the battle, because these photos and history are out there, and more importantly, you don't know what else this woman might do with the information. We hope your letter serves as a warning to anyone who sends such personal data to people they barely know (and even those they do). Everything can be posted online and made accessible to anyone who looks.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. © 2013 CREATORS.COM

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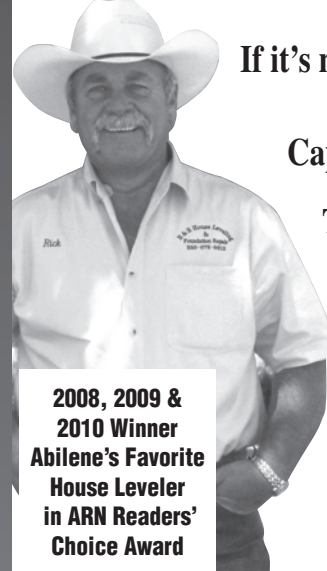
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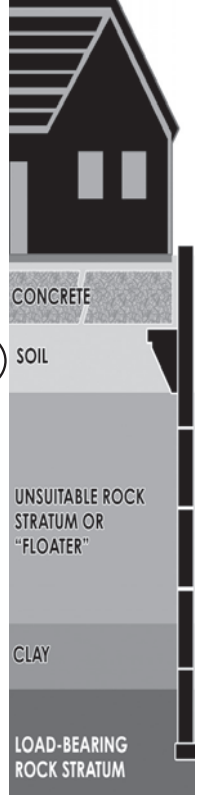
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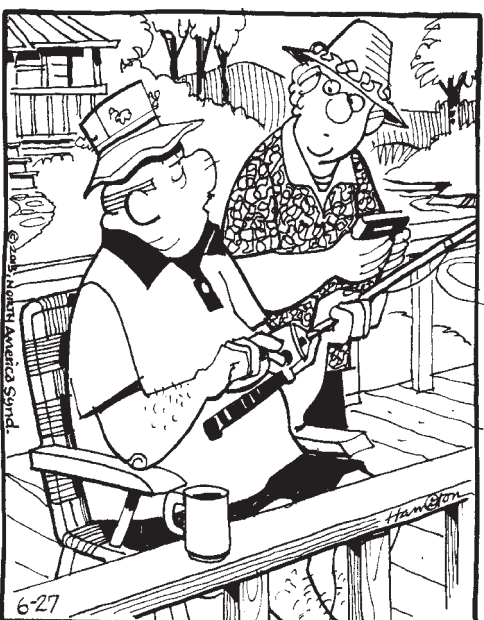
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5:PM	News ABC	Casa Notic.	Two Men CBS	News	Noticias Noticiero	News	King Seinfeld	Yohan House	Martha Curious	King Auction	Liar, Jennifer Tilly	Crinstop Waltz	National Treasure, Diane Kruger (DVS)	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good Jessie			SportsCenter Preview
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Corazón Indomable	Big Bang Ent	News	Caso Cer-rado	News	Seinfeld	Rik	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld Property	Movie: O Brother, Where Art Thou?	Fight Master	The Hero	Movie: B.A.P.S. Ian Richardson	ANT Farm Gravity Shake It	X Games: Munich.		2013 NBA Draft
7:PM	Wipeout	Porque el Am.	Hell's Kitchen	Big Bang Two Men	Dama y Obrero (SS)	Parks	Fam. Guy Upd	Fam. Guy 1st Fruits	This Old House Hr	The Vampire Diaries	Property	IMPACT Wrestling	72 Hours		Princess Protection Program			
8:PM	Motive	Amores Verdaderos	Have to Go?	Person of Interest	La Patrona (SS)	The Office	Big Bang Big Bang	Light of the Southwest	Frontline	Beauty & Beast	Property		The Hero	Movie: Beauty Shop	Good Jessie	SportsCenter		
9:PM	(:01) Rookie Blue	Qué Bonito Amor	Simpsons How I Met	(:01) El-ementary	El Señor de los	(:01) Har-nibal	Sullivan Big Bang	Conan	McGee	Antiques Roadshow	Cops Seinfeld	Property	Showville		Good Jessie	SportsCenter		
10:PM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias Titulares	News	Conan	Justice	Charlie Rose	Rules	Property	Town	Fight Master	72 Hours				
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Familia-Suerte	Law Order: CI	Ferguson	La Patrona (SS)	Jimmy Fallon	Conan	Scriver (Off Air)	T. Smiley	King	Property	Movie: Scar-face, Steven Bauer	Franklin & Bash	Wendy Williams	Good Good	Baseball Tonight	SportsCenter	
12:AM	Extra	Zacatillo, un	Raymond Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	News	Office	R. Shap	T. Smiley	'Til Death	Property	Galaxy Quest, Alan Rickman	Cold Case	Movie: Rebound, Breckin Meyer	Shake It	NASCAR Nation	SportsCenter	
1:AM	Paid	Conducta	American Ent	Ent	Pagado	(:06) Today	Movie: Com-ing & Going	Light of the Southwest		Browns	Property	(:15) Showville	Franklin & Bash	Deck	Soccer	SportsCenter		

