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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**WEDNESDAY**

JULY 20, 2011



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HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club's new facility is under construction. The steel has been put in place and the roof and sides are expected to go up within the next couple of weeks. The grand opening is anticipated at the end of September or early October.

## Moving on up

Boys & Girls Club to open in October

By **AMANDA MORENO**  
Staff Writer

The Boys & Girls Club will have a new place to call home by early October.

The facility, which is being constructed by Lee George Construction at 811 W. Fifth, broke ground in February and is expected to be completed no later than the beginning of October.

"We were shooting for the completion and grand opening to take place before school started, but there have been some set backs," said Salvation Army Maj. Orville

Chambless.

The steel for the framework arrived a few weeks ago and has been erected. According to Chambless, the materials for the roof and siding will arrive and be put on in the next few weeks. Inside work is expected to begin shortly after.

"We are setting the dedication for no later than early October," Chambless said. "We had a few product delays and it pushed the schedule back, but we are moving forward at this point."

The new facility will be 17,000 square feet and include a game room, multi-purpose gym, comput-

er lab and art and music room.

According to Ed Cheshire, former captain at the Big Spring Salvation Army, the new facility will be something the whole community can benefit from. There will be two classrooms which will allow for GED studies, budgeting classes, job searches and resume building. There will also be sewing, food and nutritional courses provided.

Once the new facility has been completed the Salvation Army will still need furniture and equipment for the rooms. Anyone wanting to donate can contact the Salvation Army at 267-8239.

## Worker escapes serious injury

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

A man was transported to a Lubbock hospital from the Big Spring Refinery shortly after 7 p.m. Tuesday after suffering second-degree burns over his body from an accident involving a water leak, according to officials with Alon USA.

The man — whose name has not been released by the refinery — is an operator and an Alon USA employee, according to Refinery Vice President Jimmy Crosby.

Crosby said the employee was burned by hot water — not steam, as reported by other media outlets — and transported by ambulance

to the burn unit at University Medical Center in Lubbock.

"Sending him to Lubbock was strictly a precautionary measure," Crosby said. "He was released from the hospital at approximately 3 a.m., so the burns weren't life threatening."

The cause of the accident is currently under investigation, according to Crosby, who lauded local emergency responders for their

quick and proficient help.

"We were very impressed with how quickly the emergency responders were on the scene and how quickly they were able to get the employee to Lubbock," he said.

Crosby said the individual was released from the hospital in Lubbock to his parents, and is most likely at home recovering from his injuries.

## BSISD board to get redistricting plan

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

After months of effort, Big Spring Independent School District officials believe they have a redistricting plan that will pass federal muster.

BSISD trustees will hear details of the proposed redistricting when they hold their monthly meeting at 5:15 p.m. Thursday in the high

school board room.

Members of the BSISD Redistricting Advisory Committee will present details on the plan, which was mandated by population and ethnic changes reflected in the 2010 Census.

In the 10 years since BSISD's single-member district boundaries

See **BSISD**, Page 3A

# The right thing to do

*Volunteers keep positive attitude despite undaunting task*

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Howard County Volunteer Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan said the recent slew of wildfires has taken a heavy toll on his firefighters and equipment, but if anyone is waiting for them to start whining about it, they have a long, long wait ahead of them.

With slightly more than 50 people under his command in the fire department, Sullivan said the business of being a volunteer firefighter doesn't leave room for a negative attitude, especially when conditions reach critical levels.

"We're tired and pretty beat up right now. Our bodies and our equipment have taken a beating, but volunteer firefighters don't do what they do because they are looking for accolades," Sullivan said. "They do it because they know it's the right thing to do."

Local firefighters have plenty of reason to be worn out, as the group has been called on nearly three times a day — seven days a week — to extinguish an array of wildfires throughout Howard and other

See **HCVFD**, Page 3A

**"When they are about out of gas and ready to give it up, they get a thank you from a member of the community or a slap on the back for the work they've done and that carries them through the next two or three days of calls."**



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# Obituaries

## Karen Sue (Lawson) Harrison

Karen Sue (Lawson) Harrison, 63, died Sunday, July 17, 2011, at her Odessa residence. She was born in Stanton, Texas, on April 21, 1948, to Ed and Lurlene (Geurin) Lawson. She was a homemaker. She is survived by two daughters, Kristie MacMahan of Punaluu, Hawaii, and Kendra Traywick of Big Spring; two sons, Chance Harrison of Odessa and Robert Earl Pace of Abilene; sister, Karla Ingram of Odessa; and nine grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Johnny Harrison Jr.; and one brother, Larry Lawson. Memorial services will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday, July 23, 2011, at Lincoln Towers. Arrangements are entrusted to Acres West Funeral Chapel, 8115 W. University Blvd, Odessa, Texas.

## Bobette Pierce

Bobette Pierce, 72, of Big Spring died Tuesday, July 19, 2011, in a local hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

# Police blotter

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

- ESTEVAN VALENCIA JR., 30, of 1110 E. 13<sup>th</sup> St., was arrested Tuesday on warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility, failure to appear and junk vehicle.
- WILLIAM COLE LAFON, 66, transient, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of criminal trespass.
- SHAWN MICHAEL OVERTON, 23, of 1706 Johnson, was arrested Tuesday on warrants for safety belt not secured, driving while license invalid and bail jumping - failure to appear on fine only (six counts).
- CRYSTAL CLEAR LEE, 28, of 905 N. Gregg St., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while intoxicated with child passenger.
- CLARENCE EDWARD YANEZ III, 34, of 1804.5 S. Scurry, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of hindering officers discharging official duties.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS was reported in the area of Stripes convenience store.
- THEFT was reported in the 200 block of W. FM 700.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 900 block of S. Scurry.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 600 block of E. 16<sup>th</sup> Street.

# Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 74 inmates at the time of this report.

- JESSE ROGER OLGUIN, 27, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of violation of a promise to appear and driving while license invalid.
- MICHAEL SHAE JACKMAN, 25, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated - second offense.
- WILLIAM LAFON, 66, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.
- SHAWN MICHAEL OVERTON, 23, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for no seat belt, driving while license invalid and failure to appear (six counts).
- JAMEY SCOTT JOHNSON, 48, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on a charge of pedestrian on prohibited roadway.
- CLARENCE YANEZ III, 34, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of hindering officer discharging official duties.
- CRYSTAL CLEAR HILARIO, 28, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated with a child under 15 years of age in the vehicle.

# Fire/EMS

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

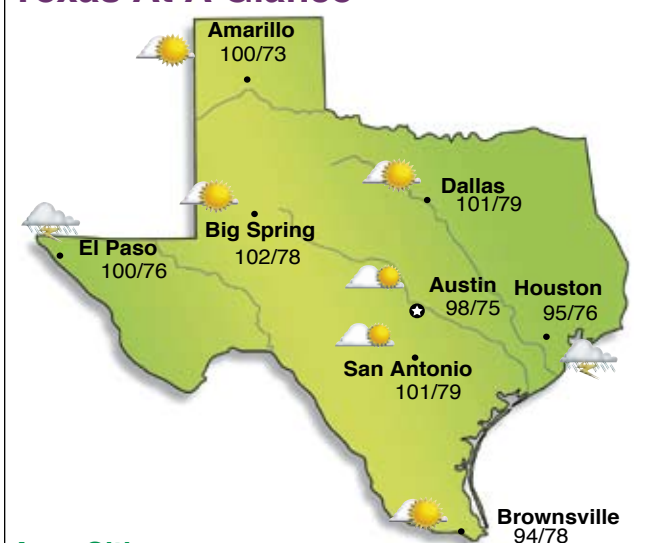
- MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of N.W. Seventh Street. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 300 block of Veterans Blvd. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 700 block of E. 15<sup>th</sup> Street. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2100 block of Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 200 block of Refinery Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 4200 block of Bilger. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of Miller. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

# Today's Weather

## Local 5-Day Forecast

Thu 7/21	Fri 7/22	Sat 7/23	Sun 7/24	Mon 7/25
<b>102/78</b> Sunshine. Near record high temperatures. High 102F.	<b>99/77</b> Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the upper 70s.	<b>100/77</b> Mostly sunny. Highs 98 to 102F and lows in the upper 70s.	<b>103/77</b> Mix of sun and clouds. Highs 101 to 105F and lows in the upper 70s.	<b>104/77</b> Mainly sunny. Highs 102 to 106F and lows in the upper 70s.
<b>Sunrise:</b> 6:54 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:51 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 6:54 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:50 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 6:55 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:50 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 6:56 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:49 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 6:56 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:49 PM

## Texas At A Glance



## Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	101	79	mst sunny	Kingsville	99	77	mst sunny
Amarillo	100	73	mst sunny	Livingston	96	73	t-storm
Austin	98	75	pt sunny	Longview	98	76	mst sunny
Beaumont	93	75	t-storm	Lubbock	100	74	mst sunny
Brownsville	94	78	mst sunny	Lufkin	95	74	t-storm
Brownwood	102	77	mst sunny	Midland	102	79	mst sunny
Corpus Christi	96	78	mst sunny	Raymondville	98	77	mst sunny
Corsicana	100	77	mst sunny	Rosenberg	96	76	t-storm
Dallas	101	79	mst sunny	San Antonio	101	79	pt sunny
Del Rio	101	80	mst sunny	San Marcos	99	76	pt sunny
El Paso	100	76	t-storm	Sulphur Springs	100	77	mst sunny
Fort Stockton	99	75	mst sunny	Sweetwater	101	77	mst sunny
Gainesville	100	78	mst sunny	Tyler	99	75	mst sunny
Greenville	99	76	mst sunny	Weatherford	101	78	mst sunny
Houston	95	76	t-storm	Wichita Falls	105	80	mst sunny

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**Take Note**

• A benefit fund for Chris Johnson (account 5945033396) has been established at Wells Fargo Bank to help defray expenses from a house fire. All donations are appreciated.

