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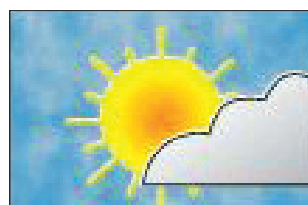
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# H BIG SPRING HERALD

**TUESDAY**

**JANUARY 6, 2009**



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 30

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HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

**Jorge Parra, concrete foreman for the city of Big Spring, right, and fellow municipal employee Raul Martinez brave frigid temperatures Monday afternoon to make repairs to this curb located at 15<sup>th</sup> Street and Benton.**

## Who are the 'best' for 2008?

*Nominations due for Man and Woman of the Year*

By **BILL McCLELLAN**

News Editor

Thinking back to last year — a short time ago, for sure — do you recall someone working on a special project, volunteering their time to help others or doing something special to make someone's world better?

Maybe you thought to yourself, "That person is always there, always helping out. I don't know how they do it. They sure make a difference."

Well, here's your chance to help them get the recognition they deserve because the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominees for Man and Woman of the Year.

"We all know people who get involved, but maybe you know someone who works behind the scenes," said Debbye ValVerde, chamber executive director. "If so, we'd like to know about them."

There are a couple of stipulations. First, only a chamber member can nominate someone. So if you have a nominee in mind but aren't a member, consider joining. Or, approach a chamber member and seek their endorsement. Second, nominees do not have to be chamber members. In other words, anyone is eligible. Almost. People who hold a political office "should not" be nominated, according to the guidelines used by the chamber.

That still leaves a lot of people eligible to win the two awards, which are handed out at the chamber's annual banquet — set



ValVerde

## Stay warm, officials say, but practice safety, too

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

With low temperatures expected to dip below freezing this week, many area residents will be looking for some extra warmth, a search local fire officials say can turn deadly if precautions aren't taken.

Condray said there are many different types of secondary heating, ranging from portable electric units to wood-burning stoves, but the most common causes of fires



Condray

involving them are avoidable.

"There are a lot of different type space heaters out there," said Condray. "There are portable electric heaters, portable kerosene heaters, stoves, fireplaces and room gas heaters.

"There are many common causes of home heating fires. In wood burning appliances, a lack of proper cleaning can lead to excessive

build up of creosote in the chimney and connectors. Also, a lack of safety enclosures or poor design account for many fires. For space heaters, the single largest cause was failing to maintain a safe distance from combustibles followed closely by improper fueling practices."

Fires involving portable heaters can be avoided by exercising some simple precautions, said Condray,

See **HEAT**, Page 3

## Cook-off stirs up \$10,000 for Children in Need fund

By **VALERIE AVERY**

Special to the Herald

Members of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie No. 3188 donated \$10,000 — generated from Saturday's Chili Cook-off — to West Texas Centers for MHMR's Children in Need fund.

Eagle members presented the check to West Texas Centers Deputy Director of Operations Landon Sturdivant at the conclusion of the Seventh Annual Chili Cook-off.

The Chili Cook-off attracted 33 chili cooks and about 300 attendees who sampled chili, visited with friends and enjoyed the entertainment at the Eagles building.

The large donation was spurred in part by the exceptional turnout and higher-than-normal number of cooks, West

*"The event was a huge success, and we are so appreciative to have had the support of the community through healthy attendance and experienced judges who volunteered their time for a worthy cause."*

—Shelley Smith, West Twas Centers for MHMR CEO



Texas Centers for MHMR CEO Shelley Smith said.

"It was the best chili cook-off thus far, and the weather could not have been better."

The large attendance, entry fees from the 33 chili cooks and donated auction items and raffle tickets generated the \$10,000 donation.

"The event was a huge success, and we are so appreciative to have had the sup-

port of the community through healthy attendance and experienced judges who volunteered their time for a worthy cause," Smith said.

The Eagles also expanded the number of prizes and included more raffle and auction items for the event, drawing an ever larger number of cooks, she said.

The Children in Need Fund purchas-

See **FUND**, Page 3

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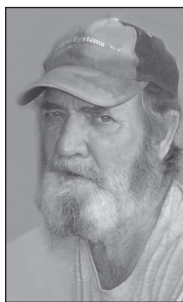
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## Obituaries

### Walter Fields



Walter Fields, 64, of Big Spring, died Monday, Jan. 5, 2009, at University Medical Center in Lubbock. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Jason Sanderson, worship pastor of Life Church, officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Walter was born Sept. 23, 1944, in Big Spring to Hanese and Ted Fields. He graduated from Forsan High School and served in the National Guard. Walter was a lifetime resident of Howard County and was a Baptist.

He enjoyed all sports, especially fishing and hunting. Walter had been employed at Porter Henderson Implement and Williams Fabrication.

He is survived by one son: John Wesley Fields and his wife Michelle of Big Spring; two daughters: Stacey Welch and her husband James of Shallowater, and Tiana Beck and her husband Bobby of Big Spring; two brothers: Joe Fields of Texas City, and Terry Fields of Midland; two sisters: Jan McKaskle of Lubbock and Mary Rossomano of Midland; and six grandchildren: Stephen Juarez and Sara Miller, both of Shallowater, Kolby Fields and Taylor Fields, both of Coahoma, and Zach Dykes and Larissa Dykes, both of Big Spring.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother: Wesley Lee Roy Fields.

Pallbearers will be Danny Wright, Cameron Churchwell, Buddy Duncan, Steve Park, Joe Don Musgrove, and Ray Bloom.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersand-smith.com](http://www.myersand-smith.com)

### Raul Rios-Rios



Raul Rios-Rios, 78, of Big Spring, died Sunday, Jan. 4, 2009, in a local hospital. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2009, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2009, at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church with the Rev. Ariel Lagunilla, officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

He was born Oct. 22, 1930, in Puerto Rico and married Petra Diaz Oct. 21, 1977, in Big Spring.

Raul served in the U.S. Air Force for more than 23 years, retiring in 1969. He then worked in Civil Services at Webb AFB until its closing and moved to the Killeen and Copperas Cove area to work at Fort Hood. He returned to Big Spring in the early 1990s. He was a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church.

Survivors include his wife, Petra Rios-Rios of Big Spring; four sons, Jose Raul Rios-Rios of Puerto Rico and Trinidad Rios-Rios of Copperas Cove, Manuel Arsiaga of Lubbock and Samuel Arsiaga of Abilene; six daughters, Anna Maria Rios-Rios and Lourdes Rios-Rios, both of Puerto Rico, Benamina Rios-Rios, Diane Arsiaga and Margie Garcia, all of Big Spring and Beatrice Mendoza of New York; four brothers, Jose Rios-Rios, Jaime Rios-Rios, Manuel Rios-Rios and Lin Rios-Rios, all of Puerto Rico; five sisters, Nicola Rios-Rios, Matilda Rios-Rios, Carmen Rios-Rios, Breduey Rios-Rios, all of Puerto Rico and Mandy Rios-Rios of Florida; 26 grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a son, Ramon Rios-Rios.

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

### Wayne Green



Wayne Maxallen Green, 28, of Big Spring, died Saturday, Jan. 3, 2009. Private family services will be at a later date.

He was born June 15, 1980, in Kermit.

He had lived in the Monahans area most of his life and moved to Big Spring in 2006.

Survivors include his mother and step-father, Violet and David McCaffity of Big Spring; his father and step-mother, Ernest and Debbie Green of Booneville, Ark.; a daughter, Arianna Green of Montana; two brothers, Samuel Green and Eli Green, both of Booneville, Ark.; two sisters, Rubylynn Green and Lilly Green, both of Booneville, Ark.; and his maternal grandparents, JoAnn and Ken Mills of Wickett.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Raydale Green; his maternal grandfather, Dale Ellsworth; and paternal grandparents, Ruby Purser and Alvin Green.

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

### Beulah Wilkinson

Beulah May Wilkinson, 86, formerly of San Antonio, currently of Big Spring, died Monday, Jan. 5, 2009, in a local hospital.

Beulah was born Oct. 18, 1922, in Elizabeth City, N.C. and was married to Earl Wilkinson. He preceded her in death.

Survivors include her daughter, Jamie Stinson and husband Dan of Big Spring; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, she was also preceded in death by her parents.

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

## Police

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

- CARMELO MERCADO, 33, of Odessa, was arrested Monday on a charge of failure to identify – false information.
- OSVALDO TORRES, 35, of Odessa, was arrested Monday on a charge of hindering arrest.
- ARTURO NAVARRETTE, 27, of Odessa, was arrested Monday on a warrant from Hobbs, N.M.
- LETICIA CANTU, 32, of 5318 Opal Lane, was arrested Monday on a local warrant.
- MARIO GONZALES, 20, of 806 S. Johnson, was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- CYNTHIA MENDEZ, 38, of 3304 W. Highway 80, was arrested Monday and held for the HCSO on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- JESSICA PITTMAN, 27, of 705 E. 15<sup>th</sup> St., was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- MIGUEL JUAREZ, 20, of 306 Denton, was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of a dangerous drug.
- ROBERT SANCHEZ, 44, of 423 Westover Rd., was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- JUAN NIETO, 34, of 1900 Martin Luther King Blvd., was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- CARL WELLS, 26, of 1907 Hilltop, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- JULIAN CHAVEZ, 33, of 3211 Drexel, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of hindering arrest.
- MARCEL JORDAN, 25, of Williams Road, was arrested Tuesday on three local warrants.
- RAFAEL TREVINO, 33, of 3211 Drexel, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA – MORE THAN FOUR OUNCES LESS THAN FIVE POUNDS was reported in the 700 block of Settles.
- POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- FAILURE TO IDENTIFY – GIVING FALSE INFORMATION was reported in the 500 block of Gregg Street.

## 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.

- GARY MONTEL STEPHENSON, 47, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of bondsman off bond for driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

## Fire/EMS

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

- TRAUMA was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of Weaver Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the area of Val Verde Road. One person was transported to SMMC.






## 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 Ministries, 1209 Wright St. Tuesday, Jan. 6, Teen Challenge will be held at The Path. They will present a Rally for Jesus.