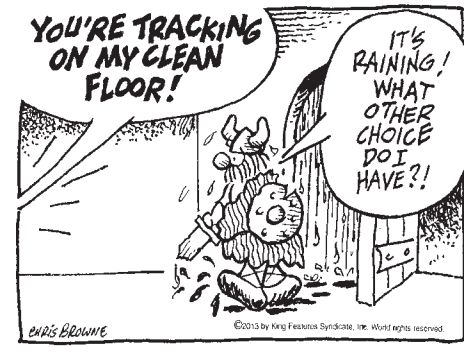
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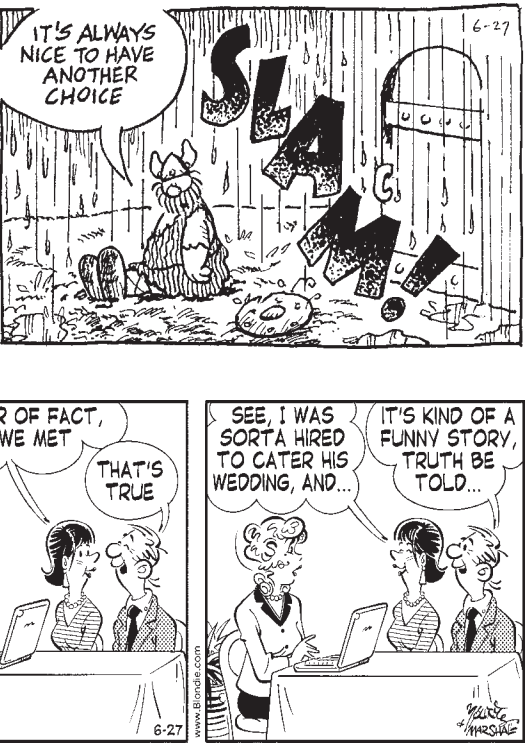
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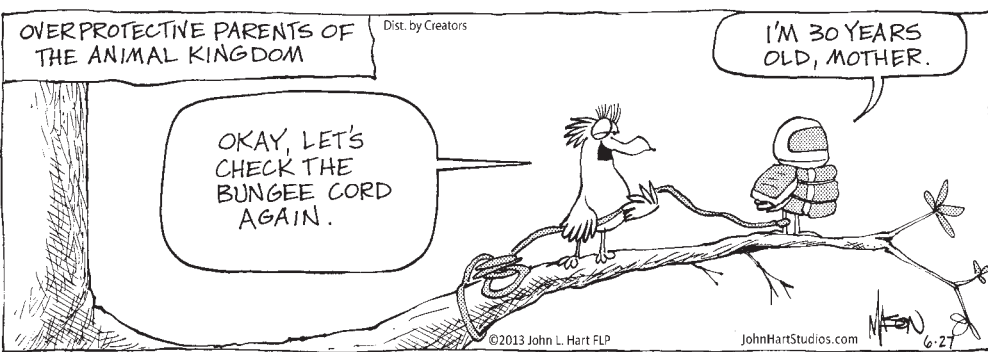
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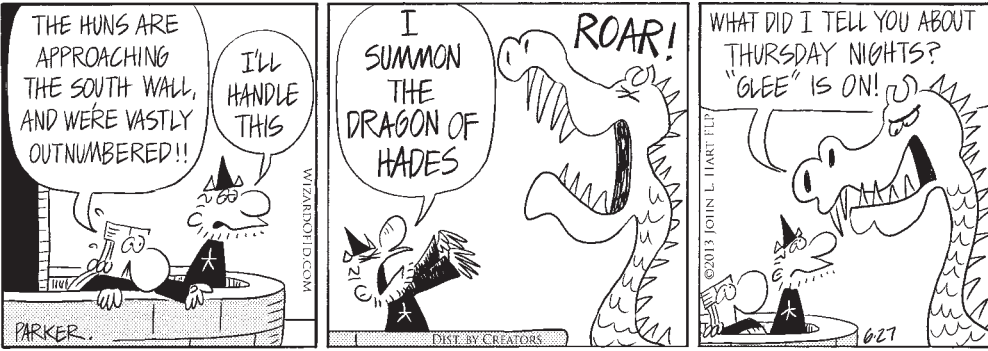
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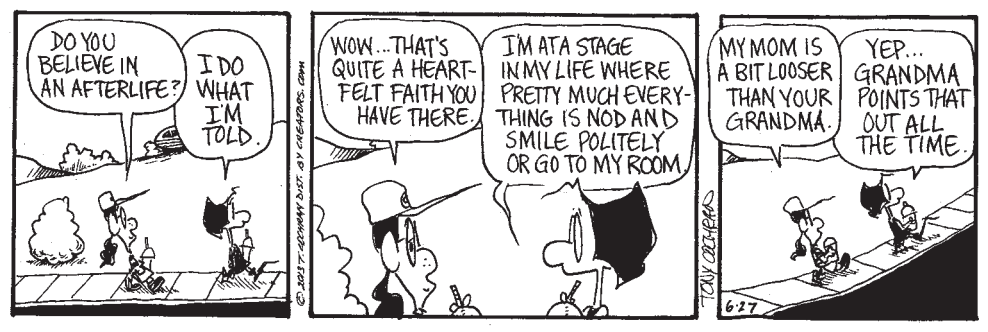