• Big Spring resident Matt Fowler was involved in a vehicle accident June 20 and is listed in critical, but stable condition at Odessa Medical Center. He has undergone two procedures and two surgeries, with more to come. The family is in need of assistance with medical expenses. They ask for anyone wanting to help to send donations to P.O. Box 3315, Big Spring, 79720, Attn: Angela Morrow. The family extends its gratitude for all gifts.

• The Texas Department of State Health Services, 501 Birdwell Lane, Suite 28B, will be offering "Back to School" immunizations from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday, July 25 through Wednesday, July 27. Bring your child's immunization record. If you have the letter your child received from school, bring that also. No immunizations will be available July 18 through July 22. Normal immunization hours, Monday through Wednesday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., will resume Aug. 1. DSHS will not be providing immunizations at the high school for registration Jul 27-28. DSHS suggests getting immunizations before attempting to register for school.

• Sharon Chancy, campus curriculum coordinator at Bauer Elementary School, and her family lost their home and all their possessions to the wildfire that swept South Mountain on the evening of June 20. A fund has been established at the Big Spring Education Federal Credit Union to assist the family as

they recover from this loss. To help, call 432-263-8393 or come by the FCU at 1110 Benton.

• A medical fund has been established at Big Spring Education Employee FCU for Maurine Pittman, who has been diagnosed with leukemia. She and her husband Gale are both off without pay at this time and may be for quite a while. Maurine is at Baylor Medical Center in Dallas at this time. To donate to the fund, call 432-263-8393 or come by the FCU at 1110 Benton.

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

9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

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

• Coahoma High School alumni are planning an all-classes' reunion on Saturday, July 23 at Coahoma Elementary. Registration is from 9-10 a.m., followed by visit-

ing, a short business meeting, a fund-raising auction, lunch, and a program honoring CHS Music Through the Years. Alumni with musical talents are encouraged to bring instruments or music to provide a couple of songs for attendees. Alumni are also asked to bring items for the auction. Please RSVP for the lunch (barbecue by Hog Heaven) and mail checks to: Coahoma Alumni Association, POB 488, Coahoma 79511 by July 1. Cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 for children age 8 and under. The Stampede has been reserved for additional visiting that evening for all CHS alumni from 6:30-11 p.m. Music from the 50s, 60s and 70s will be played, and food and sodas provided. For questions, contact Joyce York Baumann at 432-816-1588 or jefnjoyce@yahoo.com or Rose Thixton Teeler at 432-393-5267 or at jrteeler@yahoo.com;

**HCVFD**

Continued from Page 1A

outlying counties. "We're looking at an average of 2.3 calls per day, but that's not the scary part," Sullivan said. "For the past 300 days, we've responded to fires an average of six hours a day. That's six hours each day, seven days a week, for nearly a year."

While injuries to volunteer firefighters has been rare — limited mostly to heat exhaustion and smoke inhalation — their equipment hasn't been so lucky, according to Sullivan.

"We're seeing pumps, pump motors and a lot of other vital pieces of equipment going out. One of our engines is currently down because

of some damaged gears, and, as you can imagine, this isn't a time when we can afford to have even one vehicle out of commission," he said.

One of the volunteer fire department's trucks suffered approximately \$4,000 in damages during a recent fire, according to Sullivan, when it became trapped while fighting fires near South Mountain.

"All four tires were charred, and we lost most of the brake lines," he said. "In all, the truck probably sustained between \$3,000 and \$4,000 in damages. However, when you're talking about a \$70,000 truck, you realize just how lucky you made it out of that particular situation."

Sullivan and his crew aren't the only firefight-

ers in the area with fiscal woes. Volunteer fire departments all over the state have suffered because of endless demands brought on by the dry conditions.

"We've received a tremendous amount of support from the Howard County Commissioners Court, which has signed several budget amendments for us already," he said. "We've also seen a lot of support from the Dora Roberts Foundation, the cities of Forsan and Coahoma and the communities we serve."

"To a large degree, that's what keeps our guys going. When they are about out of gas and ready to give it up, they get a thank you from a member of the community or a slap on the back for the work they've done and that

carries them through the next two or three days of calls. It's that support from the community that keeps them going as hard as they are."

While there's no end in sight for the volunteer fire department's financial and physical woes, Sullivan said he has confidence they will make it through this year's wildfire season.

"Sure, we have it rough right now, but I'd still say we're doing better than about 99 percent of the other volunteer fire departments in the state," Sullivan said. "It's not because we have more money or more firefighters. It's because of our department's attitude. We keep a strong, positive attitude about what we're doing and we don't whine about it."

"I hear a lot of volunteer departments whining these days because of equipment or financial problems and that's something you won't hear us do. It's all about maintaining a high level of professionalism and working toward one goal. A lot of people don't realize how much our department does every year, and this year they are getting a pretty good idea of what goes on. This isn't anything new for us."

In the meantime, Sullivan said he and his crews will continue to do their jobs, no matter how many pumps or pump motors stop working.

"As long as there are fires to be fought out there, that's where you'll find us," he said

firmly.

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

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**BSISD**

Continued from Page 1A

were last fixed, significant changes in the demographic makeup of the seven voting districts have occurred, officials said.

The advisory committee has been charged with formulating a plan which best reflects those changes.

Debbie Green, BSISD business manager and a member of the committee, said the group's aim was to create three districts that are predominantly Anglo in makeup, three in which minority voters hold sway, and one that is fairly mixed in ethnic breakdown.

After a series of meetings with attorneys and demographers, the committee believes it has finally found the best plan for the district.

"District 6 (represented by Board President Jeff Brorman) was adjusted in order to make that a minority district," Green said. "We had to go block by block ... in order to get there."

After the committee presents the plan to the board, the next step will be a public hearing to give citizens a change

to provide input into the proposed new district boundaries. Trustees would then vote on the proposal and send it to the U.S. Department of Justice for federal approval before it is finally

adopted.

In other business Thursday, trustees will consider:

- Possible action on filling the vacant District 3 trustee position.
- A budget amendment

for the Read to Succeed Program.

- Personnel matters.

Contact Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@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>Adam Coleman</b> Sports Editor		<b>Thomas Jenkins</b> Staff Writer

## OTHER VIEWS

### Water conservation is vital at this point

Rain ... where is the rain? It has been almost a year since we have seen rain, at least any kind of substantial rainfall.

There have been a few sprinkles here and there, but at this point the ground is so dry those few drops are doing nothing in means of providing much needed moisture.

Sometimes it can seem as if too much rain is falling, but at this point everyone would probably agree there is no such thing as too much rain.

Rain serves as a vital point of our daily lives. It helps sustain and refill our water supplies, provides added watering to the crops and helps keep the landscape green. It also helps keep the land moisturized and cuts down the presence of fire danger.

The firefighters are probably praying for rain more than anyone at this point, as the drought has brought unending work days.

The extended drought continues to bring increased fire danger — which at this point is rising faster than the terror levels — nonexistence of crops for farmers and limited water usage for the people.

There are those who disagree with water restrictions and continue to water as they wish, stating free will or whatever as their reasoning, but there is more to it than simply saying do not water.

The water restrictions are increasing because the simple fact is our water is disappearing with no replenishment in site. Water is a source provided by nature, but if nature is not provided then there is no water.

There have been many concerns expressed about plants dying, lawns not being green and the inability to keep cars cleaned at home, but the one question people seem to be forgetting is — what happens when there is no more water?

It has already been pointed out our water supplies are diminishing at a fast rate and with that decrease comes restrictions. The restrictions are meant to protect the water supply and not hinder residents' rights.

Being able to keep lawns and landscaping green would be nice and would make for a better scenery, but at the same time, if it comes to watering lawns or being able to have water to drink, bathe and cook with the answer becomes a little tougher.

There are numerous ways to conserve water and at this point any little bit helps.

- Here are a few tips:
- Adhere to the water restrictions
  - Turn off water inside the house whenever not in use; especially when brushing teeth.
  - Wash clothes in full loads
  - Wash dishes in a full sink of water instead of letting the water run continuously.

## 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 take the necessary steps, Lord,  
for a life with You. Amen

# Not cruel and unusual, but sure is a costly punishment

Democratic California state Sen. Loni Hancock is pushing legislation to end California's death penalty. "Capital punishment is an expensive failure and an example of the dysfunction of our prisons," she explained in a statement. "California's death row is the largest and most costly in the United States. It is not helping to protect our state; it is helping to bankrupt us."



DEBRA SAUNDERS

You have to hand this to death penalty opponents: For decades, capital punishment opponents have tried to thwart California's 1978 death penalty law with frivolous appeals that clog courts, delay punishment and burn through taxpayers' dollars. They now have been so successful that they can argue that California's death penalty doesn't work and costs too much.

Hancock is right about the dysfunction. Since 1978, California has executed 13 inmates, even though juries have sent close to 800 inmates to death row. California's lethal-injection protocol has been on hold since February 2006, when U.S. District Judge Jeremy Fogel stayed the execution of convicted rapist/murderer Michael Morales, lest Morales suffer any pain.

Death row inmates are likelier to kill themselves than they are to be executed. A new report published in the Loyola of Los Angeles Law Review notes that 78 inmates died on death row from natural causes or violence.

The report also lays out the costs of the death penalty. If you take the \$4 billion it estimates

that state and federal taxpayers have paid since 1978 to administer California's death penalty and then divide that number by 13, you find that each execution cost \$308 million on average. The report estimates that the death penalty cost Californians \$184 million in 2009.

In response to the report, Hancock put together SB 490, which would replace the death penalty with a sentence of life without parole. Hancock spokesman Larry Levin explained that the death penalty has been a "third rail" of California politics, but with the report's new numbers on the law's price tag, "we saw a moment."

