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TUESDAY

NOVEMBER 18, 2008

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VOLUME 103, NUMBER 302

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*Big 3 beg for funding **Bailout** bill stalls

By JULIE DAVIS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Detroit's Big Three auto makers are begging Congress for a \$25 billion government rescue, while the legislation clings to life support on Capitol Hill and top lawmakers and the White House suffer from bailout fatigue.

Democratic congressional leaders want to tap the \$700 billion Wall Street

See BAILOUT, Page 3A



Firefighters with the Big Spring Fire Department suit up and prepare to enter a home in the 400 block of N.W. 10th Street Monday morning during a drill at an unoccupied home.

Angel Trees set to go up

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Area residents will get the chance to be a guardian angel for some lucky child or senior this holiday season, as the Big Spring Salvation Army kicks its annual Angel Tree program into full gear.

The program — which pro-

dren of low-income families taking applications for the program.

"We've been working to get all the children's names on the angels for people to adopt," vides Christmas gifts to chil- said Corps Assistant Amy

Tompkins, who is in charge of and senior citizens who might the program this season. "I've otherwise go without during only been in Big Spring about the holiday season — got un- two weeks now, so I'm still will only be accepted from der way last month when Sal- trying to get settled in with vation Army officials began the program, but it should go pretty much the same way it

did last year." Though the application process ended last month, Capt. Terrie Cheshire said the local charity will still take emergency applications throughout the season.

"Emergency applications people who have just moved to town, women who are separated from their husbands or their house has burned," said Cheshire. "It will have to be an emergency situation simi-

See ANGEL, Page 3A

Officials say layover mystery a homicide

DALLAS (AP) — A mysterious disappearance of an Alzheimer's patient during a layover at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport seven years ago became a homicide case Monday after an examination of skeletal remains found miles from the airfield.

The Tarrant County medical examiner used DNA tests were found near the lake.

to identify the remains as 70-vear-old Mariorie Dabnev and ruled that her death was caused by a blow to the head, police said.

The remains were found last vear near Lewisville Lake. about 15 miles north of the airport. Last month, Dabney's clothing and business cards

"I'm still shocked," Dabney's daughter, Candice Price, 38, of Indianapolis, told The Associated Press on Monday.

She said that in the years after her mother went missing, she convinced herself that someone had found her mother and was caring for her. Her mother was diabetic and an Alzheimer's patient.

"To get this, that somebody hit her upside the head — you can't prepare yourself for this," Price said. "I'm furious because I'm hearing that someone has killed my mother. I want to know why. I want

to know when." Authorities could not deter-

See **HOMICIDE**, Page 3A

Fill those bowls

United Way to stage fundraiser

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Buy a bowl. Have a meal. Help a cause. The local United Way campaign is hoping many local residents follow that

three-step program by participating in the second alluan "Empty Bowls" fund raising event, scheduled to be held from

What: Empty Bowls II fundraiser for United Way of Big Spring and Howard County.

Where: First Baptist Church.

When: 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday.

5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday at First Baptist Church.

Big Spring High School and Howard College art students, along with other local residents, have created almost 100 highly decorated soup bowls for the event, said Jan Hansen, United Way executive director. Thursday, people can purchase one of those bowls for \$15 and promptly fill it with one of several different soup offerings. Proceeds go directly to United Way.

"This event helps people realize there are people out there without food," Hansen said.

Scenic Mountain Medical Center, Howard College, Big Spring High School, Morgan Creek Ranch and Walter Brumley will provide specialty soups for the

Judith Tereletsky, BSHS art instructor, said 35 of her students worked on the project and were joined by more than 30 private citizens. The result, she said, was quite creative — bowls are emblazoned with United Way agency logos or whatever color struck the artist's fancy. while others were crafted into unique shapes such as footballs, poinsettias and castles.

See BOWLS, Page 3A

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To reach us:

Sports

Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.

YMCA features child care program

Specfial to the Herald

The YMCA of Big Spring provides families in Howard County a variety of activities and programs including physical fitness, child care,

and competitive sports. Even though the YMCA provides financial assistance in the form of reduced fees

physical education classes

for all its programs, United Way dollars are used by the YMCA only in its child care program. These dollars allow the YMCA to provide financial assistance in the form of reduced fees to families with children who would otherwise not be able to participate due to their level of income.

The program runs year round. During the school

Dine Out Restaurant this week is Furr's. The restaurant will donate a portion of Friday's proceeds to United Way of Big Spring and Howard County.

supervision after school for elementary school-age children. During the summer months and school holidays the YMCA provides all day

year, the YMCA provides supervised child care. Daily activities include swimming, skateboarding, basketball, arts and crafts, weekly field

See YMCA, Page 3A



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Page 1B Tuesday, November 18, 2008



ourtesy pho

The Forsan Buffaloes claimed a Division I championship recently, defeating the Giants in the Super Bowl, 22-8. The Buffs finished 7-1 on the season. From left to right, the Buffs are: (front row) Brian Dominguez, Seth Bailey, Ashton Voight, Wade Ellison, Kenny Hilario, Marcus Cervantes, Dylan Cantu, (second row) Dylan Tredaway, Austin Darden, Adam Gonzales, Blatyn Gusman, Deonte Perez, Cobe Smith, Andrew Sanchez, Connor Martinez, (third row) Keith Garrett, Caleb Hernandez, Nathan Vidal, Kolby Watson, Trey Brumley, Austin Madry, (back row) Coaches Joe Garrett, O.J. Hernandez, Jeff Vidal, Brian Watson, Walter Brumley and Brad Madry. Not pictured is Domiono Cole.

Hawks blow out ACU, prep for first big test

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

So far this season, the Howard College men's basketball team has faced little to no challenge on its way to a perfect record.

Howard improved to 5-0 Monday, humiliating Abilene Christian University's junior varsity, 99-30. The Hawks tallied the first 18 points of the game before ACU even scored.

Howard was led by Denzel Barnes, who hit five 3-pointers on his way to a 25-point performance. Ricardo Zanini nailed three treys as he scored 18, while Vladimir Gavranic chipped in 20. Two other Hawks — Devon Baker (13) and Markeys Deans (10)

— also scored in double digits.

For Howard, the biggest accomplishment achieved in the blowout win were some defensive standards the Hawks had set for them.

"We had a defensive goal to keep ACU under 40 points and we achieved that tonight," said Howard Head Coach Mark Adams. "I thought we had a good defensive effort and we also got to run our offense against a 3-2 zone. We don't get to see much of that before conference, so that was nice."

Adams was very complimentary of his sophomore point guard as well.

See **HAWKS**, Page 2B

Athletic Steers hope to contend

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

There isn't a shortage of quick athletes on the Big Spring Steers basketball team this season. Unfortunately, a large majority of them are

getting ready for an area playoff football game. Still, Steers Head Coach Marcus Morris feels Big Spring has plenty to offer in its season-opener tonight against Fort Stockton at Steer Gym. The Steers will take the hardwood shortly after the completion of the Lady Steers game vs. Fort Stockton, beginning at 6 p.m.

The most important part of the 2008-2009 basketball season for Morris is to find a way to replace the massive amount of points and hustle the Steers lost with last year's graduating class.

"We lost some big pieces from last season," said Morris. "Jason (Walker) and Terrence (Clemons) both scored a lot of points. Lance (Gross) hit a lot of shots and Hayden (Phillips) took care of a lot of the little things you need a player to do. We're going to miss those guys, but that's the fun thing about high school basketball. It's fun to see who is going to step up and take their spot. I know who some of those players will be, but there's always someone who surprises you a bit."

See **STEERS**, Page 2B



HERALD file photo/Gary Don Hull

Big Spring Steers guard Jerrell Williams (right) dribbles around two Lubbock Cooper defenders in action from Jan. 2 in Lubbock. The Steers begin the 2008-2009 season tonight against Fort Stockton in Steer Gym, immediately following the Lady Steers game also vs. Fort Stockton at 6 p.m.

HERALD photo/Jonathan H

Coahoma's Josh Paniagua goes up for a layup in action from Dec. 21, 2007 in Coahoma. Paniagua and the Bulldogs tip off the 2008-2009 season Friday vs. Garden City.

Coahoma starts season Friday

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

COAHOMA — Coahoma's Bulldogs lost their top two leading scorers from last basketball season. However, Head Coach Kim Nichols still feels the Bulldogs have plenty to offer on the hardwood.

