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**WEDNESDAY**  
AUGUST 3, 2011




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VOLUME 106, NUMBER 208      COPYRIGHT 2011      50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

## Alon plaintiffs awarded \$66K

*Company was not found guilty of gross negligence*

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer  
For the second time since

the 2008 explosion that rocked the Big Spring Refinery, a Howard County jury found owner Alon USA guilty of negligence and awarded local residents damages, but failed to find gross negligence. The jury found Alon USA negligent in the Feb. 18, 2008, accident that caused extensive damage throughout the surrounding area, and award-

ed actual damages — the estimated cost to repair the homes and properties damaged in the blast — in cases brought by Manuel Hernandez, Marissa Zamora Hernandez, David Higgins and Janet Higgins, the plaintiffs in the case.

The jury awarded the Hernandez couple \$10,800 for damages, while the Higgins received a judgment of \$55,500. However, for either couple to receive damages beyond those represented by

See **TRIAL**, Page 3A



Children from the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club went to the ABC Park this morning to enjoy time outdoors before the usual triple-digit temperatures appeared for the day. Kids enjoyed the merry-go-round, as well as the swing sets, seesaws, slides and other playground equipment.

HERALD photos/Amanda Moreno

## CISD board to institute super hunt

**By STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

COAHOMA — For the third time in the past six years, Coahoma Independent School District is in the market for a superintendent. Trustees will begin the process of replacing Dr. Randy Brown when they hold a special meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday in the administration building board room. Brown, CISD's superintendent for the past three years, is resigning his position effective Aug. 22 to accept a similar post at Snyder ISD. His departure was greeted by a mixture of appreciation and sadness. "(Snyder) definitely selected the right guy

See **CISD**, Page 3A



Moore

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



## Post offices eye uncertain future

### Several in Crossroads area targeted for possible closure

**By AMANDA MORENO**  
Staff Writer

At least four post offices in the Crossroads area have been targeted for possible closure, but postmasters are being mum on what, if anything, they know about the process. "We are not allowed to speak about any postal matters. We are to designate them to the official spokesperson, no matter what the matter may be," said Pam

Stevens, postmaster at Forsan, which is among those on the United States Postal Service list. The Postal Service last week announced the possible closing of 3,700 offices, 222 of which are located in Texas. The USPS has a total of 32,000 retail offices making it the largest retail network in the country. According to Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe, postal customers are making it clear that a

physical post office is no longer needed to conduct postal business. There have been numerous extensions of the postal service, he said, including services available in grocery stores, drug stores, office supply stores, retail chains and numerous online services. "Today, more than 35 percent of the Postal Service's retail revenue comes

See **USPS**, Page 3A



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## Obituaries

## Billy Light



Billy Light, 71, of Big Spring died Saturday, July 30, 2011, at Select Specialty Hospital in Midland, Texas. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 4, 2011, at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Doug Shelley officiating. Graveside services will be held at 3 p.m. at Terrace Cemetery

in Post, Texas.

He was born May 15, 1940, in Slaton, Texas, to Willie and Fabien Light. He was an electrical engineer having worked for radio and television stations including KWAB of Big Spring. He was a singer and musician and had a band, Billy Light and the Texas Drifters, and he would also sing with other bands.

He was an active community volunteer and he was past worthy president of the Fraternal Order of Eagles AERIE 3188. He held most offices and was an active member for 45 years. At the 2011 State Convention, he was honored as the Eagle of the year. He started the Eagles Bingo and ran it along with HARC Bingo.

He is survived by one daughter, Lana Churchwell and husband Chris of Big Spring; one brother, Carroll Light of Tow, Texas; one sister, Aimee Hill of Florida; four grandchildren, Cameron Churchwell, Madison Churchwell, Lexi Churchwell and Sage Hopper; extended family, Ricky and Lynn Creswell, Shiloh Creswell, Quade Creswell, Keira Creswell, Caden Creswell and Reagan Creswell; several nieces and nephews; and very special friends, Mary Dalton and Janet Hopper.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother, Jimmy Light.

Pallbearers will be Larry Becker, Alvin Best, David Campbell, Gary Gillihan, Joe Light and Jimmy Light.

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

*Paid obituary*

## Cindy Bingham Payne



Cindy Bingham Payne, 51, of Big Spring died Friday, July 29, 2011, at the Hospice House in Odessa, Texas. Memorial services will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 4, 2011, at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

She was born Oct. 17, 1959, in Hobbs, N.M., to Ruby and Wesley Bingham. She came to Big Spring more than 20 years ago from Hobbs. She worked at Parkview Nursing & Rehabilitation from 2006 to the present.

She is survived by a son, Jayton Hal Bingham and wife Crystal Gale of Hobbs, N.M.; three granddaughters, Joyce Elizabeth Bingham, Natalie Jewel Bingham and Jayden Jayse Bingham, all of Hobbs, N.M.; mother, Ruby Bingham of Hobbs, N.M.; four brothers, Kirby Bingham, Randy Bingham and Jim Bingham, all of Hobbs, N.M., and Buck Bingham of Ravenna, Texas; one sister, Janna Jones of Hobbs, N.M.; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, father, husband and father-in-law.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials to Home Hospice, 903 N. Sam Houston, Odessa, Texas 79761.

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

*Paid obituary*

## Susan Thompson

Susan Thompson, 49, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2011, at her residence. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

[www.bigspringherald.com](http://www.bigspringherald.com)

## Elsie Norman



Elsie Norman, 91, of Big Spring died Monday, Aug. 1, 2011, in a local nursing home. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 4, 2011, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Joey Bacon, associate pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Elsie was born Dec. 3, 1919, in Bowie County, Texas, and married James Joseph Norman on Oct. 15, 1938, in Lamesa, Texas. He preceded her in death May 23,

## Reva Susanne Daniels



Reva Susanne Daniels, 59, of Coahoma died Sunday, July 31, 2011, at her residence. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2011, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Eddy Pitchford officiating. Interment will follow at Coahoma Cemetery.

She was born Oct. 6, 1951, in El Paso, Texas. Reva was a long-time resident of Coahoma and had worked as a manager for Town & Country Con-

## John 'Tippy' Anderson

John "Tippy" Anderson Jr., 84, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2011, in a local nursing home. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

1996.

She was a homemaker, a nurse and a teacher's aide at Moss Elementary. She was a member of Trinity Baptist Church.

Survivors include two sons, James M. Norman and wife Beverly and Jimmie W. Norman and wife Charlotte; one daughter, Linda L. Alexander and husband Larry of Big Spring; seven grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, Idus Marion and Zadia Elizabeth (Pope) Norman.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com)

nience Stores at various locations.

Survivors include her husband, Tommy Ward of Coahoma; one daughter, Canyon Daniels of Coahoma; two step-daughters, Amy Otho and husband Michael and Ashley Ward of Coahoma; one step-son, Chase Ward and wife Elizabeth of Coahoma; her mother-in-law, Annie Ward of Coahoma; and extended family.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her father-in-law, Jim Ward.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com)

## Kenneth W. Heflin

Kenneth W. Heflin, 84, of Big Spring died Wednesday, July 27, 2011, at Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home. His services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of Reynolds. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 900 block of Main. Service refused.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1800 block of N. HWY 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported at I-20 Service Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. Service refused.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported at 15th and Goliad. Service refused.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1500 block of Stallings. One person was transported by air evac.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1100 block of Stanford. Service Refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of Reynolds. One person was transported to SMMC.

## Correction

In Tuesday's *Herald*, the description of a photo of an accident at Diego's stated the manager had said the business would be closed for the week in order to make repairs. After speaking with the owner of Diego's, Taylor Gomez, the *Herald* received information that Diego's will be open during normal business hours, 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., with the dining room and drive through fully operational.

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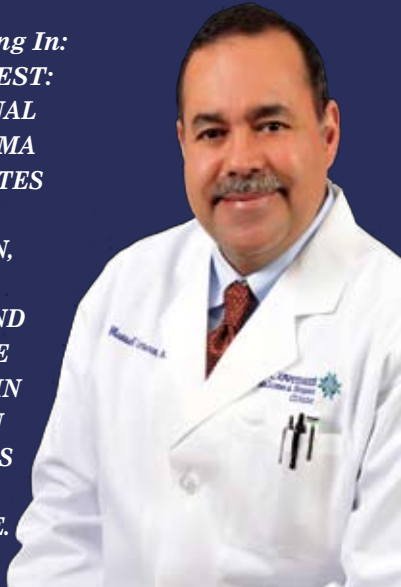
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**TRIAL**

Continued from Page 1A

actual repairs to their property — such as pain and suffering allegedly caused by the accident — the jury would have had to have found Alon USA guilty of gross negligence, which it did not.

According to court records, for the jury to have entered a decision on the third and fourth questions of the court's charge, they would have

had to be unanimous in their decisions for actual damages. No decision was entered on the third and fourth charges, which determined whether or not the company was guilty of gross negligence.

The jury also signed a sheet included with the charge in the case, which they were directed to do if they failed to reach a unanimous decision.

The lawsuit had alleged that the explosion, which destroyed much

of the refinery and shook the area for miles around, was caused by negligence on the part of Alon USA and its subsidiaries.

The plaintiffs were represented by the Pinkerton Law Firm, based out of Webster, Texas.

The jury was seated and testimony began Aug. 1, with the trial reaching into the evening hours several times during the week, according to court officials. The jury returned

their decision late Monday afternoon.

A similar trial held in December 2010 — involving plaintiffs Beverly Smithie and Ron and Debra Walker — yielded more than \$350,000 for property repair and medical expenses for the pair of plaintiffs named in the cause, finding Alon had been negligent.

The jury awarded damages for Smithie in the amount of \$236,605 for property damage and \$8,400 for medical

expenses. The Walkers were awarded \$105,200 for property damage and \$10,200 for medical expenses in the December proceedings.

The jury in the 2010 trial also failed to find Alon USA guilty of gross negligence, awarding only actual damages.

While last week's trial has come to a close, there is still a very long line of plaintiffs with lawsuits pending against the company in connection with the 2008 explosion. More than 150 people

have been named in the suit.

According to witness accounts, the cause of the explosion was a propylene tank leak that caused a mist-like vapor to gather in the refinery, eventually making its way into a cat cracker heater and an alkaline unit, causing both to explode simultaneously.

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

**CISD**

Continued from Page 1A

for the job," said Brian Moore, president of the CISD board of trustees. "We certainly didn't want (Brown) to leave, but we do wish him the best. He was a tremendous asset for us the past few years ... but we're going to find a

capable candidate for the job."

