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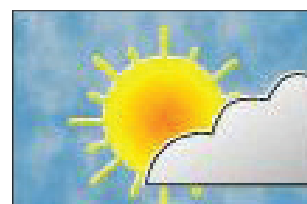
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BIG SPRING

HERALD

TUESDAY
DECEMBER 2, 2008



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 1

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Smoking in bed cause of fatal fire

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Local fire officials say improper use of smoking materials appears to be the cause of the Nov. 23 blaze at Price Construction that took the life of a local man.
Pedro Becerra Contreras, 43, of Big Spring was pronounced dead early Sunday morning after the mobile home he was staying in — located behind the construction company's office building on Highway 350 north of Big

Spring — was destroyed by a fire, according to law enforcement officials.
"Right now, everything is pointing to smoking in bed," said Howard County Volunteer Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan. "It happens more often than people realize. It appears the victim was smoking in bed and most likely fell asleep."
Sullivan said he and his firefighters received the call to respond to the fire at approximately 2:20 a.m. Nov. 23., but



Sullivan "When the other workers that were staying there told us one of the trailers was occupied, we tried to gain entry," said Sullivan. "However, it was already fully

engulfed in flames, as was the other structure. It had been burning for quite some time before we arrived on the scene. The roof had already collapsed and there was just no way to attempt a rescue."
Sullivan said legislative measures approved during the last session could help curb these types of fires.
"During the last legislative session, laws were passed requiring cigarette manufacturers to make their products safer," said

Sullivan. "Most of the major brands of cigarettes contain a type of gunpowder, which helps to keep the cigarette lit. That's why you sometimes see a pretty large flame leap when you light one of them. The new laws, which go into effect in 2009, will hopefully change this and help stop these types of fires."
Sullivan said the change could also help prevent fires caused by motorists flipping their smok-

See **SMOKING**, page 3A



Milton Black, center, secures a hood assembly on a vehicle at the General Motors Assembly Plant in Arlington recently. Detroit's Big Three automakers pleaded with Congress on Tuesday for a \$25 billion lifeline to save the once-proud titans of U.S. industry, warning of a national economic catastrophe should they collapse.

Handout or helping hand? Automakers make case for federal assistance

By **KEN THOMAS**
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Detroit's automakers, making a second bid for \$25 billion in funding, are presenting Congress with plans Tuesday to restructure their ailing companies and provide assurances that the funding will help them survive and thrive.
General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co., and Chrysler LLC would refinance their companies' debt, cut executive pay,

seek concessions from workers and find other ways of reviving their staggering companies.
UAW leaders, meanwhile, summoned local union leaders from across the country to an emergency meeting Wednesday in Detroit to discuss concessions the union could make to help auto companies get government loans.
U.S. automakers are struggling to stay afloat

See **AUTOS**, page 3A

Murder indictee surrenders to authorities

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

An Odessa man indicted for murder and intoxicated manslaughter in connection with the mid-April traffic accident that claimed the life of a local motorcyclist turned himself in to the Howard County Sheriff's Office Friday without incident, according to law enforce-

ment officials.
Paul Eugene Henson, 36, of 9866 W. 25th St. in Odessa, surrendered to deputies Friday after a Howard County grand jury handed down several indictments on the man, including murder (first-degree felony), intoxication manslaughter (second-degree felony), manslaughter (second-degree felony) and fail-

ure to stop and render aid (Texas Transportation code).
The accident — which occurred during the early-morning hours of April 19 near the 165 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20 — claimed the life of James Alford Simmons Jr., 56, of Big Spring, according to officials with the Texas Department of Public Safety.

According to officials with the Texas Department of Public Safety's regional office in Midland, Simmons was traveling west in the outside lane on I-20 on a 2008 Harley Davidson motorcycle when he was struck from behind by a 1989 Chevrolet Suburban allegedly driven by Henson.

See **MURDER**, page 3A

23 Shopping Days Til Christmas

EVERY SINGLE YEAR I FORGET I'M ALLERGIC TO FIGGY PUDDING.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Find us online at:
www.bigspringherald.com

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

Dine Out Day Friday

Subway is this week's Dine Out Restaurant assisting the United Way for Big Spring and Howard County.

Proceeds from Friday's sales at Subway 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.

Blasts from the past

NEW YORK (AP) — The agency that runs New York City's public bus system is bringing back some classic coaches that commuters can ride for the price of a regular fare.
New York City Transit's vintage fleet consists of 19 buses such as a 1917 wood-bodied double-decker called the Queen Anne and a 1956 model that was the first to have air conditioning.
Department of Buses Senior Vice President Joseph Smith says the older buses have a lot of charm but the current ones offer tremendous improvements in comfort and efficiency.

Luminaria tonight

Howard College will hold its annual Luminaria from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. tonight on the west lawn of the Dora Roberts Student Union Building.
Everyone is invited.
Santa will greet children and there will be free hot chocolate and Frito pies.
Phi Theta Kappa will be conducting its annual food drive to benefit RSVP. Those who attend the Luminaria are invited to bring non-perishable food items to help with the effort. Collection boxes will be available.
A band concert will follow immediately in the Hall Center for the Arts.

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Thompson resigns as FHS head football coach

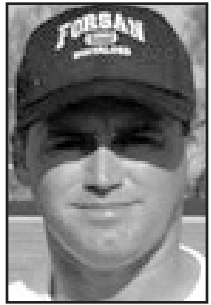
By JONATHAN HULL
Sports Editor

Forsan Independent School District announced a change in the head coaching position of its varsity football team Monday.

Coach Tommy Thompson stepped down after leading the team for the past six seasons. Thompson will remain on staff as the powerlifting and boys track coach.

Athletic Director Terry McDonald has begun the process to find Thompson's replacement with the search beginning

with the coaches currently on staff at Forsan. If a suitable head coach is not found among the current staff, the position will be opened up in January.



Thompson

Thompson posted an 18-45 record in his six seasons at Forsan. However, he did lead the Buffs to playoff appearances in 2006 and 2007, winning six games in both seasons.

However, the Buffs took a step back in 2008, finishing 2-8 with wins over McCamey and Tahoka. They lost four games by nine points or less, including a 21-20 margin of defeat vs. Coahoma.

Superintendent Randy Johnson was very complimentary of Thompson.

"I want to publicly thank Coach Thompson for his leadership in our football program over the past six years," said Johnson. "He developed a competitive program that made playoff appearances two out of the last three years. He

See THOMPSON, Page 2B

BCS should reconsider plus-one game

Just about everybody who loves college football hates the Bowl Championship Series.

But the guys who run it don't have to go through the next six weeks, let alone the next six years, watching their brand being kicked around like a rusty can everywhere from the Oval Office down to the corner tavern.

All they have to do is change.

A little.

Start by admitting their mistake last spring in shooting down a proposal from outgoing BCS chief Mike Slive that effectively would have allowed for a four-team playoff with a few modifications of the existing system. Then start seriously reconsidering it this week. There's no time like the present and nobody, after all, who loves tweaking things more than they do.

Under threat of a lawsuit from the mid-major conferences, the BCS added a fifth bowl to its postseason roster in 2006, ostensibly to make it easier for small schools to qualify for one of the big-money games as an "at-large" invitee.

What Slive proposed was that whenever the regular season ended the way this one likely will — with three or more deserving contenders and only two slots available in the BCS national championship game — that the fifth bowl be used as a so-called "plus-one."

Like the current championship game, it would be played a week after the four BCS bowls. What's different is that one or both of the slots in the "plus-one" wouldn't be filled until those games had been decided.

It's not as democratic as the eight-team playoff that most fans favor and president-elect Barack Obama pushed in two separate TV appearances last month. And it would certainly raise a ruckus from any conference that lost a second BCS bowl slot to make room if the contender that replaced it was drawn from a different league.

But the "plus-one" would go a long way toward plugging the holes in a system that's leaking credibility like a sieve — and will for years to come.

College football is careening toward its most unsatisfying conclusion in the 10 years since the BCS took control of the postseason, and that's no coincidence. With more parity in the sport and more schools playing 12 games during the regular season (and 13 for those from conferences with title games), the chances that teams will separate themselves from the pack by going undefeated seems less with each passing year.

If Florida beats Alabama in the SEC championship game, Oklahoma beats Missouri in the Big 12 title game (more on that in a moment), and USC beats UCLA, all on tap for the final weekend, this regular season will conclude with seven one-loss teams from the six major BCS conferences and almost as many potential headaches.

At the moment, Texas looks like the recipient of the BCS' annual "life-isn't-fair" award. The Longhorns have already been denied the chance to play for their conference title, despite beating Big 12 South division rival Oklahoma in a head-to-head matchup and finishing with the same 11-1 record. And Texas Tech, a third member of the Big 12 South, could make almost as good an argument.

The Red Raiders also went 11-1 and beat Texas, but got hammered so thoroughly by Oklahoma that unlike his counterparts at both schools, coach Mike Leach hasn't wasted much of his breath lobbying. He suggested using graduation rates to break the three-way deadlock. Instead, the Sooners will play North division survivor Missouri because the Big 12's fifth tiebreaker rule — higher BCS rating — gave them the nod over Texas.

That decision is wrong on so many levels, it's hard to know where to begin.

The BCS ranking is made up of three equally weighted components: the USA Today coaches' and Harris Interactive polls, and six computers. The machines aren't entirely without bias, since they

See PLUS-ONE, Page 2B



JIM LITKE

Texans triumph

Houston rolls in MNF debut

By CHRIS DUNCAN
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Mario Williams made the most of the spotlight.

Williams had a season-high three sacks and forced a fumble and rookie Steve Slaton had two touchdown runs to lead the Texans to a 30-17 win over the Jacksonville Jaguars in Houston's first ever Monday night game.

Andre Johnson added a TD reception and Kris Brown kicked three field goals in the Texans' second straight win.

The top overall pick in the 2006 draft, Williams said he came out with extra incentive — a chance to show a national television audience what he and the Texans could do.

Williams brought down Jaguars quarterback David Garrard in the second, third and fourth quarters, and forced a fumble by Garrard on his final sack.

"I know a lot of people from the East Coast. They're like, 'Who did y'all play? When did y'all play?' They don't even know what's going on over here, good or bad," said Williams, who has 11 sacks this season. "For us to finally



AP photo/David J. Phillip

Houston Texans defensive end Mario Williams (90) knocks the ball out of the hand of Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback David Garrard (9) causing a fumble during the fourth quarter of a NFL game Monday in Houston. The Texans recovered the fumble as Williams shined in the Texans' first Monday night game in franchise history. They defeated the Jaguars, 30-17.

get a showcase, it's big for us."

Williams played well in his only other night game, making 3 1/2 sacks in a Thursday night matchup against Denver last season. The rest of the defense followed Williams' lead, holding the Jaguars to 218 yards and a field goal through three quarters.

"The scene was set, there was a lot of intensity," said Williams.

Slaton had both touchdown runs in the fourth quarter and finished with 130 yards on 21

carries. He had only nine carries in the first half and told Coach Gary Kubiak at half-time that he could handle more.

"I wanted to let him know that if he needed someone to count on, it was me," Slaton said.

Slaton ranks third among rookies with 904 rushing yards this season. The Texans (5-7) are impressed the third-round draft pick has blossomed into such a durable runner.

"He's become a great every-

down back," said quarterback Sage Rosenfels. "He hits the hole quick and he's got great balance. He has been a gem for this team."

Jacksonville (4-8), a playoff team last season, lost its fifth in six games with another lackluster performance. The Jaguars had three turnovers and missed a field goal and Garrard fell to the grass twice without being touched by Houston's defense.

See TEXANS, Page 2B



AP photo/Tony Gutierrez

San Francisco running back Frank Gore (21) picks up six yards before being tackled by Dallas Cowboys linebacker DeMarcus Ware (94) during an NFL game Nov. 23 in Irving. Ware was injured in Dallas' Thanksgiving Day game and didn't practice Monday.