"We lost some key players, but we're really returning a lot of experience," said Nichols. "We've got a good core to build around and some key players from last year's junior varsity ready to step in."

However, losing Colter

Morgan, who is now on the team at the University of Tulsa, and Matthew Tatum takes away some size from last year's squad. However, there is still plenty of bulk inside for the 2008-2009 version of the Bulldogs.

Cody Sheppard will play a bigger role offensively this season for the Bulldogs. Sheppard stands at 6-6 and shows a lot of power and aggressiveness in the paint.

"Cody is a big part of what we hope to do this season and I think we've got some really good guards to put around him,"

said Nichols. "Both Josh and Jovi (Paniagua) have a lot of experience from last season's team. Ray Gutierrez should also be a nice addition for us on the perimeter.

"We also added some size," he continued. "Lane Douglass transferred here from Miami (Texas) and is about 6-2. He's a good athlete and should be a nice addition for us."

As it is with every sport played at Coahoma, there's a lot of talk about the difficulty of a new district, featuring solid programs

See **COAHOMA**, Page 2B

Buffs look for fifth straight trip to playoffs

By JEFF LANE

Special to the Herald

As the 2008-09 basketball season prepares to get underway, the Forsan Buffaloes have one thing on their minds – making the playoffs for the fifth straight season.

Head Coach Terry McDonald, who is entering his 17th year with the Buffs, said he hopes to improve on last season when Forsan defeated Iraan in the bi-district round of the playoffs and boasted a 22-5 overall record.

The Plains Cowboys knocked Forsan out of the 2007-08 playoffs in the area round.

"We are excited about our chances this year," McDonald said. "We have had a good run with our playoff appearances in the last four years and we are looking to extend that."

The Buffs will play in District 7-A against familiar opponents in the Iraan Braves, the McCamey Badgers and the Stanton Buffaloes.

"We have played all of these teams in the past," McDonald said. "They are all very competitive – each made the playoffs last year — and we look forward to

the challenge."
Missing from last years team are Adam Bailey, Cameron Parker and Blake Grantham, but the Buffs will not be short on experience.

Senior guard Jeremy Robbins is a returning starter this year along with fellow seniors and major varsity contributors, post Nathan Atkerson and guard Alex Huckabee.

See **FORSAN**, Page 2B

Sports in brief

Crossroads high school football playoffs schedule Friday

Class 4A, Division II area
Big Spring vs. El Paso Riverside, 8 p.m., El Paso
Class A, Division I regional
Stanton vs. Morton, 7:30 p.m., Denver City
Six-man Division II regional
Sands vs. Sierra Blanca, 7:30 p.m., Grandfalls
Six-man Division I regional
Garden City vs. Throckmorton, 7:30 p.m., Trent

Steers playoff tickets available at ATC starting Wednesday

Tickets for the Big Spring Steers' playoff game Friday in El Paso can be purchased beforehand at the Athletic Training Center beginning Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. and then from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Tickets will be available at the same time Thursday. Friday, they'll be sold from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Student tickets are \$3 and adults are \$5 for the presale. At the game, students are \$4 and adults \$6.

Big Spring is the home team for the game so all fans should sit on the side of Tiger Stadium with the bigger press box.

Registration for Big Spring Youth Basketball have begun

The YMCA has begun accepting sign-ups for the Big Spring Youth Basketball League for boys and girls through Dec. 1.

Divisions of play include separate boys and girls teams in grades 1-2, 3-4 and 5-6.

Games are scheduled to begin Jan. 10. Practices begin the week of Dec. 8.

A coaches meeting is scheduled for Dec. 2. Teams will

be formed following this meeting.

The registration fee is \$50 and includes a reversible mesh jersey, injury assistance and a participation award at the end of the season.

Financial assistance is available for those who qualify. For more information, call the YMCA at 267-8234.

Amigo's Washer Club holding tourney Nov. 22

The Amigo's Washer Club is holding its monthly tournament Saturday, Nov. 22, at 12:30 p.m. at the La Vedera

It will be in a single-elimination doubles format. Cost is \$20 for a two-man team.

If time permits, a singles tournament will also be

Call 446-9969 for more information.

Obituaries

Edith Berneice 'Granny' Coats Edith Berneice "Granny" Coats, 84, of



Big Spring went home to be with the Lord Sunday, Nov. 16, 2008, in a local nursing home. Memorial services will be held at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2008, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

Granny was born Feb. 12, 1924, in Pryor, Okla., to Clifford Green West and Lydia Esther Shimp.

She married the love of her life and dancing partner Q.T. Coats Sr. Dec. 15,

1942, in Pecos. He preceded her in death. They were charter members of College Baptist Church.

She was co-owner of A Timeless Design Florist, a

homemaker and a great friend to everyone. Survivors include two sons, Q.T. Coats Jr., Tommy Coats and companion, Lupe Rowland, all of Big Spring; one daughter, Debby Reed of Midland; granddaughters, Deedra Rice and husband, Clay, of Midland, and Marcie

Lee Camacho and husband, Steven, of Lubbock; great granddaughters, Stormie Reed, Elizabeth and Claire Rice, and Shadee and Andree Camacho; two sisters, Shirley Davis and husband, Bill, and Pat Hodges; and two brothers, Jim West and wife, Sherry, and George West and wife, Judy.

She was also preceded in death by one sister, Esther

The family suggests memorials be made to St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad, Big Spring 79720, or to a favorite charity.

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

Bobby J. Waldrop

www.mem.com

Bobby J. Waldrop, 37, died Friday, Nov. 14, 2008, in Midland.

A funeral service will be held Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2008, at 3 p.m. in First Christian Church, 1301 West Louisiana Ave. in Midland, with the Rev. Paula Brooks officiating. There will also be a funeral service Thursday, Nov. 20, 2008, at 3 p.m. in Creak Baptist Church in Kempner. Interment will be at Smith Cemetery in

Bobby was born Dec. 31, 1970, in Anchorage, Alaska. He grew up in Copperas Cove and graduated from Copperas Cove High School. He taught school at James R. Brooks Middle School in Greenwood and later was special education director at Big Spring ISD.

He is survived by his stepfather, Thomas E. Shuttleworth of Tyler; brother and sister-in-law, Chris and Denise Waldrop; brothers, Tim and Greg Evans; and several nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins. Bobby was preceded in death by his mother, Eunice

Ann Shuttleworth; father, Joe Price Waldrop; and father figure, always known as Big John. Arrangements are under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home in Midland. Online condolences can be made at

Take Note

- Vendors are needed for the Christmas Bazaar to be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at Canterbury South. Please contact Jennifer Mendez at 263-1238 or leave a message.
- Confidential memory screenings are being offered by Accolade Home Care as part of National Memory Screening Day, a national initiative of the Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA). They will be held from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday at Room 214 at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, 1601 W. $11^{\rm th}$ Place. For information, call Accolade Home Care in Big Spring at 264-1164.
- 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. For more information, contact Beverly Grant at 268-4952.
- HATS (Hope After The Sadness), an American Cancer Society Resource Room is now available at First Methodist Church. This center provides information and valuable resources for those affected by cancer. This HATS ministry, established in memory of the late Rev. Dr Shane Brue, maintains a room with free hats, wigs and head coverings available for check-out by those dealing with hair loss due to cancer treatment. Other services and resources are also available. Contact the "Hat Lady," Marci Lykken at 267-2915.





Police blotter

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

- JESSICA BLANCO, 26, of 1515 Kentucky Way, was arrested Monday on charges of failure to maintain financial responsibility and driving while license inval-
- MARY LISA SALGADO, 43, of 1300 Ridgeroad, was arrested Monday on a Hayes County warrant and a charge of violation of probation.
- WILLIE LEE JONES, 52, of Odessa, was arrested Monday on an Ector County warrant for aggravated sexual assault.
- MARIO I. SALAZAR, 19, of 1500 Chickasaw, was arrested Tuesday on charges of possession of alcohol by a minor and resisting arrest. • SERGIO AVEREZ, 20, of 1500 Chickasaw, was arrest-
- ed Tuesday on charges of possession of alcohol by a minor, assault of a public servant, evading arrest and resisting arrest.
- · AMALIA DEANDA, 28, of 1500 Chickasaw, was arrested Tuesday on charges of possession of alcohol by a minor, resisting arrest and failure to identify.
- THEFT was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson. • CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1200
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 2800 block of Navajo.

Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 55 inmates at the time of this report.

- THOMAS OLIVER BRADBERRY, 41, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- ROLANDO VARGAS, 28, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief.
- JOSE F. RODRIGUEZ, 26, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- BETTY JEAN MUNIZ, 42, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
- BRYAN LEE STETSON SR., 36, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of assault causing bodily injury – family violence.
- MARTIN SILGUERO, 44, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of bondsman off bond for criminal mischief, bondsman off bond for driving while license suspended and bondsman off bond for a motion to revoke probation.
- SHANE ALAN KNOWLTON, 22, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a local bench warrant.
- JONATHAN DOUGLAS, 36, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of assault – family violence.
- SANDRA KAY WOOD, 39, was arrested Monday by DPS on a charge of bond forfeiture - driving while intoxicated (Polk County warrant).

Fire/EMS

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

Note: The Big Spring Fire Department and EMS were on standby Monday afternoon on FM 700 near the landfill while a city employee was working in a confined space. No rescue operation was necessary, according to city officials.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of Highland Drive. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of FM 700 and Birdwell Lane. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the area of the VAMC. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of FM 700. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Sunset.
- One person was transported to SMMC. • GRASS FIRE was reported in the 600 block of Circle

Your Local Weather Wed Fri Sun 11/21 11/22 11/19 11/20 11/23 76/42 70/37 62/45 67/42 72/38 Sunny skies. Mostly Mostly Partly Partly High 76F. sunny. Highs sunny. Highs cloudy. cloudy.

in the low

in the mid

40s.

60s and lows

the low 40s. town Content Service

Highs in the

and lows in

upper 60s

Highs in the

low 70s and

lows in the

upper 30s.

Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

Winds SSW

at 10 to 20

mph.

in the low

70s and lows

in the upper

30s.

- Big Spring Band Boosters meets at 5:30 p.m. in the high school band hall. All band parents are invited to attend.
- Big Spring Art Association meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library. All working artists and those interested in art are invited to attend.
- Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Free blood pressure screenings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., provided by InHome Care.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third St.

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring City Council Chambers, 307 E. Fourth.
- League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The public is invited.
- American Legion Post 506 meets at 6 p.m. Call 263-2084 for more information.
- Rackley-Swords 379, Vietnam Veterans of America meets at 7 p.m. in the Sparenburg Building, 309 S. Main St.
- Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

ottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 25-27-30-34. Bonus Ball: 12. Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 1.

Number matching four of four: 2. Prize: \$5,217.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night: Winning numbers drawn: 8-12-13-22-33. Number matching five of five: 3.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 7-6-8-9. Sum It Up: 30.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:6-3-9. Sum-it-Up: 18.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

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

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

•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.

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and closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY

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

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Long, tough drive shows Cowboys' staying power

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — For one season-salvaging drive, the Dallas Cowboys looked like the kind of team everyone expected.

They made good blocks. They made tough plays. When coaches gambled, players delivered.

And, most of all, they won.

Dallas protected a 14-10 victory over the Washington Redskins on Sunday night by turning to Marion Barber and the offensive line. Combining punishing blocks and Barber's rugged running, the Cowboys drained the final 6:40 off the clock, preventing the Redskins from even having a chance to come back.

"We just proved that when we play like we know we can play, nobody can really stop us," right guard Leonard Davis said Monday. "We've been in situations where we haven't been as successful as we had hoped to, but to be able to go out and do what we did last night, it totally builds your confidence.'

Now comes the hard part keeping it up.

After losing four of their previous six games, are the Cowboys ready to start clicking and blossom into an elite team, as they did last season and early this season?

Or is this just a tease, a team that's able to put it together for one game or maybe just one series?

The answer will come over the next six weeks, of course, but Dallas has a chance for a nice head start. The next two games are at home, against San Francisco (3-7) and Seattle (2-8). So it's quite possible the Cowboys will go into December 8-4 and



Dallas Cowboys running back Marion Barber (24) is brought down by Washington Redskins linebacker London Fletcher (59) in the fourth quarter of an NFL game in Landover, Md., Sunday. Cowboys Roy Williams (11) moves in to block. The Cowboys won 14-10.

with the momentum of a three- lowed each of its last three wins of making it would've been game winning streak.

That is, as long as they can

with losses.

Losing this game wouldn't build on their spunky effort have eliminated the Cowboys against the Redskins. Dallas fol- from the playoffs, but their odds like "must win" and "backs

much, much more remote. That's why the two weeks leading up to the game were filled with cliches against the while." All things considered, it's also why coach Wade Phillips came away so pleased.

"You can talk about it all you want to - say you're focused, have a sense of urgency and all that stuff — but you still got to go out and play like that and play as a team and play well," Phillips said. "We went through a rough stretch there, but I think we're going to get out of it."

Phillips praised 15 players by name at the start of his news conference Monday. The offensive line and Barber got extra attention, but so did quarterback Tony Romo and cornerback Terence Newman, who came back from a long layoff to shadow Santana Moss. Newman prevented Moss from having his usual big day against Dallas, plus intercepted a pass and forced a fourth-down incompletion on what proved to be Washington's final snap.

With Romo back for the first time in a month, and playing with a splint protecting the broken pinkie on his passing hand, his numbers weren't great, but his presence was. His quick release and mobility in the pocket made the line look better than it had in a while. Phillips said he also thinks Romo forced the Redskins to approach the game differently, such as opting to go for it on the fourth-down play that Newman broke up.

"He affects the game," Phillips said. "He affects our players. He affects our attitude about what we can and can't do. ... It was certainly great to have him back and we could see a difference in our team, with our offense and with our defense."

HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

"Denzel Barnes really played a great game on both ends of the floor,' raved Adams. "He did a great job for us and really came ready to play the entire game."

The Hawks will get their first big test this season Friday, when they travel to Denison to play Grayson Community College.

County Community College Saturday Denison.

Both squads are potential opponents for Howard the Region Tournament at the end of the season should the Hawks qualify.

"Grayson is going to be a tough challenge for us. They're a very tough, physical team,"

ontra

Adams. "You know we've only got four guys back from last year's team and this weekend will give us some much needed experience."

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

Howard 99, ACU 30 HC (99)

Denzel Barnes 8 4-6 25. Devon They'll face Collin Baker 5 3-3 13, Markeys Deans 5 0-1 10, Vladimir Gavranic 9 1-3 20, Ricardo Zanini 7 1-1 18, Melanio Ebenden 1 0-0 2, Shaad O'Garro 2 1-2 5, Dante Menter 3 0-0 6, Totals 40 10-16 99.

ACU (30)

Taylor Wausen 1 0-3 2, Geoffrey Ekwelum 3 0-0 8, Jerrod Merkord 2 0-0 5, Darwin Johnson 2 0-0 6, Grant Clottier 3 0-0 7, Quincy Carroll 1 0-2 2, Totals 12 0-5 30.

Halftime: HC 48, ACU 14. Fouled out: ACU 1 (Ekwelum). Total fouls:

STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

One of the player's Morris expects to step up and fill some of the void is point guard Jerrell Williams.

Unfortunately, the Steers will be without Williams for a month due to him suffering a broken hand.

"I think Jerrell is going to have a big year," said Morris. "He started every game and got a lot of playing time. He's worked hard in the offseason and put a lot of time into getting better. He's going to have to carry a lot of the load this year, but he can do it. He's a good player."

FORSAN

Continued from Page 1B

Other players with var-

sity experience include

sophomore guard Tristan

Clay, sophomore post Evan

Burton, senior guard

Jeremy Frietag and senior

post Jace Sandridge.

ers Morris is expecting to make large contributions are currently on the football field as well, but he says he's in no rush to get those guys back any time soon. He's also counting on some key athletes to step up from last year's junior varsity squad.

Some of the other play-

"Matt Ritchey is going to need to score more this season once he gets out here from football," noted Morris. "Darius McAllister can put the ball in the basket as well and we'll need him to do that a lot until some of these football guys get back. Sidney Parker gets a lot of steals and easy buckets. John Benavides has been working really hard in practices. All the

a solid junior varsity team

will be junior guards Riley

Wood, Ryan Flores and

Mike Hill and junior post

Forsan will open their

season at home against the

Grady Wildcats tonight

with an 8 p.m. tip off. They

will follow up with a game

on the road at Robert Lee

Zach Dykes.