## Your Local Weather

Wed 1/7	Thu 1/8	Fri 1/9	Sat 1/10	Sun 1/11
 <b>69/35</b> Sunny skies. High 69F. Winds WSW at 20 to 30 mph.	 <b>70/39</b> Sunny. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the upper 30s.	 <b>76/35</b> Sunny. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the mid 30s.	 <b>56/27</b> Plenty of sun. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the upper 20s.	 <b>60/31</b> Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 30s.

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## Bulletin Board

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact the Herald news room at 263-7331 or email [editor@bigspringherald.com](mailto: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.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main streets.
- League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The public is invited.
- American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.
- The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340.
- Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.

### FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281.

## Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 3 - 5 - 6 - 8. Bonus Ball: 26.

Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 5-14-26-31-36.

Number matching five of five: 1.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-2-2-4. Sum It Up: 10.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-3-7. Sum It Up: 16.

## BIG SPRING HERALD

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Publisher... Ext. 250

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Advertising Manager... Ext. 229

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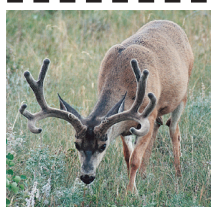
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# Local man gets 165 months for child pornography plea

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

A Big Spring man was sentenced last week to nearly 14 years in federal prison without parole after pleading guilty to interstate receipt of child pornography in September.

Wendell Joe Angel, 53, was sentenced Dec. 30 by U.S. District Judge Sam R. Cummings to 165 months in federal prison following his guilty plea to one count of interstate receipt of child pornography, according to officials with the U.S. Attorney's Office of the Northern District of Texas.

Cummings also ordered that Angel serve a lifetime of supervised release.

According to documents filed in the case, Angel admitted that in the early part of 2007 he became interested in child pornography and began using the peer-to-peer software file sharing program, Limewire, to download music and eventually started using the program to download adult — and child — pornography.

Court records showed Angel admitted although he never intentionally traded child pornography with anyone, he was aware that Limewire was a file sharing program and that others could view and download material saved in his Limewire library.

Besides using Limewire to view and obtain child pornography, Angel accessed the material using a "lolita bbs" link on the excite.com Web site.

Angel also admitted to downloading sexually explicit images of girls who were 10-years-old or older. He transferred the child pornography images and video files he downloaded from the Internet onto CDs that he stored in a locked gun safe in his residence.

In August 2007, a special agent with the FBI conducted a keyword search for child pornography images using a peer-

to-peer software and downloaded 18 images of child pornography. It was determined that these images were downloaded from Angel's computer in Big Spring, according to U.S. Attorney officials.

Two months later, an undercover police officer, conducting the same keyword search, downloaded additional images of child pornography, again determining the source of the images was from a computer located at Angel's residence. April 22, 2008, a search warrant was executed at Angel's residence, at which time the Big Spring man was shown all of the images, which he identified as images he had downloaded from the Internet onto his home computer.

According to former U.S. Attorney Richard Roper, who recently resigned from his office, the case was brought before the court as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse.

Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, said Roper, as well as identify and rescue victims.

For more information about Project Safe Childhood, visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov/](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov/).

Roper commended the investigative efforts of the FBI and the Howard County District Attorneys Office following the sentencing. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven M. Sucsy of the Lubbock U.S. Attorney's Office.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)

## News briefs

### Victoria DA wants judge's decision reversed

VICTORIA (AP) — A district attorney plans to ask the state's Thirteenth Court of Appeals to reverse a judge's decision allowing attorneys of Victoria officials accused of leaking information about a sex abuse case to share their respective clients' grand jury testimony.

Previously, Judge Robert Cheshire allowed the attorneys access to grand jury testimony, although they were ordered to keep it secret — even from each other. Cheshire ruled Monday that the three defendants could share that information.

District Attorney Stephen Tyler said Monday that he planned to appeal Cheshire's ruling, the Victoria Advocate reported Monday in its online edition.

Former city attorney David Smith, Police Chief Bruce Ure and Lt. Ralph Buentello are accused of interfering with the investigation into former Victoria County Sheriff Michael Ratcliff, who was accused of sexually assaulting a teenage boy. They face charges of aggravated perjury, after most of the charges they had faced were dismissed. The officials said they feared Ratcliff's investigation was being buried because he was, at the time, Tyler's chief of staff.

### Israeli tanks head closer to major cities in Gaza; civilian casualties mount

GAZA CITY, Gaza (AP) — Israeli shells slammed into Gaza and ground forces edged closer to major population centers Tuesday, taking more civilian lives after Israel ignored mounting international calls for an immediate cease-fire.

In fighting that raged early Tuesday morning, at least 18 people were killed in shelling up and down the Gaza Strip from tanks and naval craft, local hospital officials said. Only two of the dead were confirmed as militants.

Tanks rumbled closer to the towns of Khan Younis and Dir el Balah in south and central Gaza but were still several kilometers (miles) outside, witnesses said, adding that the sounds of fighting could be heard from around the new Israeli positions. Israel already has encircled Gaza City, the area's biggest city.

Israel launched its offensive on Dec. 27 in a bid to halt repeated Palestinian rocket attacks on its southern towns. After a week-long air campaign, Israeli ground forces

invaded Gaza over the weekend. More than 500 Palestinians have been killed, including more than 100 civilians, according to United Nations figures. Nine Israelis have died since the operation began.

The rising civilian death toll has drawn international condemnations and raised concerns of a looming humanitarian disaster. Many Gazans are without electricity or running water, thousands have been displaced from their homes and residents say that without distribution disrupted, food supplies are running thin.

### Fire investigation could 'take weeks'

PARIS, Texas (AP) — A fire marshal said it could take weeks to determine what caused a fire that killed five residents at a homeless shelter.

"There were 21 potential witnesses that survived. Police are going to do an investigation to find out who was where and who saw what ...," said Fire Marshal Dale Maberry in an interview.

The fire happened early Monday at the shelter, which is in a converted bakery in this small Northeast Texas town.

A roughly 25-foot-long table piled with donated clothes was being investigated as a possible starting point for the fire.

The fire started just before 3 a.m. and sent the residents inside scrambling outside into frigid, rainy conditions. Some escaped barefoot and others left shivering without having time to grab clothes or coats.

### President Bush wants gate near new Dallas home

DALLAS (AP) — President George W. Bush wants a gate installed along a public street to limit access to his new home in an affluent Dallas neighborhood, officials said.

Dallas City Manager Mary Suhm confirmed Monday that the president, who is expected to move into the new Preston Hollow home in two weeks, is seeking to have a gate for security reasons placed somewhere along the entrance to streets leading to his future residence.

Federal money would pay for the gate, not the city, said Suhm. It's unclear how residents would use the gate to get to their homes. Wherever the gate goes, public access to Daria Place — the high-end street where the Bushes' 8,500-square-foot ranch home sits — will soon be a thing of the past.

## HEAT

Continued from Page 1

including checking to be sure the unit has been tested.

"Space heaters need space," said Condray. "Portable space heaters need a 3-foot clearance from anything that will burn. Keep them far away from drapes and bedding materials, and make sure they have a

'tip-over' safety switch that will shut them down in the event they are upset.

"Also, don't stand so close to a space heater that your clothes could come in contact with it. Never leave one burning while you're asleep or away from the room. Also, always make sure your heater is approved by one of the independent labs, such as Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) or Factory

Mutual."

For heaters requiring a fuel, Condray said it's vital to follow the manufacturer's instruction when it comes time for a refill.

"Liquid and gas-fired heaters should only be refueled in a well ventilated area and should be completely cool," said Condray. "Be absolutely sure you're using the proper fuel for the device. If gas fired, you must use the approved

type fuel line. Always be sure to follow the manufacturer's directions for proper start-up and shut down of the unit."

Condray said a common misconception is it's harmless to use a stove or oven for extra warmth, an idea that can turn deadly in a heartbeat.

"Never use cooking appliances to heat your home or a room," said Condray. "Modern cook stoves are designed to

operate under certain conditions. Ovens need to have their door closed to vent properly and open flames from burners are as dangerous as any other form of open flame.

"Wood burning fireplaces and stoves need their flues and chimneys inspected and cleaned annually by qualified personnel. Make sure you have a sturdy screen or enclosure to keep sparks from

entering the room."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)

## NOMINATE

Continued from Page 1

this year for Feb. 5 in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Nominations will be accepted until 5 p.m.

Friday at the chamber.

"We have forms to fill out and the list of criteria. People can pick them up at the chamber or we can fax or e-mail them if they like," said ValVerde.

Once the deadline has expired, a group of past recipients will be asked to look over the list of nominees and choose a new Man

and Woman of the Year.

The chamber is located at 215 W. Third St. To request the forms, or for more information, call 263-7641.

The theme for this year's banquet is Heritage to New Horizons. The Guy Will Zant Band will perform. Tickets will go on sale soon, ValVerde said.

## FUND

Continued from Page 1

es school supplies, clothing, tuition for summer camps and other financial needs of special children who are receiving services from West Texas Centers for MHMR.

"We have so many children who have needs in addition to the services they receive, so these funds help pay for

those additional items that state funding does not cover," Smith said. "This chili cook-off is one of the major contributors to that fund. That's why we appreciate their work so very much."

Chili Cook-off winners were: Irma Garcia and Janie Murley — Two Hot Mamas, first place; Janet Payne and Clarissa Womack — Wild Women of West Texas, second place; Tommy Tilley, third place; Aus-

tin Bynum — Homegrown Chili, fourth place; Valerie White and Kellie Howell — Twisted Sisters Chili Team, fifth place; Dalton Lewis, sixth place; Carl Wyrick — Two Dogs, seventh place; Mike Ramirez — Little Mexico, eighth place; Buddy Owens — Iron Works Chili, ninth place; and Tim Reibe — T and C Chili, 10th place.

The Showmanship Award was presented to Jeff Thompson and

Danny Wright of the Two Fat Guys crew and the Horses award was given to Doug Carson and Ron Long for being the largest promoters or "smack talkers" about their pot of chili, Smith said.

