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BIG SPRING HRALD

WEDNESDAY

NOVEMBER 19, 2008



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Gale Pittman puts the finishing touches on a gingerbread house he created for a Christmas contest at the Heritage Museum Tuesday afternoon. Pittman's creation, along with other contest entries, will be on display at the museum beginning Saturday.

Council OKs **Atmos Energy** rate increase

Negotiations save local customers more than \$5 million, officials say

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Just say no, then negoti-

That's exactly what the city of Big Spring has done with local utility giant Atmos Energy, and according to local officials, the savings are considerable.

Big Spring City Council approved the emergency reading of an agreement with Atmos for a proposed rate increase during its meeting Tuesday night and City Finance Director Peggy Walker said the deal will save local customers more than \$5 million.

"On Aug. 29 Atmos filed a rate increase request with the city of Big Spring, as well as other cities in the West Texas division," said Walker. "We recently adopted a rate review mechanism with Atmos, which allows us to sit down and negotiate. Their initial request was for a \$9.5 million increase. We have negotiated a \$3.9 million increase, which will equate to about a 3 percent increase, or \$1.95 or \$1.98 for the average residential or commercial customer.

"We believe this negotiated settlement is better than we would have received if we had gone through pro-rated negotiations or actually gone into

See CITY, Page 3A

When planning holiday decorations, put safety first, fire marshal urges

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

While the Thanksgiving holiday will mean

plenty of turkey, dressing and all the other holiday trimmings, many area resiwill dents look to trim something slightly taller



and greener

— their Christmas tree. And though the upcoming holiday is most definitely a chance for kids - both young and old — to enjoy the change in

weather and the seasonal cheer, it's not a time to forget about safety, according to Big Spring Fire Marshall Carl Condray.

"Try to select a fresh tree by looking for one that is green. The needles of pines and spruces should bend and not break and should be hard to pull off the branches," said Condray. "On fir species, a needle pulled from a fresh tree will snap when bent, much like a fresh carrot. Also, look for a trunk sticky

See **SAFETY**, Page 3A

Jonestown memorial unveiled on tragedy's 30th anniversary

By TIM REITERMAN

Associated Press Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. — On the 30th anniversary of the Jonestown disaster Tuesday, organizers of an annual memorial service displayed the first panels of a 36-foot-long stone wall that is to be inscribed with the names of more than 900 victims of the violence

in Guyana. In the years since, efforts to create a monument have dragged on for lack of funding.

But the Rev. Jynona Norwood on Tuesday pulled covers from two shiny black granite slabs on stur-

dy trailers parked at Evergreen Cemetery, where more than 400 unidentified and unclaimed bodies of Jonestown's victims are buried in a mass grave.

Mourners gasped and tearful survivors scattered red and black carnations on the panels.

"Touch their names becausetouchingtheirnames is very healing," said Norwood, who lost 27 relatives in the 1978 mass murders and suicides orchestrated by Peoples Temple founder Jim Jones. "Finally, they have a resting place."

The work for the memo-

See TRAGEDY, Page 3A



AP photo/Eric Risberg

From left, Rev. Amos Brown, Jonestown survivor Stanley Clayton, Juana Norwood, and Dr. Jynona Norwood react after the unveiling of a memorial wall as they reach to touch victims names following the 30th anniversary Jonestown memorial service.

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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.

EDC meets today

The board of directors for the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation will meet at 5:15 p.m. today in the Chamber of Commerce Board Room, located at 215 W. Third St.

The board is expected to consider financial and investment reports for October, as well as modification of the existing agreement between the EDC and Gaston Racing Inc. According to Terry Wegman, executive director, Gaston Racing will be changing its financial agreement with the corporation from payroll credits to a loan. For more information on the meeting, call 264-6032.

Dine Out Day Friday

Furr's Restaurant is this week's Dine Out Restaurant assisting the United Way for Big

Spring and Howard County. Proceeds from Friday's sales at

send a tax

Furr's will benefit United Way. You can also

deductible donation to United Way of Big Spring, P.O. Box 24, Big Spring 79721, or call 267-5201 for more information.



Empty Bowls II, a United Way fundraiser, will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday at First Baptist Church. Participants purchase a handmade bowl for \$15, then fill that bowl with homemade soup, furnished by several local cooks.

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

Five special bowls will be auctioned during Thursday's event.

Funds raised at Empty Bowls II will help 15 local agencies.

LOCAL NEWS



LOCAL VIEWS

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Sports

BIG HERALD

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Jonathan Hull at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Page 1B Wednesday, November 19, 2008

BSHS v-ball has 3 honored

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

Big Spring's Lady Steers received word of one last thing to celebrate from the 2008 volleyball season as three members of the team were honored with awards from the coaches of District 4-4A.

Freshman setter Cerbi Ritchey was named 4-4A's Newcomer of the Year, while senior Andrea Claxton was placed on the All-District first team and sophomore Valerie Ross received second-team hon-

Big Spring Head Coach Meghan Blake believes Ritchey received the first of several awards in her high school volleyball

"For anyone who knows anything about volleyball, running a 5-1 offense is not easy because you're quarterback all the time. For a freshman, who had never played with any of the other girls on the team, she did a great job," raved Blake. "I couldn't have

asked for more. There were a lot more things I wish we could have done with her and next year we'll get some more opportunities. There's no telling how good she



Claxton



Ritchey

could become. The sky is the limit." Claxton was one of

three seniors on the Lady Steers, along with Baylea Fox and Mirella Torres. She led the Lady Steers in kills this season. Blake paid her high compliments, going as far as to compare her to 4-4A Most Valuable Player Bailey Jones of

Frenship.

"She was our go-to player. She's who

See **BSHS**, Page 2B

Lady Buffs improve to perfect 3-0

Buffs top Grady in season opener

By JEFF LANE

Special to the Herald

The Forsan Lady Buffs extended their record to 3-0 on the girls basketball season, defeating the Grady Lady Cats Tuesday night, 42-32.

Forsan used the strength of a 7-0 second quarter to jump out to a 9-point halftime lead, 19-10.

However, the Lady Cats quickly answered in the third, going on a 10-2 run to draw within a point, 21-20,

midway through the period. Forsan would end the quarter on a 7-2 run and would close out the game going 12-12 from the free throw line in the final frame.

The Lady Buffs shot 81 percent from the stripe, hitting 13-16 on the night.

Amanda Longorio led all scorers with 19 points while collecting six rebounds. Shelby McDonald was good from behind the arch three times for nine points and Faith Belew added eight points for the Lady

See FORSAN, Page 2B

Bulldogettes pick up first win of year

By BRANDON HALLFORD

Special to the Herald

COAHOMA — After opening the season with consecutive losses on the road, the Coahoma Bulldogettes received a gracious guest in the Kermit Lady Yellow Jackets at Bulldog Gym Tuesday. The Lady Jackets committed 19 turnovers in the decisive second and third quarters, allowing Coahoma to win,

"We played better tonight than we did in the first two games," first-year Head Coach Randall Petty said. "Against Christoval, we just didn't look good at all and against Andrews we looked better, but were still sluggish."

Coahoma had the hot hand from beyond the arc in the first quarter hitting 3-of-4 three point attempts opening up a 14-8 lead after the first quarter.

The Bulldogettes got on track in the second with junior Kalea Neff doing most of the damage.

Neff scored seven of her game-high 15 points in the stanza, propelling Coahoma to the 30-17 lead going into the locker room.

Coahoma hosts 16th-ranked Garden City at 4 p.m. Friday.

Coahoma 14 16 17 6-53

Coahoma - Neff 15, Gee 9, Fowler 7, Hilari White 6, Ashley Martin 4, Jordan Martin 4, Shelbi Page 3, Berkley Iden 3, Jennifer Gonzales 1.

Kermit - Muniz 9, Gonzales 9, Lauren Nutt 3.

Bulldogs 62, Rankin 32

RANKIN — It's hard to imagine the Coahoma Bulldogs could have asked for a better start to the 2008-2009 season than the 30-point victory they posted Tuesday in Rankin.

Coahoma utilized some sharpshooting from behind the 3-point line to pull away from the Red Devils.

The Bulldogs nailed nine treys with Jovi Paniagua hitting four and Braden Griffin knocking down three. Karly Green and Isaac Garcia each had one trey.

"This was a good start for us. Everyone contributed, which is nice," said Bulldogs Head Coach Kim Nichols. "We were glad to get the win."

Coahoma hosts Crane at 7 p.m. Friday.

Coahoma 13 17 17 15-62 Rankin 8 10 6 8-32

Coahoma - Josh Paniagua 7, Mike Mendoza 3, Braden Griffin 13, Karly Green 7, Lane Douglass 2, Ray Gutierrez 2, Isaac Garcia 7, Matthew Taylor 4, Jovi Paniagua 12, Cody Sheppard 8.



Lady Steers 2-0 after thrashing Prowlers

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

Just two games into the 2008-2009 basketball season, the Big Spring Lady Steers have already accomplished something they never came close to last year — a win streak.

The Lady Steers dominated the Fort Stockton Prowlers, 65-40, Tuesday in Steer Gym, utilizing a high-pressure defense to force the Prowlers into 32 turnovers.

The Lady Steers themselves had 25 steals and were relentless for four quarters. It's a result many have trouble

See STREAK, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Steers drop

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

Morris.

win some games."

opener, 76-61

Call it a casualty of making the playoffs in

The Big Spring Steers, missing several

potential starters due to the school's pres-

ence in the state football postseason, fell to

Fort Stockton Tuesday in Steer Gym, 76-61.

from the team are not an excuse for the loss,

according to Big Spring Head Coach Marcus

Morris. "It's hard for me to think of it that

way. Those guys might not be with us for a

while. So we can either lose some games

while waiting for them and use it as an

excuse. Or we can try to get better and try to

Big Spring never led in the contest, but did

make a few runs to cut into Fort Stockton's

lead. However, the Panthers always had an

Cantu knocked down five 3-pointers as he

went 11 of 20 from the floor and 10 of 11 from

the free throw line on his way to a 37-point

answer in the form of guard Trey Cantu.

"We miss those guys in football a lot," said

However, the players missing currently

Big Spring's Bridgette Tuitt brings the ball up the floor in the Lady Steers' 65-40 victory over Fort Stockton Tuesday in Steer Gym. Big Spring improved to 2-0.



Big Spring's Rob Seamster (left) pulls down a rebound over teammate Seth Pearson (background) and Fort Stockton's Reuben Flores (54) in the Steers' season opener Tuesday in Steer Gym. Big Spring fell to Fort Stockton 76-61.

HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

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.

See STEERS, Page 2B

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 has 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.

