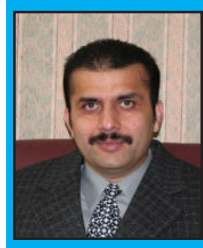




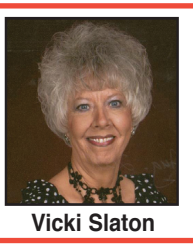
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VOLUME 105, NUMBER 210

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Time to register to vote in November election

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

The clock leading up to the Nov. 2 election is ticking away and area voters who aren't registered to vote or are unsure of their status have a little less than two months to prepare.

The deadline to register to vote in the Nov. 2 election is Oct. 4, according to Howard County Election Administrator Saundra Bloom.

"The registration deadline for any election is 30 days prior to the



Bloom

election day," said Bloom. "If they haven't received their card or aren't sure if they're registered, all they have to do is come by the office. They can fill out the voter registration application and their card should be mailed to them in time for the November election.

"For those that can't get out, they can call us and we'll mail them the form.

They can fill it out and just mail it back to us. It's a very easy process."

Bloom said the deadline for area voters to return applications for mail-in ballots is Oct. 26, with her office set to begin accepting the requests Sept. 3, but warned against procrastinating.

"I would encourage everyone to get their applications in as soon as possible," said Bloom. "If you're 65 years old or older, disabled, confined to jail or you know you will be out of the county for the election, you can

apply for a ballot by mail. They can write us a letter or send us a request by fax or e-mail.

"The deadline to receive an application for a ballot by mail is Oct. 26. We'll be doing the mail-in ballots similar to the way we did them last year. Anyone who wants to vote by mail needs to call in and request their ballot, or send a written request to our office."

See **VOTE**, Page 3

Tax rate

Council set to call for Aug. 24 public hearing

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council is expected to call for public hearing for later this month to discuss the proposed 2010-2011 ad valorem tax rate during the panel's Tuesday evening meeting, moving forward with the proposed fiscal plan for the coming year.

In an informal poll of its members, the council gave the fiscal plan a thumbs up during recent budget work sessions. The budget is based on a tax rate of 99.95 cents per \$100 valuation, down 1.34743 cents from the current tax rate of \$1.01. The fiscal plan is expected to serve the city's needs for the coming year, but on a very tight margin, according to City Manager Gary Fuqua.

"I feel very good about it right now. As I mentioned to the council, I couldn't have done it without the staff," Fuqua said. "We made some substantial cuts. We set a goal

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3

ROCKING THE DESERT



HERALD photo/Samantha Whitehead

Motivational speaker Matt Pitt (left) and rapper Canton Jones entertain the crowd gathered for the Rock the Desert concert held during the weekend in Midland.

Agency focusing on caregivers

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

Are you a caregiver?

That's the question officials with the Area Agency on Aging of the Permian Basin want Big Spring and Howard County residents to ask themselves, as work to provide support groups and other services to unpaid, uncompensated caregivers continues.

"The groups focus on caregivers and the challenges they face every day," said Susan Frederickson, caregiver program specialist for the Area Agency on Aging of the Permian Basin. "Isolation, depression and financial difficulties are just a few of the problems they face on both short and long term scales. I have a lot of information on



Frederickson

caregiving and the result of long term caregiving — 67 percent of caregivers pre-decease their loved one — and the huge benefit our support groups have been to these families. I have been a caregiver myself, so I understand the challenges they are facing."

According to Frederickson, the Area Agency on Aging of the Permian Basin provides a long list of resources to people 60-plus years of age and their caregivers at no cost to them, including medical alert buttons, assistance with prescription cost, minor home repairs and bathroom upgrades, utility assistance, medical power of attorney and caregiver support groups.

"Those are just a few of the services we offer," Frederick said. "However, so many people in smaller communities aren't aware of our programs. Our support groups in communities like Big Spring and Howard County usually draw participants from rural areas that

wouldn't otherwise have access to this service or information.

"Anyone caring for a person 60 years of age or older is invited to join one of our groups. By working together, participants can help each other cope with effects of disease and aging. Group members openly discuss their feelings, experiences and fears in a non-judgmental and supportive atmosphere. Practical issues such as health care assistance, dealing with behaviors, respite and much more are discussed."

Frederickson said the need for caregivers is going to increase dramatically in the coming years, as the more and more of the nation's baby boomers turn 60 years of age and older.

"This year 10 million caregivers will provide 94 billion hours of physically demanding and emotionally draining uncompensated care. And that is only

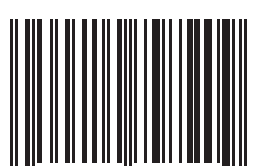
See **SUPPORT**, Page 3

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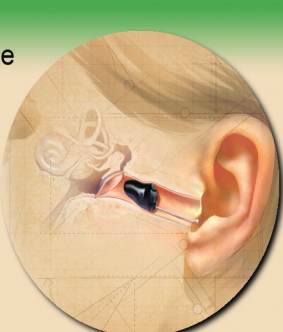


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Obituaries

Martha 'Marty' Lloyd

Martha "Marty" Lloyd, of Midland passed away Thursday, Aug. 5, 2010. She was born Aug. 31, 1940, to Howard and Nola Wood in Albuquerque, N.M. She later married Terry Lloyd on Dec. 1, 1967, in Seminole. Prior to her retirement, she had worked as registered nurse at Medical Center Hospital in Odessa and at Midland Memorial Hospital. She enjoyed working in specialized units such as ICU/CCU and telemetry. Marty was an avid reader.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Howard and Nola Wood; sister, Billie Jean Kloss; and grandson, Jeremy Lloyd Robertson.

Marty is survived by her husband, Terry Lloyd of Midland; daughter, Lynn Robertson and husband, Roddy, of Big Spring; son, Curtis Lloyd and wife, Melissa, of Big Spring; brother, Leland Keith Wood of San Marcos; sister, Betty Meisner of Tucson, Ariz.; and four grandchildren, Taylor Lee Robertson, Dillon Curtis Lloyd, Megan Page Lloyd and Rodney Roy Robertson Jr.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Aug. 9, 2010, at the Ellis Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Walter McCall and the Rev. Lynn Robertson officiating. Interment followed at Resthaven Memorial Park.

Arrangements are under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home in Midland. Condolences may be offered at www.ellisfunerals.com.

Paid obituary

Manuel Ochotorena 'Blue' Sosa Jr.

Manuel Ochotorena "Blue" Sosa Jr. died Sunday, Aug. 8, 2010, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 9 a.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. today:

- ALBERTO RIVAS, 51, of 610 N.W. Eighth St., was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.
- JEREMY JOE RENTERIA, 24, of 105 W. 87 St. B, was arrested Saturday on a warrant for driving while license invalid.
- MONA ALICIA SALDANA, 25, of 1202 Sycamore, was arrested Saturday on warrants for defective head lamp, failure to appear (two counts) and failure to display driver's license.
- REUBEN FLORES, 48, of El Paso, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.
- ALBERTO RIVAS, 51, of 610 N.W. Eighth St., was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.
- MARY ANN BERNAL, 43, of 714 Lorilla, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.
- DEBORAH LYNN ROSE, 57, of 809 Lorilla, was arrested Saturday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- RODOLFO GONZALES JR., 48, of 1601 S. Johnson, was arrested Saturday on a charge of driving while intoxicated – third or more offense.
- JOSEPH J. LAROCQUE, 32, of 1605 Bluebird, was arrested Sunday on a warrant for failure to obtain Texas driver's license.
- ANTHONY LEE WRIGHT, 50, of Odessa, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- KARAN ELAINE GILBERT, 52, of 114 Colorado, was arrested Sunday on two warrants from another agency.
- FIDENCIO DELEON, 40, of 801 Lorilla, was arrested Sunday on charges of assault – family violence and public intoxication.
- ROBERT RUBEN SANCHEZ, 45, of 1023 Stadium, was arrested Sunday on warrants for disorderly conduct – language and failure to appear.
- ROBYNA DEAN ANDERSON, 32, of 300 W. Fourth St., was arrested Sunday on a charge of abandoning/endangering a child – criminal negligence
- ASSAULT was reported:
In the 1400 block of Lancaster.

