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THURSDAY

AUGUST 18, 2011



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VOLUME 106, NUMBER 221

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Many students eligible for free, low-cost meals

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

With the start of school less than a week away, local school officials are notifying parents of qualifying families they still have time to register for free or reduced-priced meals for their children.



Judi Rodriguez

And the process is easier than one might expect.

Judi Rodriguez, director of food services for Big Spring Independent School District, said all applications for free or reduced-price meals will be submitted online. If parents don't have internet access at their homes, they can use computers set aside for their use at the BSISD food service office at 708 E. 11th Place.

To apply, go to the district's web site (www.bsisd.esc18.net), click first on the food service department tab on the left side of the home page under "departments," then on the "meal app now" tab.

"We're not taking paper applications for those meals anymore," Rodriguez said. "It's all online. We have computers here at the office that people can use and we'll be glad to help them through the application process."

A significant number — around 78 percent — of BSISD students qualify for free or reduced-price meals, Rodriguez said, but parents must apply for the benefit, Rodriguez said.

Among families that qualify for free meals are those receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits — what was formerly known as food stamps — or those who have already received a letter from the school district informing them of their eligibility. Also, homeless, runaway, foster and migrant children can qualify for free meals.

Eligibility for reduced-price meals is determined using an income chart.

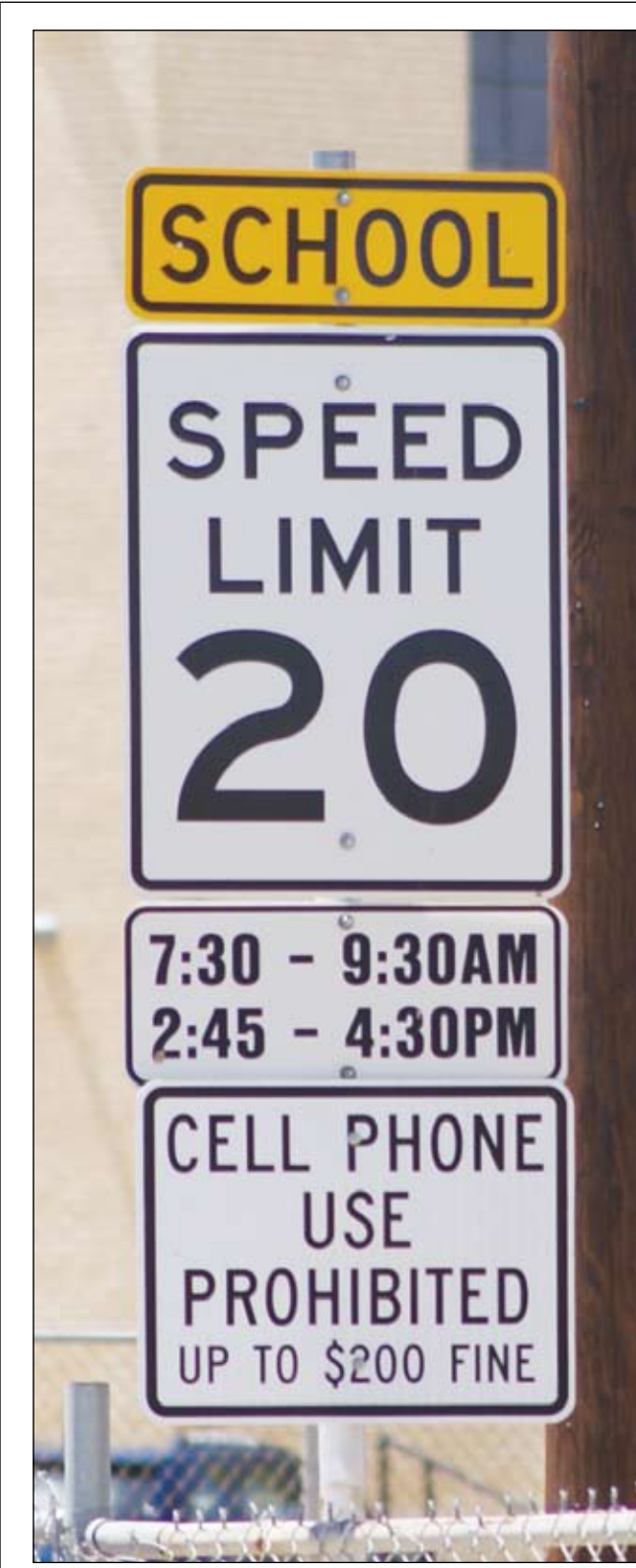
Families do not have to be U.S. citizens to qualify for the program.

Even if parents are unsure whether their children qualify, Rodriguez encourages them to apply for the program.

Full prices for school lunches are increasing this year at BSISD, from \$1.80 to \$2 at elementary campuses and from \$1.80 to \$2.25 at the junior high and high school.

For more information, call 264-3635.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234.



HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

As the sign reads, the use of cell phones is against the law in school zones throughout the Crossroads area. Locally, Big Spring police are implementing a zero tolerance policy.

In the zone

No texting, cell phone use allowed around area schools

By **AMANDA MORENO**
Staff Writer

School zone signs will start flashing again Monday as students head back to school.

This year, school zones have an added precaution — no cell phone usage. According to Municipal Court Judge Tim Green, the no cell phone usage was passed in the 2009 legislative session after the no-texting-while-driving passed both houses but was vetoed at the governor's desk.



Tim Green

"The no cell phone usage in school zones was able to make it out, which makes it unique, considering the no-texting in all other areas was turned down," Green said.

Signs have been posted in all school zones throughout Big Spring and police officers will be patrolling those zones with a zero tolerance policy.

"The officers won't just be looking for those people who are speeding this year, but also for those who are using cell phones in those zones," Green said.

Zero tolerance means simply that, zero tolerance. According to Green, there will be no warnings. If caught

See **PHONES**, Page 3A

Chamber board taking positive focus

By **AMANDA MORENO**
Staff Writer

Positive thinking was the focus of the August Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce board meeting, held Wednesday.

"We need to start overcoming the negative thinking and we can start by focusing on the positives," Terri Johansen, chamber president, said. "With all that's going on in the world, it's easy to focus on the negative, especially with the lack of rain and school finances."

Debbye ValVerde, chamber executive director, delivered the financial report which showed a large profit from the carnival held in June.

"The profits were more than we expected and we have told them to put us on the list for next year," ValVerde said.

Membership dues are sitting at \$3,600 received, but according to Sherri Key, membership coordinator of the chamber, membership is down. The chamber has 342 members and is actively searching for new ones.

"We need to work hard on

bringing in membership," ValVerde said. "We are doing a lot to try and help local businesses, but we need to get the word out to them and bring them in as members."

Three new members were added — Howard County Health Center, My Favorite Place and Barb's Boutique — and will be having ribbon cuttings within the next week. Christy's and Howard College also have ribbon cuttings lined up for the month of September.

"September 30, we will be celebrating our 65th anniversary. It's hard to believe we had our first class 65 years ago," said Jan Forsyth, Howard College director of institutional advancement.

Not only will the college celebrate its 65th year in the community, but it will also be celebrating the end of the bond project construction and dedicating two buildings.

RIBBON CUTTINGS

Tuesday, Aug. 23 Who: Barb's Boutique Time: 10:30 a.m. Where: Chamber Board Room	Who: Christy's Hair Studio Time: 4 p.m. Where: 100 E. Third St.
Tuesday, Aug. 29 Who: My Favorite Place Time: 2 p.m. Where: 618 S. Gregg St.	Friday, Sept. 30 Who: Howard College Time: 1 p.m. Where: Howard College campus, Birdwell Lane

In keeping with the positive thinking and showing appreciation, the Firefighter Benefit — Auction and Dance is scheduled for Aug. 27 at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The goal has been set at \$100,000 in order to purchase See **CHAMBER**, Page 3A

INDEX

Comics	6B
Classified	3-5B
Features	5A
Obituaries	2A
Opinion	4A
Sports	1-2B

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Obituaries

Fenton Criswell

Fenton Criswell, 91, of Big Spring, formerly of Fort Stockton died Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2011, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Graveside services with military honors will be at 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 19, 2011, at East Hill Cemetery in Fort Stockton, Texas, with Lt. Stephen Correlra, of the Salvation Army, officiating.

He was born May 11, 1920, in Fort Stockton to Ada Pearl and Charles Edgar Criswell. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the Army Air Corps. He was at Pearl Harbor and served in the Indo-Asian Theater.

He married Tommie Rea Maxwell on Dec. 30, 1955, and she preceded him in death in 1995. He received his bachelor's degree from Sul Ross University and was a chemical engineer for Baroid Mud Company in Hobbs, N.M. He was a member of VFW of Odessa Post 4372. He moved to Big Spring in April 2009. He is survived by one son, Charles E. Criswell of

Gilmer, Texas; four daughters, Cynthia Criswell of Ore City, Becky Harris and husband Wayne of Odessa, Annette Sander and husband Tommy of Odessa, and Nanette Parras and husband Santiago of Ore City; two sisters, Lois Schmeckle of Escondido, Calif., and Loretta Faulkner and husband Fred of Lake Brownwood; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Afton Criswell and William Criswell.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersand-smith.com

Peter Kim Barnes

Peter Kim Barnes, 62, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2011, in Mitchell County. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police/Sheriff/EMS

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

- HECTOR CHRISTOPHER TREVINO, 30, of 1311 S. Scurry St., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- ANASTASIA LEONICIA LOZANO, 24, of 605 Holbert, was arrested Wednesday on warrants for failure to appear (two counts), safety belt child under 17, no drivers license when unlicensed and warrant from other agency (two counts).
- DANA LANETTE MAYO, 25, of 511 Galveston, was arrested Wednesday on charges of theft less than \$1500 two or more conviction any theft-shoplifting and assault by threat.
- BONNIE KENNEDY MIEARS, 58, of 607 W. 18th St., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of theft over or equal to \$50 and less than \$500 shoplifting.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 200 block of N.E. 12th Street.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 200 block of W. FM 700.
- THEFT was reported:
In the 1700 block of E. Third Street.
In the 200 block of W FM 700.
In the 200 block of W FM 700
In the 2300 block of Wasson Road

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 81 inmates at the time of this report.
- JOHN PETER GORDON, 23, was arrested Wednesday by HCSO on sentencing/possession of controlled substance.
- ANASTASIA LOZANO, 24, was transferred to

the county jail Wednesday by BSPD on charges of no safety belt, violate promise to appear (three counts), safety belt child under 17 and no drivers license.

- STACY LEE ROBERTSON, 46, was arrested Wednesday by HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.
- BONNIE K. MIEARS, 58, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by BSPD on a charge of theft of property over or equal to \$50 and less than \$500.
- JAMIE RAE NELSON, 35, was arrested Wednesday by HCSO on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- DANA LANETTE MAYO, 25, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by BSPD on charges of theft of property less than \$1500/ two or more previous convictions and assault by threat.
- GILBERT SANCHEZ, 38, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

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

- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 1100 block of Birdwell. Service refused.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 1100 block of Birdwell. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Hwy 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of E. Hwy 350. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 5400 block of Op-ple Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 2900 block of W. Hwy 80. One person was transported to SMMC.

Take Note

• Canterbury/Canterbury North Retirement Center is sponsoring a Benefit Mexican Dinner for Gale and Maurine Pittman at the Canterbury South dining room, 1700 S. Lancaster on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The menu includes cheese enchiladas, beef enchiladas, taco, beans and rice. Tickets are available at the door for \$7. Maurine works for Big Spring Education Credit Union and Gale is bakery manager at H-E-B.

Both have been off work since Maurine was diagnosed with leukemia. Gale and H-E-B have provided many items from the bakery to Canterbury and we wanted to find a way to show our appreciation. Please come out and enjoy a wonderful meal and show your support to this family. For more information, call 432-270-3946.

• American Legion Post 506 will have a fish fry from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the post home, 3203 W. Highway 80. Everyone is invited. Plates are \$10 each. Carryouts are available. Delivery is available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. by calling 263-2084.

• Hangar 25 Air Museum needs your help! We are in need of volunteers to fill a variety of positions

such as tour guides, front desk, clerical, events, and many others. Set your hours and days of the week you are available. Meet new people and enjoy a rewarding experience. For more information, contact Emma Bogard at 432-267-2963.

• Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union is raising money to benefit Maurine Pittman, who is undergoing cancer treatment in a Dallas-area hospital. For more information, call the credit union at 263-8393.






• A benefit fund has been established at Western Bank for Eric Kelly, a 24-year-old Big Spring resident with cystic fibrosis who is recovering from a double lung transplant in Dallas. All donations are appreciated. For more information, call 432-213-0795

• 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.

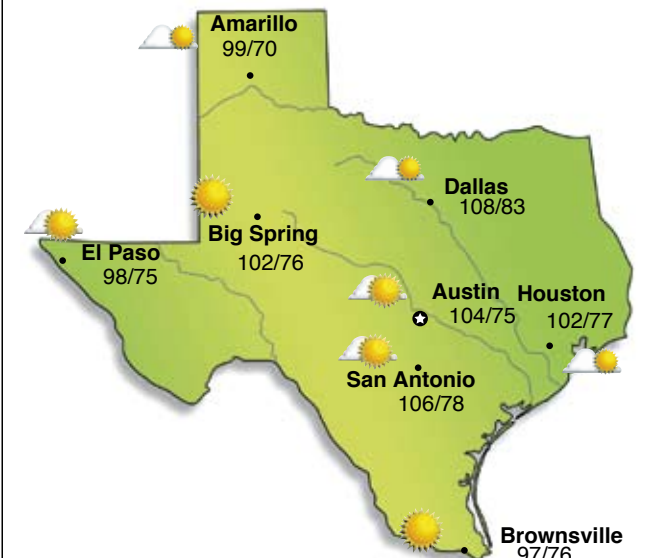
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Fri 8/19	Sat 8/20	Sun 8/21	Mon 8/22	Tue 8/23
 102/76 Mainly sunny. Very hot. High 102F. Winds SSE at 10 to 20 mph.	 103/76 Plenty of sun. Highs 101 to 105F and lows in the mid 70s.	 101/75 More sun than clouds. Highs 99 to 103F and lows in the mid 70s.	 101/76 Abundant sunshine. Highs 99 to 103F and lows in the mid 70s.	 101/76 Mainly sunny. Highs 99 to 103F and lows in the mid 70s.
Sunrise: 7:13 AM Sunset: 8:26 PM	Sunrise: 7:13 AM Sunset: 8:25 PM	Sunrise: 7:14 AM Sunset: 8:24 PM	Sunrise: 7:15 AM Sunset: 8:23 PM	Sunrise: 7:15 AM Sunset: 8:21 PM



Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Amarillo	99	70	sunny	Kingsville	102	74	pt sunny
Austin	104	75	mst sunny	Livingston	105	74	pt sunny
Beaumont	99	76	t-storm	Longview	108	80	pt sunny
Brownsville	97	76	sunny	Lubbock	99	74	mst sunny
Brownwood	105	78	pt sunny	Lufkin	106	75	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	99	77	pt sunny	Midland	102	78	sunny
Corsicana	107	81	pt sunny	Raymondville	101	75	sunny
Dallas	108	83	pt sunny	Rosenberg	102	76	pt sunny
Del Rio	104	79	mst sunny	San Antonio	106	78	mst sunny
El Paso	98	75	mst sunny	San Marcos	104	76	mst sunny
Fort Stockton	101	75	sunny	Sulphur Springs	107	81	pt sunny
Gainesville	107	81	pt sunny	Sweetwater	102	76	mst sunny
Greenville	107	79	pt sunny	Tyler	107	78	pt sunny
Houston	102	77	pt sunny	Weatherford	107	80	pt sunny
				Wichita Falls	108	81	pt sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	93	71	pt sunny	Minneapolis	84	61	pt sunny
Boston	82	66	t-storm	New York	84	70	t-storm
Chicago	85	65	t-storm	Phoenix	101	82	pt sunny
Dallas	108	83	pt sunny	San Francisco	61	54	pt sunny
Denver	88	61	pt sunny	Seattle	77	55	sunny
Houston	102	77	pt sunny	St. Louis	86	71	t-storm
Los Angeles	86	62	sunny	Washington, DC	90	72	t-storm
Miami	87	78	t-storm				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Fri 8/19	Sat 8/20	Sun 8/21	Mon 8/22	Tue 8/23
11	11	11	11	11
Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme

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

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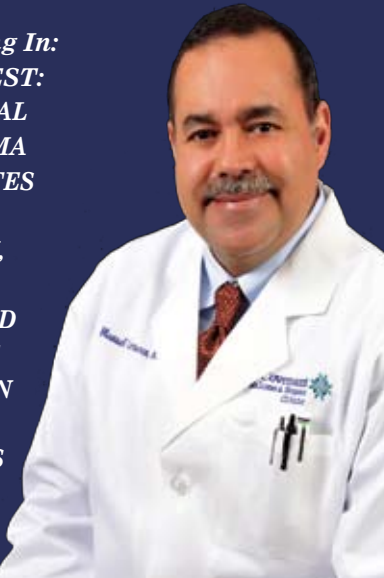
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Briefs of a different nature

NY man, 61, suing over skimpy lifeguard trunks

LONG BEACH, N.Y. (AP) — A 61-year-old New York man says he lost his job as a lifeguard when he refused to wear skimpy swim trunks for the annual swim test.

Roy Lester tells the New York Daily News he was forced out of the job after 40 years in 2007 when he wanted to take the swim test in biking shorts instead of the tiny swim trunks.

He filed a lawsuit against the state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in 2009. The lawsuit had been dismissed but was reinstated by an appeals court last week.

Lester is a triathlete, but says no one his age should be wearing tiny trunks. He says the bathing suit requirement was aimed at getting rid of older lifeguards.

State officials declined to comment.

Jury sees video of mom forcing hot sauce on boy

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Hot sauce is a dinner table option to some parents. But to prosecutors in Alaska, forcing it on a 7-year-old boy as punishment amounts to child abuse.

In a case that has drawn international attention, jurors on Wednesday watched video showing Jessica Beagley squirting hot sauce in the mouth of her adopted son. Her attorney said the boy was punished for lying to his mother about misbehaving at school.

The video was originally aired on a "Dr. Phil" episode and caused a public uproar in Russia where the boy is from.

The footage, along with audio of the boy screaming as he's forced to stand in a cold shower, was shown as part of Beagley's trial Wednesday on misdemeanor child abuse charges.

Prosecutors say Beagley went beyond what would be considered reasonable parental discipline. Her lawyer, William Ingaldson, said she resorted to unconventional disciplinary methods because more

traditional forms of punishment had not worked with the boy.

Protesters greet GOP candidate Perry in NH

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. (AP) — Presidential hopeful Rick Perry got his first brush with New Hampshire protesters.

Democratic protesters waved signs and chanted "Go Back To Texas" outside Popovers Bakery & Café on Thursday morning as the newcomer to the Republican presidential field tried to meet voters.

It was the first stop on Perry's third day in New Hampshire since the Texas governor launched his campaign Saturday.

He ignored the protest and briefly walked through the coffee shop, shaking hands. The chanting and large media contingent following made for a chaotic atmosphere.

Former Democratic State Sen. Burt Cohen was among those shouting. He calls Perry a threat to America.

Ohio funeral home in cremation error reopens

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — A judge is allowing a new owner to reopen an Ohio funeral home that cremated the wrong child's body and had its license suspended.

The state funeral board voted this week to block the takeover of the Marlan J. Gary Funeral Home in Columbus. But a county judge on Wednesday temporarily stopped the panel from closing the home after the new owner said the board improperly discussed the matter in private.

Board director Malik Hubbard tells The Columbus Dispatch (<http://bit.ly/oRMnmp>) he doesn't know how the panel will respond.

Its members had objected to the new license because the home's name wasn't changing. They said consumers would think management was still the same.

A mix-up at the morgue led the home to cremate a

14-month-old boy against his parents' beliefs.

Bat causes stir at NH selectman's meeting

EPPING, N.H. (AP) — Maybe the bat just wanted to air its concerns to the board.

The Board of Selectmen in Epping, N.H., was discussing road signs this week when the meeting was interrupted for about two minutes by a bat that swooped and flitted over the panel, causing members to duck and chuckle.

The bat was eventually chased out the door.

Selectman James McGeough calls the wildlife encounter a comedy of errors, and jokingly suggested police shoot it.

Board Chairwoman Karen Falcone tells WMUR-TV (<http://bit.ly/ps8dmk>) the meeting became a "frenzy."

Town officials have long known that bats live in the tower above town hall, but this was the first time one made an appearance at a meeting.

Gere guitar collection to sell in NYC

NEW YORK (AP) — Actor Richard Gere has a passion for American vintage guitars.

Christie's auction house in New York says it will be selling 110 of his guitars on Oct. 11.

Gere says he's parting with the instruments to support humanitarian causes around the world.

Christie's says Gere studied trumpet and is a self-taught pianist and guitarist.

Gere said in a statement announcing the sale that he never planned to put together a guitar collection and bought only ones he liked and that sounded good to him.

Included in the sale are brands C.F. Martin, Gibson, Fender, Gretsch and Epiphone, and guitars once owned by blues guitarist Albert King and reggae musician Peter Tosh.

PHONES

Continued from Page 1A

using a cellphone in any capacity in a school zone, you could face a fine up to \$200 and depending on the occurrences, could face license implications.

"It's never a good idea to be texting or talking on a cell phone while driving, but especially

in a school zone," Green stressed. "School zones are busier areas and kids can dart across the street at any second. It's important to remain attentive."

"The law itself just makes sense. If you are texting or talking on your phone, you aren't paying attention to the road."

The only exemptions for cell phone usage

in a school zone is by emergency personnel or police officers in the event of an emergency. The signs are now posted and with the start of school the law will be enforced.

"We will be ready to enforce on day one," Green said. "Just remember the worst consequence of all would be if someone got hit because someone wasn't

paying attention to the road."

The zero tolerance will be enforced during active school zone times, 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"The speed limit is something that will still be enforced, but that is nothing new and we expect people are familiar with that law by now,"

Green said.

Green wants to remind all drivers to pay attention to posted signs and be extra cautious as students head back to school.

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

CHAMBER

Continued from Page 1A

a new fire truck for the volunteer department.

"We want everyone to come out and attend. This will be a time to recognize all the fire departments who have helped us out and done so much for us this year," Forsyth said.

Iva Jo Hanslik, community relations director of the VA Medical Center, informed the board of the ongoing construction at the VA and reported more will be coming within the next few months. She also said Congressman Jeff Miller, representative of the Committee on Veteran's Affairs, will

be making a short stop in Big Spring Sept. 1 accompanied by Congressman Mike Conaway.

Forsyth also discussed the water wells being drilled on the Howard College campus. There have been six test wells capped and two wells will actually be used to pump water. The wells will provide water for maintenance of the softball and baseball fields on campus.

"We are not going to have some lush landscape, that's not what this water will be used for," Forsyth said. "We are doing this in order to try and keep our ball fields for the students to play on. The NJCAA has strict rules and we are doing our best to keep

up with those."

Leadership Big Spring has kicked off with a class of 21. Attendees are from numerous businesses throughout the community. Manny Negron, member of Leadership Big Spring 2011-12 class, said the experience is starting out as a good one.

"This is a great opportunity to learn about the community," Negron

said. "We have gone through the ice breaking already and we have built a team, not teams, but one team. That's what it's all about."

The next chamber board meeting is scheduled for Sept. 21 in the chamber board room.

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

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 September 19, 2011

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD



By Eddy Pitchford

We cry to God when rain is scarce. We desire water for lakes, pastures and crops. We understand that drought kills plants and animals. We realize that jobs, economy and family comfort are intertwined with timely rainfall.

When we receive a small amount of rain last week, we expressed gratitude to God. Although the amount of rain was small, we felt refreshed and grateful. The rain brought cooler temperatures, which is turn brought smiles and appreciation.

I know a lot of folks that remind me of a drought-stricken land. Their hearts are dry and hardened. They have parched attitudes and withered relationships that need The Living Water. "The water I give him will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:14).

WE ARE FAMILY
"A loving family that exalts Jesus Christ"

COAHOMA CHURCH OF CHRIST
 311 North 2nd Street • Coahoma, Texas 79511

SERVICES:

Sunday Class.....9:30 AM
 Sunday Worship.....10:20 AM
 Sunday Worship.....5:00 PM
 Wednesday Class.....7:00 PM

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.