One of the report's co-authors, Loyola law professor Paula M.

Mitchell, told the Los Angeles Times she wants to abolish the death penalty. The other, Judge Arthur L. Alarcon, was on the three-judge panel that denied the appeal of Robert Alton Harris, who killed two 16-year-old boys before his 1992 execution.

On the one hand, the report does a solid job quantifying how much taxpayers must pay for the death penalty. Mitchell and Alarcon even found numbers that estimate defense costs for inmate appeals — an average of \$635,000 on federal appeals alone.

On the other hand, the authors gloss over the role of frivolous appeals and bonehead rulings by federal judges. The report states that federal courts granted new trials or penalty hearings in roughly 70 of 100 now-disposed cases. That means federal judges have overturned juries in cases reviewed by state courts in 7 in 10 cases.

Kent Scheidegger of the tough-on-crime Criminal Justice Legal Foundation puts the onus on the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, where too many judges

are "simply looking for a reason to reverse."

When I asked Hancock whether the 9th Circuit's 70 percent reversal rate bothers her, she answered, "No, not if they're following the law."

And: "Thank God we have a constitution. We're not one of those countries where they cut off hands and execute people without due process."

Don Heller wrote California's 1978 death penalty ballot measure. He now opposes capital punishment. A former prosecutor, he told me that he "evolved" in private practice after dealing more closely with defendants and seeing too many "pretty inept" lawyers representing capital cases. He concluded, "We're just spending way too much money for a system that has flaws in it."

In a letter to Hancock, Scheidegger hit the report for leaving out the savings of the "plea bargain effect," i.e., when murderers plead guilty — forfeiting the chance they might be found not guilty at trial — in order to avoid capital punishment. "What would happen to those cases if there were no death penalty?"

And what happens when California's death row lawyers discover they've got time on their hands and a receptive audience in the 9th Circuit? Next argument: Life without parole is too expensive.

*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).*

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# Bozo Congress and our crisis

We don't have a debt crisis or a tax crisis or a spending crisis in this country. We have a hate crisis, an extremism crisis and a lack of patriotism crisis.

Let's take that last one first, since you are never supposed to accuse anyone of a lack of patriotism because we are all good Americans, right?

But I will accuse most members of Congress of a lack of patriotism because they love power more than they love their country. They love knee-jerk ideology more than they love their country. And they love getting re-elected more than they love their country.

Which is why so many of them are sitting on their ample behinds right now, rather than doing anything meaningful about averting a global economic collapse.

That's right. Too many Republicans refuse to raise taxes on the rich, no matter what happens to this country.

And too many Democrats refuse to consider cuts in entitlement spending, no matter what happens to this country.

That's the extremism crisis, which makes people willing to follow their ideologies off a cliff. Are the two sides equally to blame? No, I don't think so.

But it really doesn't matter, since it has led to a paralysis that has brought us to an economic abyss. Talk to lawmakers about economic theory? Heck, some of them don't even believe in evolution.

So let's skip to the probable result: If the United States defaults on its debt, your savings could be wiped out. The money you have been keeping for your retirement or your kids' college

education or just for a rainy day could be gone. Even brokerage money market funds could take a huge hit. At the end of 2008, there were 2,000 such funds in this country with assets of \$3.8 trillion. People think they are safe. People are wrong.

Think I am being extreme? Think I am shouting fire in a crowded theater?

It is OK to shout fire in a crowded theater if the theater is really on fire.

Now let me get to the hatred part. Let's admit it: A lot of Republicans just plain hate Barack Obama's guts. You can't blame racism for all of it. Bill Clinton was hated, too. As Mike McCurry, Clinton's press secretary, told me in 2007, the year before the Monica Lewinsky scandal broke, "One-third of the American people have a deep, visceral dislike for this president."

And economic times were good under Clinton, debt was changed to surplus, and millions of jobs were created.

Note I don't say that Clinton created those jobs. The truth is, presidents have far less to do with job creation than we think. (And gas prices, too.) But because presidents claim to create jobs when times are good, it is tough for presidents to escape blame for job loss when times are bad.

And while nobody calls him 'Slick Barack,' like they called Clinton "Slick Willie," there is the feeling among Obama haters that he is too smooth, too intellectual and, to some, just too darn uppity. Like when in April 2008 he said of small-town voters, "It's not surprising then that they get bitter, they cling to guns or religion or antipathy to people who aren't like them or anti-immigrant sentiment or anti-trade sentiment as a way to explain their frustrations."

A lot of people didn't like that. And for all the "post-racial" bliss that Obama's election was supposed to signal in this country,

keep in mind he lost the white vote by a landslide 12 percentage points.

But, as I said, it's not all race, either. Remember Velma Hart? Sure, you do, even if you don't remember her name. She's the middle-aged black woman who stood up at a nationally televised town hall in September 2010 and said this to President Obama: "I'm one of your middle-class Americans, and quite frankly, I'm exhausted. Exhausted of defending you, defending your administration, defending the mantle of change that I voted for, and deeply disappointed with where we are right now."

When she made that statement, Velma Hart was the chief financial officer for a nonprofit veterans group. Two months later, she lost her job. "It's not anything she did," her boss said. "She got bit by the same snake that has bit a lot of people."

That snake is still biting. President Obama is trying to avert an economic crisis by agreeing to make cuts in Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security in exchange for raising taxes on the rich.

"No tax hikes!" scream some Republican lawmakers.

"No cuts in benefits!" scream some Democratic lawmakers.

They scream because they are afraid of losing their jobs. They don't want to compromise, even if compromise would be best for this country and would avert a financial catastrophe.

And who elected these bozos? We did.

So if the crash comes and you are wiped out and looking for someone to blame, look in the mirror.

*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).*

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# Chair exercises can help senior citizens

**Dear Savvy Senior,**  
What can you tell me about chair exercises for seniors? I have some balance problems along with arthritis in my left knee which limits my mobility. A friend recommended chair exercises as a good way to get moving but I don't know where to start. What can you tell me?  
*Sedentary Senior*

**Dear Sedentary,**  
For seniors with balance problems or other health conditions that restrict their mobility, chair exercises are a gentle and safe way to shape up while you're sitting down. Here's what you should know, along with some tools and resources to help get you started.

**Chair Exercises**  
Many people find it hard to believe, but the health benefits of chair exercises can be significant for seniors. Chair exercises can help you build muscle strength and endurance, improve your flexibility and balance, and boost your circulation and metabolism.  
Your doctor or physical therapist can be great resources to help you learn more. All you need is a sturdy, four-

legged chair that sits flat on the floor. Don't use a rocking chair or a large cushioned chair that doesn't provide support.

To get you started, there are lots of great instructional DVDs, VHS tapes and books you can purchase to guide you through a wide variety of chair exercises that you can do at home. To find these products try websites like Sit And Be Fit ([sitandbefit.org](http://sitandbefit.org), 888-678-9438), a non-profit organization that has a chair exercise television program on many PBS stations around the country, and sells dozens of DVDs, videotapes, CDs and books on different exercise programs depending on your needs and ailments.

Another great chair fitness option you should check into is "chair yoga," which is ideal for improving your flexibility and range-of-motion. Some good resources for finding chair yoga instructional videos and DVDs are [yogaheart.com](http://yogaheart.com), [peggycappy.com](http://peggycappy.com) and [strongerseniors.com](http://strongerseniors.com) which also offers chair exercise DVDs.

Also see Chair Dancing International

## S THE SAVVY SENIOR



([chairdancing.com](http://chairdancing.com), 800-551-4386), a company that offers a variety of chair exercise videos that incorporates gentle no-impact dance moves into their routines.

**Group Classes**

If you don't like exercising alone or need some motivation, call your local senior center to see if they may offer chair exercise classes – many do. Or, consider joining SilverSneakers ([silversneakers.com](http://silversneakers.com), 888-423-4632) or

Silver&Fit ([www.silverandfit.com](http://www.silverandfit.com), 877-427-4788). These are fitness programs offered in fitness centers, gyms and YMCAs throughout the U.S. that offer special exercise classes designed exclusively for seniors including chair exercisers.

**Exercise Equipment**

There are also several pieces of equipment you might want to purchase to enhance your chair exercises. To boost your circula-

tion, balance and leg strength consider a pedal exerciser (prices range from \$25 to over \$100), which will give you a bicycle-type workout from your chair. It can also be set on a table to exercise your arms. The Sit-N-Stroll Portable Foot Exerciser is another handy tool for stimulating leg circulation.

And for chair strength training exercises, there are elastic bands, small hand weights and medicine balls you can

purchase for around \$10 that provide muscle toning resistance. You can find all these products at sporting goods stores, or online at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). Cans of soup, water bottles or milk containers filled with water or sand could also be used (like small hand weights) for resistance training.

Another great strength training tool you should know about is the Resistance Chair (it costs \$280). This is an all-in-one home fitness system that helps senior's maintain and improve their strength from a safe, seated position. To learn more see [vqactioncare.com](http://vqactioncare.com) or call 800-585-4920.

*Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070.*

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# Why not check this out? At the library

Just a heads-up for the annual Friends of the Library Book Sale: We will actively start taking donations beginning Aug. 1. Remember we cannot take magazines, National Geographic and Reader's Digest.

If you have some current magazines, we can use some.

They did sell somewhat at last year's sale, plus many times we put them on the "free" table in the library for people to take.

Our large print section has moved to the west wall in the library. The light is much better over there and you can move from the small non-fiction area to the fiction and mystery section very easily. This is another result of our upgrades in the library. We hope to add some new art work in the

near future.

The Westerns remain in the same general area, so you Western fans can still get your "fix." We have weeded out quite a bit of the Westerns; some were just so ragged and others were pretty dated. We are able to get quite a few Westerns in the large print. Large print materials remain important to many people in the community. It enables people whose vision is compromised to still enjoy reading.