- In the 500 block of N. Lamesa.
- In the 1000 block of S. Main.
- In the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Blvd.
- THEFT was reported in the 800 block of W. Interstate Highway 20.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported:
In the 1600 block of Canary.
In the 2700 block of Ann Drive.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 69 inmates at the time of this report.

- FRANK A. MONTEMAYOR, 46, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of assault – family violence.
- ERIC I. URANGA, 24, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on charges of terroristic threat and contempt of court.
- JOHNNY RAY ROBINSON, 54, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while license invalid.
- TOMMY ANDREW GONZALES, 38, was arrested Friday by DPS on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- DAVID FIERRO, 37, was arrested Friday by DPS on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- ALLEN LEE SMITH, 40, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension and a warrant for failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- KASSAUNDRA DYHAN MUNOZ, 20, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on warrants for failure to control speed and no driver's license.
- NATIVIDAD TREVINO ROBLES, 34, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on warrants for driving while license invalid (two counts).

- TREVOR LEE SMITH, 19, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on warrants for possession of drug paraphernalia and no driver's license (two counts).
- JOSE ANGEL URIAS, 50, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of theft by check.

- JEFFERY DAVID SELLS, 30, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of theft by check.
- VITTA FRANCO, 30, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of no driver's license.

- MARISSA TEICHMAN, 29, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of theft of service.
- CINDY ANNETTE HUBBARD, 39, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated – second offense.

- JEREMY JOE RENTERIA, 24, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- PAUL MORENO JR., 28, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of public intoxication.

- ALBERT RIVAS, 51, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- MONA SALDANA, 25, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of issuance of a bad check, defective head lamps, violation of promise to appear, failure to display driver's license and failure to appear.
- REUBEN MARTINEZ FLORES, 48, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- DEBORAH LYNN ROSE, 57, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- MARY ANN BERNAL, 43, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- ALBERT RIVAS, 51, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- TOM GUZMAN, 51, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated – third or more offense.
- JOHN EUGENE KELLEY, 44, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated – second offense.

- JOSEPH LAROCQUE, 32, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on charges of failure to obtain Texas driver's license within 30 days (two counts) and failure to appear.

- See **SHERIFF**, Page 3

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Tue 8/10	Wed 8/11	Thu 8/12	Fri 8/13	Sat 8/14
 99/72 Abundant sunshine. High 99F. Winds SSE at 10 to 15 mph.	 99/73 A few clouds. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the low 70s.	 99/73 Sunny. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the low 70s.	 97/73 Plenty of sun. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the low 70s.	 98/74 Mainly sunny. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the mid 70s.
Sunrise: 7:07 AM Sunset: 8:35 PM	Sunrise: 7:08 AM Sunset: 8:34 PM	Sunrise: 7:08 AM Sunset: 8:33 PM	Sunrise: 7:09 AM Sunset: 8:32 PM	Sunrise: 7:10 AM Sunset: 8:31 PM

Texas At A Glance



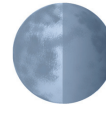
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	100	77	sunny	Kingsville	98	76	pt sunny
Amarillo	93	69	mst sunny	Livingston	99	75	t-storm
Austin	98	76	mst sunny	Longview	98	78	mst sunny
Beaumont	98	76	t-storm	Lubbock	95	71	mst sunny
Brownsville	96	78	pt sunny	Lufkin	100	77	t-storm
Brownwood	103	76	sunny	Midland	100	76	sunny
Corpus Christi	95	78	pt sunny	Raymondville	97	77	pt sunny
Corsicana	101	77	sunny	Rosenberg	98	77	pt sunny
Dallas	103	80	sunny	San Antonio	101	79	pt sunny
Del Rio	100	78	mst sunny	San Marcos	99	77	pt sunny
El Paso	100	76	t-storm	Sulphur Springs	102	79	mst sunny
Fort Stockton	98	73	sunny	Sweetwater	100	75	sunny
Gainesville	101	76	sunny	Tyler	99	77	mst sunny
Greenville	101	76	mst sunny	Weatherford	102	77	sunny
Houston	99	77	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	102	76	sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	95	73	mst sunny	Minneapolis	87	74	t-storm
Boston	89	67	t-storm	New York	92	77	t-storm
Chicago	86	72	t-storm	Phoenix	102	82	mst sunny
Dallas	103	80	sunny	San Francisco	57	50	pt sunny
Denver	93	62	mst sunny	Seattle	71	55	pt sunny
Houston	99	77	pt sunny	St. Louis	100	80	t-storm
Los Angeles	75	57	pt sunny	Washington, DC	98	79	pt sunny
Miami	88	79	t-storm				

Moon Phases

			
Last Aug 3	New Aug 10	First Aug 16	Full Aug 24

UV Index

Tue 8/10	Wed 8/11	Thu 8/12	Fri 8/13	Sat 8/14
11	11	11	11	11
Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme

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

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Lottery

None of the tickets sold for the Powerball game Saturday night matched all six numbers drawn, which were:
4-22-26-31-52
Powerball: 30
Power Play: 5
Players matching all five numbers and the Powerball would have won or shared the \$25.5 million jackpot. The prize goes to an estimated \$38 million for Wednesday.

The winning numbers drawn in the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:
19-20-28-33-40-47
Estimated jackpot: \$5 million
Next Lotto Texas game: Wednesday night.

The winning Cash Five num-

bers drawn Saturday by the Texas Lottery:
15-22-24-27-28

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Saturday night, in order:
7-8-9-5. Sum It Up: 29.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night, in order:
7-2-8. Sum It Up: 17.

The winning numbers in Saturday afternoon's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Daily 4 Day" game were:
2-6-9-9. Sum It Up: 26.

The winning numbers in Saturday afternoon's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Pick 3 Day" game were:
1-2-6. Sum It Up: 9.

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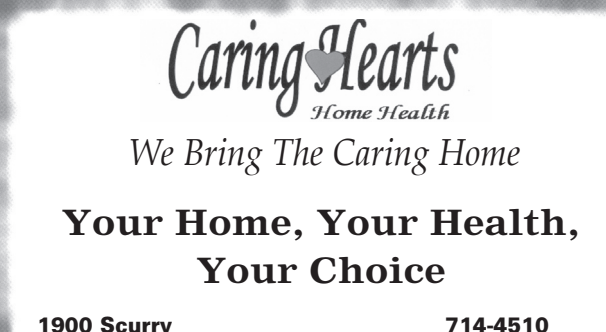
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SHERIFF

Continued from Page 2

• RODOLFO GONZALES JR., 48, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on charges of no driver's license and driving while intoxicated – third or more offense.

• ANTHONY LEE WRIGHT, 50, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public

intoxication.

• KARAN ELEAIN GILBERT, 52, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on charges of speeding and violation of a promise to appear.

• FIDENCIO DELEON, 40, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on charges of public intoxication and assault – family violence.

• ROBERT RUBIN SANCHEZ, 46, was transferred to the county jail

Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of disorderly conduct – language.

• MICHAEL RENE DASCALDAS, 27, was arrested Sunday by DPS on charges of possession of a controlled substance, possession of a dangerous drug and possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

• ROBYNA JO ANDERSON, 32, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of abandoning a child – criminal negligence.

• MICHAEL MOUDY, 52, was trans-

ferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of assault causing bodily injury.

Fire/EMS

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of Wallace. One person was transferred to SMMC.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

from the very beginning to get our tax rate below \$1 and we want to start looking at bringing that down for our taxpayers. However, we also wanted to be able to give our employees raises and that really presented a challenge.

“The council told us they supported the raises, but we needed to find a place to get the money from. So we made some substantial cuts. We can still provide the same service, but we'll have to watch our budgets very closely. There may be a little luck involved,

too. But we feel very good about it right now.”

Members of the council expressed gratitude toward the city staff for finding a way to bring the tax rate below the \$1 mark, a goal Mayor Tommy Duncan said he pushed to meet from the very beginning of the budgetary process.

Despite the decrease in the tax rate, the 2010-2011 budget remains ambitious, city officials said.

