

**GATHERED TO GOLF**  
Bentwood Men's Partnership, West Texas Amateur Championship tee off. **SPORTS, 1B**

**LEARNING JOURNEY**  
Group from Abilene visits sites important to Mormon history. **FAITH, 1D**



# Standard-Times



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**Quick Read**

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He tells Americans slain hero Trayvon Martin "could have been me 35 years ago" and urges soul-searching about attitudes on race.

**NATION, 8A**

**PET RESCUE STORIES TOLD**

Today a reader tells how a bad first impression was overcome and a neglected dog found a new family.

**LOCAL, 5A**

**GO POLL**

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**Should Congress act to keep interest rates low on student college loans?**

**Yes 54%**  
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**Yes 54%**  
**No 46%**

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Good morning to the Gene Dedeker household of San Angelo. Thank you for loyally reading the San Angelo Standard-Times.



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## Some expect unsafe abortions

**■ They fear home remedies will be sought**

By **Trish Choate**  
Scripps Newspapers

While protesters against the anti-abortion law Gov. Rick Perry signed Thursday adopted the coat hanger as their symbol, women attempting do-it-yourself abortions generally look to other methods.

The herbs pennyroyal and rue, beverage concoctions like coffee and lemon, the soft drink Malta, a pill available in cheap generic form and blows to the stomach are more popular methods among women seeking to self-induce abortions without medical supervision, according to studies.

Some experts say Texas women have been trying to end unwanted pregnancies on their own more often since the 2011 Texas

sonogram law went into effect, and the newest anti-abortion law means more will try to cause an abortion without medical supervision, putting their health at risk.

Amy Hagstrom Miller said there is no question women will self-induce abortions more often because of the new-law ratcheting up requirements for abortion clinics, banning abortion at 20 weeks and requiring physicians to have admitting privileges

at a hospital within 30 miles.

"This law doesn't do anything to change the need for abortion, so you're still going to have the same amount of women in Texas facing unplanned pregnancy," said Hagstrom Miller, founder and chief executive officer of a network of abortion clinics with locations in five Texas cities.

Opponents say the new law will drive many abortion clinics out of busi-

ness, making it harder for women to safely end an unwanted pregnancy. Supporters contend it protects women's health by raising standards.

Elizabeth Graham, director of Texas Right to Life, said claims of self-induced abortions are exaggerated and unfounded.

"I can't imagine why women would take the risk of this so-called self-aborting when abortion

See **ABORTION, 5A**

## Charity's big bang



Gloria Tomblin, of Galveston, gets a fist bump from fellow shooter John Rabon, also of Galveston, after finishing her round.

Sporting clay shooters from across Texas and other states converged on San Angelo this weekend to take part in the 14th annual Shannon Sporting Clay Shoot. More than 700 registered for the shoot, surpassing last year's count and making it the largest charity sporting clay shoot in Texas for the second year in a row.

"We are very proud of this event and are extremely grateful to all of our sponsors and competitors that support us," said Lyndy Stone, marketing director for Shannon Medical Center. "Over the last 13 years we have been able to raise about \$1.3 million for various programs at the hospital."

Each competitor can choose up to three courses with 100 targets on each course. And because of



A shotgun shell is ejected from the chamber of Jerry Hensley's gun Friday afternoon as he competes in the 14th annual Shannon Sporting Clay Shoot near San Angelo.

the lighthearted and energetic atmosphere, participants regularly return to compete. "We would drive twice as far if we needed to just to come to this

shoot," said John Rabon, of Galveston, competing for the fourth time. "We absolutely love this event."

Patrick Dove



## Session reaches final stretch

**■ Senate, House pursue transit funding**

By **Matthew Waller**  
Scripps Texas Newspapers

AUSTIN — State lawmakers are in the final stretch of the special session, with a balancing act before them as they hash out a plan to help fund transportation.

The Senate on Friday switched out the House version of the transportation funding plan with the Senate version, and the Senate appointed a work group to negotiate with the House on a final transportation funding piece.

The House doesn't meet back until Thursday, and Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, who presides over the Senate, said he hopes that by Wednesday the House and Senate can have "a substantial policy discussion on transportation. ... I believe that time is of the essence," he said. The special session is set to expire July 30.

