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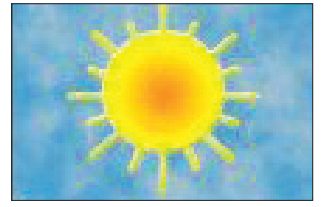
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BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 20, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 304

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Longtime lawman dies at 68

Bill Jennings, former sheriff, trooper was respected by many

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Former Howard County Sheriff William (Bill) Jennings has died. He was 68.

Jennings, who served one term as sheriff in the late 1990s, died Wednesday in an Odessa hospital. He had been battling heart problems for the past several months.



Jennings capped a life-long career in law enforcement when he was elected sheriff in 1996, succeeding long-time sheriff A.N. Standard. He was subsequently defeated in his reelection bid by current Sheriff Dale Walker.

In addition, he was active in many civic and service organizations, including Big Spring Victim Services and the Rotary Club.

Jennings joined the local Department of Public Safety office as a trooper in the early 1970s and served in that capacity for more than 20 years before retiring.

"I always hate to see a good friend die," said Ben Lockhart, who was county judge at the time of Jennings' tenure as sheriff

See **JENNINGS**, Page 3A



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

This Angel Card is just one of many currently hanging on the Salvation Army's Angel Tree, located in the Heritage Museum. Angel Trees — part of the local charity's annual effort to provide Christmas presents to area needy children — are also located at Maurice's and Bealls Department Store.

Giving thanks

Salvation Army preparing for community feast

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

It's turkey time at the Big Spring Salvation Army, as the local charity prepares to open its arms — and its kitchen — to the community for its annual Thanksgiving dinner.

"This is our way of saying thank you to the community," said Paula Lafler, a social worker with the Salvation Army. "The dinner is free, so no one has to go without a good Thanksgiving meal this year."

Lafler said volunteers are expected to begin delivering meals to homebound residents at 9 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 27, but there's plenty of work for the Salvation Army staff and volunteers to do in the meantime.

"As we have in the past, we'll be delivering meals to those who can't make it here to the Salvation Army office for dinner," said Lafler. "However, we need to get a solid count of how many meals will need to be delivered."

See **FEAST**, Page 3A

What: Salvation Army Thanksgiving Dinner.

Where: Salvation Army dining hall, 811 W. Fifth.

When: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Day.

Open to: The entire community.

States disagree greatly on Amber Alert criteria

By **DORIE TURNER**

Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA — Authorities count hundreds of Amber Alert cases across the country as success stories when they start explaining why the media-friendly and politically popular bulletins are so important.

Yet despite a federal law meant to create a uniform system, an Associated Press review shows

wide variations in what triggers an Amber Alert from one state to the next, which can heighten the tension when a suspect crosses state lines.

The AP examined Amber Alert records from all 50 states and found that some barely keep track of the alerts they've issued, let alone whether they worked. A few states don't have anyone designated to oversee their programs.

That poor record-keeping makes it difficult to tell whether investigators have ever missed a chance to safely recover an abducted child because of differences in the state laws and their application.

Twelve states refuse to put out an alert when a parent calls police amid a custody fight, while others see that as a legitimate reason to enlist help from the public. Twelve states issue Am-

ber Alerts for adults with mental or physical disabilities, while other states save their bulletins solely for abducted children.

Among the disparities those different interpretations create: New Jersey has issued just four alerts since 2005, while Michigan — with an only slightly larger population — has issued 100.

All that despite a 5-year-old federal law requiring that every state have a child abduction

alert system in place. The law also requires that those systems be uniform to help coordination and that the U.S. Department of Justice appoint someone to get the states on the same page.

Critics question the basic premise of Amber Alerts — that they help find and save abducted children. Kidnappers who kill children usually do so in the

See **ALERT**, Page 3A

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Sandwich assault

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. (AP) — A Florida man is accused of tossing a sandwich at his girlfriend as they cruised down an interstate, knocking off her glasses and nearly causing her to lose control of the car.

Police say 19-year-old Emmanuelle Rodriguez is charged with domestic battery for Friday's sandwich-tossing incident. According to police, Rodriguez became angry during an argument as she drove and threw the sandwich at her because he didn't want to hit her.

A police report didn't specify what type of sandwich was involved.

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 Furr's will benefit United Way. You can also send a tax 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

Empty Bowls II, a United Way fundraiser, will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. today 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.

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NOW OPEN
MONDAY THRU SATURDAY

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

Another long haul

Steers head to El Paso Friday

By JONATHAN HULL
Sports Editor

Who knew when the Big Spring Steers took a 360-mile trek headed just north of Dallas they'd be preparing themselves for a playoff scenario?

The Steers (7-4) will make the almost 350-mile drive to El Paso Friday for a Class 4A, Division II area playoff against El Paso Riverside (6-5) at 8 p.m. in Riverfront Stadium. However, it isn't the longest road trip of the season for the Steers.

Big Spring traveled more than 360 miles to take on the Denison Yellow Jackets in the second week of the season. After jumping out to an early first quarter advantage, Big Spring eventually fell to Denison, 44-37. The Yellow Jackets went on to an undefeated season and cruised to an easy win in the bi-district round over Royse City, 41-24.

However, it's safe to say the Steers didn't have a letdown despite the long bus ride.

"We feel good about this trip. For one, the playoffs are enough to keep you excited," Big Spring Head Coach Phillip Ritchey said. "I'd drive to Texarkana to play in a playoff game. We did make a long trip to play Denison, which we feel is a top 10



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Pavel Plakhotny (85) strips the ball away from Canyon's Blake Boyer as teammate Rance Terry (right) pursues. Big Spring recovered the fumble, which was one of four turnovers the Steers forced in their 49-14 win in the Class 4A, Division II bi-district playoff. Big Spring faces El Paso Riverside at 7:30 p.m. Friday in El Paso.

team in the state. It was a good experience and we played a great game."

But why exactly are the Steers headed to El Paso instead of playing the game at a neutral site?

According to University Interscholastic League rules, the two opponents must agree on a neutral site or else a flip must

See **STEERS**, Page 2B

CROSSROADS FOOTBALL SCOREBOARD

FRIDAY

Big Spring vs. EP Riverside

8 p.m. in El Paso

Stanton vs. Morton

7:30 p.m. in Denver City

Garden City vs. Throckmorton

7:30 p.m. in Trent

Sands vs. Sierra Blanca

7:30 p.m. in Grandfalls

Bearkats ready for Throckmorton

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

GARDEN CITY — Garden City's Bearkats have had their fair share of tests this season, but it's now time for another trial that could define the Bearkats' season.

Garden City (10-2) faces the Throckmorton Greyhounds (9-2) at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Trent in a Six-man Division I regional playoff.

The Greyhounds are coming off a first-round bye, while the Bearkats barely survived the bi-district round.

Garden City rallied from an early fourth quarter deficit to edge the Ira Bulldogs, 50-48. The Bearkats were led by solid performances from Josh Colunga (18 carries for 134 yards rushing), Levi Schaefer (9 of 17 passing for 129 yards) and Jake Schwartz (six receptions for 125 yards).

Ira opened the season playing Throckmorton and fell 42-14. The Greyhounds' two losses came to ninth-ranked Follett and 11th-ranked Paducah.

Throckmorton comes into the contest ranked seventh, while Garden City sits at No. 12 in the polls.

Throckmorton is led by quarterback Brady Hogue and running back Will Riley.

The Bearkats have been tested twice by a team ranked higher than them. In the season-opener, Garden City fell to No. 3 Abbott, 57-14, and lost what was essentially a district championship game to sixth-ranked Fort Davis, 54-33.

The winner plays the victor of the game between Follett and Ropes in the state quarterfinals.



Courtesy photo/James Schwartz

Garden City running back Jake Schwartz leaps over a Rankin defender Nov. 7. The Bearkats pulled out a close win in the first round of the Six-man Division I playoffs, but face a tougher test in Throckmorton at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Trent.

Mustangs draw sixth-ranked Sierra Blanca

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

ACKERLY — Heading into the postseason, Sands Head Coach Wayne Henderson wasn't very confident in the Mustangs' chances to advance past the first round due mainly to inconsistent play on the defensive side of the ball.

However, he got the performance he had been wanting for weeks in the fourth quarter last week against Dawson.

Trailing 52-36 as the final stanza opened, Sands scored 24 unanswered points, claiming a 60-52 victory.

The win earned the Mustangs the right to face sixth-ranked Sierra Blanca at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Grandfalls and marked the first playoffs victory for Sands since 2002.

"This is a very big win," Sands Head Coach Wayne Henderson said following the Mustangs' victory over Dawson. "Our goal at the start of the season was just to make the playoffs and see what could happen. The kind of win we got Friday night is one that can really help establish our program. I think it is that big of a game. Now we go into

the rest of the playoffs as a tested team. We know now that when we get down, the game isn't over. We can always fight back and come away with a win."

However, the Mustangs will now face their toughest challenge since losing to No. 2 Borden County, 59-14. Henderson is confident the team has the experience to play a high-caliber foe such as Sierra Blanca.

"We have to treat this game like any other," Henderson said. "They're a highly-ranked opponent, but we've already

had several games like this. Last year, we were stuck in a district with four teams ranked in the Top 15. This season we've already played second-ranked Borden County. All we can do is take it one play and one game at a time."

A win could give the Mustangs a chance to put up a stronger performance against new district-rival Borden County.

The winner between Sierra Blanca and Sands will match up against the victor between Borden County and Sanderson in the state quarterfinals.

Stanton facing prolific offense

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

STANTON — A balanced offense is something most football coaches wish for, but very few can actually achieve at the high school level.

However, Stanton (6-5) has been preparing for a team equally effective rushing the football as it is passing at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Denver City, when the Buffaloes meet the Morton Indians (8-3).

Morton sets up the pass with the run as evidenced from the Indians' 40-30 win over Olton in the bi-district round of the postseason last week.

Running back Luey Enriquez rushed for 253 yards and two scores on 20 carries. Enriquez also caught a 33-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Emerson Cornish, who threw for 167 yards and two scores and rushed for two more.

On the season, the Indians are averaging 436 yards a game on offense. Enriquez now has 1,653 yards on 165 yards this season, averaging more than 10 yards a carry. Cornish has 1,912 yards passing along with 25 touchdowns, while throwing a mere six interceptions in 229 attempts.

It's a totally different beast than what the Buffs faced in the bi-district round against Van Horn's Eagles, who ran the ball 39 times.

Stanton's offense is also run-based. Robbie Noland has rushed for more than 1,300 yards this season as he topped 100 yards for the eighth time this season.

Also breaking the century mark for Stanton for the first time in his high school career last week was sophomore Adam Montez.

Montez broke a 91-yard touchdown run on the first play of the second half and finished the game with 101 yards on four carries.

Montez's emergence as a threat in the run game comes as a relief for Stanton. "Teams are really starting to key on Robbie," noted Stanton Head Coach Lee McCown after Stanton's 20-12 win over Van Horn. "It's nice to see some of the other guys stepping up to take some of the pressure off of him. That only makes us harder to defend."

The winner will play the victor of the game between No. 9 Canadian (9-1) and undefeated Wellington (11-0).