The proposed budget would also provide for a sludge removal belt press and related equipment for the city's water treatment facility, a project estimated to cost approximately \$1.1 million. City officials said

the addition will hopefully help the city avoid problems with the municipal water's turbidity similar to those experienced earlier in 2010.

The \$1.1 million will come from the city's capital revolving fund, according to City Finance Director Peggy Walker.

Also part of the 2010-2011 budget is \$500,000 earmarked for renovations at the municipal auditorium to bring the facility into ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance. According to Fuqua, the money will come from the city's Conventions and Visitors Bureau's motel tax fund.

The narcotics task force

developed by the Big Spring Police Department during the 2007-2008 budget session will also see an increase in funding, as the 7.321 cents from the tax rate currently devoted to the program gets bumped up to 9.15 cents.

The proposed budget also provides \$382,000 for a landfill compacting tractor. The purchase includes a \$115,000 buyback option after five years, according to Fuqua, and will help extend the life of the existing landfill facility for an additional two years.

The fiscal plan includes \$1.6 million currently earmarked for renovations to the Troy Hogue Law Enforcement Center, according to Fuqua,

who said city officials are looking at a number of options to revamp its police station, including use of the old elementary school facility near the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

The public hearing for the proposed ad valorem tax rate is expected to be set for Aug. 24 at 5:30 p.m., according to city officials.

Tuesday's meeting is expected to get under way at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, located at 307 E. Fourth Street.

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

SUPPORT

Continued from Page 1

the beginning,” she said. “Between 1900 and 2030, those over 65 have grown and will grow from 3.1 million to 71.5 million, making up 19.6 percent of our population. Of the number of old (75-85) and the oldest (over 85) people will more than double between 2000 and 2050, while the latter will more than quadruple to 18 million. Only one in 20 of those over 85 is fully mobile, half have some degree of dementia of which 70 percent is Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimer's is the nation's sixth leading cause of death and requires constant care.

“The fact that so many are willing to keep their loved one at home is preventing an overload of the healthcare system. However, will that always be the case? Alzheimer's is already the nation's third most expensive disease, costing just the Federal government more than \$100 billion each year. During the next 40 years, costs related to Alzheimer's disease to Medicare and Medicaid are projected to total \$20 trillion. To add to the problem, by 2020 approximately 1.2 million people 65 or older will have no living children, siblings or spouse to provide unpaid care, so ‘the system’ will be responsible.”

And while medicine and caregiving

techniques have changed immensely over the past several decades, Frederickson said the challenges facing these men and women — many of them being family members and spouses — has changed little.

“Actually, caregivers face the same challenges they always have: isolation, depression, loneliness, 24-7 stress and their own declining health,” she said. “Caregivers, especially those caring for persons with dementia, must care or arrange care for their loved ones around the clock. They lose themselves in the process, with no social interaction and no time to care for themselves. They suffer emotionally, physically and

spiritually while caring for others. They develop tunnel vision, only being able to understand that very narrow part — caregiving — of their existence and sometimes are unable to make sound decisions about caring for themselves.

“Caregivers tend to believe, falsely, that they are the only one who can properly care for their loved one and the offers of people trying to help are turned away. Asking for or accepting help, no matter how minor, is very difficult thing for independent West Texans to do.”

One of the biggest challenges in providing service to local caregivers is simply getting these men and

women to identify themselves, regardless of whether they are providing professional care or simply looking after a loved one.

“One challenge is getting people to self identify themselves as a caregiver. Once they come to terms with that, they begin to see more services and assistance available to them,” she said. “A caregiver can be anyone who provides assistance with medication, runs errands, cleans house, provides transportation, buys groceries or assists with nutrition.”

For more information on support for local caregivers, contact Frederickson at (432) 563-1061 or e-mail her at

sfrederickson@aaapb.com. More information is also available at www.aaapb.com

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Pete Ortega, 58, died Friday. Funeral services were at 3 p.m. today at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Manuel Ochotorena "Blue" Sosa, Jr., died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

VOTE

Continued from Page 1

According to Bloom, requests for a mail out ballot must include the voter's name, address of residence inside Howard County, the reason for their request and the address the ballot should be mailed to.

If the reason for requesting a mail out ballot is the voter will be out of the county during the election, Bloom said the ballot must be mailed to an address outside Howard County, as well as mailed back from outside the county.

“We're hoping this will help our college students, military and voters temporarily working out of the county,” said Bloom.

Howard County voters will have several local races to weigh in on, including the battle for the Precinct 2 seat on the county commissioners court. Republican nominee Donnie Baker will face off against Democratic nominee Jim Sinclair. Incumbent Jerry Kilgore lost the contest for the Republican party's nod in March.

The Precinct 4 seat on the commissioners court will also be up for grabs, as incumbent Democrat Gary Simer will square off against GOP candidate John Cline. Cline won the Republican nomination in March by defeating Roy Don Beauchamp,

while Simer went unopposed in the primaries.

In the race for Justice of the Peace Precinct 1, Place 2 incumbent candidate Kathryn Wiseman will represent the Republican party, while Democratic nominee Ricky Hughes will try to unseat her. Hughes was unopposed in the March party primaries.

The District 19 seat on the U.S. House of Representatives will also be up for grabs in November, as Republican incumbent Randy Neugebauer faces off against Democrat Andy Wilson and Libertarian Richard “Chip” Peterson.

The State Representative, District 85 seat will also be decided in November, as incumbent Democrat Joe Heflin faces off against Republican

nominee Jim Landtroop and Libertarian Robyn L. Burwell.

Early voting in the election will begin Oct. 18 and end Oct. 29, according to information provided by the Texas Secretary of State's office.

For more information on voter registration, contact Bloom at 264-2273.

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

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EDITORIAL

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

—FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OTHER VIEWS

White, Perry need to address college graduation rates

The story that broke in late July about the U.S. trailing other nations in college graduation rates may seem like one of those pieces you’ve read before. After all, New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman beat the drum hard a few years back about India and China catching up with us in engineering.

Nevertheless, the College Board’s report about the U.S. falling to 12th in worldwide graduation rates has tremendous relevance here in Texas. As it turns out, not only is the U.S. lagging, but Texas ranks 40th among the 50 states plus the District of Columbia in the number of 25-to 34-year-olds who hold an associate degree or higher. In fact, only 27.4 percent of Texans in that critical age range have earned a post-secondary degree, placing our state well behind the national average of 41.6 percent and far closer to the bottom of the scale than the top. At both the national and state levels, this is a real problem. College graduates are the foundation of our economy, driving it with innovative solutions and the ability to solve problems. Without a vast and replenishing pool of the college-educated, we’ll struggle to remain the world’s driving technological force.

Texas demographer Lloyd Potter didn’t mince words about this challenge and how it affects our state. If we don’t graduate more Americans, we will have to import a lot of foreign students to fill the important jobs companies need filled, he told The Dallas Morning News’ Katherine Leal Unmuth.

Texas faces a particular problem with its swelling Latino student population. Members of that group trail their white and black peers in just getting to college. And this problem afflicts more than Dallas or Houston, cities with large Hispanic populations. As Unmuth recently reported, an increasing number of Texas suburbs face the Latino achievement gap, too.

So here’s our question: Why isn’t this issue driving the governor’s race?

To some extent, Bill White has picked up on it by talking about Texas’ high dropout rate. But we need to hear much more from both candidates about how they would tackle Texas’ college problem.

For example, what are their ideas for improving middle schools? That’s when students from disadvantaged homes really start heading for the exits, even if they don’t leave school until ninth or 10th grade.

We certainly have run into the need for better middle schools in this newspaper’s campaign to lift up the southern half of Dallas. Students who are behind by middle school sometimes have to make up two grades per year to get ready for ninth grade. At that rate, college is a pipe dream.

And obviously there are other barriers to Texas graduating more young people from its colleges and universities. The fact that we rank 40th suggests we have plenty of room to find answers. Let’s start hearing them.

THE MORNING NEWS
DALLAS

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 editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We can be successful in life, Lord, when we include You.

Amen

Give the kids a healthy start

Last year, Congress attempted to strike a blow for America’s children by ordering a slew of agencies and departments to recommend standards for food advertising that targets kids.

