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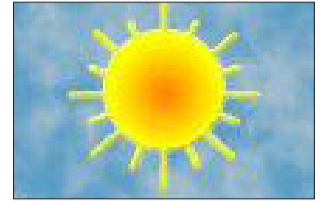


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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 23, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 254

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Show of Faith

See You at the Pole set Wednesday

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Flag poles at area schools will do more than just show patriotism Wednesday morning, as students will once again meet before classes to share prayer and testimony during See You at the Pole.

According to Bill Welsh, a Bible and humanities teacher at Big Spring High School, the event is non-denominational and will give area youth a chance to share their thoughts and feelings.

See **POLE**, Page 3A

County: Alon litigation forcing property owners to shoulder hike

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Ongoing litigation between Alon USA and the Howard County Appraisal District will force area taxpayers to shoulder a 5-cent hike in the 2008-2009 tax rate, according to county officials, who



Crooker valuation

approved the proposed rate and budget Monday morning.

Commissioners approved a tax rate of .5362 cents per \$100 during the

meeting, which includes a 5-cent hike to cover lost tax revenue from the ongoing suit between the petrochemical company and the appraisal district, which is responsible for determining the appraised value of the Big Spring Refinery.

According to Commis-

sioner Bill Crooker, the tax suit — which now covers taxable values for 2006 through 2008 — and subsequent shortfall caused by the dispute is unfortunate.

“It’s unfortunate Alon has taken the position

See **COUNTY**, Page 3A



Nancy Koger photo

Guy Will Zant will perform Saturday under the entertainment tent at the Howard County Fair.

Oilfield by day, stage by night; he's no regular Guy

By **NANCY KOGER**

Special to the Herald

The entertainment tent is the place to be Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and again at 9:30 p.m. to hear the music of the Guy Will Zant Band. Asked what kind of music they play, Zant replied, “We play everything from Ray Price to Lynyrd Skynyrd, but we don’t play anything you can’t dance to.”

That’s a pretty tall order for a bunch of local guys, but they are ready to fill it. They play a lot of old

“We play everything from Ray Price to Lynyrd Skynyrd, but we don’t play anything you can’t dance to.”

standards and a number of original songs because several members of the band are songsmiths.

See **ZANT**, Page 3A



Courtesy photo

Big Spring State Hospital I.T. Program Coordinator Debby Cook looks over the assortment of hand-painted pots the Big Spring State Hospital will sell during the Howard County Fair, Wednesday through Saturday. Patients painted pots and made various arts and crafts in the Therapeutic Arts and Crafts and the Work Training Program. Items from the horticulture department will also be available for sale from Big Spring State Hospital employees who also will be available to talk about various job opportunities.

Voting demonstrations available today and during the Howard County Fair run

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Area voters looking for a way to bone-up on their electronic balloting skills will get a chance today as the Howard County Elections Office prepares to hold a special open house.

According to County Elections Administrator Sandra Bloom, the open house, from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m., is an opportunity for area residents curious about the electoral process to get their answers first-hand.

“This is a chance for people to come and see the voting machines and the process we go through to hold an election, from the beginning to the end,” said Bloom. “This will



Bloom

give us an opportunity to explain the security measures in place and answer any questions the public may have on the process.”

Bloom said the open house is also an excellent chance for voters who haven’t used the new electronic voting booths to familiarize themselves with them in preparation for November’s presidential election.

“Some people have questions or concerns about the electronic voting machines,” said Bloom. “We hope we can put their minds at ease before the November election. We’re anticipating a large number

of first-time voters in this election and we want to make sure they are familiar with the process so things will go smoothly.”

Bloom said area residents who miss out on the open house will get a second shot during the Howard County Fair.

“We’ll have a booth set up and invite anyone to come by and register to vote or ask questions. We’ll also have an electronic voting machine set up to help familiarize the voters, as well,” she said.

The Howard County Fair opens Wednesday and continues through Saturday.

Voters will have plenty to choose

See **VOTE**, Page 3A

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No QB change for Texans

Schaub will remain starter despite struggles

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Texans coach Gary Kubiak reiterated his faith Monday in Matt Schaub, who has thrown five interceptions and one touchdown in Houston's first two games — both losses.

Kubiak said everyone, including Schaub, needs to improve.

"In this business every person, whether they're playing or coaching, if they're not doing their job then there's a chance they could be replaced," Kubiak said. "But when I look at the big picture, if I felt like one player was the reason why we were not succeeding then that would be easy. But I don't see it that way. I see a lot of reasons we're not succeeding and we all need to fix those issues."

Schaub was 17-of-37 for 188 yards and three interceptions, with Cortland Finnegan returning the last one 99 yards for a touchdown in Sunday's 31-12 loss to Tennessee. He wasn't the only one who struggled against the Titans, with Andre Johnson having an uncharacteristically sloppy game, dropping passes, including one in the end zone.

"He had his mistakes, but he also did some good things that would have given us a chance to be in position to win the football game," Kubiak said of Schaub.

Schaub called the Texans problems this season "a couple of bumps in the road," but is confident he and the team can rebound.

"We've got to just rally around each other and come back stronger next week," he said.

Schaub's early season struggles have fans clamoring for Kubiak to bench Schaub and go with backup Sage Rosenfels. Rosenfels was 4-1 as a starter last season when Schaub was injured. Schaub won four of his 11 starts last season.

His teammates say there is not quarterback controversy, but understand why some people would be questioning things with Houston's dismal start.

"I guess that's expected in a situation where Matt hasn't played up to his abilities," tight end Owen Daniels said. "But Matt's our guy and that's all we really got to say about it. He's going to play a lot better and we're going to protect better for him."

Protection has been an issue for Houston this season with Schaub being sacked eight times in two games. He's been hurried many more times, contributing to some of his mistakes.

Johnson is frustrated, but believes the Texans are a better team than they've shown and can turn things around.

See **TEXANS**, Page 2B

Break time for 5 Big 12 schools

By R.B. FALLSTROM

AP Sports Writer

For Big 12 coaches, late September is the perfect time for a break.

Five schools are taking the weekend off by design, helping to cleanse the palate heading into conference play in October. No. 5 Missouri, No. 10 Texas Tech, No. 18 Kansas, Baylor and Iowa State all get extra time for preparation, healing, targeting areas of need and academics.

Missouri has two breaks

built into the schedule, getting another week off before playing Kansas in Kansas City in the regular season finale. Coach Gary Pinkel said the Tigers (4-0) will get roughly twice the number of practices for their Oct. 4 conference opener at Nebraska and the Kansas game.

Meetings and walkthroughs are set for Tuesday and Thursday, with practices on Saturday and Sunday, along with conditioning work on Thursday. Pinkel also wants players to get a chance to hit

the books.

"We always like to have one before the first conference game if we can do it," Pinkel said Monday on the Big 12 Coaches teleconference.

For Kansas coach Mark Mangino, it's a good teaching time for a 3-1 team.

"Especially early in the season, it's more about getting better fundamentally, getting better as a team," Mangino said.

Other schools don't have the luxury of fine-tuning.

Iowa State coach Gene Chizik

said he could "probably stay on this phone for two hours" while detailing needy areas from a 2-2 start. The running game, more physical play on the offensive line, a defense that's "feast or famine," and emotional outburst on the field are all on his list.

"Overall, we've got to work on consistency," Chizik said. "We're not consistent enough to win."

No. 2 Oklahoma (3-0) is coming off a free Saturday

See **BIG 12**, Page 2B



AP photo/Amy Sancetta

Dallas Cowboys running back Felix Jones runs for yardage during a football game against the Cleveland Browns Sept. 7. The Dallas Cowboys won their opener with defense, their second game with offense and the third game with a combination of the two. With newcomer Adam "Pacman" Jones helping shore up the secondary and punt returns, and rookie Felix Jones proving to be a breakaway threat on offense and kickoff returns, the Cowboys have showed few weaknesses thus far.

Complete Cowboys

Dallas now only 3-0, but showing few flaws

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — The Dallas Cowboys showed off their defense in the opener, strutted their stuff on offense in the second game and won the third with a nice combination.

Being 3-0 puts them among the league's few unbeaten teams.

The lack of weaknesses they've shown so far might keep them around the top for quite awhile.

"We're slowly starting to jell and that's huge as we get farther along in the season," defensive tackle Tank Johnson said Monday. "That's what the regular season is for, jelling for the postseason."

Sure, it's only September, but January is never far from the minds of anyone in the Cowboys' organization, especially these days, with a playoff victory drought that dates to 1996. That's tough for any club, even more so for a club with five Lombardi Trophies on display in the foyer.

Jerry Jones has spent a lot of money to make things different this season and the early results are promising. One early return on his investment came Sunday night with a 27-16 victory over Green Bay; it was the franchise's first-ever win at Lambeau Field.

Other promising signs for the Cowboys:

- Their offense has gained the most yards in the NFL and scored the second-most points, much of it coming against tough foes Philadelphia and Green Bay.

Dallas also did well Sunday night despite a shaky performance by Tony Romo, who might've been trying too hard in his first start in his home state, and with Terrell Owens gaining only 17 yards, his fewest since 2003 (two teams ago).

See **COWBOYS**, Page 2B

Redskins' Taylor out for Cowboys' game following operation

By JOSEPH WHITE

AP Sports Writer

ASHBURN, Va. — What seemed like an annoying kick in the calf turned into a significant medical issue for the Washington Redskins and defensive end Jason Taylor, who underwent a 20-minute emergency procedure Monday and will miss next week's game against the Dallas Cowboys.

"He's going to be fine," coach Jim Zorn said. "Our problem is that he's going to be out for this Dallas game for sure. I can't tell you beyond that."

The injury will end Taylor's consecutive games streak at 133, the seventh longest among active players.

He hasn't missed a game since 1999, early in his career with the Miami Dolphins.

Taylor was kicked in his left leg in the second quarter of Sunday's 24-17 victory over the Arizona Cardinals. He finished the game and had three tipped passes — including two during a crucial stand inside the Redskins' 10-yard line in the second half — but the leg became painful and sore Sunday night, and he lost feeling in his ankle

as blood began to pool.

Taylor checked into a hospital early Monday morning.

"They went in and cut open that portion where the blood was pooling and released that pressure," Zorn said.

Taylor was just starting to find his stride with the Redskins, who traded for him on the first day of training camp after Phillip Daniels was lost for the season with a knee injury.

The six-time Pro Bowl lineman, whose 118 sacks rank first among active players, sprained his knee during preseason and was ineffective in the regular-

season opener against the New York Giants.

But Taylor rebounded to have his first sack with the Redskins last week and forced the Cardinals into a field goal by tipping passes on second-and-goal and third-and-goal Sunday.

Seventh-year player Demetric Evans, a reliable Redskins back-up for the past four years, is expected to start while Taylor is out, with Chris Wilson and Erasmus James also getting more playing time.

Evans' meeting with reporters Monday had a deja vu feeling. He was in line to take over the

starting job when Daniels got hurt — before the Taylor trade. He was also preparing to start the opener in case Taylor didn't recover from the sprained knee.

This time, Evans' promotion to the starting lineup is for real.

"Rumor has it, Jason will probably be ready on Thursday," Evans said jokingly. "That's how it seemed to work this year. All in all, though, regardless of who starts, they'll be prepared and we're just looking forward to going to Dallas and putting on a good show."

Sports in brief

Big Spring Power Puff Football Friday, Oct. 3

The Big Spring High School junior class is hosting a night of Powder Puff Football at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3, at Blankenship Field.

Admission is \$2 per person. The freshmen will take on the sophomores followed by a game between the juniors and seniors.

The game serves as a fundraiser for the Junior/Senior Prom. Call Denise Carrillo with any questions at

816-1685.

Lady Steer Booster Club meeting at ATC Oct. 13

The Big Spring Lady Steer Booster club will hold a meeting at 5:45 p.m. Monday, Oct. 13, at the Athletic Training Center. Regular meetings will be held every second Monday of the month.

For more information, call Carrie Fox at 816-9687 or Brenda Claxton at 816-9806.

BSCC hosting over-80 scramble Oct. 11-12

The Big Spring Country Club has scheduled an over-80 scramble where the combined ages of the two-person team must be 80 or higher.

Entry fee is \$60 per player plus golf cart fee, however, private carts are welcome. The event is scheduled for Oct. 11-12 with a 1 p.m. shotgun start both days.

Call the pro shop at 267-5354 for more information or to enter a team.

Obituaries

Elizabeth Ann Young



Elizabeth Ann Young went home to be with her Lord and Savior Friday, Sept. 20, 2008, at her home in Midland.

She was born Dec. 3, 1959, in Big Spring to the late Floyd and Patricia Young. Beth spent her childhood in Big Spring and graduated with the Big Spring High School class of 1978. Beth worked many years for Scenic Mountain Medical Center in respiratory therapy and relocated to Midland. Beth courageously lived with chronic pain and illness. She was a faithful member of the Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall. Beth loved spending time with her friends and family. She was dearly loved by her family and will be remembered for her big heart and sweet spirit.

Beth is survived by her brother, Steven Mark Young and wife Stacey; nieces and nephews, Shawn Harris, Taylor Gomez and husband Ramon, Gary Harris and wife Julie and Alexya Young; four great-nieces and nephews, Lora, Maya and Diego Gomez and Reece Harris; a cousin, David Buchanan; and close friends and many other family members.

Memorial services have been scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008, at Trinity Memorial Park Pavilion in Big Spring.

Arrangements are under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home, 801 Andrews Highway, Midland 79701 (432)683-5555. To place on-line condolences please visit www.mem.com.

Paid obituary

Dean Russell Stuteville



CRANE — Dean Russell Stuteville, age 72, was called home to the loving embrace of our Lord on Sunday, Sept. 21, 2008. He was born in Big Spring Oct. 28, 1935, to Luther and Mary Stuteville. Dean, a retired rig supervisor for Key Energy, was preceded in death by his first wife, Doris Jane, his parents, brothers A.J., Calvin and Douglas, sisters Chloe Newton, Sally Hightower, Jean Hunter and Faye Mouser.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Jane Stuteville; two sons, Russell Glenn and wife Sheila of Midland, Jimmy Dean and wife Sharon of Midland; one daughter, Cindy Shaver and Dennis Banta of Brownfield; two step-sons, David E. White of McCamey and Billy Alton White, of Crane; and one step-daughter, Esther Croker and husband Lynn of Crane.