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

PIGSKIN PREDICTIONS

This week's games



Jonathan Hull



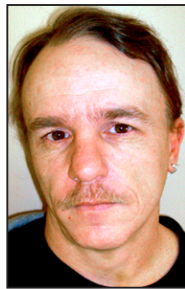
Jeff Lane



Robert Smith



Troy Hyde



Brandon Hallford



Art Barrera



Tim Knox

Big Spring at EP Riverside
Stanton vs. Morton
Garden City vs. Throckmorton
Sands vs. Sierra Blanca
Borden County vs. Sanderson
Aledo vs. Everman
Snyder vs. Monahans
Sweetwater vs. Mid. Greenwood
Texas Tech at Oklahoma
Miami, Fla. at Georgia Tech
Mississippi at LSU
Michigan State at Penn State
Air Force at TCU
Boise State at Nevada
BYU at Utah
Pitt at Cincinnati
49ers at Cowboys
Texans at Browns
Jets at Titans
Patriots at Dolphins
Eagles at Ravens
Panthers at Falcons
Giants at Cardinals
Colts at Chargers
Packers at Saints

Big Spring
Morton
Garden City
Sierra Blanca
Borden Co.
Everman
Monahans
Sweetwater
Texas Tech
Miami
LSU
Penn St.
TCU
Nevada
BYU
Pitt
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Last week To date 17-8 .680 199-100 .666 18-7 .720 214-84 .716 20-5 .800 207-92 .692 17-8 .680 207-92 .692 19-6 .760 203-96 .679 17-8 .680 193-106 .645 20-5.800 195-104 .652

REGIONAL SCHOOLBOY PLAYOFF PAIRINGS

CLASS 5A DIVISION I Region I Area
Odessa (9-2) vs. Arlington (7-4), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Abilene's Shotwell Stadium
Euleess Trinity (11-0) vs. Plano (10-1), 5 p.m. Saturday, Texas Stadium
Odessa Permian (11-0) vs. Burleson (5-6), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Abilene's Shotwell Stadium
Coppell (8-3) vs. Allen (10-1), 8 p.m. Saturday, Texas Stadium

DIVISION II Region I Area
EP Montwood (8-3) vs. Mansfield (6-5), 6:30 p.m. Friday, Midland's Grande Communications Stadium
Southlake Carroll (8-2) vs. Cedar Hill (10-1), 11 a.m. Saturday, Texas Stadium
Midland (8-3) vs. Arlington Bowie (10-1), 4 p.m. Saturday, Wichita Falls' Memorial Stadium
Lewisville Hebron (8-3) vs. Wylie (9-2), 2 p.m. Saturday, Texas Stadium

CLASS 4A DIVISION I Region I Area
EP Del Valle (8-3) vs. Abilene Cooper (7-4), 2 p.m. Saturday, Odessa's Ratliff Stadium
Denton Guyer (9-2) vs. Arlington Seguin (5-6), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Southlake Carroll Canutillo (9-2) vs. Wolfforth Frenship (11-0), 2 p.m. Saturday, Pecos
Denton Ryan (8-3) vs. Mansfield Timberview (6-5), 7:30 p.m. Friday, FW Brewer

DIVISION II Region I Area
EP Parkland (8-3) vs. San Angelo Lake View (6-5), 1 p.m. Saturday, Midland's Grande Communications Stadium
WF Rider (8-3) vs. Stephenville (8-3), 7 p.m. Friday, Justin Northwest
EP Riverside (6-5) vs. Big Spring (7-4), 8 p.m. Friday, EP Riverside
Aledo (11-0) vs. Everman (11-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Bedford's Pennington Field

CLASS 3A DIVISION I Region I Area
Abilene Wylie (9-2) vs. Seminole (7-4), 6 p.m. Saturday, Midland's Grande Communications Stadium
Burkburnett (9-1) vs. China Spring (11-0), 6 p.m. Saturday, Aledo

DIVISION II Region I Area
Snyder (8-3) vs. Monahans (9-2), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Andrews
Bridgeport (10-0) vs. Llano (8-3), 6 p.m. Saturday, Stephenville's Memorial Stadium
Sweetwater (9-2) vs. Midland Greenwood (7-4), 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Abilene's Shotwell Stadium
Vernon (5-5) vs. Liberty Hill (11-0), 4 p.m. Saturday, Mineral Wells CLASS 2A

CLASS 2A DIVISION I Region I Area

Muleshoe (11-0) vs. Littlefield (11-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Wolfforth Frenship
Clyde (10-1) vs. Tuscola Jim Ned (7-4), 7:30 p.m. Friday, San Angelo Stadium

DIVISION II Region I Area
Friona (6-5) vs. Idalou (10-1), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Canyon's Kimbrough Stadium
Merkel (7-4) vs. Brady (10-1), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Stephenville's Memorial Stadium
Childress (8-3) vs. Lubbock Roosevelt (7-4), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Plainview
Cisco (10-1) vs. Bangs (9-2), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Breckenridge

CLASS 1A DIVISION I Region I Area
Canadian (9-1) vs. Wellington (11-0), 8 p.m. Friday, Pampa
Morton (8-3) vs. Stanton (6-5), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Denver City

DIVISION II Region I Area

Area
Stratford (9-1) vs. Nazareth (9-2), 8 p.m. Friday, Amarillo's Dick Bivins Stadium
Ralls (5-6) vs. Sundown (9-2), 7 p.m. Friday, Lubbock's Lowrey Field
Sunray (6-4) vs. Clarendon (9-2), 4:30 p.m. Friday, Amarillo's Dick Bivins Stadium
New Deal (11-0) vs. Iraan (11-0), 2 p.m. Saturday, Sweetwater

SIX-MAN DIVISION I Region II Regional
Throckmorton (8-2) vs. Garden City (10-1), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Trent
Fort Davis (11-0) vs. Vernon Northside (8-2), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Water Valley

DIVISION II Region II Regional
Ackerly Sands (8-3) vs. Sierra Blanca (6-2), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Grandfalls
Sanderson (7-3) vs. Borden County (10-0), 6:30 p.m. Friday, Wink

Pacman Jones reinstated by the NFL

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON — Twice-suspended cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones will be on his own in his return to the NFL with the Dallas Cowboys.

This time, there will be no team-employed bodyguards to accompany Jones and try to keep him out of trouble.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said Wednesday that the cornerback, who completed the inpatient portion of his NFL-ordered alcohol treatment in the Boston area, was being reinstated by NFL commissioner Roger Goodell and should be eligible to play again after missing two

more games.

Jerry Jones also said he isn't bringing back the security detail — leaving it up to Adam Jones to make decisions on his own.

"You can draw your own conclusion, but the answer is absolutely," Jones said.

Worrick Robinson, Adam Jones' Nashville-based attorney, said the player understands it's up to him to avoid any more trouble.

"It all starts with him and his decision-making," Robinson said. "He's comfortable making decisions for himself."

Jerry Jones expects Adam Jones to return to practice with the team by Monday and play

Dec. 7 at Pittsburgh "if everything goes like it should." Adam Jones won't play Sunday against San Francisco or next week on Thanksgiving against Seattle.

Despite Jerry Jones' announcement of the reinstatement, there was no confirmation from the NFL on Wednesday.

"When there is a final determination, we will announce it," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello wrote in an e-mail.

Adam Jones was suspended for the entire 2007 season because of multiple incidents while with the Tennessee Titans. In the off-season, he was traded to Dallas and given another chance by Goodell.

The Cowboys gave him a security team to help keep him in line, but on Oct. 7, Jones got into an alcohol-related scuffle with one of the bodyguards during a private party at an upscale Dallas hotel.

"I am going to try something different," Jerry Jones said.

Goodell suspended him indefinitely a week later, saying he'd put a timeframe on it after the cornerback missed at least four games. By the time Jones returns, assuming he's back for the Pittsburgh game, it will be a six-game suspension — meaning he'll have missed 22 of 28 games since the end of the 2006 season because of suspensions.

"He much appreciates the Cowboys and Jerry Jones for standing behind and encouraging him, and he's grateful to the commissioner," Robinson said.

Jerry Jones and Robinson would not reveal any conditions the commissioner may have imposed.

"He knows what he has to do," Robinson said. "It's very clear."

Robinson said the cornerback has been using this week to take care of personal issues and establish an outpatient relationship in the Dallas area as he continues the program he began in Boston. Robinson said it was in Jones' best interest to go into rehabilitation.

STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

occur to decide the venue of the contest. Ritchey wanted to play at a neutral site, such as Pecos, while Riverside coach J.J. Calderon desired a home-and-home scenario, meaning the two coaches would flip for home field advantage.

Because of the disagreement, a toss occurred to decide on the neutral or home-and-home debate and was won by Riverside.

A second flip then occurred to decide whether Friday's game would occur in Big Spring or El Paso and was again won by Riverside.

The good news is Big Spring could potentially host a playoff game in the next few years were the Steers to match-up with Riverside in the postseason again.

"Hopefully the two flips aren't any indication of the luck involved with this game," joked Ritchey.

The Steers come in playing some of their best football of the season. In their last two games against Canyon and Hereford, the Steers have outscored their opponents 80-14 and hold a plus-9 advantage in turnover margin.

Big Spring accrued more than 400 yards of total offense in both contests and had three players — Monte Anderson, Matt Ritchey and LaRay Woodard — rush for more than 100 yards last week against Canyon.

"We're just now starting to play our best football. We're peaking at exactly the right time," said Ritchey. "I believe we can play with anyone in the state and have an advantage on any opponent we play with our speed."

Riverside brings a different challenge to the Steers' defense.

"We still don't know what their base

offense is," said Ritchey. "That's the biggest problem we face against them. Riverside will set up in several different formations and constantly use motion. It's really a challenge to prepare for defensively."

Riverside was the runner-up in District 2-4A and played six games decided by at least a 3-point margin. However, the Rangers' offense was unleashed last week against El Paso Burges in a 46-10 victory. They're 5-1 at Riverfront Stadium this season.

Much of the offense is centered around quarterback Peter Carreon, who has thrown for 1,814 yards and 12 touchdowns and rushed for 570 yards and five more scores. He has also thrown 18 interceptions.

Winner of this game faces the victor of one of this weekend's prime playoff matchups as No. 2 Everman squares off with No. 3 Aledo in Bedford.

AREA PLAYOFF
Big Spring Steers
at
EP Riverside Rangers

When: 8 p.m. Friday
Where: Riverfront Stadium in El Paso
Radio: KBYG 1400AM, KBEST 95.7FM, KBST 1490AM, KBST.com.
Directions: 301 Midway Dr., El Paso Go west on I-20 for approx. 175 miles, then merge onto I-10. Take exit 28B for Yarbrough Dr./Sumac Dr. and turn left on N. Yarbrough Dr. Turn right at Alameda Ave./TX-20. Turn left at Midway Dr. and the stadium should be on the right.

State briefs

Dad of Packers WR Driver says he knew Houston police who kicked him in stomach during beating

HOUSTON (AP) — The father of Green Bay Packers' wide receiver Donald Driver is in critical condition, at last report, and his family wants the two police officers who allegedly beat him taken off the street.