Ware, Barber miss practice

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
AP Sports Writer

IRVING — Cowboys linebacker DeMarcus Ware sat on a training table laughing while getting treatment on his left knee. Running back Marion Barber walked through the locker room without a noticeable limp being caused by a dislocated right pinkie toe.

But Ware, the NFL sacks leader, and Barber didn't practice Monday, the first time the Cowboys were back on the field since both were hurt Thanksgiving Day.

And neither said anything to indicate whether they would be ready to play this weekend at Pittsburgh.

Coach Wade Phillips said before practice that Ware and Barber were both "day to day." MRI tests done Friday revealed no significant damage for either player.

Phillips expects Ware to practice this week, but was less certain about Barber.

"It depends on what the doctors

say," Phillips said. "We want to make sure he can obviously do the things he needs to do. How long that takes and what we have to do as far as practice is concerned, I don't know. Earlier, (doctors) said he would have to stay out during the week, but I don't know if that is the case or not."

Even if Barber is not able to go through any contact drills, Phillips said the running back would take part in daily walkthroughs as the team prepares for Sunday's game at Pittsburgh.

"Marion is one of the tougher guys I've seen, ever played with," tight end Jason Witten said. "I'd be surprised if he didn't go. ... I just know what he's made of and his mentality."

Barber, who rarely does interviews, offered only a couple of one-word answers and was coy when asked how he felt walking through the locker room. He indicated that he was OK before going to the training room.

See COWBOYS, Page 2B

Texas Tech QB's finger broken in 9 places

By BETSY BLANEY
Associated Press Writer

LUBBOCK — Texas Tech quarterback Graham Harrell was recovering Monday from surgery to repair nine breaks in two fingers of his non-throwing hand, but he won't miss any playing time.

Texas Tech spokesman Chris Cook confirmed details of Harrell's injury and Sunday surgery. He didn't have specifics

on whether Harrell's fingers got caught in a facemask or slammed against a helmet in Saturday's 35-28 win over Baylor.

ESPN.com first reported the details involving the nation's leading passer. Surgeons inserted 17 pins and two plates into the pinkie and ring finger of Harrell's left hand.

Harrell, a contender for the Heisman Trophy, will play when the No. 8 Red Raiders (11-1) appear in their ninth

straight bowl, likely the Cotton Bowl.

The fifth-year senior played in the second half and finished with 309 yards and two touchdowns, the second one coming midway through the fourth quarter to cap a 21-point rally by the Red Raiders.

Without breaching his own policy on commenting on injuries, coach Mike Leach called Harrell "incredibly

See HARRELL, Page 2B

Obituaries

Bonnie Ruth Brown



Bonnie Ruth Brown, 93, of Houston, formerly of Big Spring died Sunday, Nov. 30, 2008, in Tomball. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel in Big Spring with the Rev. Dr. Randy Cotton, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Bonnie was born Aug. 24, 1915, in Big Spring and married Robert Brown Dec. 15, 1936. He preceded her in death Feb. 9, 1971.

Bonnie was a long time resident of Knott and moved to Big Spring after the death of her husband. She retired from Dunlap's Department Store in 1998 at the age of 83, after 25 years of service. After retirement, Bonnie moved to the Houston area. She was a member of Champion Forest Baptist Church of Houston.

Survivors include one daughter, Robbie Brown Champion and husband Don of Houston; and several nieces and nephews in the Big Spring and Knott areas.

The family suggests memorials be made to the American Heart Association, 3205 W. Cuthbert, Ste A-5, Midland 79701.

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

Juan Jose 'J.J.' Bustamante

Juan Jose "J.J." Bustamante, 30, of Big Spring died Saturday, Nov. 29, 2008, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with the Rev. Bernard L. Gully officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

He was born May 30, 1978, in Seminole. He was employed as a shift manager at Whataburger. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

He is survived by his parents, Rosa V. and Frank Bustamante of Big Spring; one brother, Frank Bustamante Jr. of Big Spring; five sisters, Adelita Rosa and Isabel Bustamante, both of Midland, Martha Martinez of Stanton, Antonia Bustamante of Big Spring and Pilar Young of San Angelo; three half-sisters, Monical Vasquez, Catalina Vasquez and Patricia Vasquez, all of San Angelo; one half-brother, Juan Vasquez of San Angelo; and several nieces and nephews.

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

Vicente Carmona

Vicente Carmona, 58, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2008, in Lubbock. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

• Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.



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Police blotter

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

• DARREN CANDEL, 47, address unknown, was arrested Monday on charges of disorderly conduct - language, public intoxication and assault.

• STERLING DONALD MCINTOSH, 25, of 1110 E. 16th St., was arrested Monday on a charge of disorderly conduct - language.

• MICAH LEVI PEARSON, 23, of 1106 W. Third St., was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication and a Howard County warrant.

• JAY PAUL LAWRENCE, 39, of 3910 Parkway, was arrested Monday on a charge of failure to maintain financial responsibility.

• CYNDRA DAWN GEORGE, 24, of 1425 W. Sixth St., was arrested Monday on charges of theft and operating a vehicle with child in open bed.

• STEPHANIE MIMS, 20, of 3213 E. 11th Place, was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

• THEFT was reported: in the 700 block of 11th Place.

• in the 2000 block of Gregg Street.

• in the 300 block of Owens.

• in the 400 block of Fourth Street.

• in the 800 block of Interstate Highway 20.

• in the 900 block of Willia.

• POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS was reported in the 100 block of 10th Street.

• DISORDERLY CODUCT - FIGHTING was reported in the 800 block of FM 700.

• BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 1300 block of Lincoln.

• ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported: in the 400 block of Ninth Street.

• in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87.

Sheriff's report

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 62 inmates at the time of this report.

• RAUL MENDEZ JR., 29, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of assault causing bodily injury.

• CHRISTINE ANN DESROSIERS, 47, was arrested Monday by DPS on charges of theft by check (two counts).

• JOHN HENRY GRAYSON JR., 44, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of violation of parole.

• PATRICK EDWARDS, 27, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

Fire/EMS

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of State. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of Petus Road. Service refused.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1400 block of Sixth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.






• Vendors are needed for the Christmas Bazaar to be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at Canterbury South. Please contact Jennifer Mendez at 263-1238 or leave a message.

• The Permian Basin Foundation has awarded West Texas Opportunities Inc. \$130,000 through the Texas Resources for Iraq Afghanistan Deployment fund. WTO will assist current and former military personnel serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families. Funding will serve Howard, Martin, Andrews, Borden, Dawson, Ector, Fisher, Gaines, Glasscock, Midland, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry and Upton counties. For more information, contact Diana Martinez or Debbie Wilson at 110 Johnson in Big Spring or call (432) 267-9536.

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

• HATS (Hope After The Sadness), an American Cancer Society Resource Room is now available at First Methodist Church. This center provides information and valuable resources for those affected by cancer. This HATS ministry, established in memory of the late Rev. Dr. Shane Brue, maintains a room with free hats, wigs and head coverings available for check-out by those dealing with hair loss due to cancer treatment. Other services and resources are also available. Contact the "Hat Lady," Marci Lykken at 267-2915.

Your Local Weather

Wed 12/3	Thu 12/4	Fri 12/5	Sat 12/6	Sun 12/7
				
67/31	55/33	56/36	72/38	71/43
Partly cloudy. High 67F. Winds NNW at 20 to 30 mph.	A few clouds. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 30s.	Morning clouds followed by afternoon sun.	Sunshine. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the upper 30s.	Sunshine. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 40s.

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Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

• Alzheimer's Association, the Greater West Texas Chapter meets at 2 p.m. in the Howard County Library conference room, 500 S. Main.

• VFW Post 2013 meets at 7 p.m. in the VFW Hall, 500 Driver Road.

• Gospel Singing in the Kentwood Activity Center at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

• The Howard County Sheriff's Posse meets at 7 p.m. at the Sheriff's Posse building on the Andrews Highway. For more information, call Bert Sheppard at 263-4483 or Rose Armstead at 263-2769.

• Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

WEDNESDAY

• Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Free blood pressure screenings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., provided by InHome Care.

• Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

• Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge at 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

• Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 4-19-21-23-25.

Number matching five of five: 0.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 2-21-24-35. Bonus Ball: 3.

Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 1.
Prize: \$250,000.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-6-3-3. Sum It Up: 21.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4-5-0. Sum-it-Up: 9.

Take Note

• Mobile Meals needs volunteers to deliver meals Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. The organization delivers approximately 70 meals each day and needs drivers to donate just one hour per week. Mobile Meals also needs back-up volunteers to fill in when regular drivers can't make it. For more information, contact Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.

• Road to Recovery, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call Nancy Koger at 267-7809. After Dec. 1 the number to call for rides to treatment will be (877) 277-1618, the High Plains American Cancer Group Report Center. Anyone wishing to volunteer to drive in this program should call Sherry Hodnett, president of the Big Spring ACS Board, at 264-7599.

• The purpose of life is a life of purpose. Join Nurses' Hospice of Big Spring volunteer program and become an "Angel" or "Teen Angel" in someone's life today. Come by 1008 E. Third St. or call (432) 517-4073 to register.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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THANKS.

HARRELL

Continued from Page 1B

courageous" for his second-half performance.

"Even though (I have) no specific comment, it's just further evidence on why he should get the Heisman, and to me it's a no-brainer because I thought he should have gotten it last year," Leach said Monday.

Harrell's backup, Taylor Potts, began warming up on the sideline just before the start of the second half and prior to Harrell returning to the field with black tape around the two fingers.

His injury came only hours before Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford tore ligaments in his non-throwing hand during the Sooners' win against Oklahoma State. Bradford is expected to have surgery following the Big 12 championship game Saturday.

Japanese school girl signs pro baseball contract

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press Writer

TOKYO — A 16-year-old Japanese girl signed with a regional baseball team Tuesday, becoming the country's first female professional baseball player.

Eri Yoshida, a knuckleball pitcher, will play for the Kobe 9 Cruise in a new independent league starting in April 2009. The team selected her last month along with 31 male players in the league draft.

The Cruise are more like a farm

team and a far cry from Japan's mainstream pro teams such as the Tokyo Yomiuri Giants. But the 5-foot (152-centimeter), 114-pound (52 kilogram) Yoshida has broken a barrier in baseball-crazy Japan, where women are normally relegated to amateur,

company-sponsored teams.

Yoshida, who started playing baseball when she was in second grade, said she wants to emulate Boston Red Sox pitcher Tim Wakefield, who has built a successful major league career as a knuckleballer.

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B

Ware, sitting on a table in the training room, laughed with reporters who were in a hallway still trying to determine Barber's status. Ware never gave an answer about himself, but had a wide grin on his face while getting some kind of electronic treatment on his hyperextended knee.

The Cowboys (8-4) get back to their regular schedule when they practice Wednesday. After a three-day weekend following their 34-9 victory over Seattle, Phillips described practice Monday as "an opportunity to work an extra day

on Pittsburgh."

Barber got hurt when someone stepped on his foot in the first half Thursday. After X-rays revealed no broken bone, Barber returned after halftime. But he had only one more carry, leaving the game for good after a 4-yard run midway through the third quarter.

A few plays later, Ware got hurt when his leg turned awkwardly on consecutive steps while rushing the quarterback. He dropped to the ground, and was tended on the field before walking off under his own power.

Ware had three sacks in the game, pushing his season total to 15.

The Cowboys put left guard Kyle Kosier on injured reserve, ending

his season after he played in only three games because of a right foot injury. Kosier re-injured his foot twice trying to return. He played in only one of the first nine games, then got back for only two more before missing Thursday. Dallas signed rookie linebacker Steve Octavien off Washington's practice squad.

Cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones will be eligible to play Sunday after his six-game suspension. Jones returned to practice last week, but the Cowboys still have a roster exemption and do not yet have to put him on their 53-man roster.