Miraculously, these agencies and departments came through — and boldly so. One of the preliminary proposals: Cereal companies should reduce the amount of sugar per serving to 8 grams, rather than the routine 11 or 12 grams found in the most popular brands. And food companies shouldn’t be allowed to advertise a product unless it also offers sizable amounts of good things, such as whole grains, fruits or vegetables.

Immediately, the food industry, which had vowed to self-regulate itself into a conscience, blasted the regulations as an unconscionable attempt to force it to keep its word. Only they didn’t say it quite like that.

“The proposal was extraordinarily restrictive and would virtually end all food advertising as it’s currently carried out to kids under 18 years of age,” Dan Jaffe told The New York Times. Jaffe is with the Association of National Advertisers, in case you couldn’t guess, but I’m betting you could.

Now children’s health advocates are worried the government will water down the final version of the regulations, until the only thing America’s kids will lose is a real chance for a healthy start.

Parents: Arm yourselves; the statistics are on your side.

Last year, Yale University’s Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity released a report ranking dozens of cereals for

nutritional value and efforts to market to children.

Here are the top 10 advertised cereals with the poorest nutrition ratings:

1. Reese’s Puffs
2. Corn Pops
3. Lucky Charms
4. Cinnamon Toast Crunch (tie)
4. Cap’n Crunch
6. Trix (tie)
6. Froot Loops (tie)
6. Fruity and Cocoa Pebbles
9. Cocoa Puffs
10. Cookie Crisp

All but two of these cereals — Cap’n Crunch and Cookie Crisp — are also on the list of cereals most frequently marketed to children on TV, with Honey Nut Cheerios and Frosted Flakes rounding out that list.

More scary numbers from the report: Cereal companies spend more than \$156 million marketing to children in a single year. The average preschooler sees 642 of these ads a year.

And that’s just on television.

Which brings me to what is bound to be a prickly issue in this debate regarding children’s nutrition: Parents have to be parents.

When it comes to monitoring a child’s eating habits, sometimes only “no” will do.

No, you can’t watch any more TV.

No, we are not buying that cereal.

No, you can’t watch any more TV. (Some things you will always have to say more than once — maybe more than 1,000 times even.)

For parents who always are trying to find the “yes” in discipline:

Yes, I meant it when I said, “Turn off the TV.”

Yes, you may eat a healthy cereal, such as Mini-Wheats, Life, Kix or Cheerios (but no Honey Nut).

Yes, I understand you think I’m meaner than (pick the par-

ent). I embrace your version of parental perfectionism. (Erupt with wicked laughter here.)

Insist on parenting and your children may whine, scream and yell. But you will win — and so will they. Studies show that if you feed your children healthy foods, they’ll learn to like them.

Besides, aren’t you sick of the food industry’s thinking parents are a bunch of chumps? The Yale report — which you can read at <http://www.CerealFacts.org> — compared the nutritional value of cereals marketed to adults with those targeting children. On whole, cereals pitched to kids contain 85 percent more sugar, 65 percent less fiber and 60 percent more sodium. Yummy.

The report recommended that the food industry “adopt meaningful standards that stop ‘gaming the system.’”

Think labels such as “better for you” stuck on “but-still-bad-for-you” stuff, or “Smart Choices” for “Really Dumb” notions of nutrition. I’m thinking this also includes Kellogg’s pitch for its fiber frosted chocolate fudge Pop-Tarts: “One whole serving of whole grain and 20 percent daily value of fiber in one frosted, fudgetastic pocket of perfection.”

Wouldn’t it be nice if they at least sounded as if they were trying?

The health of America’s children is deteriorating because of willful manipulation by an industry that sees profit in their suffering and because of poor decisions by grown-ups, who are supposed to protect them.

The time for incremental change has passed.

When our children need help, baby steps just won’t do.

Connie Schultz is a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for The Plain Dealer in Cleveland and an essayist for Parade magazine.

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Just how long should we wait?

Recently, I was listening to my mother read about the healing of the man by the pool of Bethesda. (John 5:1-9) I’ve read this account many times before. Perhaps you have as well. But it occurred to me as I heard his story yet again, that I’ve never given this man enough credit.

In fact, I’ve even ridiculed him for giving excuses when Jesus asked him if he wanted to be healed. I’ve thought, “Just say yes to the question, man! Jesus doesn’t want to hear all your complaints and excuses.”

If you’re not familiar with this story, many people believed that if you were the first person into this pool at a certain time, you would be healed of whatever your problem was. Apparently, this man had been ill for 38 years. And he spent those 38 years trying to be the first one in.

That’s when it hit me. He never gave up the wait. So maybe he was frustrated at times when others beat him into the water — thus his long answer to Jesus’ question. Still, his hope, his persistence, his effort, his expectation, didn’t disappear and diminish because of years of anguish. He was still waiting for his healing, even after 38 years.

Undoubtedly, Jesus saw this man’s great faith, and he healed him. And the man learned he could be healed without getting into the pool!

I can’t even imagine what it

would feel like to be faithfully waiting for something or someone for such a long time. How do you not become discouraged, downhearted or depressed? How do you not lose hope? How do you not give up and quit trying or waiting?

As I ponder this healing account, the answer seems fairly straight forward and could maybe even be described as simple — keep your faith.

It seems to me that the secret for maintaining hope is to keep our faith in reaching our goals and dreams strong and unwavering. I think the man by the pool of Bethesda would have waited another thirty-eight years if he had had to.

I would love to have that kind of faith! There have been many times when I didn’t get the answer I was hoping for quick enough, and I became disappointed and depressed and pretty much conceded defeat. I can’t help but wonder now what might have been if I had not given up.

My mother is like that man by the pool of Bethesda. At least she seems to have his kind of faith. No matter what kind of trouble her children get into or what kind of problems they have, her faith in them remains invincible. Nothing or no one could ever make her believe her children can’t overcome whatever it is that needs overcoming.

I suspect many — if not all — parents are like this. I certainly know I would never give up on my daughter and her dreams! I have no doubt whatsoever that she can accomplish whatever she sets her sights on. My faith in my daughter is also invincible.

I’ve seen dads giving encour-

agement to their child when it was their turn to bat. And I’ve seen moms confidently and courageously attend to their child’s injuries when they fell off their bike or got stung by a bee.

Parent’s faith in the well-being and success of their children would never diminish just because their children face a difficult struggle. No, that’s probably when the parent’s faith increases and grows even stronger and more resolute.

Perhaps we could all have more faith in ourselves. I admit I’ve reached a time in my life when I don’t have the same faith in my own goals and dreams as I once did.

One thing does seem very clear to me now. Disappointment and discouragement will lead us to defeat. So surely, the only way to success, healing and progress is confidence, persistence, courage and encouragement — faith.

We need to have the same confidence in ourselves that we have for our children. And we need to give ourselves the same encouragement as we give our children.

So how long do we wait — or have faith? The answer again seems simple. For as long as it takes!

Annette Bridges is a freelance writer who lives in North Texas. A mother and former public and homeschool teacher, she doesn’t think her insights are any more special than yours. First published by the Dallas Morning News after becoming an empty nester, in 2001, she has since written weekly columns for numerous websites, newspapers and magazines. Contact her through her website at www.annettebridges.com



CONNIE SCHULTZ



ANNETTE BRIDGES

Cowboys beat Bengals 16-7

CANTON, Ohio (AP) — With Emmitt Smith and Jerry Rice in the house one night after going into the hall, an offensive show seemed in order.

Neither the Dallas Cowboys nor the Cincinnati Bengals got the message Sunday.

The NFL offensive icons who entered the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Saturday couldn't have been comfortable with the action at Fawcett Stadium on Sunday night, when Dallas beat Cincinnati 16-7 to open the preseason.

But the Dallas defense sure came through for the team's

former star running back.

"Having Emmitt inducted into the Hall of Fame is special," All-Pro linebacker DeMarcus Ware said. "For us now playing for the Cowboys, it does make it extra special."

The Cowboys hope this is the opening step, small as it was, toward becoming the first team to play in a Super Bowl in its home stadium. That goal will take months before it can be achieved, of course, and the most memorable moment this weekend for them will remain Smith's

entry into the Hall of Fame.