The family wants the officers they say are responsible for causing Marvin Driver Jr., 56, to suffer a brain hemorrhage taken off the streets until the investigation is complete, the Houston Chronicle reported in its online editions Wednesday. A call early Thursday to Memorial Hermann Hospital-The Texas Medical Center seeking an update on Driver's condition was not immediately returned.

The family issued a statement Wednesday saying Driver was stopped for outstanding traffic warrants and was to be

taken to jail, but was beaten before getting there.

Parolee convicted of killing Dallas-area woman, slashing her son's throat set to die Thursday

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Attorneys for Texas death row inmate Robert Jean Hudson don't deny he killed ex-girlfriend Edith Kendrick in a rage nearly a decade ago at her Dallas-area apartment but questioned whether he should be put to death Thursday evening for what they said was not a deliberate act.

"While Ms. Kendrick's murder was brutal, it was a crime of passion," Maurie Levin, a University of Texas law professor, wrote in an appeal asking the U.S. Supreme Court to halt the punishment. "Mr. Hudson did not attempt to flee, did not resist arrest, immediately confessed to the crime, and expressed his remorse

and sorrow in that statement and during the months that followed."

Hudson, 45, would be the 18th Texas inmate executed this year in the nation's most active death penalty state. Two other executions scheduled for this week in Texas were stopped by the courts.

"Something came over me and I lost control which caused this," Hudson, who declined to speak with reporters as his scheduled execution in Huntsville neared, told police after his arrest. "I loved Edith... I am sorry for what has happened and have told the truth about the incident."

Baylor medical school ousts President Traber

HOUSTON (AP) — Trustees at Baylor College of Medicine have dismissed Peter Traber as president, ending a turbulent 5½-year tenure, officials said.

Trustees announced Wednesday after a three-hour meeting that they and Traber agreed he'll step down as president and CEO on Dec. 1. They gave no reason.

"I wouldn't put all the blame on Dr. Traber," said Bob Allen, chairman of the trustees, in an online story Wednesday for the Houston Chronicle. "The challenges out there are a result of lots of decisions over the past 10 years. I'd blame the board, of which I was one, as much as Dr. Traber."

Traber, 53, was not available for comment after the meeting. Under the terms of the deal, he will continue as president emeritus, professor of medicine and consultant to the board.

Baylor will pay Traber roughly \$4.5 million to buy out the remainder of his contract, which runs through 2013. Because he is staying on, there is no severance package.

JENNINGS

Continued from Page 1A

and a fellow trooper with the DPS. "He was a good trooper and he was dedicated to his job. He was a very good friend of mine for a long time and I will miss him."

County and city officials recalled Jennings as an efficient administrator and law enforcement official.

"I was very sad to hear about his passing," County Commissioner Bill Crooker said. "To me, he was one of the best sher-

iff's we ever had ... I had a great deal of admiration for Bill. He was an honorable man and lived up to his word.

"I thought he did an excellent job (as sheriff)," Crooker added. "He was extremely efficient in his operation of the department and he cooperated well with the other county departments."

Big Spring Police Department Chief Lonnie Smith and Jennings came up through the law enforcement ranks together — Smith as a BSPD officer and Jennings as a Department of Public Safety trooper.

"He and his wife, Mary, complemented each other so well," Smith said. "I feel

deeply sorry for Mary and his family because of his passing."

Smith said relations between the police department and sheriff's office were very smooth during Jennings' tenure.

"When Bill was sheriff, I felt we had a good working relationship between his department and my officers," Smith said. "We'd known each other for years ... and we always talked with each other."

In addition to his law enforcement duties, Jennings was a long-time board member for Victim Services. Current director Shann Smith recalled him as a stalwart advocate for the agency.

"One of the first questions he'd always ask when he'd see us was to make sure everything was OK and that we had what we needed," she said. "If we needed to talk to somebody, he'd go with us. He was awesome at doing that — he wasn't bashful and he would do anything in the world for us."

Funeral services are pending at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

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

FEAST

Continued from Page 1A

"What we're asking is for people who need a meal delivered to call before 4 p.m. Wednesday to make arrangements. We'll be delivering meals Thanksgiving day until about 11 a.m."

Preparations for the dinner will begin at 9 a.m. Wednesday.

"We need as many volunteers as we can get for the

prep work, which includes everything from peeling potatoes to deboning turkeys," Lafler said. "Dolores Albert will be in charge of the cooking and preparation, just as she's done for so many years now. I don't know how we'd make it through Thanksgiving without Dolores."

Lafler said area residents wanting to volunteer their services should come to the charity's office at 811 W. Fifth St., Wednesday morning.

"They can call if they

need more information, or if they just want to let us know they are coming. However, if they just want to show up at the office at 9 a.m., we'll be more than happy to put them to work," said Lafler. "We're also going to need volunteers to help Thanksgiving morning."

This year's holiday menu will be filled with traditional Thanksgiving fare, according to Lafler.

"Thanksgiving just isn't Thanksgiving without turkey," she said with a

laugh. "We'll also have the traditional trimmings, like dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, and green beans. A lot of work goes into preparing a Thanksgiving meal, but it's well worth it."

Volunteers aren't the only aspect of the holiday dinner the local charity will be looking for, according to Lafler.

"We also need people to donate pies and other desserts for the meal," she said.

Lafler said the in-house

meal will be served in the Salvation Army's dining hall from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

"It's open to everyone in the community," said Lafler. "Anyone — and I do mean anyone — who would like to come in and have a great Thanksgiving meal can just walk through our doors and grab a plate. Bring your family and have a great meal."

And while the Salvation Army staff gets ready for Thanksgiving, Capt. Ed Cheshire said the local

charity will also be gearing up for its annual bell-ringer campaign.

"We expect to begin with the kettles and bell-ringers Monday," said Cheshire. "They will be out and working hard this season."

For more information on how you can help, or to set up a meal delivery, contact the Big Spring Salvation Army at 267-8239.

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

ALERT

Continued from Page 1A

first six hours after they take their victims, experts say. Often it takes nearly that long just to get an alert issued.

A few days after she disappeared in April 2006, 10-year-old Jamie Rose Bolin of Purcell, Okla., was found dead in a neighbor's apartment, the victim of what investigators said was a cannibalistic fantasy. Police did not initially put out an Amber Alert because they suspected she had run away and had no reports of an abduction.

An alert was eventually issued, but police said the girl probably was killed the day she was taken.

"There's nothing wrong with making people feel better in the security of children — it does exactly that," said Jack Levin, a criminology professor at Northeastern University in Boston. "When you're actually talking about preventing homicides, you have to look elsewhere for a solution."

Law enforcement officials insist the alerts can be crucial to recovering endangered children, even when multiple states are involved.

Take the case of Jerry Jones, who killed his in-

fant daughter and his ex-girlfriend's parents and sister in a small north Georgia town before kidnapping the couple's other three kids. Motorists saw an alert on a highway sign and spotted the Ford Explorer driven by Jones, who was caught just across the Tennessee line and given a death sentence earlier this year.

The three children were found safe, and the Levi's Call, as Amber Alerts are known in Georgia, "was the key to the whole thing," said John Bankhead, a spokesman for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

Amber Alerts started in 1996 after the murder of 9-year-old Amber Hagerman, who was kidnapped while riding her bicycle in Arlington, Texas. The city developed a system where police work with broadcasters to put out bulletins on abducted children, similar to severe weather warnings.

Soon, states began creating their own Amber Alert systems, and Congress established its own law in 2003.

The federal law doesn't have any teeth to it, though. It sets basic standards for issuing an alert but doesn't penalize states that don't follow them.

The law set aside \$20

million to help establish and shore up state highway alert systems, a token sum that the states — many of which already had programs in place — have been slow to go after. About \$4 million remains unclaimed, and 10 states haven't applied for any of that money.

Not that they really need it. Every state has an alert system, and many had them before the federal law was passed. And federal authorities have no intention of asserting control of the state systems, regardless of the law's establishment of a national point person to do just that.

"There will never be a federal Amber czar," said Jeffrey L. Sedgwick, an assistant attorney general at the Justice Department who nevertheless spends part of his time as national coordinator for the Amber Alert network. He's the third person to fill that role since the position was created five years ago.

The loose federal legislation befits a weak alliance of states that pay little attention to their alert programs and sometimes squabble over when to issue the bulletins.

In California, authorities will issue an alert in cases involving a custody dispute. Not so in neighboring Nevada, which claims

to have the most stringent criteria in the country for sounding the alarm. Also, California will issue an alert in the case of an abducted adult with a mental or physical disability, while Nevada will not.

"A state that issues alerts more liberally may be miffed when a neighboring state is more conservative and won't do it," said Victor Schulze, senior deputy attorney general in Nevada. "But we're concerned that an overuse of the system will numb people to the emergency characteristic of it."

Schulze said Nevada has turned down a number of requests from neighboring states because of criteria differences, but could not identify a specific case.

California Highway Patrol Lt. LD Maples, who runs the state's Amber Alert system, said he is always worried that it could become overused, but noted that even the smallest bit of information can help the public identify an abducted child.

"If you have information that can be released that can help — if they want to call it liberal let them call it liberal — if it helps, I'm almost compelled to put that information out there," Maples said.

Despite their differences, California has issued 66

alerts since 2005, better than one a month, while Nevada has put out seven, roughly the same rate per capita.

Record-keeping also varies drastically among the states — in Utah, detailed records of each alert that has been issued are available on the Internet, including a narrative of each case, while Mississippi state police have only handwritten files on the three alerts they've issued since 2005. That makes it tough to tell whether an Amber Alert makes a child any more likely to be saved. Advocates, including the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, say it can't hurt.

Sedgwick, whose main job is head of the Office of Justice Programs, acknowledged it's not a perfect system but insisted the program thrives because states are in control rather than simply complying with federal mandates.

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"This came from a grassroots level," he said.

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD



By Eddy Pitchford

Christmas shopping is fixing to get in gear. Of course, there are fewer gears to get going this year. Economic concerns are expected to slow down the shopping express as many families wish for a bailout. As people shop, there are some things that need to be remembered.

Before you shop for Christmas, take time for Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving puts Christmas shopping in perspective. We are blessed to have family and friends that we want to honor. We readily acknowledge that we do not buy family love nor purchase friendship. We realize every day of life is a gift from the Giver of life and that He is the reason for this and every season.

Be careful that you do not confuse gifts given and received with the blessing of relationship. Pay special attention to hugs, prayers, respect and laughter. These gifts are priceless and never go out of style.

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EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
PublisherJohn A. Moseley
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News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Economy woes bigger than bailout package

It is now clear that the administration is groping in semi-darkness for answers to the nation's cascading economic woes. The \$700 billion bailout plan that once was supposed to buy up troubled assets held by Wall Street has instead become a rescue plan for banks and credit markets. With so much government money being doled out, it should come as no surprise that many troubled businesses, including the Big Three U.S. automakers, are lining up to get their share. Who can blame them?

Now is the time, though, for America to take a deep breath, exhale gently and just say no. Instead of a bailout, Detroit needs some tough love. Sure, the U.S. auto industry could use some help — but so, too, could the rest of America.

A few weeks ago, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson predicted an economic meltdown if Congress refused to approve a bailout plan. Lawmakers responded with \$700 billion. Now, in hindsight, we know that even with billions flowing to banks and credit markets, the economy has continued to deteriorate. So the administration's pitch now is to ask for patience. Without the cash infusion, the situation would be much worse, Paulson says. And, yes, he says, the money has brought some stability to troubled credit markets. Really?