The Senate work group consists of Sen. Robert Nichols, R-Jacksonville, the Senate Transportation Committee chairman; Sen. Tommy

See **TRANSPORTATION, 5A**

## Summer garden tasks can improve look, health of plants

What wonderful, refreshing rain we've gotten! Let's be thankful for what has come and continue to hope for more.

While it definitely will be a major help for our water supplies and revive our thirsty landscapes, let's continue to be diligent in saving water and using good landscaping practices.

While the main goal in landscaping is simply surviving until conditions



**ALLISON WATKINS**

COLUMNIST

get better, a few tasks can be completed in the yard to keep plants looking as healthy as possible until the arrival of fall (and hopefully some more rain).

Mulch should be replenished in all planting beds to a depth of 3 to 4 inches; it will help conserve water and prevent weeds. Organic mulch such as wood chips or shredded tree limbs usually is recommended over inorganic mulch such as shredded rubber or rocks because it breaks down over time to provide rich, organic matter to soil.

No major tree pruning should be done this time

of year except for removal of dead limbs, but summer flowering trees such as crape myrtle and vitex benefit from deadheading the blooms.

Stressed perennials can be cut back about two-thirds to allow fresh growth for fall flowering, and roses can benefit from a late-summer pruning to create a fall flush of blooms. Just remove all dead or unproductive canes.

The monarch migration should begin in late August, and transplants of butterfly weed or Greg's blue mist can be planted to draw the butterflies when they come through.

For those who grow a home vegetable garden, consider planting a fall garden. Tomato, squash and other crops have suffered through the summer. Instead of giving up

See **WATKINS, 5A**

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Gary Haun, ACA Audioprothologist

# ABORTION

from 1A

clinics in Texas will be held to a higher standard of care than ever before," Graham said.

Hagstrom Miller pointed to a study by the Texas Policy Evaluation Project.

The research group is studying the impact of the 2011 law requiring a mandatory sonogram and 24-hour waiting period before an abortion, as well as cutting family planning funding.

Last year, TPEP surveyed 318 women seeking abortion care in Texas, said Dr. Dan Grossman, an obstetrician and TPEP researcher.

About 7 percent reported trying to take something to end their current pregnancies on their own, Grossman said. That figure was as high as 12 percent in some border cities.

Grossman was clear about the effect he thought the new law would have on those statistics.

"It's very likely that the number that will try to self-induce will go up," he said.

In another study published in January 2011, less than 3 percent of women surveyed reported attempting do-it-yourself abortions in their entire lifetimes.

The study in the American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology gathered information from 9,493 patients seeking abortions at 95 U.S. facilities. Grossman has examined the issue previously as a researcher for a study published in 2010 in "Reproductive Health Matters."

The study found 4.6 percent of participating women

who had ever been pregnant tried to bring about an abortion on their own.

The survey asked 1,425 women at clinics in San Francisco, Boston, New York City and McAllen if they had ever tried to self-induce an abortion.

The women reported using a variety of herbs including pennyroyal and rue.

"There's not good data that any of these are really effective," Grossman said. "There's certainly a long tradition in some cultures of using herbs to induce abortion and maybe sometimes they work, and maybe sometimes they don't."

A physician with the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists warned against using herbs or medication without medical supervision.

Available over the counter, pennyroyal and rue both have dangers and toxicities, but since they're not overseen by the Food and Drug Administration, amounts and purity aren't assured, said Dr. Sherry Blumenthal, chairwoman

of ACOG's Pennsylvania Section.

"These herbs are not considered safe to use in doses needed to induce abortion," Blumenthal said.

Pennyroyal and rue share the same properties as misoprostol: They cause uterine contractions, she said. Misoprostol is available over the counter in Mexico and reportedly sold in flea markets in border towns to women seeking to self-induce an abortion. It's available in cheap, generic form.

Misoprostol is used in tandem with RU-486 — mifepristone — for a medical abortion, Blumenthal said.

"When supervised by a physician, use of these drugs is safe," she said. "If heavy, dangerous bleeding occurs, the woman knows to call her physician or clinic, and will receive immediate care."

Contact Washington correspondent Trish Choate at 202-408-2709 or choatet@shns.com. Follow her on Twitter @Trish\_in\_DC.

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