Some LP mysteries have arrived. Robert Crais is a very well-known thriller/mystery writer who also was a writer for a number of TV shows — Cagney & Lacey, Quincy ME, Miami Vice and even LA Law. His character Elvis Cole is a police detective for the LAPD and Crais' latest book comes from the headlines. Police are evacuating a fire-threatened LA neighborhood when they discover the corpse of an apparent suicide. As always, it is what it isn't and that is

all I'm going to tell you. We do have this in regular print also. I almost forgot to give you the title: "Chasing Darkness" (LP M CRA R).

Ridley Pearson is an excellent writer. The library has dozens of his books and now a new one has arrived in large print. In "Killer View" (LP F PEA R), sheriff Walt Fleming is faced with a lost skier, a murder and trouble at the local water-bottling plant. Evidence leads in mysterious ways, but Walt always finds the answer. As with many of Ridley's books, there is a kernel of truth. We also have it in regular print. If you go to <http://www.ridleypearson.com>. You can see everything that Ridley has written, including quite a few television shows.

They may not be new titles, but here are a few to check out: Lauran Paine's "Desert Journey;" "Six-Gun Fury," by Jackson Cole; and "Nate Coffin's Revenge," by J. Lee Butts are stories featuring steadfast Texas Rangers. A new twist is "Gunsmoke: Dodge the Devil," by Joseph A. West. It brings back to life Marshal Dillon and Festus Haggen, Dillon's deputy.

Madeleine Wickham has a wicked sense of writing. Her books are usually based in Eng-

land, maybe Spain or France and there is always a crossed "love." Her latest, "Sleeping Arrangements," (LP

Mount Everest" (796.522 HAL L) by Lincoln Hall comes this account: In May 2006 on Mt.

Everest, veteran climber Hall was left for dead because, to his fellow climbers, he appeared to have died. But the following morning, members of another expedition found him, sitting on a rock and very much alive. Hall's story made headlines

around the world — not too many dead men walk down off the tallest mountain in the world — and now Hall, the author of seven previous climbing-themed books, tells us the full story. It is a remarkable account. Hall's ordeal is the stuff of nightmares: collapsing from altitude sickness, slipping into unconsciousness, waking up all alone at the top of the world, left behind as though he were a corpse.

As a storyteller, Hall has a tough job: to convey to the reader what was going on inside his head as he slipped in and out of hallucination

until the line between fantasy and reality was so blurred as to be non-existent. He does this with a grace and sense of drama that befit a novel. We feel we're there with him, seeing and hearing things that can't possibly be real. There have been a great many Everest-themed books lately, but this one stands alone, the first-person account of a climber's journey into, and back out of, death itself.

A couple of books from Iraq: "From Baghdad, With Love" (956.704 KOP J), by Lt. Col. Jay Kopelman and "God Willing: My Wild Ride with the New Iraqi Army" (956.704 NAV E), by Captain Eric Navarro, are now in. Kopelman writes about Lava, a tiny puppy found in an abandoned home in Fallujah and taken as a pet by some of the roughest, toughest Marines around. "God Willing" is Capt. Navarro's account of living and training 500 Iraqi police recruits. Both are equally engrossing.

Remember the library is closed Saturdays through August.

Howard County Library hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The Internet/Video room is closed from noon until 2 p.m. and closes one-half hour before closing.

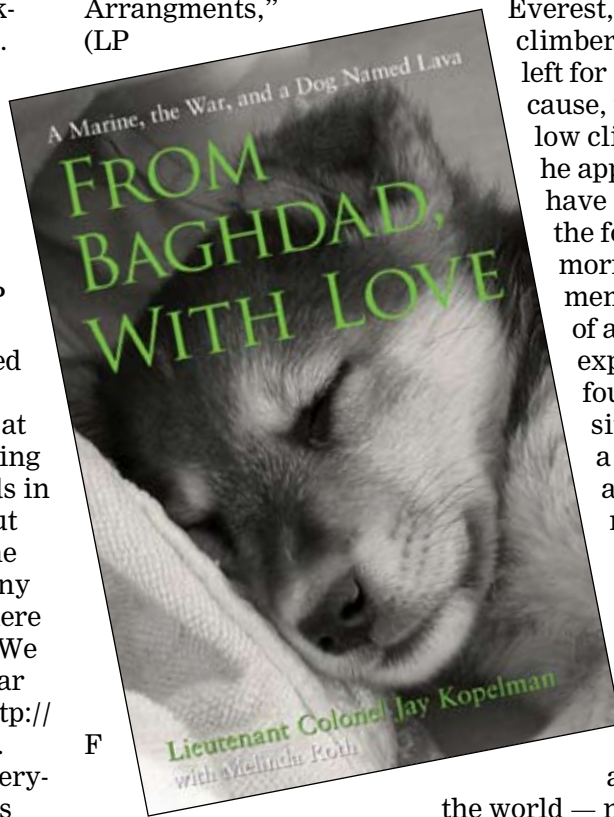
The library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260. The website is <http://wtls.tsl.state.tx.us/howard-county>. I know that is a long URL, just bookmark it for easy reference.

If you should have a reference question, contact Johnny at [reference@howardcountytexas.com](mailto:reference@howardcountytexas.com).

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.



HOLLIS  
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F

WIC M) is just that. Two couples have been promised the use of a villa in Spain when it is large enough only for a single couple. Chloe and Phillip and Hugh and Amanda come to spend a week on vacation. The question is, will each couple leave as they came? This may also be found in the fiction area with the rest of Wickham's books. Another LP selection is Elizabeth Adler's "One of Those Malibu Night" (LP M ADL E).

In a review from Booklist, "Dead Lucky: Life After Death on

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# News in brief

## 2nd former Pantex worker pleads to theft

AMARILLO (AP) — A former Pantex nuclear power plant employee has pleaded guilty to stealing copper wire from the facility in the Texas Panhandle.

The Amarillo Globe-News reports Juan Daniel Guillen will be sentenced Thursday on a theft count.

Federal records filed Tuesday show Guillen says he took more than 100 pounds of copper from a recycling bin at the plant, put the metal into his personal vehicle during work hours, then sold the copper to a recycling company.

Guillen was an electrician apprentice at the plant near Amarillo from October 2009 until January.

Guillen's former supervisor, Stephen Wayne Taylor, was sentenced Monday to six months in prison in the theft investigation. Taylor admitted stealing paint and power tools from Pantex. He worked at the plant from mid-2009 until last September.

## Embattled Price to seek another commission term

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price, who's the subject of an FBI investigation, says he plans to seek another term in 2012.

Price has served since 1985. He told The Dallas Morning News, via email Tuesday, that he will seek re-election

even if he's indicted.

FBI agents in late June raided Price's home and office. He has not been charged and denies wrongdoing.

Price attorney Billy Ravkind says he knows nothing about a grand jury investigation and has advised his client not to talk to the media.

Two businessmen, ex-Dallas Cowboy Pettis Norman and developer Jon Edmonds, told the newspaper that they received subpoenas in the Price inquiry and have been ordered to appear before a federal grand jury Wednesday. Both declined wrongdoing and refused to provide subpoena details.

## Polygamist leader has final pretrial hearing

SAN ANGELO (AP) — Polygamist leader Warren Jeffs is due in court for a final hearing before his trial on two

counts of sexual assault of a child.

Jeffs is to go on trial July 25 on a charge of aggravated sexual assault of a child from a 2008 raid on a remote Texas church retreat where authorities believed underage girls were being forced into polygamous marriages.

He is to appear at a court hearing in San Angelo Wednesday afternoon. At the hearing he might challenge a change of venue that moved the case from remote Eldorado, Texas, to San Angelo, about 45 miles north.

Prosecutors have accused Jeffs of stalling his trial by running through a series of attorneys.

## Inmate set to die for post-9/11 killings

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Condemned inmate Mark Stroman was look-

ing to the federal courts to prevent his execution Wednesday for killing a Dallas-area convenience store clerk during a shooting he said was in retaliation for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Stroman, 41, said he went on a shooting spree in the weeks following the 2001 attacks targeting people of Middle East descent, claiming it was a patriotic response to terrorism. Two men were killed and a third was wounded. Stroman is scheduled for lethal injection Wednesday evening in Huntsville.

In an unusual step, the lone shooting survivor, Rais Bhuiyan, a native of Bangladesh, has asked the courts to halt the execution. In a lawsuit, he argues that his religious beliefs as a Muslim told him to forgive Stroman. He also wants to spend time with the convict to learn more about why the shootings occurred.

Meanwhile, Stroman's lawyer was at the U.S.

Supreme Court pointing to Bhuiyan's "significant surprise" and arguing that attorneys during Stroman's trial and in earlier stages of his appeals were deficient for not illustrating "the path that led him to this violent frenzy."

State attorneys disputed those arguments, contending Stroman was "misrepresenting the actual facts."

They said lawyers had called witnesses who testified about Stroman's poor and abusive childhood, alcoholic parents, drug use and behavioral problems before and after Sept. 11, 2001.

They also contested Bhuiyan's statements about acting on behalf of all the victims, including the widow of Vasudev Patel.

## 2 rescued from bungee ride

DALLAS (AP) — A bungee ride in Dallas arranged by a woman to help her future husband face his fear of heights apparently had the opposite effect after it turned into a three-hour ordeal 50 feet up when the cables got tangled.

Officials said Tuesday the couple, William Mancera and Thalia Rodriguez of Irving, was not injured.

Mancera tells KXAS-TV that his fear of heights "won again" and he is "never riding anything of that sort ever again."

Dallas firefighters had to use an aerial ladder truck to rescue the couple Monday night after the bungee jump, officials said.