"Just being here makes for some great memories," Tony Romo said.

Another instant memory: Chad Ochocinco's footwear.

The Bengals receiver wore gold shoes for his few plays. Was that a tribute to Smith, Rice and the other members of the Class of 2010?

"That's exactly what it was, how did you know?" he said. "That's exactly why I did it."

Asked about possibly being fined by the league for side-stepping the dress code, he threw up his hands in disdain

and moved on to other questions.

"Chad has so many different-colored shoes, he is like a woman," Terrell Owens chimed in.

The offenses generally sputtered all night and there were eight sacks in a sloppy affair. Clearly, none of the aura of the NFL's career leaders in rushing and receiving rubbed off.

At least some of Saturday's other inductees — the ones who played defense, Dick LeBeau, John Randle and Ricky Jackson — could appreci-

ate the lack of scoring and the takeaways. Dallas picked off three passes and recovered a fumble; Cincinnati also recovered a fumble.

"I thought we were fundamentally sound and the effort was great," linebacker Keightlin Brooking said. "Those are the two main ingredients you look for in the preseason."

Nobody could be impressed by the slew of penalties, 16 overall, 12 by Cincinnati for 90 yards. Then again, it was the preseason opener.

See **COWBOYS**, Page 10



The Steers' head coach Phillip Ritchey talks to his players after an inter-scrimmage Saturday at Blankenship Field. The Steers continue practice this week as the season opener against Fort Stockton on Aug. 27 approaches.

Photo Courtesy of Tony Claxton

Opener on tap for Steers volleyball

BY ADAM COLEMAN
Sports Editor

Lynn Osborne saw her team take the steps it needed to during Big Spring volleyball's scrimmage this weekend.

The Lady Steers' next test: a dual match against Abilene Cooper and Abilene High School at 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., respectively, Tuesday at Cooper to open the 2010 season.

The good news, Osborne said, is the Lady Steers are excited for the season to start.

"They're real excited about the season," she said. "We've done a lot of individual skill work

through the two-a-days, so I think they were really excited when we put it all together, how well it went."

While the Lady Steers have been working on individual skill, Osborne stresses a team-oriented concept to her players. She said there won't just be that one dominant outside hitter this season, but there should be a couple of them that carry the team.

The Lady Steers had a chance to show what their offense was capable of in scrimmages against Snyder, Midland Christian, Colo-

See **STEERS**, Page 10

A's Cahill wins fifth straight against Rangers, Texas loses 3-2

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Coco Crisp practiced making spectacular catches in the outfield even when an injured hand kept him out of the lineup. The real thing just seemed routine.

Crisp had two hits, drove in a run, stole a base and robbed Bengie Molina of extra bases in helping the Oakland Athletics beat the first-place Texas Rangers 3-2

on Sunday.

"It's tough playing the Rangers," said Crisp, a career .292 hitter against them. "We just jumped on the back of our pitcher and tried to contribute. We're chasing Texas so we can't get too far ahead of ourselves."

As for his fourth-inning grab high up the wall in center field?

"I was positioned

well," Crisp said. "When I first looked up it didn't look like it was going that far. It caught a second wind but I had enough time to know where the fence was."

Kurt Suzuki hit a tie-breaking sacrifice fly in the seventh inning. Trevor Cahill allowed six hits through eight and the A's won for the eighth time in their last 10 home games. Rajai

Davis also drove in a run.

Cahill (12-4) won his fifth straight against the Rangers despite allowing two unearned runs in the sixth. He struck out three and did not walk a batter.

"I had been walking a lot of guys my past few starts so I was trying to throw strikes and let them hit it," Cahill said. "No free passes."

Darren Oliver (0-1) started the seventh, and gave up a single to Chad Pennington and an RBI double to Crisp before leaving the game.

Texas starter Colby Lewis failed to win his 10th game for a fourth consecutive start, although the Rangers were leading when he was replaced. He gave up a run on three hits over six innings, walk-

ing three and striking out seven.

"He never did have a 1-2-3 inning," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "He had to keep making pitches, which he did. We put up two runs against Cahill and took the lead into the seventh inning. It just didn't work out."

Michael Wuertz

See **RANGERS**, Page 10

McGehee homers, Cain drives in 3, Brewers sweep Astros with 11-6 win

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Lorenzo Cain stood in the middle of the clubhouse watching television with an awe-struck look on his face. The images engrossing him? Highlights of the rookie's big day.

Cain drove in the first three runs of his career and Casey McGehee hit a three-run homer, helping the Brewers beat the Houston Astros 11-6 on Sunday to complete a three-game sweep.

"That's nice to get to sit back

and watch yourself on TV. That's amazing, man," said Cain, a centerfield prospect delayed last year because of a knee injury. "A lot of people don't get things like that. I'm going to enjoy it. This is just unbelievable. I can't even believe it."

McGehee drove a ball into the Milwaukee bullpen in left-center field in the fourth to make it 11-4, after just missing a three-run homer in the first with an RBI double off the wall.

Cain, who made his first major league start Friday, hit a sacrifice fly in the first off Wesley Wright (1-2) and chased the left-hander in his next at-bat in the third with a two-run double that gave Milwaukee a 6-2 lead.

Both rosters were loaded with young players for two teams out of postseason contention.

Even though Prince Fielder, Rickie Weeks, Corey Hart and Ryan Braun have been regulars for years, no Brew-

ers starter was older than 28. Braun and Hart are signed long-term, while Fielder and Weeks can be free agents after 2011.

"Ownership wants to put a great product out there," manager Ken Macha said. "Signing Corey, they'd like to do the same with Rickie and Prince, but they've got Corey and Braunie for a bunch of years and McGehee is only in his second year, so he's going to be here for a while and we've got these young guys at

the bottom of the lineup, so yeah, we've got some talent here."

Brewers ace Yovani Gallardo (11-5) allowed four runs on eight hits in six innings and got a lot of support for the second straight start. After getting three runs on average in his last 20 appearances, the 24-year-old right-hander has received 24 runs in the past two games.

Hunter Pence extended his

See **ASTROS**, Page 10

Sports in brief

Big Spring Football Season Tickets

Get season tickets at the Big Spring High School ATC. Previous season ticket holders can purchase tickets from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, ending Aug. 9.

Public ticket sales are from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday starting Tuesday and ending Aug. 18.

The cost is \$25 dollars per ticket book, which includes five home games. The last day to purchase will be Aug. 18. Any questions should be directed toward Kay Cook at 264-3662.

Over 80 Scramble

The Big Spring Country Club invites everyone to participate in its over 80 scramble Aug. 14 and 15. It benefits the Big Spring Shrine Club.

Cominbed ages of the 2-person team must be 80 or higher. Entry fee is \$60 per player plus the golf cart.

Private carts are welcome.

There is a 1 p.m. shotgun start both days.

Entry includes barbecue on the course both days. For more information call the Pro Shop at 267-5354.

Coahoma Girls Softball Association

There will be a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the community center and everyone is welcome to attend.

Junior High Football Equipment Pick-up

Pick-up takes place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. today and Tuesday at the junior high school.

Make sure if player is entering the seventh grade or is new to the district he has a physical.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact

the ATC at 264-3662.

Soccer Sign-ups

Big Spring Soccer Association will have sign-ups from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, then from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, Aug. 9 through 13. The last day to sign up is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 14. All sign-ups are at the Big Spring Mall. There will be no late registration.

This for 3- to 13-year-olds and cost is \$65.

Call Issac Miramontes at 935-9056 for more information

Big Spring Quarterback Club

The club meets every Monday at 7 p.m. All parents of football players 7th through 12th grade are encouraged to attend.