He is also survived by three brothers, Pete and wife Pat of Big Spring, Ross, also from Big Spring, and Floyd and wife Dixie of Onalaska; three sisters, Jeary Tubbs of Big Spring, Linda Rau and husband Donald of La Porte, and Joyce and husband Jewel Thomalson; and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Dean moved to Crane from Big Spring in 1956 and began his career in the oilfield with Well Service Company of Crane. His kindness and endless generosity touched the lives of all who knew him. To Dean, there were no strangers in the world — only friends he hadn't met. He derived joy from his family, friends, and his relationship with God. He was a member of the First United Pentecostal Church of Odessa.

Graveside services are scheduled for 11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 25, 2008, at the Crane County Cemetery with the Rev. Terry Pugh officiating. Arrangements are being made by Shaffer-Nichols Funeral Home, 1503 S. Gaston St. in Crane. Online condolences for the family can be sent at www.shaffer-nichols.com

Paid obituary

Mildred Permenter

Mildred Permenter, 84, of Big Spring died Monday, Sept. 22, 2008, at her residence. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

• Grief share, sponsored by Home Hospice and the First Presbyterian Church, Seventh and Runnels (north end door), meets at 6 p.m.. Drop-ins are welcome. For more information, contact Sherry Hodne3tt at 264-7599.

•The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St.

•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. and closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

• Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

THURSDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Police blotter

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

- EDWARD RAMIREZ GALLARDO, 48, of 1002 S. Nolan, was arrested Monday on a Frio County warrant.
- VERONICA CHRISTINE WHITE, 22, of 1607 Oriole, was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less.
- ASHLEE ANN WHITE, 28, of 4048 Vicky, was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less.
- THEFT was reported: in the 2000 block of Gregg Street. in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported: in the 1100 block of Lamesa. in the 1100 block of Lamar. in the 2300 block of Scurry. in the 800 block of Scurry.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported: in the 200 block of 11th Street. in the 1900 block of Highway 87.

Sheriff's report

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 54 inmates at the time of this report.
- MARY HELEN ESCOBEDO, 44, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of resisting arrest, search or transportation and criminal mischief.
- VICTOR MARTINEZ, 49, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance, tampering with ID numbers/personal property, possession of marijuana — two ounces or less and possession/delivery of drug paraphernalia (all warrants out of El Paso).

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of W. 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 11000 block of Old Gail Highway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Sgt. Paredez. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 300 block of Runnels. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Highway 350. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the area of Coahoma High School. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 4100 block of Wasson. Service refused.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 2700 block of S. Gregg Street. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3600 block of Hamilton. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Jennings. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 500 block of Birdwell Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.

• Scenic Mountain Medical Center's Relay for Life team is selling cookbooks to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. The cookbooks can be purchased at the PBX operator's booth for \$10 apiece. For more information, contact Beverly Grant at 268-4952.

• A fund has been established at Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union for Sheena Hill, who lost most of her possessions in a recent house fire. Mail donations to Big Spring Education Employees FCU, 1110 Benton, Big Spring 79720 or call 263-8393.

• Ackerly Lunch Bunch will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 27 at 14th and Main Church of Christ Fellowship Hall at 1401 S. Main St. in Big Spring. Lunch will be catered by Al's and Son Barbecue and served at noon. Cost will be \$11 per plate, including dessert and drink. RSVP to Betty Pitts at 267-1449 or Sissy Jones at 213-4452.

• HATS (Hope After The Sadness), an American Cancer Society Resource Room is now available at First Methodist Church. This center provides information and valuable resources for those affected by cancer. This HATS ministry, established in memory of the late Rev. Dr. Shane Brue, maintains a room with free hats, wigs and head coverings available for check-out by those dealing with hair loss due to cancer treatment.

Your Local Weather

Wed 9/24	Thu 9/25	Fri 9/26	Sat 9/27	Sun 9/28
86/59	84/58	85/57	85/58	83/57
A mainly sunny sky. High 86F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph.	Abundant sunshine. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the upper 50s.	Mainly sunny. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the upper 50s.	Mainly sunny. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the upper 50s.	Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 50s.

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Bulletin Board

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact the Herald news room at 263-7331 or email editor@bigspringherald.com

TODAY

- The Powwow Committee of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 809 Scurry, or the fellowship hall at 810 Scurry. Call Robert Downing at 263-3255 for information.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Free blood pressure screenings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., provided by InHome Care.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring City Council Chambers, 307 E. Fourth.
- League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The public is invited.
- American Legion Post 506 meets at 6 p.m. Call 263-2084 for more information.
- Rackley-Swords 379, Vietnam Veterans of America meets at 7 p.m. in the Sparenburg Building, 309 S. Main St.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 2-9-17-22-37.
Number matching five of five: 0.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 17-29-30-32. Bonus Ball: 11.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.
Prize: \$275,000.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:
8, 2, 6, 9. Sum It Up: 25

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:
1-4-0. Sum it Up: 5

Take Note

Other services and resources are also available. Contact the "Hat Lady," Marci Lykken at 267-2915.

• A medical expense account has been established at Cosden Federal Credit Union for Kody Jackson, who was recently diagnosed with lymphoma in his right knee. He has no medical insurance and must start chemotherapy and radiation treatment as soon as possible. Kody is the son of Susan and Johnny Jackson. For more information, contact Cosden FCU at 264-2600.

• The Texas Department of State Health Services is conducting a community health survey. The information will be used to study barriers to health care and other public health issues. Your personal information will not be used, other than the comments portion of the survey. You will not be asked for your name. The survey is available online and takes about 15 minutes to complete. For the English survey, go to www.questionpro.com/akira/TakeSurvey?id=929625. For the survey in Spanish, go to www.questionpro.com/akira/TakeSurvey?id=929626.

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Indians keep Red Sox from clinching with 4-3 win

By HOWARD ULMAN

AP Sports Writer

BOSTON — For one night, at least, Jensen Lewis didn't have to watch the Red Sox celebrate again.

Lewis struck out Jed Lowrie with runners on second and third in the ninth inning, preserving the Cleveland Indians' 4-3 win Monday in their first game in Boston since the Red Sox beat them in the AL championship series last year.

Lewis' solid relief work, rookie Zach Jackson's six effective innings and a bizarre play involving the third base umpire forced the Red Sox to wait at least one more day to clinch their fifth postseason trip in six years.

"It was just kind of reminiscent of last year," Lewis said. "Our feelings are still pretty fresh."

The Indians blew a 3-1 lead in the ALCS last season and lost the seventh game 11-2.

"For most of us, this is probably an emotional series because of what happened last year," Lewis said.

The Indians won their seventh straight game and will send Cliff Lee (22-2) to the mound Tuesday night against Tim Wakefield (9-11).

The Red Sox, with six games left, fell 2½ games behind AL East leader Tampa Bay, which beat Baltimore 4-2. Boston reached the playoffs as a wild-card team three times in four years before winning the AL East last season.

The Red Sox needed a win to eliminate the New York Yankees and lock up a postseason berth in pursuit of their second straight World Series title and third in five years.

Cleveland has the second-best

record in the AL since July 10 and wants to finish strong, no matter how it affects the playoff race.

"We've been keeping the focus on ourselves," manager Eric Wedge said. "One opportunity missed or one mistake made and that's really going to be the ball-game."

Jackson (1-3) allowed two runs and six hits.

Josh Beckett (12-10) hit a career-high three batters, threw a wild pitch, walked one and said he wasn't worried about clinching a playoff spot.

"We're just trying to win games," he said.

The Red Sox wasted chances in three of the last four innings, losing a run when a ball hit an umpire, missing a three-run homer when Kevin Youkilis' drive hit the left-field wall a few feet from the top and stranding two runners in the ninth when

Lewis earned his 12th save in 13 chances.

"Tons of opportunities," Jason Bay said. "For some reason, it seemed like it wasn't going to go for us."

With Cleveland ahead 4-2, Boston had runners at first and second with two outs in the sixth.

Jeff Bailey then lined the ball inside third base. Umpire Gerry Davis signaled it was fair, but the ball hit him and stopped just beyond the infield dirt. Third baseman Jamey Carroll picked it up, and Bay, who had rounded third, was caught in a rundown and tagged out.

"When I hit the ball I thought it would kick off the side wall and I thought we'd get at least one run," Bailey said. "When I saw Carroll getting the ball, I was wondering what happened."

Jason Varitek was racing for

third while Bay tried to retreat there after the ball hit Davis.

"I was rounding second. I saw the third baseman get the ball with the base open," Varitek said. "It's one of those freak plays."

In the seventh, Youkilis' near homer went for an RBI double that made it 4-3. Then Bay was walked intentionally, loading the bases with one out. But Rafael Betancourt struck out Lowrie and retired Mark Kotsay on a flyball.

Boston had another excellent chance in the ninth when Youkilis singled with two outs and took third on Bay's double. But Lowrie struck out on three pitches, leaving five runners on in his last two at-bats.

"I've learned if that starts to snowball on you, you want to take a step back and keep your feelings in check," Lewis said. "This is a really big win."

Sherman again uncertain about Aggies' QB

By CHRIS DUNCAN

AP Sports Writer

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — Texas A&M coach Mike Sherman said Monday that Jerrod Johnson sprained his throwing shoulder in Saturday's loss to Miami, leaving the Aggies' starting quarterback in doubt for the second straight week.

Johnson was hurt in the second quarter of the Hurricanes' 41-23 win at Kyle Field. The 6-foot-5, 229-pound sophomore completed 19 of 32 passes for 275 yards in place of Stephen McGee, who sprained his throwing shoulder against New Mexico on Sept. 6. McGee had started A&M's previous 29 games.

Sherman said Monday that Johnson's injury was less severe than McGee's and he expected both quarterbacks to be ready in time for Saturday's game against Army (0-3).

But Sherman hedged on who would start or when he would make a decision.

"I know I'm being evasive here, which is my choice," Sherman said. "I'm going to take it day-by-day and then see where we end up at the end of the week."

McGee beat out Johnson for the starting job in fall workouts, but he threw two interceptions and was sacked four times in the Aggies' opening 18-14 loss to Arkansas State. McGee was injured in the first quarter against New Mexico and Johnson threw three touchdown passes in relief to lead A&M to a 28-22 win.

Johnson also threw three touchdown passes against Miami, but two came after the Hurricanes had built a 41-10 lead. Johnson also gave away an interception and a fumble that both led to Miami touchdowns.

"I had my ups, I had my downs," Johnson said.

Freshman receiver Jeff Fuller said Johnson has a stronger arm, but McGee has a better handle on Sherman's offense.

"Jerrod made a lot of throws where his size helped him out a lot," said Fuller, who caught five passes for 79 yards. "He broke a few tackles in the backfield and then came up and made the pass. There are a lot of plays like that."

"Steve just knows the offense inside-and-out, probably as good as Coach Sherman knows it," Fuller said. "He'll make all the perfect reads."

Sherman said before the season that he wouldn't use a two-quarterback system, with McGee and Johnson alternating possessions during games. He promised that both McGee and Johnson would see playing time

the rest of the season, but he was vague on how that would work.

"I feel good about both guys," Sherman said. "I'm elated that I have both of those quarterbacks on this team. They both have tremendous qualities and attributes that can help us. We could start the game with two quarterbacks. Who knows?"

Sherman said Johnson showed good improvisational skills against Miami, even though he was sacked three times. But Sherman said Johnson needs to work on calling out plays faster and protecting the ball when he scrambles.

"He was fairly creative, at times, when the play broke down, sometimes too creative," Sherman said. "Sometimes, you just wanted him to run for a first down and he's trying to buy himself more time."

McGee did not play against

Miami. Sherman said the senior's shoulder would be re-evaluated on Tuesday.

"The decision will be made during the course of the week, how we're functioning and how things are going," Sherman said. "I'm not going to make a presumption right now, without knowing exactly where we are health-wise."

Johnson has been working at receiver since McGee was named the starting quarterback in mid-August. Just like last week, he's preparing for a game not knowing what his role will be.

"At the end of the day, it's not my decision," Johnson said. "It's whatever Coach Sherman thinks is best for the team. Whatever he feels is best, it's the law. I'm happy with whatever decision he makes, because I know it's going to be in the best interests of the team."

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B

Instead, offensive coordinator Jason Garrett turned to the running game and got a career-best 142 yards and a touchdown from Marion Barber and 76 yards from rookie Felix Jones, most of it on a 60-yard touchdown.

"It's nice that you can take whatever they give you," coach Wade Phillips said.

Even while underperforming against Green Bay, Romo threw a 52-yard touchdown pass on a third-and-20 and Owens did more than just soak up double coverage. On an interception in the end zone, T.O. chased the defender, got blocked to the ground around the 10, then got back up and made the tackle across midfield. Later, he ran interference on Jones' touchdown.

"I've been around a lot of (star receivers) and not all of them do that," Phillips said. "I thought it was special."

The defense humbled Derek Anderson and Cleveland in the opener, then got humbled by Donovan McNabb and Philadelphia. Vowing to make amends, the Cowboys kept Aaron Rodgers and Green Bay from the end zone until the closing minutes, when the outcome was already decided.

Rodgers had been sacked once the first two weeks, but Dallas got him five times. Two were by cornerback Anthony Henry, who never had a sack in his eight-year career, nor in college or even in high school.

"I'm going to have to talk to him about that because I'm sure sacks would help me out more than they'd help him out," said linebacker Bradie James, laughing.

Over the first two games, Dallas was vulnerable inside the 20-yard line. Foes got there seven times and went away with four touchdowns and three field goals. After talking all week about tightening up, Green Bay made it five times, but had only one touchdown, two field goals and two turnovers.

"To be the defense we want to be, it's not about 'bend but don't break,' it's about not bending at all," safety Ken Hamlin said.

The unit also came into this season with a goal of improving on third downs. They have, lowering the conversion rate against them from 39.4 percent to 34.3.