What is obvious is that the administration is making up the answers as events unfold. Also obvious is that the U.S. economy is in deeper trouble than anyone could have predicted. Companies everywhere are declaring bankruptcy, eliminating jobs, going into survival mode. Consumers, too, are hunkering down.

In this economic free-fall, the U.S. auto industry is asking the president and Congress to pick favorites. Yet the economic forces at play are beyond the federal government's ability to control. This is where the administration and Congress must draw a line. GM, Ford and Chrysler have already gotten a \$25 billion loan to convert to the production of "green" vehicles. They should not be given another \$25 billion. U.S. automakers must find ways to rescue themselves.

The bill that Congress will consider this week to help the industry has some impressively stringent requirements in return for giving the industry money. These include a thorough restructuring, placing limits on executive pay and banning "golden parachutes" for top executives. But why should the taxpayer be left on the hook when the Big Three ignored years — actually, decades — of warnings that they were headed for ruin? Bankruptcy laws are made for cases like these. Congress must tell the automakers to look elsewhere for answers. The federal government can't print enough money to save every troubled company — nor should it try.

THE MIAMI HERALD

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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 - Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone 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

Blacks and Latinos: Natural allies

When Barack Obama was losing the Hispanic vote to Hillary Clinton during the Democratic primaries, some people automatically assumed that racial discrimination had something to do with it. There was widespread speculation that Hispanics wouldn't vote for a black candidate.

In many cities where blacks and Latinos live side by side, there was plenty of evidence to the contrary. In local elections, Latinos had helped elect African-American politicians across the country. And in Latin America, some already had elected black presidents.

Yet just because many Latinos favored Clinton, some people tried to play the race card against the Hispanic community. It didn't work! It was a myth. On Election Day, President-elect Obama received 67 percent of the Hispanic vote and won four swing states thanks to the support of Latinos. According to the Pew Research Center, 95 percent of blacks and 43 percent of whites voted for Obama. Draw your own conclusions.

Are there Latino racists? Of course there are. Did some Latinos vote against Obama because he is black? Of course some did.

But they are a miniscule minority, not worthy of the attention or importance they were given by the news media during the Democratic primaries.

Obviously, most Latinos realize that in terms of issues and interests, they have much more in common with the African-American community than they have dif-

ferences. Blacks and Latinos are natural allies! If Obama is good for African-Americans, he also will be good for Latinos. Most Latinos and African-Americans probably think that way.

Does that mean there hasn't been friction between blacks and Latinos? Of course not. When they have helped elect black politicians in local elections, some Latinos have complained that only blacks gained political empowerment and civil service jobs. Meanwhile, some blacks have expressed fear that Latino political empowerment will be at the expense of African-Americans, as if blacks and Latinos still need to fight over the same civil service jobs.

Instead of arguing over crumbs, blacks and Latinos, united as a voting front, now have the power to demand their fair share of the American pie.

If Obama and the Democrats manage to keep this new national black and Latino alliance alive, the Republicans will remain a minority in Congress and nowhere near the White House for a long time.

But first Obama needs to do the right thing for the Latinos who elected him.

Of course, many of the issues Latinos care about are the same issues that most Americans expect Obama to confront: the economy, our two wars, health care, education and so on.

But the president-elect needs to pay attention to a few other issues that are crucial to Latinos.

He needs to appoint Latinos to key government positions, starting with his inner circle of advisers and his Cabinet but also including all levels of his administration. He needs to find a way to get comprehensive immigration reform through Congress, legislation that would

include a legalization plan for at least 12 million illegal immigrants who are already here. Obama needs to rethink his position against the pending free trade agreement with Colombia, and he needs to stop suggesting that he wants to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement.

To maintain the support of Latinos, Obama needs to stand firm for freedom and democracy in Latin America. He needs to be wary of overtures from enemies who may pretend to be our friends now and who may expect us to overlook their civil and human rights violations.

Obama needs to convey to Cuba's Castro brothers that having the most liberal voting record in the Senate doesn't make him an ally of a Communist dictatorship. He needs to show the leftist, anti-American demagogues, such as Venezuela's Hugo Chavez and Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega, that he is not their comrade.

If Obama devotes some time to issues that are important to Latinos, there is little that Republicans can do to regain the Hispanic support they squandered by introducing anti-immigrant measures during the past few years.

But if Republicans find a way to repent from their immigrant-bashing ways and Obama ignores the issues that are important in the barrios, the political pendulum will swing in the opposite direction, and Obama will lose his Latino support. It will have nothing to do with race, but some idiots will claim again that Hispanics won't vote for a black candidate.

To find out more about Miguel Perez and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

ADDRESSES

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Phone: 202-224-5922

• **JOHN CORNYN**
U.S. Senator

517 Hart Office Building
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Phone: 202-224-2934

• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**
U.S. Representative
19th Cong. District
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Big Spring
Phone: (432) 264-0722

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Austin, 78711
Phone: (512) 463-2000

• **JOE HEFLIN**
State Representative
Texas 85th District
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Austin, 78768
Phone: (432) 213-2897 or (512) 463-0604

• **KEL SELIGER**
State Senator
Texas 31st District
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Big Spring, 79720
Phone: (432) 268-9909

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U.S. veterans deserve our support

American citizens recognize that our soldiers serving during the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have made a great sacrifice for our country. Nearly all Americans agree that we owe them our full support with finding jobs, providing needed medical care and other support so they can successfully reintegrate when they return to civilian life. Helping these men and women gain the skills and credentials they need to succeed in a competitive labor market is both appropriate recognition for their service and a social responsibility.

In addition to their desire to serve their country, about three-quarters of men and women in uniform indicate that education benefits were a key incentive for enlisting. However, in reality, most GI Bill education benefits go unused for a number of reasons. Many have trouble transferring credits that they have already earned from previous higher education experiences or institutions. Some are confused about what benefits are available to them and how to use them.

Traditional higher education often does not afford those in military service the flexibility or platform to manage their studies while serving in the military, particularly when they are also juggling family and job obligations. Many are transferred from base to base, often making it difficult to continue their education. Even military students studying online often need addi-

tional flexibility to be successful.

College education for our military is critically important both while soldiers are in the service and when they return home as veterans. Today's military is highly skilled and soldiers on active duty have a much better chance of promotion if they are pursuing higher education. Returning veterans look to college as a means to re-enter the civilian workforce. Once they obtain a degree, the chances of advancement in the military or in the civilian workforce are greater.

Our military has a strong culture that promotes and rewards civilian education. The military often provides selected officers with fully funded advanced educational opportunities while on active duty. When I served in Vietnam, officers like me received educational assistance from the military while serving our country. Enlisted personnel, however, returned home to start new lives and relied on GI educational benefits. Today, they still rely on these benefits, in addition to the support of their colleges, to advance their education.

Institutions of higher education should be prepared to dedicate dollars and support services that address the unique challenges of both active duty and veteran soldiers. The GI Bill has gone a long way to address the rising cost of tuition, yet many of our servicemen and women still have to pay out of pocket to supplement the cost of tuition.

I am proud that the institution where I teach, Kaplan University, recently reduced its online tuition rate for veterans and active-duty service members, allowing their military benefits to cover tuition costs fully.

The university also implemented flexible leave policies to help them complete their education and meet the demands of a military lifestyle. I encourage other higher education institutions to dedicate similar efforts in supporting military students and veterans.

Today, thousands of our fine military personnel are returning to civilian life after serving our country around the world. These service people and their families have made major sacrifices for our country. Just as we have provided significant benefits for our returning servicemen and women since World War II, a grateful nation owes our current soldiers full educational benefits to help them successfully integrate into civilian life.

We need to fulfill the educational commitment that we made to these young men and women. We need to ensure that access to higher education is available to those that want to pursue their studies and that unreasonable barriers do not block their way.

Over the coming months as the new presidential administration evaluates its priorities and considers issues related to troop withdrawal and redeployment, please join me to make sure that our veterans are on the agenda to ensure a strong military and a strong economy. They have earned our gratitude and support.

Nick Halley is a retired U.S. Army brigadier general who was a combat leader in Vietnam, Grenada and Desert Storm. He is an author, professional speaker and full-time faculty member at Kaplan University. Readers may send him e-mail at nickhalley@msn.com.



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Oil prices plunge

By **PABLO GORONDI**

Associated Press Writer

Oil prices plunged over \$3 Thursday, briefly dipping below \$50 a barrel as 16-year high U.S. unemployment figures and plummeting stock markets caused investors to price in lower crude demand.

Light, sweet crude for December delivery was down \$3.25 to \$50.37 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by early afternoon in Europe.

Crude briefly dipped below \$50 for the first time since Jan. 18, 2007 when prices struck \$49.91, just a penny above the 2007 low.

On Wednesday, the contract fell 77 cents to settle at \$53.62.

In London, January Brent crude fell \$2.89 to \$48.83 on the ICE Futures exchange.

Markets worried that a steep economic slowdown would cut demand for oil.

"People are saying this slowdown could be the worst since the Great Depression," said Toby Hassall, an analyst with investment firm Commodities Australia in Sydney. "There's definitely fear out there that it's going to be pretty severe."

There was bad economic news Thursday out of the U.S., with new claims for unemployment benefits jumping last week to a 16-year high, providing more evidence of a rapidly weakening job market expected to get even worse next year.

The government said new applications for jobless benefits rose to a seasonally adjusted 542,000 from a downwardly revised figure of 515,000 in the previous week. That's much higher than Wall Street economists' expectations of 505,000, according to a survey by Thomson Reuters.

That is also the highest level of claims since July 1992, the department said, when the U.S. economy was coming out of a recession.

Concerns that Congress may not approve a \$25 billion rescue package for ailing U.S. carmakers General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co., and Chrysler LLC helped drag the Dow Jones industrial average down 5.1 percent Wednesday to its lowest level since March 2003.

Stocks slid sharply Thursday in Asia and Europe. Japan's benchmark Nikkei index fell 6.9 percent and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index was off 4 percent. London's FTSE index was down 2.5 percent, Germany's DAX index lost 2.8 percent and France's CAC-40 shed 3.5 percent.

"The stock markets are representing investor pessimism regarding the economic outlook and what we have in store over the next year," analyst Hassall said.

On Wednesday, the U.S. Department of Transportation provided more evidence that the slowdown continues to hurt gasoline consumption, even as prices fall. Americans drove almost 11 billion fewer miles in September, the department said.