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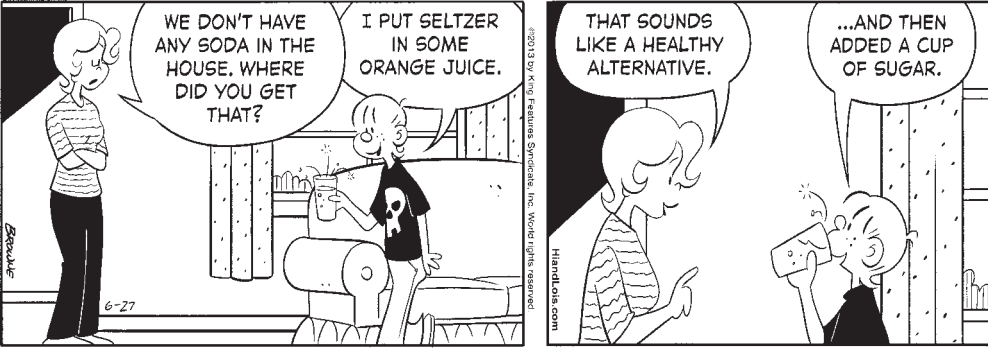
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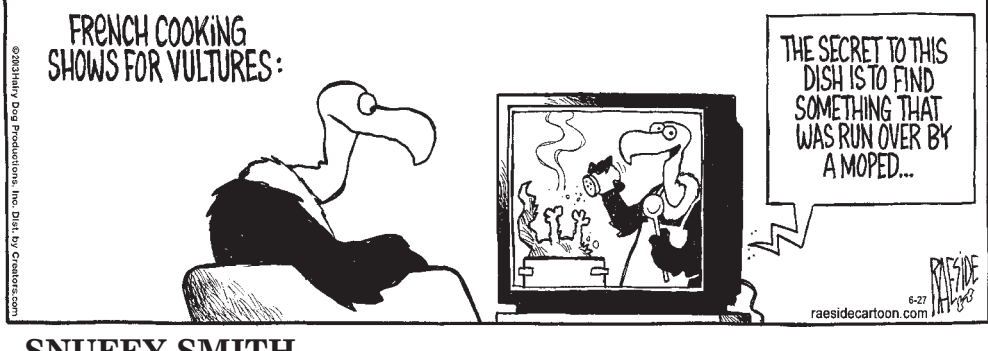
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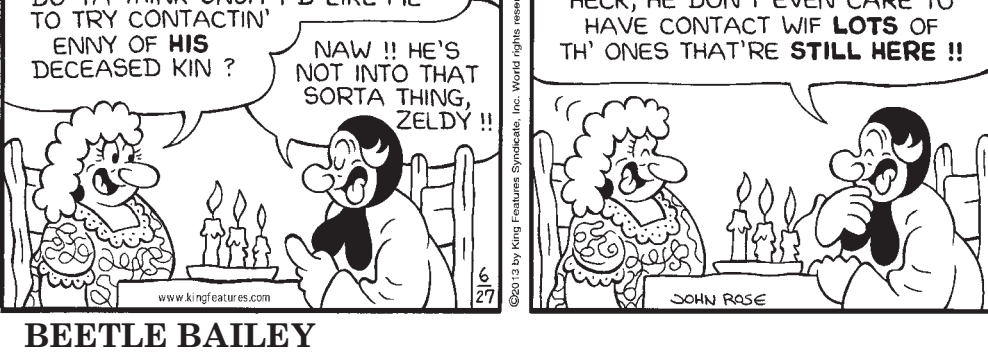
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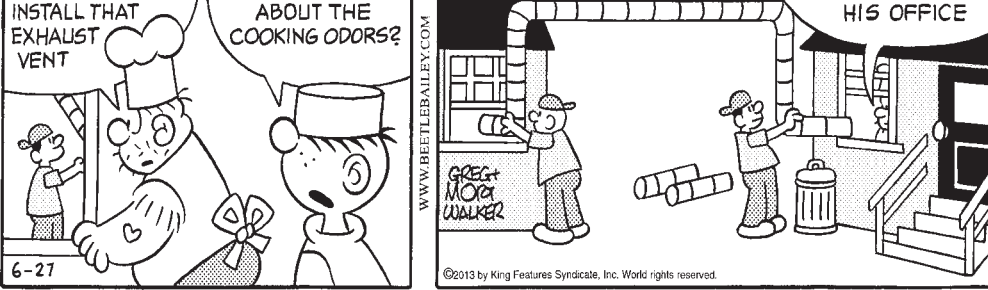
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This Date In History