The special teams boast the Cowboys' two most exciting newcomers, cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones on punt returns and Felix Jones on kickoffs.

Pacman hasn't gotten free yet, but Felix is averaging 35.1 yards per return, third best in the NFL. The Cowboys haven't had anyone at or above 28 since the early 1970s.

The kickers are doing their share, too. Nick Folk is 4-for-4 on field goals, including a 51-yarder.

Punter Mat McBriar atoned for a shank early in the Green Bay game by booming a 65-yarder late in the third quarter, when the Packers could've had a short field to cut into a 20-9 deficit.

"Everyone did their part," special teams captain Keith Davis said. "It was really a complete victory."

And, so far, a pretty complete season.

back Steve Slaton.

He had 18 carries for 116 yards, leading Kubiak to say he'll remain Houston's starter this week regardless of Ahman Green's health.

Kubiak said he isn't sure when Green will return after spraining his ankle in Houston's opener Sept. 7.

"I expect him to practice this week," he said. "It has been a while so we'll see how he does."

18 arrested for theft at Yankee Stadium

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York City police say they arrested more than a dozen people for stealing pieces of Yankee Stadium during the 85-year-old ballpark's final game.

Police say 18 fans were charged with possessing stolen property.

Officers were out in force for the stadium's final game on Sunday to keep souvenir hunters from tearing away pieces of the place.

Yankee spokesman Howard Rubenstein told the New York Post that they intend to hire a private security team to protect the stadium from other would-be thieves.

BIG 12

Continued from Page 1B

heading into this week's game against No. 24 TCU. Coach Bob Stoops' team will be rested, and now he said they need to perform against a school that upset them in 2005.

"You don't know what you've seen until you get back on the field," Stoops said. "There was nothing in particular outside of getting extra work on teams and extra work for TCU. We were just polishing everything."

No. 7 Texas was to have been off this week, too. The Longhorns (3-0) are playing Arkansas in a game rescheduled due to Hurricane Ike.

"The guys have done what we've asked them to do," coach Mack Brown said. "There's a lot of questions about this team, but to the players' credit they've beaten three teams like they're supposed to."

Colorado (3-0) took a week off after two games, and faces a difficult test this week against Florida State in Jacksonville, Fla. To coach Dan Hawkins, it's not really a neutral site.

"It's still going to be a home game for them," Hawkins said. "It's Florida and they'll have a ton of fans there."

Taking on Florida State is part of Hawkins' overall philosophy of getting challenged before taking on the Big 12. The Buffaloes beat West Virginia last week and last year faced Arizona State and Florida State.

"I want guys that want to play against those kinds of teams," Hawkins said. "We recruit nationwide and we like taking our guys all over the country. It's part of the experience."

Nebraska (3-0) figures to be tested at home by Virginia Tech (3-1), after taking last week off. The Huskers warmed up for this one with wins over Western Michigan, San Jose State and New Mexico State.

"We feel like we've played some quality opponents up to this point," coach Bo Pelini said. "It'll be good to have probably a little more of a high-profile game."

Notes: Oklahoma leads the nation in red zone efficiency with 17 touchdowns and a field goal in 18 attempts. It's no accident. "It definitely is emphasized," Stoops said. ... Missouri has the offensive and defensive players of the week off Saturday's 42-21 victory over Buffalo. QB Chase Daniel, honored for the sixth time, set a Big 12 record with 20 consecutive completions and threw for a career-best 439 yards. LB Sean Weatherspoon had a career-high 20 tackles with three stops for a loss. Colorado kicker Aric Goodman, who made a 25-yard field goal in overtime, is special teams player of the week. He also was awarded a scholarship after the game. ... Six of the nation's top 10 scoring teams come from the Big 12, including Oklahoma (54.67) and Missouri (53.75) in the top two spots. Also in that group: Oklahoma State fifth at 50.67, Texas sixth at 48.67, Kansas State seventh at 47.67 and Texas Tech, eighth at 45.75.

TEXANS

Continued from Page 1B

"I think it's very fixable because we stopped ourselves," he said. "It's time to get it fixed and hopefully we can go out and fix it next week."

A bright spot in Houston's loss Sunday was the solid outing by rookie running

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POLE

Continued from Page 1A

"The students will meet at 7 a.m. at the flag pole," said Welsh. "This isn't just happening at Big Spring High School, as the junior high will be participating, as will other area schools on their campuses. Last year we had more than 200 students participate in the See You at the Pole, and we're expecting even more this year."

Welsh said the BSHS event will be led by student Eric Valle, but area church youth groups are more than welcome to participate as well.

"This is youth-led. There won't be any youth ministers or other adults leading See You at the Pole," said Welsh. "We're inviting local churches and their youth groups to participate, and if they have a youth leader who would like to participate in leading the event, they are more than welcome."

"We'll pass out words to some of the contemporary Christian songs the students will be singing. The students will have time to read scriptures that are important or have had a positive impact in their lives, and they will be able to offer testimony, as well."

Welsh said the session is expected to end at approximately 7:50 a.m.

"That gives the students a few minutes to have fellowship with one another before heading off to class," said Welsh.

This annual gathering began in Burleson in 1990, as a response to a Disciple Now weekend with a handful of Christian students. It has grown by word of mouth, announcements at youth rallies and churches, and the Internet; See You at the Pole meetings now occur internationally.

Students will also get the chance to enjoy fellowship Wednesday evening, as Christian campaign "Hearts of One" — led by local musician Cody Carnes and Austin Cox — will present Saw You at the Pole, a concert featuring critically acclaimed band Spoken and several special guests.

Admission to the concert is free and doors open at 6:30 p.m. at Municipal Auditorium.

For more information, contact Welsh at (432) 230-0284.

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

News at a glance

Executive compensation, equity stake for government under discussion in \$700B bailout

WASHINGTON (AP) — Strapped homeowners could get government help renegotiating their mortgages as part of the \$700 billion financial bailout legislation taking shape in Congress.

Congressional leaders and the Bush administration are haggling over details of the massive rescue plan, including Democrats' demand that executives at failing financial firms that receive the government help can't get "golden parachutes" on their way out the door.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, the architects of the bailout, were expected to face tough questions at a hearing Tuesday from lawmakers in both parties about the eye-popping cost, how the rescue would work and how taxpayers would be affected.

Paulson was in talks with Democrats about their proposal that the government be able to purchase equity in faltering companies as part of the plan, so taxpayers could benefit from future profits.

The administration is balking at another key Democratic demand: allowing judges to rewrite bankrupt homeowners' mortgages so they could avoid foreclosure.

President Bush, Iran's hardline leader to address UN General Assembly

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Iran's president, whose appearance at the U.N. General Assembly last year sparked thousands of protesters in the streets and an American walkout during his speech, returns to the United Nations on Tuesday amid heightened concerns over his country's nuclear ambitions.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's speech comes after the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency warned Monday that he cannot determine whether Iran is hiding some nuclear activities.

Ahmadinejad said in an interview with National Public Radio airing Tuesday that he does not want confrontation with the United States. He said he wants diplomatic relations to develop between the two countries and was willing, for example, to cooperate on upholding security in Iraq.

"We do not have confrontations with anyone," he said.

"The U.S. administration interferes, and we defend ourselves."

But the Iranian leader warned over the weekend that the military would strike back against anyone targeting his country's nuclear facilities.

Military incursions into Pakistan to headline Bush's meeting with Pakistani president

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. military incursions into Pakistan that have stoked anti-Americanism top the agenda for President Bush's talks with the newly elected president of the Muslim nation, which is reeling from a deadly truck bomb that devastated a Marriott hotel in Islamabad.

Publicly, Bush and Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari, who were to meet Tuesday on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly, will exhibit a show of solidarity against extremists. Privately, the two leaders will be trying to craft a delicate strategy to make progress in fighting militants while keeping U.S.-Pakistan relations on an even keel until Bush leaves office in four months.

Pakistan is under growing pressure from the United States to act against al-Qaida and Taliban insurgents along its border with Afghanistan, a staging ground for attacks against coalition troops in Afghanistan and bombings in Pakistan. Pakistan accuses the U.S. of violating its sovereignty. But with little political clout, it's unclear whether Zardari can muster the support he needs, especially from the Pakistani military, to step up the fight against terrorists inside his own nation.

Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said the weekend hotel bombing, which killed 53 people, including two Defense Department employees, and wounded hundreds was an attempt to "destabilize democracy" in Pakistan and destroy its already fragile economy.

In his meeting, Bush was expected to seek greater cooperation from Zardari, reiterating the White House position that the Marriott bombing is evidence that Pakistanis themselves are under siege from extremists living within their borders. Zardari is expected to tell Bush that the cross-border attacks by the U.S. are actually weakening his political standing among Pakistanis who believe U.S. meddling in the region is fueling the terrorist attacks.

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

they have taken," said Crooker. "This is causing us to raise our tax rate, and there's no way for us to get around it."

In 2007 Alon paid taxes on an undisputed valuation — approximately \$80 million, which was reduced to just over \$50 million after abatements were applied — which generated \$225,000 in taxes for the county. According to County Judge Mark Barr, they expect the Israeli-based com-

pany to pay approximately the same amount until the matter is resolved.

"A nickel of that is from Alon," said Barr firmly. "If we hadn't had the situation with Alon, we wouldn't have had to go above the rollback rate. However, because of it we've had to go over it by about a nickel. That's what it amounts to."

The Israeli-based company's most recent suit alleges the district's 2008 valuation of the Big Spring Refinery — \$275 million — is over-inflated, the same argument it has placed on the valuations from 2006 and 2007. The

suit regarding 2008 valuations will be the third in a row from Alon concerning valuations

Robert H. Moore III, 118th District Court judge, recently ruled the 2007 market value of the refinery, as of Jan. 1, 2007, was \$218 million, falling between the appraisal district's valuation of \$320 million and Alon's claims of \$152 million. However, since that ruling, the court has encouraged both sides to reach a settlement on other allegations.

According to County Appraiser Brett McKibben, Alon USA and representatives of the appraisal district are expected to enter

into negotiations sometime in the next few weeks, but even if a compromise can be reached, Barr said its unclear when the county will see any tax money.

"I don't have any idea," said Barr. "They are in negotiations, and they may negotiate some kind of payment schedule. Who knows. We don't know anything about that."

Also during the meeting, commissioners held a public meeting regarding the 2008-2009 budget, which came in at \$23.4 million, including \$11.57 million for the construction of the new county jail. The hearing drew no

comments from the audience or commissioners.

According to Barr, the completion of the county's annual budgetary process was bitter sweet.

"As far as the budget is concerned, yes, I'm happy with it," said Barr. "Am I happy with the tax rate? No. I would have liked to see it much lower."

Both the budget and tax rate were approved on a unanimous vote from the court.

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

ZANT

Continued from Page 1A

Zant is the constant in the group, so it's named for him. The other musicians change, depending on who can get off work to play. His drummer, John Jenkins, has been with him for four years. This week Josh Haislip is on steel guitar, and Ray Delatour, who's been with them as long as Jenkins, is on bass.

"This Saturday night is especially a good time to make our show because Justin Kaczyk, as lead guitar, is with us," said Zant. Kaczyk is working on a recording contract, and Zant thinks he is a talent we'll all soon recognize. "Especially when he plays, it's an exciting show," he

said.

The Howard County native grew up in Vealmoor and graduated from Borden County High. As a teenager he started singing in church and his ag teacher got him involved in FFA talent shows. He grew up listening to Jody Nix and is happy that he's gotten to play with the Howard County legend.

Zant is a self-taught guitar player, although his late father played guitar and sang to him when he was a child. After he started playing and writing songs, he credits his dad with being "the biggest driving force in keeping on with the music."

Speaking of driving, Zant said he developed his voice driving a tractor on the family farm. "You really have to sing to hear yourself over the sound of a tractor,"

he admits.

The first band was formed in 1999; as "Texas Pipeline," they played at the former Mel's Catfish several nights a week for five-hour sets for two or three years. "I almost used up my voice, with those long sets, so now we do three-hour shows," says the more experienced singer.

After going to Howard College for a while, Zant worked for 12 years at Western Container. Like many others, he's now gone to work in the oil and gas industry.

Asked if he had any plans to quit his day job to become a full-time musician, the singer states, "No, I'm not going to pursue it the way you'd have to for making it big. I have no plans to eat out of a Beenie-Weenie can on \$100 a week, but if opportunities come, or I write the right

song..."

He prefers to stay close to home, playing at Texas dance halls and private parties or opening for others such as Aaron Watson and Johnny Rodriguez or after the Big Spring Rodeo.

Zant admits to one goal that would make him proud.

"I would like to do a USO show for the troops overseas," said Zant. "If they could get me over there and get me home, I'd play the show. That would mean more to me than playing at the Grand Ole Opry."

Fairgoers won't have to go overseas to hear the Guy Will Zant Band, as they will be under the big tent at the fairgrounds Saturday night.

The Howard County Fair opens Wednesday and will continue through Saturday at the county fairbarns.

VOTE

Continued from Page 1A

from going into November's election, with a pair of seats on the Howard County Commissioners Court and sheriff on the line.

In the race for Howard County sheriff, Republican candidate Stan Parker, a former officer with the Big Spring Police Department, is facing off against Democratic nominee Pat Carter, a former sheriff's deputy.

The District 1 seat on the commissioners court is

also up for grabs, as Emma Brown, incumbent and Democratic Party nominee, is taking on Republican nominee Edwin Ware.

The District 3 seat on the court will see a new face following the November contest, as Democratic nominee Dick Dubose takes on Republican candidate Jimmie Long.

Also in local contests, County Attorney Mike Thomas is running for re-election with the Democratic Party, challenged by local attorney Joshua Hamby, who is running on the Republican ticket. County Constable Bill

Holden is also running for re-election on the Democratic ticket, challenged by Republican nominee Kneel B. Stallings.

In state politics, incumbent U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R) is running against Democratic opponent Rick Noriega and Libertarian candidate Yvonne Adams Schick.

Incumbent District 19 U.S. Representative Randy Neugebauer is riding the Republican ticket into the November election, facing Democratic nominee Dwight Fullingim and Libertarian nominee Richard "Chip" Peterson.