Winner of the two-night stay at the Inn of the Mountain Gods was Gary Gillihan. Mike Welling won the 50-50 give-away.

West Texas Center is the mental health authority for 23 rural

counties in West Texas which includes Andrews, Borden, Crane, Dawson, Fisher, Gaines, Garza, Glasscock, Howard, Kent, Loving, Martin, Mitchell, Nolan, Reeves, Rannels, Scurry, Terrell, Terry, Upton, Ward, Winkler and Yoakum counties.

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Walter Fields, 64, died Monday. Funeral Services will be at 1:00 PM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 7:00 until 8:00 PM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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# EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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**John A. Moseley**  
Managing Editor

**Bill McClellan**  
News Editor

## OUR VIEW

# Let's be sure we drive safely in school zones

Now that the holiday season is over, we can begin to get back into some familiar routines. For many of us, that includes some type of arrangement for getting our children to school in the morning and back home again in the afternoon.

For those of us who work, it can be a harried time. We're balancing their schedule with ours, trying to get to work, then maybe take a quick afternoon break so we can rush to the school and pick up the children and deliver them to a relative's house, daycare or home.

We've all been outside school buildings when the final bells rings. They are a beehive of activity, with children scampering everywhere, and cars lined up waiting. Obviously, the potential for an accident is increased. Fortunately, however, there have been few of those over the years.

That's because most of us observe the speed limits in school zones and are aware of the potential danger.

Here are some important points to remember:

- Slow down. Always obey the speed limit when traveling through neighborhoods and school zones.
- Be attentive. Watch for children gathering near bus stops and walking in the street, especially where there are no sidewalks.
- Remain alert. Hurried children may dart into the street without looking for traffic.

None of us is so busy, nor is there any emergency so important that we can afford to put our young people at risk by driving in an unsafe manner.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

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

## LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.

- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Dear Lord, may we spend extra time and energy for You.

Amen

# Minimum wage and hard times

The federal minimum wage was not enacted during good times, but during the extraordinarily hard times of the Great Depression. When it was established in 1938, the unemployment rate was still 19 percent.

President Franklin Roosevelt called the minimum wage "an essential part of economic recovery." It would put a floor under workers wages, alleviate the hardship of inadequate wages, and stimulate the economy and job creation by increasing consumer purchasing power. The federal minimum wage was also meant to promote economic development and stop the original "race to the bottom" of employers moving to cheaper labor states in a downward spiral. In his January 3, 1938, annual message to Congress, calling for passage of the historic Fair Labor Standards Act, Roosevelt said, millions of workers "receive pay so low that they have little buying power. Aside from the undoubted fact that they thereby suffer great human hardship, they are unable to buy adequate food and shelter, to maintain health or to buy their share of manufactured goods." Roosevelt said, "The increase of national purchasing power [is] an underlying necessity of the day." And so it is today. Consumer spending makes up about

70 percent of our economy. The minimum wage sets the wage floor. A low minimum wage institutionalizes an increasingly low-wage workforce.

A growing share of workers make too little to buy necessities — much less afford a middle-class standard of living. The richest 1 percent of Americans, meanwhile, has increased their share of the nation's income to a higher level than any year since 1928 — the eve of the Great Depression. As we are seeing so painfully, an economy fueled by rising debt rather than rising wages is a house of cards.

"When businesses don't pay a living wage all society pays," says U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce CEO Margot Dorfman. "We pay through poverty and needless disease, disability and death from inadequate healthcare. We pay as women struggle to put food on the table. We pay as businesses and communities suffer economic decline." A rising minimum wage is part of the solution, not the problem, in an economic meltdown fueled by spiking oil and food prices, a bursting housing bubble, cascading credit crisis, extreme inequality and speculation and greed run amok in an unregulated casino economy.

We hear a lot of talk about the importance of consumer spending to recover from our current economic crisis. Well, consumers can't spend what they don't have.

Minimum wage workers, like all workers, are also consumers. Minimum wage raises are well-targeted stimulus because they

go directly to those who need to spend additional dollars on food, fuel, housing, healthcare and other necessities. Minimum wage workers don't put raises into predatory lending Ponzi schemes, commodity speculation or offshore tax havens. They recycle their needed raises back into local businesses and the economy through increased spending.

Extensive research refutes the claim that increasing the minimum wage causes increased unemployment and business closures.

The buying power of the minimum wage reached its peak in 1968. The unemployment rate went from 3.8 percent in 1967 to 3.6 percent in 1968 to 3.5 percent in 1969. The next time the unemployment rate came close to those levels was after the minimum wage raises of 1996 and 1997. As Business Week put it in 20

Numerous states raised their minimum wages higher than the federal level during the 1997-2007 stagnation of the federal minimum wage at \$5.15. States that raised their minimum wages above the federal level experienced better employment and small business trends than states that did not.

The minimum wage sets the wage floor. As Roosevelt and his advisers understood, we have to raise the floor to lift the economy.

*Holly Sklar is coauthor of "Raise the Floor: Wages and Policies That Work for All Of Us" (www.raisethefloor.org).*

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# Obama needs to bet on women

President-elect Obama has now moved swiftly to name talented and creative people to Cabinet-level offices and the key members of the White House team. But a nagging thought keeps coming back to me: Why isn't he naming more women to bring our experience, creativity and energy to address the problems that face us?

Until only recently it looked like Obama's Cabinet-level composition held only three women. But the announcement that Gov. Bill Richardson will not be taking the Commerce Secretary slot leaves an open position to fill, and one more chance for diversity.

Whereas the presidents of Chile and Spain, also elected as change candidates, appointed women to one-half of their Cabinet seats, Obama has named (including Richardson), 12 men of 15 Cabinet-level departments heads. Leaving his team very diverse in terms of race and ethnicity — but not in gender. This is a diminished representation from both Bush presidencies and the Clinton administration.

More important than numbers is the talent that is missing and how out-of-step we are compared to the rest of the world in terms of who leads and why it matters. Since 1995 the global standard has been at least one-third women at power tables to revitalize economies and advance democratic participation.

Here we are stuck or moving backwards compared to the rest of the world.

The U.S. is ranked 27th on the World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Report and 71st in terms of women's representation

in Congress. Outside of government representation at the current rate increase it will take women 73 years to reach parity on corporate boards.

Why does Obama — and all of us — need more women making decisions?

Women "get it" about the importance of education and have gone to school in droves. Women now earn 58 percent of college and master's degrees and are at least even in professional and Ph.D programs. Women-owned businesses, despite persistent obstacles, generate sales equal to the gross domestic product of China. Women make 80 percent of the consumer decisions. As almost one-half of the workforce and the bulk of nurses and teachers, women are the secret to achieving improvements in the economy, education and health care.

Failing to maximize the power and potential of women as leaders for change is neither smart politics nor good business. Women were the majority of all voters -- and with a 7 percent gender gap over men voters, the majority of Obama voters. In part that was because the campaign specifically addressed pressing problems in women's lives where there has been little action for decades -- family and work, health care, equal pay and violence.

I've had my time to serve in government. Based on my experience, I would recommend a plan recently presented to the Obama-Biden transition by the heads of 38 prominent women's organization who represent 14 million women. They proposed the creation of a Cabinet-level Office on Women reporting directly to the president, an Inter-Agency Council on Women and an Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach.

As the former head of the White House Office on Women's Concerns for President Carter, I

know first-hand the importance of the coordination between the president, the administration and women across the country.

In the Clinton administration, as the CEO of a nonprofit, I worked closely with Betsy Myers, later head of Women for Obama, and others who headed the Office of Women's Outreach. All of us found it difficult to deliver the president's agenda for women without Cabinet status. In my role as ambassador I met women ministers from around the globe and saw how their work informed progress for women and their countries and participated in the work of the very effective Inter-Agency Council on Women.

All of these offices were cut out by the Bush administration — our next President will face a clean slate and a pressing need. President-elect Obama — and all of us — will be well-served by taking on board the full recommendation of an integrated approach on women led by a Cabinet-level Office on Women.

An Obama administration will move the whole country forward when it effectively tackles existing inequities, eliminates possible disparate impacts of supposedly "gender-neutral" policies and taps the full potential of our women. Women are not a special-interest group. We are the current and future talent for the economy, the anchors for most families and the change agents for a better future.

Women have embraced the Obama call for change. Now we want to be sure it happens.

*Linda Tarr-Whelan is a Demos Distinguished Senior Fellow on Women's Leadership. Her book, "Women Lead the Way: Your Guide to Stepping Up to Leadership and Changing the World" will be published in 2009. She is the former ambassador to the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women.*



**HOLLY SKLAR**



**LINDA TARR-WHELAN**



# Bird Poop: A Hummer of a different sort

On Christmas Eve, the winds slamming into the side of the house announced the arrival of the arctic front. An hour later, the phone rang. Art's mother was frantic. Her gas furnace refused to respond to the thermostat.



BEBE  
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With his parents facing extreme cold in their home, and if the weather predictions were correct, we started calling every heating/air-conditioning company in town. Hearing that one of the owners would respond was encouraging.

Because of years of experience, the serviceman had both good and bad news for Art's folks as the four of us huddled in heavy coats while he coaxed the heater to life. Although the unit would operate for a while, it needed to be replaced. Showing us the problem areas, we were convinced that an order should be placed and a new heater installed the next week. At least the unit could operate long enough to see them through the predicted cold spell.

On Christmas morning, it was seven degrees. Knowing his parents were warm, I was stunned upon learning that the forecast had changed. Not only our area, but the entire state was plunging into a deep freeze, with no time frame toward a warm-up.

Snow covered everything, with nighttime temperatures preceded by a minus sign. Throughout our town were stories of frozen pipes. Cautions were repeated about slipping on slick sidewalks. A friend north of town called to describe how every morning the ranch hands chopped through six to eight inches of ice on their stock tank so the cattle could have water. The

thermometer never reached the twenties during the day.

When our roads warmed due to a slight traffic flow, and the interstate became passable, Art drove to the Midland airport. Flying to Chicago, he needed to check on a building project at a chemical plant. At least while he was gone no snow was predicted. When the sun highlighted the crystals on our snowy, frozen lawn, I decided to make a quick trip to the grocery store. Our small Opal station wagon wouldn't start.