Today is Thursday, June 27, the 178th day of 2013. There are 187 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 27, 1963, President John F. Kennedy spent the first full day of a visit to Ireland, the land of his ancestors, stopping by the County Wexford home of his great-grandfather, Patrick Kennedy, who'd emigrated to America in 1848.

On this date:

In 1787, English historian Edward Gibbon completed work on his six-volume work, "The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire."

In 1844, Mormon leader Joseph Smith and his brother, Hyrum, were killed by a mob in Carthage, Ill.

In 1846, New York and Boston were linked by telegraph wires.

In 1893, the New York stock market crashed.

In 1922, the first Newberry Medal, recognizing excellence

in children's literature, was awarded in Detroit to "The Story of Mankind" by Hendrik Willem van Loon.

In 1942, the FBI announced the arrests of eight Nazi saboteurs put ashore in Florida and Long Island, N.Y. (All were tried and sentenced to death; six were executed while two were spared for turning themselves in and cooperating with U.S. authorities.)

In 1944, during World War II, American forces liberated the French port of Cherbourg from the Germans.

In 1950, the U.N. Security Council passed a resolution calling on member nations to help South Korea repel an invasion from the North.

In 1957, more than 500 people were killed when Hurricane Audrey slammed through coastal Louisiana and Texas.

In 1977, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down state laws and bar association rules that prohibited lawyers from advertising their fees for routine services.

In 1988, at least 56 people were killed when a commuter train ran into a stationary train at the Gare de Lyon terminal in Paris.

In 1991, Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, the first black jurist to sit on the nation's highest court, announced his retirement. (His departure led to the contentious nomination of Clarence Thomas to succeed him.)

Today's Birthdays: Business executive Ross Perot is 83. Former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt is 75. Singer-musician Bruce Johnston (The Beach Boys) is 71. Fashion designer Vera Wang is 64. Actress Julia Duffy is 62. Actress Isabelle Adjani is 58. Country singer Lorrie Morgan is 54. Actor Brian Drillingier is 53. Writer-producer-director J.J. Abrams is 47. Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., is 45.

