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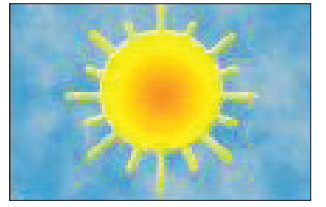
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BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 16, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 274

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Benefits going up

Social Security payouts to increase by 5.8 percent

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER**

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Social Security benefits for 50 million people will be go up 5.8 percent next year, the largest increase in more than a quarter century.

The increase, which will start in January, was announced Thursday by the Social Security Administration. It will mean an additional \$63 per month for the average retiree.

The increase is the largest since a 7.4 percent jump in 1982 and is more than double the 2.3 percent rise that retirees got in their monthly checks starting in January of this year.

“Right now many senior citizens are feeling depressed because things seem out of control. They feel like they are in a boat being whipped around by rough seas.”

Sung Won Sohn, economics professor

The typical retiree's monthly check will go from \$1,090 currently to \$1,153.

But the fatter Social Security check may still seem puny to millions of retirees battered this year by huge increases in energy and food costs who have also watched helplessly as their retirement savings have been assaulted by the biggest upheavals on Wall Street in seven decades.

“Right now many senior citizens are feeling depressed because things seem out of control. They feel like they are in a boat being whipped around by rough seas,” said Sung Won Sohn, an economics professor at the Smith School of Business at California State University. “Their purchasing power has been going down because of higher prices for food and energy and a lot of other things while their savings have taken a hit because of what is happening in the markets.”

The market turbulence has continued this week with the Dow Jones industrial average plunging by 733 points on Wednesday, the second largest point drop on record. Earlier this month, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that Americans' retirement plans have lost as much as \$2 trillion over the last 15 months — more than 20 percent of their value — because of all the market upheaval.

With all the gloomy news, retirees may take little comfort in the new cost of living adjustment. The benefit change is based on the amount the Consumer Price Index increases from July through September

See **BENEFITS**, Page 3A

Show and sale on tap



File photo

Lloyd Claxton of the Mustang Draw Woodcarvers Club displays several of his creations during the club's 2007 Show and Sale at the Dora Roberts Community Center. This year's event will be held Friday and Saturday.

Woodcarvers' annual event Friday, Saturday at Community Center; no cost for admission

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

The Mustang Draw Woodcarvers Club's 17th annual Show and Sale kicks off Friday at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

Club members from across the Permian Basin will be in Big Spring the next two days, exhibiting their best creations and offering many for sale.

Admission is free to the event, which runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

Friday, club members will have their work judged in a variety of categories, ranging from religious icons to caricatures to miniatures. The top two overall entries, regardless of category, will win Best

of Show or Judge's Choice honors.

On Saturday, the public is invited to browse and buy from a large number of items on sale.

“If you want to get an early jump on Christmas shopping, this is the perfect place to do it,” said James Fryar, club member. “We'll also hold a give-away for a hard-carved Christmas tree with more than 100 ornaments, and a nativity scene, also hand-carved.”

Fryar estimated that close to 1,000 people would visit the club's Show and Sale before its conclusion Saturday evening.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

What: 17th Annual Mustang Draw Woodcarvers Club Show and Sale.

Where: Dora Roberts Civic Center, 100 Whipkey Drive.

When: 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

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Obama edging into W.Va., other GOP states

By **CHRISTOPHER WILLS**

Associated Press Writer

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Leading in polls and exuding confidence, Democrat Barack Obama is edging into traditionally GOP states — now including West Virginia — as Republican John McCain looks to protect his turf less than three weeks before the election.

On the heels of the campaign's final debate, the

Democrat is launching TV ads in West Virginia, which George W. Bush won four years ago and hadn't been on the list of target states until recently, according to two Democrats with knowledge of the strategy.

Obama lost West Virginia in the Democratic primary to Hillary Rodham Clinton as he struggled to win over working-class whites. But Democrats say the economic turmoil in the hard-hit state

and TV ads Obama has been running in its neighbors have made West Virginia competitive. These Democrats spoke on the condition of anonymity to avoid angering the campaign.


They say Obama's campaign also is considering pouring money into reliably Republican Kentucky and may yet return to the airwaves in North Dakota and Georgia. Those are two states Obama had tried to put in

play over the summer, but he pulled out when they appeared out of reach.

The Illinois senator sounded increasingly optimistic at a breakfast fundraiser at the New York City Metropolitan Club.


“We now have 19 days,” Obama said. “We are now 19 days not from the end but from the beginning. The amount of work that is going

See **OBAMA**, page 3A




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FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL PREVIEW

Area roundup: GC finally holds homecoming

By **JONATHAN HULL**
Sports Editor

GARDEN CITY — It was supposed to occur three weeks ago, but better late than never.

The Garden City faithful finally get to celebrate a homecoming football game Friday as the Bearkats (6-1, 1-0) host the Amarillo Holy Cross Mustangs (1-6).

The Bearkats homecoming game was originally slated for Sept. 26 against El Paso Immanuel Christian, but they were forced to reschedule after Immanuel forfeited due to a number of its players

being ineligible as well as financial reasons.

Garden City hustled and had originally scheduled the Star Lions for this spot, but ended up bringing in Holy Cross instead.

The Bearkats are fresh off an impressive 51-6 victory over Sterling City, giving them a win to open Division I, District 7 play.

All-state utility back Jake Schwartz led the Bearkats, scoring five touchdowns with four of them coming via receptions.

The Mustangs are on a five-game losing streak with their most recent defeat coming at the hands

of cross-town rival Amarillo Heritage Classical, 57-19.

Stanton at Seagraves

STANTON — Stanton's Buffaloes (2-4, 1-0) got exactly the type of performance they needed to start the District 7-A season last week, riding the legs of running back Robbie Noland to a 21-14 victory over Forsan.

Noland racked up 272 yards and scored twice on 42 carries. The

See **AREA**, Page 4B



Courtesy photo/James Schwartz
Garden City's Brett Chudej dives for a pass from Levi Schaeffer in the Bearkats 51-6 victory over Sterling City last week. The Bearkats host Amarillo Holy Cross Friday.

Steers still forced to play shorthanded

Beat up Big Spring faces Plainview without starters

By **JONATHAN HULL**
Sports Editor

Adversity has encompassed the Big Spring Steers football team all season. There's no reason for the trials to end now.

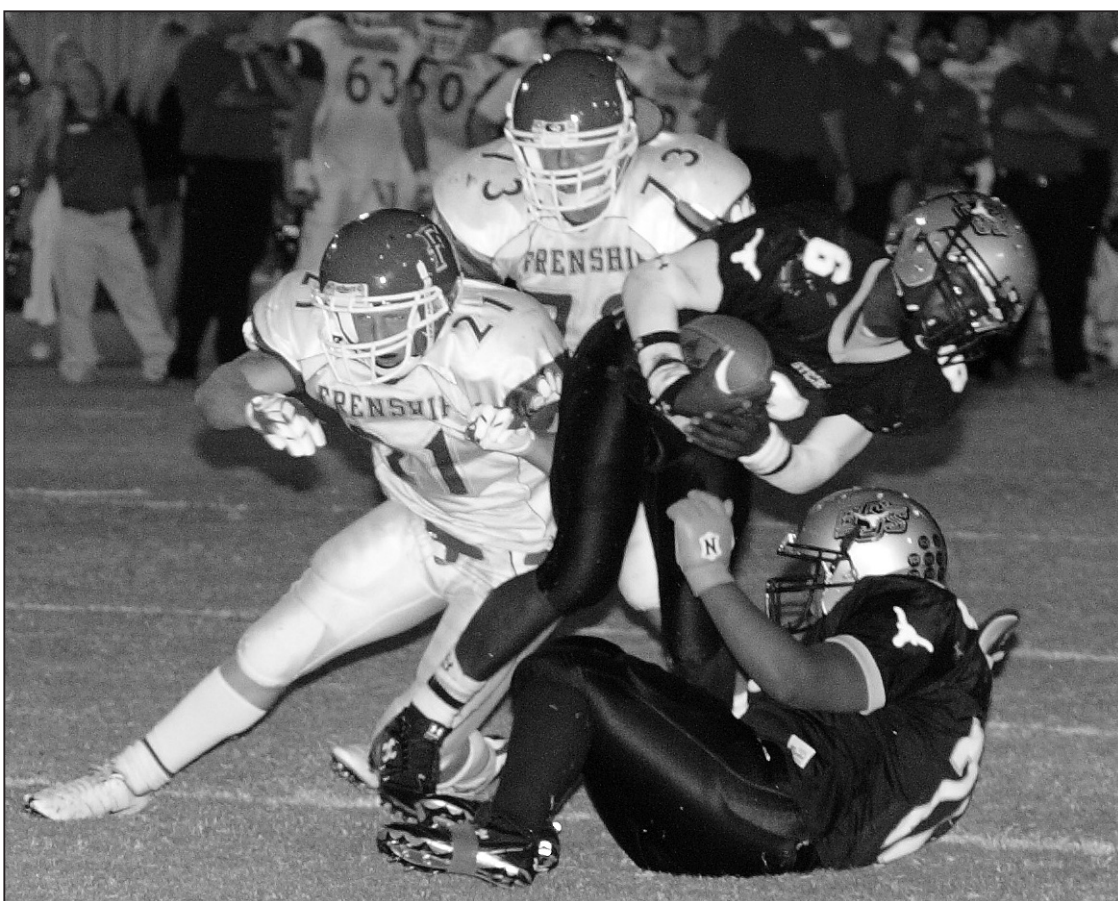
For a second consecutive game, the Steers (3-3, 0-1) will be without several starters as they travel to take on the Plainview Bulldogs (2-4, 0-1) at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Big Spring lost all-state middle linebacker Cade Hollandsworth and outside linebacker Martin Yanez three weeks ago against Sweetwater. The most disheartening injuries came less than 24 hours before Big Spring's District 4-4A opener vs. Frenship last week, though.

Four Steers starters — Monte Anderson, Tyron Clemons, Steven Henry and Quentin Ausbie — were involved in a one-vehicle accident last Thursday with all of them suffering concussions of some degree. Of the four, only Ausbie has been cleared to play. Clemons and Henry are expected to be out.

Anderson, on the other hand, is a question mark and could be a game-time decision.

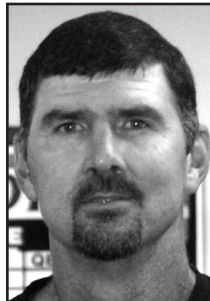
"Monte is our biggest question right now as far as injuries go," said Big Spring Head



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton
Big Spring's Zamir Linton (6) is hit by a Frenship defender as he crosses the goal line in action from the Steers 39-21 loss to Frenship in District 4-4A play last week. The Steers travel to Plainview Friday still in search of their first district win.

Coach Phillip Ritchey. "There is a chance he could play and if he's able to give it a go, then we obviously want him on the field. If he can't, then we think we'll be OK with Zamir (Linton) lining up at running back."

Anderson went into last week as the dis-



Ritchey

trict's leading rusher, but lost his grasp on the lead after not playing. Still, the junior all-state tailback leads the Steers in rushing, racking up 598 yards and seven touchdowns in five games.

Filling in for Anderson last week vs. Frenship was his older cousin Linton, who totaled 100 yards and two touchdowns on 19 carries.