"The battery is frozen," was my lament when Art called that evening. Promising he would be home in two days, I found the cat and I enjoyed reading and listening to music to pass the time. As I was finishing a book's last chapter, the phone rang.

"Its feet froze to the clothesline," was all I could understand as the caller's voice was overcome with emotion. The man was crying. Until his grief could be expressed, I waited. Apologizing for this display of grief, he said he never expected our weather to turn so deadly.

Having left his feeders up throughout previous winters, the man had enjoyed the daily antics of black-chinned hummingbirds. He had even added extra sugar for their benefit. Early that morning he planned once again to take the frozen feeder and replace it with another. As long as he kept sugar water available, he felt the little fellow could make it through this storm.

Not wanting to fall, he walked on the frozen grass of his backyard. Nearing the feeder, he glanced toward the clothesline pole where he sometimes bumped his head. Near the area where the heavy wire entered the cross arm, he saw a dark blob on top of the line. It didn't move.

Another few steps, and he realized it was a hummingbird. Carefully his fingers touched the small creature.

No re-



Courtesy photo

**Hovering, flying backwards or straight up or down, the black-chinned hummingbird demonstrates an aerial display of figure eights during courtship. As it feeds almost continuously during the day, the bird frequents the blossoms of wild flowers, red yuccas, Texas redbuds, desert willows, trumpet vines, coral honeysuckle and Turks' caps.**

sponse. Hurrying back inside, the man filled a container with warm water. Perhaps he could loosen the bird's grip on the wire.

Pouring the warm liquid on its tiny feet finally loosed them from the line. Once inside, he wrapped the bird in a towel. Hopefully, the black-chin would recover. Later, when he discovered that his efforts had been futile, he felt he had to call.

Explaining that too much sugar can cause an addiction, I had known of hummingbirds that refused to migrate. More important than a substitute for nectar was protein. While flower nectars supplied carbohydrates, the tiny insects found inside the flowers and on various foliage provided protein. When I asked him to imagine small beetles, bugs, flies, gnats, mosquitoes, aphids and spiders as this vital substance, he responded by saying we sure didn't have any of those right now.

As I told him about torpidity and that the hummingbirds could lower their body functions in an effort not to exhaust their body fat, I noted that this ability to

semi-hibernate was only a temporary method of survival. Extreme temperatures over extended periods were too much for a bird that normally winters as far south as Mexico and Veracruz. While these birds had been seen in the Big Bend and the southern tip of Texas, those areas usually did not have sustained and adverse frigid weather.

To make sure we both knew what he had, I asked if the hummer was a metallic green above, with black chin and upper throat. Was there a white spot behind each eye? Did it have a white chest collar under that? "Yes." "What color is on its sides?" I added. "Green," he replied. Asking him to use his finger to discover the metallic violet that is sometimes seen under certain light, I told him it would be just under the lower part of the throat band. "It's there, I found it!" he said, as he discovered the iridescent marking of the specie.

As we continued our discussion, I told the man of a recent study I had read. The writer had learned that three to four years may be the life

expectancy of hummingbirds. Migrating from the area where they were born, they return in the spring and have their first courtship and family. Then, they and their offspring migrate. The young, and hopefully their parents, enjoy a spring return. Sometimes, however, the older birds cannot make the long journey to their breeding grounds. And if they do, then they probably face their last trip south.

"Are you trying to make me feel better?" asked the man. "No," I replied, "Just telling you what I've read." Whether his bird could no longer look forward to a return courtship and family, we'd never know. "Well, I've learned one thing. Come fall, I'll be sending 'em south."

Having visited with the man for 30 minutes, I realized how the admiration of birds brings people together. Even more, I learned the only thing to do sometimes is listen.

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

## THE SAVVY SENIOR

### Dear Savvy Senior

Are there certain kinds of foods a person can eat to help lower their cholesterol? Cholesterol Concerned

### Dear Concerned

What you eat can actually play a huge role in lowering your cholesterol, and for many, it may even eliminate the need for cholesterol-lowering medication.

### Know Your Numbers

As you may already know, your cholesterol level is the amount of fat in your blood. If it's too high, you're at a greater risk of having a heart attack or stroke. Ideally, you want your total cholesterol reading (that includes your LDL and HDL cholesterol) to be below 200, and your "bad" LDL cholesterol below 129 - less if you're at risk for heart disease. If your total level hits between 200 and 239, or your LDL reaches 130 - 159 you're considered borderline high. And if your total is above 240, or your LDL is over 160 you have high cholesterol.

On the other hand, a higher number is better when it comes to the "good" HDL cholesterol. Most men range between 40 and 50 HDL, and women range between 50 and 60. Anything below 40 (for men) and 50 (for women) is too low, and anything above 50 (for men) and 60 (for women) is great, because it provides extra protection against heart disease.

### Cholesterol-Lowering Foods

Lot's of research over the past few years has shown that certain foods can help lower your LDL cholesterol and/or boost your HDL, including:

- Oatmeal and oat bran: Loaded with soluble fiber, oatmeal or oat bran is a great way to start the day and shave five percent off your LDL. Five to 10 grams per day are recommended. Other good sources for soluble fiber are apples, pears, prunes, citrus fruits, kidney and lima beans, barley, psyllium, carrots, broccoli and brussels sprouts.

- Nuts: Studies have also shown that a daily dose of walnuts and almonds can lower your LDL by 10

percent, and raise your HDL by as much as 20 percent. Peanuts, hazelnuts, pecans, some pine nuts, and pistachios have also been shown to lower cholesterol. But be careful. Nuts are high in calories, so a handful (no more than 2 ounces) will do. The best way to add nuts to your diet is to substitute them with foods that are high in saturated fats like cheese and meat. That way you're gaining the benefits of nuts without adding more calories.

- Sterols and stanols: These are substances found in plants that help prevent cholesterol from being absorbed into your bloodstream. A recommended dose of two grams per day can help knock 10 percent off your bad cholesterol level. The best way to get these substances is to consume store-bought foods that are fortified with sterols or stanols including certain orange juices, yogurts, breads, cereals, granola bars, cooking oils, salad dressings, margarine spreads and more. Check the labels to find products that contain sterols or stanols and watch out for high calories.

- Fish: Rich with omega-3 fatty acids, eating fatty fish (mackerel, lake trout, herring, sardines, salmon and albacore tuna) a few times a week can help boost your good HDL cholesterol by as much as 10 percent, not to mention lower your triglycerides and blood pressure, and reduce inflammation. If you don't like fish, other food sources that provide omega-3s are walnuts, soybeans, flaxseed and canola oil, or take a fish oil supplement.

- Olive oil: Contains a potent mix of antioxidants that can lower your LDL without affecting your HDL. A good way to work olive oil into your diet is to substitute it with butter or other cooking oils, or mix it with vinegar as a salad dressing. About two tablespoons a day are recommended.

### Other Tips

Additional lifestyle tips that can help lower LDL and raise HDL include: reducing the saturated fats (fatty meats, butter and whole dairy products) and trans fats (found in store-bought cookies, cakes, crackers and many fried foods like french fries) you eat; lose excess weight (even 5 to 10 pounds can make a difference); exercise regularly (at least 30 minutes, five day per week); quit smoking; and drink alcohol (no more than one drink per day for women and two for men).

*Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit [www.savvysenior.org](http://www.savvysenior.org). Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.*

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## Wacky Facts

- The North American porcupine is the only species that lives in the U.S. and Canada.
  - A single animal may have 30,000 or more quills.
    - Babies have soft quills at birth, which harden within a few days
- nationalgeographic.com

## KID NEWS

## Chatter Box

“When you have got an elephant by the hind legs and he is trying to run away, it’s best to let him run.”

— Abraham Lincoln, on brainyquote.com

BY WILLIAM HAGEMAN  
Chicago Tribune

You can ooh and ahhh at the antics of the Bombastic Bouncers, the Flying Caceres, and Pepe and Royo as they go through their paces at the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

We can’t wait to see Percy the porcupine.

Part of trainer Jenny Vidbel’s menagerie — dogs, goats, pigs and more — Percy is a 1-year-old African porcupine that Vidbel has been working with since he was about 3 weeks old.

His act, not surprisingly, involves a balloon.

We talked to Vidbel about Percy.

**Q: Where’d you get the idea to train a porcupine?**

**A:** I really like the exotic. A person mentioned to me, as kind of a joke, a porcupine, and I thought, “Why not?” I was working at a zoo for a while, and I had been around North American porcupines ... and I thought they were pretty neat little creatures. Very friendly. So I got an African porcupine and just started.

**Q: Is he the only trained porcupine performing anywhere? And what does he do?**

**A:** In the United States, yes he is. There’s a track at the front of the arena. And he runs halfway around the track and pops a balloon.

**Q: How smart are porcupines? Dog smart? Gerbil smart?**

**A:** I don’t think they’re great thinkers. I’m trying to be kind. He’s very food motivated. We train with repetition. It’s called target training. He’ll go to a certain place we want him to go and he’ll get a treat.

Then we make the distance longer and longer till he goes where we want him to go and he, of course, gets a treat at the end. They’re not thinking, “I have to go here, I have to go there, I’m going to do this, I’m going to do that.” ... He’s just thinking, “I want the grape, I want the grape, where’s the grape, where’s the grape, there’s the grape, I found the grape.”

**Q: What sort of disposition does he have? I picture porcupines as cranky.**

**A:** Actually they are very sweet. But they can’t see very well, so their defense is always up. What they do is (extend) all their quills almost as much as we blink. It’s the same kind of reaction. Even if they’re not mad or scared, they have this reaction that could hurt you. ... I sit in his enclosure with him, and he’ll sit on my lap, and he’ll want a belly rub, get his ears rubbed. But at the same time if shadow passes by he’ll (extend) all his quills, so you have to be very careful.

**Q: How long can he go on? Can you teach an old porcupine new tricks?**

**A:** They live to be about 20 years old. If (Percy) started showing signs of fatigue and didn’t want to do it anymore, that’s when you retire them. It’s important that they’re happy out there.