The task now for trustees is to find a new superintendent, and if past history is any indicator, it could be several months before a replacement is named.

This will mark the third time since 2005 the school district has had to find a new superintendent and each previ-

ous search has taken at least three months, officials said.

The first steps toward finding a new chief administrator will be taken Thursday. During the special meeting, trustees will discuss several items related to the search process.

"It will be very preliminary," Moore said of the discussions. "We'll

decide what kind of time frame we want to use, whether we'll use a recruiting service, just a little bit of everything."

Moore said no time frame has been set for finding a new superintendent.

"We're going to take as long as we need to find the right person for the job," he said.

Aside from formally

accepting Brown's resignation Thursday, the school board will discuss the hiring of an interim superintendent and the method in which officials will use to find a permanent replacement for Brown.

The board will meet again at 7 p.m. Monday, at which time it will likely name an interim superintendent.

In other business Thursday, trustees are expected to employ a secondary science teacher and approve the Howard county Appraisal District budget.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

**DEAL**

Continued from Page 1A

truce with Republicans that defused the crisis seemed to be fading already.

Wall Street crumpled, dismayed by reports of new economic weakness and unimpressed by Congress' prescription. The Dow Jones industrial average sank by 266 points, its eighth straight losing session, and biggest.

The compromise deal to persuade GOP lawmakers to raise the federal debt limit — U.S. borrowing was to collide with it at midnight — will cut federal spending by \$2.1 trillion or more over the next decade. But Obama immediately challenged Republicans to accept higher taxes on the wealthy in a second round of deficit cuts this fall. They adamantly refused to accept that idea during the past months' dispute.

A stern-faced Obama said at the White House that action to raise the debt limit had been essential but more — and different — steps were badly needed.

"We've got to do everything in our power to grow this economy and put America back to work," the president said, arguing forcefully for including revenue increases as well as spending cuts in the next round of efforts to trim huge government deficits.

It was the same call the GOP successfully resisted in the bill just approved, and there was little evidence of a change in position.

"The American people agreed with us on the nature of the problem. They know the government didn't accumulate \$14.3 trillion in debt because it didn't tax enough," said the party's leader in the Senate, Mitch McConnell of Kentucky.

Obama placed his sig-

nature on bill in the privacy of the Oval Office less than two hours after a bipartisan 74-26 vote in the Senate. The House approved the measure Monday night on a 269-161 roll call that also reached across party lines and was sealed by a rap of the gavel by Speaker John Boehner.

The bill allows a quick \$900 billion increase in borrowing authority as well as a first installment on spending cuts amounting to \$917 billion over a decade.

Without legislation in place by day's end, the Treasury would have been unable to pay all the nation's bills, leading to a potential default for the first time in history. Administration officials warned of disastrous consequences for an economy that shows fresh signs of weakness on a near-daily basis as it struggles to recover from the worst recession in decades.

The White House and congressional leaders

said legislation was important to reassure investors at home as well as overseas, and also to preserving the nation's AAA credit rating. Following passage of the debt deal, Moody's Investors Service, one of the three main ratings agencies, said it was retaining its triple-A rating on U.S. bonds but with a negative outlook to show there is still a risk of a downgrade.

This week's peace pact between the two parties is unlikely to be long-lived.

The bill sets up a powerful 12-member committee of lawmakers with authority to recommend fresh deficit savings from every corner of the federal budget.

Politically sensitive benefit programs such as Social Security and Medicare will be on the table as the panel of six Republicans and six Democrats works against a Thanksgiving deadline. So, too, an overhaul of the tax code.

Congress will have until Christmas to vote on the recommendations without the ability to make changes.

As an incentive for Congress to act, failure to do so would trigger \$1.2 trillion in automatic spending cuts, affecting the Pentagon as well as domestic programs.

Even before the president signed the legislation, he and Republicans were maneuvering for political position on the next stage.

"We can't balance the budget on the backs of people who have borne the biggest brunt of this recession," the president said, renewing his call for higher taxes on the wealthy.

**MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL**

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Ruth Salazar, 76, of Big Spring, died Saturday. Funeral services were at 10 a.m. today at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Billy Light, 71, of Big Spring, died Saturday. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. tonight at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Graveside services will be at 3 p.m. at Terrace Cemetery in Post, Texas.

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Kenneth W. Heflin, 84, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, July 27, 2011 at Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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**USPS**

Continued from Page 1A

from expanded access locations," Danahoe said in a statement issued in regard to the postal closings.

The postal service has not yet issued a statement officially closing any of the locations, but all will be included in a study to determine customer needs. The option of retail replacement will also be on the table for some of the areas affected by the office closings. Within the Crossroads area, Knott, Forsan, Tarzan and Westbrook are in the study.

Forsan began operating its post office March 5, 1929, after receiving approval in February of that year. The first postmaster was Mrs. Jack Arnold. The first post office had one window and no boxes, according to The History of Forsan website.

A call to the Knott Post Office was answered, but the postmaster declined to make a comment about the situation. Calls to the Tarzan Post Office were not answered.

The full list can be found at http://about.usps.com/news/electronic-press-kits/expanded-access/welcome.htm.

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com

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# EDITORIAL

*"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."*

-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

<b>Bill McClellan</b> Managing Editor	<b>Ron Midkiff</b> Publisher	<b>Steve Reagan</b> Staff Writer
<b>Amanda Moreno</b> Staff Writer		<b>Thomas Jenkins</b> Staff Writer

## OUR VIEWS

### Keeping Big Spring Beautiful

Keep Big Spring Beautiful is an organization comprised of a group of people who are wanting to keep Big Spring looking its best.

This particular group dedicates one Saturday a month, if not more, to cleaning up different areas around town.

Their projects include picking up trash along FM 700, around the Comanche Trail Lake and numerous other areas throughout town.

Recently, the group helped support a local high school student who wanted to beautify the east side entrance of Big Spring. Through the Conley Grant, one local high school student, received funding to beautify an area near the end of E. Third Street. After cleaning up and revamping the area, Kristen BreAnne Poffinbarger, will be maintaining the area throughout the school year.

Of course, the task of keeping Big Spring free of trash and beautiful is not an easy thing. It is one which requires a team effort — a community effort.

Membership is steady, but new members are always welcome. Anyone who is interested in doing their part and would like to volunteer or become a part of KBSB can contact any of the present members and find out more information. More information can be found on the Keep Big Spring Beautiful Facebook page, as well.

Members and volunteers will be taking part in the Love our Lake cleanup Saturday, Aug. 27. There will also be information and representative of KBSB at the Howard County Fair for those wanting to find out more.

Recently, KBSB spent a Saturday morning at Walmart and handed out 200 reusable totes, in exchange for plastic bags, during their Tote Bag Exchange. The group also had a presence at the downtown Under West Texas Skies event and Pops in the Park. Through their booth they were able to collect numerous bags of trash and clean-up the downtown area.

In order to keep the residents and businesses involved in keeping Big Spring beautiful, the group also recognizes people throughout town who are doing their part at their residence or place of business.

Big Spring is our home and it's important we each do our part in keeping it beautiful!

## HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor Bill McClellan at [newsdesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:newsdesk@bigspringherald.com).
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

## LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to [newsdesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:newsdesk@bigspringherald.com)

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we let bygones be bygones, Lord,  
and trust in You to help us through our hurt.  
Amen

# House raises the debt ceiling

White House spokesman Jay Carney called the debt ceiling deal "a victory for the American people." There are days when I feel sorry for Carney.

At Monday's press briefing, CBS reporter Norah O'Donnell challenged Carney's happy-face view of the deal when she observed that President Barack Obama had failed to push Republicans to accept a deal with \$1 in tax increases for every \$3 in spending cuts. O'Donnell continued, "You have Democrats saying, 'You gave them everything they wanted, and we got nothing.'"

Now that's not exactly true. As Carney had pointed out earlier, the Democrats won the item most precious — at least to the White House. This deal is supposed to ensure that there will not be another debt ceiling showdown until after the 2012 election. Carney put it this way: "This agreement ensures that the debt ceiling will be extended through 2012, removing that cloud of uncertainty from the economy."

Democrats also are telling themselves that they have won the public relations war. After numerous press briefings and a prime-time speech, President Obama convinced the Democratic base that he was the only adult in the room and all would be well in the world if only tea party Republicans would compromise.



DEBRA SAUNDERS

But if Obama won this PR war, why is his latest Gallup job approval rating down to 43 percent, with 50 percent disapproving?

The answer is clear: The smartest guy in the room couldn't buy a used car at above book value. As liberal commentators observe, when Republicans announced they would not agree to a debt ceiling increase without spending cuts, the president could have told them he would not negotiate with them. The administration could have stuck to its insistence on a "clean" vote.

Instead, Obama chose to push for something "grand" — although he would not put his "grand" proposal in writing. He never sold his plan to Democrats in Congress.

He did not take into account whether his "grand bargain" actually could pass in the GOP House.

When there was a glimmer of hope that House Speaker John Boehner might sign off on a deal, Obama sabotaged talks by heaping an additional \$400 billion in new taxes on top of \$800 billion in the mix.

When it became clear that the "grand bargain" was a dud, the Obama administration froze — despite the president's frequent warnings about the consequences of not meeting his Treasury Department's Aug. 2 deadline. Last week, Obama could have brokered essentially the same deal that was before the Congress on Monday. This vote didn't have to come down to the wire.

The administration's biggest miscalculation, however, can be seen in its insistence on increasing taxes during an anemic

recovery.

Obama should be focused on creating jobs and calming a climate of fear that has kept employers from hiring new workers. He clearly is not. The administration didn't even try to sell the notion that its tax increases would be vital in boosting the economy and creating good private-sector jobs. And the White House did not bother to propose smart tax reforms that might have made proposed tax increases palatable.

Instead, the White House has been very open about its true passion, partisan scorekeeping in a high-stakes game of Washington math.

If Democrats have to agree to spending cuts — that still will put the country \$7 trillion further in the hole over the next decade — then Republicans have to give up something, too, or as the president said of the cuts-only plan last week, "it's not fair."

Thus, in an odd way, Carney was right. If the Senate passes the bipartisan debt ceiling package approved by the House Monday, it will be "a victory for the American people."

Despite a president more focused on partisan scorekeeping than Main Street, despite GOP purists prepared to risk America's credit rating in exchange for a bogus balanced budget amendment, Washington just might pass a good debt ceiling deal.

*Email Debra J. Saunders at [dsaunders@sfchronicle.com](mailto:dsaunders@sfchronicle.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](http://www.creators.com).*

## We are responsible for future

"Your public servants serve you right."

