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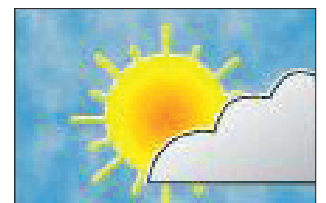
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VOLUME 104, NUMBER 232

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U.S. Rep. Neugebauer to hold coffee here

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Congressman Randy Neugebauer will be in Big Spring Wednesday to discuss a number of issues that could effect the Crossroads area, including the World Trade Organization's recent intervention in the lawsuit between Brazil and the U.S.

Neugebauer, who will be at the Hall Center for the Arts on the Howard College campus from 3 p.m. until 4 p.m. Wednesday, said he's happy to see the WTO scale back the recent \$2.6 billion request for damages Brazil is waging against U.S. cotton producers, and is currently preparing to meet with U.S. trade repre-

sentatives on the matter.

"The WTO also denied Brazil's request to impose penalties on U.S. services exports or suspend agreements on intellectual property rights agreements, limiting Brazil to \$294 million in trade sanctions against U.S. goods," said Neugebauer. "While the WTO recognized that the United

States repealed the Step 2 program, the WTO should have also considered the additional reforms made in the 2008 Farm Bill for cotton and export credit programs.

"I do not believe Brazil should be allowed to take actions against the United

See **COFFEE**, Page 3A

What: Coffee forum with U.S. Rep. Randy Neugebauer.

Where: Howard College's Hall Center for the Arts.

When: 3 p.m. Wednesday.



County eyes new tax rate

Expected to be lower than effective rate, Judge Barr comments

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners agreed Monday to keep the 2009-2010 tax rate below the rollback rate, and if last-minute budget issues go their way, the rate could fall well below the effective rate of nearly 61 cents per \$100 valuation.

The decision will be good news for county taxpayers, who are already looking at a considerable jump in their taxes compared to last year when higher mineral values enabled the court to set a 53.62 cent tax rate.

The court agreed to pursue a tax rate of 55.8656 per \$100 valuation during the meeting, and according to County Judge Mark Barr, as long as nothing "rips, rattles or tears" between now and Sept. 28, the commissioners court will set the new rate in stone.

See **COUNTY**, Page 3A



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

Howard County commissioners discuss the 2009-2010 tax rate during a meeting of the court Monday morning. The court agreed to move forward with a rate of 55.8656 cents per \$100 valuation.

Garcia, Hernandez repeat as city champs

Duo dominates the course at annual Big Spring city golf tournament

Herald Staff Report

Chalk up another title for local golfers Charlie Garcia and Susie Hernandez.

Garcia claimed his third straight Big Spring City Championship over the weekend, shooting a two-day total of 139.

Garcia was four strokes better than his closest competition — Justin Myers who posted a 143. Flea Martinez was third with a 145.

Meanwhile in the women's division, a repeat championship performance was turned in by Susie Hernandez as well. Hernandez defended her title with a two-day total of

150 — 20 strokes better than her closest competition.

The second flight, or Chad Campbell flight, was won by Blake Nichols, who won a playoff with Mike Mendoza. Both men shot 154.

In the Ben Crenshaw Flight, Josh Helmstetler claimed the top prize, shooting a 164. Helmstetler's score was a

stroke better than Dutch Barr's 165.

The Lee Trevino Flight was won by Howard Bain, who won a three-way playoff over Tim Strain and James Taylor. Each man shot 175.

Gary Burton won the Chi Chi Rodriguez Flight with a 183. Robert Jackman, who won the third flight in the

2008 tournament, finished second with a 186.

Finally, in the Senior, or Byron Nelson, Flight, Jim Roger dominated the competition with a 148 — 21 strokes better than his closest competition.

The shot of the tournament belongs to Shane Gressett,

See **CHAMPS**, Page 3A

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Murder sentence affirmed

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

A Big Spring man convicted of murder in November 1998 had his 17-½ year sentence affirmed by the 11th District Court of Appeals last week.

Ramon Cisneros was convicted of the June 22, 1998, murder of James Milton Neely, 51, a local Vietnam veteran. According to testimony during the 1998 trial, Cisneros — along with his lifelong friend, Den-

nis Boswell — threw Neely from the U.S. Highway 87 overpass into the eastbound lane of Interstate Highway 20, killing him.