See **STEERS**, Page 2B

Forsan prepped for powerhouse

Sundown pays a visit to the Buffaloes Friday

By **JEFF LANE**

Special to the Herald

After losing their district opener to Stanton last week, the Forsan Buffaloes (1-5, 0-1) will face what could be their toughest challenge of the year as they host the Sundown Roughnecks at Buffalo Stadium at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

The Buffs fell short of a second half comeback bid last week, 21-14, while the Roughnecks dispatched Plains, 34-10.

With only six teams in District 7-A, winning becomes a matter of high priority if one intends to compete for a playoff berth. For the Buffs, falling to 0-2 could be disastrous.

"Every game is crucial with three playoff spots on the line and just six teams," said Buffs Head Coach Tommy Thompson. "I would say every game is a must win, but another loss at this point isn't necessarily a death nail regarding the postseason."

Sundown, a state semifinalist from 2007, comes into this week's contest with a 4-2 record, dropping two early games in the non-district portion of the year. They are a heavy favorite, not only in this game, but to win the district.

"We know exactly what we are up against," Thompson said. "Sundown is definitely the favorite, but the pressure is on them. Honestly, we aren't expected to win so we have nothing to lose in that regard. That can make a team very dangerous."

The Roughnecks rely on a big running game that showcases senior running back John Heffley, who scored 33 touchdowns last season while rushing for over 2,100 yards.

"Heffley is as good as any back we've seen this year," Thompson

See **FORSAN**, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler
Coahoma running back P.J. Daylong (3) turns the corner as teammate Macy Bailey (50) pulls out in front of him to make a block in the Bulldogs 29-22 district loss to Jim Ned last week. Coahoma hosts Ballinger at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Coahoma looks to improve history with Ballinger

By **BRANDON HALLFORD**

Special to the Herald

COAHOMA — After last week's 29-22 district loss to the Jim Ned Indians, one was able to tell first-year Coahoma Bulldogs Head Coach Stacy Martin knew it was a game the Bulldogs very easily could have won.

"We just came out flat in the first half and you can't do that against a good team," Martin said. "We are happy with the way the boys fought back, but on the other hand, you just can't have the kind of mistakes we did and expect to win."

In their last two games, the Bulldogs (4-2, 0-1) have been exploited defensively for a 224-yards per game average on the ground — a fact that has not escaped Martin.

"There were a few plays that neither the defensive line or the linebackers did their jobs on," Martin said. "We are going to have to have someone step up and show some

See **COAHOMA**, Page 2B

Team	Dist.	Overall
Sundown	1-0	4-2
Seagraves	1-0	3-3
Stanton	1-0	2-4
Plains	0-1	4-2
Forsan	0-1	1-5
Tahoka	0-1	1-5

Week 7 schedule: Stanton at Seagraves, Sundown at Forsan, Plains at Tahoka.

CROSSROADS FOOTBALL SCOREBOARD

WEEK 7

Big Spring
(3-3, 0-1)
at
Plainview
(2-4, 0-1)

Sundown
(4-2, 1-0)
at
Forsan
(1-5, 0-1)

Ballinger
(3-3, 1-0)
at
Coahoma
(4-2, 0-1)

Fort Davis
(6-0, 1-0)
at
Garden City
(6-1, 1-0)

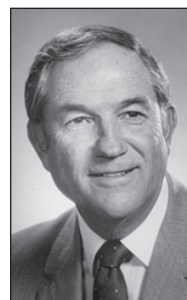
Stanton
(2-4, 1-0)
at
Seagraves
(3-3, 1-0)

Westbrook
(2-5, 1-0)
at
Sands
(4-2, 0-0)

Grady
(5-1, 1-0)
at
O'Donnell
(5-1, 1-0)

Obituaries

Harold L. Davis



Harold L. Davis, age 84, of Big Spring, died Monday, Oct. 13, 2008, at his home. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, 2008, at the First Baptist Church with the Rev. Dr. Kenneth Patrick of San Angelo officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive guests Friday, Oct. 17, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Harold was born Feb. 17, 1924, in Denton County. He graduated from Denton High School at age 15. He attended the University of North Texas for three years, where he was president of his fraternity. He lettered on the basketball team and helped lead the team to a third place finish at the national tournament.

World War II came along during this time and he joined the U.S. Marine Corps Officer Training Program. During this time he was able to complete his bachelor's degree from Louisiana Tech University. After completing boot camp and officer training school and receiving his commission, he was assigned to the Fourth Marine Corps Division in the Pacific. During the battle of Iwo Jima, Harold was wounded and received the Purple Heart. Despite his wounds, he continued in command of his company and withheld a strong enemy counterattack, accounting for more than 100 Japanese being annihilated. For this action, he was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

After returning from the war, Harold went back to the University of North Texas where he completed his master's degree. It was there that Harold met and fell in love with his future bride, Janell Wood. They were married July 14, 1947, on the Bride and Groom Radio Program in Hollywood, Calif.

Just prior to the wedding, Harold had accepted the position as the first basketball coach at Howard College. It took him only two years to start a basketball dynasty at Howard. In only four years, his young teams had participated in three NJCAA basketball tournaments and won a conference championship and state championship.

At this time, since Harold was a member of the United States Marine Corps Reserve, he was recalled into the Marine Corps for the Korean War. After returning from this tour of duty, he picked up right where he left off with his coaching duties at Howard. His first team finished the year with 34 wins and 4 losses and won the conference championship, regional championship and reached the Final Four at the NJCAA National Tournament. From that year on, his teams averaged 24 wins and only 8 losses per season. In his 11 years at Howard College, his teams won four conference championships, qualifying for nine NJCAA regional tournaments, and earned a berth in five state tournaments, winning one of them. His Jayhawk squads finished twice as the regional finalist and twice were crowned regional champions, advancing to the NJCAA National Tournament; reaching the Final Four in one tournament. In addition to coaching basketball, he also coached the baseball team winning several championships and led the golf team to two state championships.

It was during these years that Harold and Janell had their three children. Nancy was born Nov. 7, 1953, but unfortunately lived only a brief 12 hours. Alan was born Dec. 30, 1954, and Chris was born Nov. 4, 1957.

Because of his successful career at Howard College, Harold was offered the position as head basketball coach at the University of Texas at El Paso. Again, starting with only one returning letterman, he produced a winning team by the second year.

In 1961, Harold made a difficult decision to leave his successful coaching career and took on a new challenge in the business world. He returned to Big Spring to join his longtime friend, George McAlister, in the initial stages of Gamco Industries Inc. His tradition of success continued as he eventually rose to the position of president and chairman of the board of Gamco. Later, Gamco was purchased by Siboney Corporation of New York and Harold was appointed as a member of their board. He was soon promoted as the executive vice president and chief operating officer of the parent company with the responsibility of oversight of their eight subsidiary companies.

Harold was also a very dedicated civic worker. At one time, he found himself serving on 10 different community boards at the same time. He served three separate terms on the Big Spring Chamber of Commerce Board and two separate terms on the West Texas Chamber of Commerce Board in Abilene. He also served on the boards of the United Way, Boy Scouts, YMCA, Howard County Hospital Authority, Medical Center Memorial Hospital, Big Spring Country Club, American Business Club, Howard County Tax Appraisal and two terms on the City Parks and Recreation. He assumed leadership roles as president and campaign chairman of the United Fund, chairman of the Parks and Recreation Board, president of the Big Spring Country Club and vice chairman of the Boy Scouts of America. He was also a director and member of the executive committee of the Security State Bank.

Harold's all-time favorite board was Howard College where he was appointed as a trustee in 1971, and then subsequently elected to the position six times by the voters of Howard County Precinct 3, serving for 37 years until the time of his death. He served as the chairman of the board of trustees on several occasions. He also served as a director for the Howard College San Angelo Foundation. He was very dedicated to Howard College and his obligation as a trustee, making every attempt to attend games and special events throughout the years. Although he had been experiencing failing health, his sense of duty compelled him to continue to attend all

monthly board meetings even as recent as the Sept. 22 board meeting held on the South West Collegiate Institute for the Deaf campus of Howard College.

He also found time to help with the children of the community by spending 10 years of his life coaching Gra-Y football and basketball and Little League baseball, and Sophomore and Teenage Baseball.

At the same time he was busy with his community endeavors, he was also actively serving on the board of Gamco in addition to serving on the boards of Siboney Corporation of New York, Miller's Visual Aids in Fort Worth, Deep Flex Plastics in Fort Worth, Siboney Communications in Dallas and Siboney Resources in St. Louis.

Harold has been the recipient of many other honors in addition to the recognition he received for his actions on Iwo Jima. He was named as Big Spring's Man of the Year in 1997. He received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of North Texas in 2000 and was named a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International. Other prestigious honors include inductions to the Texas Junior College Coaches Hall of Honor, Howard College's Athletic Hall of Fame and the Western Junior College Athletic Association "Hall of Fame" as the first inductee. In recognition of his leadership in the establishment of a successful athletic program tradition and in honor of his service to Howard College, the physical education building was named the Harold Davis Fitness Center in 1990 and the basketball court in the coliseum arena was named in his honor on the occasion of his induction to the WJCAC Hall of Fame in 2005.

Harold was a long time member and deacon of the First Baptist Church, having joined in 1954. He served on several vital committees such as the Building Committee for the current church and many times on the finance and budget committees. His singing talent and love for gospel music was shared through solos and quartets throughout the years, both in his church as well as in professional performances.

Hobbies included watching sports, playing golf with family and long-time friends, actually achieving two hole-in-ones, as well as fishing on summer family vacations.

He is survived by his wife, Janell of 61 years; one son, Alan Davis and wife Mary of Abilene; one daughter, Chris Manis and husband Bob of Aledo; four grandchildren, Rebecca Davis and Claire Davis of Abilene, Lesha Manis of Fort Worth and Matthew Manis of College Station; several nieces and nephews; and loving family dog, Taco.

He was preceded in death by an infant daughter, Nancy in 1953; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. O.V. Davis; one sister, Mrs. Lauretta Collins; and many close friends.

Pallbearers will be Mark Adams, Dr. Reg Cranford, Stan Feaster, Terry Hansen, Paschal Odum, A.J. Pirkle, Dr. Charles Warren and Robert Dallas Williams.

Honorary pallbearers will be Doc Tindol, R.H. Weaver, Dr. Cheri Sparks, Don McKinney, Harold Hall, Dr. John Freeman, Marie Ethridge, Michael Flores, Murray Murphy, Casey Jones, Jimmy Joe Robinson, Jack Barron, Bill Fletcher and the First Baptist Church deacon body.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggest memorials to Howard College, Harold Davis Scholarship Fund, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring 79720.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Paid obituary

Marguerite Phillips



Marguerite Phillips, 98, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2008, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 17, 2008, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Derrick Looney, pastor of First Baptist Church in Forsan, officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

She was born June 3, 1910, in Glasscock County and married V.E. "Vic" Phillips Dec. 3, 1928, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death Feb. 9, 1996.

She was a member of the Forsan Sewing Club, the Glasscock County Home Demonstration Club and the First Baptist Church in Forsan.

Survivors include one daughter and son-in-law, Virginia and Ervin Bridge of Lomax; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Charles and Lois Phillips of Big Spring and Gene Phillips of Plains; six grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, three brothers and one sister.