Sun

11/23

Mon

11/24

Highs in the

low 70s and

lows in the

Take Note

- · Big Spring High School Choir members will sell home-made brisket burritos and soft drinks at Wal-Mart Saturday beginning at 9 a.m.
- 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.
- 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.
- Mobile Meals needs volunteers to deliver meals Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. The organization delivers approximately 70 meals each day and needs drivers to donate just one hour per week. Mobile Meals also needs back-up volunteers to fill in when regular drivers can't make it. For more information, contact Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.
- Road to Recovery, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call Nancy Koger at 267-7809. After Dec. 1 the number to call for rides to treatment will be (877) 277-1618, the High Plains American Cancer Group Report Center. Anyone wishing to volunteer to drive in this program should call Sherry Hodnett, president of the Big Spring ACS Board, at 264-7599 at her office at Home Hospice.
- The purpose of life is a life of purpose. Join Nurses' Hospice of Big Spring volunteer program and become an "Angel" or "Teen Angel" in someone's life today. Come by 1008 E. Third St. or call (432) 517-4073 to regis-
- Bring joy and kindness to others by becoming a Compass Hospice volunteer. Help those at the end of life's journey. Make a difference in someone's life. Call 263-5999 to begin your journey.
- All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue has an account set up with Big Spring Salvage at 3608 N. Hwy. 87 for all types of metals and aluminum cans. Please tell them that your donations are for All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is also still taking weight circles off of all Purina brand dog foods. Send your Purina Weight Circles, to A.C.S. & R. at P.0, 871. Coahoma 79511. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is still accepting old and used cell phones and ink jet cartridges, for drop off locations in Big Spring and Coahoma, Call Melanie at 267-7387.
- Christ Community Fellowship is collecting infant car seats and carriers. These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreciated.
- New Life Ministries Church of God In Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information.
- The Pet Patrol helps locate lost pets and owners of found pets. To volunteer or for more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 267-PETS (7387).
- · Legal Aid of Northwest Texas is accepting appointments from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.
- Big Spring and surrounding counties are in critical need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Tuesday and 7 a.m. today: • ALLISON EDMONDSON, 36, of 2715 Central, was

- arrested Tuesday on two local warrants. • JONATHAN MATA, 23, of 1313 Virginia, was arrested Tuesday on three local warrants.
- KENDRIX THOMAS, 25, of Mississippi, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- CHARLENE STORIE, 28, of 1425 E. Sixth Street, was arrested Tuesday on an HCSO warrant and a charge of aggravated assault.
- CHRISTINA CARL, 51, of 1101 Marijo, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of aggravated assault.
- THEFT was reported:
- in the 1300 block of Main Street.
- in the 2300 block of Wasson.
- ARREST, RESISTING **SEARCH** OR TRANSPORTATION was reported in the 1500 block of Chickasaw.
- FORGERY was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- EVADING ARREST/DETENTION was reported in the 1500 block of Chickasaw.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 500 block of Lancaster.
- ASSAULT OF A PUBLIC SERVANT was reported in the 1500 block of Chickasaw.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 500 block of Lancaster.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported: in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. in the 1600 block of Wren.
- AGGRAVATED ASSAULT was reported in the 1400 block of Sixth Street.

Sheriff's report

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

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

- JESSICA BLANCO, 26, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of driving while license invalid/suspended - enhanced and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- AMANDA SORAYA BRYAN, 29, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on a charge of theft by check.
- DAVID FRANCO, 30, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of failure to appear - child support and unlawfully carrying a weapon.

Fire/EMS

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

- TRAUMA was reported in the area of Howard College. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported near the intersection of S. Highway 87 and Paramore Road. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1400 block of Settles. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 300 block of E. 23rd Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of N. FM 820. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of N.W. Eighth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1400 block of E. Sixth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of N. Main
- Street. Service refused. • MEDICAL was reported in the 1200 block of Johnson.
- One person was transported to SMMC.
- STRUCTURE FIRE was reported in the 1300 block of Lincoln. Fire was out on arrival.

Lottery

The jackpot in the multistate Mega Millions lottery drawing grew to \$86 million Wednesday.

None of the tickets sold for Tuesday's \$86 million drawing matched all five lotto numbers and the Mega

Ball. The next drawing will be Friday. The winning numbers from Tuesday's drawing were: 10, 15, 22, 52, and 53. The Mega Ball number was 12.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 11-16-17-29-31. Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$23,592 Winning ticket sold in: Castroville.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-3-1-7. Sum It Up: 14.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-5-8. Sum It Up: 22.

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mid 60s and

lows in the

Sat

11/22

Your Local Weather

11/21

Highs in the

low 50s and

lows in the

low 40s.

lows in the upper 40s. low 50s. mid 40s.

Highs in the

low 70s and

Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

Thu

11/20

time. High

63F, Winds

NE at 15 to

25 mph.

• 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.

- 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

• Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

MONDAY

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.
- The Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at the Howard County Library. For more information,
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

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

Support Groups

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8

SUNDAY

 Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.

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STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

performance.

The closest the Steers got was at the end of the first quarter. After Fort Stockton opened with a 17-5 advantage, Big Spring scored the final 7 points of the period to pull within 5.

However, the Steers struggled to set up their offense in the second period, allowing the Panthers to pull out to a 12-point advantage by halftime.

"I didn't like the score. I didn't like the turnovers," said Morris. "I think we set a world record for number of times we dribbled the basketball. We dribbled the ball way too much and didn't pass enough. Early

season games are always unpredictable, especially for us because a lot of these guys don't have much varsity experience. We can look at that in a positive way, though, because it's giving some guys some much-needed experience."

Big Spring has cancelled its game with Lamesa that was set for Friday due to the football team's playoff game in El

"It's not anything like we're scared to go play Lamesa with the team we have now," said Morris. "I know some people in Lamesa probably feel that way. Our football team is in the playoffs. The community and the school is excited and they should be. I just thought it was best to go ahead and cancel the game and give everyone a chance to get to El Paso for the football game."

Big Spring's next game will be Tuesday vs. Midland Greenwood in Steer Gym with the tip coming after the completion of the Lady Steers game at 6:30 p.m. also against Greenwood.

Fort Stockton 17 19 22 18-76 **Big Spring** 12 12 21 16-61 FS (76)

DJ Galvan 1-2 2-2 4, Trey Cantu 11-20 10-11 37, Reuben Flores 1-4 0-1 2, Carlos Enriquez 4-9 2-3 10, Cole Gossett 2-6 0-5 4, John Leyva 0-0 0-0 0, Adrian Martinez 2-3 1-1 5, Reyes Leyva 1-1 0-0 2, Lambert Gonzales 6-8 1-3 13, Clay Howard 0-2 0-1 0, Total 29-55 16-28 76. BS (61)

Sammy Segundo 3-12 3-7 10, Darius McCallister 3-14 6-12 13. Jon Benavides 4-11 0-2 9, Daniel New 0-1 0-0 0, Daniel Segundo 3-10 3-6 8, Rob Seamster 6-8 0-0 13, Seth Pearson 2-2 0-0 4, Alex Minter 2-5 0-0 4.

FORSAN

Continued from Page 1B

Lauren Robinson paced the Lady Cats with 16 points while Eva Dvck netted six.

Grady 10 0 12 10-32 Forsan 12 7 9 14-42

Grady: Lauren Robinson 16, Eva Dyk 6, Meagan Blocker 4. Kaitlyn Blocker 4. Katie Meeks 2.

Forsan: Amanda Longorio 19, Shelby McDonald 9. Faith Belew 8. Tori Gauer 4. Shelby Jones 2.

Forsan 43, Grady 39

The Forsan boys basketball team kicked off their hoops season at home against Grady Tuesday night, escaping with a 4-point win over the Wildcats, 43-39.

Jeremy Robbins led all scorers

with 17 points, scoring the Buffs final seven points in the fourth quarter to seal the victory.

Forsan trailed only twice, as they were almost always just one step quicker than the Wildcats.

Alex Huckabee and Riley Wood both had 3-pointers on the night and Evan Burton posted a solid line of eight points, seven boards, four assists and three steals.

Dylan Cox and Jacob Rodriguez led the Wildcats with 15 and 12 points, respectively.

The Buffs are back in action at 8 p.m. Friday in Robert Lee.

7 14-39 Grady 9 13 7 9 14-43

Grady: Dylan Cox 15. Shane Teague 3. Tyler Matthews 3, Joe Cook 3, Johnny Ramirez 3, Jacob Rodriguez 12

Forsan: Jeremy Robbins 17, Nathan Atkerson 4, Tristian Clay 4, Alex Huckabee 7, Evan Burton 8, Riley Wood 3

STREAK

Continued from Page 1B

believing was even possible after the Lady Steers were winless just a season ago.

"I'm speechless myself. It's great to see this," said Lady Steers Head Coach Mike Warren. "I think it all comes down to how hard this team has worked and the way they play good defense. I told these girls that

our No. 1 goal this year is to be a good defensive team. I think if we continue to play hard defensively and keep getting better at the offensive end, we'll be able to compete in district. Our defense is our offense with the press and trap."

The Lady Steers led 34-22 at halftime, but really put the game away in the third period. With less than three minutes remaining in the third frame, the Lady Steers embarked on a 22-0 run that didn't end until the 4:25

mark in the fourth period.

The Lady Steers led 60-30 at that point and simply coasted to the 25-point victory from there. Desiree Anderson led the Lady Steers with 14 points, five rebounds and five steals. Bridgette Tuitt had 10 points, five boards and four assists. Linzee Yarbar scored nine.

A term Warren isn't afraid to use when describing the Ladv Steers is scrappy.

"That's definitely us. We're a scrappy team. I don't know that

I can coach that either," he said. "I think they've always had it in them, but they needed to have a little success and confidence. I just hope we continue to make forward strides and get better every game."

The Lady Steers had a schedule change due to the Steers football game in El Paso Friday. Big Spring will now play at Lamesa at 4 p.m. Saturday.

Fort Stockton 8 14 6 12-40 Big Spring 19 15 22 9-65

tinue to improve this season. We're organizing a team and are getting ready to start that season. We'll never beat the Coopers. Frenships and Herefords if we don't start working harder in the offseason."

The Big Spring High School club team is currently needing sponsors to help with the cost of travel as well as other expenses. Anyone interested in helping can reach the Big Spring athletic office at 264-3662 to leave a message for Blake.

District 4-4A awards MVP: Bailey Jones, Frenship Newcomer of the Year: Cerbi Ritchey,

Outstanding Hitter: Ellie Harp, Abilene

Maribel Silvas 1-7 1-2 3, Marissa Juarez 1-4 0-0 2, Mary Gonzales 0-2 2-2 2, Abby Warnock 5-7 0-0 10 Verenice Roman 0-3 0-2 0, Lindsey Horton 1-4 3-4 5, Gabby Salmon 1-2 1-5 3, Cynthia Fierra 4-10 4-8 13, Alana Gonzales 1-1 0-1 2, Total 14-40 11-24 40.