This is one of my favorite quotations. It is by Adlai Stevenson II. Behind the quotation is an almost never-spoken truth. While we, in the media, constantly blame inadequate, hyper-partisan and often just plain moronic politicians for our woes, we overlook the obvious by never blaming the people who elected them.

If there is an Eleventh Commandment in journalism (though, actually, there is not even a previous Ten) it would be: Thou shalt never blame the people for anything, because in a democracy, the people are holy. Besides, they consume your product and pay your salaries.

Are you angry today with the political theater of the absurd (to call it kabuki is to insult kabuki) now playing on Capitol Hill over raising the debt limit before we reach a default on Tuesday?

But who are you angry with? Who elected these yahoos? They didn't just appear one day like mold in the basement after a rainstorm.

Members of the tea party caucus have argued there is no real debt crisis because the United States can always sell off the U.S. gold reserves or public lands.

Sure, why not? We could sell the contents of Fort Knox to China and the Grand Canyon to Saudi Arabia. I hope France doesn't buy Liberty Island, though. I have always liked the statue that stands on it, and I would hate to see it crated up and shipped back to Paris.

I am not suggesting that democracy does not work — these dimwits were legally elected, after all — it simply does not work as well as we sometimes would like, and our current national obsession is to whine about the results.

Nobody whines more than the pundit class, of which I am a member. A great, wet, oppressive blanket of air has settled

over Washington and New York, where most of the pundits live, and this has helped transform their anger into weariness.

Thomas L. Friedman of The New York Times, one of my favorite columnists, concluded a recent column by saying that if neither the Republicans nor Democrats can come to their senses, "then I'll hope for a third party that does get it and can take us where we need to go."

Oh, boy. Some hope. Third parties take their supporters not "where we need to go" but off a cliff. Everybody thinks Ross Perot gave hope to third parties because he got nearly 19 percent of the popular vote in 1992, second only to Theodore Roosevelt's Bull Moose Party vote of 27 percent in 1912.

But Perot won no states and got no electoral votes. Since World War II, the only third-party candidates to win states and get electoral votes were two ardent racists: Strom Thurmond and George Wallace.

So if you want to hope for a third party, hope that tea party members pull out of the Republican Party to form their own. That would marginalize them instantly.

Other pundits have formed their own Time Machine Caucus. They point out that the current crisis could have been averted if back in December the Democrats had agreed to extend the Bush tax cuts only if the debt ceiling were raised in exchange.

Eliot Spitzer — OK, OK, the guy likes hookers, but that doesn't mean he isn't a public policy expert — recently wrote in Slate: "Why didn't (Obama) make raising the debt ceiling part of the transaction that extended the Bush tax cuts? ... Recall, extension of the Bush tax cuts added about \$2 trillion to the federal deficit over 10 years, about the same amount that many of the debt-ceiling agreements would save over the next 10 years."

So, why didn't it happen? Because the deal that Obama brokered kept taxes from rising not just for the rich, but also for virtually every taxpayer in America. It also extended unemployment benefits and cut the So-

cial Security payroll tax, putting money in workers' pockets.

Did liberals like it? They did not. But Obama described the compromise as "a package of tax relief that will protect the middle class, that will grow our economy and will create jobs for the American people."

He just didn't say when. If he had a time machine, would he go back and do things differently? It doesn't matter. A Hong Kong scientist released a study a few days ago stating that time travel is highly unlikely, even in a souped-up DeLorean.

So we are stuck with the present, but still responsible for the future.

Which brings us to another group of pundits, the Cliffhangers, who believe we will dangle by our fingertips until Aug. 2 — or maybe obtain a 30-day extension — but everything will all turn out all right in the end.

Why? Because things always turn out all right in the end for America. Always have, always will. And I would like to believe this. I struggle to believe this.

Meanwhile, Congress has become a fantasy baseball camp where amateurs wander the halls pretending they are major leaguers, emboldened by the power they exert over the Republican conference. There are no more real leaders with real power.

So where is the power today? Where it always is in a democracy. With the people.

"Democracy is a device that ensures that we shall be governed no better than we deserve," Adlai Stevenson said.

I think this current crisis will become a major turning point in American history. People now realize that our political system is broken and needs dramatic repair, not through a third party, but through the active participation of sane, responsible Americans who have ignored politics in the past.

The real trick is to avoid despair. Good trick. Good luck.

*To find out more about Roger Simon, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).*

# Why not check this out at the library?

If you are ready for a new hobby, something you can do in the cool of your home, try glass engraving. We have "A Beginner's Guide to Glass Engraving" (748.62 ISE S) by Seymour Isenberg. With a little effort, you can turn a Mason jar into a work of art. There are sample projects along with design templates to get you started. In addition, the detailed instructions will guide you through the process.

The library has a collection of gardening books. To take advantage of the current water situation, check out "Container Gardening for Dummies" (635.986 MAR B) by Bill Marken, "Gardening Essentials" (635 PLE B) by Barbara Pleasant and "Perennials" (635.932 OST M) by Maggie Oster.

From the Handyman Club of America comes "Landscape Structures and Decks" (690.893 HAN C). It contains projects and ideas for decks, rock terraces, ponds, fountains and such like structures. We also have books that deal with xeriscaping and drip irrigation.

With the movie, "The Help," coming out sometime in mid-August, you might want to check out the book from the library.

In a review by Sybil

Steinberg in The Washington Post's Book World blog (washingtonpost.com): Southern whites' guilt for not expressing gratitude to the black maids who raised them threatens to become a familiar refrain. But don't tell Kathryn Stockett, because her first novel is a nuanced variation on the theme that strikes every note with authenticity. In a page-turner that brings new resonance to the moral issues involved, she spins a story of social awakening as seen from both sides of the American racial divide. Skeeter is newly graduated from Ole Miss with a degree in English and, in some ways, she is an outsider. Her friends, bridge partners and fellow members of the Junior League are married. Most subscribe to the racist attitudes of the era, mistreating and despising the black maids whom they count on to raise their children.

When her best friend makes a political issue of not allowing the "help" to use the toilets in their employers' houses, she decides to write a book in which the community's maids — their names disguised — talk about their experiences. Fear of discovery and retribution at first keep the maids from complying, but a stalwart woman named Aibileen, who has raised and nurtured 17 white children, and her friend Minny, who keeps losing jobs because she talks back when insulted and

abused, sign on with Skeeter's risky project, and eventually 10 others follow.

Aibileen and Minny share the narration with Skeeter, and one of Stockett's accomplishments is reproducing African American vernacular and racy humor without resorting to stilted dialogue. She unsparingly delineates the conditions of black servitude a century after the Civil War. The book is "The Help" (F STO K).

Remember when summer visitors come, there are many places to take them, both in Big Spring, Midland and Odessa (the Meteor Crater is a favorite place of mine).

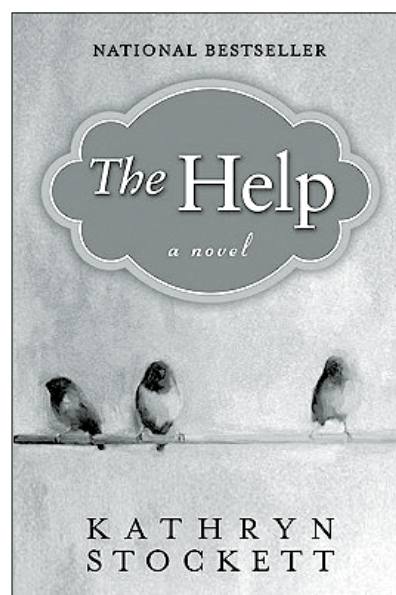
Remember to check out the Commemorative Air Force Museum. They have a fabulous collection of "nose" art.

Nose art is the drawings/paintings that pilots painted on their aircraft.

By painting their airplanes with shark's teeth, a skull and names like "Killer" or "The Flying Undertaker," these pilots were letting their enemy know they were the hunted rather than the hunter. It was designed to intimidate the enemy.

The Library has received two books: "War Paint: Fighter Nose Art from WW II and Korea," (358.418 CAM J) compiled by John M. Campbell and Donna Campbell; and "Vintage Aircraft Nose Art: Ready for Duty," (358.418 VAL G) by Gary M. Valant.

The Friends of How-



ard County Library are accepting books for their book sale. You can bring boxed or bagged books to the library during regular library hours.

Please do not bring Reader's Digest condensed books, magazines or books in bad condition.

If you have stored them in the chicken house and you don't want them, then we

don't want them. Bring what you would like to buy.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Friends, please give me a call.

In the spring of 1844, a fiery political conflict erupted over the admission of Texas into the Union, a hard-fought and bitter controversy that profoundly changed the course of American history. Joel H. Silbey's "Storm Over Texas: The Annexation Controversy and the Road to the Civil War" (976.404 SIL J) marks the crucial moment when partisan differences were transformed into a North vs. South antagonism and the momentum towards Civil War leaped into high gear.

One of America's renowned political his-

torians, Silbey offers a swiftly paced and compelling narrative of the Texas imbroglio, with an exceptional cast of characters, including John C. Calhoun, John Quincy Adams, James K. Polk and Martin Van Buren.

Summer is here and that means our hours are different. We are closed Saturdays during August. We are open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Starting in September, we will be open on Saturday. Please call and check our hours if you need to.

Our phone number is 264-2260.

The library is located at 500 S. Main St.

Our website has changed to the following: <http://wtls.tsl.state.tx.us/howard-county>.

*Hollis McCright is Howard County Librarian.*

## Charles Myers

Attorney At Law

Family Law And  
Criminal Law

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## sudoku

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

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

# Healthy fried chicken? Flash frying is the key

By **ROCCO DISPIRITO**  
For The Associated Press

I know what you did last weekend.

You splurged on a big, juicy, extra-crispy piece of fried chicken — or maybe two — at that family picnic. And then you lamented the fact that you can't eat it more often. Fried chicken is one of our best-loved comfort foods, but that incredibly greasy stuff remains off-limits if you're trying to keep a tight rein on your weight.

Unless, of course, you fry out the calories and fat in a flash.

My recipe for chicken carnitas is so deceitfully delicious — full of flavor with a crisp outer crust — no one will suspect that it is low in calories. Compared to classic carnitas (which traditionally are made with pork), which can pack 1,180 calories and 62 grams of fat a serving, these babies come in at

just 314 calories with 14 grams of fat. I don't know about you, but I am impressed.

My carnitas are a good example of the techniques I use to skinny-up many of the fattening foods we love. I start by microwaving skinless chicken thighs — a nearly fat-free but incredibly moist cut — until cooked through. Microwaving might seem unusual, but it reduces the amount of time the chicken must be cooked in oil, thereby cutting tons of calories.