The family suggests memorials to the donor's favorite charity.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

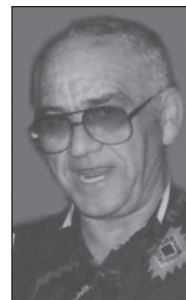
William Bohannon

William Bohannon, 83, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2008, in a local nursing home. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

James Leon Alexander

James Leon Alexander, 55, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2008, at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Keith Carey



Keith Carey, 68, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2008, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Memorial Services will be at 3 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Elwin Collom, pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Keith was born Dec. 11, 1939, in Levelland. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy Seabees and was on active duty during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Keith

was a barber at Webb AFB and was later an auctioneer with Dub Bryant. He later owned Keith Carey Auction Company in the Metroplex. Keith was past president of the Texas Auctioneers Association and was instrumental in forming the Texas School for Auctioneers, as well as state regulation and licensing for auctioneers. He returned to Big Spring in 1998 and was a member of Hillcrest Baptist Church.

He is survived by his son: Ron K. Carey and his wife Leslie of Mansfield; one daughter: D'Ayn Carey Summers and her husband Shawn of Alvarado; five grandchildren: Autumn Lee Carey, Marilyn Ann Carey, M'Randa Cheyenne Martin, Sydney Ann Summers and Trinity Cordellia Summers; one brother: Mike Carey of Big Spring; and dear friend: Carol Anderson of Big Spring.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Barbara and Joe Kilpatrick; one brother: Gary Don Carey; and one sister: Pat Roberson.

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

Paid obituary

Mary Eileen Thompson



Mary Eileen Thompson, 80, of Perryville, Mo., died Oct. 13, 2008, at Independence Care Center in Perryville. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 17, 2008, at Miller Family Funeral Home Chapel in Perryville. Burial will be in Whitewater Christian Cemetery, Perry County, Mo. Visitation will be from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, at the Miller Family Funeral Home.

She was born April 12, 1928, in Detroit Mich., to Noel E. Johnson and Hazel M. Eugas Johnson. She married Richard E. Thompson April 16, 1947, in Arkansas. He preceded her in death Dec. 4, 1991.

Mrs. Thompson was a pharmacy billing clerk. She had been a school teacher in rural Perry County. She was a member of the Church of Christ.

Survivors include two daughters, Connie Johnson and husband Clyde of Perryville, Mo., and Kitty Schrecengost and husband Rocky of Mineola; two sons, Ronald Thompson and wife Lela of Big Spring, and Tim Thompson and wife Penny of Waynesville, Ga.; a brother, Dan Johnson of Perryville, Mich.; nine grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and a sister, Alma Thompson.

Memorials may be made to the Whitewater Christian Church Cemetery Fund.

Ginny Crawford

Ginny Crawford, 62, of Big Spring died Thursday, Oct. 16, 2008, in an Odessa hospice facility. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 1-12-17-37-48-50
Number matching six of six: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 6-9-16-17-22
Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-1-6-3. Sum It Up: 19.

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PIGSKIN PREDICTIONS

This week's games



Jonathan Hull



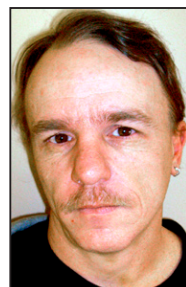
Jeff Lane



Robert Smith



Troy Hyde



Brandon Hallford



Art Barrera



Tim Knox

Big Spring at Plainview
Sundown at Forsan
Ballinger at Coahoma
Ama. Holy Cross at Garden City
Grady at O'Donnell
Westbrook at Sands
Stanton at Seagraves
BYU at TCU
Texas Tech at Texas A&M
Missouri at Texas
Baylor at Oklahoma State
Kansas at Oklahoma
Kansas State at Colorado
Vanderbilt at Georgia
Ohio St. at Michigan St.
Houston at SMU
LSU at South Carolina
Cowboys at Rams
Texans at Lions
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Vikings at Bears
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Colts at Packers
Browns at Redskins
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Last week
To date

14-11 .560
118-56 .678

16-9 .640
120-54 .690

12-13 .480
118-56 .678

16-9 .640
121-53 .695

14-11 .560
115-69 .661

10-15 .400
110-64 .632

11-14 .440
109-65 .626

STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

"Zamir is the fastest player on the team and a special player," said Ritchey after last week's game. "We depend on him at several positions. He's a great athlete and an even better competitor."

In the past three games, Big Spring has turned into a one-dimensional offense, unable to consistently be effective in the passing game. One of the biggest reasons airing it out has been an issue for the Steers is starting quarterback Matt Ritchey having a sore back.

However, the Steers are hope-

ful relief for Ritchey is finally here as junior Tyler Tannehill attempts to play again this week. In Big Spring's 39-21 loss to Frenship, Tannehill was on the field for just three plays before taking a hit that forced him out of the game. Staying on the field has been an issue for him this year as he suffered a knee injury in Big Spring's second scrimmage.

"Tyler is going to see some playing time, but it's hard to say how much it will be," said Phillip Ritchey. "That knee is going to be a problem. We don't know if he's going to only be available for a few plays or for an entire

District 4-4A Football Standings & Schedule

Team	Dist.	Overall
Frenship	1-0	6-0
Lake View	1-0	4-2
Cooper	1-0	3-3
Big Spring	0-1	3-3
Hereford	0-1	2-4
Plainview	0-1	2-4

Week 7 schedule: Big Spring at Plainview, Hereford at Frenship, Cooper at Lake View.

game. He's the best passer on the team, though. He's got a strong arm and brings a dimension to

the offense we're lacking right now."

This season has been a struggle on both sides of the ball for Plainview, which is coming off a 40-21 loss to San Angelo Lake View last week.

The Bulldogs are giving up 346 yards a game, while earning just 200 yards a game on offense. More than half of those yards come via the ground game as the Bulldogs average 135 yards rushing a game. They've been outscored by their six opponents by an average of 26-12.

Running back Melvin Shivers is the centerpiece of Plainview's offense. Shivers has

carried the ball 101 times for 483 yards, but has scored just two times this season.

"Plainview has a very strong run game," admitted Ritchey. "Their struggling, but Shivers is a very talented back and runs hard."

"We're having our own struggles as well," he continued. "I don't think we'll overlook them because it's been a few weeks since we last played a complete game. We need a district win just as bad as they do. This is a big game. Neither team wants to start of district play 0-2."

Contact Sports Editor Jonathan Hull by calling 263-7331, ext. 237, or by e-mailing sports@big-springherald.com.

COAHOMA

Continued from Page 1B

emotion out there. I don't know what it is going to take, but something is going to have to happen."

Offensively, the Bulldogs showed the ability to move the ball on the ground. They've also recently discovered an air attack Martin believes will continue to improve.

"We are trying to spread the ball around to force teams to defend more than just the run," Martin said. "When we are able to do that it opens up the run game."

"I think that the boys know that they could have won that

game," he continued. "We just told them that they can't get too down. It's just one loss and there are four games left, so we are not in that much trouble. We have the ability to play with anyone. We just have to eliminate the dumb mistakes."

This week, the Bulldogs face an opponent they are very familiar with in the Ballinger Bearcats (3-3, 1-0) a team that was picked to win the district title and ran over the Wall Hawks, 21-0.

"They have a really good team," Martin said. "They are big and fast and have quite a few starters back from last year's team."

Last year, the Bearcats faced the Bulldogs twice, winning

District 7-2A Football Standings & Schedule

Team	Dist.	Overall
Colorado	1-0	4-2
Ballinger	1-0	3-3
Jim Ned	1-0	3-3
Coahoma	0-1	4-2
Grape Creek	0-1	3-3
Wall	0-1	2-4

Week 7 schedule: Ballinger at Coahoma, Colorado City at Jim Ned, Wall at Ballinger.

both games by 22 and 15 points, respectively, with the second contest serving as a bi-district playoff game.

Martin noted that contest really should not have an affect on this year's game.

"It may give the boys a little bit of motivation, but that was last year," Martin said. "We have to go out and play the game now and not worry about that stuff. If we play the way I think we are capable of, then we will be alright. But if we don't make smart choices, then we are going to be in trouble."

The Bearcats are led by quarterback Tucker Travis. Last week against Wall, Travis was 16-24 with 179 yards through the air with Nathan Kalina being his favorite target, accounting for 100 yards on six catches. However, those aren't the only

two weapons Ballinger possesses as running back Aaron Quiroga and receiver Matthew Rodriguez also give Martin reason to be concerned.

"They have talent at the skill positions," he admitted. "All of their backs and receivers are quick and physical. We are going to have our work cut out for us."

However, it was not the offense that provided the spark for the Bearcats last week as Ballinger held Wall to just 141 total yards, including just two completions for 14 passing yards.

"They are quick and swarm to the ball real well," Martin said. "They don't try and trick you, they just line up in a base defense and come at you."



Courtesy photo

Forsan's Jace Sandridge (40) runs past two Stanton defenders last Friday at Buffalo Stadium in Stanton. Forsan lost 21-14 and hosts Sundown Friday, attempting to win its first district game of the season.

FORSAN

Continued from Page 1B

said, "but they have three or four backs they will use to keep the defense guessing who is getting the ball."

Thompson said the Roughnecks are not afraid to throw the ball as well and have gifted receivers who will make big catches if the quarterback is given time to throw.

The Buffs will have to call upon their young offensive line this week, according to Thompson, if they expect to have any success moving the ball. He said practices have gotten better each day this week and the line is playing as a real unit.

Also expected to have big roles against Sundown are Ryan Flores and Zane Herrin as they lead the charge to slow down the Roughnecks offense. Thompson will also continue dialing up freshman Ty Johnson's number to try and keep the offense moving. Forsan, who has had two losses

of 7 points or less, is still looking for a way to get over the hump and win in close situations.

"We have to play solid football for four quarters," said Thompson. "A complete game includes making no mistakes on special teams, controlling the tempo with ball control, putting points on the board, getting defensive stops and creating turnovers."

The Buffs are generally healthy at this point in the season with only Jace Sandridge being listed as a game-time decision due to bruised ribs suffered against Stanton.

However, they will be without a couple key players due to academic ineligibility.

Thompson said it does not matter who is on or off the field, but the team as a whole must decide how they want this season to play out.

"This team has a lot of ability and potential," he said. "They have not yet reached the height to which they can play and a win this week would justify what I believe this squad is capable of."

Your Local Weather

Wed 3/24	Thu 3/25	Fri 3/26	Sat 3/27	Sun 3/28
52/35	50/43	57/44	47/30	47/32
Partly cloudy and windy. High 52F. Winds WSW at 20 to 30 mph.	More clouds than sun. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the low 40s.	Rain. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the mid 40s.	Considerable cloudiness. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the low 30s.	Showers. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the low 30s.

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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

- 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.
- Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Dance at the Senior Center, 1901 Simler, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

- Big Spring Shrine Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Goliad and First streets for a meal with a meeting to follow.
- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
- Big Spring Squares. Call 267-7043 or 263-6305 for more information.

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

- **ASHLEY LUNA**, 23, of 2521 Ent, was arrested Wednesday on two local warrants.
- **DAVID HEFFINGTON**, 40, of 1207 Settles, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant.
- **RAYMOND ALVEAR**, 30, transient, was arrested

Wednesday on charges of burglary of a building and evading arrest.

- **JOE HAYS**, 2, of 1200 E. 15th Street, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.
- **BENJAMIN MOORE**, 28, of 1209 Pickens, was arrested Thursday on charges of evading arrest, assault, aggravated robbery and possession of a controlled substance.