For more information call Denise Carrillo at 816-1685.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Howard County
TEXAS COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
(TxCDBG)

Howard County will hold a public hearing at 5:15 p.m. on Wednesday, August 18, 2010, at the Howard County WCID office at 7917 N Service Road, Big Spring, Texas, regarding the submission of application(s) to the Texas Department of Rural Affairs for 2011/2012 funding year Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TxCDBG) grant(s). The purpose of this meeting is to allow citizens an opportunity to discuss the citizen participation plan, the development of local housing and community development needs, the amount of TxCDBG funding available, all eligible TxCDBG activities, and the use of past TxCDBG funds. The County encourages citizens to participate in the development of TxCDBG application(s) and to make their views known at this public hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to the County Judge. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact the County Judge at (325)835-4361 to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact the County Judge at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.
#6641 August 9, 2010

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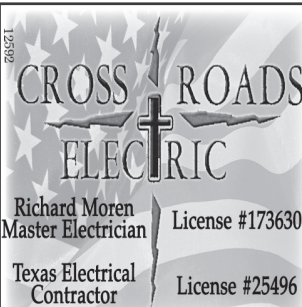
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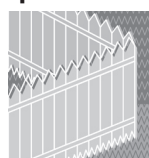
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ARIES (March 21-April 19). Most of your time is taken up by covering the bases. Continue in this way and life will soon be completely joyless. Forget about the bases. They'll get covered naturally when you go for the big dream.



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Defending your point of view will prove to be a waste of time, not to mention your personal power. Better to respect that everyone has a right to his or her own opinion, and move to where it's easy to get into a harmonious groove.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your hobby is getting expensive. It could also be a domestic expansion or a professional quest that's becoming pricier than you anticipated. Take a step back to think about an impending purchase.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There's a scary opportunity before you. Your fear is nothing more than a spooky smoke screen, creating wonderful distortions. Punch the air in front of you and keep walking forward.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

No matter how hard you try to see from another person's perspective, you can only guess what things might look like from over there. Take a gander at it. What you come up with will be liberating.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Competitiveness is based in fear. The underlying belief is that there is not enough to go around and that you must beat the others to win the prize. It's not really the case today, though. Rethink your approach.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Based on certain circumstantial evidence, you could throw yourself a pity party. But sad emotions are draining. Instead, get into the service of life and you'll make new friends in the process.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your last move might have been a reaction that was guid-

ed by your programming instead of by a greater awareness of what's really going on. You'll get a chance to redo it today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Life is constantly presenting you with situations that resonate with what happened to you years ago. So you don't have to hide away somewhere to sort through your history. You can do it in real time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll connect with your touchstone person and feel grounded once again. You know the one — it's someone who knows you are not perfect but treats you as though you are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be in a detached mood. As you observe the day's drama, you feel that you're both in the movie and part of the audi-

ence. This is a powerful position to be in, and you'll make a wise choice because of it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're contemplating a rather unorthodox move. Maybe it's something your parents wouldn't approve of. However, if you act with clarity and awareness, it will turn out to your satisfaction.

T O D A Y ' S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 9). You go into this new year radiating power and confidence. Your support system grows through the next 10 weeks. Capable and talented people will help you accomplish a worthy cause. In December, there will be the chance to share your product or service on a big scale. January is lucky financially. Aquarius and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 25, 50, 15, 33 and 30.

C E L E B R I T Y

PROFILES: Leo Antonio Banderas will hit a major marker this year — his 50th birthday! This solar return is particularly lucky for Banderas, as his numerology and astrological influences align to bring greater opportunities for mentoring, philanthropy and contributing to society. In addition to the typical perks of fame and fortune, his children and family will likely make him proud in meaningful ways.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Annie's Mailbox ®

Dear Annie: My sister, "Elaine," has terminal cancer. Yesterday, I got a call from someone named "Laura" telling me Elaine had made arrangements to move in with a family from her church.

I offered to let her come here and even said she could bring her elderly dog so they could spend her final months together.

I did this even though I am allergic to dogs. However, I was told she

only wanted me to take the dog.

This morning, I visited Elaine, who did not appear to be as bad as I had been led to believe. Laura, a member of my sister's church, was with her. I repeated my offer to take both Elaine and the dog, but was told emphatically that she was staying with a church family.

I am concerned that the "church" has an ulterior motive.

I asked for information from hospice about Elaine's care, but no one has gotten back to me and it's been nearly a week.

What should I do? Elaine is an adult and competent. — *Sister in Waiting*

Dear Sister: Even if Laura's motives are to

get Elaine's money for the church, there's not much you can do if your sister is competent to make these decisions.

Can you talk to Elaine directly? If not and if she is under hospice care, someone from that organization should be visiting regularly, and you can direct your questions to them in person.

If Laura is the only one caring for your sister, contact your local Area Agency on Aging or the Eldercare Locator (www.eldercare.gov) at 1-800-677-1116 and ask for assistance.

Dear Annie: I am a 15-year-old girl who lives in the middle of nowhere.

My 8-year-old brother, "Andrew," is autistic, and I am the only per-

son he connects with. Because of this, my mother often gives me responsibility for Andrew.

I feel like I have to grow up quickly so I can take care of him.

Is my mom pushing him off on me, or am I being selfish because I want a life? — *Confused in the Country*

Dear Confused: Neither. Your mother recognizes that Andrew responds best to you, so she relies on you for his care.

But you also are entitled to be 15. That means compromise. Discuss this calmly with Mom, and ask for more time without Andrew.

If your school has a counselor, you can use that person as a source of support, along with any adult relative or friend who can intercede on your behalf.

You also can find support groups on the Internet and through the Autism Society of America (autism-society.org), which has a section on Family Issues that includes siblings of those with autism. Good luck.

Dear Annie: Like "Observer," I have noticed that many young married couples have chosen to cut off grandparents. In my case, this was not a lightly chosen step.

Both my husband and I come from broken homes. In the first year of our son's life, we made huge efforts to allow our parents into our lives.

But my mother associates with a drug-addicted boyfriend and insists on bringing him when

she visits.

My mother-in-law has a history of involving the police when she gets into any argument she can't win.

We decided it was better not to have these toxic parents in our child's life than to spend every moment protecting him.

We know one day our son will ask questions about his grandparents. Meanwhile, we found foster grandparents and connected with many loving relatives.

I hope one day our son will know that at the cost of his past, his father and I have given him a loving and supportive future.

Parentless Parent

Dear Parent: We understand when grandparents are problematic and visits must be limited or supervised, but we hope you can still maintain some form of contact, even if it is just a photograph once a year. You never know what the future will bring.

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, 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.

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♠K 9 8 2		♠6 5 3	
♥Q 9 8 5 3		♥4	
♦A Q 2		♦K 9 8 3	
♣A		♣Q 10 9 7 6	

WEST		SOUTH	
♠Q 10 7		♠A J 4	
♥J 6 2		♥A K 10 7	
♦J 7 5 4		♦10 6	
♣8 3 2		♣K J 5 4	

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 ♣ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 6 ♥

Opening lead — four of diamonds.

One innocent-looking play can sometimes make all the difference between the success and failure of a contract. For a striking example, consider this deal played in a match between the United States and Italy.

When an American pair held the North-South cards, they got to six hearts as shown, and West led a diamond. Declarer finessed the queen, losing to the king, and back came the nine of diamonds to the ten, jack and ace. Declarer later tried a spade finesse, losing to West's queen, and

so finished down one.

When the Italian North-South pair played the hand, they also reached six hearts with South as declarer, and again West led a diamond. But at this table, South made the contract. Furthermore, he did so simply by playing the deuce of diamonds from dummy at trick one instead of the queen. East could do no better than win with the king, and South had his 12th trick.

When the play is analyzed, it becomes clear that the Italian declarer's approach was far better than his counterpart's at the other table. Playing low from dummy at trick one wins whenever West has led from the jack, regardless of who has the king. At the same time, it maintains the possibility of a successful diamond finesse later on, if South decides to fall back on that option.

But even more to the point, if East wins the diamond lead with the jack, declarer gains an additional advantage. Whatever East returns, South, after drawing trumps, can cash the K-A of spades without running the risk of a spade finesse. Occasionally (nearly 20 percent of the time) the singleton or doubleton queen will appear. Even if it does not, South still has the diamond finesse to fall back on.

Tomorrow: Sylvia strikes again.