Next, I submerge the microwaved chicken pieces in a foamy egg white bath, then dredge them in a spicy mix of whole-wheat flour and cornmeal. Using egg whites (instead of whole eggs) cuts the fat, while the whole-wheat flour and cornmeal add fiber and flavor.

Now comes the low-cal magic: flash-frying. Since the chicken is already cooked, it needs

only 12 seconds in 400 F oil, as opposed to 10 to 15 minutes for traditional pan frying or deep-fat frying in 350 F oil. By spending so little time in the oil, the chicken and breading absorb far less of it, yet the outside still has time to fry up to a perfectly feather-light crunch. The mouthwatering moisture comes from the meat's natural juices instead of the oil fusing with the batter.

### RECIPE TIPS:

— For a spicy option, sprinkle 1 thinly sliced red or green chili on top of the salad or add a few dashes of hot sauce.

— Microwave the limes on high for 15 seconds before you cut and squeeze them. This helps you get every last bit of juice out of each one.

— Use your frying thermometer exactly as directed by the manufacturer. Carefully monitor the temperature of the oil every 5 minutes so that it does not exceed 400 F.

— When microwaving the chicken, keep in mind that the chunks toward the outside of the plate will cook faster than those in the middle. So when flipping the chicken, also rotate the pieces on the plate so that inner chunks are moved to the outside.

— To keep the avocado chunks intact, don't toss them with the other salad ingredients. Just set them on the finished salads.

— Let the oil cool on the stove to room temperature. Then use a funnel to pour it back into its original container and screw the cap back on for easy disposal.

### FLASH FRIED CHICKEN CARNITAS WITH LIME, AVOCADO AND RED ONION CEVICHE

Start to finish: 25 minutes  
Servings: 4  
1 small red onion, halved and thinly sliced  
5 limes  
Salt  
2 quarts grape seed or corn oil  
1 pound boneless, skinless chicken thighs  
Ground black pepper  
2 1/4 tablespoons Goya Adobo seasoning (available in the Hispanic foods section), divided  
2 egg whites  
2 1/2 tablespoons sweet Hungarian paprika  
1/4 cup fine-ground yellow cornmeal  
3/4 cup whole-wheat flour  
4 cups chunked iceberg lettuce (2-inch pieces)

16 cherry tomatoes, quartered

1/2 ripe Hass avocado, peeled and cut into 8 chunks

16 sprigs fresh cilantro

Place the sliced red onions in a small stainless steel bowl. With a fine grater or zester, zest the skin of 1 lime over the onions. Slice the zested lime as well as three additional limes in half, then squeeze the juice over the onions. Add a pinch of salt, then mix. Submerge the onions in the juice; use the squeezed limes as a weight to push down any onions sticking out of the juice.

Cover the onions with a tight-fitting lid and refrigerate. Marinate the onions in the juice for as long as possible, at least 15 minutes or up to 3 days.

Meanwhile, pour the oil into a large (at least 6-quart) heavy pot. There should be at least 2 inches of oil in the pot. Clip a deep-frying thermometer to the side of the pot according to the manufacturer's directions. Set the heat to medium and heat oil to 400 F. Do not cover the pot.

Cut each chicken thigh into 4 to 5 even chunks. Arrange the chunks on a microwave-safe plate and season both sides with pepper and 1/4 tablespoon of the Adobo powder. Microwave on high for 1 1/2 minutes. Turn each piece of chicken over, then microwave on high until the chunks are just cooked through, about another 1 to 2 minutes, depending on your microwave. Let the chicken cool to room temperature.

Put the egg whites in a bowl and beat with a fork until just foamy, about 1 minute. In a separate wide and shallow bowl or cake pan, combine the remaining 2 tablespoons of Adobo powder, the paprika, cornmeal and flour. Add the cooled chicken pieces to the egg whites and toss to coat well.

One at a time, lift the chicken pieces from the egg whites and transfer to the flour mixture, turning each to coat thoroughly. Let the chicken sit in one layer over the flour mixture. Wash and dry your hands thoroughly prior to assembling the salad.

Place the iceberg chunks in a bowl and add the cherry tomatoes. Drain the lime juice from the onions (reserving the juice) and add the onions, a dash of salt and 2 tablespoons of the reserved lime juice to the lettuce and tomatoes. Toss to dress evenly. Divide the salad among 4 serving plates. Divide the avocado pieces between the salads.

Working in 4 batches, fry the chicken in the oil until deep golden brown, about 12 seconds. Using metal tongs or a slotted metal spoon, remove the chicken pieces from the oil and transfer them to a plate with either a wire rack on top or paper towels to drain off any excess oil.

Divide the chicken between the salads, then top each with 4 sprigs of cilantro. Slice the remaining lime into 4 wedges and serve one with each salad.

Nutrition information per serving (values are rounded to the nearest whole number): 314 calories; 14 g fat (40 percent of total calories, 2 g saturated); 94 mg cholesterol; 22 g carbohydrate; 27 g protein; 5 g fiber; 881 mg sodium.

## Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

### On a Wing and a Prayer

North dealer.  
Neither side vulnerable.

#### NORTH

♠ A Q 7  
♥ 4  
♦ K Q J 10 5  
♣ K J 9 3

#### WEST

♠ 6 5  
♥ Q J 8 7 2  
♦ A 6 3  
♣ Q 7 6

#### EAST

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

#### SOUTH

♠ K J 10 8 4 3  
♥ K 6  
♦ 9 4  
♣ 8 5 2

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♣			

Opening lead — queen of hearts.

Sometimes a defender is forced to make a play that appears to be suicidal. Yet when the special circumstances of that deal are analyzed, it can be seen that the play is absolutely necessary.

Take this case where South is in four spades and West leads the queen of hearts. East takes the ace and must decide what to do next. He should conclude that his only chance to defeat the contract is to return the four of clubs!

Before examining the reasons for this play, let's first observe its effect.

Tomorrow: A psychological ploy.  
©2011 King Features Syndicate Inc.

West puts up the queen of clubs, taken by dummy's king. Sooner or later, declarer concedes a trick to the ace of diamonds. When he does, West returns a club through dummy's J-9, and East's A-10 of clubs set the contract.

Now let's examine the reasoning that points the way to this defense. The first step is for East to dismiss any lie of the cards that would render the contract impregnable. East must therefore assume that West has the ace of diamonds, since if South has that card, the contract can't be beaten.

Having done this, East can now count three defensive tricks in the form of three aces. The remaining question is where a fourth trick might come from. Given South's spade bids and dummy's spade holding, there is no hope of getting a trump trick, so the only possibility remaining is to score two club tricks. This can't be done if South has the club queen, so West must be credited with that card. However, two club tricks can be taken only if the defense is in position to collect them when West's presumed ace of diamonds is driven out. And the only way this can be achieved is with a low club return by East at trick two.

As it happens, West has both of the cards East needs to defeat the contract, and the virtue of his logic reaps a just reward.

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## In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



### Never Too Old to Learn

A growing number of American adults are returning to school—or attending college for the first time—to train for a new career, expand job skills or pursue a lifetime of learning.

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The shelter is located at 3605 E. 11th Place, but those interested in viewing the animals should call 432-264-2372 first to make an ap-

pointment. You may also email [animalcontrol@police.big-spring.tx.us](mailto:animalcontrol@police.big-spring.tx.us).

**sudoku**

ANSWERS

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

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**Dining Guide**



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**Mexican Restaurant**

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# Police blotter

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

- RICHARD LEE OLIVAS, 24, of 1600 Donley, was arrested Monday on a warrant from another agency.
- BRITTNEY JO HILGER, 17, of 3618 Hamilton, was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of marijuana — less than or equal to two ounces in a drug free zone.
- JOEY EUGENE MATA, 23, of 1103 W. Fifth, was arrested Monday on charges of theft — less than \$50 shoplifting, violation protective order communicates (two counts).
- DIJUAN EDWARD AUSBIE, 22, of 1100 Pickens, was arrested Monday on a warrant from other agency.
- TINA MARIE AUSBIE, 24, of 1100 Pickens, was arrested Monday on warrants for safety belt required and consumption of alcohol by a minor.
- JACOB DANIEL PETROWSKI, 21, of 2803 Apache, was arrested Monday on a charge of theft — less than \$50 shoplifting.
- DEBRA RENEE SHAEFFER, 42, OF 1605 Sunset Avenue, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- THEFT was reported in the 200 block of W. FM 700.
- DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported in the 1900 block of Wasson Road.
- DEBRA RENEE SHAEFFER, 42, of 1605 Sunset,

was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.

- SHAWNA DANIELLE JENKINS, 47, of Snyder, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for of hindering secured creditors — more than \$500 and less than \$1,500.
- MORRIS LYNDON FRAYLEY, 74, of 1506 Stadium, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of turning right from the wrong lane.
- MICHAEL WILSON CARL, 27, of 117 Davis Rd., was arrested Tuesday on warrants for expired motor vehicle inspection certificate and open container in a motor vehicle — driver.
- TEREL DEVON HOUSTON, 19, of 2609 Hunter, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less.
- CHRISTIAN DAVON GORDON, 22, of 2638 Langley, was arrested Tuesday on charges of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less, failure to maintain financial responsibility, failure to appear (two counts) and no driver's license — when unlicensed.
- JOHN PETER GORDON JR., 23, of 3611 Hamilton, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less.
- HENRY JOHN RAYMOND, 37, of 1905 Wasson Rd. Apt. 6, was arrested Tuesday on charges of aggravated assault, failure to appear and driving while license invalid.
- LUIS ALBERTO VASQUEZ, 31, of 1501 Lincoln, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- MICHAEL BRANDON FOSSEE, 27, of 2508 Albrook, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of assault — family violence.
- ANTHONY JOSEPH AZUL, 27, of 1516 Sycamore, was arrested Tuesday on warrants for driving without a safety belt, failure to appear (three counts), operating a motor vehicle with the wrong registration and no driver's license — when unlicensed.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 800 block of W. FM 700.
- THEFT was reported: In the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.

