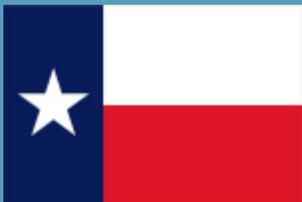


Texas Newsletter

Topics:

- Horde of Skeletons Attack Texas, Party Ensues
- 10000 Islands Visits Texas for a Contest of Speed
- Sudoku
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Horde of Skeletons Attack Texas, Party Ensues

28 May 2012 – Texas was invaded by The Skeleton Army, an undead skeletal invasion force with less than sinister motives. The skeletons successfully captured an acre of land located in the Texas Prairies and Lakes region with a surprise aerial attack.

“Whoa, where’d all the supermodels come from?” said Greenspoint watching the skeletons drop from the sky.

The skeletons encountered fierce resistance from Texas citizens. “To you skeletons.... Don’t Mess With Texas,” said Makem.

“Here, just sign this thighbone declaring you will not serve us anything unalcoholic and we will forget you tried,” said The Skeletal Plague. The Skeleton Army immediately assembled their portable grills, offering sticky ribs in exchange for a formal admission of defeat. “We also bring BBQ and plenty of alcohol. “

They followed with a threat to withhold all of their alcohol if their conditions weren’t met. “Though you will have to sign yonder thigh bone to get into our stash,” said The Skeletal Plague.

“We don’t need no steenkeen skeleton drinks, let them keep their thigh bone of surrender unsigned by a Texan!!” said Greenspoint. He came well prepared for all out war with the Greenspoint Grub-Mobile. “This is an upgrade from our Breakfast Buggy that used to make the rounds on the weekends.” The Grub-Mobile served BBQ and Chili with generous pint mugs of Lone Star and Shiner.

NewTexas also responded with their own show of force. “We will throw a couple of hundred pounds of beef ribs on the grill,” said Big Tex. “But, it looks like the skeletons may not have the stomach for them...”

Other citizens, including Happy Spurs Fans, took the invasion in stride. They were seen preparing the popcorn popper, stocking a beer cooler and positioning their recliner in front of a 92 inch flat screen TV. The skeletons had their own opinion. “I prefer them Celtic folks. Such a pretty green color,” said The Boneyard.

According to a skeleton military expert, these skeletons are evidently fun, they really are. “We know for a fact that the Skeleton Army will at least attempt to eat anything you put in front of them that’s edible,” said Bearistotle and Hebert. “Sometimes it falls right between the ribs.”

After the eleven-day standoff, The Skeleton Army retreated to their newly refounded home. “The invasion of this fine region must come to a halt,” said Ramazakal, leader of The Skeleton Army. “Please go to *The Skeleton Army* region as you all have a lot of work to do, replanting roses, cleaning crypts that were dirtied.”

“Farewell Texas it is always an honor and pleasure defeating you,” said Ramazakal taking off towards the horizon. And while there was much BBQ and alcohol during the siege, The Skeleton Army left without a victory. “I still have my feet, thank you very much, and I note your thighbone does not have a Texas signature on it,” said Greenspoint.

“Texas bids The Skeleton Army a fond Adios!” said NewTexas. “Congratulations on the refounding of your region! Thank you for an entertaining invasion. Sorry about sending y’all off without a signature, but this is Texas after all and we don’t surrender to anyone! Adios Mo, erm, Skeletons! ;>” ☺

■ Richard I

10000 Islands Visits Texas for a Contest of Speed



8 June 2012 – Thousands of visitors could be seen touring historical sites, dropping a few hundred tacos at outlet malls, dining out in our world famous BBQ joints, and living it up in rowdy cantinas all over Texas. These visitors arrived from 10000 Islands (10KI), and they came here for the 2012 10KI NASCAR Race, Bass Tournament & Midway held all through the second weekend of June.

“We decided to hold this year's visit at the Texas Motor Speedway!” said Big Tex. Visitors stayed at the swanky 10000 Islands Resort, Spa & Fishing Center located on the speedway grounds. “That accommodation looks amazing!” said -Land-, 10KI guest.

At the opening ceremonies, Islanders were presented with their very own 2012 Chevrolet Camaro Pace Car which they could take home as a souvenir. “Your little gift is a car? Awesome,” said Boltor. “I'm definitely getting a black one!”

The entire Texas Motor Speedway was opened to our guest racers with full access for two days, enough time to prepare for the NASCAR race. “No! Don't let Wordy drive!!!” said Shelter from the Storm “You remember what happened last time?”

Guests attended two exclusive midnight concerts featuring Willie Nelson and ZZ Top. Ginormous tents set up on the infield served an all-you-can-stand-to-eat breakfast and a never-ending coffee pot for guests that partied too hard the night before.

Texas also held a Bass Fishing Tournament on the beautiful Lake Grub located on the 10000 Island Resort. Boats were out early on the lake in search of the largest bass they could find. Early in the competition, Boltor caught what turned out to be The Ugliest Fish. “I still think my fish had the best character,” said Boltor.

At the end of the day, trophies were presented for the top two entries. The First Runner-Up for a Really Big Fish was Shelter from the Storm and the Grand Prize went to Ananke. “Oh, I finally won something!” said Ananke “Who knew I'd be so great at fishing?”

The day of the big race finally arrived and the racers were predicting who would come in first while anticipating a major crash during the race. “My money's on Wordy winning the race,” said Ananke. “The other drivers are too scared of her reckless driving to get too near her.”

