

TIME FOR RESPECT

Governor Perry Should End Silence

An appeal to Gov. Rick Perry: We believe a tradition long held by political candidates and Texas newspapers has been abandoned in what we can only believe to be a decision of political expediency. Your position to not visit with the editorial boards of Texas newspapers may be astute politically, but it demonstrates a disregard for newspaper readers and voters across the state, who deserve to hear substance rather than silence. It is therefore with the greatest concern that we offer not only an editorial board meeting with us, but also an opportunity for a face-to-face debate between you and your opponent, former Houston Mayor Bill White, for the purposes of illustrating to Texas voters your posi-

tions on key issues. We are facing what's rumored to be the largest budget deficit and crisis in the history of our state — informed estimates of the budget shortfall range from \$18 billion to \$20 billion. Newspaper readers, whether Republicans, Democrats or Independents — deserve to hear your solutions to the staggering problems we will be facing as the legislative session begins. Instead, we're confronted with an unacceptable and undesired silence. This newspaper, which you have repeatedly called "your favorite paper in the state," has given you support in previous elections in the form of endorsements. (To be sure, we have taken edito-

Editorial rial positions against some of your actions, such as your executive order on the HPV vaccine in 2007.) You also have characterized this as one of the most conservative newspapers in the state. We guarantee a level playing field. So we appeal to you to come to Tyler, visit with our editorial board, and to debate Bill White. No doubt, you have advisers who are counseling against this. Perhaps they point to the polls that show your comfortable lead over White. You're probably being told you don't need to do editorial boards because the results would be predictable, with many of the state's

newspapers endorsing your opponent, as they did in the primary. That's bad advice. It demonstrates a disconnect with the voters. Obviously, editorial board meetings in the past have not prevented you from being elected to office. You've never lost a race. Nor have debates hurt you politically. Even in a three-way primary in March, you won without a runoff, and you debated your opponents then. The stakes are too high for politics to overshadow process. We invite you to re-engage with the many voters who rely on us for in-depth dialogue about the issues, rather than sound bites other media offer. This newspaper did not endorse a candidate in the March

Republican primary because only one of those candidates, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, met with our board. We felt the process was incomplete. And it remains incomplete in this general election. The advice you are receiving is perhaps from those who would have you run for another, higher office. But abandoning the traditions of editorial boards and debates is an affront to the voters you are asking to keep you in this office. We are deeply disappointed in where things are. We urge you to accept our offer in the spirit in which it is extended, with sincerity and a respect for the traditional relationships between Texas public officials, the press and the public.

The Editorial Board and Newsroom Leadership of the Tyler Courier-Times--Telegraph

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Nelson Clyde,
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Megan Middleton,
City Editor



Tyler Courier-Times--Telegraph

Sunday, October 3, 2010

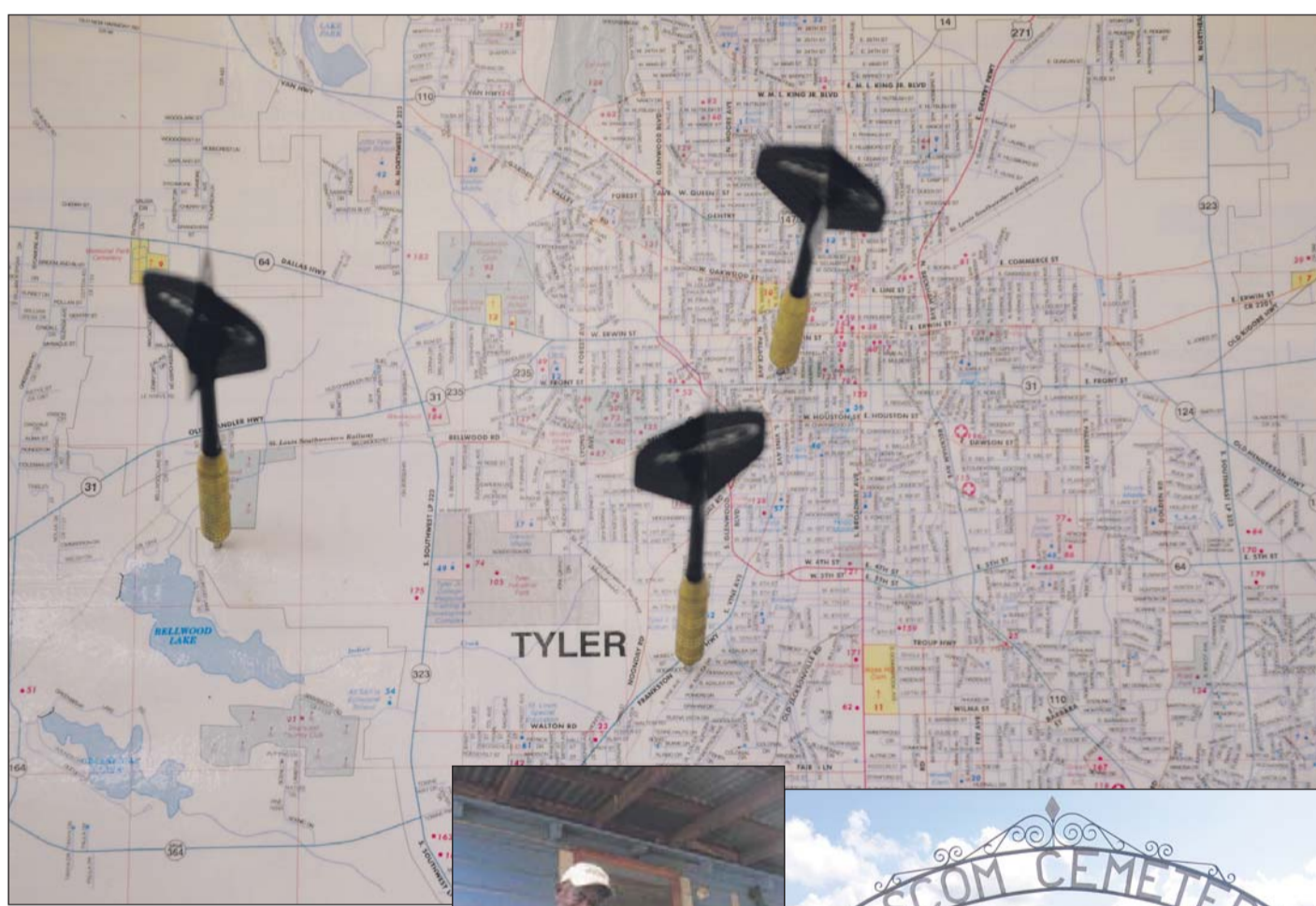
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★ Your Complete Information Source ★