- CHRISTY JOE CLARK, 38, was arrested Monday by HCSO on a charge of bob/theft property greater than or equal to \$50 and less than \$500 and a bench warrant for aggravated robbery.
- ADAM MAURICIO TORRES, 37, was arrested Monday by HCSO on charges of AG/FTA-motion for enforcement and possession of controlled substance greater than or equal to four grams and less than 200 grams.
- BRITTNEY JO HILGER, 17, was transferred Monday to the county jail by BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana (less than or equal to two ounces in a drug free zone).
- TIFFNEY TINDOL, 32, was arrested Monday by HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated/open alcohol container.
- TINA AUSBIE, 24, was transferred Monday to the county jail by BSPD on a capias pro fine/no seat belt driver and capias pro fine/minor consuming alcohol.
- DIJUAN EDWARD AUSBIE, 22, was transferred to the county jail Monday by BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana less than or equal to two ounces in a drug free zone.
- JOEY EUGENE MATA, 23, was transferred to the county jail Monday by BSPD on charges of violation of bond/protective order (two counts) and theft less than \$50.
- JACOB DANIEL PETROWSKI, 21, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by BSPD on a charge of theft less than \$50.
- DEBRA RENEE SHAEFFER, 42, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- MELISSA SEGUNDO, 25, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft by check.
- EPIFANIO HINOJOSA, 27, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
- DAVID RODRIGUEZ, 44, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a probated judgment for driving while intoxicated.
- SHAUNA DANIELLE JENKINS, 38, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of hindering secured creditors and theft by check (two counts).
- MORRIS FRALEY, 74, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of making a right turn from the wrong lane.
- CARLOS GUILLERMO DIAZ, 22, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for possession of marijuana — two ounces or less.
- ANDREA ROBLEDO, 20, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less.
- CHRISTIAN DAVON GORDON, 29, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less, failure to maintain financial responsibility, failure to appear (two counts) and no driver's license.
- MICHAEL WILSON CARL, 27, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on charges of speeding, evading arrest or detention with a vehicle, failure to display driver's license, expired motor vehicle inspection certificate and open container in vehicle.
- TEREL DEVON HOUSTON, 19, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less.
- JOHN PETER GORDON, 23, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less.
- MICHAEL LEE LOPEZ, 23, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for possession of a controlled substance and a charge of bond forfeiture for possession of a controlled substance.

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**C.E. Mike Thomas**  
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## Sheriff


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

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

- RICHARD LEE OLIVAS, 24, was transferred Monday to the county jail by BSPD on a charge of assault (threat).
- BOBBY D. FOSTER, JR., 39, was arrested Monday by HCSO on a charge of issuance of a bad check.

**CUSTOMER SNAPS AT CLERK**

BEXAR COUNTY — Finding that the grocery store was out of THERA-GESIC® Pain Cream, Tom W. snapped ("like a terrier") at the drug department clerk. After promises to have it back in stock the next day, Tom W. regained his composure and apologized for the incident. When asked to explain his dog-like behavior, he painlessly replied, "None of your dang business!"



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- LUIS VASQUEZ, 31, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- HENRY JOHN RAYMOND, 37, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of aggravated assault, driving while license invalid and failure to appear.
- MICHAEL BRANDON FOSSEE, 27, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of assault — family violence.
- JANELLA RENE DAVENPORT, 31, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft of service.
- ANTHONY AZUL, 27, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of driving without a safety belt, failure to appear (three counts), operating a motor vehicle with the wrong registration and no driver's license — when unlicensed.

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	<b>2008 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT</b> 40K, Factory Warranty, Nav., DVD. <b>\$17,950</b>		<b>2004 Silverado Ext.</b> 65K, "Like New." <b>\$13,950</b>
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## City tournament highlighted by ace

By ROBERT GRIFFIN

Sports Editor

Ben Garcia Jr. fought off the field at the Comanche Trail City Golf Championship Tournament and took top honors in the championship flight. Garcia recorded a 143 in the two-round event to take the win, two strokes ahead of second place finisher Charlie Garcia. Rounding out the flight with a still-impressive 147 was Josh Helmstetler.

In the president's flight, score cards saw even lower numbers, as Blake Brorman and Chance Cain tied for first place with scores of 140. Jace Williams was behind the two with a 157.

The first flight saw Ty Stovall take the win with a 151, three strokes ahead of Johnny Castillo and Dutch Barr came in third with a 156. In the second flight, Terry Whetzel shot a 163, with Joe Brice Wright and Tommy Fletcher right behind him, each shooting a 166.

Russell Hodnett shot a 171 to take the top spot in the third flight, three strokes ahead of

Ricky Wilson. Anthony Villaponda's 179 was good enough for third place in the group. Taylor Parrish shot a 182 to take first in the fourth flight and Arthur Trevino took second with a 187. Third place saw another tie as Dennis Wells and Steve Walker each shot a 190.

Though he did not make the leader board in any of the flights, Daniel Silew was the talk of the tournament when he sank his fifth career hole-in-one on hole number six. The ace that flew off of Silew's six-iron was witnessed by Tommy Fletcher, Arthur Trevino and Anthony Fletcher.

In the men's senior division, Luven Flores shot a 143 for first place, well ahead of second-place finisher Jerry Dudley, who recorded a 152. Jack Birdwell finished the top three out with a 156.

In the ladies division, Debra Lusk shot the best, turning in a 162. She was 11 strokes ahead of Jayce Brock, who finished in second. Third place saw Linda DeWaters shoot a 175.



HERALD photo/Robert Griffin

The Steers wasted no time this week. As two-a-days started Aug. 1, the first day Texas coaches are allowed to coach the kids, the Big Spring football team started working on special teams.

## Texas' new reliever gives up homer in debut

DETROIT (AP) — Mike Adams might have been a little too eager to make a good impression on his new teammates.

The Texas reliever gave up a solo home run to Brennan Boesch in the eighth inning in his first appearance since the homers acquired him from San Diego, and the Detroit Tigers

went on to a 6-5 victory Tuesday night.

"I left a change-up up and he hit it out of the park," Adams said. "I have the desire to do good and impress these guys. Maybe I was trying to do it too much."

Adams (0-1) got the first out of the eighth, but Boesch then lined his 16th homer of the

season through a rain shower and over the wall in right field.

Jose Valverde pitched the ninth for Detroit, earning his 29th save in 29 chances.

Joaquin Benoit (3-3) blew a 5-2 lead in the top of the eighth, allowing a solo homer to Nelson Cruz and a tying two-run shot by Mike Na-

poli.

Alex Avila homered and drove in three runs for the Tigers, who nearly paid the price for not breaking the game open earlier when they put plenty of runners on base against Texas starter Colby Lewis.

Lewis allowed five runs — four earned — and 10 hits in four-plus

innings. He walked three and struck out three.

"I didn't have anything, really. I was just trying to get outs," Lewis said. "Felt like I had to nibble a little more than I should because I didn't have that little extra zip."

The Rangers lead the second-place Los An-

geles Angels by only a game in the AL West.

Max Scherzer allowed two runs and six hits in six innings for Detroit. Reliever David Pauley, acquired over the weekend from Seattle, started the seventh in his first appearance as a Tiger. He allowed a leadoff

See TEXAS, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Robert Griffin

With workouts in full pads still days away, the Steers spent the first few days of their 2011-2012 campaign working on speed and reaction drills.

## Astros slammed

HOUSTON (AP) — Wandy Rodriguez is Houston's career leader for strikeouts on a left-hander. Unfortunately for Rodriguez and the Astros, one bad inning put a damper on milestone.

Rodriguez gave up five runs in the fifth inning, highlighted by Edgar Renteria's ninth career grand slam, and the Astros lost 5-1 to the Cincinnati Reds on Tuesday night.

Cincinnati was struggling offensively before two doubles, two runs — including one to Reds starter Homer Bailey — and Renteria's second homer of the season put the Reds ahead 5-0 and led to Rodriguez's departure after just 78 pitches.

Rodriguez (7-8) said he felt soreness in his back toward his right shoulder before the game, but the discomfort did not factor into his performance.

"That's not an excuse," said Rodriguez, who did not bring up the back issue until asked. "I threw my first four innings. I felt sore earlier in the bullpen, but that's no excuse. I felt sore all game, but I could throw the ball."

Astros manager Brad Mills agreed with Rodriguez's assessment.

"That one inning did him in," Mills said. "The first four innings he gave up one hit and was throwing the ball

See ASTROS, Page 2B

## Briefs

### Steer season tickets on sale

The athletic department of the Big Spring Steers has announced the dates for season ticket sales. Those previously holding season tickets can purchase tickets for the 2011-2012 season through July Aug. 4 from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

New purchasers of season tickets can purchase their ticket books Aug. 8-Aug. 17 from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

The ticket books are \$25 and include all five home games. For more information, contact Kay Cook at 432-264-3662.

### Fall tennis practice begins

Big Spring begins tennis practices Monday, Aug. 8 for their fall schedule. The sessions will be from 9 a.m. through noon on weekdays at the courts at Comanche Trail.

### Football, cheerleading signups start Saturday

Sign-ups for CYFA's youth football and cheerleading will be held Saturdays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. The cost of the programs are \$125 for divisions one and two, \$75 for flag football and \$100 for cheerleading.

Signups will take place at Big Spring Mall every Saturday through Aug. 13, from 10 a.m. through 6 p.m.

Signups will also be taken Aug. 9, 11, 16 and 18 between the hours of 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. For more information, contact Jeff Vidal at 432-816-6871.

### Climb to the top handicap bowling tournament Aug. 28

Bowl-A-Rama is hosting a bowling tournament with a \$600 guaranteed first place prize. The tournament, which will take place at 1 p.m. Aug. 28, is open to the first 24 bowlers with an average of 199 or less. Entry fee is \$60 and must be received by 6 p.m. Aug. 25.

For additional information, contact Greg Clarke at 432-264-6480 or John and Diana Dodd at 432-267-7484. Further information can be obtained on Bowl-A-Rama's website. Simply go to www.bigspringbowlarama.com.

### Chicano Golf Association posts meeting date

Big Spring's Chicano Golf Association (CGA) will be having a meeting for all its members Thursday, Aug. 4. The meeting will be held at Comanche Trail Golf Course at 6 p.m.

# Bryant healthy, impressive

By Jaime Aron

AP Sports Writer

A week into DallasCowboys' training camp, Dez Bryant is everywhere.

Catching deep passes. Returning punts. Taking passes and punts into the end zone with his arms up, drawing loud ovations from thousands of adoring fans, many wearing his No. 88.

Now he's talking to Miles Austin, getting pointers on technique. He's giving Austin pointers on strutting in the end zone. He surprises himself by helping rookies understand what to do on certain routes.

When practice ends, Bryant remains the center of attention, either in a cluster of reporters or working his way along the side

of the field signing autographs and posing for pictures.

After a bizarre year on and off the field -- make that, several such years -- Bryant couldn't be more comfortable. The injury that cut short his rookie season has healed, the Cowboys have carved a spot for him in the starting lineup and, best of all, he's controversy-free.

He's also working hard to keep it that way.