Bill McClellan Managing Editor	Ron Midkiff Publisher	Steve Reagan Staff Writer
Amanda Moreno Staff Writer		Thomas Jenkins Staff Writer

OUR VIEWS

Time to shop back-to-school

Bells will be ringing ... school bells anyway.

Monday marks the start of the new school year for area schools and this weekend gives parents one more chance to shop back-to-school with a little extra help.

Tax-free weekend, which started 13 years ago, begins at midnight Friday and runs through midnight Sunday. During this time, parents can purchase school clothes and supplies without having to pay tax. For every \$100 spent, shoppers save \$8.

According to the Texas Comptroller Susan Combs, shoppers are expected to save \$62.1 million this weekend on tax-empt items. The Better Business Bureau advises shoppers to plan ahead before they head out this weekend.

- Take inventory and make sure you don't have left over supplies from last year, which would mean one item less you have to purchase this year.

- Set a budget. Especially for families with more than one child the amount can rise quickly.

- Remember single items over \$100 are not tax exempt, but combined purchases over \$100 are.

- Take a look at the list before heading out to better understand what is and is not included for the tax free weekend. Some stores will advertise back to school sales, but that doesn't mean all those items fall into the tax free list.

- Know what your child's school will and won't allow. Make sure the school supplies are accepted at your school (i.e. rolling backpacks are not allowed at most area schools). Also when purchasing clothing make sure you have read over the dress code and the clothing falls into the acceptable category of the dress code.

- Keep receipts just in case you purchase the wrong item or the item needs to be returned or exchanged for any reason.

A full list of clothing items and school supplies included can be found at: http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxpubs/tx98_490/tx98_490.html.

Stores are bound to be busy this weekend so make sure you give yourself plenty of time when shopping.

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.
- 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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Every day is our opportunity to shine for You, Lord, and receive Your heavenly help.

Amen

Let us talk about customer service just one more time

Last week, I touched on the topic of customer service and how it's just not at the level it should be. In my column, I made a point to not name any particular business (even though it would have been so easy to do). In the past week I have received numerous compliments on that particular column and one complaint. This week, my column is aimed at that one complaint.

I was asked to print a retraction. A retraction for my opinion, which let me say I do not agree one is needed. Let me explain why ... for one a retraction would mean I was wrong. I was not and I completely stand behind my opinions. Second, it is my opinion and that does not have to be retracted and can not be coerced to change. However, I do understand the complaint, which is why I feel the need to approach the topic one more time.

I can tell by the remarks I have received, the column did exactly what I intended — it woke people up: customers and employers. As I said, there was no business named and the reason behind that was I was speaking of specific instances, but I was calling attention to every business who has this problem. My experiences were merely examples used to open people's eyes.

I understand the employers concern and to that I say: I did not intend to point fingers at your business. In no way was "the mall" in which I referred to the Big Spring Mall. But ... now the question has been brought up I feel the need to expand a little further. Initially I was not speaking of the Big Spring Mall nor any of the businesses located inside the mall, as a matter of fact, all but one of my incidents occurred outside Big Spring.

In reference to the next ques-

tion I was asked, yes I do shop outside Big Spring. I shop in Lubbock, Midland, Odessa, Sweetwater, Amarillo and any other area my journey takes me. I am not the only one and I am almost certain the particular person who raised this question does their own share of shopping outside Big Spring.

Of course, I don't want to turn this into a slanderous article nor do I want to start an all out war, but I do feel it is my duty, as a columnist and as a community member to voice concerns of the community and shed light on the things that need fixing or improvement. After all, simply believing there is no problem does not mean there is no problem. The only way to fix anything is to acknowledge it.

In all honesty, if any business owner believed their business was the target of my column then that in itself says something. If for any reason you believed the situations described in my column could be or are happening in your business then am I really the one you need to be complaining to? As I said, the article was meant to make customers appreciate the good service they do receive, no matter where they may be and to alert businesses to the on-goings in their workplace.

I am all about making Big Spring grow and supporting hometown businesses. Shopping locally is a way of thinking everyone should practice, but at the same time why would people want to spend money where they aren't wanted or where they receive less than satisfactory service.

In all honesty, Big Spring needs to grow. There is so much potential here and the possibilities are truly endless, but they have to be embraced and that's not happening. I left Big Spring seven years ago and upon my return I realized nothing, I repeat, nothing had changed.

In all honesty, the only real shopping I do locally is at Walmart and H-E-B. I have only been in the Big Spring Mall a handful of times since I came back and

the purchases I made can be counted on one hand.

The feel of the mall is uninviting; there is a quiet emptiness consuming the building now. I remember at one point when there were actually stores inside the mall. There once was a music store, Burks Outlet, a few mom and pop shops have come and gone and Claire's. However, now there are only a handful of businesses left and honestly, they don't appeal to me.

In my opinion, there is no draw, nothing to pull me towards the mall.

In order to make the bad reputation the mall has received, as pointed out to me by someone, fade away, something has to be done. There has to be some kind of action taken and honestly, it needs to start with the atmosphere inside and outside.

I know I am singling the mall out, but once again — not my intention. Every business, whether located in Big Spring or not, can benefit from having welcoming attitudes and an inviting atmosphere.

Business owners need to remember to embrace customers, not turn them off. Especially the small shops, take the time to greet every customer, show them they are important and that you care about their needs. Give them a reason to shop locally.

Big Spring was at one time lively and can be again, but the community needs to pull together and make it happen. It won't happen overnight and it won't happen if the problems continue to be ignored.

I would love to see this town grow and become more inviting, but the question is will it ever happen?

There is a lot to be done, but someone has to be the leader.

It's time to open our eyes, start improving and work together.

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

There has to be one person here who can play this game

With the economy foundering like a man overboard in heavy seas, we've attempted to rescue it by throwing it an anchor.

If I were Thomas Paine (which I sometimes think I am) I would say: "These are the times that try men's souls."

If I were Charles Dickens (which I never think I am) I would say: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

And if I were William Butler Yeats (never, ever, never) I would say: "The best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity."

I am more of the Casey Stengel school of political philosophy, so like that baseball great I say: "Can't anybody here play this game?"

Apparently not. For the past year or so our chosen representatives in Washington have done everything wrong. Everything.

With the economy foundering like a man overboard in heavy seas, we've attempted to rescue it by throwing it an anchor. We've put productive public workers on the street in the name of fiscal prudence. We've backed away from the building of roads, bridges, and other public works vital to a vibrant economy. We've cut back on our investment in public education, stunting the best hope for future prosperity.

(Paul Belson / Flickr)

We've treated the unemployment crisis as though it were a mild inconvenience; we've acted as though inflation was the great enemy while the far greater threat of deflation lurked just over the horizon; and we've failed to heed any of the lessons of the past.

To make matters even worse, if that's possible, we squandered our AAA credit rating for no reason at all — no legitimate reason anyway. As a result, the stock market swooned and markets around the world trembled at the thought of the United States of America playing Russian roulette with its economy.

And even worse yet, the very people who caused this debacle, the iron-willed (with heads to match) Republicans in the House, are claiming victory because of it.

"It happened on your watch, Mr. President," crowed the tea party's Joan of Arc, Michele Bachmann, to a friendly Iowa crowd.

That reminds me of the time Hitler blamed Poland for starting World War II.

Not that the President is entirely without blame. He seems incapable of standing up to the bullies in Congress. His "Gee guys, can't we all be friends and get along?" theory of leadership is well past its sell-by date.

Back when Jimmy Carter's presidency was falling off a cliff, he made a dull speech and a bored copy editor at The Boston Globe wrote the headline "More Mush from the Wimp" across the top of an editorial. It was a joke, intended for internal con-

sumption only.

As those jokes have a way of doing, however, it got into the paper.

The other day when Obama was giving another of his "What we have here is a failure to communicate" talks announcing that he was going to come up with a proposal to save the economy, "more mush from the wimp" flashed through my mind. Alas.

Republicans are now touting a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. "Cut, cap and balance," they say (when you feed them a cracker). It's a truly terrible idea.

What President Obama should be doing now is making a fighting speech informing the nation on why it's a terrible idea, explaining that it would render the government impotent in the face of any emergency that came down the pike and would make great national projects virtually impossible.

He should point out that a balanced budget in hard times just makes the times harder and that even households that virtuously balance their checkbooks go into debt to buy homes and cars and pay for educations.

He should tell us that he will not agree to any more cuts in the budget without a commensurate rise in taxes, and he should explain why that's a good idea.

That's what we need from the President of the United States.

We don't need any more mush from the wimp.

OtherWords columnist Donald Kaul lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan. <http://otherwords.org>



AMANDA MORENO



DONALD KAUL

Casual Cooking: Win some, lose some

Welcoming readers to my world where I enjoy simple, sometimes quick, but always delicious meals.

This week's recipe is inspired by the two most wanted items if I were stranded on a deserted island — ground meat

and cheese. It's also inspired by my love for Mexican food and a rummage through my fuller than usual pantry, it's a good day.

I always feel I can cook anything if I have ground meat and cheese.

Some people feel that

way if they have a pasta of sorts.

For some, they can do anything with eggs on hand. This recipe calls for minimal ingredients, good amount of quantity and full of flavor. Being in the kitchen many days of my life, I have had my share of good to great dishes, some we don't want again and total flops. I remember when I was 17. We were living here again at the time and my step dad — who raised me — was laid off from the oil industry.

I made my first chocolate cake from scratch, not a box. One thing you learn is there is a reason a recipe calls for different steps. As I was nearing the step to grease and flour the pan, I decided not to do it. I mean, really, how important could it be, right?

Well, needless to say it was a two-layer cake, frosted, and it turned out delicious. However, my dad said "It looks like it was dropped from a two-story building!" The grease and flour step would have kept the cake from falling apart.

My first attempt at homemade spaghetti sauce was when I was 16. For some reason I was cooking for me and my dad only and wanted to make a nice dinner.

I did all the right things and added all the right flavors, but it was so bitter.

I didn't know you use very little dried oregano or it is bitter. I tried to fix the problem by adding sugar and, well, I am always the first to say "this is gross" and Dad agreed.

I'm not sure what we ended up eating, but

I think the spaghetti sauce got fed to the varmint in mother nature like the pancakes out the back door.

So don't be afraid to try something new or different; we all have some scary food traumas in our pasts. Serve this with a nice salad and glass of ice tea or milk. Enjoy!

Red Beef Enchilada Cornbread Pie

2 lbs ground beef
1/2 onion, diced
2-3 garlic cloves, minced

1 can corn, drained
1 can of pinto beans, drained
1 can of red enchilada sauce
shredded cheese
1 package of cornbread mix (eggs and milk according to directions)
cumin
salt and pepper to taste

Brown the ground beef on medium to med/high along with the onions and salt/pepper. When beef is nearing cooked, add cumin and garlic and finish until the beef is cooked through. Turn off the heat and add

drained corn and pinto beans. Stir together. In a 9 x 13 baking dish, pour in meat mixture, followed by the entire can of red enchilada sauce add a good amount of shredded cheese. Mix cornbread from a box according to directions and spoon over everything. This step will not spread and that is fine. Bake about 20-25 minutes at 375 degrees or until the cornbread is golden brown.

Variation: Add a can of chopped green chiles to the beef mix and replace the red sauce with a green enchilada sauce.



KRIS SOLIZ

Abercrombie asks 'This Situation' to shop elsewhere

NEW YORK (AP) — The Situation doesn't usually require a lot of motivation to lose the shirt. But Abercrombie & Fitch wants him to go one further — the company has offered to pay "Jersey Shore" cast members to stop wearing clothes carrying their brand.

The preppy teen retailer said Tuesday it would pay a "substantial payment" to Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino or any cast member who

stops wearing its clothing on the popular MTV reality show because the series is "contrary to the aspirational nature of the brand."

"We are deeply concerned that Mr. Sorrentino's association with our brand could cause significant damage to our image."