Three Big Spring Independent School District campuses were honored during Thursday's school board meeting for attaining Recognized status from the Texas Education Agency. Kentwood Elementary Principal Dana Byrd, far left, Moss Elementary Principal George Martin, second from left, and Washington Elementary Principal Ruben Cervantes, far right, received the awards for their schools. Also shown are school board members Maria Padilla and Mike Dawson.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

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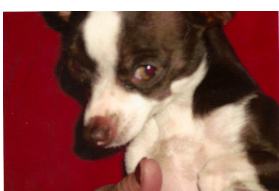
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2253 Sq. Ft. 4 bdrm, 3 bath. Nice view on 2.78 acres. Completion date Dec. 15th. For more information call Vista Ridge New Construction Homes @ (432)816-3877.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The Virgo moon nudges us to get it together in terms of health. It's not just about fitness or nutrition, though; it's about harmonizing our body, mind and spirit. Improvements in any one area will favorably affect the others. Instead of resolving to make a big change, take action in some small way. Efforts of any size are rewarded.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). People repeat to you the silent things you have said to yourself. Hearing the words out loud helps you become aware of the powerful messages you generate in your head. You are growing in awareness daily.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you ignore your more inappropriate feelings, will they disappear? It's worth a try. After all, it's easy for you attain another state of mind by focusing on what makes you feel friendly, cheerful and loving.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're generous and have fun sharing so long as you're in control. A person who hones in on your territory and attempts to guilt you into making your resources available must be managed, not indulged.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You are more productive when your environment is ordered and your schedule is cut down to a manageable size. Taking the time to get organized is crucial to the development of a project.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You set the tone for handling situations that are unfamiliar or challenging in other ways. Others look to you for cues about

how to act. With this in mind you remain patient, calm and compassionate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A request that you deem reasonable is nonetheless extremely difficult for someone to deliver on. It's probably a case of mismatched supply and demand. Stay upbeat while you politely pass, in favor of shopping around.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You have a growing interest in the opinions of others and will flatter someone with your astute questions. You don't even feel the need to give your own opinion, as you are content to listen and learn -- a rare and lovely quality.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The action heats up between some of the friends in your circle. This gives you an opportunity to take the high road. As a fire sign, you recognize which words will be incendiary and you steer clear.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The wisdom inside you is directing you to do something that you perceive as difficult. This is actually the easiest route, but it requires you to act differently than you usually would, so it seems like a stretch.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're an original. You're looking at the same scenery as everyone else, but you're thinking something different about it than anyone before you

has ever thought.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The more light you pour on the situation, the less stress you feel. So information is your best stress reliever. Get the best expert advice you can find and wherever possible, go to the source.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "What can you tell me about someone I met online whose birthday is 4/29/1979? I haven't seen him in person yet and want to know what to expect."

He's ruled by a Taurus sun and is sensual, luxury loving and a bit choosy. Taurus people are steadfast in their convictions and have the wherewithal to stick with relationships and goals through good times and adversity. On the down side, sometimes they don't know when to quit. They can hold on to opinions and behaviors that don't serve them well and are stubborn. This guy is also sharp. He has a Gemini moon, indicating mental quickness. Mercury, Venus and Mars are all in Aries. He's energetic, driven and can be highly competitive. Now that you have an overview of this dynamic character, do remember the basics of online dating. Provide your own transportation and meet in a public place. Make sure that a friend knows where you are and whom you are meeting. Do not share too much personal information about yourself on a first meeting. And most importantly, absolutely never have a person you don't know pick you up at your house.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Cody Linley was a profes-

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I've just begun a new graduate program with a very small class. My classmates like to meet for drinks after or go out during the week. They always ask me to come along, and I always say no. I really like all of them and enjoy their company, but I separate school from my personal life. I have no desire to socialize outside of class.



**KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR**

Vehicles

CHEVY 2001 Malibu \$1,600! Runs Great! For listings 800-544-1092 x N237.

Legals

Prequalification Advertisement Request for Proposals
The Colorado River Municipal Water District (CRMWD) is requesting qualifications from membrane treatment equipment manufacturers for the delivery and support of membrane pilot units. Data from the pilot units will be utilized by the District and its consultant to design the Big Spring Water Reclamation Plant to be located west of the City of Big Spring Wastewater Treatment Plant. Information regarding the packet containing pre-qualification requirements and membrane pilot testing protocol may be obtained without charge at the District's office located at 400 East 24th Street, Big Spring, TX 79721. Proposals must be delivered to 400 East 24th Street/ P.O. Box 869, Big Spring, TX 79721, no later than 3:00 PM, on December 4, 2008. For questions or additional information please contact Chris Wingert, P.E. (CRMWD) via e-mail at cwingert@crmwd.org or (432)267-6341 ext 303; or contact Ignacio Cadena, P.E. (Freese and Nichols, Inc.) at (817)735-7283 or via e-mail at ica@freese.com #5974 November 6, 13 & 20, 2008

PUBLIC NOTICE

Howard County will receive sealed bids until 10:00 A.M. on December 5, 2008 for the sale of used County vehicles. Vehicles are available for inspection at the County Barn, 1011 N. San Antonio St., Big Spring, TX. A list of available vehicles may be obtained by contacting Jackie Olson, County Auditor at (432)264-2210 or in room 203 of the County Courthouse. Bids will be presented to the Commissioners' Court at 10:00 A.M. on December 8, 2008 for their consideration. The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids. #5984 November 20 & 28, 2008

Dear Annie: I have been to many funerals and often have no idea who the relatives are when I want to express my condolences after the service.

I don't want this to happen at my funeral and would like to leave instructions for my son when the time comes. I am from a small family, and my relatives live in other states. However, I do have many friends locally. Would it be improper for the immediate family to wear nametags such as "John Doe (Son)" or "Jane Smith (Niece)" -- San Gabriel Valley Reader

Dear SGV Reader: Please don't. Nametags would make your funeral look like a business convention. Guests at a funeral are not expected to know everyone in the extended family. If the service is in a church or funeral home, family members usually sit in the front row. It is perfectly proper for attendees to say "I am sorry for your loss" without having to address each mourner by name and rank. Please stop worrying.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annies-mailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2008 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

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Try this! © 2008 MCT

Rubber eggs and tooth decay

This experiment will show you how invisible germs can damage your teeth.

You'll need

- Egg
- Vinegar
- Deep cup (such as a coffee mug)
- Tape

Source: Family Education Network
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap

- Put egg in cup. Stick piece of tape across top of cup.
- Pour vinegar into cup until egg is covered (tape will keep it from floating above vinegar).
- Leave egg in vinegar for 24 hours, remove and examine it.

What happened?

The eggshell gets soft and rubber-like. Acid in the vinegar dissolved some of the shell's hard minerals.

Your teeth are made of the same chemical as an eggshell. If you do not brush them often, tiny invisible bacteria grow on them and make acid that can damage teeth — and cause "cavities" — like the acid that damaged the egg shell.

Apricot Almond Chicken healthy, good

AMERICAN INSTITUTE for CANCER RESEARCH

Looking for ways to reinvent the same old chicken breast? This week's recipe features simple, pan sautéed chicken, wrapped in the warm, hearty flavors of fall: almonds and apricots. It's a perfect cool weather dish that is anything but boring.

The secret to this dish is the rich, flavorful marinade created by combining apple cider vinegar with apricot jam. The balance of sweet and acidic flavors permeates the chicken, which remains tender and moist. For those who are creative and want to experiment, you can substitute other combinations like black cherry jam and red wine vinegar.

Apple cider vinegar is among the less expensive vinegars and is best reserved for marinades, rather than vinaigrettes. The vinegar is produced, as its name suggests, by fermenting apples. During the processing, sugar in the fruit is broken down by bacteria and yeast into alcohol and then into vinegar. White vinegar is an appropriate substitute.

The inclusion of dried apricots adds texture, col-

or and nutrients to the dish. In addition, a serving of apricots provides a rich source of vitamin C and beta-carotene.

Aromatic thyme is used in the recipe as well, offering hints of mint and lemon.

It is cultivated in southern Europe and is frequently featured in French cuisine. Sautéed with shallots, as it is here, the herb's warm flavor is apparent in every bite.

Lastly, garnishing the chicken with toasted almonds adds a pleasant crunch and provides added nutritional benefits. Almonds supply heart-healthy monounsaturated fat and, although calorie-dense, can — and should — be enjoyed in moderation.

Apricot Almond Chicken

- 1/4 cup apple cider vinegar
- 1/2 cup all-fruit apricot jam
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. freshly ground pepper
- 4 (4 oz.) boneless, skinless chicken breasts



- 2 Tbsp. sliced almonds
- 1 cup dried apricots
- 1 cup boiling water
- 1 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/2 cup chopped shallots
- 1 1/2 tsp. fresh thyme, minced

Combine vinegar and jam in a small pot over medium to low heat. Cook, stirring often, until the jam is dissolved, approximately 3 to 4 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in salt and pepper. Let cool slightly and reserve 1/2 cup of sauce. Place chicken and remainder of sauce in a large re-sealable plastic bag. Seal and shake gently to coat. Place in refrigerator and let marinate for 1 to 2 hours.

In a small dry skillet, over medium heat, toast almonds until lightly browned, approximately 5 minutes. Remove from heat immediately and set aside.

Place dried apricots in 1 cup of very hot water for 2 minutes. Remove and set aside. Chop finely when cool.

Heat oil in a large skillet over medium to high heat. Add shallots and thyme and cook, stirring often, until shallots soften, about 1 minute. Remove chicken from marinade, discarding marinade. Add the chicken to the pan and cook until it starts to brown, about 2 minutes on each side. Add the reserved apricot sauce and softened chopped apricots. Stir to fully coat chicken. Reduce heat, cover and cook until chicken is cooked through, approximately 8 to 10 minutes. Sprinkle with almonds and serve immediately.

Makes 4 servings.
Per serving: 370 calories, 7 g total fat (1g saturated fat), 52 g carbohydrate, 29 g protein, 3 g dietary fiber, 390 mg sodium.

NUTRITION WISE

Osteoporosis and pink meat

Q: Is it true that cancer survivors face increased risk for osteoporosis?

A: Yes, depending on the type of treatment used, some cancer survivors do seem to be at increased risk for osteoporosis, the disease in which bones become weaker. So who's most likely to be affected?

Survivors of certain childhood cancers seem to have a greater risk of developing osteoporosis as adults.

Men treated for prostate cancer with hormone deprivation therapy (also called androgen deprivation therapy) also face increased risk.

Women treated for breast cancer can have an increased chance of developing osteoporosis due to decreased estrogen levels following chemotherapy or surgery, or as a direct side effect of some types of chemotherapy or even the cancer itself.

Extended treatment with glucocorticoid medication, (as part of cancer treatment or for other conditions) also increases risk. Besides these cancer-related influences, developing osteoporosis is more likely for those who are

small-boned, have a family history of osteoporosis, lack adequate calcium and physical activity, smoke or drink too much alcohol.

However, osteoporosis can be treated and prevented. Make sure you get adequate calcium and vitamin D (essential for calcium absorption) in the diet or via supplements if needed. Engage in regular, weight-bearing physical activity like walking. Avoid tobacco. Drink alcohol in moderation, if at all.

Cancer survivors should talk with their doctor about whether they may be at risk and could benefit from a bone mineral density test.

Today, medications that can successfully treat osteoporosis are available.

Q: When duck meat is served pink, is it safe to eat?

A: As with other meat and poultry, the safety depends on whether it has reached a high enough temperature during cooking.

Color is not an indicator of "doneness" in duck or in other poultry or meat. When chicken is cooked, for example, it is possible for the pink color to disappear before the safe temperature has been reached.

Duckling, however, has darker meat and is usually still slightly pink in the center when properly cooked to an internal temperature of 165 degrees.