In recent days, he's talked about his fondness for shoes without saying how many he has or how much they cost. Asked whether kids in East Texas, where he grew up, should be allowed to wear sagging pants in public, he opted to stay out of that debate. And, even though he's now classified as a veteran, he won't even consider taking part in hazing rookies; he won't expect anyone to carry his pads.

"All I know is I'm here in San Antonio focused on football," Bryant said. "It's all about that star."

Bryant is a phenomenal talent who's been mostly a tease because something always gets in the way, often of his own doing.

He's made headlines for his mother's former line of employment, for not carrying an older teammate's shoulder pads, for picking up a dinner tab that cost more than many Americans make in a year, for wearing sagging pants at an upscale mall and for failing to pay the bills on excessive jewelry purchases. And that's just the last 15 months.

## ASTROS

Continued from Page 1B

extremely well. That

fifth inning, the big at-bat was the one to the pitcher, ended up walking him on nine pitches. He is OK. He had a little knot or something in his right side (of his back).

"He said he was fine and through the first four innings threw the ball really well."

A day after edging the Reds 4-3 in extra in-

nings, the Astros' new-look lineup mustered just one run and five hits, going 1 for 8 with runners in scoring position.

Houston lost for the ninth time in 12 games but did get four innings of two-hit ball from relievers Aneury Rodriguez, David Carpenter and Enerio del Rosario.

"It was nice to see the bullpen again come through with four shut-out innings," Mills said.

Bailey (6-5), who grew up about 100 miles west of Houston in La Grange, allowed one run and five hits in eight innings. He struck out four and walked three.

Recently acquired Luis Durango singled in Jimmy Paredes in the fifth for Houston's only run.

"Two of the times he's

thrown really well have been here, and I know he's from Texas," Mills said of Bailey. "So that might have something to do with it; I don't know."

Rodriguez, who has played his entire major league career with the Astros, struck out Drew Stubbs with his signature curveball in the third inning for his 947th career strikeout, passing Bob Knepper for the team's lefty lead.

Chris Heisey and Ramon Hernandez sparked Cincinnati's big inning with consecutive doubles, making it 1-0. After Todd Frazier grounded out, Bailey and Stubbs walked to load the bases for Renteria, who hit a 1-0 fastball into the Crawford Boxes in left field.

Renteria entered

the Rangers pay for the missed opportunity. Victor Martinez reached on an error to start the bottom of the inning, then Jhonny Peralta singled and Carlos Guillen walked to load the bases.

Yoshinori Tateyama came on to replace Lewis, and Avila greeted him with a single to left-center to score two runs and make it 5-2.

The Tigers might have scored more, but they hit into three double plays in the first five innings.

NOTES: Texas 3B Adrian Beltre, on the DL with a strained left hamstring, took batting practice on the field before the game. ... Hamilton slid feet first into home to score the first Texas run. He broke his arm diving head first toward the plate at Detroit in April.

Peralta made a sprawling stop at shortstop on Kinsler's grounder in the seventh. ... The Rangers made three errors. ... Lewis has allowed 27 HRs this season.

RHP Doug Fister, acquired over the weekend in the same trade that brought Pauley to Detroit, will make his first start for the Tigers on Wednesday night against LHP Matt Harrison of the Rangers. ... The Tigers have won 15 of their past 18 games against Texas at Comerica Park. ... Harrison has a 2.16 ERA in his past 12 starts. ... Fister is 3-12, but has a 3.33 ERA on the year.

the game hitting .357 against Rodriguez, who left after the fifth.

"In the fifth inning you see I threw a lot of close pitches to home plate and (the umpire) didn't call them," Rodriguez said. "When I got behind I tried to throw strikes and the guys hit the ball."

The at-bat that irked Rodriguez the most was the one against Bailey.

"I threw a lot of fastballs and he got a little contact for foul ball, foul ball, foul ball," Rodriguez said. "On 3-2, I tried to make it like a breaking ball for a strike and I threw a little bit down, and he didn't swing."

"I wanted to make the out in this situation."

NOTES: Baker said 3B Scott Rolen, sidelined by an inflamed left shoulder, will not be ready to come off the disabled list when he is eligible on Friday. He said he would know more about when he might be activated on Wednesday. ... Houston OF Jordan Schafer, on the DL with an injured left middle finger, should begin swinging by the end of the week. Schafer was acquired from Atlanta in the Michael Bourn trade.

LHP Dontrelle Willis starts for the Reds in Wednesday night's series finale against Houston rookie Jordan Lyles. Both pitchers are winless this season, with Lyles 0-6 in 11 starts and Willis 0-1 in four starts. ... The 20-year-old Lyles is the youngest player in the National League and the second youngest in the majors behind the Angels' Mike Trout.

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**FIVE FAMILY Garage Sale:** 614 Colgate, Saturday Only 6:30-? See us first for back to school shopping! Juniors clothing (Ed Hardy, Juicy C, American Eagle, Abercrombie, Hollister, VS Pink, ETC...)

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**GARAGE SALE:** 800 Douglas, Saturday 7:00am-11:00am. Lots of clothes and misc. Also burritos for sale.

**MULTI FAMILY Garage Sale:** 814 Angela Rd., Saturday 8am-2pm. Various items & clothing.

**GARAGE SALE:** 3704 Dixon, Saturday 8am-2pm. Sponsored by House of Hope Community Church, Rev. Floyd Green, Jr. Pastor.

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**EXPERIENCED Cook** needed for day and evening shift. Apply in person at Big Spring Country Club. No phone calls please.

**EXPERIENCED WAIT-STAFF** needed for day and evening shift. Apply in person at Big Spring Country Club. No phone calls please, previous applicants need not apply.

**NEED TRANSPORT/BOBTAIL** Driver for fuel deliveries. Excellent Starting Salary all full medical benefits paid, retirement plan, vacation and sick leave. Must have CDL & good driving record. Come by 1st & Johnson, Park Fuels/ Chevron, Big Spring. (432)263-0033.

### Help Wanted

**Full-time RN Case Manager, LVN, Social Worker & Certified Nurses Aid** needed in Big Spring and surrounding areas with a fast growing Hospice agency. Apply @: Interim HealthCare, 1031 Andrews Hwy. Suite 200, Midland, TX 79701 or fax resume to **432-618-0307.**

**Full-time TELLER POSITION.** Experience Preferred. Apply in person at Cosden Federal Credit Union, 400 East Marcy, Big Spring, Tx.

**Great Horn Carriers, Inc.** Tanker Driver Needed  
**REQUIRES:**

Class A CDL with HasMat  
2 years Fuel Hauling Preferred  
Local Hauling, No Nights.  
\$400.00 Sign-On Bonus,  
Good Pay with Benefits.  
FMI:

(432)683-2868, (432)288-3761

**HILLCREST CDC** has a Part-time Position Available, Mon.-Fri. If you are energetic and love kids please come apply. Must have high school diploma or GED. Hillcrest CDC, 2000 West FM 700.

**IMMEDIATE KITCHEN** Help needed. Must be Neat in Appearance. Honest and Dependable. Inquire at Wagon Wheel, 2010 Scurry St. No phone call Please!



**IMMEDIATE OPENINGS!** Crude Oil Drivers in Midland TX

Safety & Performance Bonus quarterly,  
Paid Every Friday,  
Paid Vacation/Holidays/  
Jury Duty

Company benefit package: Medical/Dental/Vision/Life, 401K with Company match; Paid Orientation/Training Referral Bonus  
Class A-CDL-X Required  
2 yrs Tractor/Trailer Exp. In the last 5 yrs or 1 yr Exp. W/accredited semi-truck driving school diploma  
Minimum Age: 23  
Contact:  
**DeAnna Bales @ 1-800-737-9988 ext 1207**  
**Johnny Tidwell @ 1-806-495-3254**  
or visit us  
**www.mipe.com**  
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Join **BUSY BEE'S** professional cleaning team! Enjoy an independent work environment and \$10/hr. We provide paid training, all necessary supplies and uniform. Must have own transportation and speak English. All cleaners are drug tested and background checked. Bonded and insured. Call J. Williams Management at 432-699-2090 M-F 8-4.

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Need **CASHIER & STOCKER** for weekends & evening shifts, 3:00-11:00pm. Must be TBAC Certified. Apply at Fast Stop, 1500 E. 4th St.

### Help Wanted

**NEED CDL Driver- Home** Nightly, Local Run, Part-time or Full-time and Shop hand with preferred constructional experience, Call (432)267-4700.

**OFFERING** a rare opportunity for a Licensed Nursing Facility Administrator for Sterling City Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. This Community offers a unique family oriented facility. For consideration, please call (903)571-3872 You may Fax resume to (903)657-8960.

**PARKPLACE RETIREMENT** Living is looking to fill the full time position of Housekeeper. Duties include heavy cleaning of resident apartments, common areas, and laundry. A positive attitude is a must. Please apply in person at 501 W. 17th Street.

### PIZZA INN

**NOW HIRING DELIVERY DRIVERS. MUST HAVE CLEAN DRIVING RECORD AND INSURANCE. MUST BE ABLE TO PASS DRUG TEST. MAKE UP TO \$12.00 PER HOUR. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG.**

**RUSTY'S OILFIELD** Service In Stanton has immediate openings for CDL Driver, roustabout pushers and helpers. Must have valid drivers license. Apply in person at 3327 W I20 in Stanton. 432-756-2821.



**SCHOOL BUS** Drivers needed. Must have CDL with Passenger and School Bus Endorsements. Competitive pay. Fill out application online at bsisd.esc18.net For further info please call (432)264-4108.

**SECURITY OFFICERS** Needed for Hospital Federal Inmate Protection detail. All positions are Part-time and PRN.

**Physical Requirements:** Must be in general good health and vision must be correctable to 20/30 (SNELLEN) in one eye. The ability to distinguish basic colors is required. Emotional and mental stability is required.

**Other Requirements:** Must be able to pass State and Federal Backgrounds and Credit Checks.

**Experience Requirements:** One year (2040) hours of experience in the armed forces or coast guard which involved significant performance of guard duty of detainees or prisoners; or the equivalent experience in a federal, state, or local government, or private organization which involved protecting/police duties, or college level training in courses such as corrections or police science may be substituted for experience at the ratio of two hours of instructions for one hour of experience. Apply at Workforce Center (in the Post Office), KEYWORD: PARAGON. EOE.

**SEEKING ACCOUNTING** Clerk- 1yr. accounting experience or equivalent education required. QuickBooks experience a plus. M-F 8-5. Pay DOE. Health, vision, and dental ins. 100% paid! EOE. Apply in person at 9400 S. Service Rd, Coahoma, TX, or call 432-394-4604.