BS (65)

Linzee Yarbar 4-5 1-3 9, Kallina Fletcher 2-11 2-2 6 Valerie Boss 1-3 2-2 4 Dominique Green 3-5 0-0 6, Desiree Anderson 6-14 2-3 14, Bridgette Tuitt 5-7 0-1 10, Cerbi Ritchey 2-4 1-2 5, Crystal Woodson 1-7 2-7 5, Lauren Porras 2-6 2-4 6, Total 26-64 12-24

BSHS

Continued from Page 1B

the other teams prepared for in practice. She was our version of Bailey Jones," said Blake. "I think she came a long way this year in terms of aggressiveness and her intent in doing things. The other coaches in the district noticed that. That's hard to do in a short period of time in training. We really leaned on her in times of need and she stepped up on more than one occasion."

Ross didn't play a full season on the varsity, but we moved up from the junior varsity before

the start of the district season because of her ability to play defense. Despite not playing a full season, she ended up placing in the top three on the team in digs and was one of the Lady Steers' most consistent and dangerous servers.

"For a kid who came in the middle of the season after being on JV, she did a nice job of adjusting to my coaching and to the girls around her," commented Blake. "The other coaches noticed she was an all-around player and really hustled after every ball. She was a terrific server for us most of the year and won some big points for us behind the service line."

The Lady Steers were eliminated in the first round of the playoffs by the state's No. 1 Class 4A squad Hereford, which is playing for a state title this week-

Blake insists that the only way the Lady Steers can start to compete with teams on the level of Hereford and Frenship is for a more organized form of play in the offseason to take place in Big Spring.

"Every team we play against in the district plays club ball in the offseason," Blake said. "That's what all the best teams do. Big Spring has to get a club team going. It's the best way for the quality of volleyball to conCooper

Outstanding Setter: Erin Bradley,

Outstanding Libero: Ashley Welch, Outstanding Server: Karleigh Loveless,

Frenship Outstanding Blocker: Lauren Hartidge, Abilene Cooper

Coach of the Year: Jennifer McCully, First team All-District: Andrea Claxton,

Big Spring; Kelsey Hundt, Abilene Cooper: Jessica Renner, Abilene Cooper; Julia Hitch, Frenship; Carsey Aycock, Frenship; Maddie Johnson, Frenship; Whitney Olness, Lake View; Abby King, Plainview. Second team All-District: Courtney

Douglas, Lake View; Marisa Gambo, Plainview; Emily Welch, Plainview; Kailey Moorhead, Frenship; Valerie Ross, Big Spring; Samantha Koss, Abilene Cooper; Skylar Anderson, Lake View; Lindsey Barton, Plainview.

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Local One Owner. **Sale Price \$10,995**

Sale Price \$13,995 Was \$13,995 Owner.

> Was \$19,995 Sale Price \$17,995

w/36.000 Miles. Sale Price \$13,995 $\star\star\star$ <u>CARS</u> $\star\star\star$

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Was \$18,995 Sale Price \$16,995 2008 Ford Focus SE - White w/Tan Cloth, All Power, Great MPG,

Bought At Ford Program Sale, Only 12,000 Miles. **Sale Price \$16,995** Was \$18,995

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2006 Lincoln Town Car Signature - Dark Stone, Leather, All Power, One Owner w/35,000 Miles. **Sale Price \$21,995** Was \$23,995

2004 Mercury Grand Marquis L.S. - Tan w/Leather, All Power, One Owner w/50,000 Miles. Was \$15,995 **Sale Price \$12.995**

2004 Lincoln Town Car Ultimate - Cashmere White w/Leather, All Power, One Owner w/32,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 **Sale Price \$18,995**

2004 Mercedes C240 - Tan w/Leather, All Power, Locally Owned w/42,000 Miles.

Sale Price \$17,995 Was \$21,995 2004 Nissan Maxima SL - Black w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner. Skylight. Sale Price \$17,995 Was \$23,995

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Man charged in death of retiree who befriended him

INGRAM (AP) — A wealthy retiree opened his three-story lake home to an out-of-work mechanic he had befriended, then was murdered and his possessions plundered, according to indictments.

The mechanic, Charles Tidwell, 46, another man were indicted Monday in the death of retired investment banker 52-year-old Allan Kowalski. Kowalski was last seen Aug. 26 but was never reported missing. A deputy who pulled Tidwell over became suspicious when Tidwell claimed to be Kolwalski.

New study discounts ginko as effective against Alzheimer's

By DELTHIA RICKS

Newsday

NEW YORK — Ginkgo biloba, the popular supplement derived from a Chinese tree, does not protect older people from Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia, scientists have found in an analysis published Wednesday.

Ginkgo has such a long and storied past and is so commonly used as a memory enhancer that even teens studying for the SAT have been known to take the over-thecounter preparation. Some doctors routinely recommend it to people in the early phases of Alzheimer's disease.

The incurable disorder, characterized by brain-clogging "plaques and tangles," affects 5.2 million people nationwide, most

explosive prevalence of Alzheimer's that caused some doctors to hold out a flicker of hope that a simple, nontoxic supplement might help thwart the disease.

But in one of the largest — and longest — studies ever designed to test whether ginkgo can stave off Alzheimer's, scientists found the supplements were completely ineffective. More than 3,000 people between the ages of 75 and 96 participated in the six-year project, taking a red-colored capsule twice a day. Half got 120 milligrams of ginkgo; the rest got placebos. Supplements were made by Nature's Way of Mission Hills,

Steven Myers, proprietor of

of them 65 or older. And it is the Baldwin, N.Y., said ginkgo is a ty-two percent were classified as big seller.

> "People know of it because it increases circulation and mental clarity. That's the main reason why they buy it, and some buy it because of tinnitus, ringing in the ears," Myers said. "People studying for the police exam or the SAT will take ginkgo."

> Dr. Steven DeKosky, of the University of Pittsburgh, lead investigator of the ginkgo study, said he and his colleagues deemed the supplement powerless against Alzheimer's when participants developed the disease. The study is published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

In all, 523 people developed dementia, 246 in the placebo group Nature's Vitamin Spot in North and 277 in the ginkgo arm. Nine-

possible or probable Alzheim-

Dr. Anton Porsteinsson of the University of Rochester, who conducted the nation's first ginkgo study a decade ago involving "pharmaceutical grade" supplements, said DeKosky's research is compelling - and convincing.

Porsteinsson, director of the university's Alzheimer's care and research, has recommended ginkgo for memory loss, but said he probably will stop. "Ginkgo does have a modest effect in young, healthy people," Porsteinsson said. "This study was carefully designed and conducted. You won't find me suggesting it to my patients as a likely agent of therapeutic benefit."

CITY

Continued from Page 1A

litigation."

The council approved the negotiated rate increase request by a unanimous vote.

Also during Tuesday's meeting, Butch Davis, engineer with Parkhill Smith & Cooper and project coordinator for the city's ongoing bond projects, told council members the final project in the multimillion dollar list of voterapproved projects is set to begin soon.

"This will be the final

election the citizens approved. In this project we plan to repave about 42 blocks of city streets, along Main Street, Scurry Street and the downtown area," said Davis. "With that project we'll be doing various sidewalk improvements, as well as ADA curb ramps, and if we're able to do all of the curb ramps we have in this project, it

project from the 2006 bond

much as the budget will al-Davis said the effort has been broken up into sev-

will be right at 100 ramps

that will be installed. It

also includes street-scape

improvements, at least as

eral alternative projects, allowing the city to take the bond project as far as its budget will carry it.

"We anticipate having about \$7.6 million available for construction." said Davis. "We're hoping that will give us enough to do all the items in the bid package. We've broken it into several alternatives we'll be able to award as the budget allows."

while improvements to the rough and aging roadways in downtown Big Spring will certainly be embraced by local motorists, Davis said the project has the potential to be a pain-in-the-neck to residents during its 13-month much needed."

construction time. "We anticipate opening bids Jan. 9, and bringing them back to the council Jan. 13 for your consideration. At that point we'll do a notice of procedure for the contractor Feb. 9. Construction is expected to take approximately 13 months, so we're targeting April 1, 2010, as our completion date. This is probably going to be the most visible of the bond projects, and probably cause the most public inconvenience, so it could become the most vocal and most controversial. However, it's a project that's very

Also during the meeting, the council approved:

 An agreement with Parkhill, Smith & Cooper Inc. for consultant services for the 2008 Railroad Spur Master Plan.

• Emergency reading of an ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance by approving preliminary final plat of Adkins Subdivision and Krishna subdivisions.

• Industrial Park lease agreements with Hangar 25 Air Museum, Liberty Machine Shop and Clifton Talbot.

· An agreement with Alon USA to store rail cars

which are made from dry

in the railroad spur located at the McMahon Wrinkle Airpark. The council also amended the lease agreement with Western Container Corporation regarding the use of the railroad

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

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SAFETY

Continued from Page 1A

with sap.

"Cut off about two inches of the trunk and put the tree in a sturdy, waterholding stand. Keep the stand filled with water so the tree does not dry out quickly. Stand your tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources. Make sure the tree does not block foot traffic or doorways. If you use an artificial tree, choose one that's tested and labeled as fire resistant. Artificial trees with built-in electrical systems should have the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label."

Picking your Christmas tree is just the beginning,

according to Condray, as what you put on it can be just as important.

"Only use indoor lights indoors and outdoor lights outdoors. Again, look for the UL label," Condray advised. "Check lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires or loose connections. You should check them by setting them on a non-flammable surface and leaving them plugged in for 10 to 15 minutes to make sure they don't melt or smoke. Turn off all the lights on trees decorations when you go to bed or leave the house.

"When you're hanging the lights, be sure to keep them away from flammable materials such as curtains, and make sure the cords aren't near any

sources of water. Never connect more than three sets of light to an extension cord, and to prevent overheating, pinching and fraying cords, avoid running lights under rugs or behind furniture."

Condray said another holiday favorite — candles - can also pose a considerable risk if not handled with extreme care. "Candles are one of the

largest causes of house fires in the nation, especially toward this time of the year," he said. "Historically, December has twice the number of candle fires than any other month because of all the decorative candles.

"The main thing people need to remember is to keep a good clear space around the candle, put them in a leave a candle burning unattended. If you're going to leave the room and not be there to enjoy it, put it out. Also, keep them off combustible surfaces such as table cloths."

proper holder and never

Condray said many candles come in their own "holder," which may present their own kinds of dan-

"Some of the candles you can buy these days are inside glass jars and such," he said. "Some of them aren't exactly the best quality and they can get really hot, especially as the candle burns down, and fracture the glass or jar. We've seen quite a few cases like that.