It may seem strange that a brand that employs half-naked models to stand outside its flagship stores and courted controversy with racy

catalogs has come out with such an aggressive campaign against the hard partying cast of "Jersey Shore." But the audacious approach is getting the teen retailer tons of publicity during the crucial back-to-school season, the second biggest shopping period of the year. The CEO says it's having fun with the ploy, and marketing experts say the company may wind up laughing all the way to the bank.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Glasscock County Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 9:00 A.M., AUGUST 29, 2011 in Glasscock Co. ISD Administration Office, 308 W. Chambers, Garden City, Texas. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$1.0401/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$.07480/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations	19% increase or	_____ % (decrease)
Debt service	20% increase or	_____ % (decrease)
Total expenditures	19% increase or	_____ % (decrease)

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$1,374,791,850	\$1,676,713,860
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$2,652,500	\$1,843,636
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$1,241,010,820	\$1,543,485,181
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$2,452,280	\$1,723,943

* "Appraised value" is the amounts shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$7,269,798.00
*Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rate

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$1.04010	\$0.07500*	\$1.11510	\$16,452	\$2,100
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$1.02406	-	\$1.02406	\$18,713	\$3,383
Proposed Rate	\$1.04010	\$0.07480*	\$1.11490	\$18,396	\$341

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of the district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$64,624	\$66,727
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$51,700	\$53,382
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.115100	\$1.114900
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$576.50	\$595.15
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$18.65

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.11490. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of \$1.11490.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$5,593,126.00
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$56,821.000

PUBLIC NOTICE Glasscock County ISD

	2010-11 Current Budget	2011-12 Proposed Budget
Enrollment Count	280.000	280.000

Function	Expenditures	2010-11 Current Budget	2011-12 Proposed Budget
11	Instruction	\$2,256,940	\$2,773,267
12	Instructional Resources & Media Services	\$36,013	\$36,943
13	Curriculum & Instructional Staff Development	\$4,000	\$4,000
21	Instructional Leadership	\$6,812	\$6,125
23	School Leadership	\$174,101	\$176,453
31	Guidance, Counseling & Evaluation Services	\$101,969	\$77,709
32	Social Work Services	\$0	\$0
33	Health Services	\$52,008	\$54,723
34	Student (Pupil) Transportation	\$209,266	\$202,174
35	Food Services	\$155,659	\$174,474
36	Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	\$201,291	\$191,397
41	General Administration	\$274,050	\$286,916
51	Plant Maintenance & Operation	\$731,699	\$673,232
52	Security and Monitoring Services	\$900	\$1,000
53	Data Processing Services	\$17,975	\$18,240
61	Community Services	\$0	\$0
71	Debt Service - Principal on long-term debt	\$943,865	\$903,107
	Debt Service - Interest on long-term debt	\$0	\$0
	Debt Service - Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	\$0	\$0
81	Facilities Acquisition and Construction	\$1,000	\$2,000
91	Contracted Instructional Services Between Schools	\$9,000,000	\$11,831,132
92	Incremental Costs Associated With Chapter 41	\$0	\$0
93	Payments to Fiscal Agent/Member District	\$60,931	\$61,623
94	Payments to Other Schools	\$0	\$0
95	Payments to Juvenile Justice Alternate Ed. Prg.	\$0	\$0
96	Payments to Charter Schools	\$0	\$0
97	Payments to TIF	\$0	\$0
99	Inter-governmental Charges not in Other Data Codes	\$72,000	164,403

What functions should be included in the budget summary report for the per student and aggregate spending on the defined areas? Will the per student be based on student enrollment or ADA?

The summary of the budget should be presented in the following function areas.

- (A) Instruction - functions 11, 12, 13, 95
- (B) Instructional Support - functions 21, 23, 31, 32, 33, 36
- (C) Central Administration - function 41
- (D) District Operations - functions 51, 52, 53, 34, 35
- (E) Debt Service - function 71
- (F) Other - functions 61, 81, 91, 92, 93, 97, 99

The per student will be based on student enrollment.

There have been questions as to how you report your previous year's budget and your proposed budget. We would interpret this to mean all funds that comprise the budget (not just those officially reviewed by the board); but, the statute is not definitive in regards to this question. The most accurate approach would be to include all funds, but if you show only 199, 240, and 599 in your proposed budget, use only those funds for the previous year's budget. Consistency in how you report your budget comparison is an important consideration.

Obama's dilemma: Is it right time for vacation?

By JULIE PACE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Is there ever really a good time for the president to go on vacation? President Barack Obama's summer getaway to Martha's Vineyard has reignited a seemingly annual debate.

Given the demands of the job and the always-looming possibility of an unexpected crisis at home or abroad, the political perils of a presidential vacation never seem to go away. This summer, the vacation dilemma is compounded by the country's urgent demand for jobs, the debt crisis that's left Washington with a hangover and the public's frustration with political gridlock.

The president has promised that new jobs initiatives are coming.

But the people won't hear the details or any other solutions to the nation's economic woes until he returns from his summer sojourn to Martha's Vineyard, the wealthy island enclave off the Massachusetts coast where he and his family will vacation for the third straight year.

Obama is due to leave Washington Thursday for the 10-day trip.

The president isn't the only one taking a break this summer. Most lawmakers left town in early August, right after reaching a deal with the White House to raise the debt ceiling and avoid a potentially catastrophic government default. Congress isn't expected back in session until early September.

With lawmakers away, there's probably not much Obama could get

done on the economic front even if he did cancel the trip. And even if Congress stayed in Washington, too, there are no quick fixes for the country's deep economic problems.

"They don't have anything to act upon," Rich Galen, a Republican consultant, said of both Obama and Congress. "If anyone knew what the answer to this was, they'd do it."

Then there's the issue of perception. Obama will be vacationing at a rented, multimillion-dollar estate on an island known as a haven for the rich and famous at a time when millions of people are out of work and countless more are financially strapped.

Bill Clinton's aides were so concerned about vacation perceptions that they polled

the public before deciding where he should go. While Clinton preferred trips to Martha's Vineyard, polling pushed him to the more rugged Jackson Hole, Wyo.

George W. Bush was criticized for spending nearly 500 days at his ranch in Crawford, Texas, during his two terms in office. He was there in August 2001 when he received a CIA briefing paper warning of al-Qaida's intentions to strike the United States — about a month before the Sept. 11 attacks would occur. In 2005, he remained on vacation after Hurricane Katrina swamped New Orleans and devastated the Gulf Coast. His presidency suffered from his response to the storm and his decision to not immediately return to Washington.

Some of Obama's prior vacations have come under fire as well. Last summer, he was chided for not taking his family on a Gulf Coast vacation following the BP oil spill. When he finally did travel to the Florida Panhandle for a weekend, his attempts to soothe public concern about the safety of the region's beaches were tainted when the White House released a photo of the president and daughter Sasha swimming in water that turned out not to be the Gulf.

Perhaps mindful of the president's image, the White House booked Obama on a three-day, economy-focused bus tour through the Midwest right before the vacation. He also traveled to Michigan last week to speak at a factory that makes batteries for hybrid and electric vehicles.

Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney said Wednesday that Obama should stay in Washington and call Congress back to work.

"If you're the president of the United States, and the nation is in crisis — and we're in a jobs crisis right now — then

you shouldn't be out vacationing," the former Massachusetts governor said on a Chicago radio program. "Instead you should be focusing on getting the economy going again. And, yeah, go back to the office yourself, pull back members of Congress and focus on getting the job done."

White House press secretary Jay Carney said he doesn't think the public begrudges the president a break to recharge and spend time with his family. Besides, Carney noted that the president is never really off-duty since White House advisers go with him and he still receives regular briefings on national security, the economy and other matters.

"The presidency travels with you," said Carney. He also noted that Martha's Vineyard is close enough to Washington that Obama could get back quickly if needed.

Two of Obama's counterparts had to cut short their summer vacations due to events at home. British Prime Minister David Cameron returned early from Italy to preside over the response to riots spreading across England.

jcpennney

WOW!

tax free
in
texas

no texas state or local sales tax charged on
clothing, footwear, backpacks or messenger
bags individually priced less than \$100
see store associate for details.

friday-sunday, august 19-21
extended hours: friday, 8 am - 11 pm
saturday, 7 am - 11 pm
sunday, 10 am - 9 pm
except where prohibited by law on sunday

sudoku

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

1		6				5		
	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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

As Ye Sow, So Shall Ye Reap

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A Q 4
♥ 6 5
♦ A 10 8 7 5
♣ K 6 3

WEST
♠ 10 8 6 2
♥ 7 3 2
♦ 6 4
♣ Q 7 4 2

EAST
♠ K J 7 5
♥ 8 4
♦ Q J 9 2
♣ J 10 9

SOUTH
♠ 9 3
♥ A K Q J 10 9
♦ K 3
♣ A 8 5

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♦ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
1 NT Pass 3 ♥ Pass
4 ♥ Pass 6 ♣

Opening lead — two of spades.
In the great majority of deals, declarer cannot precisely predict the outcome at the beginning of the play. All he can do is to try to find the line of play that offers the greatest chance of success and then hope for the best.

Consider today's deal from a pairs championship. When the opening lead was not a spade, South made the slam easily. He drew trumps,

cashed the K-A of diamonds and ruffed a diamond. Next came a club to dummy's king, followed by another diamond ruff that established the ten as declarer's 12th trick. The ace of spades provided the entry to the good diamond.

But where a spade was led originally, South faced a more difficult challenge. Those declarers who finessed the queen went down after East won with the king and returned a spade, killing the critical entry to dummy's fifth diamond.

However, South can make the slam despite the spade lead by playing low from dummy on the opening trick. East wins with the jack but can do no better than return a club, taken by declarer with the ace.

South now plays three rounds of trumps (discarding a club from dummy), cashes the K-A of diamonds and ruffs a diamond. A club to the king, followed by another diamond ruff, establishes dummy's last diamond, with the ace of spades as the entry.

By adopting this approach, South makes the slam if the diamonds are divided either 3-3 or 4-2, and he still has the spade finesse to fall back on if the diamonds are divided 5-1.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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News in brief

Texas judge throws out suit in Mexican boy's death

EL PASO (AP) — A judge in West Texas has dismissed a \$25 million wrongful death lawsuit brought by the family of a 15-year-old Mexican boy killed by a Border Patrol agent.

Senior U.S. District Judge David Briones on Aug. 11 threw out the lawsuit against the U.S. government over the June 7, 2010, shooting of Sergio Adrian Hernandez Guereca on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande.

The El Paso Times reports Thursday that Briones dismissed the case because the boy was not shot on U.S. soil.

Family attorney Bob Hilliard has told The Associated Press that he'll appeal.

Texas man gets life in prison over carjackings

MCALLEN, Texas (AP) — A South Texas man has been sentenced to life in prison for masterminding carjackings including a confrontation with an off-duty Border Patrol agent.

Federal prosecutors in McAllen say 27-year-old Jose Antonio Armendariz of Penitas was sentenced Wednesday.

A jury in May found Armendariz guilty of two 2006 carjackings, a 2006 hostage taking and the 2009 attempted carjacking of an agent driving his 10-year-old daughter from Arizona to Texas. Armendariz was also convicted of three firearms violations.

Investigators have said members of a trafficking gang mistook the agent's vehicle as one believed to be hauling drug money. The agent noticed he was being followed and displayed his gun, while contacting Mission police. He and his daughter weren't hurt.

Woman drowns trying to save son in Trinity River

FORT WORTH (AP) — Officials say a 35-year-old woman has drowned trying to save her son who had fallen into the Trinity River.

The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office identified the woman as Dania Martinez late Wednesday.

She was pronounced dead at a Fort Worth hospital Wednesday night.

The Fort Worth Fire Department said they found people performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation on a woman when they arrived soon after the accident.

Witnesses said the woman had tried to rescue her 8-year-old son even though she did not know how to swim.

Search for boy suspended in San Antonio fire

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A collapsing wall and other safety concerns have forced firefighters to temporarily suspend a search for a 6-year-old boy missing after a fire at a San Antonio apartment complex that left 10 people hurt and displaced 70 others.

Battalion Commander Connie Hall with the San Antonio Fire Department said late Wednesday that they'll resume their search Thursday.

Officials initially were searching for the child and an unrelated woman but after interviewing witnesses told the San Antonio Express-News they could not confirm whether a woman was missing.

The fire began late Tuesday night at the Summerview apartments on the city's south side. Although extinguished Wednesday the rubble continued to smolder.

The cause of the blaze remains under investigation.