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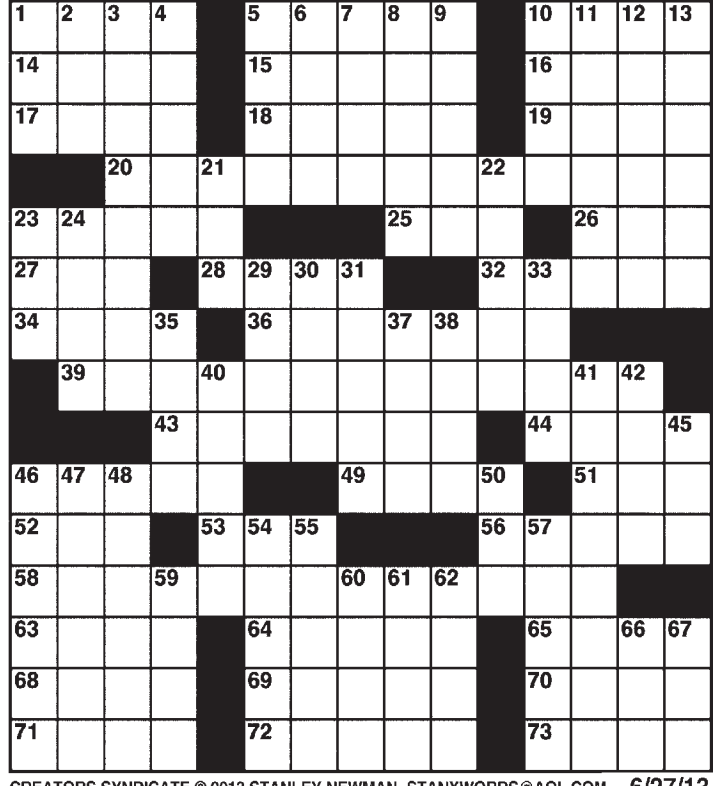
Newsday Crossword CHROMO-ANATOMY by David W. Cromer Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 Tryout
- 5 Freight handlers
- 10 Flow from some fountains
- 14 Where heros are made
- 15 Former First Lady
- 16 Opposite of "Fold"
- 17 Open position
- 18 Ostentatious neckwear
- 19 Tax collected
- 20 Fear-inducing
- 23 City offering a Haunted Passport
- 25 Place for pampering
- 26 Significant stretch
- 27 "That's it!"
- 28 Part of 21 Down
- 32 Shabby
- 34 Flown the coop
- 36 Empathize with
- 39 Cowardly
- 43 Annual pageant winner
- 44 Ardent
- 46 Sci-fi character
- 49 Recipe amts.
- 51 Place to rest
- 52 "You \_\_\_ here"
- 53 Consists of
- 56 Euro-spending island
- 58 Eloquent
- 63 Popular pop
- 64 Apt to sulk
- 65 For eating elsewhere
- 68 Mug fillers

- 69 Wee hour
- 70 Fictional submariner
- 71 "\_\_\_ we forget"
- 72 Fabric tears
- 73 Paris landmark

- 10 Fine fabric
- 11 Brunch serving
- 12 Entertain
- 13 Very soon
- 21 Global lending org.
- 22 December song
- 23 Get tired
- 24 Hand's "Hello"
- 29 ETs' vehicles
- 30 Something worth reporting
- 31 First appearance
- 33 Some Handel bars
- 35 Dagwood neighbor
- 37 Minus
- 38 Book jacket part
- 40 Limber

- 41 Malicious one
- 42 Force
- 45 Crime lab clue
- 46 Untrustworthy one
- 47 Cardinal cousin
- 48 Scarlett O'Hara et al.
- 50 Dallas sch.
- 54 Knight wear
- 55 Catapult missile
- 57 Cigna rival
- 59 Enormous
- 60 Not barred
- 61 Cleverly done
- 62 Workout centers
- 66 SUV maker
- 67 "That's impressive!"





## MURDER

Continued from Page 7

With a single-minded focus on football that has made him one of the most successful coaches in NFL history, the taciturn Bill Belichick has long been willing to take a chance on talented but troubled players in hopes that a fresh start with New England and a winning environment would keep them in line.

In most cases, players are given

short-term deals that make it easy for the team to purge them if the problems reappear.

An All-American at Florida, Hernandez's behavior in college led him to be red-flagged entering the NFL, when several teams reportedly took him off their draft boards — refusing to pick him under any circumstances — and enough had questions about his character to let him slide all the way to New England in the fourth round.

Afterward, Hernandez said he had failed a single drug test in college, re-

portedly for marijuana, and was honest with teams about it.