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## News in brief

### House OKs stringent spending cuts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans are showing far more flexibility than their tea party-backed House colleagues as Washington policymakers seek to steer the government away from a first-ever default on its financial obligations.

As the House doubled down on a symbolic vote to condition any increase in the government's borrowing authority on congressional passage of a balanced budget constitutional amendment and a fresh wave of spending cuts, the warm reception by many Senate Republicans to a new bipartisan budget plan revealed a thawing in GOP attitudes on new tax revenues.

President Barack Obama also lauded the deficit-reduction plan put forward by a bipartisan "Gang of Six" Senate lawmakers, which calls for \$1 trillion in what sponsors delicately called "additional revenue" and some critics swiftly labeled as higher taxes.

The plan by the Gang of Six is far too complicated and contentious to advance before an Aug. 2 deadline to avoid a default that Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and other experts warn would rattle markets, drive up interest rates and threaten to take the country back into a recession. But its authors clearly hope it could serve as a template for a "grand bargain" later in the year that could erase perhaps \$4 trillion from the deficit over the coming decade.

In the House, the 234-190 vote Tuesday to pass the House GOP "cut, cap and balance" plan reflected the strength of tea party forces elected in last year's

midterm election. GOP conservatives reveled in their victory, however temporary it may be, since the plan faces a White House veto threat and is a dead letter in the Senate anyway.

### As conservatives balk, House Speaker seeks bipartisan majority to raise federal debt ceiling

WASHINGTON (AP) — The terms "billions" and "trillions" are tossed around in the nation's debt ceiling debate. Probably no number, however, is more important than 217.

That's how many votes are needed in the 435-member House, with two vacancies, to pass any measure to raise the nation's debt limit and avert economic convulsions in about two weeks.

Interviews with more than a dozen key players Tuesday suggest it's possible, but not easy.

The Senate, with its competing proposals from the "Gang of Six" and Republican leader Mitch McConnell, has dominated public attention so far. But the GOP-controlled House is the tougher challenge for President Barack Obama and others, who say it would be catastrophic for the nation to breach its borrowing limits and begin defaulting on obligations.

Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, has echoed the warning. But he is struggling to lead an unwieldy Republican membership that's heavily influenced by debt-hating tea partiers. And he will need help from the Democratic minority, dominated by liberals following the 2010 elections, which swept away dozens of moderates.

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# Poker world series down to final table

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Nine poker players from seven countries made the final table of the World Series of Poker main event early Wednesday after a 23-year-old from Costa Rica busted out of the no-limit Texas Hold 'em tournament in 10th place.

Poker professional John Hewitt was eliminated early Wednesday with pocket 3s after losing to Eoghan O'Dea's Broadway straight. O'Dea had a king-jack, and caught an ace on the turn to complete his hand.

"I think at the end, it was a little bit of relief," said O'Dea, the 26-year-old son of an Irish poker player who made two main event final tables and won a bracelet at the series in 1998.

"Things can change com-

pletely," O'Dea said.

Hewitt lost the bulk of his chips minutes before being eliminated after calling an all-in wager from 49-year-old Badih Bounahra of Belize with an unsuited king-queen. Bounahra had pocket kings, which doubled him to nearly 19 million in chips.

The blunder — Hewitt was likely at best a less than 50-50 shot to win the hand no matter what Bounahra was holding — put Hewitt extremely low on chips and opened him up significantly to attacks from other players with mediocre hands.

"The player he was up against was really tight," O'Dea said. "He definitely could have maybe let that go against him."

The nine finalists, including

chip leader Martin Stasko of the Czech Republic with 40.2 million, will settle the \$8.71 million title in November.

Hewitt's ouster capped 3½ hours of 10-handed play, during which the top players from a starting field of 6,865 players tried to avoid busting out on poker's biggest bubble — worth far more than the pay difference of \$174,233 between 10th and ninth place.

The finalists, all relatively unknown, now have until November to make names for themselves before coming back to play for the title.

"As far as life, this is one of the coolest days of my life and will be for many years," said Ben Lamb, a 26-year-old poker professional from Las Vegas who capped a summer during which his run at the

58-tournament series was better than any other player.

Lamb, who finished with an about-average 20.8 million in chips, is the front-runner for the series' player of the year award, ahead of 11-time bracelet winner Phil Hellmuth and already a winner at another tournament earlier this summer.

But Lamb said making the final table of the main event — poker's most prestigious yearly event — topped the remarkable run.

"Truthfully, this is way cooler than anything else," Lamb said. "If I had to stand out, this is it."

"Every poker player's dream is to be here, and to have all my success before and then be here still — it's surreal," Lamb said. "This

is one of the biggest heaters, if not the biggest heater, in poker, ever."

The final table includes three Americans, plus entrants from Britain, Germany, the Ukraine and Ireland, all who have played nearly 72 hours of poker in total since the tournament started.

While Staszko has a more than 10 million-chip advantage over his next closest competitor, the rest of the field is relatively close to one another in chips, making for an even less predictable than usual finale. Besides O'Dea, Lamb and Bounahra, the remaining finalists were 26-year-old Matt Giannetti of Las Vegas, Anton Makiievskyi of the Ukraine, Sam Holden of Britain, Pius Heinz of Germany, and Phil Collins of Las Vegas.

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## Astros trade Keppinger to SF

HOUSTON (AP) — Being 15 games over .500 and holding a 3½-game lead in the NL West wasn't enough for Giants general manager Brian Sabean.

The architect of San Francisco's stirring run to its first World Series title since 1954, Sabean is once again shaking up his roster.

With infielders Freddy Sanchez and Miguel

Tejada on the disabled list, the Giants acquired second baseman Jeff Keppinger from the struggling Houston Astros for two Double-A pitchers on Tuesday.

San Francisco also called up Brandon Belt from Triple-A Fresno to relieve first baseman Aubrey Huff, who has tightness in his lower back.

Sabean hasn't ruled out additional moves, either.

"Without being harsh, this group just isn't getting it done," the GM said before San Francisco hosted the Los Angeles Dodgers. "We need to somehow extend the lineup any way we can, and we think this is an upgrade."

The Giants have had numerous injury problems in their infield this

season. Sanchez is out indefinitely with a dislocated right shoulder and Tejada was placed on the disabled list Tuesday with an injury to his lower abdomen.

San Francisco signed former Houston second baseman Bill Hall after Sanchez was injured, but Hall is on the DL because of a leg laceration.

Tejada, who has played primarily shortstop and third base, left Monday's 5-0 win against the Dodgers after straining his lower abdomen while trying to field a grounder.

"We felt with the injuries we've had up the middle, (Keppinger is) going to give us some strength there, some versatility," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said.

## sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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## Are the Palestinians Ready for Peace?

### Why Arab intransigence makes peace most unlikely.

Just as all the presidents since Harry Truman before him, President Obama is spending much time, effort, and political capital trying to bring about peace between Israel and the Palestinians Arabs. If history is any guide, he will be as unsuccessful in this endeavor, just as every one of his predecessors.

#### What are the facts?

**Many attempts at peace.** In order to understand the unlikelihood of peace in the Middle East, it is necessary to trace the history of peace-making attempts between Israel and the Palestinians. Virtually all of them resulted in complete failure. Here is a list of only the most important of such events:

The enmity of the Arabs against the Jews in their midst and the violence against them predates the creation of the Jewish state. There were some peace proposals during the British

Mandate (prior to 1948), but they were in vain and deserve little mention in this narrative. Notable was the Peel Commission proposal in 1937, in which the creation of an Arab state was suggested, but the Arabs rejected it.

The most important proposal in the history of peace making was the 1947 U.N. Resolution to create a large Arab state with the Jews receiving two disjointed pieces, consisting mostly of much of the coastline and the Negev Desert. Jerusalem was to be internationalized. The Jews accepted the plan. The Arabs totally rejected it. Instead, they invaded the nascent Jewish state with the armies of five Arab nations, in hopes to "drive the Jews into the sea" (one of their favorite imageries). Of course, that isn't the way it turned out. Instead, about 650,000 Arabs fled the area, mostly under the goading of their leaders. Remarkably, their descendants, even today, are called "refugees," supported by the United Nations, which means mostly by the United States.

Every year for the last 60+ years, the Arabs memorialize the "Nakba" (catastrophe) of the creation of the State of Israel. But, of course, without the war that they imposed on Israel, there would be no "Nakba." Just as Israel, the Arabs would now be able to commemorate the 63rd anniversary of their Palestinian state.

From 1948 to 1967, Jordan occupied the "West Bank." During the nineteen years of their tenure, not a word was

heard about forming a Palestinian state in the area. After the 1967 Six-Day War, in which the Israelis trounced the combined armies of Egypt, Syria, and Jordan, Jordan's occupation of the "West Bank" ended and so did Egypt's occupation of Gaza. At that time, Israel offered the hand of friendship to the Arabs, which was rudely rejected when the Arabs issued the Three No's of Khartoum: No Peace, No Negotiation, and No Recognition of Israel. Another important opportunity that would have radically changed the history of the Middle East was missed.

**Never-ending efforts at peace.** In 1993 and 1995 Israel and the PLO signed the Oslo Accords with the aim of creating a Palestinian state within five years. Israel agreed to withdraw from parts of the West Bank and Gaza. Israel turned over most of its administration of the territories to the Palestinian Authority (PA). But, the Palestinians violated their commitments, thus scuttling the agreement.

In 2000, Prime Minister Ehud Barak offered to withdraw from 97% of the West Bank and 100% of Gaza. That proposal also guaranteed Palestinian refugees the right to return to the Palestinian state and offered reparations from \$30 billion of international funds that would be collected to compensate them. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat rejected the deal.

In 2003, Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon agreed to negotiate with the Palestinians according to the "road map" formulated by the United States, Russia, the European Union, and the U.N. The Palestinians never fulfilled their obligation to normalized relations with Israel and to arrive at a comprehensive peace. Another missed opportunity!