KAREN COLLINS
MS, RD, CDN

Windpipe transplant

Spanish surgeons performed the world's first tissue-engineered whole organ transplant, using a windpipe (trachea) made with the patient's own stem cells.

- Trachea is removed from donor.
- Adult stem cells taken from patient's hip, airway, nose; cultivated cells form new cartilage and other special tissues.
- Cleaned donor trachea, now a "scaffold" of collagen, is provided with cultivated stem cells from patient and placed in a rotating bioreactor machine.
- Newly grown trachea is cut to shape and then transplanted to replace blocked bronchus.

• Patient suffers from blocked bronchus caused by tuberculosis.

• Patient experiences no rejection of transplant organ because it is grown from own stem cells.

• Scientists from Spain, U.K., Italy involved in this transplant breakthrough.

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Source: Hospital Clinic of Barcelona, The Lancet, University of Bristol Graphic: Scheibe, Polli

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Future Shock

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ J 9 8
♥ Q 10 4
♦ 7
♣ K Q J 10 8 3

WEST
♠ 5 2
♥ K 9 7
♦ Q 9 8 6 5 4 3
♣ 2

EAST
♠ A 6 3
♥ 8 5 3
♦ J 10 2
♣ A 7 6 5

SOUTH
♠ K Q 10 7 4
♥ A J 6 2
♦ A K
♣ 9 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
4 ♥

Opening lead — two of clubs.

Today's hand features excellent play by a defender. It illustrates how foresight can overcome the uncertainties that often accompany defensive play.

West led the deuce of clubs against four spades, and East took the ace as South dropped the nine. It wasn't difficult for East to deduce that West's lead was a singleton — only the four was missing, and West would have led that card rather than

the deuce from the doubleton 4-2. But instead of impulsively returning a club for West to ruff, which would have handed declarer the contract, East paused to consider where his side might collect the setting trick. The ace of clubs, a club ruff and the trump ace would account for three tricks, but a fourth trick would be needed if the contract was to be defeated.

On the bidding, it was likely that South held exactly five spades. West was therefore a favorite to hold two spades, so the club ruff could be postponed until East regained the lead with the ace of spades.

The setting trick, if there was one, could either be the ace of hearts, ace of diamonds or king of hearts. If West had either red ace, the contract would be set regardless of what East returned at trick two. But if West had the king of hearts, it was essential to return a heart at this point. Otherwise, South would eventually get rid of his hearts on dummy's clubs.

So East shifted to a heart at trick two. Declarer had no choice but to finesse, losing to the king, and West returned a heart to dummy's queen. When the eight of spades was next led, East rose with the ace and returned a club, and West's ruff put the finishing touch on a well-defended hand.

sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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

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Ability to apply common sense understanding to carry out detailed but uninvolved written or oral instructions. Ability to deal with problems involving a several concrete variables in standardized situations.

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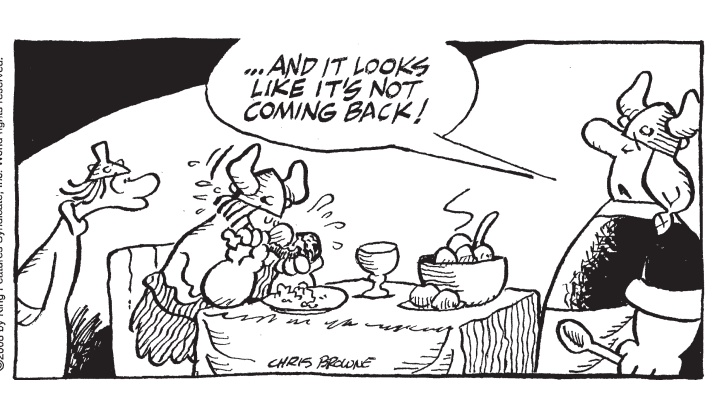
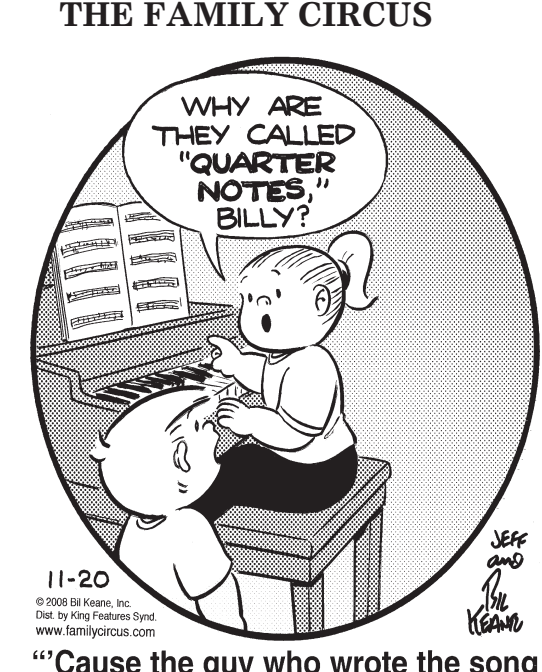
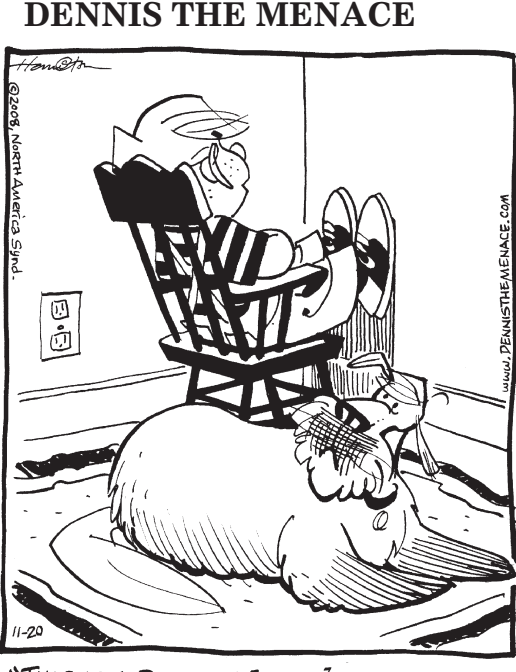
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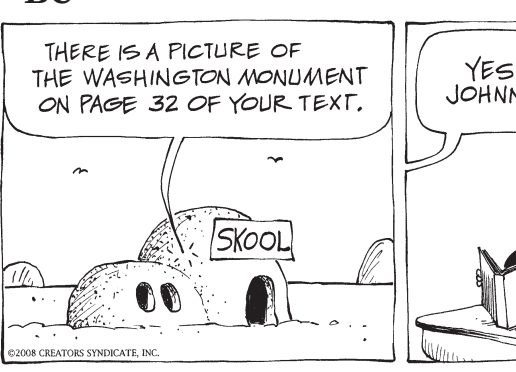
	WFAA 2 Dallas	KMID 3 Midland	UNI 4 Spanish	KPEJ 5 Odessa	KOSA 7 Odessa	KTLE 8 Telemundo	KWES 9 Midland	WTBS 11 Atlanta	KMLM 12 Odessa	KPBT 13 Odessa	DISC 20 Discovery	AMC 21 Classics	SPIKE 22 Spike TV	TNT 23 Atlanta	BET 26 Black Ent.	DISN 27 Disney	ESPN2 28 Sports	ESPN 29 Sports
5 :PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Lopez Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Raymond Friends	Granger Brad	BBC Business	Cash Cab Cash Cab	Movie: Sudden Impact, Pat Hingle	CSI: NY	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards of Waverly Place	11P-11T SportsCenter	
6 :PM	News ABC	Jeopardy! ABC	Querida Enemiga	Two Men Two Men	News CBS	12 Corazones	News NBC	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Sanchez News-Lehrer	Made Made	Movie: Road House, Sam Elliott	CSI: Crime Scn	NBA Basketball: Detroit Pistons at Boston Celtics	Movie: Dirty, Cole Hauser	Movie: The Shaggy Dog, Danny Glover	College Basketball: Coaches vs. Cancer	College Football: Miami at Georgia Tech	
7 :PM	Ugly Betty	Ugly Betty	Cuidado-Angel	Kitchen Nightmares	CSI: Crime Scn	El Rostro de Analia	Office 30 Rock	Friends Friends	Light of the Southwest	Live From Lincoln Center	Destroyed Destroyed	TNA iMPACT!	NBA Basketball: Lakers at Suns	Movie: Dirty, Cole Hauser	Wizards of Waverly Place	College Basketball: Coaches vs. Cancer		
8 :PM	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Fuego en la Sangre	Kitchen Nightmares	CSI: Crime Scn	El Rostro de Analia	Office 30 Rock	Friends Friends	Light of the Southwest	Live From Lincoln Center	Destroyed Destroyed	TNA iMPACT!	NBA Basketball: Lakers at Suns	Movie: Dirty, Cole Hauser	Wizards of Waverly Place	College Basketball: Coaches vs. Cancer		
9 :PM	(01) Life on Mars	(01) Life on Mars	Rosa Guadalupe	TMZ	(01) Elevation Hour	Sin Senos	ER	Movie: The Truman Show		Digital	Storm Chasers	Movie: Black Dog, Randy Travis	NBA Basketball: Lakers at Suns	Movie: Dirty, Cole Hauser	American Gangster	Wizards of Waverly Place		
10 :PM	News	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Movie: The Truman Show		Israel Van Impe	Venom Hunter	Jackass	NBA Basketball: Lakers at Suns	Movie: Dirty, Cole Hauser	Wizards of Waverly Place	College Basketball: Coaches vs. Cancer		
11 :PM	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	King-Hill	Late Show	Titulares	Tonight Show	Sex & Sex		Dr.	Smiley	Jackass	NBA Basketball: Lakers at Suns	Movie: Dirty, Cole Hauser	Wizards of Waverly Place	College Basketball: Coaches vs. Cancer		
12 :AM	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Hora de la Risa	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones de Famosos	Late Night	Sex & Sex		Swallow	Smiley	Jackass	NBA Basketball: Lakers at Suns	Movie: Dirty, Cole Hauser	Wizards of Waverly Place	College Basketball: Coaches vs. Cancer		
1 :AM	G. Keith	Weekend	Amarte-Pecado	RENO 911	RENO 911	Programa Pagado	News	Movie: The Truman Show		Israel LightWrid	Destroyed Destroyed	Married... Married...	Inside the NBA	Movie: Cliffhanger, Michael	The Wire	Emperor Dragon	NHRA Drag Racing	SportsCenter



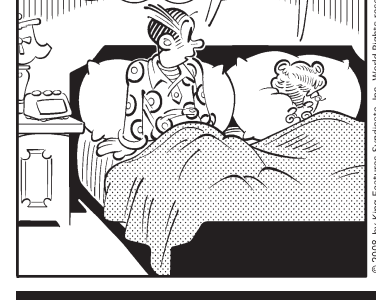
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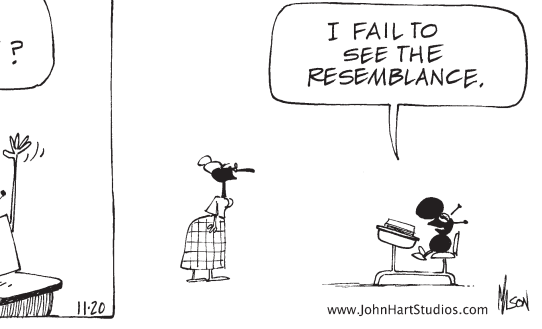
HAGAR



11-20
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BLONDIE



WIZARD OF ID

This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Nov. 20, the 325th day of 2008. There are 41 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 20, 1947, Britain's future queen, Princess Elizabeth, married Philip Mountbatten, Duke of Edinburgh, at Westminster Abbey.