Any given game a different player could step up and lead us.

guys we have can score.

"Our JV last year only lost like six games," he continued. "Zamir Linton played on the JV and he's very good. (Anderson) can play basketball very well. We're going to be a very athletic team. We're going to try and press a lot and run a fast break offense. It's going to be fun to watch.

"I want to be clear, though. I'm not in any hurry to get the football guys back. I want to see those guys go as far as possible. They've worked hard and incredibly they're a great team. I only wish them well in the playoffs. We'll get the guys from football well before the district season even if they go to state. We'll be OK.

There has been only one

big change in the Steers' district from last season as Lubbock Estacado dropped to Class 3A and was replaced by Abilene Cooper which dropped from 5A. Estacado was a perennial contender for a deep playoff run, but Morris points out how competitive Cooper should be dropping to a smaller classification.

"District is going to be just as tough as last year. We lost Lubbock Estacado, but we picked up Abilene Cooper," noted Morris. "It's not going to be any easier. I think by the time we get to the district season, we'll be able to challenge.

"I'm excited about this year's team," he continued. "We came on strong at the end of last year and a bunch of those guys are back. I'm very excited about it. It should be a fun year."

COAHOMA

Continued from Page 1B

such as Ballinger, Jim Ned

and Wall. Wall was responsible for

Coahoma's elimination from the postseason last season and Jim Ned was a state finalist, falling to Ponder, 72-51.

"This is really a strong district and any of the six teams in it could win," said Nichols. "I don't think the guys really think about how tough the district is supposed to be. We don't have a feeling like we can't compete with these teams. We expect to be right in the thick of things this season and have a shot at winning a district title."

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Friday.

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

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable **NORTH ♥**A 10 9 ♦ A J ♠ Q J 10 8 ♥ 5 **♥**643 ♦ K 9 6 3 \bullet 10 8 7 4 2 **♣**K Q 10 5 SOUTH

A Nonobligatory Finesse

The bidding: North East South West Pass Pass

Opening lead — four of diamonds. It was Heraclitus who said: "You never swim the same river twice. That was his way of saying that the water keeps changing as you swim in

The same thought applies to bridge. Every hand you play is different — in at least some respects from any hand you've ever played before. Consequently, general rules that may usually apply are willfully broken from time to time — but for

Consider the present case where West led a diamond against four hearts. Declarer played dummy's

jack, losing to the king, and back came the queen of spades. It did not matter whether South won the spade with the ace immediately or on the next trick; either way, he would later go down one, losing a diamond, two spades and a club.

By Steve Becker

It is certainly true that in the great majority of deals where declarer is faced with the diamond combination shown here, he would automatically finesse. But it is the wrong thing to do in this case. At best, South has only a 50 percent chance of winning the finesse, and if it loses he becomes a heavy favorite to go down against normal defense.

However, if declarer goes up with the ace of diamonds at trick one, as he should, he becomes a huge favorite to make four hearts. He continues by playing the ace and another club, planning to establish dummy's long suit. If the adverse clubs are divided either 3-3 or 4-2 — an 84 percent chance — this line of play is ilmost certain to succeed.

Let's say East wins the club with the queen, cashes the diamond king and returns the spade queen. South wins, leads a trump to the nine, ruffs a low club, plays a trump to the ten and ruffs the eight of clubs. He then leads a trump to the ace and discards spade loser on the nine of clubs to finish with 10 tricks.

Clearly, some finesses should be seen but not taken!

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BAILOUT

Continued from Page 1A

rescue package for new loans to U.S. auto manufacturers and suppliers, but the White House and GOP lawmakers say the industry beleaguered shouldn't get any new funds.

President George W. Bush and GOP lawmakers instead propose diverting \$25 billion in loans approved by Congress in September — designed to help auto manufacturers retool their factories so they can make more fuel-efficient vehicles — to cover the firms' immediate financial

executives, But auto backed by leading Democrats, insist they need another \$25 billion in emergency loans to avert a collapse of one or more of their companies before year's end. That would bring the total federal help for the industry to \$50 billion this year.

The executives, along with the head of the United Auto Workers union, were making their case Tuesday at a hearing before the Senate Banking Committee as auto bailout backers hunted the votes necessary to pass the plan in a postelection session. Aides in both parties and lobbyists tracking the plan privately acknowledge they are far short.

The debate comes as the financial situation for General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler LLC grows more precarious. GM has said it could run out of cash by year's end without government

"They're going to need to address what is the perception among some of our colleagues here that there's still some quality issues with the Big Three,

Critics argue that the industry's business practices - including lavish pay and benefits packages for auto workers - have created unsustain-

able costs for

the faltering

bankruptcy.

and they haven't begun to do the necessary restructuring — because they have," said Sen. Carl M. Levin, D-Mich., an architect of the bailout.

companies that can

only be solved with

Ford CEO Alan Mulally argued Tuesday in advance of the hearing that his company already been laboring to "transform our business" into a more profitable one that meets 21st century demands for fuelefficient vehicles.

Interviewed on ABC's "Good Morning America," Mulally denied that automakers resisted restructuring their companies to meet current marketing realities.

He also took exception to assertions the company has been badly managed, saying that "if everybody can remember, we had gotten back to profitability in the first quarter of this year ... None of us ever anticipated that we'd be in a world where our sales in this industry have fallen by 40 percent in the first nine months. "

Levin's bill would provide loans with initial interest rates of 5 percent to the U.S. automakers and suppliers in exchange for a federal stake in the companies or warrants that would let the government profit from future gains. Loan applicants would have to give the government a plan for "long-term financial viability."

But the measure stops short of giving the government a say over the firms' operations through an oversight board or hard limits on executive compensation. While taking advantage of the program, the companies could not pay dividends, award bonuses to executives making more than \$250,000 a year, or give golden parachute payments to top people departing from the firms.

A vote on the measure — which includes an extension of jobless benefits — could come as early as Thursday. But in an acknowledgment of the long odds facing such a plan, Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., also laid the groundwork for a straight up-or-down vote on the more widely supported unemployment measure, which is probably all that can pass this week.

The Senate auto bailout bill notes that 355,000 U.S. workers are directly employed by the auto industry, and an additional 4.5 million work in related industries. That doesn't count the 1 million retirees, spouses and dependents who rely on the firms for retirement and health care benefits.

Critics argue that the industry's business practices — including lavish pay and benefits packages for auto workers - have created unsustainable costs for the faltering companies that can only be solved with bankruptcy.

"I can't see how injecting capital with all the legacy issues that each of these companies has is better than reorganization," said Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn.

ANGEL

Continued from Page 1A

lar to these."

Tompkins said the first of the angel trees are expected to go up Wednesday at Bealls Department Store and Maurice's clothing store.

"We're expecting to have those two trees set up first," said Tompkins. "We'll also have a few other trees set up around the community, and we're working on getting those locations arranged soon."

Adopting a holiday angel is simple.

"They just take the Angel card from the tree and purchase Christmas gifts for

that child or senior," said Tompkins. "It doesn't necessarily have to be what's listed on the angel card. Once they purchase the items, they will attach the card to the gifts and bring them to our office, or drop them off where they got the card from. It's very important that they tape or tie the card to the gift, however, so we can make sure it goes to the correct child."

For more information on the Angel Tree program, call 267-8239 or stop by the Salvation Army office, located at 811 W Fifth

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

BOWLS

Continued from Page 1A

"We'll have five special bowls, which feature different agencies of the United Way, which will be auctioned off during the event," Tereletsky said.

Hansen said the campaign has raised slightly more than \$160,000 of its \$250,000, with several major contributions yet to be tabulated.

Monies raised from the annual campaign are used to fund the following 15 area non-profit agencies:

The American Red Cross, West Texas Chapter. This agency provides

disaster relief services, assistance to military personnel and their families and offers first aid instruc-

- Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) of West Texas. CASA volunteers serve as advocates for abused and neglected children who are in the care of Child Protective Services when the court is considering the permanent placement for the child. Location, 210 Third St. Phone, 263-4162.
- Buffalo Trail Council, Boy Scouts of America. This is an educational and character-building gram for boys and young adults. Location, 610 Scurry; Phone, 263-3407.