- **THEFT** was reported: in the 1600 block of Third Street.
- in the 800 block of Interstate Highway 20.
- in the 900 block of Willia.
- **MANUFACTURE/DELIVERY OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE** was reported in the 1800 block of Birdwell Lane.
- **FORGERY OF A FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT** was reported in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.

- **EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION** was reported in the 400 block of Runnels.
- **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 400 block of Runnels.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 3600 block of Connally.
- **ASSAULT BY CONTACT** was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.

Sheriff's report

session of a prohibited weapon switchblade/knuckles.

- **CHRISTI ELAINE GRANT**, 38, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a Tom Green County warrant for theft (two counts).
- **RICKY BOB YANEZ**, 23, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of

unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

- **TERESA LYNNE CHRISTON**, 45, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated - open container and a motion to revoke probation for possession of a controlled substance.
- **JACKIE RAYMOND MOORE**, 20, was trans-

ferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of impersonating a public servant.

- **JUAN BARRERA**, 51, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for theft.
- **BOBBY ALLEN BRYANT**, 37, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for theft by check.

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

- Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having a total of 55 inmates at the time of this report.
- **DAVID REY GONZALES JR.**, 20, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of pos-

Fire/EMS

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

- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 600 block of Bell. One person was transported to SMMC.

American Legion Post 506 will hold a fish fry Saturday at 3203 W. Highway 80. Delivery is available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. by calling 263-2084. Serving at the post will be held from noon to 3 p.m. Carryouts will be available. Plates are \$10 each.

The Permian Basin Foundation has awarded West Texas Opportunities Inc. \$130,000 through the Texas Resources for Iraq Afghanistan Deployment fund. WTO will assist current and former military personnel serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families. Funding will serve Howard, Martin, Andrews, Borden, Dawson, Ector, Fisher, Gaines, Glasscock,

Midland, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry and Upton counties. For more information, contact Diana Martinez or Debbie Wilson at 110 Johnson in Big Spring or call (432) 267-9536.

- 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.
- 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. Call 263-8393 for information.

Take Note

OBAMA

Continued from Page 1A

to be involved for the next president is going to be extraordinary."

But, he said, for anyone getting cocky or giddy, "two words for you: New Hampshire. I've been in these positions before where we were favored and the press starts getting carried away, and we end up getting spanked." Obama won the Iowa caucuses, only to lose to Clinton in New Hampshire in the primary.

McCain, for his part, planned to visit swing state Pennsylvania, but he also was being forced to go to Republican territory as polls show Obama with the edge in such places as Virginia, Colorado and Florida. Obama was heading in the next few days to Virginia and Missouri, states often out of reach for Democrats but up for grabs in a year with Republicans under fire.

One unique debate watcher was "Joe the Plumber" — Joe Wurzelbacher of Holland, Ohio, whose exchange with Obama about taxes and small businesses a few days earlier elicited dozens of references from the candidates during the debate.

"It floored me. It's not something I expected, ever," Wurzelbacher told "Good Morning America" on ABC. Though he wouldn't say for whom he was voting, Wurzelbacher

said Obama had a "very socialist view" of taxes."

The 90-minute debate at Hofstra University marked the beginning of a sprint to Election Day. Obama leads in the national polls and in surveys in many battleground states, an advantage built in the weeks since the nation stumbled into the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression.

Looking to shake up the race, McCain questioned Obama's character and his policies. He linked Obama to a 1960s radical, accused him of planning tax increases that would cripple the economy and said he was dishonest about a promise to accept public campaign financing.

"You didn't tell the American people the truth," the Arizona senator said.

Obama ignored that charge and remained calm throughout the debate. He often turned the accusations against McCain, calling them examples of the petty politics harming the country.

"The important point here is, though, the American people have become so cynical about our politics, because all they see is a tit-for-tat and back-and-forth," the Illinois senator said. "And what they want is the ability to just focus on some really big challenges that we face right now."

McCain went on offense from the opening moments, accusing Obama of waging class warfare by seeking tax increases.

BENEFITS

Continued from Page 1A

from one year to the next.

The increase would have been even higher, but after racing ahead earlier in the year, energy costs fell in both August and September, helping to moderate the overall price gain.

The 5.8 percent rise in the cost of living adjustment is a sharp departure from recent years. The COLA increases have been below 3 percent for all but three of the past 15 years as the Federal Reserve waged a successful campaign to keep inflation under control.

Even with the big increase, the COLA is well below the gains of the late 1970s and early 1980s when the country was in the grips of a decade-long bout of high inflation. The biggest cost of living benefit on record was a 14.3 percent increase in 1980. Social Security benefits

have been adjusted every year since 1975.

In one break for most retirees, the cost of living increase will not be eaten up by higher monthly premiums for the part of Medicare that pays for physician services. Because of gains in the Medicare Part B trust fund, that premium will hold steady at \$96.40 a month, although higher-income people including couples making more than \$170,000 annually will see their premiums increase.

Next year's cost of living increase will go to more than 55 million Americans. More than 50 million receive Social Security benefits while the rest get Supplemental Security Income payments for the poor.

The average couple, both getting Social Security benefits, will see their monthly check go up by \$103 a month to \$1,876.

The standard Supplemental Security Income payment for an individual will go from

\$956 per month to \$1,011.

The average monthly check for a disabled worker will go from \$1,006 to \$1,064.

Sens. Barack Obama and John McCain have sparred over Social Security during the presidential campaign, although neither has provided much insight

into how they would fix the government's largest entitlement program, which is facing severe strains.

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EXP. 12/30/08

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Keith Carey, 68, died Wednesday. Memorial Services will be at 3:00 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

James Leon Alexander, 55, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Fall Extravaganza Auction

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD



By Eddy Pitchford

Medications are used to relieve the discomfort that comes from eating spicy foods late at night. While some foods are more troublesome than others, the simple fact remains: *Watch what you eat or you may have problems later.*

When a person feeds his mind with negativity, it can cause problems. If an individual fills his life with hatred, acidic attitudes can develop. Should a person indulge on greed, difficulties can arise. When somebody stuffs his thinking with racism, anger, immorality or jealousy, he will be unable to enjoy the taste of love, grace and mercy.

"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are notable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things." (Philippians 4:8).

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Phillies headed to World Series

By JOHN NADEL
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — The losingest team in pro sports history was soaked in champagne and whooping it up Wednesday night.

Next stop for these Philadelphia Phillies: the World Series.

Jimmy Rollins got them rollin' with a leadoff home run, Cole Hamels pitched his third gem of the playoffs and Philadelphia beat the bumbling Los Angeles Dodgers 5-1 to win the NL championship series 4-1 for its first pennant since 1993.

"After hearing about the '93 team over and over and over again, we finally have a chance to make our mark," Rollins said. "This was an organization that I felt when I got here I wanted to try to change. And I had my opportunity to. You know, we had been used to losing."

Now, the Phillies will go for their second World Series title beginning next Wednesday night at Tampa Bay or Boston. The Rays lead the Red Sox 3-1 in the ALCS, which resumes Thursday night at Fenway Park.

Last year, the Phillies became the first professional team to lose 10,000 games. This season, the ball is bouncing their way.

The NL East champions, who didn't clinch a playoff berth until the final weekend of the season, took advantage of three errors by shortstop Rafael Furcal in the fifth inning and shrugged off another homer by Manny Ramirez.

Brad Lidge closed it out for the Phillies, who won their lone championship in 1980 by beating Kansas City in six games. They also reached the World Series in 1915, 1950, 1983 and 1993, when they lost to Toronto in six games on Joe Carter's ninth-inning homer off Mitch Williams.

Now they're headed back, carrying the hopes of a championship-starved city that hasn't had a title to celebrate since the NBA's 76ers won it all in 1983.

"This is for the city for Philadelphia," manager Charlie



AP photo/Chris Carlson

The Philadelphia Phillies celebrate on the field after beating the Los Angeles Dodgers 5-1 in Game 5 of the NLCS to advance to the World Series Wednesday in Los Angeles. The Phillies await the winner of the ALCS between the Boston Red Sox and Tampa Bay Rays.

Manuel said. "We have one more step, one big step — then we're going to make a grand parade."

You can bet your last cheesesteak, Broad Street is primed for a party. And those Philly fans, who always expect failure, can relax — at least for a week.

"These guys are going crazy right now," slugger Ryan Howard said. "I can only imagine how it is in Philadelphia."

Back home, jubilant Phillies fans poured into the city streets, jumping on cars and celebrating.

Ramirez homered in the sixth to end Hamels' shutout bid in what might have been his final game with the Dodgers. The slugging left fielder, who hit .520

with four homers, 10 RBIs and 11 walks in eight playoff games, can become a free agent after the World Series. He batted .396 with 17 homers and 53 RBIs in 53 regular-season games for the Dodgers after being acquired July 31 from Boston.

On the bench, Joe Torre came up short in the postseason again. He won four World Series in his first five years as manager of the New York Yankees from 1996-2000, but hasn't won one since. This was his first year as the Dodgers' skipper after 12 with the Yankees.

"I was proud to be their manager," Torre said. "This was an up-and-down year. I think they learned a lot. They learned to

come together. This game tonight got a little ugly in the middle with the defense, but they never stopped plugging away. And that's what John Wooden taught me a long time ago, that it's not always the club that wins that you're proudest of. And I certainly was satisfied with what I saw here."

For Manuel, it was an emotional night. His 87-year-old mother died Friday, shortly before the Phillies won 8-5 in Game 2.

"I guarantee you my mom's watching right now," he said after Wednesday's victory.

Rollins, last year's NL MVP who dropped off considerably this year, also hit a leadoff homer

in the first-round clincher at Milwaukee.

"This is definitely the first step," he said. "We've taken a lot of steps, but this is definitely the biggest step and the first step in the right direction. We've just to go out there and find a way to win four more."

Hamels, the series MVP, limited the Dodgers to five hits in seven innings. The 24-year-old lefty has allowed three runs in 22 innings during the postseason, with two wins over Los Angeles and another over the Brewers in the first round. He'll have ample rest to pitch Game 1 of the World Series.

"We were able to enjoy this moment," Hamels said. "To get an award like this is something surreal."

Ryan Madson worked a scoreless eighth and Lidge blanked Los Angeles in the ninth.

Ramirez is one of several high-profile free agents who might have played their final game for the Dodgers, along with Furcal, Nomar Garciaparra, Jeff Kent, Casey Blake, Derek Lowe and Greg Maddux.

Furcal, who missed 125 games with back problems this year before being activated in late September, tied a postseason record by committing three errors in the fifth, leading to two unearned runs.

"It's very frustrating the last game of the series at home to play like that," Furcal said. "It's very disappointing to me."

In the first, Rollins drove a full-count pitch from loser Chad Billingsley over the right-center fence. The switch-hitter came to the plate with only two hits in 17 at-bats in the series.

"They lived by the homer and they died by the homer," Torre said. "They got us this time. That was huge."

Billingsley walked Rollins, who stole second, and Chase Utley in the third before Howard and Pat Burrell hit RBI singles with two outs to make it 3-0.

See PHILLIES, Page 4B

Cowboys moving on without Pacman, Romo

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
AP Sports Writer

IRVING — Not far from the unoccupied locker of suspended cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones, receiver Roy Williams talked excitedly Wednesday about coming home to play for the Dallas Cowboys.

The still-frustrated Terrell Owens, who has struggled to get open and is without a 100-yard receiving game this season, spoke nearby. During his sometimes terse 10 minutes, T.O. said he looked forward to having Williams on the field and called Jones' situation unfortunate.