**Q: Is there any trick you really want him to learn?**

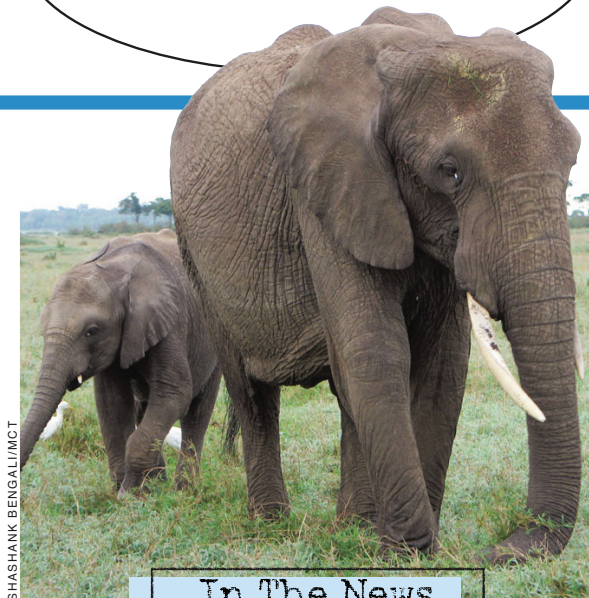
**A:** I’ve watched him at night. He’s very active; they’re nocturnal. He’s hilarious playing on his own. He jumps in the air, spins around, and he jumps on his little tree stump that we have in there for him, and he jumps off of it. He does so many things naturally that are just so cool. I’d like to just keep playing with him and see if he could do like a little flip.

Pointed  
questionsTrainer  
pokes fun at  
performing  
porcupine

Percy the porcupine clowns around with Tom Dougherty, left, and trainer Jenny Vidbel in the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. Below, Percy projects his personality.



IMAGES COURTESY OF RINGLING BROS. AND BARNUM & BAILEY



## In The News

Study says elephants  
are better off in the wild

For many years, a trip to the zoo was a chance to see elephants. But recently, many of America’s biggest zoos have decided to close down their elephant exhibits. According to a new study, which shows elephants are better off in the wild, these zoos have the right idea.

Researchers studied 4,500 elephants in European zoos and compared them with elephants living in the wild. They found wild elephants are healthier, live longer and reproduce more than their captive counterparts. When it comes to living in a zoo, “many species do well (but) elephants don’t,” said Georgia Mason, one of the authors of the study.

TIME  
FOR KIDS

## WILD OLD ELEPHANTS

Many animals live longer in captivity than they do in the wild. In zoos, they are not threatened by predators. There’s always plenty to eat. And veterinarians are available when sickness strikes. But when it comes to elephants, the situation is different. The world’s largest land animals live much longer in the wild than they do in captivity.

Female African elephants born in zoos live to a median age of about 17 years while those in the wild make it to 56. Median means that half die younger than that age and half live longer.

Asian elephants are the more endangered of the two species. They live about 19 years in captivity compared to 42 years in the wild. A few wild elephants have even made it to their 70s. And in Kenya, from 30 percent to 50 percent of wild elephants reach 50 years of age.

## ROOM TO ROAM

Why do elephants fare better in the wild than they do in captivity? The researchers say zoos do not offer enough space for animals that can roam as much as 30 miles a day. Too little exercise and too much food are causing captive elephants to put on extra pounds. The weight gain can lead to heart disease and other health problems. Even the baby elephants born in captivity are heavier than those born in the wild.

Bringing together Asian and African elephants in zoos has also caused problems. A disease that is not dangerous for African elephants has spread to Asian elephants, and is harming them.

## THE COST OF CAPTIVITY

Experts point out that keeping elephants in zoos isn’t only a problem for the animals; it’s also quite costly for humans. In the last 10 years, zoos have spent or made plans to spend about \$500 million on caged spaces for about 250 animals. Wildlife protection programs that create large open spaces for elephants to roam cost a fraction of that price. And they are better for the animals. Such programs have helped the African elephant population grow from 300,000 to 500,000. “African elephants are a conservation success story,” Mason said. Conservationists hope the 60,000 Asian elephants that are left will have a chance to make a similar comeback.

— Suzanne Zimble (Additional reporting by Jeffrey Kluger)

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## Try This

## Playful paper creatures

Create a whimsical paper pet Dr. Seuss would be proud of. Here’s how:

1. Fold a piece of card stock in half.
2. Draw an animal onto the paper so that some part of the top of it (head and tail, or back) is along the fold.
3. Ask an adult to help you cut through both layers of paper, being careful to keep some of the fold intact.

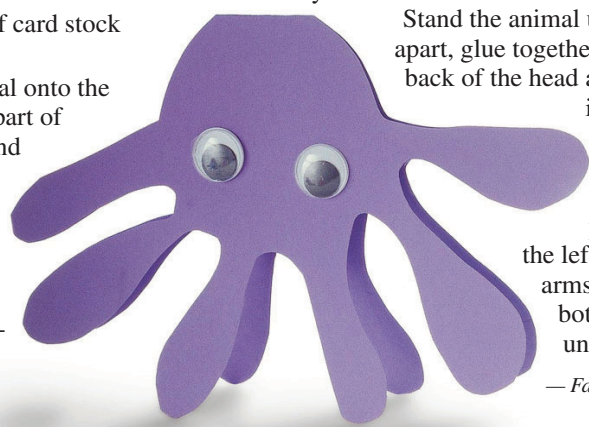
4. Attach the googly eyes using glue if they don’t have adhesive backing.

Stand the animal up. If it splays apart, glue together the front and back of the head and tail, leaving the legs unglued (or in the case of an octopus, glue just the left and right arms and leave the bottom one unglued).

— FamilyFun magazine



IMAGES COURTESY OF  
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## ARCTIC MAZE

Can you help this penguin find his way to the chick?



MARTY WESTMAN/MCT





# Hawk women finish Arizona trip undefeated

## Herald Staff Report

GLENDALE, Ariz. — It was a quite a bus ride the Howard College women's basketball team took in their final preparations for the rest of the Western Junior College Athletic Conference season, which begins Saturday.

However, it definitely paid off.

The Hawks wrapped up a three-day trek through Arizona Monday, crushing Eastern Arizona Community

College, 70-28.

However, it was Saturday's game that has the team most excited about its future.

Howard defeated Glendale Community College, which has the nation's top scoring offense at the junior college level, 89-74.

Glendale plays a very uptempo style of offense and subs in a fresh five players ever 75 seconds. Glendale averages 115 points a game, making Howard's accomplishment of holding

them to 74 impressive, according to Hawks assistant coach Jamie Fisher.

Against Eastern Arizona, the Hawks dominated from start to finish and gave up just nine points in the first half. Howard led 38-9 at intermission.

Danielle Cota led all scorers with 16 points, while Patricia Malouff added 15.

Howard travels to Hobbs, N.M., Saturday to play conference foe New Mexico Junior College. The Hawks

went 1-1 in league play before the Christmas break, losing a heartbreaker to Midland College and then winning impressively against Frank Phillips College. Howard enters Saturday's contest with a 16-2 season record.

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



AP photo/Matt York  
Texas quarterback Colt McCoy holds his offensive player of the game trophy after Texas defeated Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl Monday in Glendale, Ariz. McCoy threw a touchdown pass to receiver Quan Cosby to win the game, 24-21, with 16 seconds left to play.

# Fiesta!

## Texas wins thriller over Ohio State

By ANDREW BAGNATO

AP College Football Writer

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Left out of the national title game, Colt McCoy and Texas made the most of their trip to the Fiesta Bowl.

They just hope they did enough to impress poll voters.

McCoy hit Quan Cosby for a 26-yard touchdown with 16 seconds to play, lifting the third-ranked Longhorns to a 24-21 victory over No. 10 Ohio State on Monday night. The dramatic strike capped an 11-play, 78-yard drive that took only 1:42.

"It doesn't feel any better than to come from behind and win," Texas coach Mack Brown said. "It was just a Texas, really, between Texas and Ohio State, the way it should be."

When it ended, Texas players rushed onto the field, then gathered in front of the band and sang "The Eyes of Texas" with jubilant fans.

As exhilarating as the victory was, it may not have been dominant enough to persuade voters that the Longhorns (12-1) deserve a share of the national championship. Because they were locked

out of the Bowl Championship Series title game, Texas' only chance is The Associated Press Top 25.

McCoy had a message for the pollsters: "I don't think there's anybody in the country who can beat us at this point."

The Buckeyes (10-3) nearly did.

They flirted with the upset behind quarterbacks Terrelle Pryor and Todd Boeckman but instead went down to a third straight BCS bowl loss — a defeat that left the Big Ten 1-6 in this postseason.

It didn't help that Buckeyes tailback Chris "Beanie" Wells, who rushed for 106 yards on 16 carries, missed much of the second half with a concussion.

"That's the problem in tight ballgames like this," Ohio State coach Jim Tressel said. "Two outstanding teams, sometimes you finish it (and) the game ends when you're ahead, and sometimes the game ends when you're not."

The Longhorns rebounded after Ohio State had taken a 21-17 lead on a 15-yard run by Dan Herron with 2:05 to go.

See FIESTA, Page 8

# Souped-up Sooners have no time to celebrate

By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer

MIAMI — No time to celebrate. The high-fives can wait. Oklahoma's incomparable no-huddle offense is always in a rush. Not until the high-scoring Sooners reach the end zone do they take time to admire their work.

Heisman Trophy winner Sam Bradford and the Sooners scored an NCAA-record 702 points this season, often striking so fast, moving so quickly between plays, opponents were left wondering what hit them.

Oklahoma had 18 scoring drives of less than 60 seconds. There were moments when even Bradford had a tough time staying with his souped-up Sooners.

"Sometimes we'd be going down and all of a sudden it's third and-and-10 and I wouldn't realize that because the first two plays have gone so quick," he said.

Slowing down Oklahoma is almost impossible. Florida's job in the BCS national championship game Thursday night is to simply keep pace with the Sooners.