Court ruling prompts sex offender status change

AUSTIN (AP) — After getting slapped by a state appeals court, the Texas parole board has started removing the sex offender status or holding hearings for parolees who have never been convicted of a sex crime.

The change caps more than a decade of court challenges. For years state officials fought in court against giving parolees a hearing before they were classified as sex offenders, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

But that changed in May after a Texas Court of Criminal Appeals' 8-0 ruling, which affirmed what several federal courts previously ruled: The parole

board cannot unilaterally decide whether to brand a prisoner as a sex offender if he or she has not been convicted of a sex offense.

West Texan indicted in \$2 million investment fraud

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A San Antonio federal grand jury has charged a West Texas man with embezzling about \$2 million from investors by making them believe he worked for an investment firm.

The seven-count indictment alleges that between September 2007 and July 2011, Scott Yermish of El Paso misrepresented himself to make his victims believe he was Scott Lindeman with Interactive Brokers, an investment brokerage company from Connecticut.

The indictment states that Yermish got the investors to trust him with their account information

so he could access their funds and wire them from Texas to an account in New York. He also produced fraudulent bank statements.

Filing: DNA can clear Texan convicted of murder

DALLAS (AP) — A recent DNA test can exonerate a Texas man who has spent 24 years in prison for killing his wife, a national legal aid organization said in a court filing Wednesday.

Court papers filed in Williamson County north of Austin on behalf of Michael Morton by the Innocence Project said a court-ordered test on a blood-stained bandana shows the DNA of another man along with the blood and hair of Morton's wife, Christine.

Morton, 57, was sentenced to life in prison for beating his wife to death in 1986.

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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
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News in brief

U.S. demand for Syrian President Assad to leave power is imminent

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. officials say the Obama administration is ready to make an explicit call for Syrian President Bashar Assad to leave power and has notified Arab and European allies that an announcement is imminent.

The timing is still in flux but preparations are in place for the White House to issue a statement Thursday demanding that Assad step down, the officials said. This would be accompanied by an announcement of new sanctions on the Assad regime and followed by an on-camera appearance by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to reinforce the U.S. position, the officials said.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter.

Although the officials acknowledged the move is not likely to have any immediate impact on the Syrian regime's behavior, they said it would send a powerful signal that Assad is no longer welcome in the international community. And they noted that the additional sanctions would further boost pressure on Assad and his inner circle.

As Syrian protesters have called for an end to his regime, Assad has unleashed tanks and ground troops in an attempt to retake control in rebellious areas. The military assault has escalated dramatically since the start of the holy month of Ramadan in August, with Assad's forces killing hundreds and detaining thousands.

New disability evaluation system has war wounded facing bureaucracy to leave military

WASHINGTON (AP) — Staff Sgt. Nicholas Lanier has entered what he calls the "vast unknown." A combat veteran and father to four daughters, he can't remain in the military because of a serious back injury earned in Iraq.

But he can't yet accept a civilian job because he doesn't know when the military will discharge him. He has no clue how much the government will pay him in disability compensation related to his injury, so he can't make a future budget. He just waits.

"I don't have any idea what the end stat is going to be on the other side. When you have a family and you are trying to plan for the future, that's going to affect a lot of things," said Lanier, a 37-year-old soldier stationed at Fort Stewart, Ga., who walks with a limp because of related nerve damage. "The only known is that it takes time."

Thousands of troops are like Lanier: not fully fit to serve but in limbo for about two years waiting to get discharged under a new system that was supposed to be more efficient than its predecessor. And the delays are not only affecting service members, but the military's readiness as well. New troops can't enlist until others are discharged.

The government determines the pay and benefits given to wounded, sick or injured troops for their military service. Under the old system, a medical board would determine their level of military compensation and the service member would be discharged. Then the veteran essentially would have

to go through the process again with the Veterans Affairs Department to determine benefits. While they waited for their VA claim to be processed, many of the war wounded were going broke.

Pakistan military says it can bring militant network to peace talks

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan's military says it can bring the notorious Haqqani militant network, considered one of the most lethal threats against U.S.-led coalition troops in Afghanistan, to the negotiation table.

Instead, Washington is pushing Pakistan to carry out military assaults against Haqqani hideouts in the tribal regions.

The network is affiliated with the Taliban and al-Qaida and blamed for most of the major attacks in Afghanistan, particularly the often brazen assaults on the capital Kabul. It has been described as the glue that binds together the militant groups operating in Pakistan's tribal North Waziristan.

"The Haqqani network has been more important to the development and sustainment of al-Qaida and the global jihad than any other single actor or group," a study released earlier this month by West Point's Combatting Terrorism Center said.

Police: Tampa teen accused of plotting to bomb school that expelled him had run-ins with law

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — At 17 years old, Jared Cano had been expelled and had several run-ins with the law, though none of the charges from burglary to drug possession had been pressed.

When Tampa police, who periodically checked on the teen because of his troubled past, were tipped off that Cano was plotting to bomb the school that had kicked him out a year earlier, they thought the information was plausible enough that they knocked on his apartment door and his mother let them search the place.

Cano had amassed shrapnel, plastic tubing, timing and fuse devices to make pipe bombs, all for a plot in which he intended to cause more casualties than the Columbine High School massacre where 13 were killed before the two student attackers killed themselves, police said Wednesday.

Police and the school system "were probably able to thwart a potentially catastrophic event, the likes of which the city of Tampa has not seen, and hopefully never will," Police Chief Jane Castor said.

Before Tuesday's discovery, Cano had been arrested several times, most recently accused of breaking into a house and stealing a handgun, Tampa police said. He had a court-ordered curfew and was on a police watch list.

Market swings, jittery buyers threaten to stall car and truck sales

STERLING HEIGHTS, Mich. (AP) — Jeff Swanson was in the market for a new car just a few weeks ago. Then the stock market went crazy.

So Swanson, 25, decided to keep his 10-year-old Pontiac Grand Prix for at least another year. Gyration in stocks and talk of a weakening economy rattled Swanson's confidence about taking on another payment, even though his new job running a home for mentally disabled people seems to be secure.

"Everywhere you turn, other people are say-

ing 'Oh, I lost my job this week. I lost my job last week,'" says Swanson, who works for a non-profit that gets money from the state. "I want to be a little bit financially set in case something like that happens."

It's an increasingly common reaction among would-be car buyers that has dealers and automakers worried. In May, many believed sales would reach a healthy 13.5 million this year — halfway between their peak in 2005 and their 30-year low in 2009. Now, such forecasts seem overly optimistic. Analysts say the swoon in financial markets and economic uncertainty could reduce auto sales by a few percentage points, shrink earnings and delay hiring in an industry that has been a recent leader in job creation.

"If it keeps going this way, yes, it's going to hurt business," says Jerry Seiner, who runs a group of dealerships in the Salt Lake City area that includes General Motors, Nissan and Kia.

Special-interest money that's bad for president good for other Demos

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama has sworn off special-interest money to pay for his re-election bid. But it turns out those dollars are fair game for congressional Democrats — to the tune of millions.

An Associated Press analysis of campaign fundraising found that Democrats who are trying to regain control of the House next fall have raked in more than \$15 million from political action committees this year, raising money from special interests even as Obama, the Democratic standard bearer, promotes his ban on such funds.

More than \$1 million of that money flowed to the re-election committees of House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, D-Md., and the Democratic National Committee chairwoman, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla.

Democratic leaders gloss over all that when they pressure the GOP presidential candidates to disclose their top donors, and even go so far as to trumpet the fact that Obama's campaign and the DNC don't take money from registered federal lobbyists and political action committees.

"The refusal to accept donations from federal lobbyists and PACs is critical to limiting the influence of special interests in the political process," Wasserman Schultz said in a recent conference call with reporters. "Unfortunately, every single Republican candidate for president today happily accepts donations from lobbyists and PACs."

Pope arrives in Spain in time of turmoil, mounting youth frustrations

MADRID (AP) — When the pope arrives in Spain, it's not just sweltering heat he'll be stepping into. The economy's in a shambles. Jobless youths are filled with rage and frustration. Politicians are gearing up for early elections that will be dominated by these hard times.

Benedict XVI departed Rome Thursday morning for a four-day visit to greet up to a million or more young pilgrims from around the planet for the Catholic Church's World Youth Day.

The pope's attendance shows how much a priority he places on this economically troubled country, which has departed sharply from its Catholic traditions and embraced hedonism and secularism. In the economic bust, he may be hoping to lure back some of his straying flock.

This will be the third time the pontiff has visited Spain since his papacy began in 2005, and the second in less than a year.

Prosecutors offer reward for information about girl's death

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Eager for any information that can help them resolve the suspicious death of 11-year-old Celina Cass, New Hampshire prosecutors are now offering a reward.

The Attorney General's Office will hold a press conference at 10 a.m. Thursday to discuss the reward and make a plea for information. The FBI offered a \$25,000 reward before Celina's body was found. It is unclear if the reward being announced Thursday will supplement or replace it.

It has been more than two weeks since searchers pulled Celina's body from the Connecticut River near her house, and the lack of an arrest and answers to questions about how she died have cast a pall over her hometown.

Sad and edgy, residents of Stewartstown are waiting — for answers about the girl, justice for her family, peace of mind for themselves. The police's inability to charge a suspect, an autopsy that couldn't pinpoint what killed her and the lingering fear that a killer is at large are hanging over folks in the one-stoplight burg with 960 residents.

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PRICES GOOD THRU TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2011

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Football Calendar

Thursday's (Aug. 18)

scrimmage games:

Coahoma versus Clyde in Coahoma at 5:30 p.m.

Stanton versus Tahoka in Tahoka

Friday's (Aug. 19)

scrimmage games:

Big Spring versus Lubbock Estacado in Big Spring's Memorial Stadium at 7 p.m. (freshmen and JV at 5:30 p.m.)

Forsan versus Reagan County in Forsan at 7 p.m., with the JV playing at 6 p.m.

Grady versus Wellman in Wellman at 9:30 a.m.

Garden City versus Water Valley in Garden City at 6 p.m.

Little League World Series begins today

By **BRANDON OGDEN**

AP Sports Writer

Some may be future professional athletes, musicians or politicians, while others probably will be average members of society.

But for one week, they will be in the national spotlight — as part of ESPN's coverage of the Little League World Series, which is played in Williamsport, Penn.

While many people refuse to watch the miniature version of baseball, it is one of my favorite

sporting events to tune into each year.

With ESPN's expanded coverage of regional tournaments this year, I've already watched more than 20 games before today's opening of the official LLWS.

The reasons I watch are simple.

• Baseball is baseball. No matter the age, it's a game that doesn't really change. There are still strikeouts, home runs and Web Gems. There are also errors, umpire miscues and question-

able coaching decisions.

• The joy of the game. When the players are mentioned, there's no talk of their salary, because they play the game for free. Instead, they mention their favorite players, who play the game for a paycheck. Nevertheless, these 11- and 12-year-old kids (and some 13-year-olds) go all out on each play, just because they love to play the game. The coaches and umpires are in the same boat. Every-

thing in Little League is voluntary, meaning nobody is getting paid.

Now, here is a look at the teams and some players to watch over the next week.

Southwest (Lafayette, La.): This scrappy bunch made a miraculous rally over Pearland, Texas, with a four-run sixth inning, including a two-out, three-run home run by Nick Frunge. Louisiana won 8-7 in seven innings to qualify. Ethan

See **SERIES**, Page 2B

Rangers take seven game lead with win

ANAHEIM (AP) — A few weeks from now, if the Los Angeles Angels are looking for the moment when their season slipped away, they might point to that 129th pitch by Ervin Santana.

Santana scrapped, clawed and somehow pulled off the relentless Rangers for 128 pitches, but Ian Kinsler still put that last toss softly into left field Wednesday night, sending the Angels to a loss that left them in their biggest AL West hole in the season.

Kinsler hit a tiebreaking two-run single with two outs

in the eighth inning, and the Rangers took a seven-game division lead with a 4-3 victory, their third straight over the Angels.

Mark Trumbo had an early RBI double and Howie Kendrick homered in the eighth inning for the Angels, who have lost five straight and seven of eight. After getting blown out in the first two games of the series, Los Angeles took a 2-0 lead in the first inning and had Santana on the mound in search of his sixth straight win.

The Rangers chipped back,

the Angels didn't answer, and Kinsler finally got the big hit Los Angeles lacked.