### Help Wanted

**THE WOOD Group** is hiring Direct Care Staff for residential facility. Weekend (8am to 8pm) and PRN shifts available. To apply visit our website at www.thewoodgroup.us and fax application to 432-263-4334, or for questions call 432-263-2559.

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Locate Technicians Needed  
No Experience Required  
Must Have  
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1-877-270-8742  
Job Code: QANRC  
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### Lost and Found

**FOUND: WALMART** Money card. Call (432)935-8551 to claim.

### Miscellaneous

**ANNUAL YELLOW** box shoe sale-Merle Norman, Big Spring Mall. Sale ends 8-31-11.

**DIRECTV SUMMER Special!** 1Year FREE Showtime! 3 mos FREE HBO/Starz/Cinemax! NFL SUNDAY TICKET Free - Choice UltimatePremier - Pkgs from \$29.99/mo. Call by 8/15! 1-800-906-9771.

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**1 BR** and computer room, 1 bath Cottage House. Fenced, storage, stove, refrigerator, Cool central air, patio. Non-smoking/ pets. \$450 Lease. Credit Qualify. McDonald Realty 432-270-0707.

**FOR RENT** large 1 bedroom, 1503 Scurry-B. All bills paid. \$575. month, \$500. deposit. Call (432)212-3646.

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**1908 MORRISON.** Nice Newly Remodeled- 3 bdrm, 2 bath, carport. \$900. Month, \$600. deposit. No HUD, No pets non-smokers preferred. References required. Call (432)270-3849.

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**BUILDING FOR rent @ 1307** Gregg Street (former Dibrell's Gunshop). \$450 per month and 1 year lease. Contact Lucy @ 432-263-5000.

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- Benjamin Franklin, letter to Collinson, 1753

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**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

Home improvements happen almost magically as Mars in Cancer forms a harmonious angle to Neptune in Pisces indicating a merging of intention and deed. Whether the development you wish for is physical or emotional, all you have to do is think it over, and suddenly there is progress if not complete resolution on the matter.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You'll make big plans because you realize that without them you'll be reacting to life instead of creating it. Even though some of what happens is not up to you, your intention will affect destiny.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Realizing that people want what they cannot have, you'll use reverse psychology. You'll make sure that what you offer has an aura of exclusivity



**HOLIDAY MATHIS**

about it. You'll make it seem nearly impossible to attain.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You can take care of yourself, and you don't need a loved one to exercise authority over you. You'll resist all forms of control. You'll remind everyone where your personal boundaries lie.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). You may feel something you want slipping away from you. Let it go for now. Bargaining won't work in this case. Work on your own feelings of worthiness instead. Your confidence will be a magnet for the best things in life.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). When misunderstood, it's human nature to say the same thing again, only louder. You'll wisely go another direction. You'll change your language, speaking sweetly and softly to get what you want.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You desire to be

successful at an endeavor that just happens to be highly competitive. You have several things going for you, including the fact that you enjoy the work so much that you'll spend many tireless hours on it.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Things start out well, but by the end of the day could get rough. Hungry, tired people will not be on their best behavior, but you will help matters by providing sustenance and a comfortable place to relax.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). A perfectly lovely conversation will get hijacked by someone who desperately needs to be noticed. This person will talk endlessly about himself unless you do something to spread the attention more equitably.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Though imitation is a sincere form of flattery, avoid it this week. It's better to flatter with your words and keep looking for the muse that is completely, utterly your own.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Like it or not, you are a point of contact for your friends, neighbors and colleagues. They will call you for information and support. They will lean on you because they see you as a pillar of strength.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll think about an opportunity you missed years ago. Would life have been different had you made another choice? Rest assured, you made the right choice then. The future brings even better opportunities.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Timing is everything. You have all of the right ingredients for a situation that hasn't happened yet. It's your turn to faithfully wait. Stay strong and positive.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (August 3). Others are inspired and enthralled by you, magnetized by your aura of glamour. This month, you will benefit from a political change. New people come into power, and you find

a comfortable niche. September shows financial growth. You'll be celebrating your love in October. December is a personal high point. Cancer and Pisces people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 26, 33, 25 and 20.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Happy birthday to legendary New York crooner Tony Bennett. He has sold more than 50 million records and has won 15 Grammys. He is also an accomplished visual artist who has shown his paintings in prestigious gallery shows. And this amazing Leo entertainer is still performing to packed houses at age 85. His Leo sun, Mercury and Neptune suggest that the spotlight is like a fountain of youth to him!

*If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com) and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).*  
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**Annie's Mailbox**

**Dear Annie:** I married my wife, "Debbie," more than a decade ago. I genuinely believe we were brought together by divine providence.

The only thing that troubles me is our kids — Debbie's children from her first marriage. They didn't get off to a great start — the biological father is a deadbeat dad, philanderer, alcoholic and a repeat-offender criminal.

I wish I had been there from the start, but that's the way it goes. I've had a lot of catching up to do.

Debbie's son is terrific — smart, friendly, talented and putting himself through college. The daughter, however, is a walking soap opera. She's had two kids (one at age 16), several abortions, multiple divorces and broken relationships, and she's usually strung out on pills and pot. Her current boyfriend is a married man.

The oldest granddaughter lives with her father, who married someone else and has built a solid family. The younger granddaughter

(age 11) lives with her mother. The kid does all the cooking, housekeeping and grocery shopping. My stepdaughter even tried to get the girl to fake a urine sample for a drug test.

My wife and I are at the end of our rope. We cannot endure anymore of this woman's drama.

We know we can't fix her, so right now, all we want to do is rescue our granddaughter before her life is ruined.

I feel like I'm aiming a squirt gun at a forest fire. How can I help my family? — *Stepfather of a Train Wreck*

**Dear Stepfather:** Is the father of this child capable of caring for her? If so, you should encourage him to ask for custody. Barring that, you and your wife ought to consider petitioning for guardianship of your grand-daughter. The baest way to "rescue" this child is to get her out of her mother's home and into a stable, loving environment. Please make every effort to do so.



**KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR**

**Dear Annie:** My husband and I have been together for 25 years, and the entire marriage has consisted of his continuous lies about money, gambling and drinking. The latest adventure is his obsession with Internet porn and singles websites.

We attended counseling individually and as a couple. He knew these things were ruining our marriage and vowed over and over to change. Instead, he played me. He would change just long enough for me to forgive him. But I have stopped playing his game. We

share a house, and that's about it.

Years ago, girly magazines were just pictures. Today, there is streaming video of real people who call you by name and can even contact you.

After I read the conversations my husband had with other women, any intimacy went out the window.

He wonders now why I had a hard time showing him affection. Guys need to stop and think with their hearts and not their computers, and realize the permanent damage these things can do to a marriage. — *Over and Out*

**Dear Over:** We agree that Internet porn is a huge problem these days, creating intimacy and trust issues in relationships. Your husband also has other problems and seems unwilling to work on them. So we have to ask — why are you still with him? Please give some serious thought to your alternatives. They might be more attainable than you think.

**Dear Annie:** This is for "At the End of my Tether in South Dakota," who is frustrated with her daughter's filthy room.

The easiest way to deal with this is to tell the daughter that her room is her own business, but she may not have anything in there that can bring vermin into the house. This means no food in her room, and the trash needs to be emptied regularly. Mom should keep the door closed and let the daughter be a slob, but draw a line where it affects the sanitation of the house. It is not about health and safety. — *Ventura, Calif.*

*Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. 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](http://www.creators.com).*  
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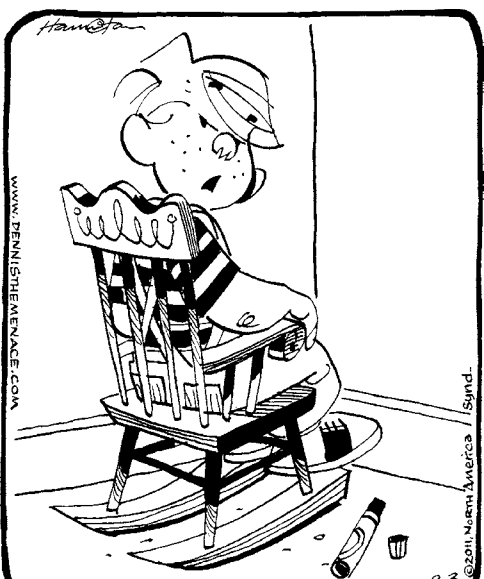
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	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWTT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM :30	News ABC	Alma Notic.	Lopez News	News	Noticias Noticiero	News	King	Swallow House	News Business	70s Show	Dirty Jobs: Bite		Deadliest Warrior	Bones	Live	Phineas Good Luck Charlie	Baseball: Big League, Final: Teams TBA.	SportsCenter
6:PM :30	Jeopardy!	Quando Me	Two Men	News	Caso Cer-rado	News	Seinfeld	Dr. Diana Baruch	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld	Deadly Waters		Deadliest Warrior	The Mentalist			MLB Baseball: Teams TBA.	
7:PM :30	Middle Family	Teresa (SS)	So You Think You Can Dance	Big Brother	Mi Corazón Insiste	Minute to Win It	Browns	Upd Bill Cloud	Nature (DVS)	Top Model	Into the Shark Bite	Movie: The Untouchables, Robert De Niro	Deadliest Warrior	The Mentalist	Movie: Love & Basketball, Alfre Woodard	Good Shake it Soccer	SportsCtr	
8:PM :30	Family Happy	Fuerza-Des-tino		Criminal Minds	Decisiones Extr	America's/ Talent	Payne	Light of the Southwest	NOVA (DVS)	Top Model	How Sharks Hunt		Deadliest Warrior	Franklin & Bash		Movie: The Suite Life Movie		
9:PM :30	Primetime Nightline	Rosa de Guadalupe	Simpsons How I Met	CSI: Crime Scene	La Casa de al Lado	Love in the Wild	Payne		Killer Stress	Payne	One Man Army		Deadliest Warrior	Bones	Fa. Affair	Good	MLS Soccer: Galaxy at Timbers	Baseball Tonight
10:PM :30	News Nightline	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Conan	Bill Cloud Sala	Charlie Rose	Roseanne	How Sharks Hunt	(.45) Movie: Carlito's Way, Penelope Ann Miller	Deadliest Warrior	Franklin & Bash	The Mo'Nique	Phineas		SportsCenter
11:PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Para Volver a Amar	Law & Order: SVU	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Lopez Tonight	McGee	World	South Pk	One Man Army		Ways Die	Leverage	Wendy Williams	Wizards	NASCAR	Baseball
12:AM :30	Extra	Destilando Amor	Paid Raymond	Insider	Pagado	News	Conan	Dr. Denis Upd	T. Smiley (Off Air)	South Pk	Cops		Ways Die	Hawthorne	Movie: Belly, Taral Hicks	Wizards	NFL	NFL Live
1:AM :30	Paid	Mujer	TMZ	Ent	Pagado	Poker After Dark	Lopez Tonight	Light of the Southwest		Surviving Sharks	Breaking Bad		MAN	Knockout Blue	Franklin & Bash	Hannah Deck	NFL Yrbk.	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