In 2005, Israel unilaterally decided to evacuate every soldier and citizen from Gaza. The "reward" for Israel's evacuation was for the Palestinians to launch rockets into Israel from Gaza at an almost daily rate. There were further attempts in 2007 by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and in 2010 by Prime Minister "Bibi" Netanyahu, but all have ended in failure.

The above chronology is only a partial one, giving only the most important highlights. There have been negotiations, conferences, plans, and meetings almost uninterrupted. All of them have foundered. The "all-or-nothing" mentality of the Arabs, their unwillingness to recognize Israel as a Jewish state, and the Arabs' expressed desire to destroy the hated Jews, have kept peace from flowering. What a shame! If the Arabs had accepted the 1947 partition plan and had not invaded the nascent Jewish state with the armies of five Arab countries, they would not now have the need today to commemorate their "Nakba." They could be celebrating their country's 63rd anniversary, their enduring peace with Israel, and could be part of the tremendous prosperity that Israel has brought to that region of the world.

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## The most not talked about subject in our community. Sexual Assault of a child.

Maybe we don't want to believe it happens in our back yard?

Or Is it that we just don't understand what sexual assault of a child really is.

### What is child sexual abuse exactly?

If you are not exactly sure what sexual abuse is, you're not alone. All sexual touching between an adult and a child is sexual abuse. Sexual touching between children can also be sexual abuse when there is a significant age difference (often defined as 3 or more years) between the children or if the children are very different developmentally or size-wise. Sexual abuse does not have to involve penetration, force, pain, or even touching. If an adult engages in any sexual behavior (looking, showing, or touching) with a child to meet the adult's sexual needs or interest, it is sexual abuse.

Most often child sexual abuse is a gradual process and not a single event. By learning the early warning signs and how to effectively step in and speak up, sexual abuse can be stopped before a child is harmed. **Adults must take the primary responsibility for preventing child sexual abuse by addressing any concerning or questionable behavior which may pose a risk to a child's safety.**

#### WARNING SIGNS:

#### Behavior you may see in a child

- Has nightmares or other sleep problems without an explanation
- Seems distracted or distant at odd times
- Has a sudden change in eating habits
- Refuses to eat
- Loses or drastically increases appetite
- Has trouble swallowing.
- Sudden mood swings: rage, fear, insecurity or withdrawal
- Leaves "clues" that seem likely to provoke a discussion about sexual issues
- Writes, draws, plays or dreams of sexual or frightening images
- Develops new or unusual fear of certain people or places
- Refuses to talk about a secret shared with an adult or older child
- Talks about a new older friend
- Suddenly has money, toys or other gifts without reason
- Thinks of self or body as repulsive, dirty or bad
- Exhibits adult-like sexual behaviors, language and knowledge

#### Signs more typical of younger children

- An older child behaving like a younger child (such as bed-wetting or thumb sucking)
- Has new words for private body parts
- Resists removing clothes when appropriate times (bath, bed, toileting, diapering)
- Asks other children to behave sexually or play sexual games
- Mimics adult-like sexual behaviors with toys or stuffed animal
- Wetting and soiling accidents unrelated to toilet training

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TEXAS

Continued from Page 1B

good team, but we're trying to create some separation," third baseman Adrian Beltre said. "We're trying to win every game we can. We came here to win the series — and who knows? Maybe all three games.

"We have some breathing room now and the starting pitchers have been pitching really good, so we feel comfortable knowing that no matter how many runs we score, we'll get the pitching," he added. "Pitching has been the key to this streak."

The winning streak is the second-longest in club history behind a 14-game run in 1991, and it has put the Rangers (56-41) a season-high 15 games over .500. They have outscored opponents 77-24 during this stretch, and the pitching staff has yielded two earned runs over the last six games — including four shutouts.

"It's been great," Young said. "I mean, if you look at our three young guys in the rotation, they're all 95 (mph)-plus. But now they're getting to a point where they're starting to command their stuff. They're going after guys, they're attacking the strike zone and forcing guys to make contact. They're competing, staying poised and starting to show maturity. We're really happy with what they're doing out there."

Ogando (10-3) won his third straight start and first since July 6, lowering his ERA to 2.72. He struck out five, including Torii Hunter three times. The All-Star right-hander's only other career start against the Angels was on May 13, when he outpitched current major league ERA leader Jered Weaver in a 4-1 victory.

"He was Alexi. I didn't really expect anything different," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "I expected him to pitch his game and keep us in the ballgame. He certainly did that. He was very good. We caught the ball behind him and put up five runs with two outs. That was huge."

Endy Chavez, the No. 9 batter, hit a two-run homer in the eighth against reliever Michael Kohn. The rookie right-hander also gave up solo shots to Josh Hamilton

and Beltre to open the ninth.

The Angels, a game out of first place at the All-Star break, have dropped four of five. Tyler Chatwood (5-6) gave up three runs, seven hits and four walks in five innings. The 21-year-old rookie is 0-4 with a 5.54 ERA in his last five starts at Angel Stadium, where Los Angeles had won 11 of 13.

"I've got to cut down on walks. That's been an issue all season," Chatwood said. "I've got to stop trying to nitpick and just go after them."

The shutout loss was the Angels' 11th, and six of those games were started by Chatwood.

"We've just got to get back swinging the bats," Howie Kendrick said. "Our pitching's been pretty good all year, and for the longest time we were in this game tonight. We had a couple chances early, but the guy made his pitches. He's been good all year, and tonight he didn't leave much out over the plate."

The Angels' best scoring chance came in the third, but Bobby Abreu stranded runners at second and third with a groundout.

Erick Aybar led off the Angels' fifth with a drive to left-center and tried to stretch it into a triple, but was thrown out. Mark Trumbo followed with his second double of the game, but it turned out to be Los Angeles' final hit.

"When Alexi hits his spots and throws strikes, he's effective," said Mike Napoli, who has started behind the plate in six of Ogando's starts. "It's huge for us, and it's a plus that we have another quality starter who can go out there every day."

Napoli, who spent his first five big league seasons with the Angels, was 2 for 3 with a pair of walks and scored twice in his first game at Anaheim since Los Angeles traded him and Juan Rivera to Toronto for Vernon Wells on Jan. 21.

NFL

Continued from Page 1B

Brees, Chargers receiver Vincent Jackson and Patriots guard Logan Mankins — to sign off on a settlement to their antitrust lawsuit against the NFL that is pending in federal court in Minnesota.

Late Tuesday, Jackson tweeted: "I have made no demands, I wanna play ball like the rest of my peers!"

Another pending dispute has been the TV networks case, in which players accused owners of setting up \$4 billion in "lockout insurance."

After joining the talks in New York for about seven hours, Hall of Fame defensive end Carl Eller thought an agreement would be reached this week. He also said retired players won't stand in the way.

After leaving negotiations, Eller headed to a meeting with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell.

"They want to get these games going, and they want to have a season. That's their focus," Eller said. "Our issues are very, very critical — very important — but they don't really have much to do with whether the game goes on or not."

He said "there's still a lot more to be done" when it comes to benefits for former players, but that could be resolved after the main issues are settled.

A proposal under consideration would set up nearly \$1 billion over the next 10 years in additional benefits for retired players. That would include \$620 million in pension increases, long-term care insurance and disability programs.

Retired players complained to the court in

Minnesota recently that they had been excluded from negotiations, making Eller's presence Tuesday significant.

"We weren't happy, and we hope it doesn't go back to that. We hope we stay active in the talks and we hope we continue to have meaningful talks. This clearly lets us know there's more work to be done," Eller said. "It's certainly something we want to keep going and continue the dialogue, continue to work until we have some kind of a solution."

Lawyers for the NFL and the players suing the league submitted a joint filing to the court Tuesday, asking for an extra week to file written arguments "to allow them to focus on the continuing mediation." The request, which was granted in the afternoon, noted that "the parties have also been meeting regularly since April 11, 2011, in an effort to re-

solve their disputes." The country's most popular professional sports league has been in limbo since the old collective bargaining agreement expired March 11. The lockout began hours later.

The lockout has resulted in pay cuts for non-playing employees around the league, and economic hardship for cities, like Cortland, N.Y., that hosted training camps in the past but won't this year. On Tuesday, the lower-level UFL — which had been hoping to start its season in the void created by a lack of NFL preseason games — announced it is delaying its season start to mid-September, a blow for a league that has lost \$100 million in only two years.

The NFL's regular-season opener is scheduled for Sept. 8, when the Super Bowl champion Green Bay Packers are to host the New Orleans Saints.

To submit a sports item, call 263-7331

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

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 ♥ Q J 7  
 ♦ 10 3  
 ♣ 10 7 3 2

**WEST**  
 ♠ Q J 9  
 ♥ 6 2  
 ♦ A Q J 5  
 ♣ K J 9 5

**EAST**  
 ♠ K 10 6 4  
 ♥ 5  
 ♦ 8 7 6 4 2  
 ♣ 8 6 4

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ 8 7  
 ♥ A K 10 9 8 4 3  
 ♦ K 9  
 ♣ A Q

The bidding:  
 1♥ South 2♥ North East  
 4♥ South Dble Pass

Opening lead — queen of spades.

There are hands where defending mechanically will allow declarer to get home with a contract that could have been defeated.

Consider this deal from a team-of-four match where West led the queen of spades against four hearts. South played low from dummy, as did East, and West continued with the jack. Declarer took the ace, ruffed a spade, played the A-Q of hearts and led a low diamond to the

West cashed two diamonds but was then stymied. He had to lead a club or a diamond, either of which would hand South the contract.

At the other table, four hearts was also the final contract. Again West led the queen of spades, ducked in dummy, but here East overlooked the queen with the king and returned a diamond. West cashed two diamonds and reverted to spades, thus putting the contract out of reach. South later lost a club trick and went down one.