Even before Belichick became the coach, the organization tried to maintain a delicate balance — publicly stressing good character while signing players with questions in their past.

In 1996, New England drafted defensive lineman Christian Peter from Nebraska in the fifth round even though he had been arrested eight times, accused of grabbing one woman around the throat and of sexually assaulting a former Miss Nebraska. "They're not

all choir boys in this league," then-coach Bill Parcells said, but the team — spurred by the wife of owner Bob Kraft — soon relinquished its draft rights to him.

Nor has Belichick shied away from players with troubled pasts more recently, though none faced charges as serious as Hernandez. Among the players signed by the Patriots were Randy Moss and the one known at the time as Chad Ochocinco; Brandon Meriweather; running back Corey Dillon, and offensive lineman Nick Kaczur.

## ALL-STARS

Continued from Page 7

pitcher Tuesday, while Joshua Wood, Jeremiah Johnson and Noah Ontiveros each recorded two RBI.

On Wednesday, the 11s took their second straight game, this time over North Ector by a score of 12-2.

A three-run first inning got things started and during his three-

inning stint on the mound, Isaac Murillo pitched a no-hitter.

Ontiveros and Ibanez (3-3) each had triples and Murillo proved to be a dual threat, picking up a bases-loaded double which added three Big Spring runs.

A third consecutive win is needed over Floyd Gwin today at 6 p.m. at Northern Little League (Midland) in order for them to stay alive.

BIG SPRING — The

Junior League All-Stars opened strong against Floyd Gwin on Wednesday in their 13-9 victory at the Roy Anderson Sports Complex.

Zach Taylor started the offense with a lead-off single in the top of the second inning. Nathan Schneider reached base on an error, Isiah Ontiveros legged out an infield single to load the bases and Roque Rodriguez picked up a RBI — which coupled with a throwing error by Floyd Gwin — resulted in two runs crossing the plate. Dylan Cantu reached on a fielder's choice and recorded a RBI in the process, then scored on a pitcher error during winning pitcher Ricky Prater's at-bat.

Prater would strike out, but after one and one-half innings, Big Spring was up 4-0.

Noah Vera, Allen Chancy and Taylor all drew walks in the top of the third, Noah Perez and Schneider

each reached on fielder's choice plays and Ontiveros picked up a RBI to give Big Spring a commanding 7-0 lead heading into the bottom of the third.

Floyd Gwin had some fight in them, as they battled back to score nine runs, but the slow start wasn't enough for the Odessa squad.

The Juniors will be back in action today against Midland Lee at the Roy Anderson Sports Complex at 6 p.m.

Big Spring — After a late start, the Senior League All-Stars rounded out the perfect day for Big Spring, as they edged Odessa Eastside 6-4 at Steer Park.

Odessa tacked on two runs early after a couple miscues and a pair of hits led to a two-run opening inning.

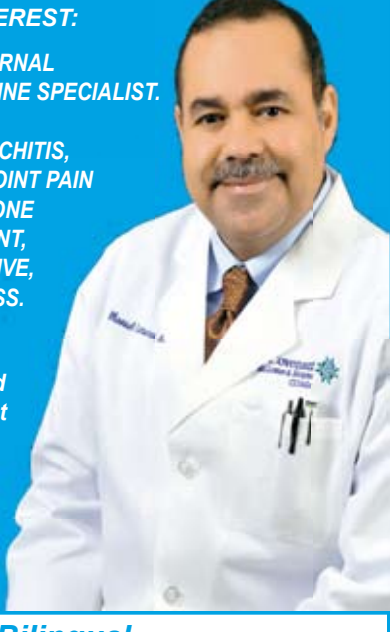
Big Spring cut the lead the one when Ryan Pearson led off with a single, then stole second and third. Three

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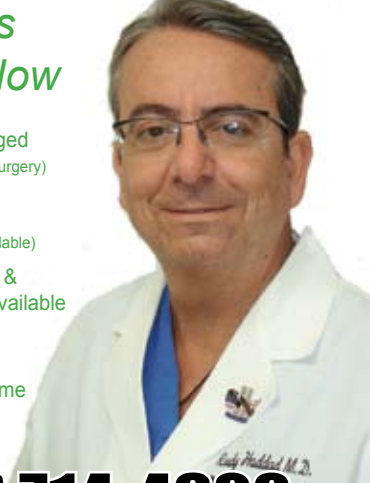
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