• Big Spring Humane Society. The Humane Society provides shelter and care for abandoned, abused and neglected cats and dogs and also arranges pet visitations for elderly and disabled. Location, W. I-20 North Service Road; Phone, 267-7832.

- Boy's Club of Big Spring. The program offers guidance, instruction, recreation and leadership to boys 6-17 years of age. Location, 212 E. Third St.; 263-1822.
- Northside Community Center. Northside provides clothing, household articles, rent and utility payments, emergency shelter and counseling for those in need. Location,

108 N.E. Eighth St.; Phone, 263-2673.

- Dora Robert Rehabilitation Center. This is a rehabilitation program to help improve the health and welfare of disabled children and adults. No one is turned away due to their ability to pay. Location, 306. W. Third; Phone, 267-3806.
- Isaiah 58. The program provides food, clothing and other essential of daily life to those in need. It also provides assistance with prescription drugs, rent and ultities. Location, 107 Runnels St.; Phone, 263-4758.
- · Girl Scouts of the Permian Basin. Girl Scouts provide programs aimed for

girls age five through 17.

- The Salvation Army. The Salvation Army provides a number of services for the poor including meals and lodging for the homeless. Location 811 W. Fifth St.; Phone, 267-8239.
- Victim Services. The volunteers for victim services for immediate aftercrises support for victims of rape and sexual assault. 24-hour support hotline, 263-3312.
- Y.M.C.A. of Big Spring. The YMCA offers a number of physical activities for children and adults along with after school and summer activities. Location, 801 Owens; Phone, 267-8234.
- Westside Community

Center. This program provides an education-based, after-school and summer programs for public school children. Location, 1311 W. Fourth St.; Phone, 267-

• Westside Day Care Center. This program provides day care and education for children ages 0-12 but the parents must be employed or participate in training that will lead to employment. Location: Big Spring Industrial Park; Phone, 263-7841.

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

HOMICIDE

Continued from Page 1A

mine when Dabney died or if she was killed at the location where the remains were found, Linda Anderson, a spokeswoman for medical examiner, told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Dabney disappeared Dec. 5, 2001, while traveling with her husband from Indianapolis to Bakersfield, Calif., where they

were to move into a new home. During the layover, an airline escort accompanied Dabney's wheelchairbound husband to the restroom and asked Dabney to meet them at the gate. She never showed up and

couldn't be located.

Her mysterious disappearance drew national attention when trial lawyer Johnnie L. Cochran Jr. joined the family in the search. Cochran was one of the attorneys who represented O.J. Simpson during his 1995 murder trial

of Big Spring as well as 14

other local agencies. All

donations to the United

Way are used for the sup-

port of these local agen-

cies and the activities and

in Los Angeles.

In 2003. Dabnev's husband, who had filed a \$10 million lawsuit against American Airlines, agreed to an undisclosed settle-

Price said that her father was in shock after learn-

the Big Spring-Howard

County area. Send your

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79721, or call 267-5201 for

her mother's death. "He's in disbelief." she said.

ing of the developments in

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME

Home.

& CHAPEL 24th & Johnson 267-8288

Jacqueline "Jackie" Smith, 35, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral

YMCA

Continued from Page 1A

trips, gym and board games.

The YMCA Child Care Program is licensed with the State of Texas and has approximately 65 children enrolled on a daily basis. Almost half of these children receive financial assistance. The YMCA provided more than \$19,000 in financial assistance last year. The United Way allocation is \$11,500. The YMCA Board of Directors annually raises the difference. The YMCA tries to turn no one away due to inability to pay.

The YMCA child care program includes daily supervision of children by qualified staff. Rosie Franco has been the YMCA program director since 2001.

"We make every effort to

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provide a safe and positive environment for the children while practicing the values of honesty, caring, respect and responsibility with parents and children," said Franco.

Child care has been provided through the Big Spring YMCA since the early 1980s.

The YMCA of Big Spring

is a charitable, non-profit organization under charter with the YMCA of The USA. Locally, it is organized under a board of directors. Trev Larson is the current board president, Scott MacKenzie is treasurer, Pete Thiry is executive director.

The United Way of Big Spring supports the YMCA

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Editorial

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff

Pub

John A. Moseley

Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

King of Pork stepping down

Obama brings his message of change to Washington, one of the U.S. Senate's all-time pork spenders relinquishes his position of power. Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., the longest-serving senator in U.S. history, is stepping down as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee — a key post that has vast control over federal agency budgets.

Byrd, 90, is the Babe Ruth of earmarks. And proud of it.

He has used his powerful post to dole out more than \$3 billion in federal pork to West Virginia — including \$326 million just in fiscal 2008.

More than three dozen bridges, highways, schools and public buildings in the state are named for Byrd. There's even a statue of him in the Capitol Rotunda in Charleston, even though state law prohibits statues of government officials until they have been dead for 50 years.

The Citizens Against Government Waste, a taxpayer watchdog group, named Byrd the King of Pork. To which he responded: "They don't know how much I enjoy it."

Byrd was first elected to the Senate in November 1958, and promptly joined the Appropriations Committee, where he has been ensconced for half a century.

West Virginia, a very poor state, has certainly benefitted from Byrd's taxpayer-funded largesse. In much the same way, Alaska has reaped all the federal dollars steered its way by Sen. Ted Stevens, the Senate's longest-serving Republican, recently convicted for failing to report gifts from key constituents.

Both Byrd and Stevens, 84, are proud of their porcine ways, as are many elected officials. But public support for earmarks has waned as many of the projects have proved to be of dubious merit. Though some projects are worthy, the murky process by which earmarks get awarded is troubling, at hest

Replacing Byrd as the appropriations chairman will be Sen. Daniel Ken Inouye, D-Hawaii. Inouye, 84, is a moderate and a war hero, but he is also part of the Senate's old guard. Earlier this month, Inouye supported Stevens and predicted his conviction would be overturned.

With Inouye as chairman of appropriations, it remains to be seen whether Byrd's stepping down is a true changing of the guard when it comes to earmarks — or just a seamless handoff.

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

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- By telephone at 263-7331By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at

editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.

• By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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Sanctimonious stone throwers

od bless Sarah Palin, and shame on elitists from both sides of the aisle who have denigrated, demonized and dissed her. I don't care how many "smartest people in the room" types offer pseudo-sophisticated analyses to

prove she was a drag on the GOP presidential ticket. They are all manifestly and embarrassingly wrong — and woefully out of touch — which is par for the course for elitists. Speaking of elitists



rural and southern America, particularly their ongoing smear of the South (and, truth be told, rank-and-file conservative Republicans) as racist.

For all the accolades Barack Obama is receiving, he should acknowledge a bit of egg on his face for invoking race with his failed prediction that his opponents would play the race card. "They're going to try to make you scared of me," he said. "You know, 'He's not patriotic enough; he's got a funny name.' You know, 'He doesn't look like all those other presidents on those dollar bills."

Then there was Newsweek's poster boy for liberal smugness, Jonathan Alter, hypothecating a scenario in which Obama could lose because of racism. Alter said the following factors would have contributed:

—"Erosion in the critical I-4 corridor near Tampa and in the Panhandle, where the astonishing Republican margins among whites could be attributed only to race."

—"The transformation of the northern part of (Virginia) couldn't overcome a huge McCain margin among whites farther south. They weren't the racists of their parents' generation, but they weren't quite ready to vote for the unthinkable, either."

Alter then cited an earlier Newsweek story, which asked, "Is America Ready (for a black president)?" "The answer: only if Obama proved close to a flawless candidate, and even then, we won't know for sure until Election Day. That doesn't mean Obama lost because all, or even most, McCain voters allowed race to be a factor. But enough did to change the outcome."

While Alter said he didn't think his scenario would play out, it doesn't excuse his presumptuous, unfair and erroneous assessment of people he doesn't know.

But Alter's piece was no more offensive than a postelection story by The New York Times' Adam Nossiter, in which Nossiter echoed Obama's comments about rural America and some people's discomfort with his looks and name (read: race).

Nossiter wrote: "Fear of the politician with the unusual name and look did not end with last Tuesday's vote in this rural red swatch where buck heads and rifles hang on the wall. This corner of the Deep South still resonates with negative feelings about the race of President-elect Barack Obama."

But the South, gloated Nossiter, is no longer going to be a major factor in presidential politics because parts of the "'suburban South' have experienced an influx of better educated and more prosperous voters in recent years."