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su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

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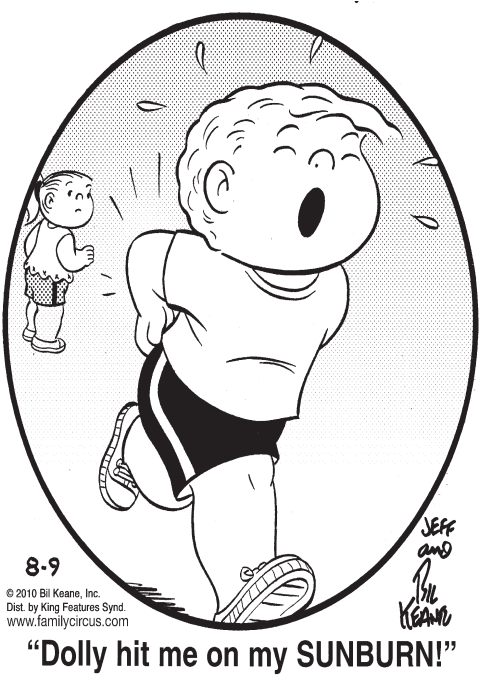
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	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5 :PM :30	News ABC	Vida	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias	News	King	Chumney	BBC	King	Cash Cab	Blood Work, Anjelica Huston	CSI: Crime Scene	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Deck Phineas	Nation Pardon	SportsCenter
6 :PM :30	Jeopardy! Wheel	Llena de Amor (SS)	Two Men	News Ent	El Cartel II	News	Seinfeld	Van Impe	Business	70s Show	Cash Cab	Cash Cab	Deadliest Warrior	Bones		Wizards Hannah	Football NFL Live	MLB Baseball: St. Louis Cardinals at Cincinnati Reds.
7 :PM :30	Bachelor Pad	Hasta que el Dinero	Teen Choice 2010	How I Met Rules	El Clon	America's/ Talent	Fam. Guy	Upd Hansen	Antiques Roadshow	90210	Cash Cab	Movie: Michael Clayton, Tilda Swinton	Deadliest Warrior	The Closer	Movie: Asunder, Debbi Morgan	Phineas and Ferb	NFL Yrbk. NFL Yrbk.	
8 :PM :30		Soy Tu Dueña (SS)		Two Men Big Bang	El Fantasma de	Last Comic Standing	Fam. Guy	Light of the Southwest	History Detectives	Gossip Girl	Ulti. Car Build-Off		Movie: Rambo, Matthew Marsden	The Closer		Wizards	2010 Poker	
9 :PM :30	Dating in the Dark	Cristina (SS)	Simpsons Friends	(:01) CSI: Miami	...Elisa?		Fam. Guy		Lady in Black	Married... Married...	The Colony	(:45) Rubicon	Rizzoli & Isles	Game Good	Game Good	Good	2010 Poker	Baseball Tonight
10 :PM :30	News Nightline	Impacto	Raymond	News TMZ	Noticias A Corazón Abierto	News Jay Leno	Lopez	House Sala	Charlie Rose	Roseanne	Cash Cab	(:45) Mad Men	Scrappers	The Closer	The Mo'Nique	Sonny	E:60	SportsCenter
11 :PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Corazón Salvaje	Law & Order: SVU	Late	Decisiones	Late Night	Name	CCM	BBC	Bernie	Ulti. Car Build-Off		Knockout Sports	Rizzoli & Isles	Wendy Williams	Hannah	Nation	Baseball
12 :AM :30	Extra Paid	Amar sin Limites	King-Hill	Insider	Pagado	News	Sex & Sex/City	Upd	T. Smiley (Off Air)	Cops	The Colony	(11:47) Movie: Blind Date	CSI: Crime Scene	HawthoRNe	Steve Harvey: Still Trippin'	Wizards	2010 Poker	NFL Live
1 :AM :30	Paid	Clasicos	Paid		Pagado	Poker After Dark	Lopez	Light of the Southwest		Videosomnia	Overhaul'n	(:45) Movie:	Star Trek: Voyager	HawthoRNe		Suite Life	Baseball	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



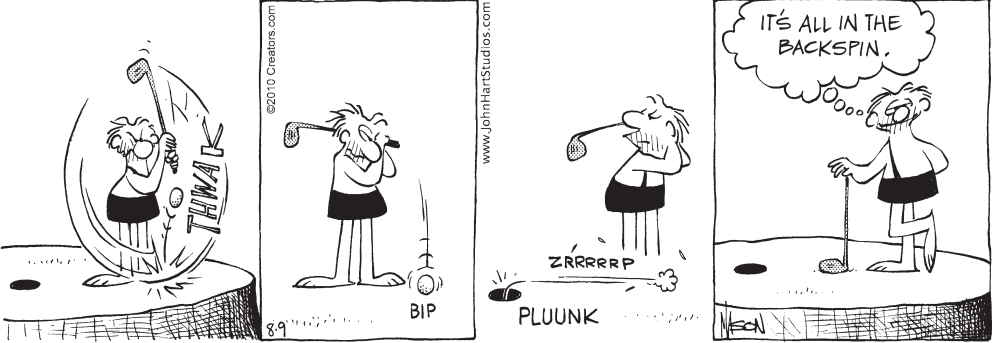
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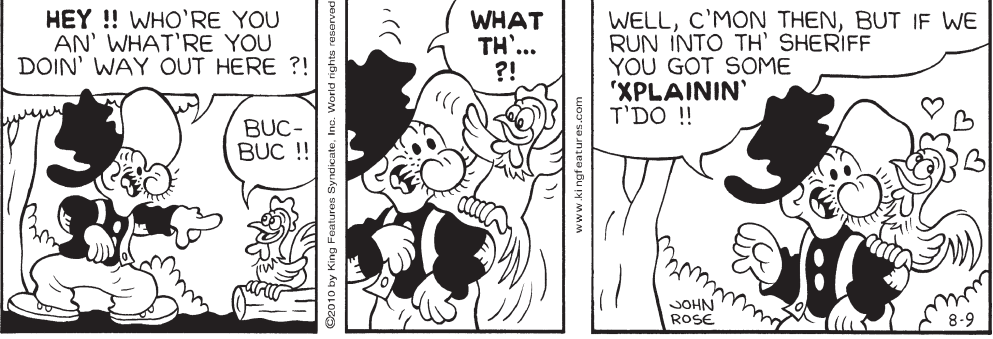
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Monday, Aug. 9, the 221st day of 2010. There are 144 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 9, 1945, three days after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, the United States exploded a nuclear device over Nagasaki, killing an estimated 74,000 people.

On this date:

In 1842, the United States and Canada resolved a border dispute by signing the Webster-Ashburton Treaty.

In 1854, Henry David Thoreau's "Walden," which described Thoreau's experiences while living near Walden Pond in Massachusetts, was first published.

In 1902, Edward VII was crowned king of Britain following the death of his mother, Queen Victoria.

In 1910, the U.S. Patent Office granted Alva J. Fisher of the Hurley Machine Co. a patent for an electrically powered washing machine.

In 1930, cartoon character Betty Boop made her debut (as a dog-eared singer) in Max Fleischer's animated short "Dizzy Dishes."

In 1936, Jesse Owens won his fourth gold medal at the Berlin Olympics as the United States took first place in the 400-meter relay.

In 1944, 258 African-American sailors based at Port Chicago, Calif. refused to load a munitions ship following an explosion on another ship that killed 320 men, two-thirds of them black. (Fifty of the sailors were convicted of mutiny, fined and imprisoned.)

In 1969, actress Sharon Tate and four other people were found brutally slain at Tate's Los Angeles home; cult leader Charles Manson and a group of his followers were later convicted of the crime.

In 1974, President Richard Nixon's resignation took effect. Vice President Gerald R. Ford became the nation's 38th chief executive.

In 1995, Jerry Garcia, lead singer of the Grateful Dead, died in Forest Knolls, Calif., of a heart attack at age 53.

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

1 Drink daintily

4 Pokes fun at

9 Glossy fabric

14 Large Australian bird

15 Make up (for)

16 Locale

17 W. Hemisphere alliance

18 Couch accessory

20 "That's icky!"