Team officials don't expect Jones to talk to reporters until after he's played in a game. The

cornerback wasn't in the locker room after practice.

Phillips expects Jones to play in nickel and dime packages and be involved in returning kicks Sunday. The coach doesn't anticipate conditioning to be a problem.

"He is ready to go, he wants to play," Phillips said. "He's attentive. He's at the meetings early. He asks questions. As a football player, he's done all the right things since he's been with us."

Cornerback Mike Jenkins (hamstring) and receiver Miles Austin (sprained left knee) were held out of practice Monday. Jenkins didn't play Thursday and Austin has missed two games.

PLUS-ONE

Continued from Page 1B

process whatever information they're given. But the chance that grudges and favorites might have affected voters in the human polls can't be dismissed, since the only ballot that's made public is the final one.

Texas coach Mack Brown and his Oklahoma counterpart, Bob Stoops, spent most of the past week either lobbying those same voters or talking about how unseemly it was being forced to do just that. The names and schools getting hosed changes each year, but whining by their coaches has become as much a fact of life at this time of the year as the cold weather sweeping across most

of the country.

At this rate, a "kiss-and-cry" area like the one employed by figure skating can't be far off.

"It is what it is," Brown said in a statement Sunday.

But not the way it has to be.

After saying no to Slive's proposal, and then announcing that stance was nonnegotiable in the new four-year TV deal with ESPN that runs through 2014, the BCS power brokers

believed that calls for a playoff would eventually go away.

Just the opposite has happened.

More coaches are voicing their unhappiness with the system, and if more of the signature programs like Texas and USC continue to get squeezed, the squawking will only get louder.

"I don't know any serious fan of college football who has dis-

agreed with me on this," Obama said during an interview on "60 Minutes" two weeks ago. "So, I'm going to throw my weight around a little bit."

From the look of things, he won't be the only one.

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at jlitkeap.org

TEXANS

Continued from Page 1B

Down by 13 and facing fourth-and-2, Garrard found Matt Jones on a 27-yard pass that got Jacksonville down to the 6 early in the fourth quar-

ter. The Jaguars managed just 1 yard in the next three plays and went for it again on fourth down.

This time Garrard's feet got tangled with a teammate and he crashed to the ground. He got up and flipped the ball toward the end zone as he was hit, but the pass was broken up by

Fred Bennett.

"We have to find a way to get out of this little sandtrap that we're in," said runningback Maurice Jones-Drew, who was held to 49 yards on 12 carries.

The Jaguars' only TDs came in the last 3 minutes with the game out of reach. Fred Taylor went in from

the 4 to cut it to 23-10 and Reggie Williams scored on an 18-yard reception from Garrard with 45 seconds left.

Slaton had a nifty 46-yard catch and run in the third quarter that got Houston down to the 1.

Slaton failed to score on three straight runs and

Houston settled for a 20-yard field goal by Brown that made it 16-3.

Brown kicked his longest field goal of the season when he converted a 50-yarder to make it 13-0 in the third.

Williams got his ninth sack of the season and first in almost a month when

he took down Garrard on third-and-5 to force a punt late in the second. The second one came in the third when the QB tripped on one of his lineman and got back up to try to get a pass off.

Williams yanked him down before he could get rid of the ball.

"We finally get a chance for the whole world to see us," Williams said, "so you've got to take advantage of it."

Slaton gained 26 yards on three runs before Rosenfels hit Johnson for a TD with 12:04 left in the first. With the catch, Johnson set Texans records for career touchdowns (29) and points scored by a non-kicker (174).

Rosenfels and Garrard threw interceptions on consecutive plays with just under 10 minutes left in the quarter.

Rashean Mathis picked off Rosenfels and returned it to the Texans' 44 and Jacques Reeves got it right back for Houston on a pass intended for Jerry Porter.

Rosenfels has thrown 10 interceptions this season, but that was the Texans' only turnover of the game.

They've won nine straight games in which they've won the turnover margin.

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THOMPSON

Continued from Page 1B

has put in countless hours in preparing our student-athletes for the challenges of life. He and his family have been and will continue to be an important part of our staff, our community and the Forsan ISD family. Coach Thompson is one of the hardest working individuals that I have ever worked around. I look forward to continuing to work with him."

Johnson was also confident in the ability to fill the void left by Thompson's resignation with the current staff.

"Our current coaching staff is a very strong group of people," he said. "They are wonderful as classroom teachers as well as teachers on the athletic fields. Forsan ISD is blessed to have such a quality group of people."



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Flu shots available

The Texas Department of Health is giving flu shots at the local health center as well as setting up clinics throughout the area.

Flu shots will be given from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. each Monday and Tuesday at the health department in Big Spring, located at 501 Birdwell in the College Park Shopping Center.

Flu shots are available for everyone six months of age and older and are \$10 each. Medicare and Medicaid are accepted.

Clinics have been set up at the following locations:

Today at the Howard College Student Union Building, until 6 p.m.

Wednesday at the Sterling City Senior Citizens Senior from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thursday at the Big Spring Independent School District from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 9, at the Borden County High School in Gail, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 10, at the Martin County Library in Stanton from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 11, at the Coahoma Community Center from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 17, at the Bronte Senior Citizens Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 18, at the Coke County Courthouse in Robert Lee from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, call (432) 263-9775.

News in brief

India demands Pakistan hand over terror suspects in wake of Mumbai attacks

MUMBAI, India (AP) — India picked up intelligence in recent months that terrorists were plotting attacks against Mumbai targets, an official said Tuesday, as the government demanded that Islamabad hand over suspected terrorists believed living in the Pakistan.

A list of about 20 people — including India's most-wanted man — was submitted to Pakistan's high commissioner to India on Monday night, said India's foreign minister, Pranab Mukherjee.

India has already demanded Pakistan take "strong action" against those responsible for the attacks, and the U.S. has pressured Islamabad to cooperate in the investigation. America's chief diplomat, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, will visit India on Wednesday.

The diplomatic wrangling comes as the government faces widespread accusations of security and intelligence failures after suspected Muslim militants carried out a three-day attack across India's financial capital, killing 172 people and wounding 239.

Gloom returns to Asian, European markets on Wall Street's plunge, dismal economic outlook

TOKYO (AP) — Gloom and volatility returned to Asian and European markets Tuesday as investors dumped stocks following huge overnight losses on Wall

Street and dismal U.S. economic reports revived fears of a global recession. Oil prices fell to three-year lows.

World markets rallied last week, but any nascent investor confidence quickly wilted after grim U.S. economic figures sent the Dow Jones industrial average plummeting nearly 700 points — or 7.7 percent — Monday, wiping out more than half of last week's big gains.

"I saw that figure this morning, and I thought: Oh, no. Here we go again," said Peter Wright, an associate at Burrell Stockbroking, as he watched Australian shares plummet from the opening bell.

Governors to press Obama for help with budget shortfalls in economic recovery legislation

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's governors are meeting with President-elect Barack Obama on Tuesday to press their case for at least \$40 billion to help pay for health care for the poor and disabled and even more for infrastructure projects like road and bridge repair.

They're likely to get a sympathetic ear.

The meeting in Philadelphia comes as Obama and Democrats controlling Congress are fashioning economic recovery legislation that could cost \$500 billion or so. The measure is virtually certain to contain help for states struggling with slumping revenues and difficult budget cuts as the recession deepens.

SMOKING

Continued from page 1A

ing material out vehicle windows.

"During the cotton season is when it's the worst. You'll see cotton that's blown out of the trucks on the side of the road, and sometimes it can really pile up," said Sullivan. "Normally, the cheaper brands of cigarettes will

go out if someone's isn't puffing on them, so it doesn't pose as much of a threat. However, when one of these major brand cigarettes is thrown out a window, the gunpowder will keep them lit, and if they get pressed up against some of that cotton, it doesn't take long for it to go up."

Sullivan said recent high winds have contributed to several fires — including a

fire that consumed approximately 8 acres of open field on Rockhouse Road early Monday morning — but things are still looking better than they were two years ago.

"The fire Monday morning was an arson case," said Sullivan.

"We found evidence at the scene, and it's been turned over to the Howard County Sheriff's Office. No structures were threat-

ened — only a few bales of hay, which the fire never made it to. There was certainly nothing to gain from the fire, so we're speculating it was simply a fire bug out for a thrill.

"Even with the winds, things aren't nearly as bad as they were two years ago. I attribute that to people being more diligent. Those that are burning are doing so with more care, and a lot of them are sim-

ply paying the \$5 to take their trash to the landfill. A \$5 fee is pretty fair when you compare it to a \$1,000 fine."

Sullivan said he and his firefighters are currently on All-Call, where all available personnel respond to every reported fire, and while he hopes to hold off on a county-wide burn ban until after the holiday season, it will depend on area residents.

"We're trying to hold off until after Christmas to put a burn ban in place," said Sullivan. "However, if we see too many human-caused fires between now and then, we'll obviously have to act sooner. In the end, it's really up to the folks the ban will effect the most."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232.

MURDER

Continued from page 1A

Simmons was taken to University Medical Center in Lubbock, where he died from his wounds April 22 at 9:55 p.m., according to DPS records.

According to DPS records, Henson allegedly left the scene

of the accident, but was later tracked down in Sweetwater, where he was taken into custody by the Sweetwater Police Department.

If convicted on the murder charge, Henson faces five to 99 years to life in prison, as well as a fine not to exceed \$10,000.

Each of the second-degree felonies — intoxication manslaugh-

ter and manslaughter — carry a sentence of two to 20 years in prison and a similar monetary fine.

The charge of failure to stop and render aid is punishable by one year in county jail to five years in a Texas Department of Criminal Justice facility and a fine not to exceed \$5,000, according to court officials.

According to Howard County District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson, Henson is set to be tried for felony murder because of the circumstances that caused the accident.

"Any time someone is in the course of committing another felony offense — in this case it was driving while intoxicated, third or more offense — and

causes the death of another, you have the grounds for a felony murder charge," said Wilkerson.

According to officials with the Howard County Jail, Henson is still in custody with his bond set at \$100,000.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232.

AUTOS

Continued from page 1A

heading into 2009 under the weight of an economic meltdown, the worst auto sales in decades and a tight credit market. General Motors, Ford and Chrysler went through nearly \$18 billion in cash reserves during the last quarter, and GM and Chrysler have said they could collapse in weeks.

Top executives from the Big Three failed last month to convince a skeptical Congress that they were worthy of \$25 billion in loans.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., ordered them to outline major changes, including the elimination of lavish executive pay packages and assurances that taxpayers would be reimbursed for the loans.

All three companies are filing separate plans. Congressional hearings are planned for Thursday and Friday.

"I believe the industry will make a compelling case for bridge loans that will allow the companies to return to firm financial footing," said Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich.

GM will outline efforts to negotiate swapping some of the company's debt for equity stakes in the automaker, either

shares or warrants for them, said two people briefed on the company's plan.

With eight separate brands, GM will also discuss efforts to shed brands but it would prefer to sell them instead of shutting down Pontiac, Saturn or Saab, said one of the people briefed on the plan. Killing off brands, like GM did with Oldsmobile in 2004, would require cash the company doesn't have, the person said.

The people briefed on GM's preparations didn't want to be identified because the plan hadn't been completed.

Some members of Congress have urged the Big Three executives to take major pay cuts as part of the deal. Chrysler Chief Executive Robert Nardelli said he would work for \$1 a year, and a similar commitment is expected from GM CEO Rick Wagoner. Ford plans to include a pay cut for Ford CEO Alan Mulally, although the size of the cut was not immediately available.

Chrysler is expected to outline changes that would include a swap of debt in the company for equity stakes and reductions in some vehicle models, according to a person who was briefed on the plan. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the discussions were private.

Ford, meanwhile, is not expected to immediately seek the loans. Mulally told Congress last month that the company would only seek funding if the U.S. market continued to deteriorate. He mortgaged factories to arrange a \$23.4 billion credit line shortly after taking over the company in 2006 and he has said Ford can last at least until 2010.