It didn't take long for that crash to occur with several Islanders knocked out of the race. “Unfortunately I got caught in Eist's crash, and am still in the pitstop,” said Shemiki during the event.



“It wasn't me this time!!” said Improving Wordiness. “My insurance company would be soooo proud.”

And as the cars approached the finish line, the entire city suffered a major blackout, knocking out power to the Texas Motor Speedway. Officials were unable to determine the winner. After an entire day of racing, no prizes were awarded.

Despite the unfortunate race outcome, the entire 2012 10KI NASCAR Race, Bass Tournament & Midway was considered a big hit, with hopes of another visit from our 10KI friends in the future. “Thanks for the warm hospitality and fun times!!” said Improving Wordiness. “Until next time Texas!!” ☺

■ Richard I

“You know you are in Texas when...”

“... you actually burn your hand opening the car door.”

“You know you are in Texas when...”

“... you discover that in July it only takes two fingers to steer your car.”

“You know you are in Texas when...”

“... you realize that asphalt has a liquid state.”

Sudoku

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

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Staff

Editor-in-Chief: **Richard I**
 Editor: **Big Tex**

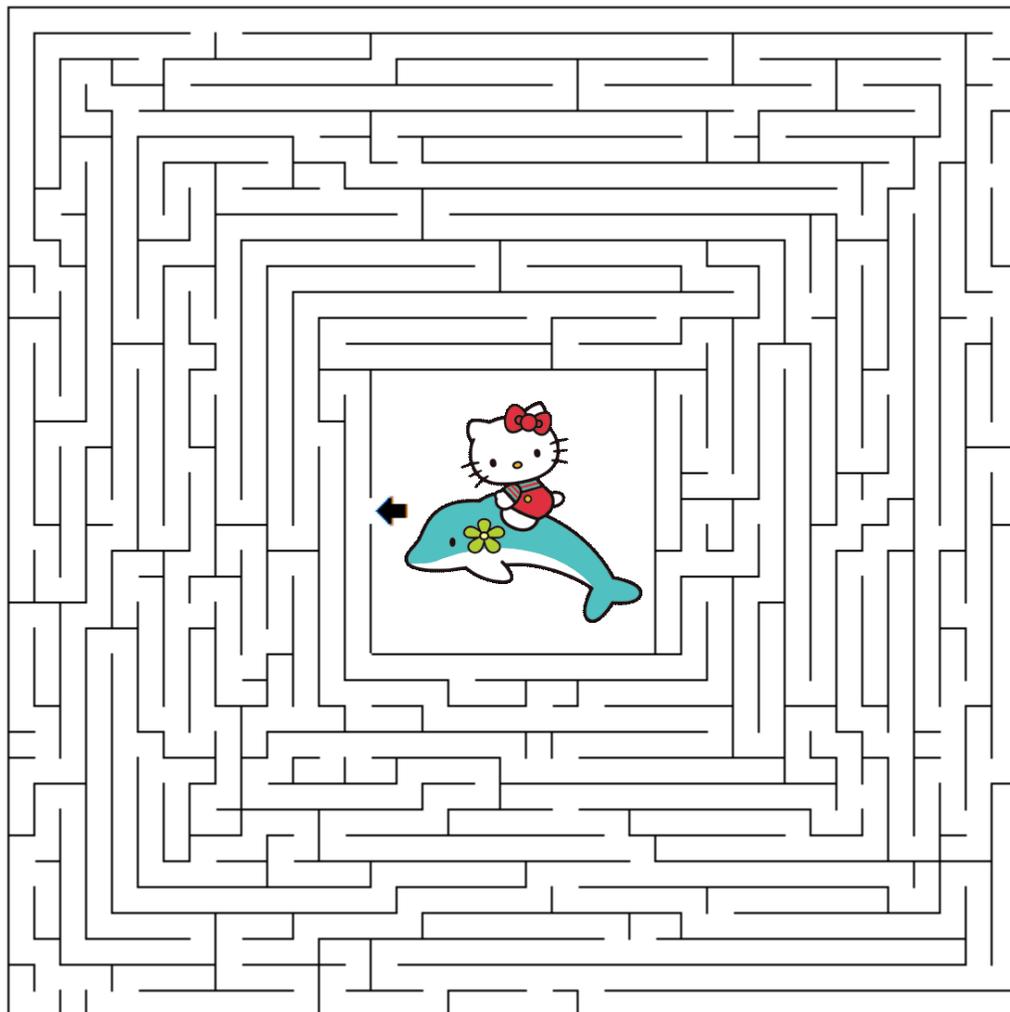
Cryptogram

_____ **OO** _____ ' _____ **O** _____ **O** _____
 H K C Q Q N H Q V E Z Q G H V D D B G

_____ **OO** _____ ' _____ **O** _____ **O** _____
 H K C Q Q N H Q V E Z Q G B Y B G

_____ **OO** _____ ' _____ **O** _____ **O** _____
 H K C Q Q N H U B B P U N Q X P E Q A T B K B H

Maze



"Where do fish go to borrow money?"

"A loan shark."

"What did the sand say when the tide came in?"

"Long time no sea."

"Why do fish swim in salt water?"

"Because pepper makes them sneeze."

Word Scramble

- CAEHB
- SADNALS
- INMGIMSW
- NACEO
- HLSEL
- GIHSIFN
- DETI LOOP



What do sharks like to eat?