"Some people also like to put table decorations around them, some of

rialize all the bodies, as a

fabrics or actual dried leaves, which makes for an excellent wick to help the flame spread. There are newer, battery operated ornaments that look like candles but don't use an open flame. While they may not provide the most classic look, they are certainly the safest option."

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

TRAGEDY

Continued from Page 1A

complete. Despite a \$30,000 down payment, another \$70,000 or more must be raised

rial, however, is far from

to complete the 7-foot-tall monument with an 8-foot red granite central panel bearing the names of 305 children who perished in Jonestown.

The crowd of almost 200 including temple survivors and relatives of the victims — was one of the largest since Norwood started holding services to honor Jonestown's dead.

When Jones ordered his followers to commit suicide, more than 900 members drank cyanide-laced, grape-flavored punch. Others were shot by guards loyal to Jones.

In recent years, more survivors have been attending the service, as it has become more widely ac-

cepted that they were ordinary people betrayed by a charismatic minister who lured them to an integrated church with programs for the poor.

The carnage occurred after 15 members defected during Rep. Leo Ryan's fact-finding mission to Jonestown.

Temple gunmen killed Ryan, three journalists and a defector on a nearby airstrip — and all of their names will be on the mon-

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ument, Norwood said.

But the minister made clear during the service that Jones will not have his name in granite.

"To put Jim Jones' name on that wall is an insult ... to all the dead," she said.

Jim Jones Jr., the minister's adopted son, disagrees.

"The tragedy is we're villianizing Jim Jones," he said. "Jim Jones was also a victim, of his own madness. We need to memo-

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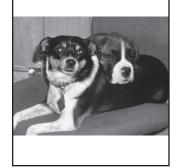
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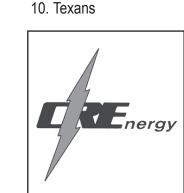
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think will win. Clip and fill in the official entry blank on this page with your team choice. The entry with the most correct picks will win \$50. You must be 18 to enter. Only official entry forms accepted. In the event of a tie, the tie breaker will determine the winner. Guess the winner and the combined scores for the total points. Decisions of the judges are final. Employees and families of employees of The Big Spring Herald are ineligible. All entries must be received at one of the participating merchants by 1 p.m. Friday of the week played. Winners will be announced in the Big Spring Herald the Wednesday following the games.







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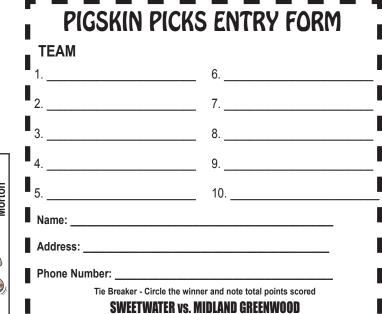


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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff

John A. Moseley

Managing Editor

Bill McClellan News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

No kidding, thinking makes you fat

o you notice a deep craving for, say, chocolate chip cookies when you settle in to write a college paper or a report for the boss? Do you find your hand reaching for the cashews when that perfect word won't come? Is your mouth suddenly filled with M&Ms while you're deep in concentration over a client presentation, a class project, a Sudoku?

You can get ravenous when you are doing nothing else but thinking hard about something. This has been a thesis of ours for years. See, that's why these few extra pounds crept up on us. It has nothing to do with lack of exercise or willpower or any of the other stuff that diet experts cite to flagellate us. Here's why many Americans are too fat: They think too much.

And now we have the proof! Or at least, we have someone who agrees with us.

Performing mental tasks stimulates the appetite so much that people tend to eat significantly more calories while doing so, according to a study published in Psychosomatic Medicine. Researchers found brain work "destabilizes" levels of insulin and glucose, two basic components in the body's energy-producing arsenal. Thus, the harder you think, the more the brain demands glucose - meaning sugar.

So here's the problem. The cure for thinking too much seems simple. Stop. Float through life without a thought in your head, your brain blissfully undemanding of glucose. (Could this explain how Paris Hilton, in previously unheralded wisdom, stavs thin?)

But scientists also say an active brain is one that may not be as prone to Alzheimer's and other brain-damaging maladies. Mental exercise like reading the newspaper (hint, hint), attending a play or even playing checkers can ward off Alzheimer's, according to a study released last year by Rush University Medical Center researchers.

But there may be another way to keep the brain on but the pounds off.

Researchers now say that they often can detect brain activity changes that predict a person's choice before that person becomes aware of that choice. Apparently there can be a 10-second lag between the time the brain starts forming a decision and a person becomes consciously aware of it and acts, according to a May 2008 study in the journal Nature Neuroscience.

So, what if that emerging decision, particularly if it involved eating, could be intercepted and canceled in the 10 seconds before a person becomes conscious of it and acts?

Belay that brownie order! Short-circuit that shortcake! No, you really don't want fries with

What a breakthrough for those who struggle on

a diet. Think of the possibilities. But not too hard.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

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number or address will not be considered. Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

Perspective on election's numbers

olitical myths take hold as quickly as urban legends, and often with even less supporting evidence. Someone stands in a particularly long line on Election Day and de-

cides that it signals a once-in-a-generation eruption of civic engagement.

But anecdotes are not data. We now have enough exit-poll data from Edison Media Research/Mitofsky International to put last week's election in context. Let's examine some of the already established myths:

duced a historic turnout.



-An energized electorate pro-

Yes and no. On the one hand, 123,525,445 votes were cast for Barack Obama and John McCain — the biggest combined total in history. On the other hand, that number was up only 2 percent from 2004. And to really put the number in perspective, consider that the U.S. population grew by 2.7 percent in the intervening four years, so the growth in voting actually lagged behind overall population growth.

-Obama's racial identity was an electoral burden.

The numbers suggest otherwise. It's true that the single biggest demographic factor in voting was race. If you are a black, there's a 95 percent chance you voted for Obama. By comparison, self-identified Democrats voted for Obama at a mere 89 percent clip, and only 90 percent of self-identified Republicans went for McCain.

At a more detailed level, 19 percent of voters said that race was a factor in how they voted. Those who said race was the "most important factor" went for Obama 58 percent to 41 percent. Those who said race was an "important factor" went for Obama 52 to 47. And those who said race was a "minor factor" went for Obama 54 to 45.

As a baseline, voters who said race was "not a factor" went for Obama 51 to 46. Surely, some voters in some precincts voted against Obama because he's black. But on the whole, it's clear that his race helped him more than it hurt.

-Obama motivated a new generation of young people.

Not quite. The "youth vote" (meaning voters between the ages of 18 and 29) ticked upward only from 17 percent in 2004 to 18 percent in 2008.

As Republican strategist Patrick Ruffini noted, the big story wasn't that Obama brought in a wave of new young voters; it was that he produced a huge swing in the 18-29 demographic. In 2004, John Kerry had a nine-point advantage in the youth vote; Obama won young voters by 34 points.

That's a 25-point swing, and, as Ruffini notes, it accounts for 4.5 percent of all the votes cast — which is a big chunk of Obama's margin of victory.

—Sarah Palin sank the Republican ticket.

Voters who said that Palin was "not a factor" in their decision went for Obama by a big margin, 65 percent to 33 percent. But 60 percent of voters said Palin was a factor in their decision, and McCain did very well among them.

Voters who said Palin was an "im-

portant factor" in their decision (33 percent of the electorate) went for McCain 52 to 47. And voters who said Palin was a "minor factor" (20 percent of the total) went for Mc-Cain 66 to 33.

True, the small group of voters who said Palin was the "most important" factor in their decision (7 percent of all voters) went for Obama. But the margin was 52 to 47, much smaller than it was among those who said Palin didn't matter.

By any measure, Palin helped Mc-Cain — quite a lot, actually.

—You can't trust the polls. Fordham University political science professor Costas Panagopoulos examined 23 national presidential polls and found that they predicted an average 7.52 percent Obama victory. Obama won by 6.15 points. That's pretty good work.

For what it's worth, four polls overestimated McCain's strength, and 17 overestimated Obama's.

—The early bird gets the worm. In recent years, there has been a perception that if you want to be president, you have to start running early. Who were the big early favorites in the 2008 cycle? Mark Warner, John Edwards, Hillary Clinton, George Allen, Bill Frist and Mitt Romney.

As we prepare for the 2012 race — pitchers and catchers, report to Iowa in just 1,137 days! — it's worth keeping in mind that early positioning doesn't always help.

Jonathan V. Last is a columnist for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to him at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at *jlast@phillynews.com.*

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Job No. create more jobs

pon graduating from high school, I took a \$1.50-anhour summer job as a low-level grunt for a road construction firm in my hometown in Texas. It was hot, dirty and boring work, with long hours. I hated every

minute. The only thing I hated worse than that job was losing it. I was laid off after only a few weeks, becoming expendable when the company hired someone with moreadvanced skills.

I was crushed they didn't need me anymore. Suddenly

I wanted that detestable job back more than anything in the world. Forty-one years later, I still remember the painful sense of rejection.

That experience came to mind last week as I read about America's increasingly bleak job picture. Employers shed 240,000 jobs in October, the 10th consecutive month of job losses, which total 1.2 million for the year.

That means we're losing 120,000 jobs monthly. We should be gaining that many just to accommodate population growth.

The unemployment rate has risen to 6.5 percent, the highest in 14 years. Analysts say it could top 8 percent next year. There are 10.1 million unemployed workers and 6.7 million more laboring part time because they can't find full-time

JACK

SMITH

Z.

Things are a little better in North Texas, but the outlook is worsening as a national recession looms, credit tightens, home foreclosures proliferate and employers slash jobs in fields ranging from helicopter manufacturing to retail sales.

There's a climate not merely of concern, but of outright fear — a growing trepidation among everyone from upper-level managers to newly hired college grads that climaxes with the unthinkable thought: "Oh, my gosh, I could be next to lose my job."

It seems as if almost everyone in the business world is retrenching these days — even normally full-speed-ahead billionaire Boone Pickens of Dallas. He and his investment firm have lost \$2 billion from plunging energy prices. He's putting on hold a huge Texas Panhandle wind farm with a price tag of \$10 billion-plus.

Amid the gloom, President-elect Barack Obama will enter the White House in circumstances perhaps more challenging than those facing any incoming president since Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933.

Washington is struggling to figure out what measures will best address the economic crisis, as evidenced by Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson's repeated shifts in financial bailout strategies.

We need to take well-thought-out measures to shore up financial institutions. But we also must put a focus on minimizing unemployment and creating jobs.

The federal and state governments could do that by accelerating funding for badly needed infrastructure projects, including construction, expansion and repairs for roads, bridges and transit systems. With gas prices tumbling, long-overdue increases in state and federal fuel taxes could help pay for the projects, as an alternative to increasing already-high budget deficits.

It looks like we're in for a long, brutal economic downturn, so many already-planned projects could be cranked up in time to help alleviate unemployment.