Then there was quarterback Tony Romo.

Romo made several throws during an early walkthrough, then appeared briefly in the locker room with the broken pinkie finger on his throwing hand heavily wrapped before escaping quickly without comment. Later, during part of the 25 minutes of practice open to reporters, Romo remained on the sideline with trainers.

Later Wednesday ESPN.com quoted a "high-ranking Cowboys source" that Romo had told coaches he's ready to play Sunday.

For now, the Cowboys are trying to move ahead without Romo and Jones, who is gone at least four games — maybe much longer, possibly forever.

"It's unfortunate. We can't really dwell on who's not here. We have to worry about the people that are here," Owens said. "But we still love Pacman like a brother and a teammate."

Jones is barred from the Cowboys' facility during his suspension, the full length of which will be determined by NFL commissioner Roger Goodell after Dallas plays Nov. 16 at Washington. Goodell said a lifetime ban remained a possibility.

For the Cowboys (4-2), who have lost two of their last three games, they have to overcome all the distractions and get ready to play Sunday at St. Louis.

"Our team was real focused," coach Wade Phillips said after practice Wednesday. "Some of it bands you together. That is what we try to preach. ... It's difficult, but I think it's something you

have to do."

The NFL said Jones' reinstatement will depend on strict compliance with treatment plans by the league and the Cowboys and an evaluation by "clinical experts."

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said that would include alcohol counseling for Adam Jones, though the owner wouldn't go into specifics about any of the prescribed treatment plans that would be voluntary.

Only six weeks after being reinstated from a 17-month suspension and missing the 2007 season for the Tennessee Titans because of repeated troubles, Adam Jones was involved in an alcohol-related scuffle Oct. 7 with one of his team-provided bodyguards at a private party in Dallas.

Jones is now off the team and on his own trying to get yet another chance to play in the NFL.

"He played hard for us and he gave us everything he had," Keith Davis said. "We only wish him the best, first of all. Hopefully everything goes back in his favor and he gets a chance to maybe play again."

Still, much of the talk in the locker room Wednesday was about the acquisition of Williams, a fifth-year receiver who will play opposite Owens.

"This was a good fit, and he's certainly going to help us once he gets integrated," offensive coordinator Jason Garrett said.

Williams, the Lions' 2004 first-round pick who is an Odessa native and played at the University of Texas, could take some of the defensive pressure off Owens, who has only 23 catches and has become increasingly frustrated.

Owens had only two receptions for 17 yards Sept. 21 at Green Bay, and other teams have duplicated the Packers' pressure coverage on T.O. He was still expressing frustration after he caught seven passes, took two handoffs and had 11 more balls thrown his way the next week at Washington.

T.O. broke down in tears on the sideline after a touchdown catch against Cincinnati, reading from a statement

See COWBOYS, Page 2B

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EDITORIAL

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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.

Ron Midkiff
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News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Vindicated? Palin offers Orwellian spin

Sarah Palin's reaction to the Alaska legislature's Troopergate report is an embarrassment to Alaskans and the nation.

She claims the report "vindicates" her. She said that the investigation found "no unlawful or unethical activity on my part."

Her response is either astoundingly ignorant or downright Orwellian.

Page 8, Finding Number One of the report says: "I find that Governor Sarah Palin abused her power by violating Alaska Statute 39.52.110(a) of the Alaska Executive Branch Ethics Act."

In plain English, she did something "unlawful." She broke the state ethics law.

Perhaps Gov. Palin has been too busy to actually read the Troopergate report. Perhaps she is relying on briefings from McCain campaign spinmeisters. That's the charitable interpretation.

Because if she had actually read it, she couldn't claim "vindication" with a straight face.

Palin asserted that the report found "there was no abuse of authority at all in trying to get Officer Wooten fired."

In fact, the report concluded that "impermissible pressure was placed on several subordinates in order to advance a personal agenda, to wit: to get Trooper Michael Wooten fired."

Palin's response is the kind of political "big lie" that George Orwell warned against. War is peace. Black is white. Up is down.

Gov. Palin and her camp trumpeted the report's second finding: that she was within her legal authority to fire Public Safety Commissioner Walt Monegan. But the report also said it's likely one of the reasons she fired him was his failure to get rid of her ex-brother-in-law trooper.

That's not "vindication," and surely Gov. Palin knows it.

Gov. Palin does have a defense. She could have said:

"I'm gratified that the report confirmed what I said all along, that I had the authority to terminate Walt Monegan as public safety commissioner.

"I absolutely disagree that I violated state ethics law. In repeatedly complaining about trooper Mike Wooten, Todd and I were not pursuing a personal vendetta. We were trying to protect the integrity of the Alaska State Troopers from having an arrogant, almost-out-of-control law-breaker in their ranks. Because the action we were seeking was in the public interest, not purely our personal interest, there is no ethics law violation."

Gov. Palin and her husband felt so passionately about Wooten because the case was so personal to them. Their passion blinded them to any other considerations.

They had no sense that the power of the governor's office carries a special responsibility not to use it to settle family scores. They had no sense that legal restrictions might prevent the troopers from firing Wooten. They had no sense that persistent queries from the governor's office might be perceived as pressure to bend state personnel laws.

Gov. Palin and her husband were obsessed with Wooten the way Capt. Ahab was obsessed with the Great White Whale. No Wooten, no peace.

Has Gov. Palin committed an impeachable offense? Hardly.

Is what she did indictable? No.

But it wasn't appropriate, especially for someone elected as an ethical reformer. And her Orwellian claims of "vindication" make this blemish on her record look even worse.

You asked us to hold you accountable, Gov. Palin. Did you mean it?

Bottom line: Gov. Palin, read the report. It says you violated the ethics law.

THE ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS

Still time for voters to wake up

Strapped to a polygraph on national TV, I would assert quite confidently that I would strongly condemn thuggish and criminal tactics by a candidate I supported. The ends do not justify the means for me and most other conservatives I know. I wish I believed the same were true for liberals, far too many of whom are deliberately turning their backs on the corruption defining Obama's campaign.

It would be bad enough if the Stalinesque stench engulfing the messiah's campaign were limited merely to its efforts to elect him. But what we fear is that these campaign tactics are of a piece with his policy agenda and his vision for America.

Sincerely intending no melodrama here, it's hard not to conclude that Obama aims to change America in fundamental ways, the common denominator of which would be to diminish individual liberties, the most distinguishing feature of the unique American system. Sadly, most Obama supporters have no clue what Obama is ultimately about or how his innocuous-sounding ideas could permanently destroy our freedoms.

It's inconceivable that even a low-level Republican candidate could have Obama's associations and employ his campaign tactics without being driven from the race. And yet we've got a man running for the highest office in the land surrounded with anti-American allies and covert election burglars, all protected by an unprecedented mainstream-media cover-up.

Democrats tell us they place the highest possible value on the integrity of the election process, yet their uniform response to ACORN's systematic assault on the voter registration process is unmitigated indifference and denial.

They also cavalierly dismiss Obama's undeniable connection to

ACORN, as detailed by Mark Levin at "The Corner" blog on National Review Online. Obama worked for and represented ACORN and has given \$800,000 to it from his campaign. Remember how Democrats were ready to hang Republican politicians who might have gone to lunch with lobbyist pariah Jack Abramoff? You want to talk to me about guilt by association? But Obama's deep associations with corrupt people and organizations don't so much as flicker the liberal eyebrow.

We now know about the investigations of ACORN-related voter registration fraud in 10 states. But have you heard some of the particulars about its nefarious activities in Pennsylvania?

The American Spectator's Jeffrey Lord reports: "Between March 23rd and October 1st, various groups, including ACORN, submitted over 252,595 registrations to the Philadelphia County Election Board" with 57,435 rejected for faulty information. "Most of these registrations were submitted by ACORN, and rejected due to fake social security numbers, incorrect dates of birth, clearly fraudulent signatures, addresses that do not exist, and duplicate registrations. In one case, a man was registered to vote more than 15 times since the Primary election."

There's no innocent explanation for any of this in Pennsylvania or for similar ACORN activities in other states. Why aren't honest Democrats joining Republicans in crying foul? How can they be so willfully blind to these threats to our system? I guarantee that if you ask, they'll give you their favorite liberal dodge, "Both sides are doing it." Dream on.

Just as alarming as the Obama left's direct assaults on the electoral process are their totalitarian tactics to chill their opponents' political speech.

Don't think it's just Democratic attorneys in St. Louis misusing their power and the law as speech-suppressing weapons. Investor's Business Daily's editorial writers

bullet point a number of egregious examples.

Lawyers for Obama wrote intimidating letters to television and radio stations that aired National Rifle Association ads in Pennsylvania detailing Obama's anti-gun record.

The Obama campaign complained to the Department of Justice when the American Issues Project had the audacity to run an ad tying Obama to violent revolutionary William Ayers, which scared some stations out of airing the spot.

Obama's army of supporters inundated radio station WGN with harassing phone calls and e-mails to disrupt its interviews of conservative writers investigating Obama's sordid background.

This was the Obama campaign's chosen alternative to sending a representative to debate the conservatives, which they were invited to do.

As IBD points out, this is just a glimpse of what's in store for free conservative speech in an Obama administration, starting with the resurrection of the Fairness Doctrine, which is designed to emasculate conservative radio, the last best hope to prevent a full-blown socialist revolution.

It is no coincidence that the alarming tactics of the Obama campaign are compatible with Obama's policy agenda, which he's promised ACORN a role in crafting. The campaign's efforts to steal the election, if necessary, and suppress the constitutionally protected expression of its opponents aligns with its plans for government to subsume the health care industry and to use the tax code to punish success and further erode private property, the backbone of liberty.

If I sound like an alarmist, then mission accomplished. People better wake up before it's too late.

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.



DAVID
LIMBAUGH

Say goodnight, Jesse

Barack Obama victory in less than three weeks will mean many things at home and abroad. It will mean a new team on foreign and domestic policy and new political leadership for both the Democratic Party and the country. And it will mean, finally, the end of any excuse to listen to the self-involved, selfish and stupid rantings of the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

Earlier this year, Jackson made a complete fool of himself with his jealous tirade against Obama, spoken into an open mike and ultimately heard by millions. It doesn't bear repeating, and I would not be writing about it today were it not for the sad but not surprising fact that Jackson is now selling himself as a member of Obama's "family" — or vice versa — and pontificating in an ignorant and divisive way about the changes an Obama administration will bring.

If you didn't know better, you might think Jackson wants Obama to lose. And I wouldn't be surprised if he does. A President Obama makes Jackson politically irrelevant.

Jackson's latest outburst came during the inaugural World Policy Forum held at some fancy resort in France. The only surprise here is that it seems to have taken almost a week for Jackson's drivel to reach American shores. But it's arrived now, proving once again that the man who once called New York "Hymietown" has learned very little from his mistakes.

If you haven't seen it yet, you will. Check out www.drudgereport.com. The headline is impossible to overlook. "Jesse Jackson: Under Obama, 'decades of putting Israel's interests first' would end." Accord-

ing to Jackson, the "Zionists who have controlled American policy for decades" will lose clout.

Could he have really said these things? So it appears. But why?

Let's eliminate the obvious reasons for concern about such a comment. Could Jackson know something about Obama's plans that the rest of us don't? Short answer: No. Jackson didn't pretend — how could he? — to be an Obama adviser or confidant. He called himself a "supporter," although I can think of other words to describe a guy who would talk about Obama the way he did. But, of course, Jesse being Jesse, he couldn't stop there.