District 31 State Senator Kel Seliger is also taking the GOP's nod into the contest, with only Libertarian candidate Lauren Poindexter opposing the incumbent.

Democratic incumbent Joe Heflin is running for re-election to his State Representative District 85 seat, facing Republican nominee Isaac M. Castro on the ballot.

For more information on the election or open house, contact Bloom at 264-2273.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

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OTHER VIEWS

Give teeth to evacuation order laws

As Hurricane Ike moved through the central Gulf of Mexico on his way to the Texas coast, local authorities made good use of a state law passed three years ago empowering county judges and mayors to order mandatory evacuations from threatened areas within their jurisdictions.

The vast majority of residents responded to the orders by securing their homes and heading inland. However, a substantial number of holdouts from Freeport to the Bolivar Peninsula did not. The storm's death toll likely grew as a result, and rescue efforts for survivors have diverted first responders from other essential duties.

In fact, one man who refused to leave his Surfside Beach house became something of a media celebrity, as well an impediment who took up the time and attention of local authorities trying to get everyone out before rising waters cut off the area. Thanks to the northern turn of the storm, Ray Wilkinson, a 67-year-old former Marine, lived to laugh about the experience.

In the aftermath of the storm, the author of the evacuation legislation, State Rep. Frank Corte Jr., R-San Antonio, said lawmakers should look at the problems caused by residents who refused to leave and consider ways to strengthen the law.

"If we're going to put people in harm's way to come rescue you, and you had the opportunity to evacuate, then there should be some kind of stick, if you want to call it that," Corte said. "There has to be some kind of stick, and we have got to figure out what that is."

That something will be difficult to agree on, as Corte acknowledges.

The 2005 law was passed before Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck the Gulf Coast, and was spurred by the previous year's multiple storm strikes on Florida. Before 2005, Texas was one of only two states along the Gulf and Eastern Seaboard that did not authorize officials to order mandatory evacuations.

At the time, Texas lawmakers wrestled with the idea of penalties for ignoring the orders, but could not agree on what would be appropriate. The traditional respect for the right of Texas homeowners to decide whether to stay and protect their dwellings made forcible removal an unpopular concept. Likewise, the idea of fining storm victims who may have lost everything for their refusal to obey orders was also repugnant. So the legislation simply avoided the issue of enforcement.

"If you arrest (holdouts), what do you do with them?" observed State Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston, chairman of the Senate's Criminal Justice Committee. "It's a huge problem, and I'm aware of it and thinking about it. But it's not an easy solution."

Rep. Corte, a colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve who has served in Iraq, recalls an experience in military service on the East Coast that might be a model. Those who took out boats from local marinas, became stranded and required airborne Coast Guard rescue were billed for the helicopter fuel costs.

"If we have to rescue somebody that was under mandatory evacuation," Corte said, "then we may have to charge them the cost of what it took to come get them."

No one wants to penalize residents who through no fault of their own become trapped and require assistance to escape an oncoming storm.

However, those who deliberately flout evacuation orders and disrupt efforts by authorities to secure communities should be subject to at least the threat of arrest or financial penalties for their actions.

During next year's legislative session lawmakers should consider an amendment to allow local authorities options to make mandatory evacuations truly mandatory.

Houston Chronicle

Scapegoating the tax cuts

One has to wonder just how much more Democrats will milk class-warfare politics before people wake up to their deception.

No matter what economic problems we face, Democrats always find a way to blame them on the "rich" and the Bush tax cuts. Why? Because it rallies their base and — they hope — will alienate enough others against evil Bush Republicans to give Democrats a prohibitive advantage on domestic issues.

Joe Biden even blamed the current mortgage crisis on the Bush tax cuts. He said: "We should try to correct the problems that caused this (which are) the profligate tax cuts to the very, very wealthy that John (McCain) wants to continue."

Never mind that low- and middle-income earners received greater tax rate reductions than the highest-income earners; that doesn't fit within the Democrats' class-envy template. Forget the reckless legislation forcing financial institutions to lend money to people who probably couldn't pay it back — to satisfy the liberals' obsession with looking compassionate and pandering to minorities. Forget that Obama was the second-highest recipient of campaign cash from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (according to the Center for Responsive Politics), cash aimed at keeping congressional regulators off their backs. Forget that big fat cat Democrats served in executive positions at these quasi-governmental entities and milked them at taxpayers' expense. Forget that Obama chose one of those fat cats, Jim Johnson, to serve on his vice presidential search committee.

Despite the Democrats' destructive practice of blaming every economic woe — from Enron to rising oil prices — on the Bush tax cuts, the tax cuts had nothing to do with

those problems, including the mortgage crisis.

Obama and Biden talk incessantly about unifying us yet employ divisive class-envy tactics to demonize and alienate major producers in this country. They have to know, unless they are self-brainwashed into sheer functional incompetence, that they are lying and dividing the people they've promised to bring together.

Notwithstanding the obvious lack of practical or logical connection between the Bush tax cuts and the mortgage crisis, let's still examine the Democrats' demagogic claim that the rich aren't paying their fair share of taxes. By any measure, it is a staggering hoax.

Stephen Moore reported in December 2007 that the top 1 percent of income earners pay about 37 percent of all income taxes. That is more than they were paying before the Bush tax cuts and way more than they would have paid had the Bush tax cuts not been enacted. The Treasury Department estimates that had the cuts not gone into effect, the top 1 percent would have paid 31 percent. Thus, the wealthy, while paying lower marginal rates, are paying a greater percentage of the taxes, just as those dastardly supply-siders predicted. The top 10 percent, by the way, are paying 68 percent under the cuts, while Treasury estimates that they would have paid 63 percent without the cuts.

How about the top 5 percent — the group particularly targeted for punishment by Obama and Biden? Remember, their plan is to lower taxes for 95 percent.

Currently, the top 5 percent is paying 57 percent of all income taxes. If only 5 percent paying 57 percent is not enough, can you tell me what would be, especially when you consider that the bottom 50 percent of income earners pay less than 4 percent of all income taxes?

If Obama is going to cut taxes for 95 percent, how much will he have to raise taxes on the other 5 percent just to compensate for the lost revenue from the 95 percent? A supply-

sider might say, "Not much at all because reducing marginal rates (to a point) increases revenues." But anti-supply-siders such as Obama can't say that without exposing themselves to further fraud. They dispute the premise.

Espousing a zero-sum analysis on tax rates and revenue, they believe that tax cuts necessarily reduce revenues. Thus, they owe us an explanation as to how much more the top 5 percent will have to pay just to have a net zero effect on revenues. And how much more than that to yield a net increase in revenues?

But even if Obama could achieve a net revenue increase under his plan, he still must explain how increased revenue would have prevented or alleviated the mortgage crisis. And, Sen. Obama, please don't give us some convoluted nonsense about deficit reductions being a panacea, because no matter how harmful deficits might be, they had nothing to do with this mortgage crisis.

The crisis has largely been caused by reckless liberal do-goodism and corruption, not Bush tax policy.

Regardless, these inconvenient truths won't keep Obama from scapegoating the Bush tax cuts because this isn't about changing policies to strengthen the economy; it's about stoking the fires of class envy to divide and alienate Americans — under the crass Machiavellian calculation that there are far more non-wealthy voters than wealthy ones.

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney. His book "Bankrupt: The Intellectual and Moral Bankruptcy of Today's Democratic Party" was released recently in paperback. To find out more about David Limbaugh, please visit his Web site at www.davidlimbaugh.com. To read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Have degree, can't find work

California appellate court last week issued a ruling that supports a lawsuit challenging a state law that grants illegal immigrants heavily subsidized in-state tuition at California public universities and colleges. The court found that the 2001 law conflicts with federal law.

As I read the ruling, I asked the question the judges cannot answer — as it is a policy issue best left to elected lawmakers: Why would a state subsidize the college tuition of students who cannot work legally in the United States when they graduate?

Does California not have enough educated, angry people?

Or does the state have so few angry, educated people that it sees fit to spend more than \$17,000 per year on tuition for University of California students, more than \$13,000 for California State University students and \$109 per credit for some 15,000 or more community college students — so that they can be unable to get a job that requires a college degree when they graduate? From what I've seen, employers who hire college graduates aren't anxious to pay professional salaries to workers who can be deported. Thus California's in-state tuition tax break — and those in nine other states — pave the long, expensive road to underemployment.

The law in question, Assembly Bill 540, was signed by Gov. Gray Davis, who told me six years ago, "I believe someone who spends three years in high school and on their own merit gains admission to a California college should not be denied the opportunity to complete their education because their parents many years ago many have

decided to enter the country illegally."

I feel for those kids, whose parents broke the law and got them into this situation. But is the answer to let them pay in-state tuition — still significant at \$6,769 for UC or \$3,164 for CSU — for a degree that can't help them get a job?

John Trasvina, president of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, believes that the in-state tuition law works because after graduation, students may be able to work legally — thanks to "changes in the immigration law and changes in their status." If students graduate with a technical degree, Trasvina added, employers can apply for an H-1B visa to hire them.

UC attorney Christopher M. Patti told me, "I think the notion is that they're kids who will ultimately be able to regulate their status. Many have been here for many, many years."

But UC doesn't really know what happens to these graduates. They may never become citizens, or they may work illegally — no one knows.

According to UC stats, last school year, over 1,600 students benefited from AB540. Most of the beneficiaries — 1,184 students this year, it turns out, are U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or legal immigrants, who did not meet the old residency requirements, perhaps because they went to boarding school or attended an out-of-state college before applying to grad school. As for illegal immigrants, 271 students are dubbed "potentially undocumented," while another 162 show some documentation. UC doesn't know how many undocumented graduates later become citizens or legal residents.

CSU doesn't keep statistics on undocumented students. There are an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 undocumented students attending

California community colleges.

Kris Kobach, a University of Missouri law professor who represents plaintiffs suing California, noted that many are outraged that Sacramento chose to subsidize students in the country illegally while charging full freight to law-abiding students from other states. Some of his clients told him, "When we graduate, we are going to stay here. So why is the state not subsidizing our education? In contrast, illegal aliens cannot work anywhere in the state."

Kobach also said he was eager to take on the case "because this is an example of a state thumbing its nose at federal law," which stipulates that states cannot provide breaks to illegal immigrants for post-secondary education unless any citizen is eligible for that benefit, regardless of where he lives.

"It is a compelling government interest to remove the incentive for illegal immigration provided by the availability of public benefits," Congress wrote in earlier immigration law. Now, I don't think that many illegal immigrants come to the United States to send their kids to Berkeley. But I also don't know why California taxpayers should fund a Berkeley education for a student who can't work in this country legally.

Whatever happens to this lawsuit, Sacramento should not be subsidizing tuition for students who can't work legally, and Washington ought to be working on a compromise that does not encourage further illegal immigration, but finds a way to help young people who didn't choose to come to this country, but do choose to better themselves.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit www.creators.com.

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DEBRA SAUNDERS

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► State briefs

Jurors hear testimony from Rangers in KFC slaying

BRYAN (AP) — Jurors on Monday heard testimony from two Texas Rangers — one retired and the other dead — in the capital murder trial of a second man charged in the notorious murders of five people abducted from an East Texas Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant a quarter-century ago.

Rusk County District Attorney Michael Jimerson, acting as former Texas Ranger Stuart Dowell, read Dowell's testimony from a 2005 trial. Dowell had testified he took a white box with blood on it to a Tyler Department of Public Safety lab shortly after the execution-style murders of five people abducted from the Kilgore restaurant on Sept. 23, 1983.

Dowell died in 2005 after a lengthy illness.

Darnell Hartsfield is charged in the murders of David Maxwell, 20; Mary Tyler, 37; Opie Ann Hughes, 39; Joey Johnson, 20; and Monte Landers, 19. All but Landers worked at the restaurant about 25 miles east of Tyler and 115 miles east of Dallas. Landers was a friend of Maxwell and Johnson and was visiting them as the restaurant was closing for the night.

The trial of Hartsfield, 47, of Tyler, comes almost a year after his cousin, Romeo Pinkerton, took a plea bargain midway through his own trial.

If convicted, Hartsfield faces an automatic life prison term because prosecutors have said they won't seek the death penalty. The convicted burglar and drug dealer already was serving life for perjury when DNA testing tied him to the KFC killings.

Fort Worth-area pair battle, kill alleged burglar

FORT WORTH (AP) — Investigators said they are unlikely to file charges stemming from a bloody weekend battle between some Fort Worth-area homeowners and an alleged armed intruder who died at the scene as deputies tried to handcuff him.

A Tarrant County sheriff's spokesman says the battle started when the intruder, Heradio Ibarra, 44, entered the rural house near Eagle Mountain Lake on Saturday night carrying an unloaded gun, hatchet and metal pipe.

Sheriff's spokesman Terry Grisham says 911 operators received a call from Jill Huddleston about 10 p.m., reporting the intruder and saying he and her husband were fighting.

"I don't understand this man," Huddleston told the 911 operator. "We don't mess with nobody. We keep to ourselves. I don't know why he picked us."

Ibarra demanded money from the couple, who gave him a coin collection and some cash, police said. Jill Huddleston told the 911 operator they had just \$50 in the house. They also offered their vehicles.

Grisham says the residents stabbed and bludgeoned Ibarra with assorted items as the battle moved around the house. The couple fought the intruder for 45 minutes before they were able to call 911; it took 12 minutes before help arrived.

Ibarra died on the floor of the house, Grisham said.

Both residents were treated for cuts and bruises. Ronald Huddleston, a Fort Worth firefighter, suffered a broken arm.

Authorities were trying to understand why Ibarra, who did not have a criminal background, targeted the Huddleston's home. They believe he watched them using binoculars that were found after his death.

Ibarra's family members said he had moved to Fort Worth from Mercedes, west of Brownsville, for work. They said they did not know why he broke into the Huddleston's home but said he was having financial problems.

Gatesville teen admits to murder in father's death

GATESVILLE (AP) — A 16-year-old from Gatesville charged over the 2007 slaying of his father has pleaded guilty to murder.

The penalty phase begins Wednesday in Gatesville for James Michael Grant II. Court officials say the teen faces up to 50 years in prison.