The government could also encourage retraining workers for jobs in the energy and environmental fields that will help us shift to a more "green" economy less reliant on foreign oil. I support federal assistance to help strapped U.S. automakers retool factories to build

more fuel-efficient cars. Poor Obama. He is inheriting such a colossal mess from George W. Bush. But those in the growing ranks of unemployed Americans realize that Obama has something they just might kill for right now — a good-paying job with a solid four-year contract, excellent health insurance and a very nice Washington home with no subprime mortgage attached to it.

Jack Z. Smith is an editorial writer for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Readers may write to him at 400 W. 7th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, or via e-mail at jzsmith@star-telegram.com.

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News in brief

Defeat of Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens' is end of an era in state, nation's capital

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Sen. Ted Stevens' election defeat marks the end of an era in which he held a commanding place in Alaska politics while wielding power on some of the most influential committees in Congress.

It also moves Senate Democrats within two seats of a filibuster-proof 60-vote majority and gives President-elect Barack Obama a stronger hand when he assumes office on Jan. 20.

On the day the longestserving Republican in Senate history turned 85, he was ousted by Alaska voters troubled by his conviction on federal felony charges and eager for a new direction in Washington, where Stevens served since Lyndon B. Johnson was president.

Alaska voters "wanted to see change," said Democrat Mark Begich, who claimed a narrow victory Tuesday after a tally of remaining ballots showed him holding a 3,724-vote edge.

Big Three automakers running out of time, talk of economic peril as aid stalls

WASHINGTON (AP) -Detroit's Big Three automakers are running out of time in their quest to convince skeptical lawmakers that Congress should throw them a \$25 billion lifeline.

Top executives with General Motors, Ford and Chrysler will return to Congress on Wednesday, appearing before a House committee to plead for a "bridge loan" to give them a massive infusion of cash to prevent millions of layoffs, stave off bankruptcy and stabilize their teetering companies.

Facing a less-than-receptive Senate on Tuesday, General Motors Corp. CEO Rick Wagoner warned that the failure of the U.S. auto industry could lead to a loss of 3 million jobs within the first year and ripple throughout communities around the country.

"This is all about a lot more than just Detroit. It's about saving the U.S. economy from a catastrophic collapse," Wagoner said.

Dire assessments aside, the rescue plan appeared stalled on Capitol Hill, opposed by the Bush administration Republicans in Congress who are reluctant to use the Treasury Department's \$700 billion financial bail-

with the \$25 billion in loans.

Obama's top attorney general pick faces quizzing on Marc Rich

WASHINGTON (AP) — The first black man elected U.S. president is poised to name Washington lawyer Eric Holder as the nation's first black attorney general — a historic appointment but one with some potential political problems over a 2001 pardon.

Holder, 57, met Presidentelect Barack Obama only four years ago, but the affable Bronx-born son of a Barbados immigrant quickly won a seat in the Democrat's inner circle.

If he becomes the next chief U.S. law enforcement officer, Holder will try to win back the public's confidence in the Justice Department — an agency whose fiercely independent image was tarnished by GOP political meddling during the Bush administration.

"Internally, there is a morale problem the likes of which I have never seen before," Holder said in an interview late last year. "Externally, there is a crisis of confidence that the nation has with regard to the department."

Holder's nomination is expected to be formally announced as soon as this week. He did not return messages seeking comment Tuesday, even though an Obama official and two Democrats in touch with his transition team confirmed that he is the top choice for attorney

Holder helped lead the team that selected Sen. Joe Biden as Obama's running

Throughout his career as a judge, a prosecutor and a defense attorney for the prestigious law firm Covington & Burling,

out program to come up Holder's independence rarely has been questioned. But one of his final acts as President Bill Clinton's deputy attorney general in 2001 could come back to haunt him as he seeks Senate confirmation the Justice for Department's top job.

On the last day of Clinton's term, Holder told the White House he was "neutral, leaning toward favorable" for a presidential pardon for Marc Rich, a wealthy commodities dealer who had spent years running from tax charges. Rich's ex-wife, Denise, was a prominent Democratic Party donor.

Suspected U.S. missile strike kills 6 alleged militants in **Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — A suspected U.S. missile strike hit a village deep inside Pakistani territory Wednesday, officials said, killing six alleged militants and indicating American willingness to pursue insurgents beyond Pakistan's lawless tribal regions.

The strike was part of a surge of such cross-border attacks in Pakistan's militant-plagued northwest in the last three months. It could heighten Pakistani-U.S. tensions because it was the first to hit an area outside the semiautonomous tribal belt.

Javed Marwat, a local government official, told The Associated Press that two missiles destroyed a house in Indi Khel village in Bannu district.

Two Pakistani intelligence officials said their agents reported that militants from Central Asia were among six killed.

The U.S., which says Taliban and al-Qaida militants use pockets of northwest Pakistan to plan attacks on foreign troops

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in Afghanistan, is blamed in about 20 cross-border missile strikes since August.

Senate's seniority rules don't favor big role for Hillary Clinton despite historic run

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton drew about 18 million votes as a presidential candidate. But that doesn't necessarily count for much in the Senate, where seniority rules, and so far not in her favor.

In recent weeks, according to Democratic officials, Clinton's allies have maneuvered to secure the New York lawmaker a role more prominent than her seniority entitles her to, in recognition of her historic run for the White House.

They angered Massachusetts Sen. Edward M. Kennedy by asking him to set up a subcommittee for her to chair to oversee efforts to draft health care legislation, these officials said.

Kennedy, who is battling brain cancer, declined. He has spent much of his career trying to expand health coverage and intends to chair any hearings himself, although he announced Monday that Clinton would lead a working group on insurance coverage.

First of 3 fierce California wildfires sparked by college students' bonfire

LOS ANGELES (AP) — With a trio of once-ferocious wildfires reduced to mostly embers, authorities in Southern California shifted their attention from the blazes to their causes, and said a group of careless college kids was behind the first of them.

An anonymous tipster led police to discover that a bonfire built by students and never fully extinguished — was responsible for the massive wildfire in Barbara that Santa destroyed 210 homes, including multimilliondollar properties, authori-

ties said. The tipster told police 10 students gathered a week ago near an abandoned home in the hills of Montecito, Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown said Tuesday. They built a bonfire during the night and stayed until 3 a.m. to 5 a.m. Thursday morning. By Thursday night, when "sundowner winds" took hold of it, the seemingly harmless blaze was on its was to destroying hundreds of homes.

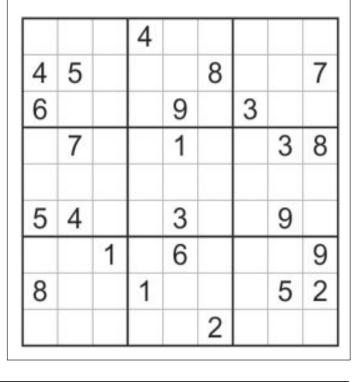
Tool bag lost during trip outside space station

HOUSTON (AP) — Flight controllers were revamping plans Wednesday for the remaining spacewalks planned during space shuttle Endeavour's visit to the international space station, after a crucial tool bag floated out to space during a repair trip.

The briefcase-sized tool bag drifted away from astronaut Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper on Tuesday as she cleaned and lubed a gummed-up joint on a wing of solar panels on the space sta-

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he library will close at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26 for the Thanksgiving holidays. We will re-open Monday, Dec. 1 at 10 a.m. Remember that you can drop off movies, DVDs, books on tape and CD (books, too) at the book drop located at the entrance to the library. "Yesterday's Ireland"

(941.708 LIN P) is by Paddy Linehan, a former teacher who loved to

travel and wrote many articles that appeared in Irish and UK papers. This book is a look back in time, not so long ago, when families held "wakes"



for relatives taking the boat to America, knowing they return. There are stories of daily life in rural communities, cutting peat in the bog, washing clothes in the river and the wild celebrations after the threshing was finished. All aspects of Irish life in the 20th century are explored, including living in the cities, tales of home and hearth, stories of the horsemen of Kildare, fishermen of Kerry, of marriage and emigration. Many of the old photographs are from untapped Irish sources. There are

a lot of neat stories and

would probably never

tales of Ireland. A fictionalized account of Martha Custis Washington, "Washington's Lady," (F MOS N) is in. Nancy Moser shines a light on the reluctant first lady of America. Her life was plagued with heartbreak and the deaths of many that she loved. Yet she also experienced great joy with the love of her life and soulmate, George. She was a woman of contradictions, having great strength during adversity, but fearful of the specter of death that loomed over her life. She showed grace and affection to the soldiers under her husband's command, but she was loathe to become a public figure. Martha Washington was a unique woman, flaws and all. While there is no plot, this is an engaging story of the wife of George Washington. Research performed by Moser on the customs, speech patterns, etc. of the 17th

"Cat Crimes I, II, II" (F GRE M) is edited by Martin H. Greenberg and Ed Gorman. It is chock full of mystery stories of wondrous doings of cats.

century ring true.

Authors Bill Pronzini, Joan E. Hells, Barbara D'Amato, Margaret Maron and many others have written short stories about cats. While a few of them are whimsical in nature, others paint a very dark picture. You may find it in the Fiction section.

Quite a few Christian fiction books have been processed and added to the collection. These are the larger paperbacks and are easy to have on hand while waiting in the doctor's office or maybe school, waiting to pick up your children. Rene Gutteridge has written "Skid" — a story of Flight 1945 from Atlanta to Amsterdam. Turbulent goings on occur and First Officer Danny McSweeney is focused on making things right. Cindy Woodsmall has written Vol. 3 of the Sisters of the Quilt series. "When the Soul Mends" (F WOO C) is the story of Hannah Lapp, who returns to the old Mennonite community from living an "Englischer" life. Choices and decisions must be made and it is problematical what she will decide — the plain life or one of the English? Davis Bunn is another

prolific writer. In "My Soul to Keep," (F BUN D) Bunn combines faith and Hollywood (and its woes) to comfort has-been movie stars to a life of a Christian. "On Sparrow Hill" (F LAN M) by Maureen Lang, Rebecca Seabrooke is focused on making Quentin Holloway's historical home successful while overcoming her childhood crush on Quentin. As usual, "stuff" happens and what was, is not

what will be. Linda Lee Chaikin writes historical romance and "Threads of Silk" takes place in the royal

French court in the 1700s. Finally we have "The United Symbolism of America" (929.9 HIE R). Robert Hieronimus writes of the symbols that rep-

Did you know the CBS eye logo is considered by many to be the eye of the devil watching over us? Were you aware that the **Washington Monument** resembles an Egyptian obelisk channeling energy?