Southern counties voting more Republican this year, he said, "tended to be poorer, less educated and whiter," as they have been "rural and isolated (and) less exposed to diversity, educational achievement and economic progress." According to the omniscient Nossiter, "Mr. Obama's race appears to have been the critical deciding factor in pushing ever greater numbers of white Southerners away from the Democrats."

Nossiter cited one political analyst saying "there's no other explanation than race" for Obama receiving

a smaller percentage of the Alabama white vote than John Kerry did in 2004.

Oh? How about reasonable anxiety about Obama's alliances and gaps in his biography, not to mention that he made the mistake of revealing his socialism and contempt for rural, Bible- and gun-toting Americans when away from his teleprompter?

One might think the liberals' persistent demagoguery on race mostly for partisan gain would subside with the election of Barack Obama, but one would be wrong.

Prescient commentators predicted that if Obama won, there would be no letting up.

They speculated that charges of racism might even escalate, as an emboldened left would begin an allout war against conservative talk radio.

Lo and behold, before the Electoral College has even convened to formalize Obama's victory, the slanderous group e-mails have begun. I personally received a number of them today, one of which said conservative talk radio is "All Hate All The Time' — racist, homophobic, sexist."

Don't think they aren't methodically laying a foundation to strip conservative America of its most powerful First Amendment outlet, talk radio, so they can restore their coveted liberal media monopoly.

There's apparently no limit to the shameless tactics of those willing to use false and divisive charges of racism to vilify an entire group of people (which, ironically, is the pernicious thought process inherent in racism) who are probably truer to racial colorblindness than their sanctimonious accusers.

To find out more about David Limbaugh, 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.

JOE HEFLIN

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The Republicans have no one like Hillary

saw it on election night, as I scrolled through the exit poll that somehow made its way online (at least at cbsnews. com) even before the polls closed in Ohio. It only took a little calculation for the result to be clear: Had

the election been a contest between Hillary Clinton and John McCain, more of McCain's voters would have voted for Hillary than Obama voters for McCain. Based on the exit polls, Hillary not only would have won, but she would have won by more than Obama did.



SUSAN ESTRICH

I believe that. Hillary would have meant no Sarah Palin. In the long run, that might have been good news for McCain and his reputation, but there is no denying that Palin gave him a temporary boost, bigger crowds and greater enthusiasm in the base. Without Palin, he would have been forced to play to the Republican base even more himself. With Hillary, there would have been no experience issue. With Hillary, the Democratic base of low-income white voters would have been solid.

Woulda, coulda, shoulda. What might have been. It doesn't really matter. Obama ran a better caucus strategy. He's president because of it. Politics is a tough game.

There is no point in crying over spilled milk, especially when there is a fresh carton on the table.

Obama won. The country and the world have been changed by it. And those of us who yearned to see a woman — and specifically a woman named Hillary Clinton — take the oath on January 20 can at least find solace in the knowledge that we were right about the most important issue: She was electable. She could have won.

But there is a more important and less theoretical point in the revelations of the exit polls: The Democratic bench is stronger than the Republican frontline.

Democrats have on the bench a would-be president. Republicans, even as their governors meet in Florida, are hard-pressed to find anyone who can lead their party out of the wastelands. They don't have an Obama or a Hillary. McCain really was their best hope, and 2008 was his best shot. They face the future struggling for definition, ideas and leadership.

Of course, Obama faces serious challenges. If he stumbles, Republicans will pounce. Karl Rove may be right that history, strictly speaking, favors the Republicans in two years because the party responsible for nothing has, historically speaking, a better chance of claiming that whatever has gone wrong is not their fault.

But the absence of national leaders offering better ideas complicates their case.

Their most attractive future leaders — guys like Bobby Jindal of Louisiana and Tim Pawlenty in Minnesota — are not going to be

taking on Obama in Washington, but trying to run their own states thousands of miles away. Meanwhile, Obama has in Clinton a powerful and popular ally who can help him expand the Democratic base and maybe even lead the effort to solve the health care problem in

America. Who better?
There are some Hillary supporters who will find in the latest numbers a shred of hope for a future Clinton presidency. If Obama should prove himself not up to the task, who knows? Eight years is not so long.

I don't see it that way. Democrats and the country have an enormous interest in Obama's success. All efforts should be focused on that goal. If he succeeds, the Democratic Party, the country and the world will benefit.

What the exit polls make clear is that Hillary can and should be a valued ally in that effort. She is not, as Harvard professor and one-time Obama adviser Samantha Power so foolishly stated, a "monster." Power was not alone in feeling that way; she just made the mistake of voicing it to a foreign journalist. But it is an attitude that should be renounced once and for all.

The Republicans have no one like Hillary. Obama would be crazy not to take advantage of his, and our, good fortune.

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Parent's Corner

Did you ever wonder why...

ast Sunday one of my fellow church members handed me a note entitled Ever Wonder Why. I had seen some of these statements before but some were new. I was also amazed at the truth of the statements and it makes me question the validity of our daily actions.

I will share a few with you. Ever wonder why drugstores make the sick folks walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front? Ever wonder why

people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke? Ever wonder why banks leave both doors open and then chain the pens to the coun-Ever wonder why we leave cars

worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage? Ever wonder why we buy hot dogs in packages of 10 and buns in packages of eight?

Ever wonder why we have drive-up ATM machines with Braille lettering? Ever wonder why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin? Ever wonder why women can't put on mascara with their mouth closed?

Ever wonder why you don't ever see the headline "Psychic Wins Lottery"? Ever wonder why "abbreviated" is such a long word? Ever wonder why doctors call what they do "practice?"

Ever wonder why lemon juice is made with artificial flavor, and dishwashing liquid is made with real lemons? Ever wonder why the man who invests your money is called a broker? Ever wonder why the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?

Ever wonder why there isn't a mouse-flavored car food? Ever wonder why flying is classified as safe, but they call the airport the terminal?

And now a story: A boy said it was his mission to teach his girl friend arithmetic. So, he said "Here's how it's done. If I kiss you once and then I kiss you twice that's addition. Then if I kiss you once and you give it back that's subtraction. Then if our kisses are many, that's multiplication."

About that time her Dad appeared upon the scene and kicked the boy out the door and said, "And that's division!"

You don't have to wonder about that!

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

City threatens blind woman over unpaid 1-cent bill

ATTLEBORO, Mass. (AP) — A 74-year-old blind woman was shocked when her daughter found a letter from the city saying a lien would be placed on her home unless she paid an overdue water bill.

The amount? One cent. Eileen Wilbur told The Sun Chronicle of Attleboro the letter sent her blood pressure soaring, and pointed out that stamps cost 42 cents.

City Collector Debora Marcoccio said the letter was among 2,000 sent out. A computer automatically prints letters for accounts with an overdue balance, and they are not reviewed by staff before being mailed, she said.

The letter warned of a lien and a \$48 penalty if the overdue bill is not paid by Dec. 10. The charge was from the previous fiscal year, which ran from July 2007 to July 2008.

"My question is, how come it wasn't paid when the (original) bills went out?" Marcoccio said.

Poetry in motion has cruel fate

arly that morning, the man stopped his truck in the abandoned building's parking lot. Once a mecca for shoppers, the empty hulk attracted pigeons while the tarmac offered a temporary stay for an assortment of vehicles.

Tossing chunks of bread and rolls collected from grocery stores, the early riser finished his ritual of providing scraps for birds. As the asphalt



McCasland

began to absorb the warmth from the sun, the first arrivals appeared. Food and comfort underfoot were welcome by the migrating flock.

Seeming to fall from the sky with wings stretched above and feet dangling below, the gray and white birds landed. Having a language of their own to describe the anticipated breakfast, they brought a smile to the man's face as he watched from nearby.

Later in the morning, the birds preened and prepared for another day of foraging at the city landfill. Only a few miles to the east, the "dump" offered a smorgasbord for their afternoon taking. Flying to the lake nestled in the city park, the birds would have a safe and restful night near or on the water. Their daily ritual had become routine.

When the phone rang that afternoon, the caller sought confirmation that a particular specie he had was covered by both state and federal law. "It's a wild, migratory bird, and protected," was my reply to the game warden. "It's still alive, but barely," he continued. "I'll be right there."