Grant, who was certified to stand trial as an adult, entered the guilty plea Monday as jury selection was to begin.

The body of James Michael Grant was discovered in September 2007 along a road. The victim had been stabbed.

Investigators have said they believe the father was slain at his home, then the body was moved and dumped.

The teen's mother, Leslie Megan Lewis-Grant and her boyfriend, John Tarrell Hopkins, face trial later on capital murder charges.

Ex-Lottery employee arrested for copying data

AUSTIN (AP) — A former Texas Lottery Commission computer analyst said he accidentally copied the personal data of more than 27,000 Texas lottery winners but Lottery officials said they are waiting on a felony criminal investigation before making changes to the information-technology security systems.

"As in any business, we look at processes where we may or may not need to improve. Whether this is one

of them or not, I'm not aware that there's any current process going on to look at IT security. The investigation will answer those types of questions," commission spokesman Bobby Heith said in Tuesday's online edition of The Dallas Morning News.

The 39-year-old unidentified former Lottery employee, of Austin, said he downloaded his own work files off his computer and took them to his next job, according to arrest warrants.

The names and Social Security numbers of 27,075 mid-level lottery winners — people who have won prizes from \$600 up to around \$1 million — were on the employee's hard drive. Also included were the names, Social Security numbers and, in some cases, bank routing and account numbers of 639 current and former commission employees and 534 lottery retailers.

There have been no reports that the information has been used inappropriately, but in a letter sent out on Sept. 11, commission officials advised that the recipients put a fraud alert on their credit reports and check their bank statements.

The investigation is being handled by the Travis County District Attorney's office and the Texas Comptroller's Office, where the employee worked until recently.

New indictment handed up against former Texas DA

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — A former Cameron County district attorney has been reindicted on charges of perjury and tampering with governmental records.

The superseding indictment handed up by a grand jury Sept. 10 does not contain new charges against former prosecutor Yolanda de Leon but is more specific and gives time periods that were not listed in the original paperwork, current District Attorney Armando Villalobos said.

"They do not contain new allegations; however, they clear any ambiguities that may have existed with the original language," Villalobos said in a story on The Monitor's Web site Monday.

De Leon's attorney said the superseding indictment shows sloppiness on the part of prosecutors.

"In the rush to get her indicted they made errors, some pretty big errors, and now they are scrambling trying to correct those errors," said Israel Cano III, de Leon's lawyer.

The first indictment charges her with 10 counts of tampering with governmental records and the second indictment charges her with two counts of perjury.

The indictments focus on confidential information that was released to district attorney candidate Peter Zavaletta during the March primary election. That information was used in political advertisements that appeared in several newspapers.

The information belonged to the Cameron County's Child Advocacy Center and was not for publication, Villalobos has said.

Zavaletta was to be indicted also, but Chief First Assistant Attorney Charles E. Mattingly Jr. requested that Zavaletta's name be removed from the indictment because he has agreed to be a witness in the case.

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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Before going retrograde tomorrow, Mercury knocks on the door of Mars to pre-negotiate his terms. Do we hold ourselves to the same standards we hold others to? Is our thinking balanced? Do we even agree? Even though we may have a strong opinion, conversations can't afford to be one-sided now. For Libra, everyone's opinion matters.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Creative collaborations yield lucrative results. You now resonate best with those of their own element, which is to say they get along with other fire signs, which are Leos, Sagittarius and, of course, fellow Aries.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You are holding in the emotion that needs to come out. A movie or book may be the perfect release. So if you're drawn to a piece of entertainment, investigate. Let out the laughter and the tears.

GEMINI (May 21-June

21). Everyone is feeling territorial and diplomacy is of utmost importance, especially in the workplace. Be modest and extremely careful not to take too much credit for joint efforts, lest you invite criticism.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Dare to tread lightly into other people's conversations. You shed an innocent perspective on matters and your good-natured curiosity could elevate the tone of communication for others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll be delivering news that has the potential for an uncomfortable reception. There's no easy way, so the best you can hope for is to be quick and brief. Go in, state your case, then get out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You are in tune with what's around you, especially what's above you. It's obvious that you are being divinely guided. You are inclined to treat the impulses you feel as gifts from the heavens.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your work environment offers new options. Choose the new and exciting one, even if you're not sure you're qualified. If it isn't fun, don't do it. But if you have to do it, make it

fun.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). No matter how counterintuitive it seems to detach yourself from the outcome of a situation that's of premium importance to you, no movement will happen until you let go. Release and trust.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Like Scorpio, detachment seems counterintuitive to getting what you want. How can the key to getting what you want be (SET ITAL) not (END ITAL) caring whether or not you get it? It just is. Hold your intention and desire, but let the outcome be what it will.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When you take action, your stress and worry immediately disappears. You're not responding to your fate, you're designing it. A Pisces will help you recognize which of your ideas is the best.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You are busy helping others feel good about their contributions. With your kind words and encouragement you are making deposits into their emotional bank account, and your own balance goes up as a result.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March

20). Your awareness grows, allowing you to seize opportunities you would have missed only a month ago. Consider turning your hobby into a business, or pursuing paid work for one of your creative talents.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "My birth date is March 31, 1974, and my husband's is Aug. 1, 1975. We are having a lot of problems and one of them is his illogical jealousy over a co-worker of mine."

Jealousy is a natural emotion that can enter a relationship at differing times, for various reasons. But if unresolved jealousy sticks around, it can be destructive. Leo men, often out of insecurity, can sometimes feel the need to control their partner. Who doesn't at one point or another want to tell another person, indirectly or directly, what to do, think or say? However, for a relationship to remain mutually supportive and loving, this tendency must be tamed. The easiest way for anyone to do this is to let go and realize that just as you can't make a person love you, neither can you control whom they interact with all the time. Possessiveness, the idea

that once in a relationship, a person owns another, is often the uglier truth of jealousy. With Mars in possessive Taurus, he may need to work this out in a counseling situation. Meanwhile, the best reassurance you can offer is just the facts: that you're with him and no one else.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Will Smith has a knack for creating instant rapport. This is because it's in the nature of Will, and all Libran-born, to want to put others at ease, and does so by making another person feel valued, appreciated and understood -- which tends to bring out the best in any person. Herein lies the secondary gain of this gesture. The ensuing relaxation increases the possibility for a relationship to form.

Holiday Mathis is the author of "Rock Your Stars." If you would like to write to her, 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. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

Annie's Mailbox ®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: For the past 20 years, we have vacationed with another family. Now that all our kids are in college, we decided to take a couples-only trip this winter. We all agreed to go to a beach resort.

Our friends read about nude resorts on The New York Times web page and decided that's where we should go. I have no problem being naked in private. My husband and I frequently sleep in the nude, and before we had



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

kids, we found it exhilarating to skinny dip in a secluded pond. I have even done housework in the nude on hot days when I was alone. But I've never been nude in front of others.

Our friends went to a nearby lake where nude bathing is allowed and enjoyed it a lot, hence their desire to go to a nude resort. They assure us the resort is clothing optional, so we don't have to undress if we feel uncomfortable. They assume we will feel totally comfortable au naturel once we are surrounded by other naked people.

My husband is willing to try it, but I just can't imagine being naked in front of strangers or even being clothed looking at naked people. We are both 50 and our bodies are not nubile. We were so looking forward to this joint vacation that I hate to give it up. I also hate being the only person objecting to it. Will I lose my inhibitions like they say, or will I likely be miserable? -- Austin, Texas

Dear Austin: Most people at nude resorts are not interested in showing off their bodies. They simply enjoy the feeling of going without clothing, meaning you will see quite a variety of bodies - most of which are a lot less nubile than you imagine. However, you should not feel forced to do something that makes you uncomfortable. Your friends' suggestion to check out the nearby lake is a good one. It will allow you to see what you are getting into, without making a vacation commitment unless you want to.

Dear Annie: Nearly five years ago, my son (now 24) started dating a girl

from our church. At least two nights a week, she and her older brother stop by our house after church to visit my son before going some 20 miles back to their home.

The first year, I would fix refreshments and visit with them before excusing myself. I was bothered by the fact that they had no manners and were not pleasant company. The girl has a whiny personality and a "pity poor me" attitude.

Now when I know they are coming, I go to another room and feel imprisoned until they leave. My son says he plans to break up with the girl, but has yet to do so. He isn't financially able to get a place of his own, so that is not an option. Any advice? -- Aggravated in Alabama

Dear Alabama: If your son doesn't find his backbone, this whiny girl could end up becoming your daughter-in-law. Please continue to be cordial. It might help if you could run errands instead of locking yourself in your bedroom, and suggest to your son that he occasionally meet his friends at church and entertain them elsewhere.

Dear Annie: I was very offended by "New Yorker's" letter about loitering teenagers. I am 14 years old and found it extremely insulting to be compared to cockroaches. Talking about teenagers as if we are all alike is as silly as saying all senior citizens behave the same way or all middle-aged people like to eat the same foods. I wonder if "New Yorker" has forgotten what it was like when he was a teenager. -- Indignant in Montreal

Dear Indignant: We don't think "New Yorker" intended to impugn all teenagers, only those who are maliciously disrespectful. Most teens are terrific citizens who care deeply about their environment and volunteer more than previous generations. We're in your corner.

Dear Annie: My mother passed away unexpectedly four months ago. My 71-year-old father has had a hard go of things, needing to learn how to cook, clean, wash clothes and pay bills. Until recently, my husband and I had

been having Dad over once a week for dinner, and we checked in frequently to help him with bills, etc.

Dad's not an easy person to get along with. He's negative, overly critical and outspoken. Mom was the glue that kept us together. A month ago, we took Dad with us on a brief vacation. After spending a great deal of time together in the car, he and I had a blowup. I'm almost 40 and had never stood up to my father before. I've since seen a counselor who has advised me to establish boundaries and only interact with my father in public until some time has passed. I suggested a counselor to Dad and even gave him a phone number.

Because we live in a tightknit community, I often see people who know our family and inquire how Dad's doing. I'm reluctant to say, "I don't know," so I usually say, "OK" and change the subject. I'm guilt ridden for not being there for Dad, but the very thought of being in his presence makes my heart pound and my stomach churn. How do I get through this tough time? -- Grieving Daughter

Dear Daughter: You don't need to offer details to acquaintances on the street who are simply being cordial. All you have to say is, "I'm sure Dad is fine" or "He's managing, thanks." The distance the counselor suggested should not be only physical. You must work on creating enough of an emotional distance that Dad's criticisms and negative remarks no longer have such an extreme effect. Your counselor can help you learn how to stop giving Dad so much power to upset you.

Dear Annie: I am married to "Oscar," a wonderful guy, and we have two children. When I was in my early teens, my mother was arrested for fraud and spent six months in jail. I have never told Oscar about this because I felt it had nothing to do with him and it's hardly a point of pride.

We are very close to my mother, and I am not sure how he would handle this news. My siblings' spouses, however, all know about the family secret.

Should I tell Oscar? What should I say? -- Asking for Guidance

Dear Guidance: Since the rest of the family knows, you should tell Oscar before he finds out from someone else. The fraud conviction happened many years ago and we assume Mom has been a good girl since, so Oscar may be surprised, but he will eventually get past it. Start by telling him there is some confidential information about your mother that you want him to know and you hope it won't change his good opinion of her because their close relationship means the world to you. It would help if Mom would agree to be there when you talk about it, but either way, inform her that you are telling him so she isn't blindsided.

Dear Annie: I had to laugh at the letter from "Baffled in the Midwest," whose brother-in-law drives seven hours to drop in without advance notice.

Several years ago, my uncle and his wife came by our home to pay us a visit. We had not seen them in over 10 years. To make a long story short, we had moved and, since my uncle never bothered to knock on our door, they just walked right in and sat down in the living room. All of a sudden, the new owners came in from the backyard, looked at them and asked, "Who the hell are you?!"

My uncle called his sister to ask where we were, and she said, "This is what you deserve for staying away all these years and then not calling in advance." -- Lesson Learned

Annie's Mailbox is written by *Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annies-mailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. 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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Courtesy photo

State Fire Marshal Larry Youngblood goes over the ins and outs of fire safety with students from Moss Elementary in the State Fire Marshall's Fire Safety Trailer last week. The trailer travels around the state giving hands on demonstrations and safety concepts to various schools and other interested groups, according to Big Spring Fire Marshall Carl Condray. Youngblood will be visiting with students from Forsan and Coahoma this week.

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.

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

Remembering and missing grandma

When I was a kid I was blessed to have my grandparents living close by. I would often go to their house just to hang out or have a soda pop with my grandpa. I have a lot of memories of their house and the good times I had there. I've written several stories about my grandpa but today I'd like to tell you about my grandma.



DARRELL RYAN

Grandma had a pretty hard life. She was the youngest of three kids. When she was very young her dad was killed in a logging accident in Oklahoma and her mom had to raise the three children alone. So, Grandma grew up knowing what it was like to live with very few possessions. She learned to sew her own clothes, cook her own meals and prepare her own "canned" fruits and vegetables. When I would come to visit, Grandma would usually be in the kitchen preparing some tasty parcel for us to enjoy. She would come out to greet me, wearing a huge smile and her trusty old apron.

Remember those aprons? They were used for so many things and bring back such great memories. In my mind's eye I can see my Grandma in the kitchen cooking up something and smiling all

the while.

Now my Grandma was a tremendous cook. We would go to her house for Thanksgiving or Christmas and have the most wonderful meals in the world. Then after the meal, she would leave the food on the table and cover it with a table cloth. She would always tell us that it's ready any time we wanted more.

And her lemon chiffon pies were out of this world. Using just a little bit of imagination I can still taste them.

Grandma also had blue hair. Well, it wasn't really blue; it was some sort of blue coloring that my mom would put in her hair but it looked blue to me. I never could figure why she wanted blue hair but I guess that stimulated the desire today for kids to want purple or green or pink hair. I imagine it's just another mark of the times.

The only thing I didn't

like about my Grandma is that she used to give me penicillin shots whenever I got sick and she had the dullest needle in town. She would lay the point of the needle against my hip and slowly proceed to finalize the shot.

As the old saying goes, I got the point and the point was dull. But her intentions were good and I always got to feeling better.