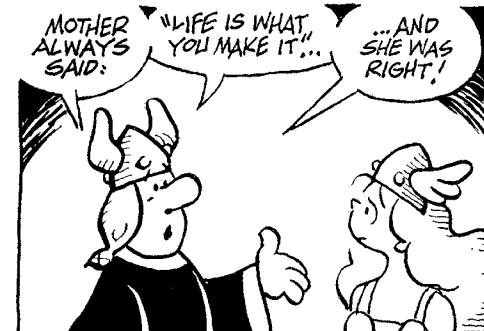
"AT LEAST NOW I KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A WASHABLE MARKER AND A PERMANENT ONE."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

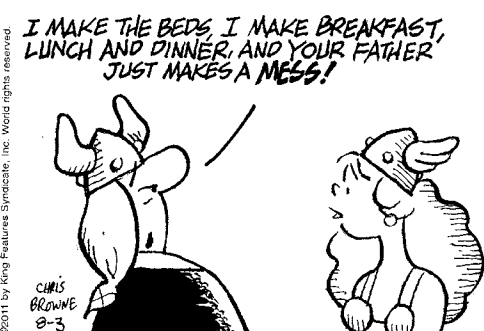


"A big fish swallowed a little fish."

HAGAR



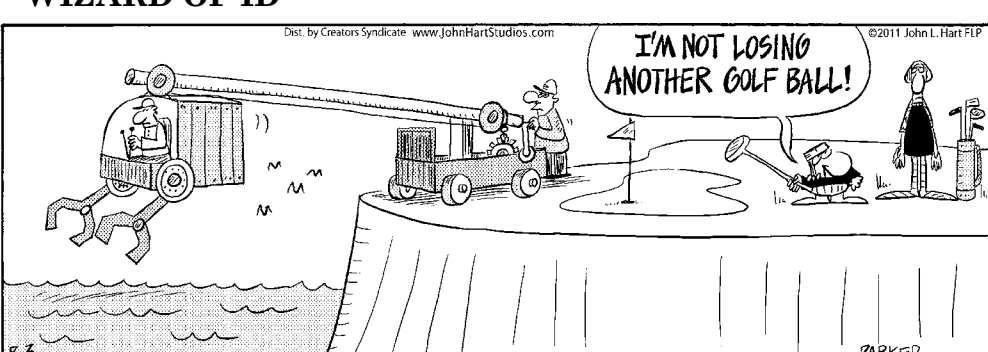
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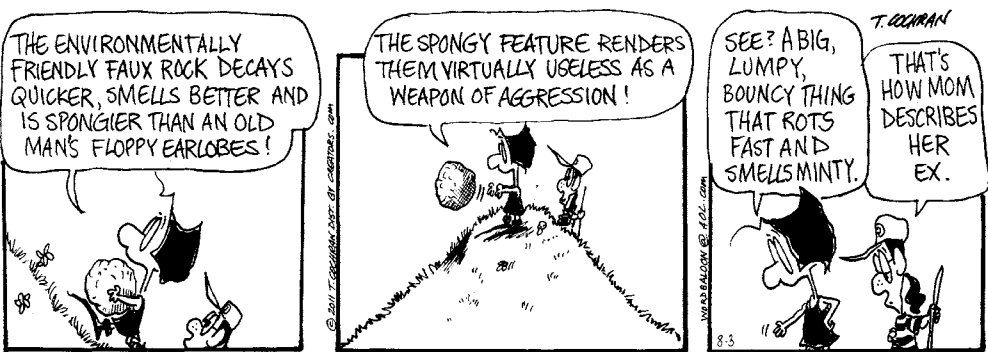
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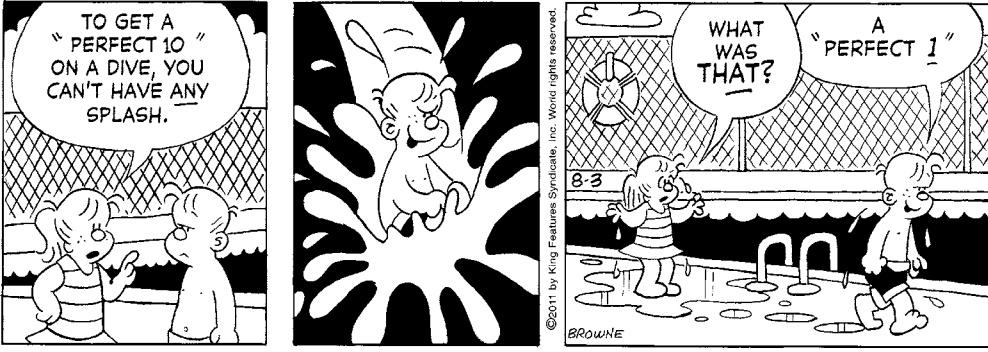
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THE OTHER COAST



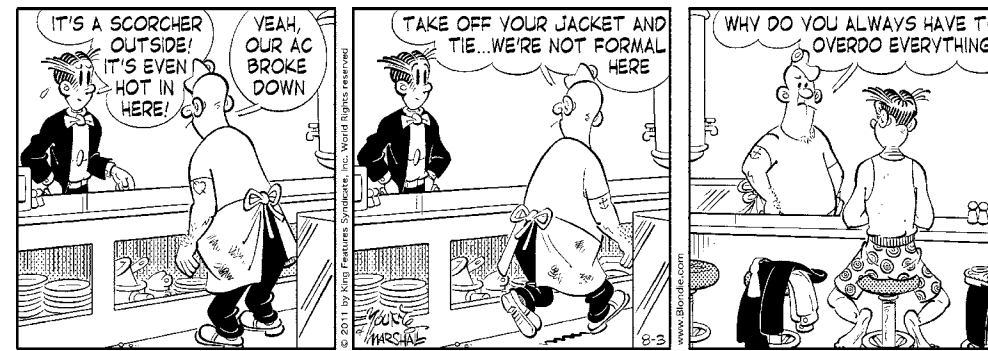
SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 3, the 215th day of 2011. There are 150 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 3, 1936, Jesse Owens won the first of his four gold medals at the Berlin Olympics as he took the 100-meter sprint.

On this date:

In 1492, Christopher Columbus set sail from Palos, Spain, on a voyage that took him to the present-day Americas.

In 1807, former Vice President Aaron Burr went on trial before a federal court in Richmond, Va., charged with treason. (He was acquitted less than a month later.)

In 1811, Elisha Otis, founder of the elevator company that still bears his name, was born in Halifax, Vt.

In 1914, Germany declared war on France at the onset of World War I.

In 1921, baseball commis-

Today's Birthdays: Author P.D. James is 91. Broadway composer Richard Adler is 90. Singer Gordon Stoker (The Jordanares) is 87. Football Hall-of-Fame coach Marv Levy is 86. Singer Tony Bennett is 85. Actor Martin Sheen is 71. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Lance Alworth is 71. Lifestyle guru Martha Stewart is 70. Singer Beverly Lee (The Shirelles) is 70. Rock musician B.B. Dickerson is 62. Movie director John Landis is 61. Actress JoMarie Payton is 61. Actor Jay North ("Dennis the Menace") is 60. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Marcel Dionne is 60. Country musician Randy Scruggs is 58. Actor Philip Casnoff is 57. Actor John C. McGinley is 52.

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Answer to previous puzzle

COAL	PLUS	CRATE
AHME	LAST	RADON
LIMA	AIDE	EMMYS
FOOD	PYRAMID	TOU
SUE	VIRTUE	
PBS	GRAFFITI	
ALIVE	SLOE	GMEN
POLITICAL	CALS	SPHERE
ABLE	CORD	ATTIC
	WRITES	IN
SO	ISSEE	RIO
URN	TRAFFIC	CONNIE
IDAHO	BIAS	ERIC
TENOR	ELSE	ASNO
ERECT	LETS	NOEL

Newsday Crossword I'VE GOT YOUR BACK by Norma Steinberg Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 Eclipse adjective
- 6 Hot tubs
- 10 Weeps loudly
- 14 First-class, informally
- 15 Singing syllables
- 16 Swearing-in
- 17 Frat letter
- 18 \_\_\_ now (so far)
- 19 10 C-notes
- 20 Minimal uncertainty
- 23 Veto
- 24 Very, in Versailles
- 25 Chew the fat
- 28 Online auctioneer
- 31 Forces
- 35 Poetic works
- 37 Spoken
- 39 News sources
- 40 Child's game
- 43 Synthetic fiber
- 44 Den furniture
- 45 One on a throne
- 46 Harvested
- 48 Beetle Bailey dog
- 50 Language suffix
- 51 Ferret's feet
- 53 Elevs.
- 55 Be behind, with 30 minutes of football left
- 62 Sported
- 63 Hard to find
- 64 Silas Marner author
- 66 Hertz competitor
- 67 Canine pest
- 68 Series of skits
- 69 Part of a bike
- 70 Marigold's origin
- 71 Detect with a sniff
- DOWN
- 1 '50s music albums: Abbr.
- 2 Exodus novelist
- 3 Close by, poetically
- 4 Capital of Jordan
- 5 Music-tour worker
- 6 Sandwich side dish
- 7 El \_\_, TX
- 8 Up in the sky
- 9 Savanna exploration
- 10 In a way
- 11 Hawaiian island
- 12 Type of Yellow Pages, for short
- 13 Seal up
- 21 Sharp river bend
- 22 Silence of the Lambs director
- 25 Really like
- 26 Really like
- 27 Beautiful, in Bologna
- 29 Part of BA
- 30 AOL competitor
- 32 Murphy once of SNL
- 33 Mortgages, for example
- 34 Army nickname
- 36 Most messy
- 38 Went away
- 41 Shaquille of basketball
- 42 Woodworking machine
- 47 Towers over
- 49 Miscellaneous category
- 52 Overused
- 54 Western capital
- 55 Yuletide verse beginning
- 56 Wander
- 57 Soprano solo
- 58 Grove
- 59 Lettuce purchase
- 60 In person
- 61 Outside the baselines
- 65 Business card abbr.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
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