Tens of millions of people are Obama supporters. Being an Obama supporter wouldn't make Jackson worth listening to. Obama, Jackson told the New York Post, is "a neighbor or, better still, a member of the family." Better for whom? Jackson's son has long been close to Obama, and his daughter went to school with Michelle Obama. But that doesn't make Jackson a member of the Obama family. Not even close.

Could Jackson be right, even if he doesn't have any inside information? Short answer: No.

Bad news, Jesse: "Zionists" haven't controlled American foreign policy for decades. Americans have — Americans who recognize that Israel is the only stable democracy in the Middle East, a stalwart friend to America, and that supporting Israel is right both strategically and morally. And those Americans will also control policy during an Obama administration.

Indeed, during the primaries, the Obama campaign crowded about just how many former foreign policy advisers from the Clinton administration were now working for Obama. Call them what you will, Jesse, they're on their way back. The senator himself repeatedly went out of his way to assure voters that he and

Hillary were in fundamental agreement on protecting the security of the state of Israel. Expecting a major change in policy from the "Zionist control" of the last decades? No such "luck."

So if he doesn't have inside information — and he doesn't even seem to know the people who would — why is Jackson spouting off in a way that is certain to cause concern among the millions of voters, Jews and non-Jews alike, who are firmly committed to the security of the state of Israel, and whose support, both in terms of financial backing and actual votes, Obama needs if he is to turn his current lead in the polls into an actual victory in November?

Jackson is many things, but stupid he isn't. He has to understand when he makes comments like this that, first, they will get back to America, more likely sooner than later, and that when they do, they will, unless repudiated, hurt and not help Obama. At best, they are divisive. At worst, they are harmful to Obama. So why make them, even if you believe them?

The short — and unavoidable — answer is that Jackson does not want Obama to become president of the United States. The election of Obama means Jackson is wrong: that America is not hopelessly racist; that the politics of victimization is not the right answer for African-Americans; that a qualified black candidate can do what an unqualified one couldn't.

Say goodnight, Jesse. A new day is dawning, and it's not about "Zionists" losing control. If Jackson can look in the mirror, he will see who is about to lose control and credibility. Couldn't happen soon enough.

To find out more about Susan Estrich and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.



SUSAN
ESTRICH

AREA

Continued from Page 1B

Bufs are hopeful for similar success Friday when they travel to Seagraves to take on the Eagles (3-3, 1-0).

The Eagles are fresh off a 40-0 win over Tahoka last week.

Westbrook at Sands

ACKERLY — The top three teams competing for the two playoff spots out of six-man's Division II, District 6 were supposed to be Borden County, Grandfalls-Royalty and Sands.

Westbrook through a curve into that general thought last week, upsetting Grandfalls-Royalty, 66-62. The Wildcats attempt to continue to make their claim for one of the two playoff spots available at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Ackerly when they visit the Sands Mustangs.

The Mustangs is fresh off a bye week, giving them some extra time to recover from a 64-58 loss to Dawson. The Mustangs have been stellar this season, relying on the abilities of outstanding juniors Johnny Rogers and Daniel Armendariz. The duo has combined to score more than 90 percent of the Mustangs' touchdowns.

Grady at O'Donnell

O'DONNELL — Generally dropping down to a lower classification in high school football means success for a team as it plays schools smaller than itself. That doesn't always hold true in six-man football as

schools dropping for 11-man's Class A sometimes struggle with the rule changes. However, O'Donnell's Eagles have found success, posting a 5-1 record their first six games as a six-man squad.

Most recently, the Eagles topped district rival Loraine, 68-24. Their only loss come from another school playing its first season as a six-man team, Sterling City's Eagles, who blasted O'Donnell, 46-14.

O'Donnell probably faces its toughest challenge of the season Friday, hosting the Grady Wildcats (5-1, 1-0). The Wildcats picked up their first district win of the season last week, pounding Aspermont, 52-28.

The Wildcats have depended heavily upon the arm of quarterback Dylan Cox, who threw for four touchdowns and 226 yards against Aspermont. Running back Joe Cook scored three touchdowns on the ground and had Grady's final score of the game on a 14-yard reception from Cox.

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B

without questions after the game. He then snapped

at cameramen in the locker room after Sunday's loss in Arizona and refused to answer questions.

"I'm frustrated, but since the Washington game I haven't really voiced it,"

Owens said Wednesday. "I just try to make the best of the opportunities that come my way. ... It is (tough), but I've still been key in some situations as far as blocking downfield."

While acknowledging that Williams' presence should benefit him and the Cowboys, Owens scoffed at the idea that people are interested in seeing how he handles being on the field with another proven receiver. Or what happens if Williams winds up having better numbers.

"So what. What about it? They're idiots," Owens said. "I'm not worried about that."

Owens and Williams were catching passes at practice from Brad Johnson, the 40-year-old

quarterback who Sunday makes his first start since 2006 for Minnesota.

Williams goes from a winless team to a legitimate playoff contender that he rooted for growing up.

The Cowboys have already given him a five-year extension on a contract that was set to expire after this season.

"I'm just another body out there that can catch a football. That's my God-given talent. My thing is I think I'm a possession wide receiver. I think I can complement T.O. pretty good," Williams said. "I'm just looking to have fun and help this team get to the playoffs and win a Super Bowl."

PHILLIES

Continued from Page 3B

Chan Ho Park relieved with the bases loaded and worked out of trouble.

Billingsley, 6-0 with a 1.60 ERA in his last seven regular-season starts at home, lasted just 2 2-3 innings. The 24-year-old right-hander, who went 16-10 with a 3.14 ERA this

season, gave up a career-high eight runs in 2 1-3 innings in Game 2, won by the Phillies 8-5.

The Phillies made it 5-0 in the fifth against Maddux thanks to the errors by Furcal. The first two came on one play, when he boot-ed Burrell's potential inning-ending double-play grounder and then threw the ball away, allowing one run to score.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Two Chances Are Better Than One

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A 8
♥ 7 2
♦ A Q 9 7 6 3
♣ K 10 5

EAST
♠ K 6
♥ Q J 6
♦ J 10 5 2
♣ 9 7 4 3

WEST
♠ Q 9 5 2
♥ K 9 8 5 4 3
♦ 8
♣ J 8

SOUTH
♠ J 10 7 4 3
♥ A 10
♦ K 4
♣ A Q 6 2

The bidding:
North East South West
1♦ Pass 1♠ Pass
2♦ Pass 3NT

Opening lead — five of hearts.
One peculiar thing about bridge is not so much that it sometimes presents difficult problems, but that in many cases there is no awareness at all that a problem exists.

Consider this deal where West leads a heart against three notrump. It seems perfectly natural to win East's jack with the ace and start running the diamonds. But when declarer plays the K-A of diamonds, West shows out, and the contract is suddenly in danger.

Continuing to lead diamonds is obviously hopeless, so South shifts his attention to clubs, hoping to find the suit divided 3-3. When he cashes the A-K, West's jack falls, but when declarer next leads the ten from dummy, he finds there is no way of collecting his four club winners whether he allows the ten to hold or overtakes it. South can do no better at this point than cash his remaining winners and go down one.

However, declarer can make the contract easily if he tests the clubs before the diamonds. In that case, after cashing the A-K-10, he can return to his hand with the king of diamonds and cash the queen of clubs to score his ninth trick.

Declarer should reason that he has eight sure tricks at the outset and should then make allowance for the possibility — nearly a 1-in-3 chance — that the diamonds are unfavorably divided. In that event, the possibility that either opponent might have been dealt the J-x of clubs (a 16 percent chance) may be the only way to salvage the contract. He should therefore test that suit before playing the king of diamonds from his hand.

Since playing the clubs first can do no harm and gives declarer an extra chance for the contract, it is clearly the correct approach.

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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.

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

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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.

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News in brief

Debates over as Obama, McCain face reality of race's final 19 days

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. (AP) — Barack Obama and John McCain return to the road 19 days before the presidential election, with the Republican looking to hold onto traditionally GOP states as the Democrat edges into his turf.

Fresh off his energetic debate performance, McCain planned to visit swing states but is also forced to go to Republican territory, as polls show Obama with the edge in such places as Virginia, Colorado and Florida.

Obama, who held his ground in the third and final debate, is headed to Virginia and Missouri later this week — states that often have been out of reach for Democrats in past elections but are up for grabs this year.

Looking to shake up the race, McCain questioned Obama's character and his policies Wednesday night. He linked Obama to a 1960s radical, accused him of planning tax increases that would cripple the economy and said he was dishonest about a promise to accept public campaign financing.

"You didn't tell the American people the truth," the Arizona senator said.

Fear and loathing spreads as signs that economy is in danger of losing balance mounts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fear and loathing is spreading as signs mount that the economy is in danger of losing its balance.

And a fresh batch of economic reports due out Thursday is likely to show more problems for the already stumbling economy.

Industrial production is expected to have dropped in September, underscoring the plight of troubled auto makers as well as manufacturers of furniture, construction materials and other goods that have been hard hit by the collapse of the housing market.

The number of new people signing up for unemployment benefits last week may dip slightly but is still expected to top 400,000, a level that usually points to an ailing labor market.

Consumer prices probably will nudge up in September, but will be up sharply over the past year, further pinching Americans already smarting from dwindling nest eggs and sinking home values.

World markets tumble on recession fears; Japanese leader calls US bailout 'insufficient'

HONG KONG (AP) — World stocks tumbled Thursday, with Tokyo's market plunging more than 11 percent, after another dive on Wall Street as worse-than-expected data about the U.S. economy heightened fears of a global recession.

Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso blamed the renewed drop in markets, which had rebounded earlier this week, on investor concerns that the U.S. government's \$700 billion bank bailout was insufficient.

"Since it was insufficient, the market is again falling sharply," Aso told lawmakers. He did not elaborate.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 stock average slid 1,089.02 points, or 11.41 percent, to 8,458.45, its biggest drop since the 1987 stock market crash.

In South Korea, the main index dropped 9.25 percent after Standard & Poor's said it may downgrade the credit ratings of some of the country's leading banks. The ratings agency warned the credit crisis could make it difficult for the companies to refinance maturing debt.

NKorea threatens to break off relations with SKorea, cites South's 'reckless confrontation'

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea threatened Thursday to cut all ties with South Korea, saying the new conservative government is a U.S. toady engaged in reckless confrontation with its neighbor.

North Korea has been unhappy with South Korea's new President Lee Myung-bak, who took office in February with a pledge to get tough on the rival state. By contrast, Lee's two liberal predecessors had aggressively sought reconciliation by providing massive aid to the impoverished nation.

The North's warning, issued in a commentary carried in the North's main Rodong Sinmun newspaper, said if the South "keeps to the road of reckless confrontation with the (North), defaming its dignity despite its repeated warnings, this will compel it to make a crucial decision including the total freeze of the North-South relations."

That means Pyongyang could terminate civilian exchanges with the South, including a tourism program and a joint factory park.

Category 3 Omar moving away from Leeward Islands after pummeling St. Croix with rain

CHRISTIANSTED, U.S. Virgin Islands (AP) — The center of Hurricane Omar was quickly moving away from the northern Leeward Islands early Thursday after crossing over them as a major Category 3 storm.