The second East defended exceptionally well to defeat the contract. Overtaking the queen of spades was not particularly difficult, as West was marked by the bidding and declarer's first play with the Q-J-x.

But East then guessed well to shift to a diamond rather than a club. Had East returned a club at trick two, South could still have made the contract with careful play.

He wins with the ace, leads a spade to the ace and ruffs a spade. He then leads a trump to the jack, ruffs dummy's last spade, plays the ace of trumps and exits with the queen of clubs. West takes the king but is helpless, since he must either establish dummy's ten of clubs or South's king of diamonds as declarer's 10th trick.

Tomorrow: The magic number.  
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# Rangers take steps to make ballpark safer

ARLINGTON (AP) — The Texas Rangers plan to make all the protective railings at their stadium the same height, raising some as much as a foot to make their stadium safer following the death of a fan during a recent game.

Rangers executive vice president Rob Matwick said Tuesday that the team's intention is for all rails in the front of seating sections to be 42 inches throughout Rangers Ballpark.

Architectural and engineering studies are already under way at 17-year-old Rangers Ballpark to determine how to do the work.

Railings around the ballpark now are 30 or 34 inches in most areas, with 42-inch rails already at the base of aisles that lead to the front row. City building requirements are that guardrails must be at least 26-inches high.

"Part of the goal is to not only raise it, but to raise it to the highest standard that exists in the United States at this time, and to do that uniformly on all the front rows around the ballpark," Matwick said.

Shannon Stone, a Brownwood firefighter, died less than an hour after he tumbled head-first over a rail out of the

seats in left field during a game July 7. Stone fell about 20 feet to concrete behind the outfield wall after reaching out to catch a ball tossed his way by All-Star outfielder Josh Hamilton.

Matwick said the railing in the area where Stone fell is 34 inches.

The day after Stone's fatal fall, the Rangers were already in contact with city officials, as well as ballpark contractors and architects, about how to ensure safety for fans attending games played in the American League champion's stadium.

Because it will take time for the rails to be

changed, the club is taking some immediate steps to remind fans to be careful.

The most prominent is adding yellow signs on the rails that read, in all capital letters, "DO NOT LEAN, SIT ON, OR STAND AGAINST RAIL." The same warning will be made before each game over the public-address system and on the scoreboards. Plus, stadium workers will more closely monitor the rails.

Security personnel were placed at the base of each aisle in left field the next game after Stone fell. Matwick said the plan is to keep those personnel in place in the immediate future, meaning there will be an extra six or seven workers in that area each game.

The Rangers' next home game is Friday night.

"The Rangers have continually updated

us regarding their new safety initiatives and we are fully supportive of their efforts," MLB spokesman Pat Courtney said. "We have encouraged our clubs to review stadium operations over the second half of the season to continue to ensure a safe environment for our fans."

Rangers Ballpark workers on Tuesday were placing the yellow stickers on rails along the front rows. There had already been such warning signs in place, but mostly at the base of aisles. Now there are numerous signs along the rail in each section.

Matwick said the team is hopeful that the architectural and engineering studies will be completed in "probably a few weeks." He said the process has already begun to measure each rail section to verify exactly what is in place.

No work on the rail-

ings can be done until the studies are completed. Those will help determine if new railing will be needed or if current railing can be updated.

"We need to check and make sure that the way that the rails are currently anchored can support additional structure on top," Matwick said. "It's just a question of whether it can be done in existing structure or whether it has to be retrofitted. It's not a question of whether or not it can be done, just a question of whether or not we have to retrofit. That could potentially take some more time."

Matwick said the team's goal would be to start the work on the railings "during the season if we absolutely can." He said it was difficult now to determine when that would be or when the work could be completed.

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- Benjamin Franklin, letter to Collinson, 1753

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It's a morning of mixed moods. The moon in Pisces goes void-of-course before shifting into action-oriented Aries. Many will get a late start. Even though you may know exactly what you want to do, there will be a larger than usual lag time in the transition from idea to action. But once it's "game on," expect continuous momentum.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Are you allowed to have lazy days? If so, how lazy, and how many? These are the kinds of questions you'll be weighing in your mind as you struggle to get motivated. Only you know the right answer.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). While some areas of

life are developing nicely, a very important goal has slipped out of reach and will continue to drift away from you unless you make an action plan and commit to it.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You won't believe what some people charge for their services. Seeing what's out there could make you feel like you've been settling for less than you deserve. Rethink your options.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). A nagging thought will keep cropping up until you do something about it. Go straight to the root of it, and yank it like the weed it is. Handle this so you can get quickly back to the main event.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). What's important is that you eventually figure out what you're supposed to do and do it. The confusion, false starts and missteps that happen prior to that won't really count in the end.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Whatever state you're going for — happier, thinner, richer, whatever — the "act as if" exercise will help you achieve it. And you'll probably learn that you're a better thespian than you thought.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Save the Internet and other distractions for after you do your work. Otherwise, your thoughts and energy will spin out in all kinds of directions, and it will be difficult to reel them back in.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your progress will inspire others. But if you devolve instead, that will be inspiring, too — someday and as long as you don't give up. So accept where you are, and stay in the game.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You want the best teacher available and will get what you want when you are the best pupil around. Bring your curious and open mind,

and check your ego and preconceived notions at the door.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Sometimes it seems like too much effort to prepare and enjoy your meals properly. That's why it's so wonderful to find a new food or restaurant you like. You'll make such a find today.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You will create a bid for a job or perhaps for another kind of arrangement that is less formal. Do your research. Consider, compare and contrast the deals that others in a similar position have made.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Action begets action. You'll be busy all day, and night brings the same high activity level. Take pictures and write things down. There's much you'll want to remember in this flurry of activity.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (July 20). You will follow

your interests with new passion and, in the process, bond with loyal friends. Your tremendous self-control and persistence are rewarded when you reach a personal goal in September. Autumn brings romantic adventures and diplomatic maneuvers. Look for opportunity in December, and move fast. Aquarius and Pisces people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 14, 20, 6, 32 and 18.

*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).*

2011

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Annie's Mailbox

**Dear Annie:** My parents are in their early 80s. They've had some health problems and are slowing down, but they are still able to care for themselves. They make ends meet because they

carefully saved over the years.

The problem is my younger sister, who went through a difficult divorce several years ago. "Donna" hasn't worked much since then, and Mom and Dad are paying nearly all of her expenses. If my parents were to need assisted living, I worry it could be a major hardship.

Donna shows no signs of looking for full-time work. When Mom recently told me that vacuuming hurts her arms, I asked Donna to pitch in with the heavy housework. She agreed to do so, but when I later asked Mom about it, she said Donna told her she didn't have time because she was so busy applying for jobs and was afraid she might miss a phone call if she left home. (As if cell phones don't travel.)

I understand that jobs aren't easy to come by, but couldn't Donna spend one day a week doing housework and running errands for my parents?

I would do it myself, but there have been layoffs and pay cuts at work, and my hours have increased substantially. I get home late, and I'm exhausted.

It annoys me that Donna is living a life of leisure at my parents' expense, and when I say anything, they make excuses for her. Any advice for me? — *Emma in Texas*

**Dear Texas:** You cannot force Donna to be a better daughter, nor are your parents likely to insist on it.

Since they could use some extra assistance, however, it wouldn't hurt to talk to Donna again and remind her

gently that she currently is the one with the most flexible schedule. Ask her how she thinks she can be of help. Then suggest to your parents that they discuss their future financial needs with their banker, lawyer or other impartial intermediary.

**Dear Annie:** I belong to an organization that supports women who wish to go to college.

We recently presented a sizable scholarship check, in person, to a very needy young high school graduate.

We have had no response from her. We would like to send her a note about this. There is a possibility she could get additional grants in the future, but we feel a response is both courteous and necessary.

Is there proper wording for such a

letter from us? It seems shameful that our young generation is not taught this proper etiquette. — *Midge*

**Dear Midge:** When you presented the scholarship, did the girl thank you in person?

If so, she may not realize that it is good form to also express her appreciation in writing.

Send her a note saying, "We were delighted to award you the Women's Scholarship last spring.

We would very much like to be kept informed of your progress, so please let us know how you are doing."