21 Camp shelter

22 Sci-fi characters

23 Envelope's contents, often

25 Clay-baking oven

26 Rowboat propellers

27 Recyling containers

28 Coupe or convertible

31 Farm yields

33 Short golf stroke

34 Lengthy story

35 Vitality

36 Carryall bags

37 Difficult journey

38 "Too bad!"

39 Dull routines

40 Telegraph inventor

41 For each

42 Untainted

43 Channel marker

44 Takes to court

45 Maui, for one

48 Hollywood awards

51 "___ bet on it!"

53 Stocking's tip

54 Use one's influence secretly

DOWN

1 Capital of South Korea

2 Mirror reflection

3 Antagonize beyond the limit

4 Is of importance

5 "Do unto ___ . . ."

6 Side dish on cobs

7 Shoelace snarl

8 Use needle and thread

9 Kitchen mishaps

10 "___ a day's work"

11 Folk story

12 Computer image

13 Six o'clock broadcast

19 Uses watercolors

24 Seals, as a box

25 Toys with tails

27 Montana city

28 Sing on key

29 Matures

30 Leaf-gathering tool

ARM WORK by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

31 Applaud

32 Make angry

33 Rains cats and dogs

34 Saloon seat

36 Most loyal

40 Movie that's not to be missed

42 Ship's money-handler

43 Shopping sprees

44 Taco topping

46 Polite denial

47 Starts a card game

48 Oil-cartel acronym

49 "You bet!"

50 Dressed (in)

51 "Thin" coin

52 A single time

55 Rule, for short

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14			15					16				
17			18					19				
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54						55					56	
57						58					59	
60						61					62	

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 10

“The best thing about it,” Cowboys coach Wade Phillips said, “is you see what you did and what you need to improve on.”

Most of the regulars worked short shifts. At least the Cowboys’ starters looked sharp during their minimal stints.

Romo led them to the Cincinnati 2 with a steady opening drive before they stalled and

David Buehler kicked a 20-yard field goal. Romo was 5 for 10 for 59 yards.

“You just have to continue to work on the things we’ve been doing through the offseason and in training camp,” Romo said. “You’re never sure until you get into a game-like mode, and some of the new stuff, it was nice to see it work out really well. It’s a start. We have to build off of it, but we still have a ways to go, and we’re on the way.”

Dallas certainly needs better protection for its quarterbacks after Cincinnati had five sacks, including two by linebacker Michael Johnson.

The Bengals made plenty of offseason news with the additions of Owens and Pacman Jones, who wasn’t signed by any teams last year because of his previous off-field issues and missed the season. Neither former Cowboys player had much impact, although Owens

caught two passes for 18 yards and was thrown to four times by Carson Palmer.

“It’s the start of the 2010 season and I am facing my former team in the Hall of Fame game. That’s a good start,” Owens said. “But this game was a learning experience and a stepping stone for all of us. There would have been a lot more interest and a lot more intensity if this had been a regular-season game against them.”

Buehler added field goals of 34 yards in the second quarter and 23 yards in the third. The last kick was set up when linebacker Brandon Williams returned an interception of Jordan Palmer — Carson’s younger brother and Cincinnati’s third-string quarterback — 36 yards to the Bengals 9-yard line.

Dallas capped the one-sided victory when Brandon Sharpe picked off Jordan Palmer’s fourth-quarter pass and

dived untouched into the end zone for a 6-yard score.

Bengals rookie Jordan Shipley ran back a punt 63 yards in the final minutes, and Jordan Palmer hit rookie tight end Darious Hill for a 1-yard TD with 51 seconds remaining in the Hall of Fame game.

“It was looking like we’d get the shutout,” Ware said. “Almost did.”

Cincinnati’s best player was punter Kevin Huber.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 5

pitched the ninth for his fifth save in as many chances. He walked Molina and Cristian Guzman around a strikeout and then got pinch hitter Vladimir Guerrero to ground into a game-ending double play.

“It’s not the situation you want to be in,” Wuertz said. “With Vlad on the bench you know he’ll probably get a turn at bat. Walking two guys just

makes it harder. I made a pretty good pitch and luckily we got the double play.”

Cahill had his career-long scoreless streak end at 23 innings, including 13 against the Rangers, when Josh Hamilton singled home a run in the sixth. Cahill improved his AL-leading day ERA to 1.33 in seven starts.

“He just continues to go out there and keeps doing everything right,” Wuertz said.

Lewis took a shutout into the sixth. Kevin Kouzmanoff opened the frame

with a double, moved to third on Mark Ellis’ groundout and scored on Davis’ sacrifice fly.

“It seemed like they had runners in scoring position every inning,” Lewis said. “I threw too many pitches, allowed too many baserunners to go deep in the game.”

The Rangers scored a pair of unearned runs in the sixth to take the early lead. Elvis Andrus was safe on a fielding error by Chad Pennington and scored on Hamilton’s sharp single.

Hamilton reached third on the play when Suzuki threw the ball into center field and scored on Nelson Cruz’s sacrifice fly.

Notes: Ellis doubled in the second inning, ending a streak of 15 games without an extra base. ... A’s OF Matt Watson was sent to a local hospital for tests after complaining of pain in his side and back. ... Molina played in the Bay Area for the first time since the Giants traded him on July 1. ... A’s 1B Daric Barton left the game in the fifth inning with spasms in his shoulder.

STEERS

Continued from Page 5

rado City, Lamesa and Crane on Friday at Steer Gym.

“I thought our ball control was so much better,” Osborne said. “It’s allowing us to run our offense at a higher level. We’ve got some things

to work on. Overall, I’m very pleased, good start.”

Outside hitters Desiree Anderson and Belle Feaster and libero Valerie Ross will begin their senior season Tuesday with two solid opponents in Osborne’s opinion.

Osborne said she is looking forward to facing Abilene High, considering it’s a team she has not seen in a while.

She also said Cooper always puts out a good product and knows what to expect when her players take the court.

The key, however is getting off to a good start, as Osborne said she believes her team has a confidence to compete with any opponent this season.

“I saw more confidence on the floor (Saturday) than I had seen since I’ve

been here,” she said. “The girls are confident. They know now that it’s about having fun and to keep it light and not put so much pressure on every single touch. Just look at the overall flow of the game. They’re ready to go.”

Contact Sports Editor Adam Coleman at 263-7331, ext. 237.

ASTROS

Continued from Page 5

hitting streak to 14 games, but it’s been a disappointing road trip for Houston, which came into this series one game removed from a seven-game winning streak that included a sweep of the Brewers at Minute Maid Park. Now, the Astros will start a 10-game homestand on Monday night against Atlanta having lost four straight.

“A lot of the games we were

in the there until the end and today we let it get away from us early, especially myself,” Wright said. “Terrible location today — probably one of the worst days for location for me I’ve had so far this year. It was really unfortunate because I think we had a chance to really win this game today if I could’ve come close.”

Besides Cain, Milwaukee’s other rookies in the lineup chipped in, too. Alcides Escobar had an RBI single and Jonathan Lucroy added a run-scoring double in the

third that made it 8-2.

“We’re all trying to establish ourselves,” Cain said. “We’re all young players and we’re going out there trying to prove ourselves, just playing hard.”

The organization likes Cain against left-handed pitchers, but aren’t yet sold that he can be an everyday player. He’ll certainly get some more opportunities down the stretch. Macha said Cain would get a chance during the next series with the Diamondbacks that starts on Monday.

“I’m going to go out and play hard. Every time my name is called, I’m going to go try to take advantage of it,” Cain said. “When my name is in the lineup, I’m going to give the team all I have.”

Notes: Braun, mired in the worst season of his young career, slammed his bat down in relief following a two-run single on the ninth pitch in Milwaukee’s four-run first after battling back from an 0-2 count. He’s now on an eight-game hitting streak. ... Macha said career saves leader

Trevor Hoffman and rookie John Axford would share the closer’s role the rest of the season. Hoffman, who signed an \$8 million, one-year deal this offseason, is three saves away from 600 and earned his first in nearly three months Saturday night, while Axford has converted 16 of 17. ... Wright threw 29 balls and 28 strikes, allowing seven runs in 2 1-3 innings. ... Weeks grounded into a rare double play in the second inning — his second in 526 plate appearances this year.

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