America is young, but its symbols are old. Of the symbols and myths we chose since European colonization, the ones that have become American icons are those representing hope, positive growth, and opportunity. Author

help you see the symbolic messages encoded for us by our Founding Fathers in the symbols they chose. Unlike other writers on this topic, Hieronimus in-

cludes the historical background and the artistic influences behind the official design of each of these landmarks. In addition, he gives an archetypal interpretation based on the numbers, colors, patterns, and themes, and their usage in societies around

the world. The library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260. The Web site is www. howard-county.lib.tx.us. If you have a reference questions, we now offer (during library hours) response by e-mail. You may email us at hclref@ several times a day and a prompt response will be

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<u>Datina Violence</u>

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• Calling or paging you frequently to find out where you are, whom you're with,

"The person I'm going out with scares me sometimes.

and what you're doing · Telling you what to wear

• Having to be with you all the time

Verbal and emotional abuse may include: Calling you names

> Jealousy Belittling you (cutting you down)

Threatening to hurt you, someone in your family, or himself or herself if you don't do what he or she wants

Physical abuse may include: Shoving

 Punching Slapping

Hitting Kicking

Hair pulling Strangling

Sexual abuse may include:

 Unwanted touching and kissing Forcing you to have sex

Not letting you use birth control Forcing you to do other sexual things

Anyone can be a victim of dating violence. Both boys and girls are victims, but boys and girls abuse their partners in different ways. Girls are more likely to yell, threaten to hurt themselves pinch, slap, scratch, or kick. Boys injure girls more and are more likely to punch their partner and force them to participate in unwanted sexual activity. Some teen victims experience vio

lence occasionally. Others are abused more often, sometimes daily. If You Are a Victim of Dating Violence, You Might...

Feel angry, sad, lonely, depressed, or confused.

Feel helpless to stop the abuse Feel threatened or humiliated.

Feel anxious.

Not know what might happen next

Feel like you can't talk to family and friends Be afraid of getting hurt more seriously. Feel protective of your boyfriend or girlfriend

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One in five teens in a serious relationship reports having been hit, slapped, o pushed by a partner. 50-80% of teens have reported knowing others who were involved in violent rela-

• Teens identifying as gay, lesbian, and bisexual are as likely to experience violence in

same-sex dating relationships as youths involved in opposite sex dating.³
Many studies indicate that, as a dating relationship becomes more serious, the

potential for and nature of violent behavior escalates.4 Young women, ages 16 to 24 years, experience the highest rates of relationship

Get Help

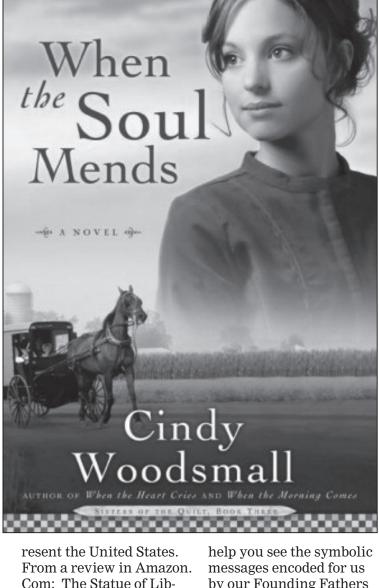
Being a victim of dating violence is not your fault. Nothing you say, wear, or do gives anyone the right to hurt you.

> your concerns to yourself. Talk to someone you trust like a parent, teacher, school principal, counselor, or

If you choose to tell, you should know that some adults are mandated reporters.

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Robert R. Hieronimus will

hotmail.com. It is checked forthcoming.

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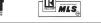
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News in brief

2 more cell phones found on Texas' death row

AUSTIN (\overline{AP}) — Texas prison officials recovered on death row two more contraband cell phones, one of them with the price tag still attached.

The first phone was located about midday Tuesday when officers spotted it in the trash. Officials believe an inmate tried to discard it for fear of being caught, said Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokeswoman Michelle Lyons.

The second phone was found at 2:30 p.m. inside the cell of death row inmate Raphael Holiday as he attempted to flush it down the toilet, Lyons said.

Both phones were turned over to the Office of the Inspector General, which will investigate how they were smuggled into the prison, Lyons said. The OIG will also attempt to determine the owner of the phone found in the trash, she added.

"We are dedicated to ridding our units of cell phones and are continuing to search for them wherever they may be hidden," she said for a story in Tuesday's online edition of the Houston Chronicle.

Holiday and the unidentified owner of the second cell phone face disciplinary action and could be classified in a more restrictive manner including a loss of visitation, commissary privileges and less recreational time, Lyons

Missing man with Alzheimer's returns safely to Victoria after traveling to Mexico

VICTORIA (AP) — A man who was recently diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease wandered into Mexico twice before he was found about 400 miles from the Texas border on Sunday, officials said.

Philip Orvan Kneifl, 67, was returned safely to his Victoria home Tuesday morning, not knowing he had traveled to Mexico, officials said.

Family members told investigators Kneifl called his sister Deanna Crawford on Nov. 12, to tell her he planned to visit her Kansas home.

Kneifl's wife, Martha Kneifl, was on a church mission trip in Galveston, Sheriff T. Michael O'Connor said.

"They really didn't think his dementia was as serious," O'Connor said in a story for Tuesday's online edition of the Victoria Advocate.

Kneifl left his home Thursday and headed to Austin, credit card purchases show. Friday, he entered Mexico twice at Laredo.

Kneifl's wife reported him missing Friday morning. The sheriff's office contacted state officials and issued a Silver Alert on Friday.

Details of Kneifl's journey from then on are sketchy, until Sunday morning when villagers in rural Zacatecas, Mexico found him wandering through town.

"This small community pretty much adopted him," Investigator Melissa Rendon said.

Residents fed him coffee and cookies and kept him calm, she said.

Man wields baseball bat to get cat

DALLAS (AP) — Police are looking for a man who took his gray and blue short-haired cat from the Dallas Animal Shelter while fending off employees with a baseball bat, authorities said.

Kent Robertson, the shelter's manager, said the man came to the shelter in early October and found his cat among the other animals. The cat had been brought to the shelter by someone who thought it was a stray.

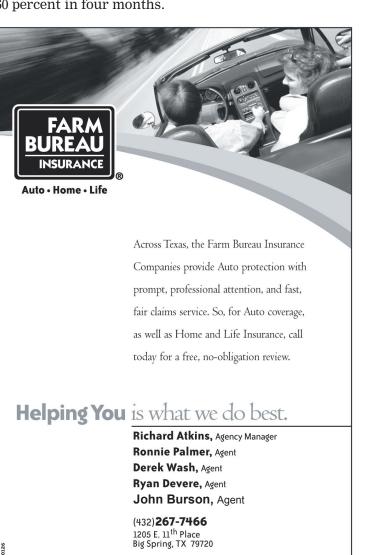
After employees told him he had to pay a \$132 fee to take his cat, the unidentified man became upset.

The man returned Monday morning, signed into the guest book and took matters into his own hands. He loaded his cat into a carrier, without paying the fee, and threatened staff with the baseball bat, according to police.

He left in his 1986 brown Ford F-150, nearly running over two shelter employees, said Senior Cpl. Kevin Janse, a Dallas police spokesman. No one was struck or injured.

Oil falls below \$54

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Oil prices slipped further Wednesday, dipping below \$54 on fears of global economic weakness that have sent crude down more than 60 percent in four months.



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But analysts suggested that prices might be bottoming out as they moved closer to the psychologically significant \$50 mark.

Light, sweet crude for December delivery was down 60 cents at \$53.79 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by noon in Europe. The contract Tuesday fell 56 cents to settle at \$54.39, the lowest since January 2007.

"Market sentiment is still bearish, but not as bearish as a week ago," said Clarence Chu, a trader with market maker Hudson Capital Energy in Singapore. "Volatility has come down and the market is consolidating a bit."

Stock markets have served for the past few months as a barometer of investor perceptions about the health of the global economy. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 1.8 percent Tuesday as Hewlett-Packard Co. said fourth quarter and 2009 results will exceed analyst expectations.

Most Asian stocks, however, fell Wednesday. Japan's benchmark Nikkei index fell 0.7 percent, Hong Kong's Hang Seng index dropped 0.5 percent and the Korea Composite Stock Price Index slid 1.9 percent. European markets also opened lower.

Oil investors have already priced in a recession in developed countries and only evidence of an especially severe or prolonged slowdown may push prices down further, Chu said.

Prices have fallen 63 percent since reaching a record \$147.27 a barrel in mid-July.

Vice president, former AG, state senator indicted

Mcallen (AP) — A South Texas grand jury has indicted Vice President Dick Cheney and former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales on state charges related to the alleged abuse of prisoners in Willacy County's federal detention centers.

The indictment, which had not yet been signed by the presiding judge, was one of seven released Tuesday in a county that has been a source of bizarre legal and political battles in recent years. Another of the indictments named a state senator on charges of profiting from his position.

Willacy County District Attorney Juan Angel Guerra himself had been under indictment for more than a year and half before a judge dismissed the indictments last month. This flurry of charges came in the twilight of Guerra's tenure, which ends this year after nearly two decades in office. He lost convincingly in a Democratic primary in March.

Cheney's indictment on a charge of engaging in an organized criminal activity criticizes the vice president's investment in the Vanguard Group, which holds interests in the private prison companies running the



federal detention centers. It accuses Cheney of a conflict of interest and "at least misdemeanor assaults" on detainees because of his link to the prison companies.

Megan Mitchell, a spokeswoman for Cheney, declined to comment on Tuesday, saying that the vice president had not yet received a copy of the indictment.

The indictment accuses Gonzales of using his position while in office to stop an investigation in 2006 into abuses at one of the privately-run prisons.

Gonzales' attorney, George Terwilliger III, said in a written statement, "This is obviously a bogus charge on its face, as any good prosecutor can recognize. Hopefully, competent Texas authorities will take steps to reign in this abuse of the criminal justice system."

Willacy County has become a prison hub with county, state and federal lockups. Guerra has gone after the prison-politician nexus before, extracting guilty pleas from three former Willacy and Webb county commissioners after investigating bribery related to federal prison contacts.

Another indictment released Tuesday accuses state Sen. Eddie Lucio Jr. of profiting from his public office by accepting honoraria from prison management companies.