I miss my Grandma. I miss my times with her. One thing I have learned, we've got to love them while we have them. If I could, now that I'm older, I would like to sit down with her for a visit and just spend some time with her. But I think I would tell her that I could do without the shot.

Darrell Ryan is the director of federal programs for Big Spring Independent School District

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Buffalo Tales



FCA met for the first time this year Monday, led by a praise band consisting of Evan Burton, Clay Lockhart, Aaron Johnson and Caleb Willey. Evan also gave the devotional message. Plans are being made for future meetings.

Thursday night in McCamey the Junior High Buffs took on the Badgers. The seventh grade won 22 - 6 with scoring from Polo Marin, Dustin Wright and Kolby Self. Some of the defensive stand-outs were Haegan Rodriguez, Tyler Evans and Cowboy Sheets.

The eighth grade won 38 - 0 with scoring from Brendan Roman and Max Pappajohn.

Some of the defensive stand-outs were Blaise Coffman, Copeland Riddell, Marcus Cervantes and Trevor Burchett.

Juniors will order class rings Wednesday from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m. A \$50 deposit is required.

The six weeks grading period will end Tuesday, Sept. 30.

Forsan students will participate in See You at the Pole Wednesday at 7 a.m. and Fields of Faith Oct. 8.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Things Are Not What They Seem

South dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 9 8 5

♥ Q 9 3

♦ K Q 7

♣ K Q 10 6

WEST

♠ A K J 10 3

♥ A 6 5 4

♦ 9 5

♣ 9 2

EAST

♠ Q 7 2

♥ 7

♦ 10 8 6 4 3 2

♣ 8 5 4

SOUTH

♠ 6 4

♥ K J 10 8 2

♦ A J

♣ A J 7 3

The bidding:

South 1♥ West 1♠ North 2♣ East Pass

3♣ Pass 3♥ Pass

4♥

Opening lead — king of spades.

One of the great advantages of playing a hand in a suit contract rather than in notrump is that the defenders cannot run their long suit.

The trumps act as stoppers and neutralize the tricks that the defenders would otherwise be able to score.

But this advantage does not protect declarer in every case. If the defenders persist in leading their

long suit, they may ultimately run declarer out of trumps and then be able to score whatever cards remain in their suit.

Consider this deal where West starts with three rounds of spades, forcing declarer to ruff. Superficially, it would seem that South is on solid ground, since he has four sure trump winners, three top diamonds and four top clubs. Nevertheless, South is doomed if the defense functions properly.

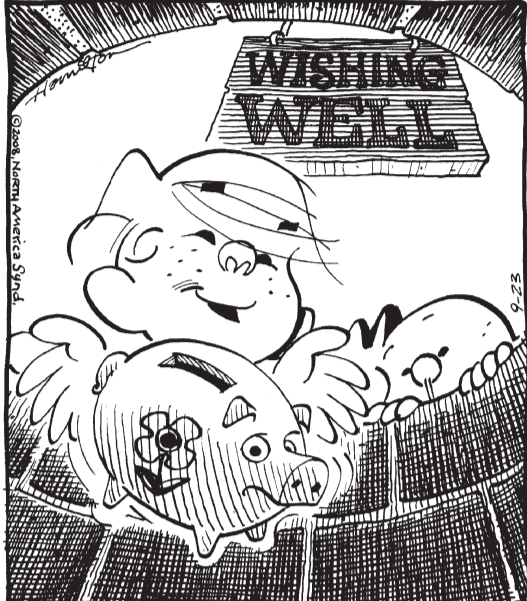
At trick four, declarer leads the king of hearts. If West takes it with the ace, South waltzes home with the contract. But if West ducks the king, leaving himself with A-6-5 while South still has J-10-8, he retains control of trumps.

When South continues with the jack, West ducks again, sealing declarer's fate. South now cannot afford to lead another trump because West would take the ace and return a spade to force declarer's last trump and so put the contract down two.

The best South can do after West twice refuses to take the ace is to try to cash as many winners as he can in diamonds and clubs. Eventually, West ruffs one of them with his low trump to defeat the contract one trick.

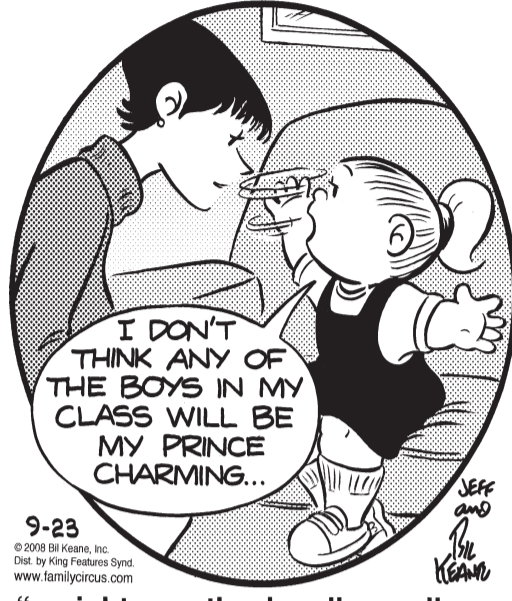
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5 :PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Lopez Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Friends Raymond	Scrivner Uri Harel	News Business	Cash Cab Cash Cab	Costner	CSI: NY	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Phineas	Horn Interrupt	SportsCenter
6 :PM :30	News Entertain	Jeopardy! Fortune	Querida Enemiga	Two Men Two Men	News Entertain	12 Cora- zones	News Millionaire	Raymond Raymond	Dr. Young Hagee	News-Lehrer Made	Made		CSI: NY	Law & Order	TI Specl Montana	Suite Life Montana	WNBA Basketball	E:60
7 :PM :30	Opportunity Knocks	Opportunity Knocks	Cuidado- Angel	House	NCIS	El Juramento	The Biggest Loser: Families	Fam. Guy Israel	Victory Victory	Nova (DVS) Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs	AFI's 10 Top 10	CSI: NY	Law & Order	Movie: I Tried, Wish Bone	Movie: Jump In!	Series of Poker	
8 :PM :30	Dancing With the Stars	Dancing With the Stars	Fuego en la Sangre	Fringe	The Mental- ist	Doña Bar- bara	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy	Light of the Southwest	American Masters	Dirty Jobs	Machines of Malice	CSI: NY	Law & Order	Some Comic Life De	Wizards Wizards	WNBA Basketball	Series of Poker	
9 :PM :30	News Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	Raymond King-Hill	Without a Trace	Sin Senos	Law & Order: SVU	Office Office	Charlie Rose	Made Made	Movie: The Searchers, Natalie Wood	CSI: NY	Raising the Bar	Karen Hatchett	Suite Life Montana	Madden Madden	SportsCenter	
10 :PM :30	Insider Jimmy Kim- mel Live	Insider Jimmy Kim- mel Live	La Hora de la Risa	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisions	Frank TV SVU	Sex & Sex & Sex &	Ministerio- Vida	Smiley Smiley	Dirty Jobs	CSI: NY	Without a Trace	Movie: I Tried, Wish Bone	So Raven Cory	NASCAR Series of Poker	Baseball NFL Live	
11 :PM :30	News Paid	News Paid	Amarte- Pecado	RENO 911 RENO 911	Insider	Programa Pagado	News Poker After Dark	Israel Church	Light of the Southwest	Machines of Malice	(-45) Movie: Hatarai, Red Buttons	CSI: NY	Without a Trace	Comic Some	Emperor Dragon	Series of Poker	SportsCenter	
1 :AM :30	News Paid	News Paid	Clasicos Humor	King-Hill	Insider	Programa Pagado	News Poker After Dark	Israel Church	Light of the Southwest	Machines of Malice	(-45) Movie: Hatarai, Red Buttons	CSI: NY	Without a Trace	Comic Some	Emperor Dragon	Series of Poker	SportsCenter	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I'M REALLY COUNTIN' ON THIS WISH TO COME TRUE!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

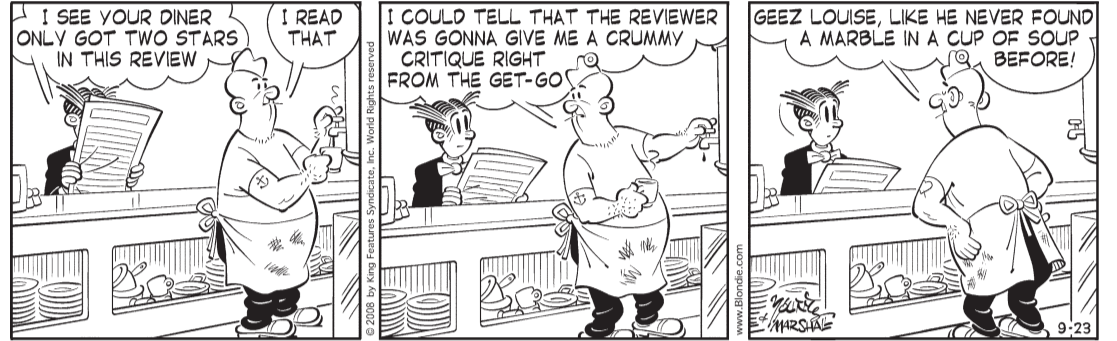


"... right now they're all ... well, you know, Mommy, like Prince Goofy!"

HAGAR



BLONDIE



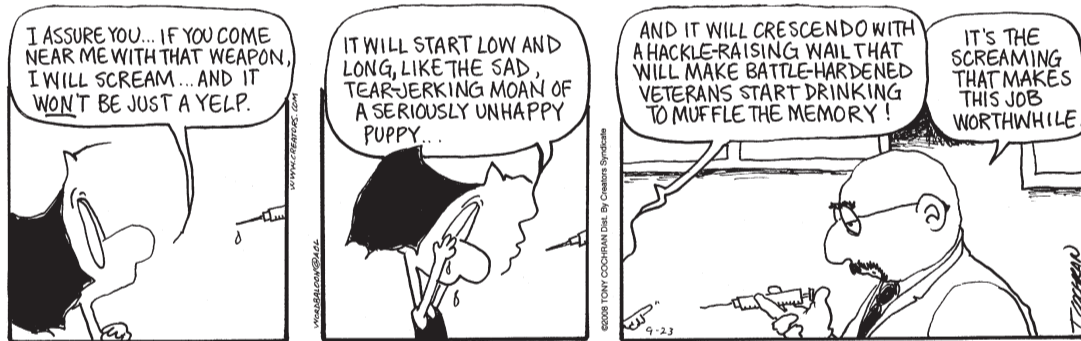
BC



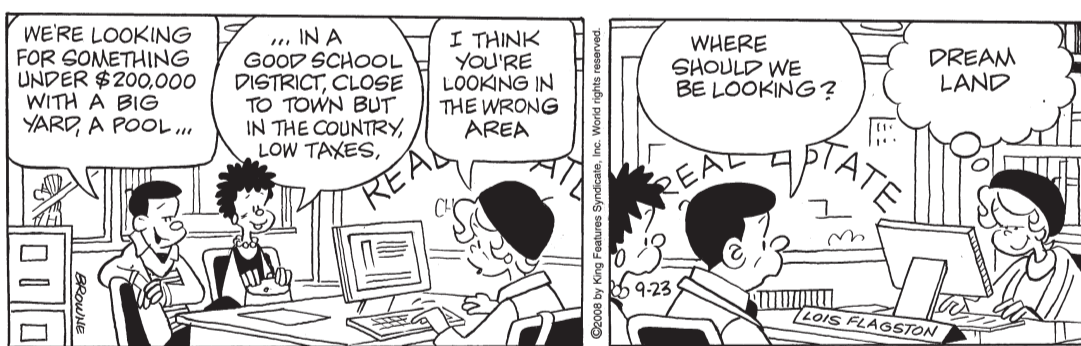
WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



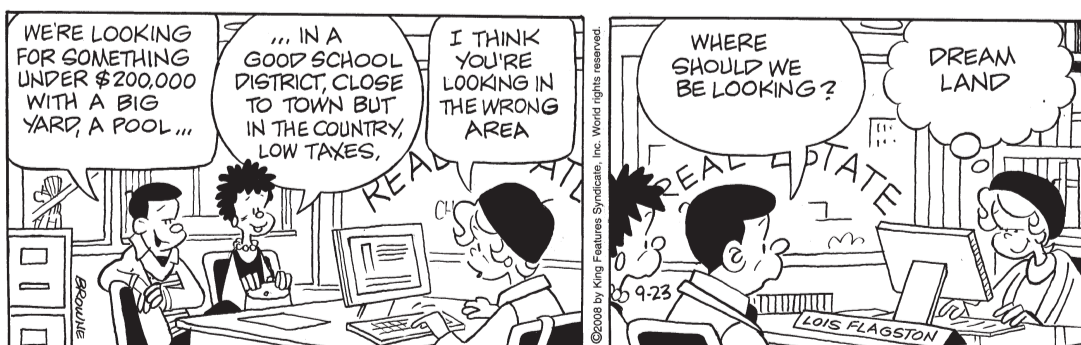
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