Los Angeles trailed the Rangers by 1½ games early last week before sliding to the fringe of the playoff race during this disastrous stretch.

"There's nothing deflating about it," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "Obviously, the longer it takes to start stringing together a streak and stringing together wins, the tougher it is to accomplish this, but this is doable."

Torii Hunter might have

thought otherwise, but the Angels' most loquacious player sat silently at his locker in clear frustration.

Texas beat rookie starters for the Angels in the first two games of the series, but was nearly as effective against Santana (9-9), who gave up 10 hits and four walks. He had four strikeouts, including the 1,000th of his career in the first inning, but lost for the first time in 10 starts since June 21.

"We've still got a more than month to go, so we have to keep playing hard and any-

thing can happen," Santana said. "We just have to play our game. ... I didn't have my best stuff, but it's a good battle."

Kendrick hit a two-out homer off reliever Koji Uehara, but Neftali Feliz pitched the ninth for his 24th save, stranding Trumbo on third base.

A few moments earlier, Kinsler came up with the Angel Stadium crowd on its feet to cheer Santana, who had struck out two Rangers and had two strikes on Kinsler

See **RANGERS**, Page 2B

Former referee dead in hotel

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A former NBA referee shot and killed himself in a suburban New Orleans hotel room on the same day his wife was found strangled at their Houston-area home last week, authorities said Wednesday.

A law-enforcement official in Montgomery County, Texas, said Troy Raymond, 46, was a "person of interest" in the death of his wife, Leslie Anderson Raymond, whose body was discovered last Thursday at their home in Spring.

Troy Raymond's body was discovered at a hotel in Jefferson Parish. The coroner's office said he shot himself in the head.

Tim Holifield, a Montgomery County constable, said that Raymond hasn't been named a suspect in his 41-year-old wife's killing and it's premature to connect their deaths.

"At this point, to call him anything other than a person of interest post-mortem would be unfair and improper," Holifield said.

Raymond was an NBA referee during the 2003-04 season and more recently has refereed college basketball games, including for the Sun Belt Conference.

Holifield said a relative of Leslie Anderson Raymond found her body Thursday afternoon and called for help. Investigators were still at the home when they learned from the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office that Troy Raymond's body had been found at a Westwego hotel that afternoon after a housekeeper heard a gunshot.

Troy Raymond's sister, Aquinette Matthews, told Jefferson Parish investigators that her brother was having "marital problems" and had said he "needed to split up" with his wife, according to a sheriff's department report.

Holifield said investigators were seeking cell phone records that may help "fill in a lot of gaps" in the probe.

"We have no witnesses," he said.

Astros win again

HOUSTON (AP) — Slogging through a terrible season, the Houston Astros will make no apologies for being excited about a two-game winning streak.

Matt Downs hit a go-ahead two-run single, Mark Melancon wriggled out of a jam in the ninth inning and the Astros beat the Chicago Cubs 4-3 on Wednesday to take the series between the worst teams in NL Central.

Brian Bogusevic, who hit a game-winning grand slam for Houston on Tues-

day night, had a two-run double in the third inning against Casey Coleman, who was recalled from Triple-A Iowa to replace Carlos Zambrano in the rotation.

"It feels good," Bogusevic said. "We've been struggling the last couple weeks and to win two in a row and win a series is kind of a little boost for us."

After a pair of exciting wins, the Astros were

See **ASTROS**, Page 2B

Briefs

Football, cheerleading signups

This is the last week of sign-ups for CYFA's youth football and cheerleading. The cost of the programs are \$125 for divisions one and two, \$75 for flag football and \$100 for cheerleading.

Signups will be taken at Big Spring Mall today between the hours of 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Saturday between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. For more information, contact Jeff Vidal at 432-816-6871.

Climb to the top handicap bowling tournament Aug. 28

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

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

Quarterback Club meeting Monday

Big Spring Quarterback Club meetings to be held Mondays at the ATC. The meetings will start at 6 p.m. All parents of football players in grades 7-12 are encouraged to attend.

For more information, call Denise Carrillo at 432-816-1685.

Soccer signups

Soccer signups will be held at the Big Spring Mall through Aug. 19 at 5:30 p.m. In addition,

players can register between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Aug. 20.

Forsan community pep rally

Forsan will be holding their community pep rally Friday, following the junior varsity and varsity scrimmage, which begins at 6:30 p.m. There will be fan gear for sale, games, prizes, give-a-ways and a surprise. Everyone is invited.

Big Spring pep rally

The Big Spring High School community pep rally will be held at Memorial Stadium Monday at 8 p.m. Junior high and high school fall sports teams, cheerleaders and BSHS band and color guards will be introduced.

BSHS Quarterback Club will be selling Steer T-shirts and other Steer-gear, as well as cold drinks. The 2012 senior class will be selling brisket burritos. For more information, call Shannon Stuteville at 432-264-3641.

Lamesa benefit kickball tournament

A benefit co-ed kickball tournament is being organized to benefit the Rudy Campos Kidney Transplant fund. Rudy is in need of the transplant, but must come up with 20 percent of the cost of the surgery before doctors will operate.

The tournament will be held in Lamesa men's softball fields Saturday, Aug. 27. The cost to enter is \$100 per team of 12 (six males and six females). All proceeds will go to the fund to help Rudy Campos.

For more information, call Rudy Campos Jr. at 806-201-0048 or Pete Capetillo at 806-201-4920.

Chicano Golf Association meeting Monday

The Chicano Golf Association (CGA) will have a meeting for all its members Monday at 6:30 pm at Comanche Golf Course.

Woods must earn spot on team

HARRISON (AP) — U.S. captain Fred Couples wants Tiger Woods on the Presidents Cup team, provided Woods plays tournaments before he shows up at the Australian Open a week before the matches.

Woods missed the cut at the PGA Championship — only his second tournament in four months — and failed to qualify for the FedEx Cup playoffs.

That makes him ineligible for any PGA Tour event until the first week of October. Couples is to make his two captain's

picks on Sept. 26, the day after the Tour Championship.

"He can't just show up the week before in Australia," Couples said Wednesday at the Senior Players Championship. "I have made it clear that whoever I picked will be playing the Australian tournament the week before. But I need him to play more than just there. There's quite a few tournaments after the Tour Championship."

Woods already has a contract to play in the Australian Open in Syd-

ney. The Presidents Cup is the week after, on Nov. 17-20, at Royal Melbourne.

Woods has played every Presidents Cup since he first became eligible for them in 1998.

Couples and Woods are longtime friends, and when Couples agreed to return as captain, he jokingly sent Woods a text message telling him to play well so the captain wouldn't have to waste a pick on him.

Turns out it was no joke. Because of injuries to his left leg, Woods went from the Masters

on April 10 to the Bridgestone Invitational on Aug. 7 without completing a tournament.

"I really want him on the team based on my opinion that he's been the best player for 10 straight years," Couples said.

"I don't think you can push him down because he's not playing maybe as well as 20 other guys that could be picked.

"A couple of times I've been picked for a Presidents Cup or a Ryder Cup, and sometimes that's just the way it falls."

SERIES

Continued from Page 1B

Hines, a big 11-year-old, is a player to keep an eye on. Little Nate Cox also got my attention by mentioning Houston Astros catcher Humberto Quintero as his favorite player.

Southeast (Warner Robbins, Ga.): Warner Robbins knows all about going to Williamsport, including winning the title in 2007.

Behind Jake "Man Child" Fromm and Jacob Giles, this team is built to win another title this season.

Great Lakes (La Grange, Ky.): This team has a key ingredient for baseball tournaments — a dominant pitcher. Griffin McLarty struck out 13 batters in the regional final against Hamilton, Ohio, and he stayed way under the pitch count limit.

New England (Cumberland, R.I.): Ryan Mc-

Cormick hit two home runs in the first inning, including a grand slam, in the regional final game.

Northwest (Billings, Mont.): Cole McKenzie used his bat and arm to help Montana reach the World Series for the first time.

Midwest (Rapid City, S.D.): This team has a lot of depth, but Brett Beyer, who is also a varsity wrestler, stands out.

West (Huntington Beach, Calif.): Teams from the West Region are always strong. Steven Kotkosky hit a two-run home run in the top of the sixth inning of the regional final to help this team advance. Nick Pratto and Hagen

Danner are also big-time players.

Mid-Atlantic (Clinton County, Penn.): Rain delays weren't enough to derail this team from making it to Williamsport, which is approximately 30 minutes away from their hometown. Wyatt Koch's three-run homer in the regional final led the way.

Prediction for U.S. final: Southeast over West — Warner Robbins is used to being in this type of situation, so I like their chances to win the U.S. title then to defeat Japan in the championship.

So get ready to sit back and enjoy watching these young kids play baseball for the next week.

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ASTROS

Continued from Page 1B

ready to play again on Thursday's off day.

"I told somebody we need to schedule a game tomorrow, because we're hot," Melancon said. "This is fun."

Bud Norris (6-8) allowed three runs and six hits in his first win since July 6. The right-hander was 0-1 with a 3.91 ERA in his previous four starts.

"He probably didn't have his best stuff, but he was able to work through it," Houston manager Brad Mills said.

Aramis Ramirez hit a two-run homer and Geovany Soto had a solo

shot for the Cubs, who had won four straight series. Ramirez, Soto and Darwin Barney each had two hits.

Chicago went 0 for 13 with runners in scoring position.

"We missed opportunities all day long," manager Mike Quade said. "Casey wasn't really sharp, but he kept us hanging around and the bullpen did another great job, but you just can't have that many opportunities go by and not take advantage of them. We had folks up and down the lineup with chances today. We just didn't get it done."

The Cubs' last shot came in the ninth, when Barney hit a leadoff single against Melancon and moved to third on Ramirez's perfectly placed grounder up the middle.

Melancon retired Carlos Pena on a popup before pinch-runner Tony Campana swiped second to put runners on second and third with one out. Soto then tapped to shortstop Clint Barmes, who threw to third to catch Barney in a rundown. Marlon Byrd grounded out to end the game, giving Melancon his 12th save.

"I felt like I got three saves out there, all in one — the first little bloop in the infield and then the next two grounders," Melancon joked.

Coleman (2-5) allowed four runs and a career-

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

after Texas loaded the bases with no outs. Kinsler broke his bat on Santana's slider, but got the ball over the infield.

"It was loud. The whole stadium knew what was going on," Kinsler said. "That's the most fun part about the whole game. ... I was battling against (Santana) all night. He was battling me with sliders, battling me with the heater. We were getting guys on base, but couldn't beat him. That was our opportunity, and we almost let it slip by. I was just trying to get it in there somewhere."

Whether they're doing it with homers or broken-bat bloopers, the defending AL champions have been too much for the struggling Angels this week, taking a commanding lead in the AL West before Thursday's series finale.

Michael Young had his third straight three-hit game for the Rangers, who have 43 hits in the series after pounding out 12 more.

Mitch Moreland homered and Josh Hamilton hit a run-scoring single for the Rangers, who have won six straight to open a 10-game road

trip. C.J. Wilson (12-5) yielded five hits over seven innings for the Rangers (72-52), who are a season-best 20 games over .500 for the first time since 1999 by seizing control of this key four-game series.

"There's no doubt that Ervin was pitching with his back against the wall, even though he had a two-run lead," Scioscia said. "Those guys have power all the way through their lineup, and they're going to keep going. After we got those two early runs, they kept putting up zeros and kept pressuring us and got back into the game. We wanted to give Ervin a little bit of a comfort zone, but we weren't able to do that."

NOTES: The Angels hope ace Jered Weaver can end their slide when he takes the mound in the series finale on Thursday. Texas counters with 11-game winner Colby Lewis.

Hunter extended his hitting streak to 15 games with a sixth-inning single. ... The Angels recalled Jerome Williams from the minors before the game, and the veteran right-hander made his first major league appearance since May 15, 2007, in the ninth inning, giving up two hits.

Chicago hit back-to-back two-out singles in the eighth inning, but Starlin Castro grounded out to end the scoring threat.

Norris hit Barney to start the fifth inning before loading the bases with consecutive walks to Ramirez and Pena. But the Cubs came away with nothing when Norris retired the next three batters, striking out two.