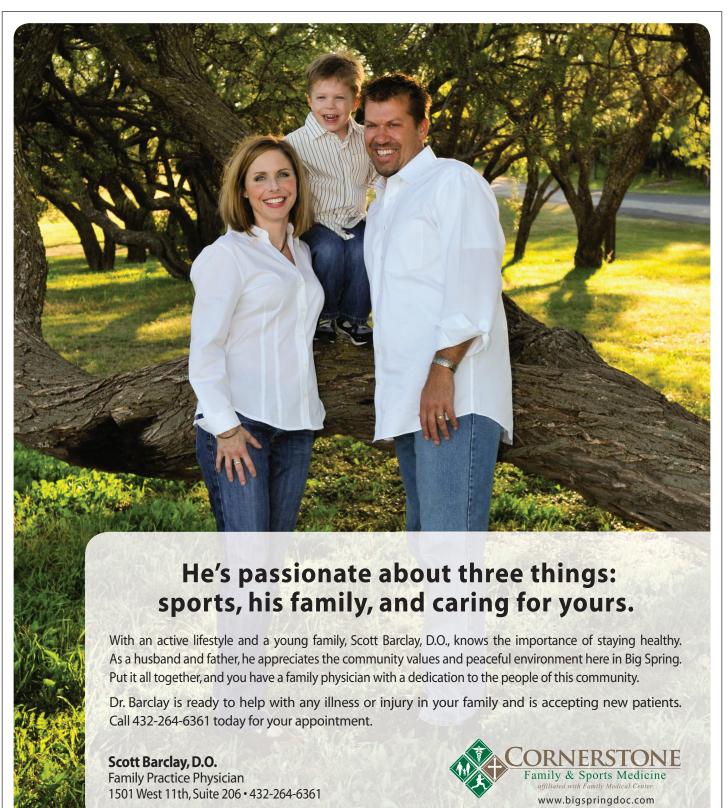


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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS The Leo moon instigates some fun. With Mars in a fire fellow sign of

Sagittarius, that ideas involve entertaining and amusement will catch quickly and burn into the evening. Later the

Virgo moon

takes control



MATHIS

of the situa- \equiv tion and we can easily plan exactly how to execute all of the exciting notions that were generated through the day.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You have a skill that sets you apart from the crowd. You'll be called on to use it and are also being considered for work in a larger capacity. This is your moment to shine.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're drawn to activities that don't interest the people around you. Your needs are different from those of your friends and neighbors. Give yourself permission to be an original.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You know when to make a big deal over little details, like the accomplishments of children, the words you choose when you greet people and the side dishes you prepare for dinner. Your attention cheers all.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Much depends on other people knowing about vour talent, so get the word out. Show people how to view you, highlight your strengths and frame your accomplishments in the best possible light.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

you're terrific as you are, which you'd like to focus. Chose just one goal and stay with it until you feel a change.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When the gossip mill gets churning, it creates a kind of suction. Stay your distance so that you don't get slurped into a nastv and negative conversation. And if you must chime in, inject something positive.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have reserves of physical strength to tap into for that extra push at the gym or to handle the heavy lifting at work. Just donit forget the warm-up and cool-down that your muscles need before and after activity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You see so much around vou that could be better, and many of your ideas would work if they enthusiastically were applied. Getting others to hear you as a supporter and not a critic will be key.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're happy when others are recognized for their accomplishments. Really you are. Only perhaps a little less happy than you are trying to appear. It's natural to have pangs of jealousy, and they will soon subside.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's important to keep moving forward and ironically that involves looking back. People you used to know pop into your mind and you wonder whether this might be a good time to get back in touch.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The work that's in front of you is not your highest good of those I Though others think favorite. You might actulove.

ally have physical sympthere are many areas in toms regarding this, like just looking at it makes you super tired. Get it over with quickly so you can go back to being your

happy self. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You get a power surge this afternoon and will truly feel that you can do anything, especially that one thing you've been worrying about all week. Take it on! You're invincible!

YOUR LEO MOON

LOVE MANTRA: The last quarter Leo moon encourages you to hold a positive thought for your love life. Leo rules the heart and at this time it's important to honor your heart's purpose. Here is your Leo love mantra. ARIES: I don't have to do anything more than be open to love and it comes to me. TAU-RUS: My love is a rare and luxurious gift that I give only to worthy partners. GEMINI: I naturally gravitate toward the people who understand and appreciate me. CANCER: I don't have to be tough; my vulnerability is loveable. LEO: I lavish others in attention and richly deserve all the attention I get in return. VIRGO: I enjoy every pleasurable romantic experience I create. LIBRA: I trust myself to make the right decisions in my personal life. SCORPIO: I am loved as I see and reflect the truth. SAGITTARIUS: I can always find something thrilling in a relationship. CAPRICORN: I surrender to the ride of romance. AQUARIUS: I can take it from friendship to love whenever I want to. PISCES: What is for my own best and highest good is also for the best and

Annie's Mailbox **®**

Dear Annie: My sister and her husband have some habits that really turn me off when I visit. They leave dirty pots and pans on the stove for weeks. They allow used dishes, cups and utensils to pile up in the sink until it is overflowing. They have a dishwasher, but say it doesn't clean the pots very well. That's no surprise when the pots have been left out with food remnants drying on them for weeks.

Real Estate for Sale

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MARCY SUGAR

They also eat directly out of containers of food, like pre-made salads and ice cream, and then put them back in the refrigerator. They serve guests directly from these same food containers. When their kitchen trash can is full, it is pulled out from its spot and placed in the middle of the floor. From there, it becomes a trial of wills to see who will give in and take the trash outside to the garbage can.

They apparently do not care about the health issues of all their bad habits. It is not like they are pressed for time to get these things done, as both are retired. My brotherin-law spends 90 percent of his free time e-mailing friends and acquaintances all over the country, while my sister spends an equal amount of time in front of the TV.

If anything is mentioned to them about the dirty dishes or overflowing garbage, they get angry and defensive. Other than not visiting or eating out every night (which can get expensive), what do I do? --Disgusted in California

Dear Disgusted: Your sister and her husband have reached an accommodation about their level of cleanliness and they are content with it.

Consider staying at a motel, or buy groceries and cook your own meals. If you are close enough to be an overnight guest, you should also pitch in and help by washing a few dishes and emptying the overflowing garbage.

Dear Annie: Recently, my husband had a kidney biopsy. This made him think about wills.

Many times families request that people make donations to a charity in lieu of flowers. He wanted to know about asking people to make a donation to our grandson's college fund. Would that be tacky? -- Tyler, Texas

Dear Tyler: Yes. Unless your husband's death will create a major financial hardship for your grandson, it is inappropriate to ask other people to donate money to benefit your family directly. You are not a charitable organization. Your husband should consider setting up a trust fund to help pay for his grandson's education.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page

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Tidbits and interesting information from across the world

A grand reopening

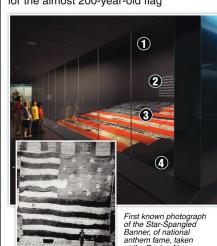
The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History will open its doors Nov. 21 after a two-year, \$85-million renovation.

Goals for space

- 1. Architectural enhancements
- 2. New gallery for Star-Spangled Banner
- 3. Update building's

infastructure

Star-Spangled Banner The museum will feature a new home for the almost 200-year-old flag



Collections

More than 3 million objects including Muhammad Ali's boxing gloves, Kermit the Frog, "Wizard of Oz" ruby red slippers



Separate environment

Constant temperature 68 F-72 F (20 C-22 C) with relative humidity of 50 percent

- 1 35-ft. (10.7 m) floor-to-ceiling glass enclosure
- Pirst phase of national anthem printed on wall
- Flag features 14 two-foot (0.6 m) stars and 15 stripes Star compared to 6 ft. (1.8 m) man
- A 10-degree elevation gives optimal viewing
- The flag was given to museum in 1914 and has undergone multiple restoration efforts

© 2008 MCT

Abstract flag

· Above entrance to the Star-Spangled Banner Gallery

• Made of 960 tiles of reflective polycarbonate material



KIM L. BANGO, MD

Board Certified in Family Medicine

432-263-0500 1608 W. FM 700, Suite D Big Spring, Texas



"Accepting New Patients"

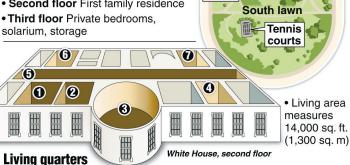
Se Habla Espanol

Home sweet home

The Obama family will move into the most famous house in America.

The floorplan

- Ground floor Historic rooms, service areas; visible only on south side
- First floor Five state rooms, including the State Dining Room
- Second floor First family residence
- solarium, storage



The second floor includes seven historic rooms

- 1. President's bedroom
- 2. President's study
- 3. Yellow oval room 4. Lincoln Bedroom Lincoln
- actually used it as an office
- Source: The White House Historical Association
- 5. Sitting hall Private living room 6. Dining room
- 7. Queen's Suite Queen Elizabeth II and her mother, the "Queen Mum," have staved here

Graphic: Melina Yingling © 2008 MC1

White House grounds

wing

North lawn

West East

Putting

green

wing

Office

The vice president's house

When Joe and Jill Biden move into Number One Observatory Circle, they will be only the sixth vice-presidential family to live in the official residence overlooking the U.S. Naval Observatory.



Lincoln

Looking back

- House was built in 1893 for the observatory's superintendent
- · Congress designated it as the vice president's residence in 1974; before then, the VP and his family lived in their own home in Washington, D.C.

Graphic: Pat Carr, Tim Goheen

the first VP to live there © 2008 MCT

Constitution Ave.

• In 1974, Gerald Ford was named president before he

home only for entertaining;

Rockefeller, Ford's VP, used the

Walter Mondale (1977-81) was

could move in; Nelson

Wash. Monument

Actress,

Nicole Kidman

Plays opposite Hugh Jackman in upcoming epic "Australia," directed by Baz Luhrmann

Early years

Born June 20 1967, in Honolulu, Hawaii

Family Married to Tom Cruise 1990-2001; Keith Urban since 2006, daughter Sunday Rose

Education Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne

Career

Breakthrough "Dead Calm" (1989)

Movie highlights "Days of Thunder" (1990), "To Die For" (1995), "Eyes Wide Shut" (1999) "Moulin Rouge!," "The Others" (2001), "The Hours" (2002), "Cold Mountain" (2003), "Birth" (2004), "Happy Feet" (2006), "The Golden Compass" (2007)

Awards One Academy Award, three Golden Globe Awards

Honors UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador since 1994; awarded U.N. "Citizen of the World" (2004); "Companion of the Order of Australia" (2006)

@ 2008 MCT Source: The Internet Movie Database, MCT Photo Service Graphic: Junie Bro-Jorgense



Border facts

- Established by U.N. in 1953
- Name Military Demarcation Line (runs inside the Demilitarized Zone, DMZ)
- Length 148 mi. (238 km) Source: Federation of Graphic: Junie Bro-Jorgensen © 2008 MC1



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7661 N. Mesa | (915) 584-1118

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Pecos 1213 S. Eddy | (432) 447-9425

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Woman Writes Historic Letter to Her Congressman

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By Steve Becker Sylvia Triumphs Again

Both sides vulnerable **NORTH** ♠QJ1097 ♥Q632 **♦** K. 8 **♣**K 10 WEST **EAST ♠** K 8 4 **♥**KJ5

East dealer.