Cash stockpiles at GM and Chrysler are dangerously close to the minimum amount required to run the companies, meaning they could have trouble paying all their bills by the end of the year.

GM, according to its quarterly report filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, owes creditors \$45 billion and it must pay more than \$7.5 billion early in 2010 to a United Auto Workers trust fund that will take over retiree health care payments.

Ford owes more than \$26 billion, with \$6.3 billion due to its UAW trust fund at the end of 2009. Chrysler, a private company, does not have to open its books, but its CEO, Nardelli, has said it would be difficult for the company to make it without federal aid. All three likely are negotiating with the UAW for delays in payments to the trusts.

The companies are expected to seek other con-

cessions from the United Auto Workers, including the elimination of the much-maligned jobs bank in which laid-off workers keep receiving most of their pay.

Alan Reuther, the UAW's legislative director, declined to say on Monday what kinds of concessions the union might take but said "we realize that all stakeholders need to come to the table to do what's necessary to ensure the viability of the companies. We're prepared to do our part."

The UAW leaders subsequently disclosed plans for a meeting in an e-mail, obtained by The Associated Press, to local union presidents and bargaining chairmen.

Among the subjects to be discussed at the Wednesday meeting will be the possibility of restructuring the union-administered health care fund so that the automakers can delay payments to the multibillion-dollar fund, according to a person familiar with the matter.

The union leaders will also discuss potentially eliminating the jobs bank, in which laid-off workers keep receiving most of their pay. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the details of the talks haven't been finalized.

The automakers' plans to Congress may also dis-

cuss more symbolic issues such as the use of corporate jets. During the congressional hearings, the executives were sharply criticized for traveling to Washington, D.C., separately by private jets.

Ford said that Mulally will travel by car when he returns later in the week. Chrysler and GM said their CEOs will not fly by corporate jet, but neither company has said if the executives will fly on commercial airlines or drive.

All three companies are expected to resist calls for bankruptcy. The executives said last month bankruptcy cannot be an option because no one would buy a car from an automaker that may not survive the life of the vehicle.

Auto executives plan to discuss the plans at a hearing before the Senate Banking Committee on Thursday and the House

Financial Services Committee on Friday.

Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez said in an interview that the plans need to address some of the key structural issues facing the industry, such as costs, their debt structure, their dealer network cost and their product lines.

Gutierrez said auto industry officials have told him they plan to present "strong plans" but he had not been briefed on the details.

"There needs to be a path to viability," Gutierrez said.

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Juan Jose "J.J." Bustamante, 30, died Saturday. Funeral Services will be at 10:00 AM Wednesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. Vigil Services will be at 7:00 PM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Vicente Carmona, 58, of Big Spring died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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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.

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OTHER VIEWS

A webcam suicide says something

It's a good bet that most of the people who watched Abraham Briggs Jr. die with his Webcam rolling aren't old enough to remember Kitty Genovese.

In 1964, Genovese was stabbed outside her New York City apartment, then raped, robbed and left to die in the back hallway of her building. At least 38 neighbors saw or heard part of the attacks, but nobody came to her aid, and the few who called police were slow to do so.

Last week, Briggs, 19, of Florida logged onto a bodybuilding Web site and announced that he was going to kill himself. With some virtual bystanders begging him not to and others egging him on, he swallowed a handful of pills, curled up on his bed and lapsed into unconsciousness. For hours, visitors to the site watched his motionless body and debated whether he was asleep or joking. By the time someone decided he wasn't and contacted police, it was too late.

Briggs' sad story has been labeled a 21st-century display of the Genovese Syndrome, a term used to describe why witnesses — especially when there are lots of them — hesitate to take action to help a person in distress. Someone else will do it, they reason; I don't want to get involved. Social scientists dissecting the Briggs case say the Internet can magnify those effects: Watching anonymously from a remote location, people behave in ways they wouldn't if they were face to face.

Though the Genovese Syndrome has long been a staple of college psychology classes, some academics now question whether its effects are overstated. In the case for which it was named, many people who saw or heard part of the attack thought they were hearing a drunken argument or a domestic quarrel. Police pieced together the narrative from several partial accounts. Nobody witnessed the whole thing, or the final, fatal attack. Perhaps their response wasn't a callous display of indifference to a fellow human being, but a tragic under-reaction.

The same may be true in the Briggs case. Some of those who gawked while his life slipped away told police they weren't sure it was real. In the 12 hours between his declaration that he intended to commit suicide and the moment police stormed the bedroom, many watchers no doubt logged off and went on with their lives, assuring themselves it was a fake since nobody else was taking action.

Sadly, Briggs was not the first to kill himself in front of an online audience. Last year, a divorced father of two in Britain twisted an electrical cord around his neck and hung himself from a ceiling joist as 60 people watched a video feed. In 2003, a 21-year-old Phoenix man took a fatal overdose of drugs after being goaded by others in an Internet chat room. Still, such incidents are rare. Internet suicide hoaxes, though, are appallingly common, a quick Web search confirms. In fact, some of the people who watched Briggs' suicide told police they didn't take him seriously because it wasn't the first time he'd threatened to kill himself on camera.

Now, of course, many are wishing they'd erred on the side of caution instead of hoping it was all a ruse. They might not have been able to save this troubled young man. But they wouldn't have to live the rest of their lives knowing they didn't try.

THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Big Three don't deserve bailout

With the Big Three facing serious financial troubles and GM on the verge of bank-

ruptcy, the American taxpayers, via Congress, are being asked for a bailout. Instead, maybe it's time that GM faces reorganization through bankruptcy court, just like the thousands of other failing businesses that seek protection through Chapter 11.

The financial troubles of the Big Three have gotten increasingly serious lately, but the underlying problems have been getting worse for decades without being adequately addressed by management or the United Auto Workers. A taxpayer bailout would only reward irresponsible behavior.

Many of today's serious problems can be traced back to the 1970s, when the Big Three sold almost nine out of every 10 cars and the UAW had a monopoly on the labor supply of autoworkers. At that point, neither management nor labor faced any serious competition.

Without the strict discipline of market competition, both sides pursued short-run, self-interested goals in the 1970s that helped create the serious future troubles they both face today.

For example, the UAW consistently negotiated incredibly generous wage and benefit packages for its members that laid the groundwork for major problems decades later, including a \$30 per hour pay gap between the UAW (including legacy costs) and nonunion workers for the

foreign transplants.

Economic theory suggests that the more successful a union is at achieving above-market compensation in the short-run, the greater the likelihood that those unionized industries or companies will eventually suffer losses in market share, employment and output.

This is exactly the situation today; with the Big Three's market share and UAW membership at all-time lows.

The above-market compensation gains of the UAW led ultimately to long-run losses in union employment, as the UAW gradually priced its overpaid members out of the globally competitive labor market.

In the undisciplined years of the past, GM management could maintain labor peace by conceding to above-market pension and health care benefits for retirees, which didn't affect the bottom line much in the short run, but imposed huge legacy costs on distant future periods.

Those once seemingly distant quarters have arrived, and the overly generous benefits for workers that GM management accepted have mounted to unsustainable levels.

GM spends \$5.2 billion on health care for more than 1 million people, equaling almost \$5,000 per person each year, and adding \$1,500 to the price tag of every vehicle. Pension costs add almost an additional \$700 per car. This is a clearly an unsustainable, outdated business model that doesn't deserve taxpayer support.

To the legacy problems, add the increasingly intense global competition of recent decades, and you have all the necessary ingredients

for a domestic industry that is now on the verge of bankruptcy.

The UAW has gradually lost its labor monopoly on the supply of autoworkers and must now compete with nonunionized American workers at Toyota, Honda and Nissan, who are paid less, are more productive, and work without cumbersome union work rules.

Unions have become increasingly irrelevant and outdated in today's knowledge-based global economy, and bankruptcy will do more to correct that situation than a taxpayer bailout.

In the more static days of the past, the Big Three and the UAW had a business model that worked, but it has now fallen apart as the twin forces of globalization and non-union labor competition have exposed the flaws of an outdated way of doing business.

It's now time to face reality: the Big Three-UAW business model is bankrupt, the era of above-market compensation for semi-skilled workers is unsustainable, the importance of unions is rapidly fading, and globalization is here to stay.

Simply put, the American taxpayer should not be expected to bailout the excesses and undisciplined behavior of the UAW and the Big Three that has been going on for decades. Bankruptcy and reorganization, not a taxpayer bailout, is the best long-run solution for the Big Three.

Mark J. Perry is a professor of economics at the Flint campus of the University of Michigan. Readers may write to him at 4173 White Building, UM-Flint, Flint, Mich. 48502, or e-mail him mjerry@umich.edu.



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J.
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Committing a 'Capitol' crime

I thought I had lost the ability to be shocked by politically correct distortions of our history. Then I visited the new Capitol Visitor Center.

The just-completed Visitor Center, which opens Dec. 2, is a 580,000-square-foot cavern dug at the foot of the U.S. Capitol at a cost of \$621 million (almost nine times over budget).

The Capitol is a noble monument to American liberty. The neoclassical architecture is meant to be approached from afar. We are supposed to walk up vast flights of stairs to enter a magnificent rotunda, inspired to reflect on the grandeur of our self-governing republic.

Now the public will approach the Capitol underground and enter, mole-like, through the basement.

What Congress has arranged for the public to be taught before they get in is a scandal.

Designed to provide "an enhanced educational experience," the Visitor Center allows guests to make online reservations before spending time at two gift shops, enjoying a 530-seat restaurant, visiting any of 26 restrooms or watching an orientation film in one of two theaters, all in air-conditioned comfort.

The "educational" part is the Exhibition Hall, the theme of which is "E Pluribus Unum — Out of Many, One." The etching in marble initially referred to that phrase as the nation's motto. Now, however, that etching is covered by a bad plaster job, because ... well, "E Pluribus Unum" is not the nation's motto. Our actual motto, "In God We Trust," is notably absent, along with other references to faith.

Take how the exhibit treats the Northwest Ordinance, the 1787 document that signaled the beginning of America's westward expansion. It's selectively quoted to encourage education — carefully shorn of its

opening clause: "Religion, morality and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind ..."

But what bothered me the most when I toured the Visitor Center at the request of Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C. — who raised a warning flag on this politically correct outrage — is what it does to the Constitution.

I always thought (because it says so) that the Constitution was about the powers delegated to government by the people, who possess individual rights. Article I begins: "All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States." A written agreement on the extent (and limits) of those powers is critical to a constitution that derives its "just powers from the consent of the governed," as the Declaration of Independence prescribes.

"If Congress can do whatever in their discretion can be done by money, and will promote the General Welfare," James Madison wrote, "the Government is no longer a limited one, possessing enumerated powers, but an indefinite one, subject to particular exceptions."

Wrong, Mr. Madison. The Constitution, according to the new Visitor Center, isn't a list of powers but "aspirations" that Congress is expected to define and realize. I guess those are like the rights the Supreme Court, in the 1960s, began discovering in "penumbras" and "emanations" of the Constitution.

What "aspirations," you ask? There are six:

1. Unity (as in "a more perfect Union" in the Preamble, which grants Congress no power).
2. Freedom (based on the First Amendment, which begins, by the way, with "Congress shall make no law ...").
3. Common Defense (from Article I, Section 8).
4. Knowledge (authority to promote public education, support arts and sciences, fund extensive research).
5. Exploration (to justify funding

"curiosity and boldness." Both 4. and 5. come from a convoluted reading of the clause granting Congress the power to issue patents.)

6. General Welfare (found in Article I, Section 8's restriction of the taxing power,) but taken here to mean "improving transportation, promoting agriculture and industry, protecting health and the environment, and seeking ways to solve social and economic problems."

See for yourself. The full text of the script and orientation film is online at heritage.org/leadershipfo-america/upload/CVC.pdf.