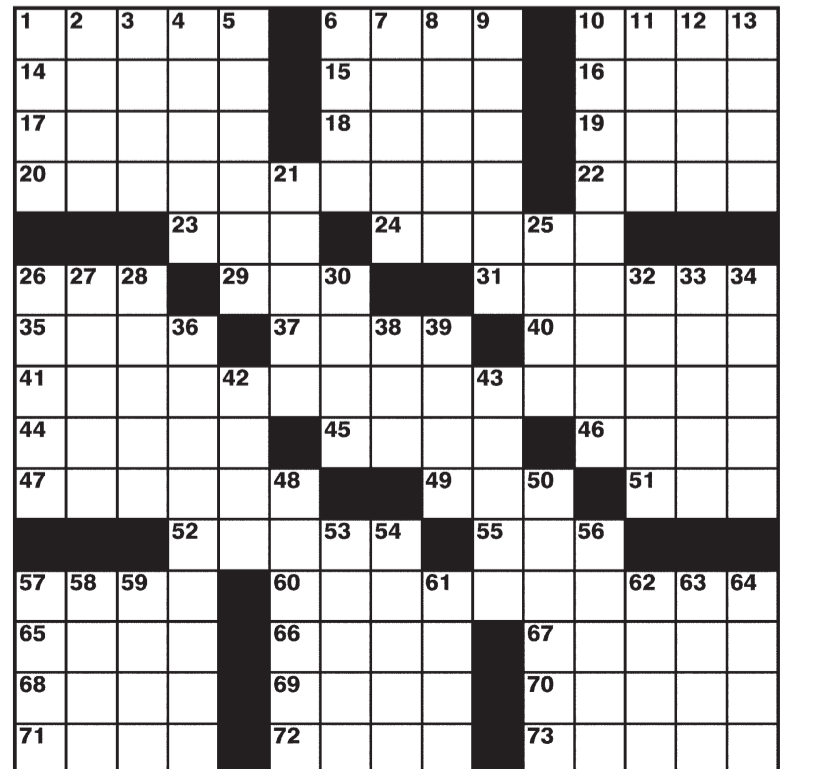
Today is Tuesday, Sept. 23, the 267th day of 2008. There are 99 days left in the year.
 Today's Highlight in History:
 One hundred years ago, on Sept. 23, 1908, one of baseball's most famous blunders occurred in a game between the New York Giants and the visiting Chicago Cubs. With the score tied 1-1 in the bottom of the ninth and two runners out, the Giants batted in what should have been the winning run. However, Fred Merkle, who was on first base, began to leave the field apparently without bothering to tag second; the Cubs then claimed to have forced Merkle out. Merkle was eventually ruled out, negating the winning run and leaving the game tied. (The Cubs won a rematch game on Oct. 8 and with it, the National League pennant; Chicago then went on to win the World Series.)
 On this date:
 In 1779, during the Revolutionary War, the American warship Bon Homme Richard, commanded by John Paul Jones, defeated the HMS Serapis in battle.
 In 1780, British spy John Andre was captured along with papers revealing Benedict Arnold's plot to surrender West Point to the British.
 In 1806, the Lewis and Clark expedition returned to St. Louis more than two years after setting out for the Pacific Northwest.
 In 1846, Neptune was identified as a planet by German astronomer Johann Gottfried Galle.
 In 1938, a time capsule, to be opened in the year 6939, was buried on the grounds of the World's Fair in New York City.
 In 1952, Republican vice-presidential candidate Richard M. Nixon went on television to deliver what came to be known as the "Checkers" speech as he refuted allegations of improper campaign financing.
 In 1957, nine black students who had entered Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas were forced to withdraw because of a white mob outside.
 In 1962, New York's Philharmonic Hall (since renamed Avery Fisher Hall) formally opened as the first unit of the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.
 In 1973, former Argentine president Juan Peron won a landslide election victory that returned him to power; his wife, Isabel, was elected vice president.
 In 2001, 13 coal miners were killed in explosions at the Blue Creek Mine No. 5 in Brookwood, Ala.
 Today's Birthdays: Actor Mickey Rooney is 88. Actress Margaret Pellegrini ("The Wizard of Oz") is 85. Singer Julio Iglesias is 65. Actor Paul Petersen ("The Donna Reed Show") is 63. Actress-singer Mary Kay Place is 61. Rock star Bruce Springsteen is 59. Rock musician Leon Taylor (The Ventures) is 53. Actress Rosalind Chao is 51. Actor Jason Alexander is 49. Actor Chi McBride is 47. Actress Elizabeth Pena is 47. Country musician Don Herron (BR549) is 46. Actor Erik Todd Dellums is 44. Actress LisaRaye is 42. Singer Ani DiFranco is 38.

Answer to previous puzzle:
 AMPS PASS TAPIN
 SASH ABLE SLIDE
 PUSHROOM TITLE
 SIT LEDGE RACED
 DUNE STASH
 ASSERT STOP BBBS
 SLEET LET SLAT
 HELD SCARS NATO
 EELS HOT MACHO
 SPA SOLE BARKED
 BRAUL RIDE
 PARIS ASONE BAA
 TCONS PLUGALONG
 TEASE SAGE BITE
 ADDED EYES SLED

Newsday Crossword

THINGS TO DO by Sally R. Stein
 Edited by Stanley Newman
 www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 Relatives of buttes
- 6 Short snoozes
- 10 Sugar cube
- 14 Get away from
- 15 It replaced the franc
- 16 Where Cleveland is
- 17 Tired, slangily
- 18 Diva's solo
- 19 Funnel's shape
- 20 Criticize
- 22 Throat-clearing sound
- 23 Caterer's coffeemaker
- 24 Aroma
- 26 Peculiar
- 29 "Absolutely"
- 31 Horse farm, in Mexico
- 35 Provide meals for
- 37 Chimps, for instance
- 40 Showed again, as a program
- 41 Book that's not out yet
- 44 Mall tenant
- 45 College sports org.
- 46 Env. enclosure
- 47 Home with large grounds
- 49 "Is it Ms. or ___?"
- 51 Your, in the Bible
- 52 April 15 payments
- 55 Brewed beverage
- 57 From Bangkok
- 60 Unfair criticism
- 65 Angelic topper
- 66 Where Korea is
- 67 No longer fresh
- 68 Metal in barbells
- 69 Easter preceder
- 70 Trace of color
- 71 Hardens, as cement
- 72 Deer relatives
- 73 Atlantic or Arctic
- DOWN
- 1 What vegans avoid
- 2 Singer Fitzgerald
- 3 Mope
- 4 French farewell
- 5 Military guard
- 6 Orderly
- 7 New Age glows
- 8 Spectrum producer
- 9 Heavy rain happening around here
- 10 "Yikes!"
- 11 Source for silver
- 13 Limerick, for one
- 21 Shaq of basketball
- 25 Frying medium
- 26 Helpful
- 27 Fender flaws
- 28 Bus terminal
- 30 Rotate
- 32 Zagreb resident
- 33 Far from gentle
- 34 Perfectly pitched
- 36 How long things last
- 38 Upper-left computer key
- 39 False front
- 42 ___ carotene (vitamin A source)
- 43 The third planet
- 48 Breathe out
- 50 Takes care of
- 53 Artist's stand
- 54 Foul 24 Across
- 56 Home's upper level
- 57 The one nearby
- 58 Rabbit relative
- 59 Frequently
- 61 Pets that purr
- 62 Tarzan's girlfriend
- 63 Gymnast
- 64 Existed



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2008 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 9/23/08

A 'prairie dove' survives hunting season

With both crop and range land, the woman wore two hats. When cotton had a bumper year, she was the farmer's wife. Helping her two sons load calves in their trailer, she switched to rancher's woman. Either way, her lifestyle was never dull.



BEBE McCASLAND

Once September arrived, the woman was also guardian of the acreage allotted for dove hunters. Sometimes she wondered if the extra income was worth a broken window or holes in the sheets she had hung out to dry.

By the third week, activity had slowed somewhat. The eagerness to get their limits as quickly as possible had waned. At least now she could take her evening stroll as the sun illuminated the wispy

clouds into shades of orange, pink, and purple. It was a quiet time.

As her dog rubbed against her leg, she steadied herself. His size alone had more than once knocked her to the ground. As he grew in years, he seemed to become more thoughtful of her slender, small frame.

On their way back, the animal suddenly froze. Fearing a rattlesnake, she followed his advice. Slowly inching forward, the dog approached a lump on the ground several yards ahead. After sniffing whatever he had found, he looked back as if to summon her presence.

As she neared them both, the woman realized he had found a bird. From its coloration, she thought it might be a curlew.

She knew it wasn't a killdeer. Standing over the dog's new-found trophy, she realized the bird was still alive, even though it did not rise to run or fly away.

Gently putting her hand underneath it, she planned to put the bird



Courtesy photo

Migrating during late evening and night, the upland sandpiper is capable of reaching breeding sites as far north as Alaska or Canada, while its fall journey takes it to South America.

in her apron for the trip back to the house. Feeling moisture on her finger tips, the woman slowly turned it enough to see its belly and abdomen. From underneath the feathers came a few droplets of blood.

Having treated everything from kids to cattle, the woman hurried to stem any further bleeding. Her dog seemed

Bird Poop

excited as she rushed back to the house. His find had already been rewarded.

With its head covered to calm it, the bird lay still as she examined the wound.

After separating the feathers, she could readily tell the creature had a superficial wound similar to those inflicted upon the doves during hunting season.

The woman had cleaned more than her share of doves and quail for the dinner table.

After telling me about the bird and its condition, the woman was unsure of what she had. Telling her we were on our way, I grabbed several bird books before heading north of town.

At the ranch house, we eliminated her identification even though the bird had the streaked brown wings and back that resemble a curlew's markings. We felt she had

a sandpiper. Although they are similar in coloration, this bird was smaller and did not have the long, down-curved bill. To determine which sandpiper was our next challenge.

With a dove-like head and a short, black-tipped yellow bill, the bird had both long neck and greenish-yellow legs. Its long, wedge-shaped tail had black bars and ended with a white band. The shape of its body reminded me of a very plump pear.

Since it was about a foot long, with a two foot wingspan, we could verify that the woman and her dog had rescued an upland sandpiper.

Although classified as a shorebird, the sandpiper lived and hunted in pastures and prairies of the Midwest. Seldom was it seen near water. To us, it was a living "contradiction in terms."

As we talked about its characteristic way of landing, then holding its wings high above its back before folding them against its body, the woman realized she had seen the specie more than she knew. She had also seen the sandpipers running, then stopping suddenly as they hunted and snared grasshoppers and beetles. To learn that the bird also had a diet of cotton boll weevils, grubs, cutworms, and army worms, made her appreciate their natural ability to help both farmers and ranchers.

A week later, we were able to convey the good news from the wildlife center.

Responding to the care and diet it had been given, the sandpiper had a chance to return to the wild.

Although its migration had been halted, the "prairie dove" would someday return to ancient breeding grounds.

Bebe McCasland is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

MacArthur Foundation awards 'genius grants'

By CARYN ROUSSEAU
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO — An evolutionary geneticist in Germany, a Nigerian-born writer, and an architectural historian who studies ancient bridges are among 25 recipients of this year's MacArthur Foundation "genius grants."

The \$500,000 fellowships were announced Tuesday by the Chicago-based John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Recipients may use the money however they wish.

Kirsten Bomblied, 34, a plant evolutionary geneticist in Tuebingen, Germany, said the money will allow her to expand her research.

"Maybe try to explore some slightly riskier options that maybe I otherwise wouldn't be able to get funding for," said Bomblied, originally from Colorado. "We rarely have that opportunity. I think I might write a book at the end of it all, a scientific book ... just to get some of the ideas that we have on paper."

Nigerian-born writer Chimamanda Adichie, who lives in Maryland, received an award for her work exploring ethnic conflicts inspired by her native country.

Dr. Regina Benjamin said the money will help rebuild her rural health clinic in Bayou La Batre, Alabama, which serves 4,400 patients. It was rebuilt by volunteers after being destroyed by Katrina Hurricane, only to burn down months later.

"The patients came by and they were crying," said Benjamin, 51, remembering one woman who handed her an envelope with a \$7 donation to rebuild. The new clinic is about half built, she said.

"If she can find \$7, I can figure out the rest," Benjamin said. "The patients I treat have their own disasters. Hopefully this grant will help them in some way. It will be as much theirs as it is mine."

John Ochsendorf, an associate professor of architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts, said he at first didn't believe the news that he'd received a grant.

"I had to sit down. I had tears running down my face. I had a hard time

breathing," Ochsendorf said. "It changes everything. This is validation."

Ochsendorf, 34, uses engineering and architecture to explain the ancient world. His research team studies Incan suspension bridges.

The MacArthur Foundation names the fellows, who are recommended to the foundation's board by a 12-member selection committee.

Jonathan Fanton, president of the MacArthur Foundation, said he makes several calls a year to recipients — including at least four this year — and winners are usually shocked.

"Generally, there's a pause and expressions of disbelief," he said. "I've had people drop the phone or say they need a minute because they feel weak."

Seven previous MacArthur grant recipients went on to receive Nobel prizes, Fanton said. "Giving support to exceptionally talented people

allows them to develop their talents, and society is better for the work they do," Fanton said.

Other winners of this year's fellowships include an inventor of musical instruments, an urban farmer, a saxophonist, a stage lighting designer, an astronomer who studies the geometry of the universe, and a critical-care physician who studies how to avoid human error in clinical practices.

Daniel Socolow, who directs the MacArthur Fellows program, said the foundation looks more at recipients' future promise than past performance.

"It's not a particular thing they've done, it's a sense of the person," Socolow said. "There's something unusual about this person. These people have a distinctively creative approach to the field they're working in."

One of this year's recipients is Leila Josefowicz, 30, a solo violinist based in New York who travels the

world performing with orchestras and conductors. The native Canadian made her Carnegie Hall debut at age 16.

"If I'm not worried about playing the circuit just for financial reasons, this can give me a buffer," Josefowicz said. "I'll spend more time studying and listening out there and choosing the composer I want to work with."

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23rd Annual

BIG SPRING

HERALD

Community Christmas Parade

5:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 6

Parade theme:

"Star Of Bethlehem"

Entry deadline - Noon, Friday, Nov. 14th

The parade will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. and head north on Gregg Street toward downtown, arriving in time for the downtown Christmas celebration.

- \$100 Herald's Best Of Show Award: for best interpretation of theme
- \$75 Mayor's Award: for best use of lighting
- \$50 Grand Marshall's Award: for best costuming

First-place plaques will be awarded in the following categories:

1. Individual or family
2. Civic group, school or church
3. Commercial
4. Industrial

In addition, certificates of commendation will be awarded to the second- and third-place entries in each of those categories.

Also, a special award will be presented to the best sheriff's posse, riding club or other mounted entry.

PARADE RULES

1. The parade's official Santa Claus will be provided by the Herald. NO OTHER SANTA WILL BE PERMITTED IN THE PARADE.
2. Floats should not exceed 55 feet in length, 8 feet in width and 14 feet in height.
3. Antique vehicles will be the only undecorated vehicles permitted without special permission from Parade Committee.
4. Vehicles of a strictly commercial nature will not be permitted.
5. Parade entries not in line by the start of the parade will be placed at the end of the parade and will not be eligible for awards.
6. For safety, do not throw candy from your float. Small children run up under the tires. Please have someone walking beside your float if you want to throw candy.