NOTES: The Cubs optioned LHP Scott Maine to Iowa to make room for Coleman. Maine was recalled from Iowa on Monday, but did not make an appearance before being sent back to Triple-A. ... Houston OF Jordan Schafer, on the disabled list since July 20 with an injured left middle finger, started a rehabilitation assignment with Triple-A Oklahoma City on Wednesday. If his rehabilitation goes well, he could join Houston on Monday in Colorado. Schafer was acquired from Atlanta in the Michael Bourn trade. ... Both teams are off Thursday before Houston hosts the San Francisco Giants and the Cubs host the St. Louis Cardinals. ... Ramirez has 22 home runs and 63 RBIs at Minute Maid Park, which rank first among opposing players.

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HERALD

Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Leo sun and the Aries moon are fire-sign companions intent on setting minds and hearts ablaze with passion. Whether you direct the intense energy available now toward a person or a project, your efforts will create fast changes and high levels of excitement in both you and your subject. Venus and Mercury add to the heat.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You are an artist, even when you don't mean to be. You'll take your way of looking at the world and bring it to others on the planet in a way you hope they can understand — that's what artists do.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You can't expect yourself to produce without inspiration, motivation or reward. Find more that falls into those three categories, and your enthusiasm and energy will return.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Something small and personal will lead you to accomplish great things. In time, the small personal matter will seem so inconsequential to you, if you remember it at all. But the significant productivity that came of it will remain.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Everyone has an opinion about what things are supposed to be like. You will make yourself open to other people's ideas, but not so open as to discount your own point of view.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You would love to deny the raw, painful emotions, and yet those are the most valuable gifts of the day. The potential to heal and grow is buried in those feelings for the brave one who wants to dive in.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If you choose to dream, you'll notice that your powers of visualization are enhanced. There's something that you imagine

will be hard for you to do, but you can and will do it. See yourself having an easy time of it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). As any lumberjack worth his salt knows well, the first blow does not fell the tree. You'll build something important in the next few weeks, and it will all come together in good time. For now, your job is to simply hack away.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Knowing when to stop is a kind of art. Your restraint is matched only by your powers of observation. You wisely sense that going past the point of diminishing returns is a waste of time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll experience some fun piece of luck that was set up by you at an early date and then forgotten about. This is akin to finding money in the bottom of your purse or sock drawer.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll have the satisfaction of knowing you made a difference in someone else's life. This happens whether or not the person in question thinks to thank you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). In just a few minutes, you can easily accomplish the thing that takes others hours to do. This could make you secretly smile. It could also inspire you to start teaching others what you know.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll have the satisfaction of an accomplishment like getting to the gym, sending out a thank-you note or finishing a long novel. This is as good a reason as any to celebrate yourself.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 18). You'll dig deeper to make your dreams real. Through the next 10 weeks, you'll broadcast what you're about and what you want. In February, a fantastic opportunity is handed to you precisely because you got the

word out. Small, intelligent moves will set big projects in motion in October. December is romantic. Pisces and Sagittarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 25, 41, 24 and 19.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I just graduated with a degree in business, and I somehow managed to get into the job I wanted before I was even close to being ready for it. I'm in way over my head, and it's making me miserable. What do you have to say to an overly ambitious Capricorn?"

Capricorn people are attracted to challenge, the more impossible the better. That doesn't mean they are happy about it. Many driven, successful people feel like giving up every single day. The difference is that they don't, as a rule, act on the feeling. Instead, they see it as a normal response to the work at hand, and they move through it and past it. Being able to shake off your doubt and fear quickly just takes practice. Realize that these thoughts running through your head — for instance, "I can't take this anymore. It's a worthless endeavor. Why did I think I could do this?" — are just thoughts. Thinking them doesn't make them true. Anyway, they probably didn't even come from you, as so much is floating in the ether. Mentally cast your net for a different, more buoyant thought. Once you stop identifying with everything that goes through your mind, you'll realize you have numerous options as to what to think, and you'll choose more supportive ideas.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Edward Norton is known for playing troubled, intelligent characters who often have a double life. This Leo lives a kind of double life himself — w as a movie star and a normal person. Known for being down to earth and staying out of the limelight, Norton has said he can't imagine being too famous to ride the New York subway. His natal chart shows a great variety of influences.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail.

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HOLIDAY MATHIS

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: My husband's parents divorced 25 years ago, and both remarried people who had children from previous marriages.

All of the siblings are self-supporting with the exception of one stepbrother, "Rick," who is now 26.

My in-laws pay for Rick's apartment and all of his expenses because he can't seem to hold a job and they don't want him living with them.

My husband thinks he has the right to demand that his mother and her husband stop giving Rick money. I disagree.

How they spend their money is up to them. My husband says it isn't really their money. It's family money, and they should not be using this inheritance to support a lazy stepbrother.

He doesn't understand why he's worked so hard all these years when Rick doesn't have to. He told me he sees no reason to maintain a relationship with his mother if he's not going to get anything out of it. I couldn't believe my ears. He said he didn't mean

it the way it sounded.

I told him his parents don't owe him an inheritance and that I hoped my own parents would spend every last dime before they died. My husband and I earn a good income. I am amazed that I married such a selfish man. I've never seen this side of him before, and I don't like it at all. — *Floored*

Dear Floored: We don't believe your husband is selfish so much as he is hurt and resentful. In your husband's eyes, supporting Rick means Mom loves Rick more. Talk to him about those feelings, and see if you can help him understand that his parents did him an enormous favor by teaching him to be self-reliant, and that Rick will suffer in the long run. You also could remind him that, as the stepmother, his mom probably has less say over the matter than he realizes. We hope he can forgive her and move past this.

Dear Annie: I have spent many years in counseling trying to get over some social

anxiety issues, but one still lingers.

People invite us to their homes, and we enjoy their hospitality, but returning the favor makes me beyond nervous. I have nothing to offer that is as nice as what they have presented. I don't cook very well and would never want to offend someone with less than what they provided for us. As a result, I have stopped accepting invitations. I have taken many different medications to work through this, but nothing seems to help. My mother was a wonderful hostess, so I was taught well. Is it just laziness? — *Social Dud*



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

you cannot force an adult to get help, which is why we often recommend counseling for the writer, as well.

And sometimes, when the problem is psychological, the person is perfectly willing to see an internist, who could often refer or even medicate. Occasionally, threats to leave the marriage or throw out a freeloading child can "encourage" the problem person to seek professional help. The fact that it may not always be successful does not mean one shouldn't make the effort.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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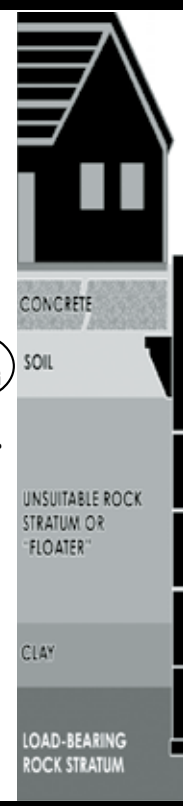
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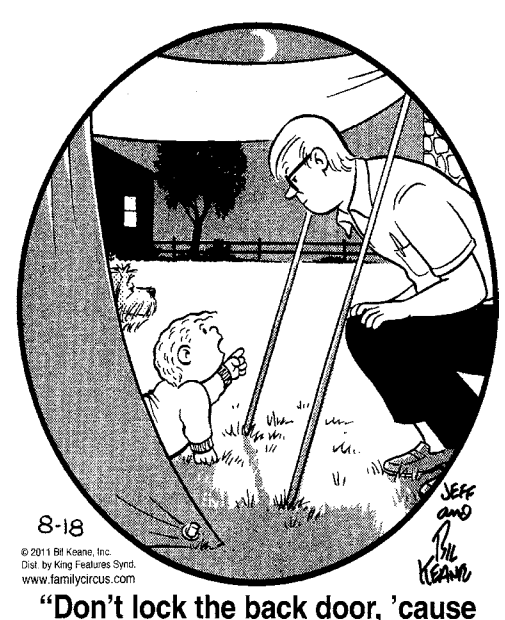


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6:PM 30	Jeopardy!	Cuando Me Wheel	Two Men	News	Caso Cer-rado	News	Seinfeld	Dr. Denis Sala	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld	American Chopper	Jail	Bones		Phineas Vampire	ATP Tennis	SportsCenter	
7:PM 30	Wipeout	Teresa (SS)	NFL Preseason Football: Eagles at Steelers	Big Bang Rules	Mi Corazón Insiste	Commun Parks	Movie: Joe Dirt, Brittany Daniel	Upd Bill Cloud	Daytrip Parks	The Vampire Diaries	American Chopper	Movie: Conan the Barbarian, Sandahl Bergman	Jail	Bones	Born to Dance	Wizards Good		Little League Baseball
8:PM 30	Expedition Imp.	Fuerza-Destino	The Mental-ist	La Casa de al Lado	Law & Order: SVU	Fam. Guy		Original Minds	Payne Browns	D. Money		IMPACT Wrestling	Movie: Twister, Cary Elwes	The BET Awards 2011	ANT Farm Prank	MLS Soccer: D.C. United at Chicago Fire.		Baseball Tonight
9:PM 30	Rookie Blue	Mujeres Aseinas	News	Noticias Titulares	News	Conan	Cortes	Charlie Rose	Roseanne	Auction	Movie: Conan the Destroyer, Wilt Chamberlain	Hooters' 2	Leverage	Wizards Vampire	World, Poker	SportsCenter		
10:PM 30	Nightline	Noticiero Raymond	Letterman	El Cartel	Decisions (SS)	Late Night	Lopez Tonight	World T. Smiley (Off Air)	South Pk	D. Money		MAN	Memphis Beat	Wendy Williams	Nation	NFL Live		
11:PM 30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Para Volver a Amar	Law & Order: SVU	Late	Decisions (SS)	Late Night	Conan	Moving for Christ	Cops	American Chopper	Movie: Trading Places, Ralph Bellamv	MAN	Trailers	CSI: NY	Movie: Love for Sale, Mya	Good	NFL	
12:AM 30	Extra	Destilando Amor	Raymond	Insider	Pagado	News	Lopez After Dark	Light of the Southwest	TBA			MAN	The Shield	Franklin & Bash	ANT Farm Shake It	NFL	SportsCenter	
1:AM 30	Paid	Mujer	King-Hill	(:37) Up to	Pagado													

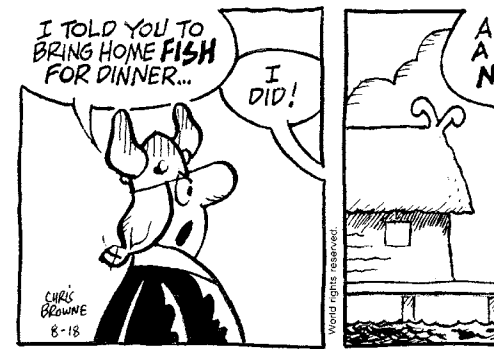
DENNIS THE MENACE



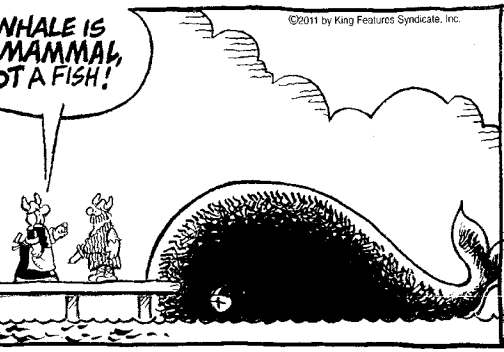
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



HAGAR



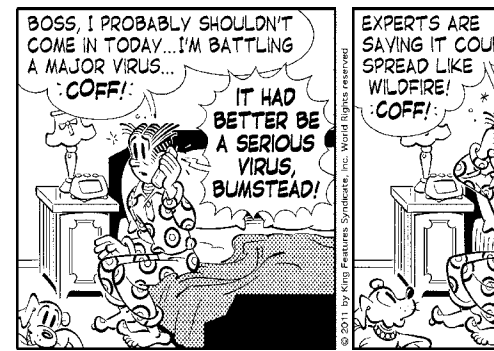
BLONDIE



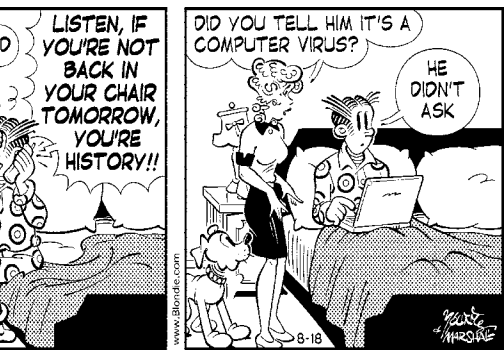
LOOKS LIKE MY JELLY BEANS DIDN'T COME UP AGAIN THIS YEAR.