This exhibit is Congress' temple to liberals' "living Constitution," the eternal font of lawmakers' evolving mandate to achieve the nation's ideals. There are no fixed meanings in their version, only open-ended "aspirations." The Constitution is an empty vessel, to be adapted to the times, as required to bring change. It means nothing — or anything.

Not surprisingly, the rest of the exhibit details the unfolding of liberal progress and the rise of modern administrative government. Everything is about movement away from America's sins (slavery, treatment of Indians, Vietnam) toward congressionally led enlightenment (direct election of senators, voting rights, the New Deal, Medicare).

The education experience concludes by quoting Sen. Robert La Follette, the great progressive reformer from Wisconsin: "America is not made. It's in the making."

According to this distorted view, we are a pluribus only until Congress makes us an unum — by remaking the Constitution in its own image.

Matthew Spalding, director of the B. Kenneth Simon Center for American Studies at The Heritage Foundation, is executive editor of "The Heritage Guide to the Constitution." Readers may write to the author in care of The Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, D.C. 20002; Web site: www.heritage.org.



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Bird Poop: Cooper's Hawk helps nature's balance

Yesterday she was back. The harsh November winds had brought freezing temperatures during the night. Perched on a mesquite limb, she patiently waited for the day's meal to arrive. Her deepening coloration was indicative of the metamorphosis from juvenile to adult.



BEBE McCASLAND

Our first acquaintance had been in a back yard in September. As the new owner of a home located several blocks away in our neighborhood, a friend called to say there was a hawk that wouldn't fly. "Can it get out of the yard?" was my first question. "No way," was her reply as she hurried to work.

Not leaving anything to chance, we hurried through breakfast and drove the short distance. Having admired her home for years because of the established trees, we had not anticipated the landscaping once we closed the side gate. An enclosed back porch looked out on a narrow patch of lawn. From there, the descent to a lower level was steep and terraced. Before walking down the stone pathway, we felt as if we were in an outdoor birdhouse. At the same height as the tops of the trees, we could readily see into the cano-

py as if perched on a limb ourselves. The view was overwhelming.

After searching the upper level and peering into every shrub and bush, we started slowly down the steps that had carefully been placed at the bottom of each tier. A previous owner had planted shade-loving ground covers and even more foliage to inspect. At the bottom level were several plants in which a bird might be hiding.

Concerned that perhaps the hawk had slowly inched its way upward through a large bush, one step at a time, we realized if it had gone far enough, it might have jumped to the fence top. Knowing it could then enter either a neighbor's yard or step on one of the numerous limbs offering an escape to the city park, we turned to the south to examine the last area of the yard.

At first, we saw nothing. The shade of the overhanging limbs and filtered sun-light were deceptive. Feeling defeated in our search ended when Art detected a movement in the shadows. Pressed against the fence was a Cooper's hawk.

With a pole net, Art attempted to catch the raptor. As quick on foot as it is in capturing prey, the Cooper's avoided the net and turned toward me. "Don't let it get past you!" advised Art, because he could see an opportune exit for the bird. My moving in front of the bird caused it to turn just as



Courtesy photo

Quickly flapping its wings, then gliding, the Cooper's hawk maneuvers around and through trees in pursuit of small birds and rodents. Extremely swift in movement, the raptor is adept at hiding among foliage and dense junipers while awaiting prey.

Art quickly placed the netting over it.

Furious at being captive, the hawk struggled against the mesh. With gloved hands I was able to confine its wings and feet before removing it from the netting. Laying it on its back and covering its head, we examined both wings carefully. Not detecting any breaks, I wrapped the Cooper's within a towel for our ascent up the narrow steps to the lawn. Following with the pole net, Art had

made a save of the day.

Calling our friend to assure her we had the hawk, I complimented her on the beauty of her back yard. "My grandchildren love it!" she said as she gave a short history of the home's background. Since the bird might have a soft tissue injury to a wing, it would be taken to the Lubbock wildlife center for x-rays and evaluation. Whether a bruised wing or hairline fracture had caused the hawk to be grounded would be deter-

mined. After placing the Cooper's inside a carrier, we were delayed in transporting it for seven days because of commitments and the weather. Even though its typical attitude of contempt for anything human made it hard to handle while cleaning its quarters, the hawk enjoyed dining on small birds that constitute three fourths of its diet. Supplied with small, baby chicks provided by the center, the bird grew in strength and was one of our ornerier guests.

Readied for the trip north, the Cooper's once again resisted our handling. Taking one last look at its plumage, we noticed that the replacement of all but two of its tail feathers was progressing. The black bars and white tipped ending would be with the bird as it matured.

From the brown of youth, the bird's back, wings, tail, and the top part of its head were becoming the typical mousy-gray. The thin streaks of brown on its chest that had indicated its first year were being transformed into tawny barring to accent its creamy chest and belly. Weight and wingspan indicated the hawk was female.

The next day the manager of the center related that no breaks or bruises could be found. Angry and combative, the Cooper's was placed in a mew and immediately began flying. If nothing else, its en-

forced incarceration had been successful.

A week later, we brought the hawk back to our neighborhood. There was no sense in giving it freedom in Lubbock, only to have it migrate another 100 miles to where it had chosen to be. Also, it would be useful in dispersing the numerous white wing doves, and thinning their population, as they tried to dominate our winter feeding area.

Released in our side yard the middle of October, the Cooper's flapped its wings and headed for the junipers along the north fence. As she landed, a deafening flutter arose from the doves as they hastily left for a safer roosting site. Seeing their departure, Art commented, "That Cooper's now knows where food is."

Soon, one morning our aggressive lady was standing on the fence outside our kitchen window. Hunting the neighborhood, she dropped by weekly as she shared her services with the surrounding homes. Early morning and late evening feeders such as cardinals and thrashers ignored her presence. Hungry, migrating seed eaters once again had a way station in their long flight south, since sparrows and doves were more cautious in their appearance. Nature's balance had returned.

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

Making a living not the same as making a life

As I was thinking of a subject for this Thanksgiving season I remembered a revision of a story by Leo Tolstoy that one of our teachers recently shared with me.



DARRELL RYAN

The message of this story is still vivid and inspiring even though the Russian flavor has been removed. The original title is: The Grandfather and the Grandson. The revised story is called: The Wooden Bowl. It goes like this:

A frail old man went to live with his son, daughter-in-law and four-year old grandson. The old man's hands trembled, his eyesight was blurred and his step faltered.

The family ate together each night at the dinner

table. But the elderly grandfather's shaky hands and failing sight made eating difficult. Certain foods, like peas, rolled off his spoon onto the floor and when he grasped his glass, milk spilled on the tablecloth.

The son and daughter-in-law became irritated with the mess. "We must do something about father," said the son. "I've had enough of his spilled milk, noisy eating and food on the floor."

So the husband and wife set a small table in the corner. There, Grandfather ate alone while the rest of the family enjoyed dinner. Since Grandfather had broken a dish or two, his food was served in a wooden bowl.

When the family glanced in Grandfather's direction, sometimes he had a tear in his eye as he sat there, all alone. Still, the only words the couple had for him were sharp admonitions when he dropped a fork or spilled food. The four-year-old

watched it all in silence. One evening before supper, the father noticed his son playing with wood scraps on the floor. He asked the child sweetly, "What are you making?" Just as sweetly, the boy responded, "Oh, I am making a little bowl for you and Mama to eat your food in when I grow up." The four-year-old smiled and went back to work.

The words so struck the parents that they were speechless. Then tears started to stream down their cheeks. Though no word was spoken, both knew what must be done.

That evening the husband took Grandfather's hand and gently led him back to the family table. For the remainder of his days he ate every meal with the family. And for

some reason, neither husband nor wife seemed to care any longer when a fork was dropped, milk spilled or the tablecloth soiled.

On a positive note, I've learned that, no matter what happens, how bad it seems today, life does go on and it will be better tomorrow.

I've learned that I can tell a lot about a person by the way he or she handles four things: a rainy day, the elderly, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights.

I've learned that, regardless of our relationship with our parents, we'll miss them when they're gone from our life.

I've learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life.

I've learned that life

sometimes gives you a second chance.

I've learned that I shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands — I need to be able to throw something back.

I've learned that if I pursue happiness, it will elude me, but if I focus on family, friends, the needs of others, my work and doing the very best I can, happiness will find me.

I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision.

tion.

I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one.

I've learned that every day, I should reach out and touch someone; people love that human touch — holding hands, a warm hug or just a friendly pat on the back.

I've also learned that I still have a lot to learn.

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

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sudoku

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

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

It Pays to Go With the Odds

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A 7 2
♥ A 10 4 3
♦ K J 6
♣ J 7 5
WEST
♠ Q 10 8
♥ 2
♦ 9 5 4
♣ A K Q 10 6 3
EAST
♠ J 9 5 3
♥ Q 7 6
♦ 10 8 3 2
♣ 8 4
SOUTH
♠ K 6 4
♥ K J 9 8 5
♦ A Q 7
♣ 9 2
The bidding:
South 1♥
West 2♣
North 3♥
East Pass
Opening lead — king of clubs.
When declarer holds nine cards in a suit and is missing Q-x-x-x, the normal play is to cash the A-K to try to drop the queen. It is important to realize, though, that percentagewise the edge in favor of playing this way — as opposed to a second-round finesse — is very slight. For this reason, any clues acquired from the bidding or play may justify taking a finesse instead.
Consider this deal where West started with three top clubs, declarer ruffed the third round as East discarded a diamond. Since South had

to lose a spade trick eventually, the fate of the contract hinged on avoiding a trump loser.
Declarer was fully familiar with the standard play with this combination, but was equally aware that the percentages could easily be altered by information gained anywhere along the line. In the present case, he had learned from the first three tricks that West had started with six clubs and East only two.
This in turn meant that West held seven other cards that were unknown, while East held 11. Taking this a step further, South reasoned that if the defenders hold 18 cards that are unknown, the player with 11 of them is much more likely to have a specific missing card than the player who has only seven.
Accordingly, declarer led a heart to the ace at trick four and returned a heart toward his hand. After East followed low, South finessed the jack and so brought home the contract.
It is true that the play of the jack could easily have lost to the queen. There was certainly no guarantee that the finesse would succeed. But it was the right thing to do because, under the circumstances, it was the percentage play.
When all you have is favorable odds to rely on, you should do as they dictate, and you will win many more times than you lose.

Tomorrow: Stayman stumbles.
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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The Aquarius moon is social, philanthropic and generous. Charitable acts



HOLIDAY MATHIS

will abound, though not in the classic sense of giving to an actual non-profit organization. It's more about seeing people in need and helping. Be the one to give a warm smile to someone who seems lonely, or an extra hand to someone who seems overloaded.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're excited to make a small change. What you may not realize is that this minor adjustment will affect everything else about your life. Put your energy into making your new habit stick.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll be getting to know someone, which to you is more important than making sure that they know you. You're already acquainted with your life story. So you'll be inclined to listen rather than emote.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). All day you snap along at an athletic pace. When you feel a bit on edge you know that it's time to coolly withdraw from the franticness of life and enjoy an evening of pristine solitude.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your friends are a reflection of whom you'd like to be, so your choice of company is extremely revealing. Your hidden

Tomorrow's Horoscope

ambitions (perhaps secret even to you) are alive in these relationships.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). What's been plaguing your thoughts may have been a real problem once upon a time, but now it's becoming just an annoying mental habit. Take hold of your thought processes by choosing something positive to focus on.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Someone you know is in a position of great advantage, having been privileged in ways very few are and yet this person is still dissatisfied. It makes you feel more grateful for what you have.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Relationships are the most important ingredient of a high-quality life. Forgo the minor details and let some of your plans fall off the schedule in favor of connecting with your friends and family.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). A choice you made will surprise you. You don't feel completely in control of your actions. Ask yourself if this represents a replay of a childhood experience with someone else recreating the role of your parents.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). No word or deed stands alone. Find out where others are coming from so that you can take everything that is said to you in the correct context. Let the intention behind things be what gives them meaning.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When your rhythm is off step with

others, a simple trip to the post office or grocery store can be fraught with awkward misunderstandings about who goes first, what happens next, etc. Slow down.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your association with an earth sign -- Taurus, Virgo or Capricorn -- will be crucial to your security. Someone of this element supports your individuality and encourages you to speak your mind.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's all right for you to be different from others. You're probably feeling like staying quiet and still. You don't have to perform for anyone or be "on" all of the time. You're valued because you just are.