"They really don't give you a chance to get lined up," Florida All-American linebacker Brandon Spikes said during media day Monday at Dolphins Stadium. "They'll get a big play just because a guy was out of his gap or he wasn't ready to play."

Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops developed the Sooners' need for speed shortly after they were handed a 48-28 loss in the Fiesta Bowl by a West Virginia team that was drilled by then-coach Rich Rodriguez not to dilly-dally between snaps.

Rodriguez, now with Michigan, has been using the hurry-up since his days coaching at NAIA Glenville State in West Virginia.

"You ever watch a team go up and down (the field) in a

See OU, Page 8



AP file photo  
Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker James Harrison (92) draws a bead on New England Patriots running back Sammy Morris (34) their NFL game in Foxborough, Mass., Nov. 30, 2008. Harrison, the best player on the NFL's best defense, won The Associated Press 2008 Defensive Player of the Year award Monday.

# Harrison tops Ware for DPOY

By ALAN ROBINSON

AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — James Harrison wasn't drafted out of Kent State, was cut four times before finally making it onto an NFL roster, yet is The Associated Press Defensive Player of the Year in only his second season as a Pittsburgh Steelers starter.

A tough road? For sure. Now, it gets even more difficult for Harrison, a self-made player who won an honor normally reserved for stars.

Joe Greene, Mel Blount and Jack Lambert, Defensive Players of the Year for the Steelers during the 1970s, are in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Rod Woodson, the 1993 winner, could be enshrined in Canton as early as next year.

So all Harrison must do is play at a Hall of Fame level the rest of his career, right?

See DPOY, Page 8



## FIESTA

Continued from Page 7

That score came five minutes after Boeckman hit Pryor for a 5-yard score to cut Texas' lead to 17-15. Pryor's pass on the 2-point conversion was incomplete.

Boeckman completed five of 11 passes for 110 yards and a touchdown. Pryor was 5-for-14 for 66 yards, and also ran for 78 yards on 15 carries.

Brown, who once coached Vince Young to a national title, was impressed by Pryor, a rangy freshman.

"He will be a guy that's in a Heisman race, and it may be sooner than we think because he is a leader," Brown said.

But this night belonged to McCoy, himself a Heisman Trophy runner-up. He completed a school-record 41 of 59 passes for 414 yards and two touchdowns, ran for a score and was puffed off once.

McCoy may have launched his candidacy for the 2009 award with a memorable march through the din of sold-out University of Phoenix Stadium, which was split between fans wearing burnt orange and others decked out in scarlet and gray.

Down 21-17 with 2:05 to play, McCoy calmly led the Longhorns down the field. He said he never doubted they would score.

"I can't think of a better place to be at that point," McCoy said.

On the touchdown, Cosby caught a short pass, slipped a tackle and sprinted toward the goal line before diving into the end zone.

"He made a play. I gave him a good



AP photo/Rob Schumacher/The Arizona Republic

**Texas wide receiver Quan Cosby dives into the end zone for the winning touchdown against Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl Monday Glendale, Ariz. Texas won 24-21.**

ball," McCoy said. "I can't explain the feeling that we have right now. To have the faith and confidence in each other that we do, man, that was awesome."

McCoy completed seven of 10 passes for 76 yards on the final march and ran for the other 2 yards.

Before the touchdown, the biggest completion came on fourth-and-3 to James Kirkendoll at the Ohio State 40. The Buckeyes demanded a review, but the spot was upheld, setting the stage for the winning touchdown.

"The (official) closest to the ball spotted it one place and the guy from the other side said he had a better vantage point," Tressel said.

For most of the night, the Buckeyes stifled the high-powered Longhorns,

who averaged 43.9 points this season but mustered only a field goal in the first half. They didn't lead until a nifty third-quarter touchdown run by McCoy.

The Longhorns finished in a three-way tie atop the rugged Big 12 South and thought their 10-point victory over Oklahoma should have put them in the conference title game. But Oklahoma was declared the division winner on a BCS standings tiebreaker, and the Sooners ripped Missouri in the Big 12 playoff to earn a trip to the national championship.

"This team started this way and finished this way, and they're obviously one of the best teams in the country if not the best," Brown said.

The Longhorns didn't look like it

early on. Texas brought Bevo, its steer mascot, but left its offense back in Austin, at least in a sluggish first half.

The Longhorns failed to score in the first quarter. Texas was shut out in only four quarters all season — and only once in the first quarter, in a 39-33 loss at Texas Tech on Nov. 1.

Ryan Pretorius' 30-yard field goal with 5:39 left in the second quarter sent Ohio State to a 6-3 halftime lead.

Texas' best chance came late in the second, when McCoy smartly marched the Longhorns from their own 9 to the Ohio State 16 in 47 seconds.

But on third-and-2 at the Buckeyes 16 and 9 seconds to go, McCoy threw perhaps his worst pass of the season. McCoy lobbed the ball toward Cosby at the goal line, but safety Anderson Russell picked it off to kill the threat. Had McCoy thrown the ball into the seats, the Longhorns would have had time for a chip-shot field goal. But they went into the dressing room still down by three.

It didn't take McCoy long to atone for the miscue.

On Texas' first possession of the second half, he scored on a terrific 14-yard run to give the Longhorns their first lead. Taking a shotgun snap, McCoy bolted through the right side of the line, broke to the sideline and then spun past charging cornerback Malcolm Jenkins, who came up with nothing.

Seven minutes later, McCoy found Cosby in the back of the end zone to put the Longhorns up 17-6.

"He is strong-willed and he is a guy that's very confident, and he never thinks he is going to lose," Brown said.

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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.

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

## Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

## Like Taking Candy From a Baby

East dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

<b>NORTH</b>			
♠	A K 10		
♥	8 5 4		
♦	K 10 8 7		
♣	A Q J		
<b>WEST</b>			
♠	7 4		
♥	K Q 10 9 7 3 2		
♦	Q 6		
♣	9 5		
<b>EAST</b>			
♠	9 6 5 3 2		
♥	6		
♦	4 3		
♣	10 8 6 4 3		
<b>SOUTH</b>			
♠	Q J 8		
♥	A J		
♦	A J 9 5 2		
♣	K 7 2		

The bidding:  
East South West North  
Pass 1NT 3♥ 6NT  
Opening lead — king of hearts.

The accomplished declarer is like a fine detective. He does a lot of leg-work, gathering up all the information he can, before he finally gets around to cracking the case.

Take this deal where declarer is in six notrump and West leads the king of hearts. South would have an easy time making the slam if he knew exactly where the queen of diamonds was located. He would either play for the drop or take a finesse in the right direction to bring home 12 tricks.

But South does not know at the start of play which defender has the queen, and his job is to do whatever he can to determine the location of the missing diamond. To this end, by far his best shot is to play the jack of hearts at trick one!

Considerable merit is attached to this play, and in the actual deal it works like a charm. West can do no better than continue with a heart to South's ace, on which East discards a low spade, confirming that West started with seven hearts for his preemptive three-heart bid.

This goes a long way toward solving declarer's problem. South pursues his quarry by cashing three rounds of spades, learning that West started with two spades — neither more nor less — and also learning that West started with exactly two clubs when the A-K-Q of clubs are next cashed.

The question of how to play the diamonds is now solved. West is known to have started with precisely seven hearts, two spades and two clubs, and therefore exactly two diamonds.

So South cashes his two high diamonds without giving a thought to a finesse, and the slam comes marching home.

## OU

Continued from Page 7

2-minute drill and say, 'Why don't they do that the whole game?' You've got to be in great shape and it takes a commitment to it," Rodriguez said in a phone interview.

"It is an adjustment. You grow up from Pop Warner days, running a play, then getting in the huddle, calling a play, then jogging to the line and running a play. Then repeating it. And here you run a play, then run another play. It goes against the grain of what you grow up on."

And it can really catch an opponent off-guard, as anyone can tell who watched Utah jump on Alabama with the no-huddle in the Utes' surprising 28-17 Sugar Bowl victory.

Rodriguez has a kindred spirit on the Oklahoma staff in offensive coordinator Kevin Wilson. Both devotees of the spread offense, they've often shared ideas and philosophies.

Wilson had used the no-huddle while working under the late Randy Walker at Northwestern and Miami of Ohio.

So when Stoops came to Wilson and said he'd like to the Sooners to pick up the pace, Wilson had a plan ready to go. The tools were in place, too.

## DPOY

Continued from Page 7

"I've got a whole bunch more to go to even be mentioned in the category of that group of guys," Harrison said.

What Harrison has done in a brief time is remarkable enough.

Harrison earned 22 votes to 13 for Dallas linebacker DeMarcus Ware in balloting by a nationwide panel of 50 sports writers and broadcasters. The award began in 1971 and, while a large percentage of the winners were first-round draft picks, Harrison is a different kind of first — the only non-drafted player to win.

"It couldn't happen to a better guy," wide receiver Hines Ward said. "He's worked his tail off to get to where he is. You appreciate it more, considering where he came from and how he got here."

Supposedly too short and not quite fast enough to play in the league, Harrison was helped along by two major breaks after not getting any for a couple of years.

A week before the Steelers went to camp in 2004, outside linebacker Clark Haggans was injured, causing coach Bill Cowher to bring back Harrison literally

Rodriguez said the speed at which a team can run the no-huddle is directly tied to the experience and smarts of the quarterback and the offensive line.

In Bradford, Oklahoma had a quarterback who set NCAA records in 2007 as a redshirt freshman. Up front, the Sooners had four seniors and a junior in the starting lineup.

The next step for Wilson was teaching his players and getting them to commit.

"It really took a long time," Oklahoma center Jon Cooper said. "We were in two-a-days and we thought we were going as fast as we can and coach Wilson completely stopped what we were doing and started yelling at us and saying, 'This isn't going to work, this isn't fast enough.'"

"We were kind of like, 'I don't know how we're going to go any faster.'"

The change of pace was especially tough on the huge offensive linemen.

"When we first started back in the spring, I think the whole O-line was a little skeptical," said tackle Phil Loadholt, who dropped from 350 to about 335 pounds to be better suited to run the no-huddle. "We used to look forward to maybe after a play, go back get in the huddle and maybe take a couple of deep breathes."