*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. © 2011 CREATORS.COM*

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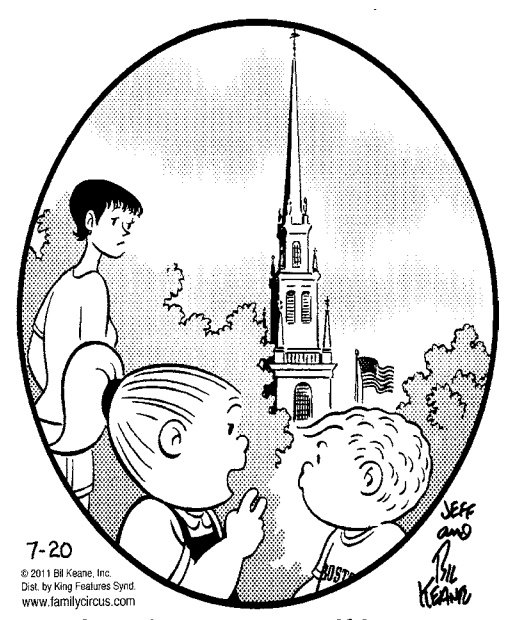
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	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports
5:PM	News ABC	Alma	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	King	Swallow	News	'70s	Cash Cab	of the Phoenix, Tyrese Gibson	Deadliest Warrior	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Good	Around Pardon	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Quando Me	Two Men	News	Caso Cer-rado	News	King	House	Business	'70s	Cash Cab	of the Phoenix, Tyrese Gibson	Deadliest Warrior	The Mentalist	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Good	Around Pardon	SportsCenter
7:PM	Wheel	Teresa (SS)	Two Men	Ent	Big Brother	Ent	King	Seinfeld	News	Seinfeld	Sons	of the Phoenix, Tyrese Gibson	Deadliest Warrior	The Mentalist	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Good	Around Pardon	SportsCenter
8:PM	Family	Triunfo del Amor	So You Think You Can Dance	Criminal Minds	Decisiones Extr	America's/ Talent	Payne	Browns	Minute to Win It	Bill Cloud	Secrets of the Dead	NOVA (DVS)	Deadliest Warrior	Franklin & Bash	Movie: Romeo Must Die, Isaiah Washington	Phineas Good	Around Pardon	SportsCenter
9:PM	Primetime Nightline	Rosa de Guadalupe	Simpsons	CSI: Crime Scene	La Casa de al Lado	Love in the Wild	Payne	Payne	Secrets of the Dead	Payne	One Man Army	Movie: Broken Arrow, Samantha Mathis	Deadliest Warrior	Bones	Fa. Affair	Phineas Good	Around Pardon	SportsCenter
10:PM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Conan	Bill Cloud	Charlie Rose	Roseanne	Sons of Guns	Movie: Broken Arrow, Samantha Mathis	Deadliest Warrior	Franklin & Bash	The Mo'Nique	ANT Farm	Soccer	SportsCenter
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Para Volver a Amar	Law & Order: SVU	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Lopez	Cortes	World	South Pk	One Man Army	Movie: Broken Arrow, Samantha Mathis	Deadliest Warrior	Leverage	Wendy Williams	Wizards	Baseball	Tonight
12:AM	Extra	Destilando Amor	Paid	Insider	Pagado	News	Conan	Upd	(Off Air)	South Pk	Army	Movie: Broken Arrow, Samantha Mathis	Deadliest Warrior	Hawthorne	Movie: Romeo Must Die, Isaiah Washington	Wizards	Baseball	Tonight
1:AM	Paid	Mujer	TMZ	Ent	Pagado	Poker After Dark	Lopez	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest	Overhaul	Movie: Breaking Bad	MAN	MAN	Southland	Deck	Deck	Deck	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



"IF YOUR FOOT'S ASLEEP, IT MUST BE HAVIN' A NIGHTMARE!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

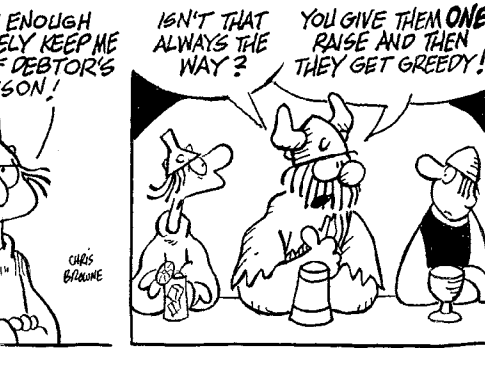


"One if by land, two if by sea, and three if by air."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



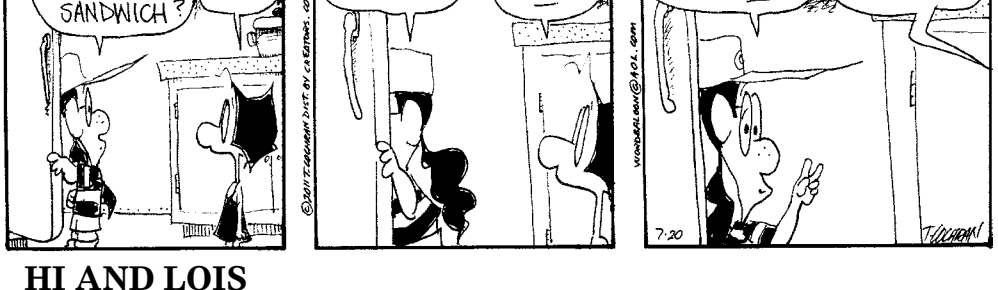
WOW! WHO ARE YOU WEARING? I THINK HIS NAME WAS EARL...

WIZARD OF ID



TAKE OFF YOUR BOOTS SO WE CAN SNEAK UP ON THE ENEMY WITHOUT BEING HEARD

AGNES



HEY, AGNES! WANT AN ICE CREAM SANDWICH? SURE!

HI AND LOIS



YOU'RE UP BRIGHT AND EARLY. ACTUALLY... I WAS UP DARK AND LATE.

THE OTHER COAST



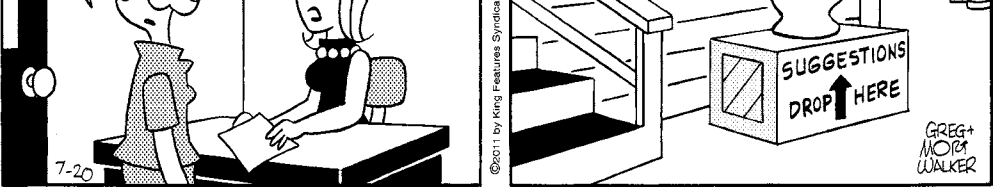
WE WERE DATING FOR OVER TWO MONTHS, AND I REALLY THOUGHT HE WAS MISTER RIGHT. THEN HE INFORMS ME HE'S A LONE WOLF.

SNUFFY SMITH



I'D BE HAPPY TO HALP WHEN YA GIT AROUN' TO CLEANIN' UP THIS JUNK, SNUFFY !!

BEEBLE BAILY



THE GENERAL PUT OUT A NEW SUGGESTION BOX I KNOW, I SAW IT.

This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, July 20, the 201st day of 2011. There are 164 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 20, 1969, Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin became the first men to walk on the moon after landing their lunar module.

On this date:

In 1861, the Congress of the Confederate States convened in Richmond, Va.

In 1871, British Columbia entered Confederation as a Canadian province.

In 1917, the draft lottery in World War I went into operation.

In 1944, an attempt by a group of German officials to assassinate Adolf Hitler with a bomb failed as the explosion at Hitler's Rastenburg headquarters only wounded the Nazi leader. President Franklin D. Roosevelt was nominated for an unprecedented fourth term of office at the Democratic convention in Chicago.

In 1951, Jordan's King Abdullah I was assassinated in Jerusalem by a Palestinian gunman who was shot dead on the spot by security.

In 1954, the Geneva Accords divided Vietnam into northern and southern entities.

In 1960, a pair of Polaris missiles were fired from the submerged USS George Washington off Cape Canaveral, Fla., at a target more than 1,100 miles away.

In 1976, America's Viking 1 robot spacecraft made a successful, first-ever landing on Mars.

In 1988, Massachusetts Gov. Michael S. Dukakis received the Democratic presidential nomination at the party's convention in Atlanta.

In 1990, Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, one of the court's most liberal voices, announced he was stepping down.

Today's Birthdays: Actress-singer Sally Ann Howes is 81. Rockabilly singer Sleepy LaBeef is 76. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski, D-Md., is 75. Actress Diana Rigg is 73. Rock musician John Lodge (The Moody Blues) is 68. Country singer T.G. Sheppard is 67. Singer Kim Carnes is 66. Rock musician Carlos Santana is 64. Rock musician Paul Cook (The Sex Pistols, Man Raze) is 55. Actress Donna Dixon is 54. Rock musician Mick McNeil (Simple Minds) is 53. Country singer Rodney Foster is 52. Actor Frank Whaley is 48. Rock singer Chris Cornell is 47. Rock musician Stone Gossard (Pearl Jam) is 45. Actor Reed Diamond is 44. Actor Josh Holloway is 42. Singer Vitamin C is 42. Actor Omar Epps is 38. Actor Simon Rex is 37. Actress Judy Greer is 36. Actor Charlie Korsmo is 33. Singer Elliott Yamin (yah-MEEN') (American Idol) is 33. Supermodel Gisele Bündchen is 31.

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

1 Cuban leader Castro

5 Store sign

9 Take as one's own

14 Greek drink

15 Timber wolf

16 Risk taker

17 Engineering boondoggle

20 Prop for Picasso

21 Irregular

22 Relative of -arian

24 NPR reporter Shapiro

25 Affinity for desserts

31 Singer Guthrie

35 Bedroom furniture

36 Get wind of

38 Rowing implement

39 Western author Bret

40 PD rank

41 Snap of a course

43 1101, in Roman numerals

44 Track contest

46 Chooses to get e-mail, maybe

47 Approved

49 Mince, mud, or meat

51 In the past

53 '70s heavyweight champ

54 Establish a connection between

59 Terra (kind of clay)

64 Mankind, to some

66 "Enough!"

67 Not much

68 Tennis great Lendl

69 Intends (to)

70 Sandwich breads

71 Bar mixer

DOWN

1 Choir attire

2 Certain something

3 Commando weapons

4 Miner's quest

5 Miss (Southern school)

6 Rice alternative

7 Black, to a bard

8 It's prohibited

9 Negative campaign feature

10 Bushy bloom

11 Cookies & Cream ingredient, maybe

12 Lima's land

13 Very: Fr.

18 Showy splendor

19 Midwest metropolis

23 Ave. crossers

25 Chowderhead

26 Sharp blow

27 Bone-chilling

28 The "e" in i.e.

29 "Wow!"

30 Hanol holiday

32 Martini's vermouth partner

33 Stash away

34 Large ape

37 Close copy

40 -fi

42 Part of NATO

45 Speed skater Ohno

46 Dressing ingredient

48 City of northern Australia

50 The \_\_\_ Queene (Spenser work)

52 Fellows

54 Letters on old rubles

55 Vocal

56 Author Jaffe

57 Way off yonder

58 Yogurt-shop franchise

60 Vertical-transportation giant

61 VCR successor

62 Pond critter

63 Fictional Karenina

65 UFO pilots

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

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