MAKE YOUR HOLIDAY LIST: Do you know what you want yet? Be proactive and you just may be able to avoid that pile of lovely stuff you'll never use. It's better for the planet if you tell people in specific terms what you really would enjoy to save them from buying what will soon become useless stuff. And if you haven't decided on anything yet, maybe this will jog your imagination: **ARIES:** Its true that most exercise equipment doesn't get used as much as the buyer thinks it will before he or she makes the purchase. However, Aries, you are the exception to the rule. You get major enjoyment, not to mention results, out of new workout gadgetry, DVDs, sports clothing, trainers -- anything to keep your exercise routine fresh.

You might also enjoy tickets to special events like concerts and games. **TAURUS:** Your taste is so discerning this year that you would be wise to mention not only the item you want, but its brand, make and model. Deluxe items always captivate you. Jewelry is high on the list, and so are accessories for your car, fine chocolates or gourmet foods. **GEMINI:** Of course you need the best phone and phone plan you can possibly get. Other items that ramp up your communication style include a camera, fine stationary and pens.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: The complicated life of pop star Britney Spears gets slightly simpler this year as matures through lessons in family love. With Venus in Capricorn this fiery Sagittarian does have a strong need of family tradition and ritual. When she centers her routine on what's best for her children, her own life will settle into a better groove. New, more stable romantic influences are also in store.

Holiday Mathis is the author of "Rock Your Stars." If you would like to write to her, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2008 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My wife and I are both 67 and recently retired. During my career I became quite friendly with "Mary," a co-worker. We developed crushes on each other and things escalated. What began with innocent lunches became daily flirtations and an eventual affair. I was very careful and my wife never found out.

Now that we're retired, I'm getting the uneasy feeling that my wife has become suspicious. Recently I saw Mary at the retirement party of another co-worker. She expected me to set up one



KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR

of our "lunch" dates, but I explained that our relationship was over. I told her my wife seems less trustful of me than ever before in our 46 years of marriage. I've seen a change come over her that hurts me, so I told Mary there would be no more lunches, no more e-mails, nothing. She seemed devastated and confused. I explained it had to end because I realize now how much my marriage means to me.

Since I'm fairly positive my wife knows nothing of Mary, what possible purpose would it serve to tell her now? I've ended it permanently. Am I a coward for not coming clean? I fear the outcome if I confess. -- Now What?

Dear Now What: If you have broken it off completely, it's time to show your wife some devotion. Be attentive and appreciative. Give her no reason to doubt you.

You don't have to bring up the affair, but if your wife should question you directly, you must tell her the truth. Lying on top of the betrayal would be more than she could forgive.

Dear Annie: I am of the "old school" and unable to accept the sexual freedom of today. When unmarried family members who live together come to visit, how do I kindly let them know I do not want them to sleep together in my home? I don't want to be the bad guy. I realize I am being

judgmental by not condoning this behavior, so how do I conduct myself without being forced to compromise my morals? - Troubled Grandmother

Dear Troubled: People who have been living together for many years have a common-law marriage that is often legally recognized, and you are not compromising your morals by acknowledging this arrangement. However, it's your home and you can set the rules. It's perfectly OK to issue separate bedrooms, and if a couple objects, say you are sorry you cannot accommodate their preferences. Those who are unwilling to accept your hospitality are welcome to stay elsewhere.

Dear Annie: "Tired of Being The Giving Tree" said her 21-year-old son gives her low priority when it comes to holidays.

In our extended family gatherings, one grandmother has insisted on hosting everyone in her home on Christmas Day. If our adult children cannot come or choose to go elsewhere, she makes sure we know how unhappy she is. She uses temper tantrums and public chastising to manipulate all of us. Christmas becomes unpleasant and a day to be endured rather than enjoyed.

The other grandparents choose to schedule Christmas whenever most of their children and grandchildren can make it. It can be the day before or a few days later, but it is a happily anticipated gathering. We all carve out the time to see each other, bring a Crock-Pot of soup and share Christmas cookies. Their warm and welcoming attitude takes the pressure off. Perhaps "Tired" could make plans whenever it works instead of expecting a certain day. She should involve her son's girlfriend and even go to

their home to celebrate. And hopefully she will keep giving Christmas gifts to her son as an expression of her love and not a reflection of how much he loves her. Someday he may be facing a similar situation and hers will be a lesson he will remember. -- D.

Dear D.: Thanks for the sensible advice. We hope "Tired" will try it. Dear Annie: "No Name As It Will Cause Arguments" worried about her in-laws' driving. You recommended the AARP Driver Safety Program (DSP).

I am a volunteer DSP instructor. The program is designed specifically for drivers over 50 to help them understand the effects of aging on driving, and it shows how to adjust driving strategies to allow for these changes.

But AARP also offers a free 90-minute forum, "We Need to Talk," for families concerned about the safety of their older relatives and friends. It includes crafting candid, effectual discussions about driving safety, warning signs, strategies for alternative transportation and what to do if a parent or friend has dementia or a high-risk driver refuses to stop driving. The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. and the MIT AgeLab developed this information to help families initiate productive and caring conversations with older adults about driving safety. -- Mark D. Berg, Gettysburg, Pa.

Dear Mark Berg: Thank you for the excellent information. Readers should be aware that this program is not available in all states. To find out, check the AARP office in your area.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie-mailbox@comcast.net.

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Rising to the task

Rising to the task: Great loaves are easy when you have the right supplies and ingredients

By LISA FUTTERMAN

Chicago Tribune

Baking bread at home can be one of the most soulful, satisfying ways to spend an afternoon — especially when successes are shared at the dinner or breakfast table, or as gifts for neighbors and family.

When riffing with just four basic ingredients — yeast, water, flour and salt — technique and tools become more important.

We've come up with a list of essential equipment for frustration-free home baking with professional results.

And we asked bread experts to share a few of their best tips for breadmaking.

Chef Laurent Gras and his team bake up to seven types of bread per day for dinner service at L20 in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood. His secret for creating crisp-crust, deeply colored loaves?

"Simply place a cast-iron pan in the bottom of the oven and pour water in to create some steam," Laurent said. This trick replicates the steam-injected professional ovens that large bakeries often use.

Rich Labriola, owner of Labriola Baking Co. in Alsip, Ill., agreed that steam is critical for artisanal bread baking. A high level of moisture in the oven allows the loaves to expand evenly while baking. But a common problem for home bakers is overmixing the dough.

"You are very unlikely to overdevelop the gluten in the dough if you mix by hand, but that idea keeps people from baking because they might think breadmaking is too tiring," he said. Careful use of an electric mixer will prevent the tight, dense interior created by too much kneading.

"An undermixed loaf may not be the most beautiful, but will be the best



MCT photo/Bill Hogan

tasting," Labriola added.

THE TOP TOOLS

Most of these products can be found in kitchenware shops as well as many larger department stores. Also check out specialty baking sites such as kingarthurfour.com and kitchenkapers.com.

Deep mixing bowls: A baker can never have enough bowls, and the luxury of not washing the same bowl over and over makes investing in several large ones worth it. We recommend glass, ceramic or stainless steel for versatility and functionality.

Dough-rising containers: Square plastic containers with tight fitting lids take up less room in

the fridge while the dough is rising. Plus you can watch the volume increase incrementally if the sides are marked with graduations. Two quarts is a practical size. Buy a few extra to stack and store flours and sugars.

Kneading board: A wooden surface is best for kneading because it absorbs excess moisture from the dough. Look for a large (more than 12-inches wide) board with an edge that hooks over the counter to keep it from creeping all over.

Board scraper: This metal-bladed tool is perfect for cutting yeast doughs into the proper pieces when portioning and shaping rolls and loaves.

Heavy-duty electric mixer with dough hook:

The hook attachment is perfectly engineered to knead dough thoroughly without missing pockets of flour. A strong motor is a necessity when kneading heavy doughs. Hand mixers do not have enough power for bread doughs. A 5-quart bowl will be spacious enough for any job without allowing dry ingredients to escape and mess up your counter.

Baking stone: A stone creates a more even temperature and the crunchy-chewy crust that bakers seek. Also known as a pizza stone, this large porous tile can be left in the bottom of the oven at all times to even the heat. Labriola recommends baking bread directly on the stone. "Be sure to heat the oven longer," Labriola said, "to ensure that the stone is heated through to become a good source of bottom heat."

Heavy baking pans: Spring for long-lasting professional grade aluminum. Inexpensive baking sheets and loaf pans cause scorched crusts and uneven baking.

Keep in mind that a dark-colored pan will create a darker crust.

Silicone pastry brush:

The silicone revolution has improved the humble baking brush, making it sturdy (no lost bristles), heat resistant, odor-free and dishwasher-safe. We use ours for greasing pans and glazing loaves before, during and after baking.

Bread knife: A good-quality serrated knife allows you to enjoy the loaves you toiled over without crushing and tearing. Try to resist cutting a loaf of bread until it is cool to the touch; otherwise it might have a gummy interior.

Bread machine: Don't toss out your electric bread machine in favor of making bread by hand. While we don't usually bake in it, the machine does a thorough job of kneading the dough to save some elbow grease and puts pizza dough well within reach for a weeknight treat.

AND IN THE PANTRY

Flour: Home bakers should keep unbleached, all-purpose flour and bread flour on hand.

Bread flour is high in gluten (protein) and results in a stretchier dough and chewier result than with all-purpose flour — don't just substitute willy-nilly or your tender loaves

will end up tough. Whole-wheat flour is very low in gluten, but high in flavor and fiber. Try replacing ½ cup of the all-purpose flour with whole-wheat flour in favorite recipes. Keep all whole-grain products in the freezer to prevent them from going rancid.

Yeast: Although professional bakers often prefer yeast in a cake form, we recommend active dry yeast as an easy-to-use ingredient. If you plan on baking frequently, buy a jar of the dry yeast and keep it in the freezer. Avoid "rapid-rise" yeasts unless you are in a big hurry — a fast rise can be uneven and unpredictable.

Kosher salt: Easy to find and easy to measure, this ingredient is the salt of choice for most professionals.

Don't leave out the salt in a yeast-leavened recipe — it not only improves flavor but also prevents the dough from rising uncontrollably.

GRISSINI

This recipe for Italian breadsticks is adapted from Nick Malgieri's new book, "The Modern Baker" (DK, \$40). Grissini, he writes, are a specialty of Piemonte, Italy.

He also explains the use of cold and warm water in this recipe: "Warm water is necessary to dissolve dry yeast, but the addition of the cold water afterward prevents the dough from overheating while being mixed."