Don't lock the back door, 'cause somebody might want to come in and see what time it is or somethin'.

BLONDIE



BLONDIE



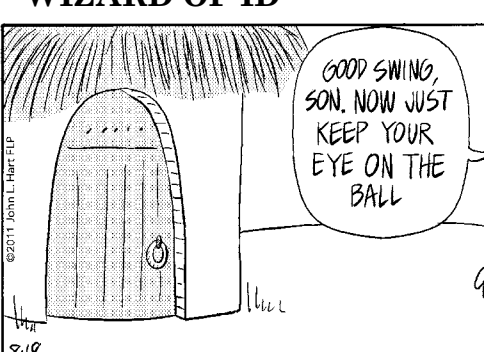
BC



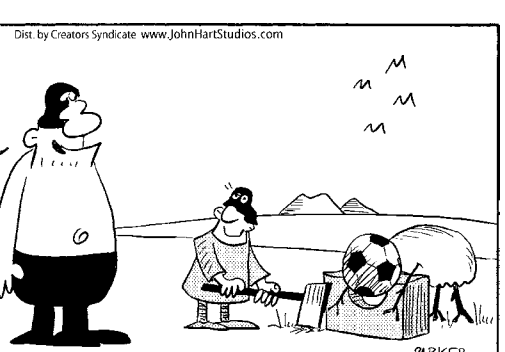
WIZARD OF ID



WIZARD OF ID



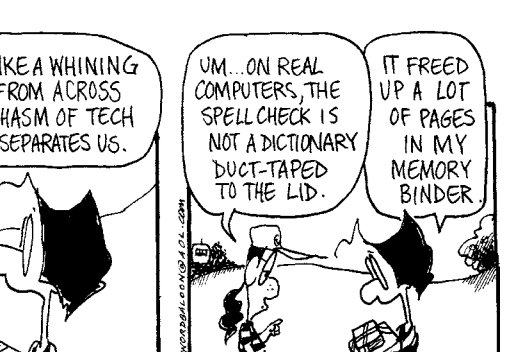
AGNES



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



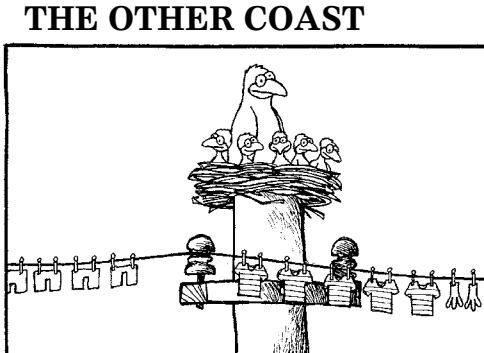
HI AND LOIS



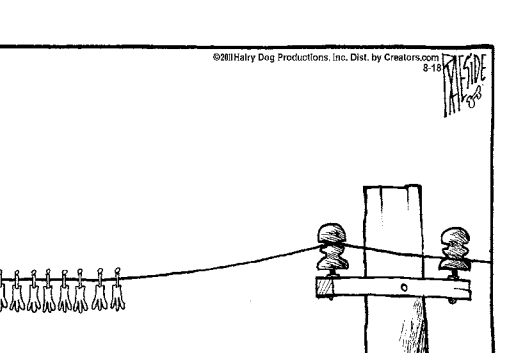
THE OTHER COAST



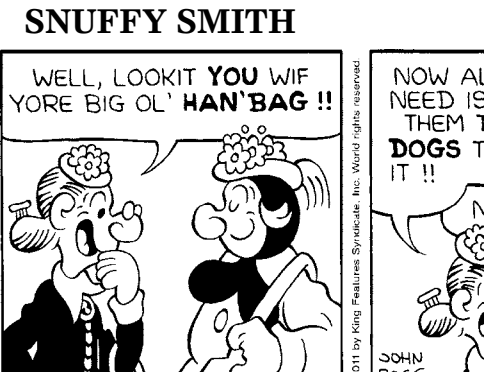
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



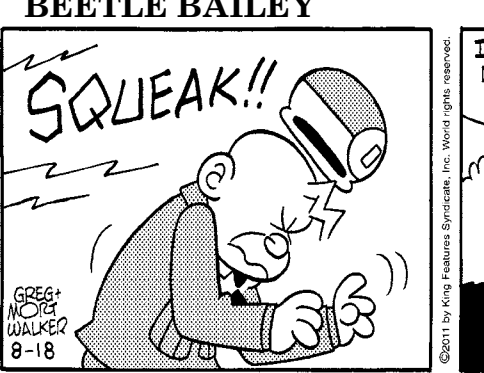
SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



BEEBLE BAILEY



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Aug. 18, the 230th day of 2011. There are 135 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which guaranteed the right of all American women to vote, was ratified as Tennessee became the 36th state to approve it.

On this date:

In 1587, Virginia Dare became the first child of English parents to be born on American soil, on what is now Roanoke Island in North Carolina. (However, the Roanoke colony ended up mysteriously disappearing.)

In 1838, the first marine expedition sponsored by the U.S. government set sail from Hampton Roads, Va.; the crews traveled the southern Pacific Ocean, gathering scientific information.

In 1846, U.S. forces led by General Stephen W. Kearny captured Santa Fe, N.M.

In 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Canadian Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King dedicated the Thousand Islands Bridge connecting the United States and Canada.

In 1968, the novel "Lolita" by Vladimir Nabokov was first published in New York by G.P. Putnam's Sons, almost three years after it was originally published in Paris.

In 1961, federal appeals court Judge Learned Hand, 89, died in New York.

In 1963, James Meredith became the first black student to graduate from the University of Mississippi.

In 1969, the Woodstock Music and Art Fair in Bethel, N.Y., wound to a close after three nights with a mid-morning set by Jimi Hendrix.

In 1981, author and screenwriter Anita Loos ("Gentlemen Prefer Blondes") died in New York at age 93.

In 1983, Hurricane Alicia slammed into the Texas coast, leaving 21 dead and causing more than a billion dollars' worth of damage.

Today's Birthdays: Former first lady Rosalynn Carter is 84.

Academy Award-winning director Roman Polanski is 78.

Attorney and author Vincent Bugliosi is 77. Olympic gold medal decathlete Rafer Johnson is 76. Actor-director Robert Redford is 75. Actor Christopher Jones is 70. Actor Henry C. Sanders is 69. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sarah Dash (LaBelle) is 68. Actor-comedian Martin Mull is 68. Rock musician Dennis Elliott is 61. Comedian Elaine Bosler is 59. Country singer Steve Wilkinson (The Wilkinson) is 56. Actor Denis Leary is 54. Actress Madeleine Stowe is 53. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner (GYT-nur) is 50. ABC News reporter Bob Woodruff is 50. The president of Mexico, Felipe Calderon, is 49.

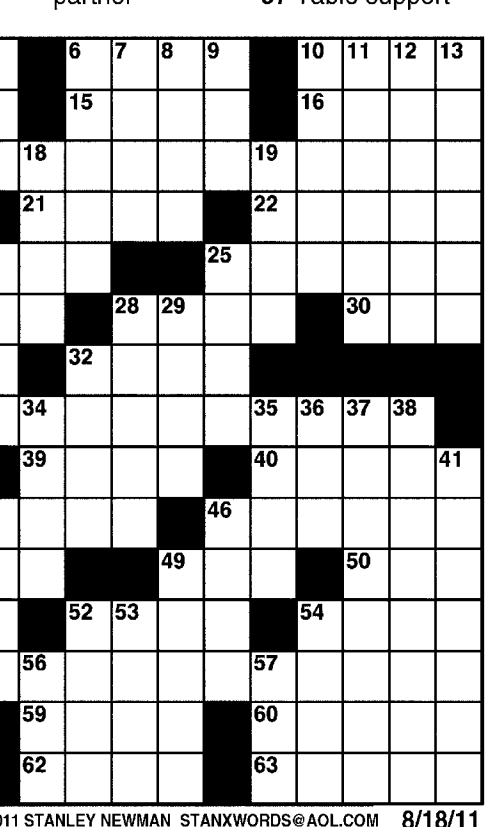
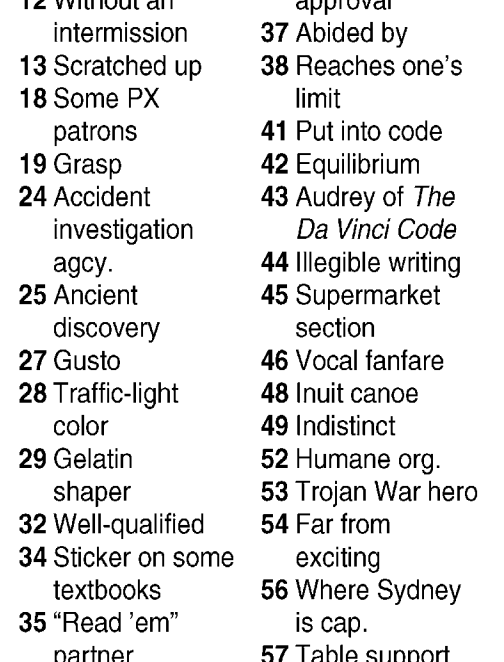
Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Monks' hoods
- 6 On-bulb, symbolically
- 10 Latch (on to)
- 14 Lend __ (listen)
- 15 Roll-call count
- 16 Lady Chaplin
- 17 Something to do in idle hours
- 20 Stovetop array
- 21 Unfriendly
- 22 Herr Schindler
- 23 Personal connections
- 24 This minute
- 25 Rip off
- 26 Espouses
- 28 In the thick of
- 30 Payslip abbr.
- 31 Frasier brother
- 32 Cupid alias
- 33 Something to do in idle hours
- 39 Musher's transport
- 40 Colonel symbol
- 42 GPS lines
- 45 Does and stags
- 46 Mideast capital
- 47 Added, with "on"
- 49 Tour-book illustration
- 50 List-ending letters
- 51 Of hearing
- 52 Reputed
- 54 Ballpark beverage
- 55 Something to do in idle hours
- 58 Presidential caucus state
- 59 Vamoose
- 60 Take pleasure in
- 61 Brood
- 62 Like crayons
- 63 10/31 costume
- DOWN
- 1 Largest inland sea
- 2 Party preparation
- 3 Left the group, maybe
- 4 Falls behind
- 5 __ Lanka
- 6 Being pulled
- 7 Wonka creator
- 8 Checked out
- 9 Beast of burden
- 10 Golden-egg source
- 11 Subdued
- 12 Without an intermission
- 13 Scratched up
- 18 Some PX patrons
- 19 Grasp
- 24 Accident investigation agcy.
- 25 Ancient discovery
- 27 Gusto
- 28 Traffic-light color
- 29 Gelatin shaper
- 32 Well-qualified
- 34 Sticker on some textbooks
- 35 "Read 'em" partner
- 36 Shout of approval
- 37 Abided by
- 38 Reaches one's limit
- 41 Put into code
- 42 Equilibrium
- 43 Audrey of The Da Vinci Code
- 44 Illegible writing
- 45 Supermarket section
- 46 Vocal fanfare
- 48 Inuit canoe
- 49 Indistinct
- 52 Humane org.
- 53 Trojan War hero
- 54 Far from exciting
- 56 Where Sydney is cap.
- 57 Table support

IDLE HOURS by Clive Probert

Edited by Stanley Newman

www.stanxwords.com



Answer to previous puzzle

RAMS	SABIN	ACID
IGOT	ELITE	LONE
SAUL	BELLOW	SLEW
ETS	AMOK	BOOS
SHERBET	BTU	RCA
AREA	KLUM	ARP
	PLAIN	ODOR
CLAUS	VONBULOW	
TRAY	HOTDOGS	
BAS	HERS	AERO
ABE	ANY	PANNING
CRUD	HEAD	PLO
OKAY	JEAN	HARLOW
PATE	ALICE	DEAN
PEGGS	WIRED	SYNS