By the end of preseason, Wilson had seen enough progress to go

with the no-huddle.

The Sooners scored 109 points in their first two games, but still they weren't going fast enough for Wilson.

"We had to teach our guys, you don't have time to celebrate," he said. "Give the ball to the referee. The faster the ball's in play, the faster we can play."

As if having a lineup filled with NFL prospects wasn't enough for defenses to worry about when facing Oklahoma, now they had to stress about simply getting set.

TCU, which had the No. 2 defense in the country before the bowls, allowed 35 points in the first half to Oklahoma.

Horned Frogs coach Gary Patterson said he's never seen a team play that fast early in a game. The Frogs drew two penalties for having too many men on the field, and gave up a couple of easy touchdowns because they were not prepared for the snap.

"That was my fault because I tried to put in a call late as they were coming to the line of scrimmage and it just wouldn't work," Patterson said in a phone interview. "When I finally let my kids play, they played at lot better."

Having scored at least 60 points in each of their last five games, the Sooners seem to have mastered the no-huddle, right? Not according to Loadholt.

"It's still not perfect yet."

hours before camp began. Harrison had been cut three times previously by Pittsburgh. Later that season, Joey Porter got into a pregame fight in Cleveland, and Harrison unexpectedly made his first NFL start.

"Somebody else's misfortune is somebody else's fortune," Harrison said. "It's just hard work, perseverance and little blessings here and there."

A lot of sacks, too — 24½ the last two seasons.

The intense, competitive Harrison began progressing after he quit fighting the structure and regimen of pro ball, so much so the Steelers released Porter after the 2006 season and made Harrison a starter. He was chosen by his teammates as their MVP in each of the two seasons since.

"It should have been unanimous," quarterback Ben Roethlisberger said.

This season, Harrison had a team-record 16 sacks and led the league with seven forced fumbles as the Steelers allowed the fewest total yards, passing yards and points.

They just missed — by about 60 yards — becoming the first defense since the 1970 NFL merger to lead the league in the four major defensive statistics.

"I do what the defense allows

me to do and what my teammates allow me to do," Harrison said. "If those other 10 guys do their job, I do my job and play within the confines of the defense and how coach (Dick) LeBeau teaches us, I make the plays I'm able to make."

Teammate James Farrior said Harrison's workouts remain the talk of the locker room. Harrison works out as many as three times daily during the offseason, adding an evening workout if he didn't like one of his daytime sessions.

"He's very tuned into what he has to do to make himself better," Farrior said. "That's all he strives for, to try to be better than anybody else, and you can see his determination when he's out there on the field."

Harrison still plays on special teams — he had 12 tackles there — and is so willing to take on extra roles that he filled in as a long snapper when Greg Warren was hurt Oct. 26 against the Giants. Even when Harrison's bad snap led to a Giants safety, his teammates rushed to defend him.

While the Steelers had four Defensive Players of the Year from 1972-76 (Greene (1972, 1974), Blount (1975) and Lambert (1976), Harrison and Woodson are their only winners in the last 32 years.



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**BY HOLIDAY MATHIS**

The excitement of Jupiter newly exploring the vibrant Aquarian constellation can already be felt. Inklings about the future tickle our imaginations and the moon gliding through practical Taurus is just in time to provide some real sensible action to support these dreams. In the midst of this evolution, stop and appreciate where you are now.



**HOLIDAY MATHIS**

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). The future will arrive on your doorstep without regard to your level of personal preparation. Luckily, you adapt quickly -- it's one of your superpowers. And today you also have wise counsel around if you need help.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Elders feel entitled to personal opinions, as you do. It benefits you to give them more room. And perhaps when they sense this shift they will realize you are entitled to your opinions, as well. Peaceful dialogue results.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You bring down the guard and let someone into your real life. Will they accept you? Well, it might take a moment to adjust so be patient. Remember, it has taken a fair amount of time for you to accept yourself.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). You thrive under the

**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

same pressure that would flatten your fellows. It is not a mystery to those who know you why you were chosen as leader. Work your magic and your project goes straight to the top.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Your generous nature is at times taken for granted. Today loved ones appreciate you, even though they do not show it well. Your kindness has a far-reaching effect so it's important that you keep it up. Besides, it feels good to give.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Silly thoughts fill your head -- record them for story- and joke-telling. Nearly everyone you encounter agrees you are hilarious. Do not wait for more proof of your rare talent before giving yourself confidence to share it.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When you feel a sense of intrigue at the thought of going to the grocery store, it is indeed time to get out more! You do not have to join high society; just meet a friend for a coffee.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your job is complete. You have worked all you can with what you have. After you sweep up, do not forget to turn out the lights. As you do, the lights come up on the brand new adventure that awaits you.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You have remarkable powers of concentration. Even though you're practically living in a three-ring circus and noise is audible everywhere (it even permeates your bedroom)

you stay focused and centered.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your chic style, lovely as it is, may not garner attention from the cameras, but luckily for you it will catch the eye of the person for whom it is intended. An ember is ignited!

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The news you hear may require a little time getting used to, but it is time well spent. Ease into ideas. In all likelihood, your lifestyle is not being threatened in any way by the choices of others.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). When someone pushes your buttons, remember how recent it was that you used to play the same game. Instead of getting mad, show compassion in the form of letting it go.

**ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS:** "Do I have a chance of hooking up with Robert Pattinson? Ever sense I first saw him in 'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire' I thought we were destined for each other. Now everyone is so into him because of 'Twilight,' but I liked him first. I feel that I'm going to meet him. What do you think? My birthday is 3/1/1993."

As a Pisces you are highly intuitive and I wouldn't doubt that your connection works out in an uncanny way. When I was your age I had a feeling about a certain actor and four years later he literally knocked on my apartment door. He had gotten engaged to a friend of my roommates. It was one of the more surreal

moments of my life at that point, seeing the real-life version of someone I had felt so connected to through the magic of media. Caught off guard by the moment, I basically said all of the wrong things and made a horrible first impression. Years later I saw the same actor in a different city returning a movie to a video store. I introduced myself again and he literally ran the other direction. But enough about me. Come back tomorrow for the astrological breakdown of Robert Pattinson's natal chart.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Rowan Atkinson is one of Britain's top comedy acts. A Capricorn with Mercury in Capricorn shows that Atkinson reveres tradition and is conservative in many ways. His comedy taps into the universal feeling that though most people are trying to follow the rules and fit into our place in society, we often feel inadequately equipped to do so -- that's the painful and hilarious truth.

*If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to [www.creators.com](http://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](http://www.creators.com).*

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**Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need**

Dear Annie: My husband and I married six years ago. The year before, my parents faced financial ruin and the loss of their home. I took it upon myself to cover their legal costs (about \$12,000) and managed to save their house from seizure. In recognition of this, my brother, "Owen," generously contributed \$2,500 toward the cost of our wedding.

Now it's Owen's turn to get married. The wedding will be at a fancy private club 4,000 miles away. My husband and I have a toddler and a newborn. I stay home to care for them, which has cut down on our income. Nevertheless, we have purchased the plane tickets and made the necessary hotel and babysitting arrangements.

Now Owen has asked my husband to contribute to their wedding by paying for a luncheon after the rehearsal, with the costs to be split between my other brother and me. (This brother is also traveling at great expense.)

Annie, when I married, we had no money for our rehearsal dinner, so we invited everyone over for a casual BBQ in our backyard. I suspect this is not good enough for Owen's fiancée and that she is pressuring him. However, I can't help but feel that such a demand is pushy and tacky. I know Owen feels we owe him, but at the time, he had the money and offered it freely. I am really uncomfortable with this request.



**KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR**

How should I respond? -- Appalled in Montreal

Dear Montreal: We agree that it's tacky for Owen to demand this as repayment, but it would be nice if you would offer to do something for him. Tell Owen you simply don't have the wherewithal for a fancy affair, but you and your brother would be happy to host something more modest or make a reasonable contribution toward the luncheon of his choice. Be sweet about it, but don't let him pressure you into giving more than you can afford. And if you can afford nothing, be upfront and say so.

Dear Annie: My husband and I have been married for nine years. It's my second marriage. We have had several disagreements over my children. He doesn't like any of them and makes it very difficult for me to have a relationship with them.

Sometimes it seems he's only staying with me because he took vows. He also has nowhere else to go. Lately he has been so

rude that I get the sense he wants me to leave him so he can tell his friends and family it's all my fault. We hardly talk or spend time together. We are usually in different parts of the house.

I am afraid to say or do anything because he will criticize me for it. I was in love with this man at one point, but now I am just trying to survive. We attempted counseling, but he quit. I really need some help. -- Losing My Marriage

Dear Losing: Your marriage sounds miserable. If your husband won't get counseling, please go back to your previous counselor or find another, and go on your own. A counselor will work on the problem, suggest ways that might improve the situation and help you make decisions about what to do next.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Not the Land of Enchantment," who is depressed living in her new town. In your list of suggestions, I'm surprised you didn't include contacting the local humanist organization or the nearest Unitarian Church, both of which welcome atheists. I bet she'll find some friends there. -- Shelton, Wash.

Dear Shelton: Thank you for the great suggestions. Dozens of readers recommended the Unitarian Church as a place that welcomes atheists. She can find locations through the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations at [uua.org](http://uua.org). For information on the humanist movement, she can contact New Humanists at [humanism.org](http://humanism.org) or the Institute for Humanist Studies at [humanists.net](http://humanists.net).

Dear Annie: For two years, I attended a good all-girls Catholic high school. Because of my poor grades, I was expelled and am now enrolled in a public school. I really don't like

it and long to be back with my friends.

I have asked my mother and stepfather about reenrollment, but they said even if it were possible for me to return, they can't afford it with the state of the economy these days. Financial aid is not an option because their income exceeds the amount needed to be eligible.

My father said if I really wanted to go back, he would find a way to pay the tuition. Annie, I know he would never deliberately lie to me, but he's not rich and I'm not sure he can manage it.