Thinking maybe we could save the large bird, the officer rushed to our house a few blocks away. Shutting the door of his truck, he opened the rear part of the double cab. Gently lifting an old baby blanket, he carried it away from the street to the side of our house. "Would hate for a child to see this," he continued.

Opening the faded cloth, he exposed a limp, ringbilled gull. The injuries to the bird were massive. Nothing we could have done would have changed the outcome.

After telling him we would dispose of the bird, we asked about its death. "Eighteen-year-old delib-

Bird Poop

erately drove his truck into that flock at the old discount store." Another gull had been struck, and did not fly. Witnesses said it wandered off into the dense growth near the lake before they could catch it.

"Witnesses?" we asked. Telling us that three people had seen the incident, the game warden added one of them remembered the license plate. Once the police department was given that information, plus the names of the witnesses, he had been notified. "Time to go see the judge," was his parting comment.

Looking at the gull one more time, we knew by its plumage it was an adult and at least three years old. With white head, underparts, and tail in contrast with its gray wings, the gull was aptly named because of the black band on the outer part of its yellow bill. By extending its wings, we could easily see its black primaries with white spots on the outer feathers. Noticeable on the back of the head and down the neck were light gray streaks and spots that indicated its nonbreeding status.

Often seen during the winter months around parking lots, restaurants, and parks, the gulls were known to be opportunists in their search for food.



An inland gull, the Ringed-bill is of great benefit to area farmers and ranchers. Included in its diet are field mice, small rodents, grubs and grasshoppers it captures in the air. Adept on and above the water, the bird can plunge down toward the surface and snatch small fish from the surface without wetting a feather.

My first call regarding these birds had been almost fifteen years prior to the fatal incident.

During an ice storm, the manager of a fast food restaurant had taken leftovers from hamburgers to cast on the pavement. Afraid the gulls could not find nourishment while everything was frozen, he was concerned about their survival. Thanks to the manager, we had learned of the gulls' presence.

What had seemed unique became a yearly, winter stop-over for these colorful, graceful birds. To watch them fly into a strong breeze, and become stationary in the air as they balanced with their long, pointed wings, was to see poetry in motion.

A few days later, the warden called. In addition to receiving a ticket from the officer, the teen had been fined \$200 by the judge and ordered to complete 24 hours of community

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



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than usual,



MATHIS

entertain = ourselves. Inside jokes need never be shared. With Mercury and Neptune still squaring off, it may seem futile and so unfunny to try and explain.

ÂRIES (March 21-April 19). Words are never neutral, and now they are even more transparent than usual. Choose carefully how you will describe and respond to things. The egos around vou are tender.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Mistakes, while they are not pleasant, are natural and necessary. Lately you haven't been making enough of them, which only proves that vour current game has gotten too easy. Stretch yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're an excellent listener when you apply yourself. The people around you have come to expect and depend on you to give your full attention; otherwise they will feel minimized.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You have faith in what you understand. When you know the way

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2711 LARRY

Tomorrow's Horoscope

it works, it's easy to

believe in it. So you don't

have to work on having

more faith, just more

knowledge. Today's prac-

tical experience will help

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

Emotional states are as

infectious as diseases.

Associate with the happy

and fortunate people and

be one yourself. Limit

your time spent in chari-

immensely.

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS This waning Leo moon is more introspective

though no less dramatic. We can find great amusement in our own thought processes and invent games and



ty to the miserable and oppressed, so as to maintain your own good cheer. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You clean and brighten your environment and everyone around you is glad for it. You rub off best on those who don't seem to notice or appreciate your efforts. Your cheerful influence is sub-

liminal but powerful. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your discernment is needed in all social matters. Recognize who is good for you and who is a potential danger. Judge others by the effect they have on the world and not the reasons they give for their problems.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Oh, how you love being proven right! It takes all of your emotional strength not to say "I told you so!" It's best to demonstrate the correctness of your ideas indirectly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Though you demonstrate your high energy on a daily basis, you know when to lie low, too. It benefits you to hide in the weeds and observe the dynamics of a situation before you jump into it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Between all of the birthdays and holiday gifts, as well as charitable donations, sometimes it feels as though you are a spending non-stop machine. Take heart -only generous souls achieve greatness.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A new experience unlike any you've had causes a revelation inside you. You now relate to someone you found puzzling. In an instant, what you used to judge becomes cause for compassion and understanding.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). People move in and out of your life to varying degrees. The ones you spent many hours with last week may get only a little of your attention this week and it's all perfect. Flow with the changes.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Scorpio getting ready for my wedding on Saturday, Nov. 29 and I'm freaking out. I'm supposed to be having the time of my life right now and instead I feel overwhelmed and annoyed. How can I avoid being a 'bridezilla'? My fiance is a Virgo, and my mother, who is driving me crazy, is a Virgo, too.'

You've been the star of

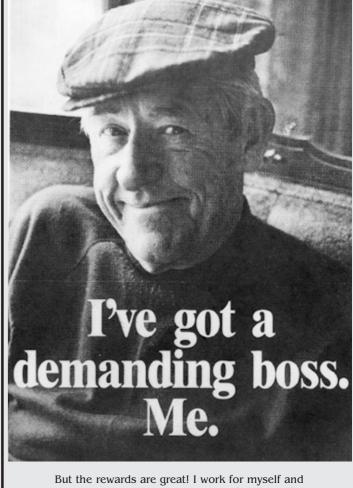
the zodiac for the last few weeks and this can be wonderful and a lot of pressure all at the same time. But with the planemood tary shifting toward Sagittarius this week you'll start to relax and let other people do the worrying. Your Virgo mother and future Virgo husband have all the details under control and back up plans to boot. On your special day, the gregarious Sagittarius sun will be your party planner, making sure that everyone is mingling well and that your night is laced with excitement. The Capricorn Moon watches to be sure that every tradition is honored and the correct sentiments and respects are naturally bestowed to the right people. You have absolutely nothing to worry about, so just knock it off. Relax and seize every opportunity to laugh, love and have a

good time. **CELEBRITY** PRO-FILES: Frat Pack member Owen Wilson is a charmingly sly Scorpio with four luminaries in the sign of magnetic appeal. Though his forte is obviously comedy, from "The Royal Tenenbaums" to "Wedding Crashers," his work resonates with a full range of emotion. He'll soon get the chance to do a dramatic role and his chart shows the potential to earn an Academy Award for it,

Holiday Mathis is the author of "Rock Your Stars." If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Chatter Box

"Vegetarian — that's an old Indian word

meaning 'lousy hunter.'"

— Andy Rooney, humorist and commentator

on CBS's "60 Minutes," on thinkexist.com





AUT-YUM LEAVES

Here's a treat no kid will leaf behind. Made with store-bought piecrust dough, these leaves are filled with chocolate and peanut butter chips — but try jam and cream cheese, or chocolate chips, walnuts, and mini marshmallows, if you prefer.

Heat the oven to 375 degrees. Whisk one egg with a teaspoon of water and set it aside. On a floured surface, roll out a prepared pie crust so it's about 1/8-inch thick.



Use a large leaf-shaped cookie cutter (ours is $4^{1}/_{2}$ inches wide) to make as many dough leaf pairs as possible. For each pocket, spread about 4 teaspoons of mini chocolate chips

and peanut butter chips on a leaf, leaving a 1/2-inch margin at the edge. Brush egg wash onto the edge, place a second leaf on top, and press the edges to se Brush the top with egg wash and sprinkle it generously with raw sugar. Bake the leaves on a parchment-covered cookie sheet until their edges are just beginning to brown, about 12 minutes. Let them rest on the sheet a few minutes before moving them to a cooling rack.

PUMPKIN PIE-SICLES

These butternut squash ice pops taste just like the classic Thanksgiving pumpkin pie. To make a batch, cut a butternut squash (about 21/2-pounds) into quarters and scoop out the seeds. Boil, bake, or microwave the squash until it's soft. Let the squash cool a bit before scooping its flesh into a medium-size bowl. Add ¹/₂-cup pure maple syrup, ²/₃-cup light cream, and ¹/₂ to ³/₄ teaspoon pumpkin-pie spice to the bowl. Use a potato masher to mush the squash and blend all of the ingredients. Spoon the mixture into ice pop molds (we were able to fill 10), add sticks and freeze for at least

6 hours before serving.

Help!