On this date: In 1789, New Jersey became the first state to ratify the Bill of Rights.

In 1910, revolution broke out in Mexico, led by Francisco I. Madero.

In 1925, Robert F. Kennedy was born in Brookline, Mass.

In 1929, the radio program "The Rise of the Goldbergs" debuted on the NBC Blue Network.

In 1945, 22 out of 24 indicted Nazi officials went on trial (one in absentia) before an international war crimes tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany.

In 1959, the United Nations issued its "Declaration of the Rights of the Child."

In 1967, the Census Clock at the Commerce Department ticked

past 200,000,000.

In 1975, after nearly four decades of absolute rule, Spain's General Francisco Franco died, two weeks before his 83rd birthday.

In 1992, fire seriously damaged Windsor Castle, the favorite weekend home of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II.

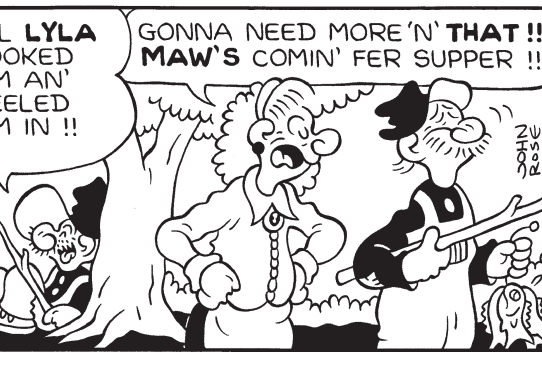
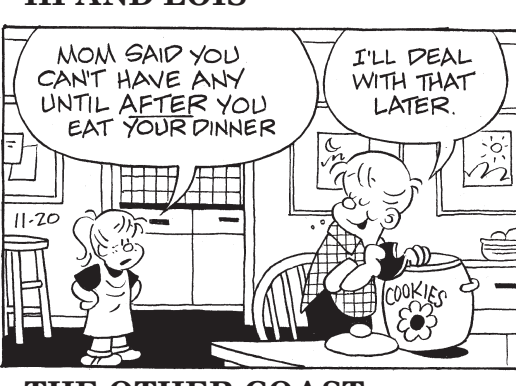
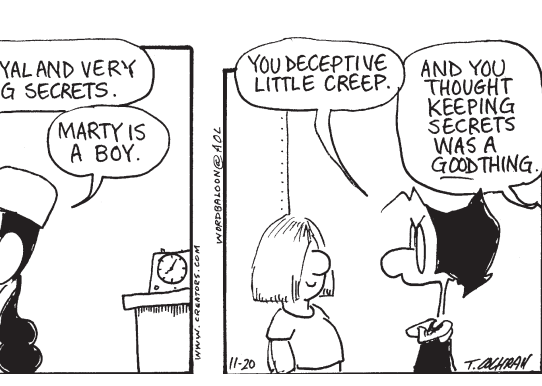
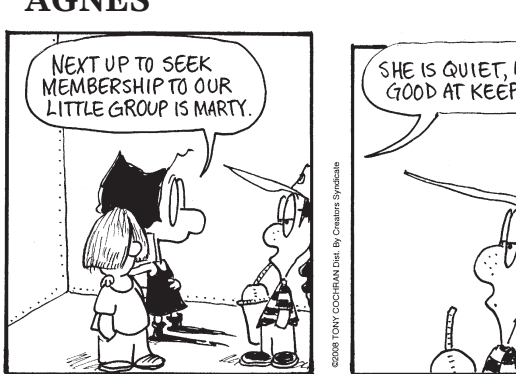
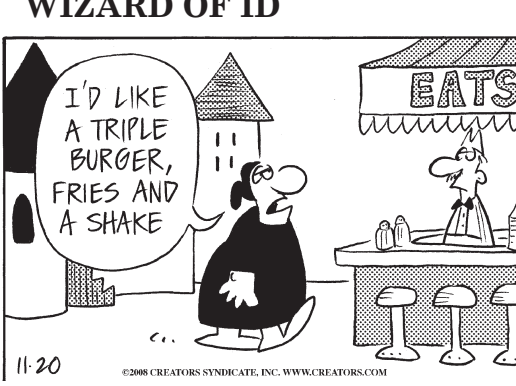
One year ago: A judge in St. George, Utah, sentenced polygamous-sect leader Warren Jeffs to five years to life in prison for his role in the arranged marriage of an underage girl to her older cousin. Scientists in Japan and the U.S. reported creating the equivalent of embryonic stem cells from ordinary skin cells. Ian Smith, the last white prime minister of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), died near Cape Town, South Africa, at age 88.

Today's Birthdays: Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., is 91. Economist Beryl Sprinkel is 85. Actress-comedian Kaye Ballard is 83. Actress Estelle Parsons is 81. TV personality Richard Dawson is 76. Comedian Dick Smothers is 70. Singer Norman Greenbaum is 66. Vice President-elect Joe Biden is 66. Actress Veronica Hamel is 65. Broadcast journalist Judy Woodruff is 62. Actor Samuel E. Wright is 62. Singer Joe Walsh is 61. Actor Richard Masur is 60. Actress Bo Derek is 52. Reggae musician Jim Brown (UB40) is 51.

Actress Sean Young is 49. Pianist Jim Brickman is 47. Rock musician Todd Nance (Widespread Panic) is 46. Actress Ming-Na is 45. Rapper Mike D (The Beastie Boys) is 43. Rapper Sen Dog (Cypress Hill) is 43. Actress Callie Thorne is 39. Actress Sabrina Lloyd is 38. Actress Marisa Ryan is 34. Country singer Dierks Bentley is 33. Actor Joshua Gomez is 33. Actress Laura Harris is 32. Country singer Josh Turner is 31. Actor Cody Linley is 19.

Thought for Today: "People, when they first come to America, whether as travelers or settlers, become aware of a new and agreeable feeling: that the whole country is their oyster." — Alistair Cooke, British-born American journalist and broadcaster (1908-2004).

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Newsday Crossword

MIDDLEMEN by Norma Steinberg
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Gets away
 - 6 Class clown
 - 10 Verne's balloonist
 - 14 American symbol
 - 15 Rock star Lewis
 - 16 Over, in Ulm
 - 17 Pleasant emanation
 - 18 Persia, today
 - 19 Forbidden activity
 - 20 Lamb's sire
 - 21 Newts, for example
 - 24 In solitude
 - 26 Church services
 - 27 Patio covering
 - 29 "Famous" cookie guy
 - 31 Old Testament brother
 - 32 Poet Lazarus
 - 34 Colorado resort
 - 39 Old-time exclamation
 - 40 Map marking
 - 42 ___ and now
 - 43 Coffee order
 - 45 Aide: Abbr.
 - 46 Carmen solo
 - 47 Charge per unit
 - 49 Biker's protection
 - 51 Israeli greeting
 - 55 Roman's "beautiful"
 - 56 Africa's highest peak
 - 59 Car Talk ailer
 - 62 Baseball star's nickname
 - 63 Disordered situations
- DOWN**
- 1 Dread
 - 2 Pasternak heroine
 - 3 "Me, me, me" kind of guy
 - 4 Popular street name
 - 5 Salt, maybe
 - 6 Pacific land
 - 7 Atmosphere
 - 8 Paper quantity
 - 9 Go-getter
 - 10 Cash on hand
 - 11 Some woodwinds
 - 12 Literary category
 - 13 Wholesale quantity
 - 22 Houston org.
 - 25 Singer Ronstadt
 - 27 Breezed through
 - 28 Something paid
 - 29 Tickle
 - 30 Small rugs
 - 33 Castle feature
 - 35 Intend to
 - 36 Like some markers
 - 37 Small Great Lake
 - 38 Without ice, at a bar
 - 41 Erstwhile anesthetic
 - 44 Return-address word
 - 48 Floors
 - 50 Skips a big wedding
 - 51 Wheeled footwear
 - 52 Put on staff
 - 53 Somewhere ___ the way
 - 54 Senator Dole's nickname
 - 55 Sunbathes
 - 57 Director Ephron
 - 58 Become part of
 - 60 Spitting sound
 - 61 Golf spoiler
 - 65 ___ jiffy

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News in brief

Daschle to be Obama's health secretary

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Barack Obama promised the voters change but has started his Cabinet selection process by naming several Washington insiders to top posts.

Obama is enlisting former Senate leader Tom Daschle as his health secretary. Hillary Rodham Clinton, a well-known Washington personality, seemed more likely than ever to be his secretary of state. Clinton is deciding whether to take that post as America's top diplomat, her associates said Wednesday.

Obama is ready to announce that his attorney general will be Eric Holder, the Justice Department's No. 2 when Clinton's husband was president. Rahm Emanuel, Obama's chief of staff, is another veteran of the Clinton White House.

Daschle's selection to head the Health and Human Services Department — confirmed Wednesday but not yet announced — isn't at the same level of Cabinet prestige as the top spots at the State and Justice departments. But the health post could be more important in an Obama administration than in some others, making Daschle a key player in helping steer the president-elect's promised health care reforms.

Daschle could push Obama for quick action on health care reform next year, if he follows his own advice.

Fed sees country lurching deeper into economic despair

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pounded by a fierce financial crisis, the country is sinking deeper into economic despair and is likely to be in the hole well into next year, forcing more Americans into the ranks of the unemployed.

The gloomy outlook from the Federal Reserve came as hopes dimmed that Congress could secure a fresh \$25 billion rescue package for the tottering U.S. auto industry before lawmakers quit for the year.

With economic troubles cutting into customers' appetites, businesses will remain in a cost-cutting mode, keeping layoffs high.