Tyler, Texas

Stories Of The City



Reporters Chronicle Day-To-Day Tales Of People, Places

From Staff Reports
In today's fast-paced world of chaos, distractions and cell phones glued to faces, the little things are easily missed. But through journalists' eyes, stories abound all around. With that in mind, Tyler Courier-Times--Telegraph reporters recently were given an assignment that started with a dart. Each reporter tossed a dart at a Tyler map, and wherever the dart landed, the reporter had to go out and dig up a story on that spot. Here is what they uncovered:
See **STORIES**, Page 6A



AROUND TOWN: Above left, William Ervin, 91, grew up and has always lived in the Tyler area except for when he served in the Army during World War II. Above, at least one veteran of the War of 1812 is among the 3,000 people buried in Bascom Cemetery. Left, research consultant Mike Mitchell surveys nutsedge grass at Lindsey Park.
— Staff Photos

Veterans Heading For D.C.

Participants To Visit Capital Landmarks, Monuments
A team from Brookshire Grocery Co. and 37 World War II veterans are making final preparations for the second WWII Heroes Flight to Washington, D.C., Oct. 5-6. The company has scheduled a special send-off for the group beginning at 5 a.m. Tuesday, at the Brookshire's store on Rice Road in Tyler. Well-wishers can meet and greet the veterans and attend a brief patriotic program before the bus departure for Dallas-Fort Worth Airport. The group is scheduled to return to the same store location about 10 p.m. on Wednesday, where the community is to greet the returning veterans. During the two-day trip, the group will visit the WW II Memorial, the Iwo Jima Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery and the United States Capitol, among other historic sites.
See **VETERANS**, Page 6A



MOREINSIDE
Look for information about all the veteran participants inside. —8C

19 HD
TOTAL TEAM COVERAGE
fit CITY challenge
Fit City Challenge, an ongoing project of the Tyler newspaper and KYTX CBS19, continues on FitCityTyler.com. Look for Health & Fitness news on pages 11-13A.



IS IT JUST ME?
Nelson Clyde,
Publisher

Oh, The Urbanity

The next meeting of B.U.N.S. book club will be at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 7, at Barnes and Noble on Broadway. Our book will be "Seeds" by local oncologist Dr. Svetislava "Sasha" Vukelja. Seeds is the true story of Dr. V's journey from Yugoslavia to America with her mother. Dr. V will be the guest speaker at the November meeting. We look forward to seeing you there.
Well, you did it. You wrote the column for me again this week with your submissions of words for our new languages of Urbanics/Urbanics. Apparently, we may need to expand to Oxybonics.
Do one-word oxymorons count or will the word Nazis disqualify them? Here are the ones I thought of:
Honician — honest politician
Sat — sane cat
Intellican — intelligent Republican (to Democrats)
Intellicrat — intelligent Democrat (to Republicans)
Healkie — healthy Twinkie
See **CLYDE**, Page 7A

19 HD DAY PLANNER
51 NE 11 mph
69 NE 12 mph
73 NE 10 mph

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Bible Thought
The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.
— Proverbs 29:25