♠6532 **♥**1097 ♦ 10 7 5 4 2 ♦ A Q 9 6 3 **♣**J3 **SOUTH**

♥A84

♦ J ♣AQ987652 The bidding: West South North East 1 • 3 💠 Pass 5 🛖 Pass

Opening lead — four of diamonds. Part of the secret of Sylvia's success at the club was her uncanny ability to convert dreadful blunders into resounding triumphs. Sylvia was by nature accident-prone, and it was because of this tendency that she often found herself in hot water.

One of her greatest victories occurred on this deal where she got to five clubs and West led a diamond. Hoping against hope that West had the queen and that East would be forced to win with the ace, Sylvia followed low from dummy. But East won with the queen and

continued with the ace. Sylvia intended to ruff the ace at trick two, but when she played to the trick she discovered to her horror that she had played the ace of spades instead. East thus found himself still on lead, and, actually, it made no differ-

ence which card he elected to return. After thinking the matter over, he tried the jack of clubs, but Sylvia had no trouble scoring the rest of the She won the club return with dummy's king and led the queen of

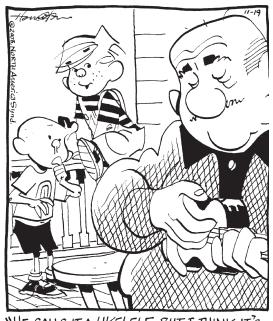
spades, covered by the king, which she ruffed. Sylvia then led a trump to dummy's ten, discarded her heart losers on the J-10 of spades and so made five clubs.

As usual, the story of Sylvia's newest Alice in Wonderland adventure spread like wildfire among the members of the club. Only after extended analysis was it discovered that the contract could not have been made had Sylvia trumped the ace of diamonds. By discarding the ace of spades, she had found the only way to fulfill the contract.

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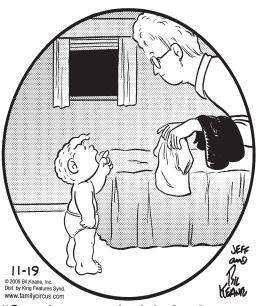
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		Maura	Maura	Loguro	George	Nous	Nationa	Mayra		Cortes	BBC	Cash Cab	num Force,	CSI: NY	Low & Order	106 % Dorle	Mizordo	Llorn	SportsCenter
5		News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	-	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Raymond Friends	Israel	Business	Cash Cab	David Soul	CSI. IVY	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10	Wizards	Horn Football	Sportscenter
			Jeopardy!	Querida	Lopez Two Men	News	TRI	News	Seinfeld	Prophecy	News-Lehrer			CSI: NY	Law & Order	Live	Suite Life	College	-
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		Dirty Sexy	Dirty Sexy	Don Fran-	TMZ		El Rostro de	Law & Order	Payne		Monarchy:	Prototype	Movie: Sud-	The Ultimate	Paul Walker	Comic	Wizards	Soccer:	-
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	:PM	News	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticiero	News	Seinfeld	Israel	Family at	Made	Pat Hingle	The Ultimate	Movie: Van	Hatchett	Suite Life	vs. United	ball: Bulls at
10	:30		Nightline	Noticiero	King-Hill	Late Show	Decisiones	Tonight Show		Dr. Young	Work	Made		Fighter	Helsing,	Hatchett	Montana	States	Trail Blazers
	:PM		Jimmy Kim-	La Hora de	Law Order:	1			Sex &	CCM	Smilev	Time Wrp	Movie: Strik-	CSI: NY	Richard	Movie: CB4,	So Raven	NFL Live	1
11		Jimmy Kim-	mel Live	la Risa	CI	Late Late	Decisiones	Late Night	Movie: Tin	Scott	Smiley	Time Wrp	ing Distance		Roxburgh	Deezer D	Cory	College	1
4.0	:AM		Extra	Amarte-	RENO 911	Show			Cup, Cheech	Israel	(Off Air)	MythBusters		Star Trek:			Replace	Football:	SportsCenter
	:30	News	Paid	Pecado	RENO 911	Insider	Programa	News	Marin (DVS)	Sanchez	, í			Voyager	Movie: Var-		Kim	Ball State	'
_	:AM	Houses	Light	Clasicos	Friends	Entertain	Pagado	Poker After	1	Light of the	1	Prototype		Deep Space	sity Blues,	The Wire	Emperor	at Central Michigan.	SportsCenter
		Paid	Light	Humor	Paid	Money	Pelicula: Fin	Dark		Southwest		This!	SEALS,	9	Paul Walker		Dragon	wiici iigari.	-

DENNIS THE MENACE



"HE CALLS IT A UKELELE, BUT I THINK IT'S A GUITAR THAT NEVER GREW UP."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Grandma, you don't hafta draw me a bath. I know what they look like."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



PERHAPS YOU COULD TAKE A HOME CORRESPONDENCE COURSE USING THIS ADDRESS ?



This Date

GOOD! THAT'S WHAT WE'RE PERFECT! JUST FILL OUT A FEW LOOKING FORMS AND YOU'LL BE PART OF OUR HAPP FAMIL'

UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU DO SOMETHING VERY UNDERHANDED, LIKE FILE A CLAIM!

BC



MY MOTHER DISAPPROVES OF EVERY GUY I BRING HOME. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

HAVE YOUR MOTHER FIND HER OWN DATES.



WIZARD OF ID







AGNES







In History Today is Wednesday, Nov. 19,

the 324th day of 2008. There are 42 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 19, 1863, President Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address as he dedicated a national cemetery at the site of the Civil War battlefield in Pennsylvania. On this date:

In 1794, the United States and Britain signed Jay's Treaty, which resolved some issues left over from the Revolutionary War.

In 1917, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was born in Allahabad. In 1919, the Senate rejected the

Treaty of Versailles by a vote of 55 in favor, 39 against, short of the two-thirds majority needed for ratification. In 1942, during World War II,

Russian forces launched their winter offensive against the Germans along the Don front. In 1959, Ford Motor Co.

announced it was halting production of the unpopular Edsel.

In 1969, Apollo 12 astronauts Charles Conrad and Alan Bean

made the second manned landing on the moon. In 1977, Egyptian President

Anwar Sadat became the first Arab leader to visit Israel. In 1984, some 500 people died in a firestorm set off by a series of

explosions at a petroleum storage plant on the edge of Mexico City. In 1985, President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev met for the first time as they began

their summit in Geneva. One year ago: In Pakistan, a Supreme Court hand-picked by President Gen. Pervez Musharraf dismissed legal challenges to his continued rule, opening the way for him to serve another five-year

term — solely as a civilian presi-

dent. Today's Birthdays: Actor Alan Young is 89. Talk show host Larry King is 75. Talk show host Dick Cavett is 72. Broadcasting and sports mogul Ted Turner is 70. Singer Pete Moore (Smokey Robinson and the Miracles) is 69. Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, is 69. TV journalist Garrick Utlev is 69. Actor Dan Haggerty is 67. Former Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson is 67. Fashion designer Calvin Klein is 66. Sportscaster Ahmad Rashad is 59. Actor Robert Beltran is 55. Actress Kathleen Quinlan is 54. Actress Glynnis O'Connor is 53.

Newscaster Ann Curry is 52. Actress Allison Janney is 48. Rock musician Matt Sorum (Guns N' Roses, Velvet Revolver) is 48. Actress Meg Ryan is 47. Actressdirector Jodie Foster is 46. Actress Terry Farrell is 45. Actor Jason Scott Lee is 42. Rock musician Travis McNabb (Better Than Ezra) is 39. Singer Tony Rich is 37. Country singer Jason Albert (Heartland) is 35. Dancerchoreographer Savion Glover is 35. Country musician Chad Jeffers is 33. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tamika Scott (Xscape) is 33.

Thought for Today: "The facts are always less than what really happened." -î Nadine Gordimer, South African Nobel Prize-winning author.

Rhythm-and-blues singer Lil' Mo

is 31.

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	Answer to previous puzzle														
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F)	L	0	T	S		S	Ε	T	S		S	Н	E	D

Edited by Stanley Newman

39 "Casual"

www.stanxwords.com

40 What's more

selection

46 Stylist's goop

illustration

48 Scandinavian

50 Was curious

skater Sonja

53 Get misty-eyed

announcement

42 High wind

43 Seating

45 Falls into

disuse

47 Birth-

workday: Abbr.

SUMMIT MEETING by Fred Piscop

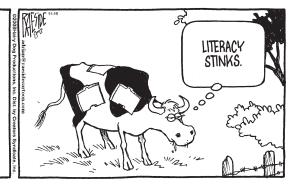
HI AND LOIS





THE OTHER COAST





SNUFFY SMITH





BEETLE BAILEY





Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 IRS experts
- **5** Diner accident **10** "Now!" in the ER
- 14 Sentry's cry **15** Broadcast
- portion
- 16 Chore-list
- heading
- 17 Bluebloods
- 19 Tach figs.
- 20 Advanced degree
- **21** Like biking or jogging
- 23 Wax producers 25 Curly-tailed dog
- 26 Bounced back **30** Traveler's stop
- 33 Conman's
- accomplice 34 Clergyman/
- author Norman Vincent
- **35** Soft throw **38** Senate gofer
- 39 Nap's wink count
- **40** Senate gofer **41** To the ___ degree
- 42 Digs like a pig 43 Sharpshooter Oakley
- **44** Actress Danes
- 46 Very small
- racing car 47 Riverboat
- hazard **49** New Mexico
- town
- **51** To-do **54** Seedless raisin
- **59** People
- 60 When hotel rates are highest

- **62** Carnival attraction
- **63** Havens
- **64** Wild time 65 Things on a
- ring
- 66 Play the market 67 Put up with

DOWN

- **1** Buddy
- 2 Bear in the
- Goldilocks story 28 Sophisticated 3 Matterhorn's
 - range 4 Editor's "undo"
 - **5** Like some
 - vows and cows
 - **6** Sign of life
 - 8 Simpsons kid
 - 9 Come up short 37 Borscht
 - 10 Drive or putt

14

- 31 Granola morsels

15

11 What the

star gets

13 Puccini opera

18 James Dean

22 Assign stars to

24 Cool dessert

26 NFL Live

channel

27 Talk online

satire 29 Soccer

persona

12 Word on a

ticket

7 Mont. neighbor 34 Serve the java

stadium cheer

- **36** Garfield's pal

ingredient

- **55** Like a sourball
- 32 Like some grins 56 Where
 - Siberia is

16

52 Locale

- 57 Dinette's locale
- **58** Start the pot
- 61 Sharp ___tack

17 18 19 20 31 32 28 29 30 33 35 | 36 | 37 34 38 40 39 41 42 47 | 48 50 52 53 59 62 63 66

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