Problems with popularity

DEAR AMERICAN GIRL: I've made friends **DEAR AMERICAN GIRL:** I cry really easwith the most popular girl in school. She is sometimes nice, but mostly she puts me down. I have more fun with my not-so-popular friends than with her. But when I'm with her, I'm popular! — Mixed Up!

■ It's fun to make a new American Gir. friend, and exciting to bask in the glow of this girl's popularity. But beware! If you neglect your other friends — or, worse, start to put them down — you'll lose them in a flash. And no matter how great popularity feels, it won't make up for the loss of friends you really enjoy — and who like you for you.

ily. I can't help it. It seems like I'm always trying to hold back tears. — Crybaby

■ If this is something new for you, hormones might be the cause. Get plenty of sleep, and take time to relax every day. Moodiness is part of pu-

berty, and the good news is that puberty won't last forever. But if you are crying a lot, and you feel bad most of the time, it could be caused by something more serious than puberty. Talk to your parents and maybe even your doctor about what's happening, and they'll be able to help. Visit "Fun for Girls" at americangirlmagazine.com to

get or give advice. © 2008 American Girl, LLC. All rights reserved

Try This

Lurking Turkeys

This nighttime game of sneaking and seeking might make your neighbors wonder if a CALLING ALI TURKEYS tagged; the first who does (or the last to be JEFF MOORES/ FAMILYFUN MAGAZINE tagged) is the next It. — FamilyFun Magazine

flock of turkeys is on the loose. To play, choose one person to be "It" and pick a "coop" (such as a picnic table or a big tree). With eyes closed, It counts to 50 while the other players hide. When It looks for the other players, he can yell, "Calling all turkeys!" any time he wants. The other players must respond with "gobble, gobble." (Tip: It may not want to call the turkeys too often, as this gives away his position.) The turkeys try to get back to the coop without being

	WFA Da	A 2	KMID 3 Midland	UNI 4 Spanish	KPEJ 5 Odessa	KOSA 7 Odessa	KTLE 8 Telemundo	KWES 9 Midland	WTBS 11 Atlanta	KMLM 12 Odessa	KPBT 13 Odessa	DISC 20 Discovery	Classics	SPIKE 22 Spike TV	TNT 23 Atlanta	BET 26 Black Ent.	DISN 27 Disney	ESPN2 28 Sports	ESPN 29 Sports
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	0 Paid		Paid	Humor	TMZ	Paid	Pelicula:	Dark	Movie:	Southwest		Loggers		9			Dragon	Poker	

HAGAR

THERE'S ALWAYS A SILVER LINING IN EVEN THE **WORST**

OF SITUATIONS...

DENNIS THE MENACE



"WITH PANCAKE SYRUP ON MY HANDS, I'LL BE ABLE TO HOLD ONTO THOSE PASSES."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Any requests?"





SILVER

I DIDN'T

SIX-MONTH BAR BILL BEFORE I LEF HOME!



BC





WIZARD OF ID







AGNES







HI AND LOIS





THE OTHER COAST





SNUFFY SMITH





BEETLE BAILEY





This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 18, the 323rd day of 2008. There are 43 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 18, 1928, Walt Disney's first sound-synchronized animated cartoon, "Steamboat Willie" starring Mickey Mouse, premiered

in New York. On this date:

In 1883, the United States and Canada adopted a system of Standard Time zones.

In 1886, the 21st president of the United States, Chester A. Arthur, died in New York.

In 1936, Germany and Italy recognized the Spanish government of Francisco Franco. In 1958, the cargo freighter SS

Carl D. Bradley sank during a storm in Lake Michigan, claiming 33 of the 35 lives on board. In 1966, U.S. Roman Catholic

bishops did away with the rule against eating meat on Fridays outside of Lent.

In 1978, U.S. Rep. Leo J. Ryan, D-Calif., and four other people were killed in Jonestown, Guyana, by members of the Peoples Temple; the killings were followed by a night of mass murder and suicide by more than 900 cult members. In 1987, the congressional Iran-

Contra committees issued their final report, saying President Reagan bore "ultimate responsibility" for wrongdoing by his aides. In 1988, President Reagan signed legislation creating a Cabinet-level

penalty for drug traffickers who In 1999, 12 people were killed when a 59-foot stack of logs under construction for a bonfire at Texas

A&M University collapsed.

drug czar and providing the death

One year ago: President Gen. Pervez Musharraf's government dismissed a last-ditch U.S. call to end emergency rule, a day after a visit by Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte. A methane blast ripped through a coal mine in eastern Ukraine, killing 101 miners. Chris Daughtry's band won favorite pop-rock album for "Daughtry," as well as breakthrough artist and adult contemporary artist at the American Music Awards. MTV Arabia, an Arab version of the popculture channel, began broadcasting.

Stevens, R-Alaska, is 85. Actor Brad Sullivan is 77. Actress Brenda Vaccaro is 69. Actress Linda Evans is 66. Country singer Jacky Ward

is 62. Actor Jameson Parker is 61. Actress-singer Andrea Marcovicci is 60. Rock musician Herman Rarebell is 59. Singer Graham Parker is 58. Comedian Kevin Nealon is 55. Actor Oscar Nunez is 50. Actress Elizabeth Perkins is 48. Singer Kim Wilde is 48. Rock musician Kirk Hammett (Metallica) is 46. Actor Owen Wilson is 40. Singer Duncan Sheik is 39. Actress Peta Wilson is 38. Actress Chloe Sevigny is 34. Country singer Jessi Alexander is 32. Actor Steven Pasquale is 32. Rapper Fabolous is 29. Actor Nate Parker is 29. Rapper Mike Jones is 28. Actor Nathan Kress is 16.

Thought for Today: "It is impossible to defeat an ignorant man in argument." — William G. McAdoo, American government official (1863-1941).

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Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Layer of paint
- **5** Consumer **9** Take a photo
- **14** Entice
- **15** Grain storage buildina
- 16 Women's magazine,
- for short 17 High poker
- pair 18 Loch
- monster
- 19 Young barn
- bird **20** Question from
- the horrified 23 Eden woman
- 24 Be nosv
- 25 Noon 29 Peach centers
- **31** Helium or oxygen
- **34** Radio-studio sign
- 35 Short skirt 36 VIP's auto
- **37** Looked at
- quickly
- 40 Army group 41 Burden
- 42 Go-between 43 Went first
- **44** Begins to
- blossom
- **45** List of things to do
- 46 Rower's tool
- 47 Devoured
- 48 Considers
- something carefully 57 Dishwasher
- cycle 58 After-bath
- wear 59 "This is fun!"

FINISH LINES by Sally R. Stein

- 60 Make changes to
- 61 Tehran's country
- 62 of the
- above 63 Story lines
- **64** Movie
- locations
- **65** Backyard building

DOWN

- 1 Toucan's toenail
- 2 "That hurts!" 3 Neighborhood
- 4 Student's
- ordeal **5** Admiral's org.
- 6 Kitchen
- strainer
- **7** "Anything
- - 22 Of the eye 25 Film-studio
 - bigwig
 - **26** Silly 27 Goliath's foe

8 Optimistic

thoroughly

9 Cleans

10 Cowboy's

11 Capital of

Norway

12 Sign of the

21 Cardiology

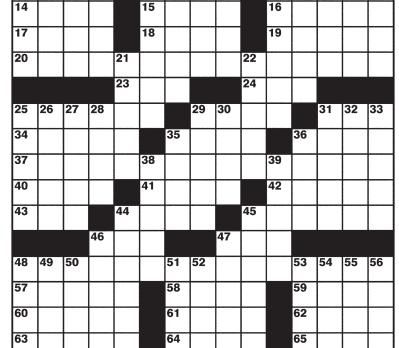
concern

future **13** Carryall bag

greeting

- 28 Food plan
- 29 Religious
- **30** Country hotels **31** Donated
- 32 Make
- changes to

- Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com 33 Not exactly.
 - informally
 - **35** Repair
 - 36 Theater section **38** Day divisions
 - 39 Rarin' to go
 - 44 Cake creators
 - 45 Capital of
 - Greece
 - 46 Beginning 47 Facing the
 - pitcher
 - 48 Ensnare
 - 49 Small peak **50** Look
 - (investigate)
 - **51** Part of the eye
 - **52** Ripped
 - 53 Has title to
 - **54** "Yikes!"
 - **55** Bit of heredity **56** Pay
 - attention to
 - 11 12 13



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