A day earlier, the hurricane sank boats in a St. Croix harbor, knocked down trees and trapped people in their homes before spinning toward other tiny islands.

The storm's top winds increased Thursday to 125 mph (205 kph). But Omar was expected to weaken as it continued on a path forecasters said would likely bring it past the U.S. and British Virgin Islands on one side and territories including Anguilla on the other, potentially missing a direct hit on any Caribbean island.

"It could thread the needle, but any kind of track deviation and any of those islands will be clobbered," said Jack Beven of the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

As Omar's center edged past St. Croix late Wednesday, some panicked residents were denied evacuation requests because emergency responders were pinned down by the storm, according to Jacqueline Heyliger, deputy director of the island's emergency management agency.

Social Security benefits expected to rise in 2009 by the largest amount in 27 years

WASHINGTON (AP) — Social Security benefits for 50 million people are expected to go up next year by the largest amount in more than a quarter-century.

The new cost-of-living increase, to be announced Thursday by the Social Security Administration, is expected to

be above 5.5 percent. That would make it the largest increase since a 7.4 percent jump in 1982. The increase for 2008 was 2.3 percent.

A 5.5 percent increase would mean about \$60 a month more for the average retiree. Even with the gain, the fatter Social Security check still may seem puny to millions of retirees battered this year by huge increases in energy and food costs. They've also watched helplessly as their retirement savings have been assaulted by the biggest upheavals on Wall Street in seven decades.

"Right now many senior citizens are feeling depressed because things seem out of control," said Sung Won Sohn, an economics professor at the Smith School of Business at California State University. "They feel like they are in a boat being whipped around by rough seas."

The market turbulence has continued this week with the Dow Jones industrial average plunging by 733 points on Wednesday, the second largest point drop on record. Earlier this month, the

Congressional Budget Office estimated that Americans' retirement plans have lost as much as \$2 trillion over the past 15 months — above 20 percent of their value — because of all the market upheaval.

As homicide surges anew in Kansas City, police and community grope for solutions

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Killings in Kansas City are happening at an alarming rate, and police and residents say the slayings can be traced to the same urban maladies that have plagued the city for years.

With 21 homicides in August — a record for a single month — 2008 could become the deadliest year this decade for this Midwest city. So far, 103 killings have occurred here.

Detectives and people who live in neighborhoods infected with violence say years of economic depression and failed education are at the heart of the homicide surge.

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4 killed in crash

AURORA, Ill. (AP) — A medical helicopter crashed in a Chicago suburb, killing three crew members and a 13-month-old patient, authorities said early Thursday.

The helicopter was headed to Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago from Valley West Hospital in Sandwich when it went down minutes before midnight, said Aurora police spokesman Sgt. Robb Wallers.

Children's Memorial Hospital spokeswoman Julie Pesch initially said the child, a girl, was being transported to the hospital because of epileptic seizures. She later said the child's symptoms were not clear.

The helicopter may have clipped a wire before it crashed and burned.

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News in brief

Jury sentences supremacist to life without parole in slashing death

WACO (AP) — A man who witnesses testified was affiliated with a white supremacist group has received his second life in prison sentence — this one is without parole in the kidnapping and slaying of a Kemp woman.

A 54th State District Court jury of seven men and five women deliberated about 90 minutes Wednesday before convicting Robert Allen Byrd of capital murder in the beating and slashing death of 39-year-old Dana Leigh Taylor.

“Obviously, we think the jury did their jobs and took matters very seriously,” said Assistant District Attorney Melanie Walker, who prosecuted the case with Crawford Long, in the Waco Tribune-Herald’s Thursday online edition.

Taylor’s badly decomposed body was found by a family on April 26, 2006, in a wooded area just north of Elm Mott.

Prosecution witnesses, including three members of the Aryan Circle and Byrd’s ex-wife, testified that Byrd told them he killed Taylor because he thought she was “snitching” to law enforcement about the group’s criminal activities.

Byrd, 34, testified Wednesday that he didn’t kill Taylor, saying he loved her like a sister, had helped her get off drugs and dropped her off very much alive in Ross in northern McLennan County with some of her friends.

Defense attorney Russ Hunt Sr. said Byrd will appeal his life prison term with no possibility for parole, which is automatic in capital murder cases when the state does not seek the death penalty.

Willis a ride to evacuate. She said she stayed at a shelter in the George R. Brown Convention Center, where someone stole her purse. Her ID, other important papers and most of her money were inside.

“I don’t know what’s wrong with this government,” said Willis, tears filling her eyes. “Everyone’s giving us the runaround. They lied to us, and it’s ridiculous lies,” the Houston Chronicle reported in its online edition Thursday.

Willis said she has no idea what she will do when the shelter closes but wants to go stay with a friend in Oklahoma City, where she grew up.

Efforts are underway to provide transitional housing for Ike victims once the shelter closes.

Scholarship planned for Ike worker

HOUSTON (AP) — A man who died trying to rescue three dogs trapped during Hurricane Ike will be cremated next week and remembered with a veterinary paramedic scholarship.

Robert “Bob” Emery, 54, who came to Houston from Florida after Hurricane Ike to help clear storm debris, was killed the night of Sept. 27 after running onto a freeway to rescue three dogs trapped against the interstate’s concrete median.


His friends said he was struck by a passing motorcycle while dashing into the road to reach the animals. Animal control officers later returned the dogs to their owners, an elderly couple who had looked for them for days.

Last Red Cross shelter to close

HOUSTON (AP) — Some of the nearly 300 Hurricane Ike victims still living in the city’s last Red Cross shelter are worried about where they will live after it closes this week.


Scheduled to cease operations Sunday, the shelter had housed more than 1,000 people during the height of the storm. Officials said it was one of 24 the Red Cross opened in the Greater Houston area.

Ike swept away Sheila Willis’ car and her Crystal Beach home, leaving her stranded. Before Ike blasted ashore near Galveston on Sept. 13, flattening buildings and killing at least 37 people in Texas, a friend gave



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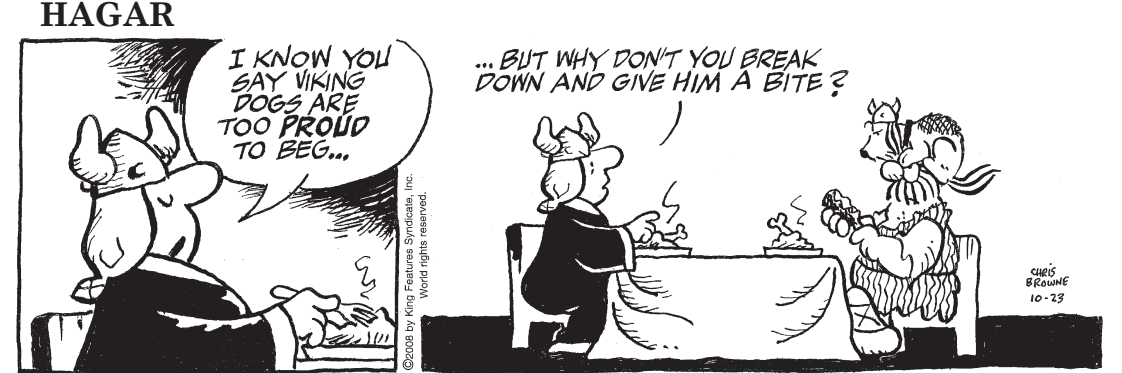
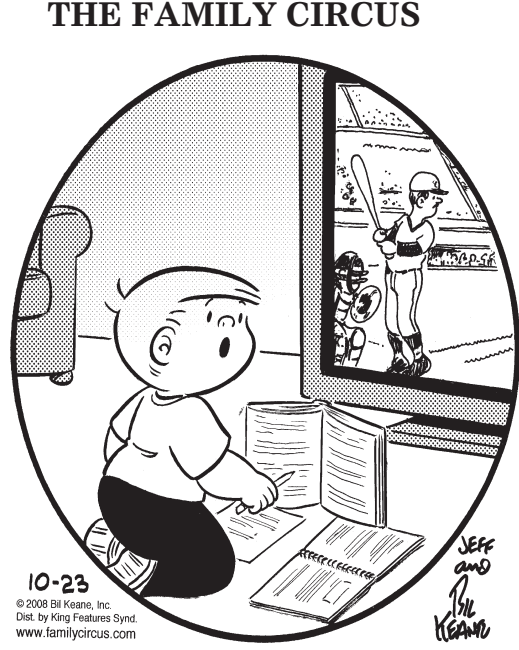
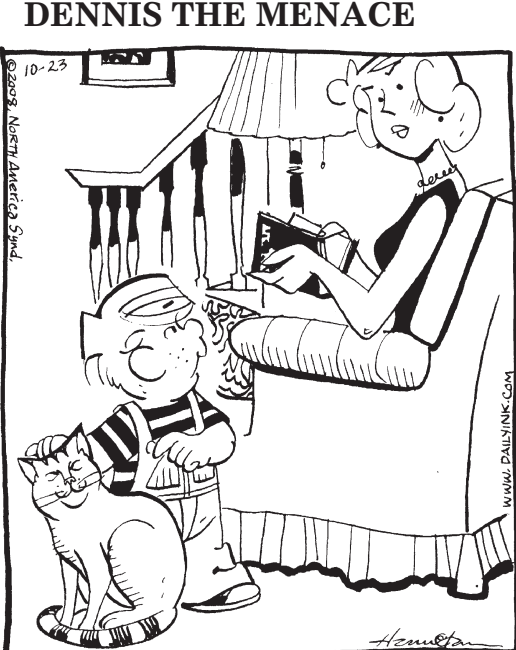
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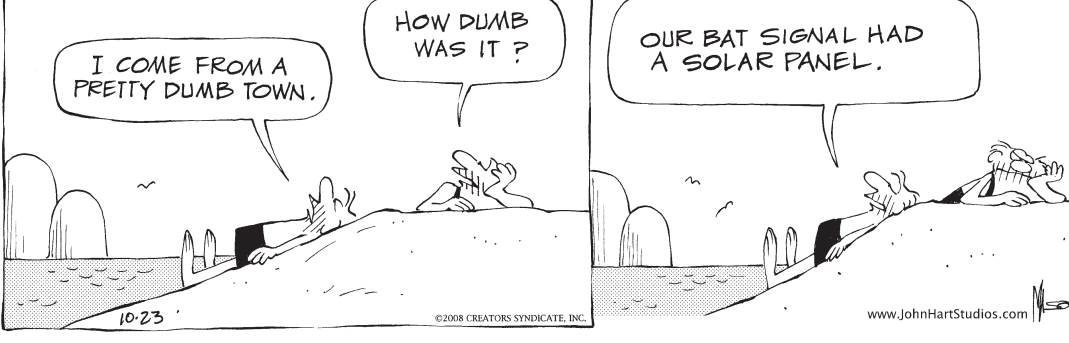
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5 :PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Lopez Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Raymond Friends	Granger Brad	BBC Business	Cash Cab Cash Cab	House, Sam Elliott	Unsolved Mysteries	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards Wizards	Horn Interrupt	SportsCenter	
6 :PM :30	News Jeopardy!	Entertain Fortune	Querida Enemiga	Two Men Two Men	Entertain Millionaire	Name Seinfeld	Survivor: Gabon	Doña Bar- bara	Israel Friends	Texas Sprna	MythBusters	Movie: Starky & Hutch	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	Hip Hop Hip Hop	BET Hip-Hop Awards '08	Movie: High School Musi- cal 2	College Foot- ball: Auburn at West Virginia.	
7 :PM :30	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Fuego en la Sangre	MLB Base- ball: World Series Game 2 -- Teams TBA.	CSI: Crime Scn	El Rostro de Analia	Office SNL Up	Friends Friends	Light of the Southwest	Antiques Roadshow	Destroyed Destroyed	Movie: The Birdcage, Nathan Lane	TNA iM- PACT!	Law & Order	NBA Preseason Basketball: Bobcats vs. Lakers	American Gangster	Wizards Life De	MLS Soccer: Red Bull New York at Chicago Fire.	SportsCenter
8 :PM :30	(:01) Life on Mars	(:01) Life on Mars	Gordo y la Flaca	(:01) Elev- enth Hour	Sin Senos	ER	Get Smart's Bruce and Lloyd	Israel Van Impe	Charlie Rose	Handy Writ- ers	Storm Chas- ers	Movie: The Birdcage, Nathan Lane	UFC 90 Cnt	NBA Preseason Basketball: Bobcats vs. Lakers	American Gangster	Wizards Life De	MLS Soccer: Red Bull New York at Chicago Fire.	SportsCenter	
9 :PM :30	News Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	Raymond King-Hill	Late Show	Titulares Tonight Show	Sex & Van Impe	Dr.	Smiley	Antiques Roadshow	Destroyed Destroyed	Movie: The Birdcage, Nathan Lane	UFC 90 Cnt	NBA Preseason Basketball: Bobcats vs. Lakers	American Gangster	Wizards Life De	MLS Soccer: Red Bull New York at Chicago Fire.	SportsCenter	
10 :PM :30	Insider Jimmy Kim- mel Live	Jimmy Kim- mel Live	La Hora de la Risa	Law Order: Cl	Late Late Show	Decisio	Sex & Van Impe	Dr.	Smiley	Antiques Roadshow	Destroyed Destroyed	Movie: The Birdcage, Nathan Lane	UFC 90 Cnt	NBA Preseason Basketball: Bobcats vs. Lakers	American Gangster	Wizards Life De	MLS Soccer: Red Bull New York at Chicago Fire.	SportsCenter	
11 :PM :30	G. Keith Paid	Keith Paid	Clasicos Humor	Friends Paid	Pelicula: Los	(:40) Movie: The Perfect Score	Israel LightWrd	Light of the Southwest	LightWrd	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest



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This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Oct. 23, the 297th day of 2008. There are 69 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Oct. 23, 1983, 241 U.S. service members, mostly Marines, were killed in a suicide truck-bombing at Beirut International Airport in Lebanon; a near-simultaneous attack on French forces killed 58 paratroopers.

On this date:
In 1707, the first Parliament of Great Britain, created by the Acts of Union between England and Scotland, held its first meeting.
In 1864, forces led by Union Gen. Samuel R. Curtis repelled Confederate Gen. Sterling Price's army in the Civil War Battle of Westport in Missouri.
In 1915, tens of thousands of women marched in New York City, demanding the right to vote.
In 1942, during World War II, Britain launched a major offensive against Axis forces at El Alamein in Egypt.
In 1946, the United Nations General Assembly convened in New York for the first time, at an auditorium in Flushing Meadow.

1956, a student-sparked revolt against Hungary's Communist rule began; as the revolution spread, Soviet forces started entering the country, and the uprising was put down within weeks.

In 1958, Boris Pasternak was named winner of the Nobel Prize in literature. (However, Soviet authorities pressured Pasternak into relinquishing the award.)

In 1973, President Nixon agreed to turn over White House tape recordings subpoenaed by the Watergate special prosecutor to Judge John J. Sirica.

In 1987, the U.S. Senate rejected, 58-42, the Supreme Court nomination of Robert H. Bork.

In 1995, a jury in Houston convicted Yolanda Saldivar of murdering Tejano singing star Selena.

One year ago: Evacuations due to out-of-control wildfires in Southern California topped 500,000; President Bush declared a federal emergency for seven counties. Shuttle Discovery and its crew of seven thundred into orbit for a complex space station construction mission.

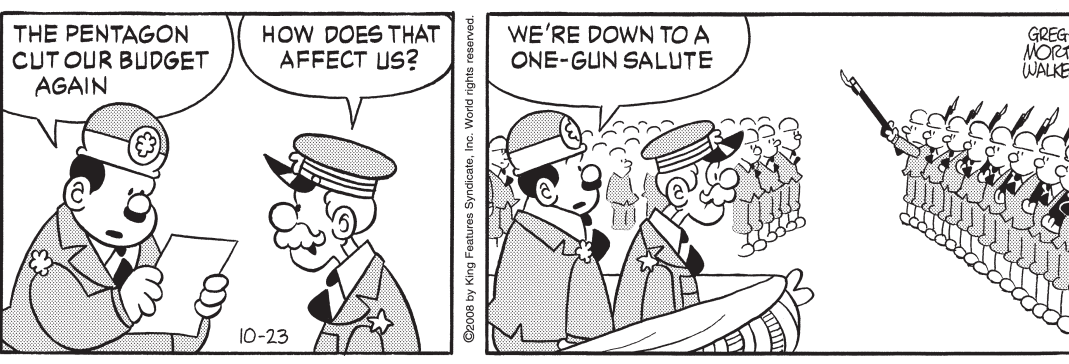
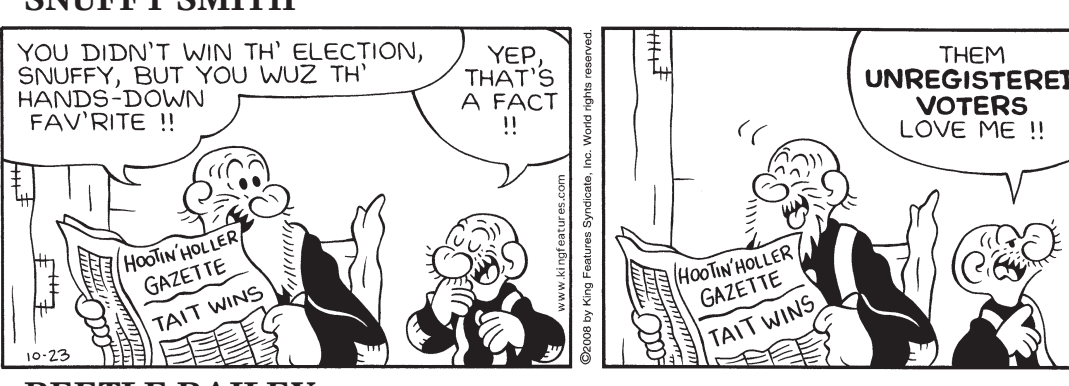
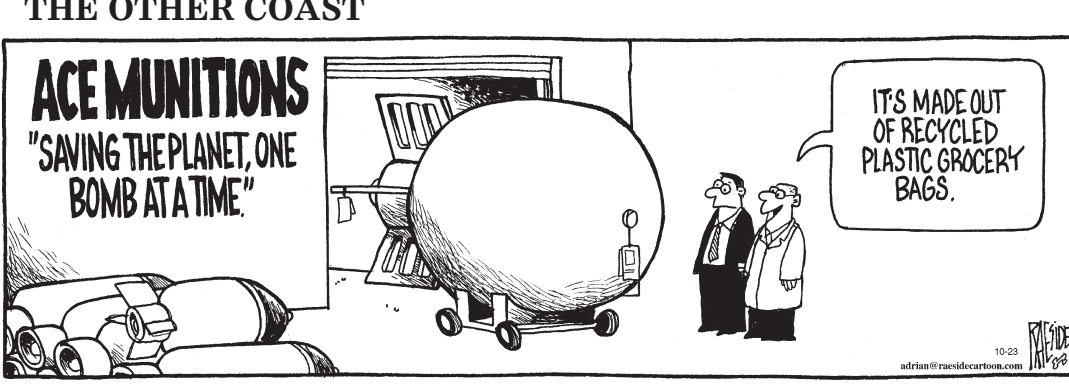
Today's Birthdays: Movie director Philip Kaufman is 72. Soccer great Pele is 68. Author Michael Crichton is 66. Rhythm-and-blues singer Barbara Ann Hawkins (The Dixie Cups) is 65. Actor Michael Rupert is 57. Movie director Ang Lee is 54. Jazz singer Dianne Reeves is 52. Country singer Dwight Yoakam is 52. Movie director Sam Raimi is 49. Parodist "Weird Al" Yankovic is 49. Rock musician Robert Trujillo (Metallica) is 44. Rhythm-and-blues singer Country singer-musician Junior Bryant is 40. Country singer Jimmy Wayne is 36. Rock musician Eric Bass (Shinedown) is 34. Actor Ryan Reynolds is 32. Actress Masiela Lusha is 23. Actress Briana Evigan is 22. Actress Jessica Stroup is 22.

Thought for Today: "Life is easier to take than you'd think; all that is necessary is to accept the impossible, do without the indispensable and bear the intolerable." — Kathleen Norris, American author (1880-1960).

Answer to previous puzzle

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PERT THUG SPIKE
ODOR RARE TACOS
DIVE EVIL ATONE
TEXT MESSAGING
TION GEO
GENDER FBI SCAM
AVOID SOULS OLE
BOOK YOUR SEAT NOW
OKS EDITH CRANE
NEED ITS SHINED
EAU LEE
VOLUME CONTROL
AIRED LORD AVID
SLATE MANE FEMO
HELEN STAR TRAY
    
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Newsday Crossword

ATTITUDES by Shirley Soloway
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Airplane part
- 5 British rest stop
- 10 Passepartout's employer
- 14 Main point
- 15 Accustom
- 16 Nothing but
- 17 "If it _____ broke..."
- 18 NFL Hall of Fame coach Hank
- 19 Stationery order
- 20 Bully's attitude
- 23 Quick to learn
- 24 John Lennon's lady
- 25 Keyboard key
- 27 Current unit
- 30 Ishmael's boss
- 33 Odysseus' hometown
- 35 Numbers printed on golf scorecards
- 37 Baseball star's nickname
- 39 Patronize, as a diner
- 40 Snob's attitude
- 43 English county
- 44 Floor
- 45 German trio
- 46 Capital on the Colorado
- 48 Strays
- 50 Retired plane
- 51 Eastern NY univ.
- 52 Kitchen top
- 54 Arctic bird
- 56 Fence-sitter's attitude
- 63 Summon
- 64 Deceitful fellow

DOWN

- 2 Not a dup.
- 3 Like an aria
- 4 Bonus
- 5 Falling short of
- 6 Little pests
- 7 Cosmonaut Gagarin
- 8 AMC alternative
- 9 Middle East resident
- 10 Fairway call
- 11 Mopeds, for example
- 12 Jewelry-store equipment
- 13 School room
- 21 Pollution monitor
- 22 Lecture record
- 26 Watch a shorthair
- 27 Materialize
- 28 Order of mammals
- 29 Persevering
- 31 Music and literature
- 32 Night spot
- 34 Helper
- 36 Editor's instruction
- 38 Gloomy
- 41 Send away, formally
- 42 Gets to the bottom of
- 47 Cut slightly
- 49 Seek redress
- 53 Mideast money
- 55 Natural talent
- 57 Asset's opposite
- 58 MS accompanier
- 59 Courier's partner
- 60 Pizzazz
- 61 Really steamed
- 62 Fret
- 63 Tire-pressure unit: Abbr.

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