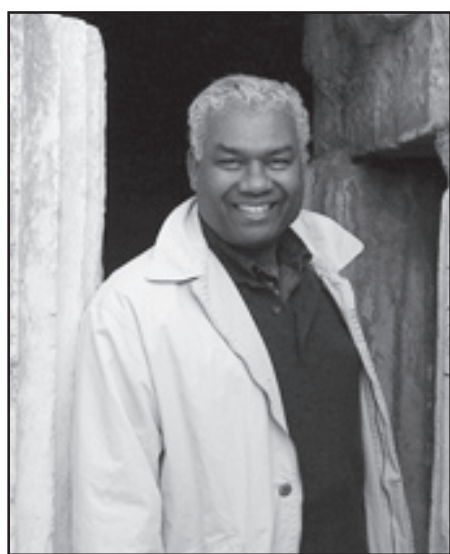
Prep: 25 minutes
Rise: 2 hours
Cook: 22 minutes
Makes: 24 breadsticks
2 cups unbleached flour
3 ½ tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil or lard
1 teaspoon salt
2 ½ teaspoons (1 envelope) active dry yeast
1/3 cup warm water, about 110 degrees
1/3 cup cold water
Cornmeal

1. Combine the flour, oil and salt in a food processor; pulse 10-15 times to incorporate the fat. Whisk the yeast into the warm water; add the mixture to the bowl. Pulse very quickly 2-3 times. Add the cold water; pulse until the dough forms a ball. Pulse continuously 10 seconds.

2. Transfer dough to an oiled bowl, turning to coat all sides. Cover bowl with plastic wrap; let rise at room temperature until doubled, about 1 hour. Scrape the dough onto a lightly floured work surface; fold it over on itself several times to deflate. Return dough to bowl; cover. Refrigerate dough 1 hour or up to 24 hours.

3. Lightly dust 2 baking sheets with cornmeal; set aside. Set racks to upper and lower thirds of the oven; heat to 325 degrees. Remove dough from the refrigerator; scrape onto a floured work surface. Press dough to deflate; press into a square. Cut into 4 smaller squares. Cut each of the squares into 6 equal strips.

4. Roll each of the strips to make a thin strand about 15 inches long; set on pan. (If the dough gets sticky, flour your hands.) Bake 12 minutes; turn pans for even cooking, if necessary. Bake until evenly gold and crisp, 10 minutes.



Sam Soleyn

will be speaking at
the Dora Roberts Community Center
Lakeside Room

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7 P.M.

SATURDAY - DECEMBER 6
7 P.M.

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 7
10 A.M.

15010

THE MEDIA COMPANY

Full Service Media Management and Advertising Agency

Graphic Designer WANTED!

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Designs and produces art and copy layouts for material to be presented by visual communications media, such as books, magazines, newspapers, television, electronic media and packaging.
- Designs media in a wide variety of styles that correspond to the clients needs.
- Interacts with art directors.
- Adheres to client budget and time constraints.
- Presents new ideas to members of the team.
- Monitors projects through all phases of production.
- Develops designs that are on strategy and reflect brand's personality.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Four or more years of work experience in the graphics design field required.
- Understanding of printing process, photography, illustration and typography preferred.

COMMUNICATION ABILITY

Ability to read and comprehend simple instructions, short correspondence and memos. Ability to write simple correspondence. Ability to effectively present information in one-on-one and small group situations to customers, clients and other employees of the organization.

REASONING ABILITY

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.

COMPUTER SKILLS

MS Office, word processing, spreadsheets, Internet software, E-mail, Database software, Macintosh / Quark Express, PhotoShop, Illustrator, All Adobe Programs

LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

Does not supervise the work of others

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Normal office environment.

Please Apply by emailing your resume to

brian@themediaco.net

	WFAA 2	KMID 3	UNI 4	KPEJ 5	KOSA 7	KTLE 8	KWES 9	WTBS 11	KMLM 12	KPBT 13	DISC 20	AMC 21	SPIKE 22	TNT 23	BET 26	DISN 27	ESPN2 28	ESPN 29
	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odesa	Odesa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odesa	Odesa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports
5 :PM	News ABC	News	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Raymond	Scrivner	BBC	Cash Cab		CSI: NY	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas	Horn	SportsCenter
6 :PM	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Tontas Cielo	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Friends	Uri Harel	Business	Cash Cab		CSI: NY	Law & Order		Phineas	Interrupt	
7 :PM	Entertain	Fortune	Two Men	Two Men	Entertain	Millionaire	Seinfeld	Hagee	Nova (DVS)	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Out for Justice, Jerry Orbach	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	Movie: The Salon	Montana	College Basketball: Clemson at Illinois.	College Basketball: Ohio State at Miami.	
8 :PM	Jim	Jim	Fuego en la Sangre	(:01) Fringe	The Mentalist	El Rostro de Analia	Fam. Guy	Israel	Light of the Southwest	Independent Lens	Dirty Jobs	UFC Un-leashed	Cold Case		Phineas	College Basketball: Virginia at Minnesota.	College Basketball: Duke at Purdue.	
9 :PM	Eli Stone	Eli Stone	Aqui y Ahora	(:01) TMZ	Without a Trace	Sin Senos	Law & Order: SVU	Office			N.Y. Quake	Movie: Thunderheart, Sam Shepard	Cold Case		Cole	Wizards		
10 :PM	News	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Frank TV	Israel	Charlie Rose	Dirty Jobs	MAN	Cold Case		Cole	Suite Life		
11 :PM	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	King-Hill	Late Show	Decisiones de	Tonight Show	Ellen's Even Bigger	Ministerio-Vida	Smiley	Dirty Jobs	MAN	Cold Case		Brother	Montana	Series of	
12 :AM	Insider	Jimmy Kim-mel Live	La Hora de la Risa	Cl Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones de	Late Night	Sex & Sex	Israel	(Off Air)	Dirty Jobs	(:45) Movie: Road House, Sam Elliott	Cold Case		Movie: Hustle & Flow, Taryn Manning	So Raven	Series of	NFL Live
1 :AM	Paid	Basco	Clasicos	Friends	Entertain	Poker After Dark	Frank TV	Light of the Southwest			N.Y. Quake	Deep Space 9	Cold Case		The Wire	Emperor	Poker	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE

12-2

"MRS. JOHNSON BROUGHT US ANOTHER FRUITCAKE! ARE WE GONNA GIVE THIS ONE TO RUFF, TOO?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

12-2

"...the girls are all smarter than the boys."

HAGAR

12-2

BLONDIE

12-2

BC

12-2

WIZARD OF ID

12-2

AGNES

12-2

HI AND LOIS

12-2

THE OTHER COAST

12-2

SNUFFY SMITH

12-2

BEEBLE BAILEY

12-2

This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 2, the 337th day of 2008. There are 29 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Dec. 2, 1942, an artificially created, self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction was demonstrated for the first time, at the University of Chicago.

On this date:
In 1804, Napoleon crowned himself Emperor of the French.
In 1823, President James Monroe outlined his doctrine opposing European expansion in the Western Hemisphere.
In 1859, militant abolitionist John Brown was hanged for his raid on Harpers Ferry, Va., the previous October.
In 1927, Ford Motor Co. formally unveiled its Model A automobile, the successor to its Model T.
In 1954, the Senate voted to condemn Wisconsin Republican Joseph R. McCarthy for conduct that "tends to bring the Senate into disrepute."
In 1957, the Shippingport Atomic Power Station in Pennsylvania, the first full-scale commercial nuclear facility in the U.S., began operations. (The reactor ceased operating in 1982.)

In 1970, the Environmental Protection Agency began operating under director William Ruckelshaus.

In 1980, four American churchwomen were raped and murdered outside San Salvador, El Salvador. (Five national guardsmen were convicted in the killings.)

In 1982, in the first operation of its kind, doctors at the University of Utah Medical Center implanted a permanent artificial heart in the chest of retired dentist Dr. Barney Clark, who lived 112 days with the device.

In 1988, Benazir Bhutto was sworn in as prime minister of Pakistan.

Today's Birthdays: Character actor Bill Erwin is 94. Former Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig is 84. Actress Julie Harris is 83. Former Attorney General Edwin Meese III is 77. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., is 69. Actress Cathy Lee Crosby is 64. Movie director Penelope Spheeris is 63. Actor Ron Raines is 59. Country singer John Wesley Ryles is 58. Actor Keith Szarabajka is 56. Actor Dan Butler is 54. Broadcast journalist Stone Phillips is 54. Actor Dennis Christopher is 53. Actor Steven Bauer is 52. Country singer Joe Henry is 48. Rock musician Rick Savage (Def Leppard) is 48. Tennis Hall-of-Famer Tracy Austin is 46. Rock musician Nate Mendel (Foo Fighters) is 40. Actress Rena Sofer is 40. Rock singer Jimi HaHa (Jimmie's Chicken Shack) is 40. Actress Lucy Liu is 40. Rapper Treach (Naughty By Nature) is 38. Tennis player Monica Seles is 35. Singer Nelly Furtado is 30. Pop singer Britney Spears is 27. Actresses Deanna and Daniella Canterman are 16.

Thought for Today: "Great minds have purposes; little minds have wishes. Little minds are subdued by misfortunes; great minds rise above them." —Washington Irving, American author (1783-1859).

Answer to previous puzzle

S	E	R	F	S	P	R	A	Y	S	T	A	B
O	L	E	O	P	R	N	E	P	A	G	E	
U	S	E	R	P	R	I	N	S	A	A	A	
L	E	F	T	W	I	N	G	M	I	N	E	R
				W	A	N	T	S	L	A	N	T
I	M	P	O	R	T	T	W	I	N			
C	A	R	R	I		D	R	E	A	M	S	T
E	X	I	T		A	R	E	N	A		R	A
R	I	G	H	T		W	I	N	G		H	A
				H	E	E	D		Y	A	N	K
B	A	L	L	A	D	S		S	O	L	S	
A	S	I	A	N		S	T		S	T		
R	I	M	S		G	E	A	R	S		E	D
E	D	I	T		A	R	G		R	O	M	A
S	E	T	S		B	A	S	T	E		S	L

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- Cry of sorrow
- Light-rail car
- Gives off
- Breadbasket item
- Quite uncommon
- "Are not!" retort
- Pepsi or Coke
- China's continent
- Midterms, e.g.
- Pennies and nickels
- Dairy-farm sound
- Take a photo
- Garden-hose setting
- States of mind
- Method
- U-turn from NNE
- Verified fact
- Radiant quality
- Belt holders
- Get a look at
- Tax-filing month
- Frizzy hairdo
- Rain-delay covers
- Tennis-court divider
- Rouses from sleep
- Peeks (at)
- Evidence of fire
- "Dr." of children's books
- "That's icky!"
- On/off wall device
- Capital of 53 Down
- Time long past
- Pulled apart
- Elevates
- Potpie veggies
- Tied, as a score

DOWN

- Rainbow shapes
- Weaving machines
- Islam's Almighty
- Winter Olympics race
- Farm vehicle
- Poison-ivy reaction
- Diva's solo
- Intends
- Diner or bistro
- French Mrs.
- Words from one who's next
- Wizard of Oz dog
- Fair-to-middling
- Plunders
- Family MDs
- CEO's "Right now!"
- Do some housecleaning
- Terrific bargain
- One of the Great Lakes
- Soda-fountain order
- Shredded-cabbage serving
- Living-room seating
- 9 to 5, for instance
- Army-medal recipient
- Rhymed verse
- 42 Out of whack
- 45 Call one's own
- 48 "I didn't care anyway"
- 49 Glide on snow
- 51 Deluxe hotel accommodations
- 53 Land of the pyramids
- 55 Kitchen appliance
- 56 Woodworker's fastener
- 57 West Coast school: Abbr.
- 58 Acquire
- 60 Garden tools
- 61 Mouse-catching device
- 62 Barnyard cacklers
- 64 Numbered highway: Abbr.

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News in brief

Judge dismisses high-profile indictments

RAYMONDVILLE (AP) — A judge dismissed eight indictments Monday brought by a South Texas prosecutor against high-profile figures including Vice President Dick Cheney, former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and a state senator.

The order by Administrative Judge Manuel Banales ended two weeks of proceedings that some courtroom veterans declared the most bizarre they had ever witnessed.

It also began to dim the lights on the rocky tenure of outgoing Willacy County District Attorney Juan Angel Guerra, who even in thorough defeat saw the outcome as confirmation of the very conspiracy he had pursued.

"I expected it," Guerra said immediately after the hearing. "The system is going to protect itself."