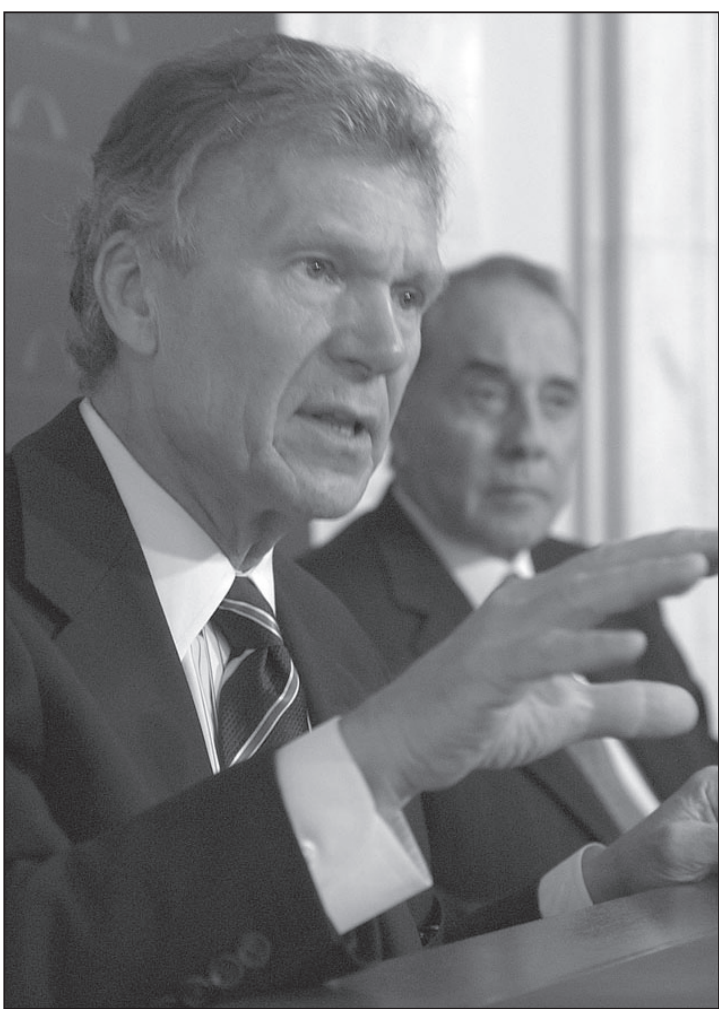
Although economists predict a government report out Thursday will show that the number of newly laid-off workers filing applications for unemployment benefits last week dipped to 505,000, that figure would still point to an ailing jobs market, they say.

In the prior week, new applications filed for jobless benefits zoomed to 516,000, the most since right after the September 2001 terror attacks.

Detroit automakers multibillion-dollar rescue plan stuck in neutral in Senate

WASHINGTON (AP) — A plan to give troubled U.S. automakers billions of dollars in government-backed loans is on life support, leaving the fate of hundreds of thousands of workers and Detroit's once-venerable car companies hanging in the balance.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., can-



AP Photo/Dennis Cook

In this May 30, 2007 file photo, former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, left, accompanied by fellow former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, take part in a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington. Democratic officials say Daschle has accepted President-elect Barack Obama's offer to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

celebrated plans Wednesday for a vote on a bill to carve \$25 billion in new auto industry loans out of the \$700 billion Wall Street rescue fund. The Bush administration and congressional Republicans have rejected Democrats' plan to dip into that pot of money.

Warning of economic disaster, a bipartisan group of senators from auto industry states are trying to reach a deal on an alternative package. If an agreement can be reached, Reid said, the Senate still could vote on it as part of a measure to extend jobless benefits.

But Reid acknowledged that was "not going to be easy." With all sides sensing doom for a Big Three automaker rescue, the finger-pointing began. White House press secretary Dana Perino said that if Congress "leaves for a two-month vacation without having addressed this important issue... then the Congress will bear responsibility for anything that happens."

Asian, European shares decline sharply

HONG KONG (AP) — World stock markets tumbled Thursday, with benchmarks in Tokyo and Seoul losing almost 7 percent each, after recession fears sent Wall Street plunging and Japan suffered its biggest drop in exports in seven years.

The slide in Asian and European shares extended a global sell-off that accelerated overnight amid lowered projections for U.S. economic activity next year from the Federal Reserve and worries over the fate of America's Big Three automakers, which are pleading for emergency loans from Washington.

The uncertainty facing companies around the world was evident after U.S. consumer prices fell 1 percent last month, the largest amount in the past 61 years. While beneficial to consumers, lower prices hurt corporate profits and raise the threat of deflation.

The rout continued as trading opened in Europe,

Chinese government says it will overhaul dairy industry

BEIJING (AP) — China announced a complete overhaul of its dairy industry Thursday to improve safety at every step — from cow breeding to milk sales — saying its worst food quality scandal in years had revealed "major problems" in quality control.

Changes will be made within the next year in production, purchasing, processing and sales, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

"The crisis has put China's dairy industry in

peril and exposed major problems existing in the quality control and supervision of the industry," it quoted an official at China's top economic planning body, the National Development and Reform Commission, as saying.

Milk and milk products tainted with melamine, an industrial chemical, have been blamed in the deaths of at least three infants and have sickened more than 50,000 others. The government has detained dozens of people in the scandal, but there have been no court cases so far.

Leaders look to overturn changes to endangered species regulations

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the Bush administration on the verge of relaxing regulations protecting endangered species, Democratic leaders are looking at ways to overturn any last-minute rule changes.

The Bush administration has until Friday to publish new rules in order for them to take effect before President-elect Barack Obama is sworn in. Otherwise, Obama can undo them with the stroke of a pen.

A rule eliminating the mandatory, independent advice of government scientists in decisions about whether dams, highways and other projects are likely to harm species looked likely to meet the deadline, leaving the only chance for a quick reversal to Congress.

Drew Hammill, a spokesman for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said the House will be looking at ways to overturn the final endangered species rules and other one-minute-to-midnight regulations.

Peter Matthiessen wins National Book Award fiction prize for 'Shadow Country'

NEW YORK (AP) — The economy hung like a cloud over the 59th annual National Book Awards. Barack Obama was the silver lining.

"It's a good time to be alive," announced author, Obama fan and fiction committee chair Gail Godwin, as she gracefully pulled out an envelope Wednesday night — in stated emulation of the president-elect — and revealed that Peter Matthiessen had won for "Shadow Country," a thorough revision of a trilogy of novels released in the 1990s.

As the book industry faces a holiday season that Barnes & Noble Inc. head Len Riggio has said could be the worst in memory, it gathered on Wall Street, of

all places, under the 70-foot ceiling and Wedgewood dome of Cipriani, dining on baked tagliolini and roast filet of beef, referring nervously to a ruinous stock market.

"Wall Street is not at the moment a street of riches, but of ruin and broken dreams," attendee Ron Chernow, the business historian and former book award winner, told The Associated Press before the ceremony. "We're having cocktails and wearing tuxedos and it doesn't feel completely right."

In his opening monologue, awards host Eric Bogosian joked about the gilded venue: "This was a bank once, and they built banks like this because banks never fail."


Indiana inmates remove metal ceiling panels to pass their time behind bars by having sex

BLOOMFIELD, Ind. (AP) — Three male and three female inmates at a southern Indiana jail face charges that they devised a way to sneak between cell blocks to help pass their time behind bars by having sex.

The inmates figured out how to remove metal ceiling panels in the Greene County Jail and used the passageway more than a dozen times in September and October, according to court documents.

The men — ages 44, 38 and 17 — and the women — ages 27, 26 and 21 — crawled through the ceiling after midnight, having sexual encounters and drinking homemade alcohol that was found hidden in the male cell block, a police affidavit said.


One male inmate who was not charged said the female inmates would "hang-out, play cards or have sex with some of the male inmates" in their cell block, the affidavit said.



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 <p>1996 Chevrolet Corvette Automatic, "Runs Great"</p>	<p>\$10,950</p>	 <p>2006 Chev. Z-71 Ext. Cab L.T. Package 28 Actual Miles, Factory Warranty</p>	
 <p>1991 Harley-Davidson Ultra-Classic Electra Glide - 38K "Very Nice"</p>	<p>\$9,950</p>	 <p>2005 Chev. Silverado Ext. L.S. 17,000 Actual Miles. "Like New"</p>	
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<p>210 Gregg • 263-2382</p>		<p>210 Gregg • 263-2382</p>	

Acura MDX

Super Handling All-Wheel Drive makes MDX a driver's SUV

When it comes to mid-size luxury-performance sport utility vehicles, Acura's flagship MDX has to be included on the test drive list.

With seating for seven passengers and ample room for cargo, the 300-horsepower MDX gracefully combines luxury, performance and the versatility of an SUV platform.

Thanks in large part to Acura's Super Handling All-Wheel Drive system, the MDX is as nimble as a cat. Handling, ride comfort and the quietness of the interior are equally exceptional.

I'm also impressed with the revised 3.7-liter V-6 engine that delivers 300

horsepower and 275 lbs.-ft. torque. Mated to a five-speed automatic transmission with Sequential SportShift and Grade Logic Control, the MDX is rated as a Low Emissions Vehicle and has a 2009 EPA fuel economy rating of 15 mpg city, 20 mpg highway.



Not bad for a seven-passenger SUV that can tow up to 5,000 pounds.

And I haven't even gotten to the luxury part of the review.

While I love the new, softer, highly supportive front bucket seats, I have to admit most of my attention during the weeklong test drive was focused on the technology features.

The MDX is loaded with technology — systems you see, like the premium



The 2009 seven-passenger Acura MDX SUV.

audio and entertainment system, to the systems you don't see such as the numerous safety features constantly working to help avoid accidents, or protect the occupants when a crash is inevitable.

Let's start with the safety features.

For starters, there are the driver and front passenger dual-stage, dual-threshold airbag system. There are the driver and front passenger knee bolsters and the driver and front passenger side airbags with front passenger occupant position detection system.

There are also side curtain airbags for all three seating rows, active front head restraints, high-tech seat belts, tire pressure monitoring system, anti-lock brakes and, Super

Handling All-Wheel Drive with vehicle stability assist, to name just a few.

While the list of standard features would easily fill the remainder of space in this column, it's easier to say the MDX is available with three package upgrades.

I highly, highly recommend the Technology Package (go figure) that comes with Acura Navigation System with voice recognition and rearview camera. In addition to an audio system upgrade (410-watt, 10-speaker Surround Sound) and tri-zone automatic climate control, it also features AcuraLink satellite communication system with real-time traffic.

If you haven't experienced the real-time traffic feature, it is worth visiting your local Acura dealer for a demonstration. The system provides up-to-the-minute traffic information (including the speed of traffic flow, accidents and construction spots) for 77 major metropolitan areas.

If you do a lot of city commutes, you won't want to drive another vehicle without it.

Sport and entertainment packages are also available.

As I mentioned earlier,

THE NUTS AND BOLTS



CONTROL: Vehicle stability assist with traction control

BRAKES: ABS with electronic brake distribution and brake assist.

LENGTH:

MODEL:
2009 Acura MDX
7-seat luxury-performance SUV

All-wheel drive
PRICE RANGE:
\$41,000-\$50,000

ENGINE:
3.7-L V-6 (300 hp/275 torque)

TRANSMISSION:
4-speed auto w/ SportShift

EPA: 15 mpg city, 20 mpg highway

FUEL: Premium unleaded

SUSPENSION:
MacPherson strut independent (front); multi-link independent with trailing arms (rear).

TRACTION

190.7 inches
WHEELBASE: 108.3 inches

WIDTH: 78.5 inches
HEIGHT: 68.2 inches
WEIGHT: 4,535-4,579 lbs.

TRACK: 67.7/67.5 (front/rear)

FUEL TANK: 21 gallons
TIRES: 18-inch
TOW CAPACITY: 5,000 lbs.

CARGO: 15/42.9/83.5 cubic feet (behind third/second/first seating row)

WARRANTY:
4-year/50,000-mile new vehicle warranty, 6-year/70,000-mile powertrain warranty.

for those in the market for a mid-size luxury-performance SUV, the Acura MDX is a must for the test drive list.

Neal White has been covering the automotive

industry for more than 15 years and is affiliated with the Texas Auto Writers Association and the Midwest Automotive Media Association. Comments may be sent to Neal at neal.white@waxahachiedailylight.com.

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