2008 Christmas Parade Entry Form

Name of organization: _____
 Name of contact person: _____
 Mailing address: _____
 Telephone number: _____
 You will receive by return mail, your float number and a map showing where to go to line up.

Individual/Family Civic/church/school
 Commercial Industrial Mounted

Mail, fax or hand deliver to:
 Parade Committee
 Big Spring Herald
 PO Box 1431
 710 Scurry
 Big Spring, TX 79721
 Fax (432) 264-7205
 E-mail: advertising@bigspringherald.com

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that publishes **Sunday, Sept. 28th & Sunday, Oct. 5th.**

The Cost Is Only \$30 for both days

Bring a color photo, name of player, jersey # and school

HERALD **BSS** **2008 STEERS**

#30 **80 JACKSON**

Submit to:
The Big Spring Herald
 710 Scurry
 263-7331
 or email to: advertising@bigspringherald.com

Wacky Facts

- Oct. 2 is World Farm Animals Day.
- Oct. 26 is National Mule Day.
- A mule is the offspring of a male donkey (*E. asinus*) and a female horse (*Equus equus*). A mule cannot reproduce, and is a hybrid animal, not a natural species.

Chatter Box

"There cannot be true democracy unless women's voices are heard. There cannot be true democracy unless women are given the opportunity to take responsibility for their own lives."
— Hillary Rodham Clinton, on womenshistory.about.com.



Mom or Dad loose a job? Unsure what to do? Try these techniques

By EMILIE LE BEAU
Chicago Tribune

Bad news: Your dad just got laid off. You might not even be sure you know exactly what that means. All you know is Mom and Dad are acting weird and things seem a little tense. Like many grownups, your parents are dealing with an economic fact of life today: Lots of people are losing their jobs. When a parent loses his or her job, the uncertainty can be upsetting. You might worry how your family is going to survive and whether your life will change. Or maybe you're sad because your mom seems so unhappy or your dad is in a bad mood. And even though your mom says not to worry, everyone in the family can feel the stress.

FEAR IS NORMAL

Not going to work every day or losing a paycheck can be scary for parents. Families feeling overwhelmed by a job loss should talk about it, says child psychiatrist Martins Adeoye of Advocate Hope Children's Hospital in Oak Lawn, Ill. "The first thing a child will want to do is discuss all the fears with (his or her) parents: 'What would you like me to do? What can I do to help you?'" he says.

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT

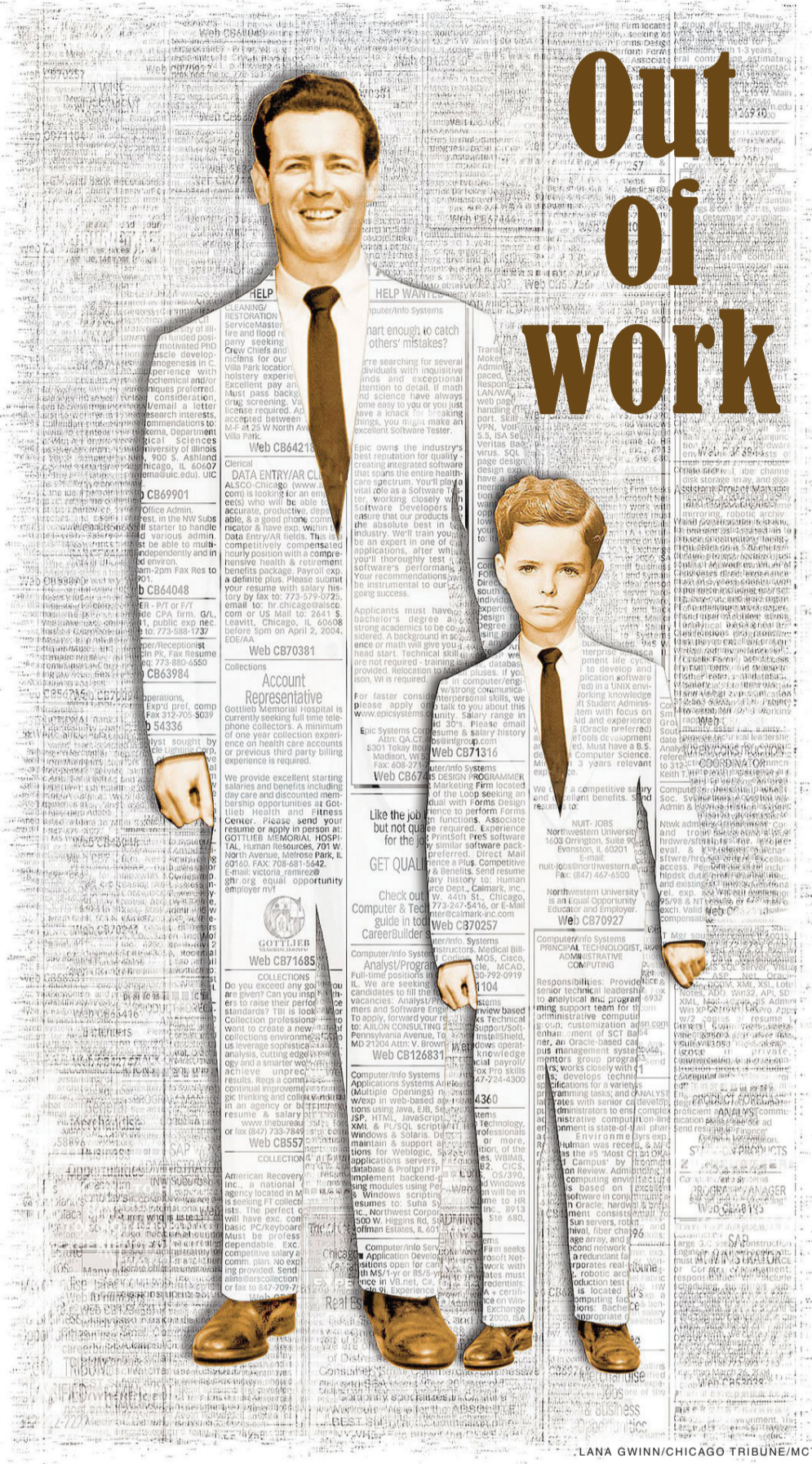
You might be feeling guilty, concerned that you somehow contributed to the job loss: You overslept and made your mom late for work. Or maybe you called her every time you got into a fight with your brother. Don't think your mom losing her job is your fault. "There may be other factors involved," says Erin C., 17.

THE SHAME GAME

People who have lost their jobs sometimes worry that others will think they did something wrong. Lots of people lose jobs for different reasons, so keep in mind your parent isn't the only one. And even though job loss is common, some families may want to keep their bad news private. Krish says to talk to your parents first and see how they feel about your discussing the situation with friends.

A MESS FROM STRESS?

Doesn't seem fair that you should have to go without? Coming down with "Why Me" syndrome? Being stressed about money can make some kids angry. Resist any feelings you might have to get mad at other people. If you feel the adults in your life don't understand, try talking to the peer counselors at your school. Dealing with unemployment is stressful for the whole family. Finding a peaceful spot can help, as can talking about your feelings with your family. But



freaking out or getting angry will only make the situation worse. Krish J., 11, says one family member's bad mood can affect everyone. Let your mom or dad cool off, Krish says. And try being cheerful to help ease the tension. "Cheerfulness spreads just as well as anger," he says.

CROWDED HOUSE

An out-of-work parent might be home a lot more than usual. As a result, Erin says, that could make kids feel like their parents have become space invaders. A crowded kid should look for ways to be alone and to de-stress. "Sit in your room, take a walk or read a book," Erin recommends. "Go to a peaceful place."

YOU'RE NOT THE PROVIDER

Just because your dad is out of work doesn't mean it's your duty to find a job. Nor do you have to sell your baseball card collection or take on extra baby-sitting jobs. Dr. Adeoye says it's common for kids to feel like they need to provide for their

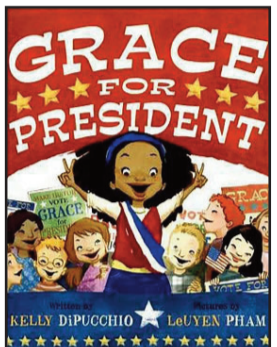
family when Mom or Dad can't. "The child sometimes wants to assume the role of the parent," he says. "It increases the level of stress the child goes through. "Until a child is an adult, they are not expected to (make money). The only job a child has is to go to school." If you want to feel like you're helping out with money, cut back on your spending: Skip those new sneakers or sit out a season of floor hockey.

WHAT ABOUT THE MONEY?

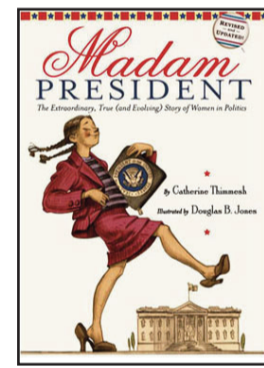
You might be really worried about the bills. Yes, they have to be paid, but there are resources for people who are out of work. Some employers give several weeks or months pay (called severance) to laid-off employees. And, according to the Employment Training Administration, unemployment pay, on average, can be collected for up to 26 weeks. Unemployment is money given by the government to a person out of a job. It probably won't be as much as your mom or dad was making while employed, but it should help.

Reading Rack Books put girls in the race for president

After Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton gave up her bid for the presidency, there were supporters and opponents, Democrats and Republicans, who agreed on at least one thing: Her groundbreaking campaign gave little girls a gift. The idea of a female president doesn't sound so far-fetched anymore. Here are two timely books for girls — and boys. In "Grace for President," by Kelly DiPucchio (Hyperion, \$15.99), a spunky elementary school student is appalled when her teacher puts up a poster of the U.S. presidents. "Where are the girls?" Grace Campbell asks. After fuming for a bit, Grace announces she wants to be president when she grows up. Judging on the class décor, it's a fair guess the story takes place during election season. The teacher, Mrs. Barrington, seizes on Grace's interest to arrange to elect a president of Woodrow Wilson Elementary School. Grace will run, of course. But Thomas Cobb, her formidable opponent, is school spelling bee champion, captain of the soccer team and habitual blue ribbon winner at the science fair. DiPucchio and illustrator LeUyen Pham do a terrific job capturing the excitement and hard work of a campaign. They even attempt to explain the Electoral College. Grace campaigns with passion. Thomas starts out that way, but soon he calculates that the boys holds slightly more electoral votes and relaxes back into spelling, science and soccer. DiPucchio and Pham pack a lot into a picture book — real-life lessons and enough fun and excitement to keep both boys and girls hooked.



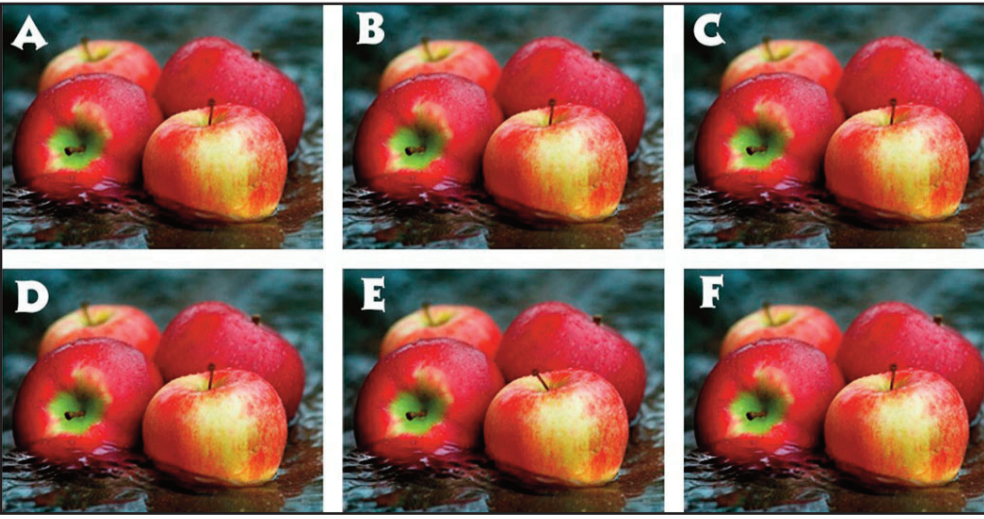
"Madam President: The Extraordinary, True (and Evolving) Story of Women in Politics," by Catherine Thimmesh (Houghton Mifflin, \$8.95), is itself evolving. First published in 2004, this revised edition features updated information on Clinton, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and U.S. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice. As in the earlier version, a girl and her friends discuss her presidential aspirations interspersed with 23 biographies of important women in politics. The book's fun illustrations are by Douglas B. Jones and the writing is engaging and lively. Rice's bio starts: "She is Teflon tough. Supergirl strong. But even the best of the best have weaknesses, and hers happens to be shoes: flats, pumps, spikes."
— Rebecca Young, McClatchy Newspapers



Puzzle Play

FIND THE ODD APPLE OUT

One of these pictures is a little different than the others. Find the oddball.



Help!

A bad case of the birthday blues

DEAR AMERICAN GIRL: My friend is having her birthday party on the same day I am. She sent out her invitations sooner than I did. This is my 10th birthday — my first double-digit party — and I wanted to make it special. But how can I if no one shows up? — Birthdazed
■ Since it's your first double-digit birthday, why not have a double party with your friend? Discuss it with your mom and see if your friend would share her date. That way, the guests wouldn't have to choose just one party. Or you could have your party later in the day or a week later. If you've already sent the invitations, you could call each guest to let her know the new info.

DEAR AMERICAN GIRL: Sometimes my little cousins want to play with me. However, they like to play tea party and babyish things like that. If I say no, they'll be sad and I'll get in trouble. — Helpless
■ To your cousins, it's a treat to play with a "big girl" like you. Of course they're disappointed when you refuse. Be patient and play with them for just a little while. If a tea party isn't your thing, dig out some old toys or games you enjoyed when you were their age. Your family will love that you're being a great cousin. Visit americangirl.com to get or give advice.
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