I desperately want to get back to my old school, but it seems hopeless. I'll do anything it takes, but it seems impossible. Any suggestions? -- Losing Hope

Dear Losing Hope: We know you miss your friends, but there are consequences when you don't take your education seriously enough to get passing grades. It is unfair to expect your father or anyone else to put themselves in financial jeopardy because you messed up.

We think you can make new friends at your current school. However, it's possible your parents would be willing to pool their resources so neither one gets stuck with the entire tuition bill, and it's OK to ask them about that. And, honey, if you get back into the Catholic school, you'd better make them proud.

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

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Table with 29 columns representing different TV channels and their programming schedules for the week of January 5, 2009.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"DON'T GIVE UP, RUFF. DAD'LL HAVE A PATH TO YOUR TREE ANY MINUTE NOW."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

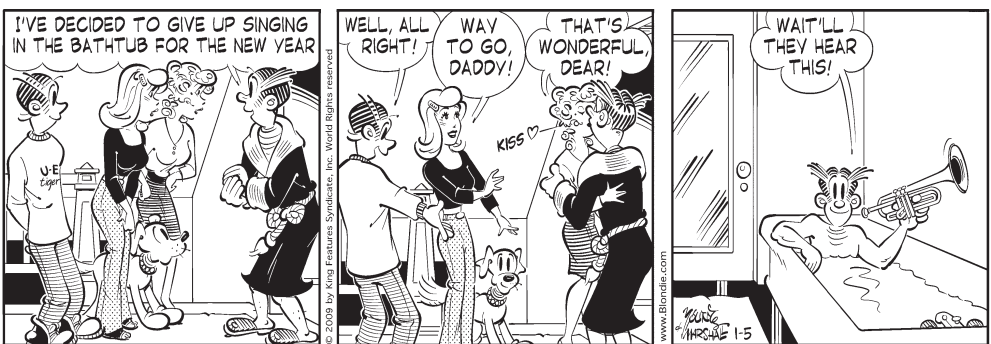


"... for little kids do they have kitten scans?"

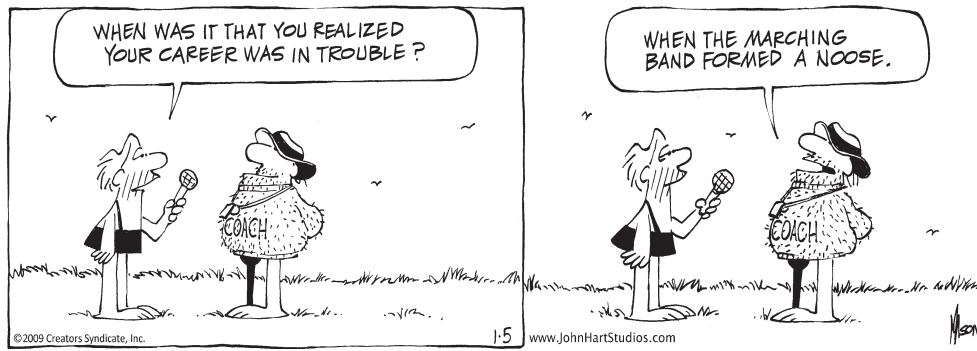
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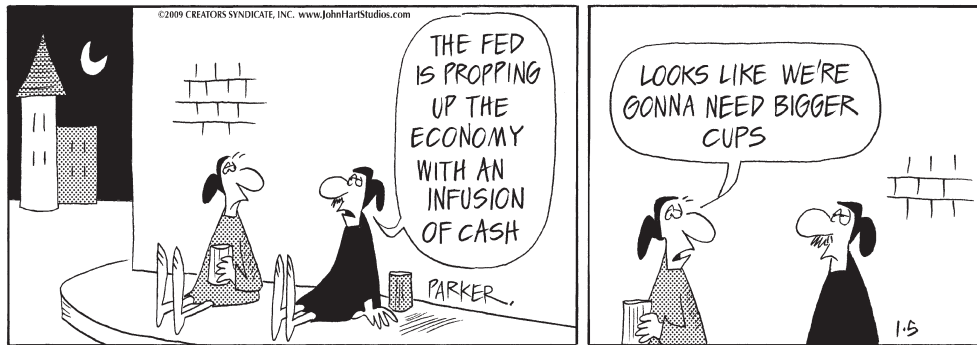
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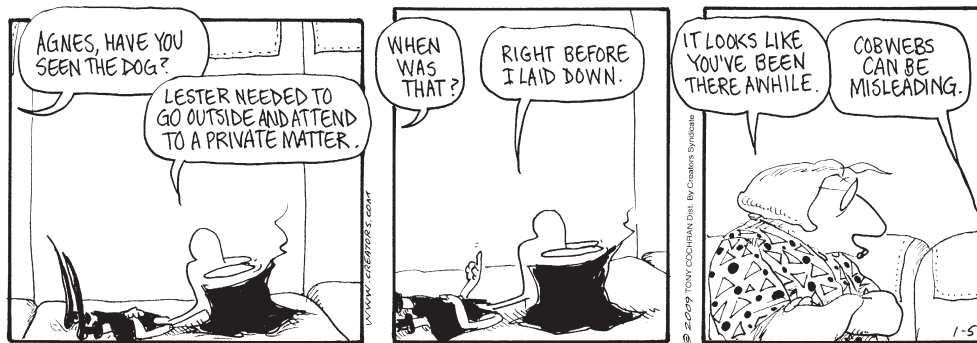
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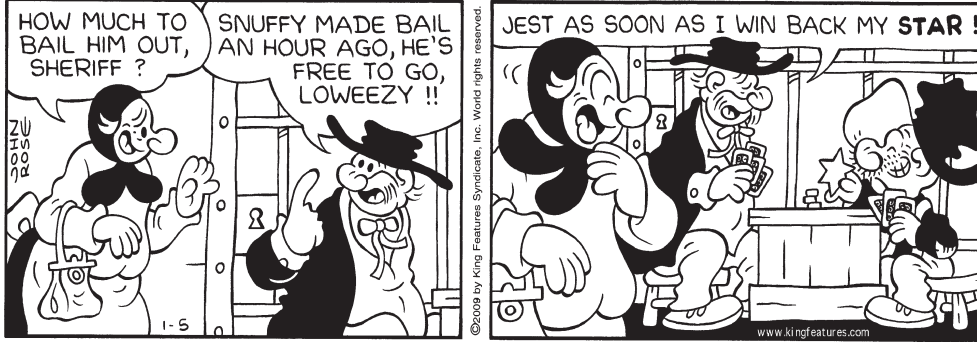
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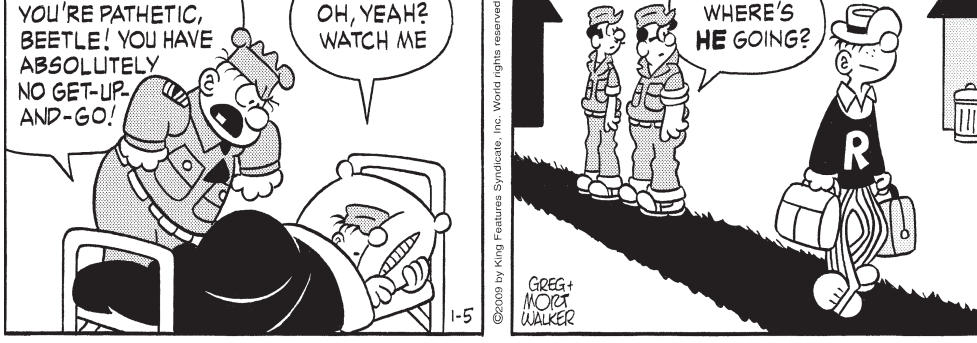
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Monday, Jan. 5, the fifth day of 2009. There are 360 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 5, 1896, an Austrian newspaper, Wiener Presse, reported the discovery by German physicist Wilhelm Roentgen of a type of radiation that came to be known as "X-rays."

On this date: In 1781, a British naval expedition led by Benedict Arnold burned Richmond, Va.

In 1809, the Treaty of the Dardanelles, which ended the Anglo-Turkish War, was concluded by the United Kingdom and the Ottoman Empire.

In 1895, French Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, convicted of treason, was publicly stripped of his rank. (He was ultimately vindicated.)

In 1925, Nellie T. Ross became governor of Wyoming; she was the first female governor in U.S. history. (She succeeded

Frank E. Lucas, who had served as acting governor following the death of Ross' husband, William B. Ross.)

In 1933, the 30th president of the United States, Calvin Coolidge, died in Northampton, Mass., at age 60.

In 1949, in his State of the Union address, President Harry S. Truman labeled his administration the Fair Deal.

In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower proposed assistance to countries to help them resist Communist aggression; this became known as the Eisenhower Doctrine.

In 1970, Joseph A. Yablonski, an unsuccessful candidate for the presidency of the United Mine Workers of America, was found murdered with his wife and daughter at their Clarksville, Pa., home. UMW President Anthony Boyle and three others were convicted of the killings.

In 1994, Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, died in Boston at age 81.

In 1998, Sonny Bono, the 1960's pop star-turned-politician, was killed when he struck a tree while skiing in South Lake Tahoe, Calif.; he was 62.

Today's Birthdays: Former Vice President Walter F. Mondale is 81. Actor Robert Duvall is 78. Football Hall-of-Fame coach Chuck Noll is 77. King Juan Carlos of Spain is 71. Talk show host Charlie Rose is 67. Actress-director Diane Keaton is 63. Actor Ted Lange is 61. Rhythm-and-blues musician George "Funky" Brown (Kool and the Gang) is 60. Rock musician Chris Stein (Blondie) is 59. Actress Pamela Sue Martin is 56. Actor Clancy Brown is 50. Singer Iris Dement is 48. Actor Ricky Paull Goldin is 44. Actor Vinnie Jones is 44. Rock musician Kate Schellenbach (Luscious Jackson) is 43. Actress Heather Paige Kent is 40.

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Answer to previous puzzle: A crossword puzzle grid with words filled in.

Newsday Crossword

NOT RIGHT NOW by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS and DOWN crossword clues and a crossword grid.