On Nov. 17 a Willacy County grand jury returned eight indictments. Three of those targeting private prison operator The GEO Group, state Sen. Eddie Lucio Jr. and lastly Cheney and Gonzales, focused on the nexus of privately run prisons and politicians.

Woman found barely alive in Texas City house

TEXAS CITY (AP) — A 62-year-old woman has been hospitalized after authorities found her barely alive with maggots eating her flesh, Texas City police said.

Police found the woman after someone called 911 late Friday night claiming to be her son and said his mother had bed-

sores and needed an ambulance, police Capt. Brian Goetschius said. The caller, who police are searching for, said the back door of the house would be open and hung up, Goetschius said.

The officer who entered the house said it was in deplorable condition and there were several cats running around inside. He said he was overcome by a smell similar to that of a decaying body. The person who made the 911 call was not there.

The officer then saw what he first thought was a dead woman on the living room floor. Goetschius said that the officer then saw the woman blink.

"She was teetering on the brink of death," Goetschius told The Daily News in Galveston.

He said the woman is Linda Sue Sainz, a retired Galveston County Sheriff's office dispatcher.

Sainz was taken to Mainland Medical Center in Texas City.

Police said that the 911 call came from a phone in the house.

"The circumstances with the 911 call were unusual. I think this whole case is unusual," Goetschius told Houston television station KHOU.

Truck plows into holiday parade crowd in Overton

OVERTON (AP) — An elderly driver hurtled through barricades into a crowd lined up for a Christmas parade Monday and injured several people, some of them members of a Cub Scout troop, a city official and witnesses said.

Overton City Manager B.J. Potts said that the driver was arrested, but alcohol was not detected.

"It happened very quickly," Potts said.

"There's still a lot of questions."

An executive with the East Texas Area Council Boy Scouts told the Longview News-Journal for its Tuesday editions that 11 people were injured — nine cub scouts and two adults.

John Moore, a spokesman for Mother Frances Hospital in nearby Tyler, told The Associated Press that of the seven people brought there, five have been treated and released. He said that those treated and released include two women — ages 28 and 33 — and three boys — ages 8, 9 and 11.

Moore said that a 7-year-old boy was in good condition and another 7-year-old boy was in serious condition.

Potts said that one youth was flown to a Dallas hospital and that several had been released from hospitals, but he did not have an exact number.

San Antonio officer hit by colleague's cruiser dies

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A 26-year-old San Antonio police officer injured when he was hit by a patrol car while clearing roadway flares has died.

Officer Robert Davis died Monday after officials said his family removed him from life support.

Davis was injured Friday while clearing roadway flares in an accident.

Police say Officer David Seaton was driving his patrol car to a shoplifting call when his cruiser struck a car. The collision caused that car to spin out of control.

Seaton's car veered to the right and struck Davis, who was pinned beneath his colleague's patrol car.

The San Antonio Express-News reports in its online editions that both Seaton and the driver of the car he hit suffered broken bones and internal injuries.

Teen with bullet in head accepts plea deal

BEAUMONT, Texas (AP) — A Port Arthur teenager has pleaded guilty to lesser charges in a case that made world headlines when police wanted to remove a bullet from his forehead to prove he tried to kill a man.

Joshua Adam Bush, 19, has agreed to two years in state jail in return for his guilty pleas to charges of criminal mischief and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

The sentences would be served concurrently. His attorney said he should be released soon since he has credit for time served.

In the plea deal Bush accepted Monday, charges of deadly conduct and two counts of engaging in organized criminal activity were dropped, the Beaumont Enterprise reported in Tuesday's editions.

Bush had been accused of participating in a break-in at a used car lot in Port Arthur in the summer of 2006, but a Jefferson County jury acquitted him last August of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. A conviction on that charge could have dealt him a life sentence.

Don't Miss The

**23rd Annual
BIG SPRING HERALD
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CHRISTMAS PARADE**

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**BIG
SPRING HERALD**

LETTERS TO SANTA

**Don't Miss This Section
Sunday, December 21, 2008**

**Area Schools Students, Submit Their
Letters To Santa Claus**

"DEADLINE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2008"

Advertisers, Don't Be Left Out!

Dear Santa,
I have been very good most of this year. Will you wake me up when you come? I have a gift for you and something for the raindeer. Can you bring a football for me? I want a puppy for mine? I sent 2 letters to you Santa.

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the gifts that I got last year. I still have most of them. I'd like a puppy, a game and a new bike. If you want to bring more stuff it's ok with me. I know I sent a letter before but this new list is what I really want. Thank you Santa.

With Love,
Sam

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**Mike Thomas,
County Attorney**

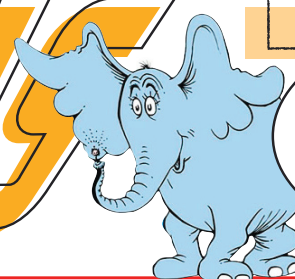
ALON USA

**Troy Tompkins,
CMFC Financial Planner
The Prudential Insurance
Company Of America**

Wacky Facts

An elephant's trunk can pick up a straw, push over a huge 3, tenderly touch family members, pour more than 3 gallons of water into its mouth and detect scents more than 2 miles away.
— elephantvoices.org

KID NEWS



Chatter Box

"I meant what I said and I said what I meant, 'An elephant's faithful, 100 percent!'"
— From the book "Horton Hears a Who" by Dr. Seuss



Lucky the elephant uses his trunk to paint on a canvas held by zoo keeper Dale Berryman, right, as elephant and animal care manager Jason Bredahl looks on at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs, Colo.

**Painting
Pachyderms**

BY BILL RADFORD
The Gazette

Finding a creative outlet for Lucky the elephant seems to have been a win-win for everyone.

Lucky, one of two African elephants at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, in Colorado Springs, Colo., regularly puts paint to canvas — and apparently enjoys it, as evidenced by the loud, gravelly purring she often emits while painting. The zoo benefits by selling the artwork. And keepers and zoogoers don't risk getting rocks and feces tossed at them by a restless elephant.

It was such behavior that led keepers to teach Lucky to paint about 10 years ago. Since then, Lucky's masterpieces have been displayed in galleries, the Colorado Springs Airport and the Springs City Council chambers. This fall, Lucky's work got an international stage, with one of her pieces up for bid in an online Art by Animals auction held by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums and the Auction Network.

Lucky wields a brush in her trunk, which — with more than 100,000 muscles — is capable of delicate work. She "signs" each work with a trunk print. Painting is just one enrichment activity aimed at stimulating the 4-ton Lucky mentally and physically, says Jason Bredahl, elephant manager at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo.

**Animal artists
show off
their talents**

"We've kind of seen her attitude and behavior change over the years, and one thing that has helped us with that is increasing some of her training programs," he said. "That training gives her something else to think about and participate in, and not focus on some of those behaviors we don't want to see in her."

Lucky has two assistants when painting — one keeper holds the canvas, acting as a human easel, and another assists her with the brush and paint. She typically paints two to four times a month, both as part of her enrichment schedule and for special showings paid for by zoogoers.

"We like to keep it fun and novel," Bredahl said, adding that he can't remember a time when Lucky didn't want to paint. "If we tried to do it every other day, she might get to the point where it's just not fun anymore."

Bredahl, while quick to say he's no art expert, says he has seen Lucky's style evolve over the years.

"You can see more delicate brush strokes early on," he said. These days,

Lucky's brush work is a bit more rapid-fire. Her work remains abstract — don't expect, for example, to order a self-portrait.

Lucky typically takes 10 to 15 minutes to complete a work. She gets a little human assistance in determining when she's finished, Bredahl acknowledged.

"We come to, maybe, a mutual agreement that we stop before it ends up being one solid color."

Lucky was born in 1980 and has been at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo since 1981, after being orphaned in Kruger National Park in South Africa. The zoo's other female African elephant, Kimba, provides watercolor footprints with the help of keepers, but doesn't seem to share Lucky's artistic tendencies, Bredahl said.

"Kimba's just a different personality and not motivated to use her trunk that way," he said. The money Lucky has raised for the zoo — about \$7,200 just in the past five years — isn't peanuts. Other zoos also have discovered that animal artwork sells. But the artistic endeavors are about giving the animals something to do, not making big bucks, says Jackie Marks, a spokeswoman for the Silver Spring, Md.-based Association of Zoos & Aquariums.

"It turns out a lot of our members are doing this as part of enrichment, and as a nice side effect, they're also fundraising for their zoos and aquariums," she said.

Reading Rack

**Amazing
amphibians almost
jump off the page**

In his nonfiction book "Frogs," Nic Bishop captures a range of species — from the teeny strawberry dart poison frog to the mottled and meaty African bullfrog — in dazzling, color-drenched photography. We get to view the transparent belly of a glass frog (you can see its heart and intestines!), a horned frog mid-snack (mouse tail dangling from its mouth), and amazing feats of camouflage. The straightforward text is as vibrant as the photographs. Bishop selects intriguing and sometimes irresistibly macabre facts for, shall we say, a warts-and-all account. To wit: frogs use pressure from their eyeballs to push prey into their stomachs. Kermit, we hardly knew ye. Ages 4 to 8 Scholastic, \$18. — Alicia Potter, FamilyFun magazine



Laugh Lines

How do you know when there's an elephant under your bed?
Your nose touches the ceiling!

What is the difference between an elephant and a flea?
An elephant can have fleas, but a flea can't have elephants!

— MORE DUMB JOSES FOR SMART KIDS

**ANIMAL
SCRAMBLE**

Can you unscramble the following animal names?

RBAE

FRIFGEA

ILNO

KNSAE

ALES

ANSWERS: Bear, giraffe, lion, snake, seal.

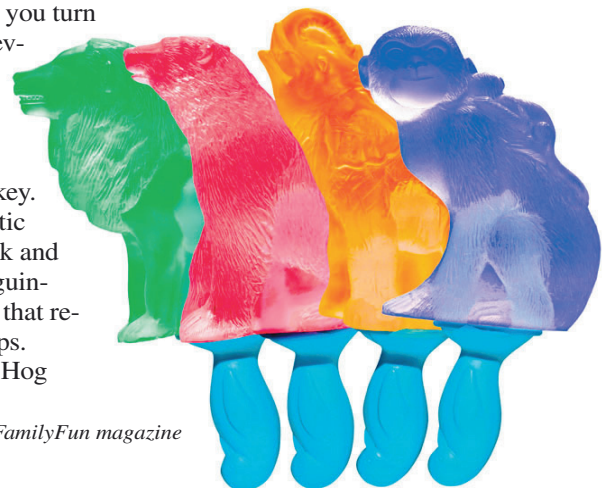


Rips & Raves

Pop pals break the mold

Zoo Pops let you turn your favorite beverages into sculpted ice treats: a lion, polar bear, elephant and monkey. The sturdy plastic molds don't leak and come with penguin-shaped handles that really grip the pops. Ages 8 and up, Hog Wild, \$15

— FamilyFun magazine



Help!

Brothers can be real animals!

DEAR AMERICAN GIRL: I have problems dealing with my brothers. My big brother pinches me, and my little brother gets me in trouble with my parents. — Who Needs Brothers?

■ Not getting along can be a bad habit. To break it, have some fun with each of your brothers. Play games, do puzzles or just hang out. Try to get into the habit of getting along. But when they do bug you, ask yourself if getting upset is worth it. If they're hurting you, tell your parents. If not, your brothers may enjoy watching you get steamed, so try to give them different responses. Try a bored "nice try" or "not cool" and then leave the room. You'll be happier — and so will your parents.



DEAR AMERICAN GIRL: At school I heard my friends talking about my other friend. I don't know if I should tell her or not. — Don't Know

■ Keep your lips zipped. Don't tell your friend unless you want to get in the middle of a big fight. If you tell her, she'll get mad at your other friends for gossiping about her, and then they'll get mad at you for telling in the first place. Don't participate in the gossip at all and don't

pass it on.

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