Cisneros testified his girlfriend at the time — Jennifer Callaway of Big Spring, who later married the defendant prior to the trial — had pointed Neely out to the pair at the truck stop located at the intersection of the two major highways, saying he had "hurt her" some two years earlier while she was working at a Gregg

Street business.

Witnesses testified both Cisneros and Boswell left the truck stop — a Rip Griffins truck center at that time — in pursuit of Neely, who was walking south on Highway 87.

"I made Dennis let me out (of the vehicle)," Cisneros testified. "I chased after him."

According to witnesses, Boswell repeatedly attempted to stop Cisne-

See **AFFIRMED**, Page 3A

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Rangers flirt with major comeback in 18-11 loss

STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON — Adam Lind helped power the Toronto Blue Jays to a big early lead with his first career grand slam. He then put the game finally out of reach after Texas cut an 11-run deficit to one.

Lind finished with a career-high eight RBIs after adding a solo homer and three-run double in a seven-run ninth for Toronto in a wild 18-10 over the slipping Rangers on Monday night.

"You know you have to outslug these guys. They came back tonight and showed why they're in the hunt for the playoffs," Lind said. "I hit it on the sweet spot on a couple of pitches."

Rod Barajas also homered twice and drove in five runs. He hit a three-run homer in a five-run first, a sacrifice fly in the third and led off the fifth with a 438-foot blast into the Toronto bullpen in left-center for an 11-0 lead.

And, when the Rangers started hitting, it appeared that might not be enough.

"No lead is comfortable here. You have to produce," said Barajas, who played in Texas from 2004-06. "Once we got to 11 runs, I was hoping it would be good. ... We were lucky to hang on."

The Rangers pulled to 11-10 in the seventh on Chris Davis' sacrifice fly to deep center, where Vernon Wells made a leaping catch on the warning track to keep another runner at first base. But they didn't score again,

coming up short of their largest comeback in team history.

"We put ourselves in the position to make a push there at the end. You have to give credit, they piled on runs in the ninth," Rangers third baseman Michael Young said. "We don't really consider this to be a deflating loss."

But the Rangers (72-58) wrapped up a losing August and dropped four games behind idle Boston in the AL wild-card race.

Lind's slam made it 10-0 with no outs in the fourth and chased Rangers rookie left-hander Derek Holland (7-9).

The eight RBIs matched the most in the majors this year. They were also the most in the American League in two years, and the most by a Toronto player since Roy Howell had a team-

record nine 32 years ago.

Toronto set a season high for runs after being limited to 14 runs combined the previous five games.

"We finally score some runs and can't hold it," manager Cito Gaston said. "If you walk away losing this game, what a shame."

Toronto led for good after Marco Scutaro had a leadoff single and Aaron Hill an RBI double within the first three pitches of the game by Holland, who had been 4-0 his last five starts at Rangers Ballpark.

"I was pitiful," Holland said. "Definitely didn't have command. I didn't throw the ball where it needed to be thrown. ... I couldn't establish any of my pitches."

See **RANGERS**, Page 2B



AP photo/Sue Ogrocki

Texas A&M quarterback Jerrod Johnson, carries the ball in an NCAA football game against Oklahoma State in Stillwater, Okla., Sept. 4, 2008.

Johnson outduels Tannehill

Former Steer odd man out in A&M QB battle

CHRIS DUNCAN

AP Sports Writer

COLLEGE STATION — Jerrod Johnson will be Texas A&M's starting quarterback in Saturday's opener against New Mexico because of the experience he gained last season.

He'll have to find a new favorite target, though, because his top receiver from 2008 is now his full-time backup.

Ryan Tannehill led the Aggies with 55 catches for 844 yards in 2008. But the 6-foot-4 sophomore nearly took Johnson's job in a tight competition during August practices. Coach Mike Sherman officially named Johnson the starter last week, only giving him the nod because he started 10 games in 2008.

"Ryan knew going in that it would take a knockout punch to unseat a returning starter at that position," Sherman said Monday at his first weekly news conference of the season. "Ryan competed very favorably and it was neck-and-neck until the end."

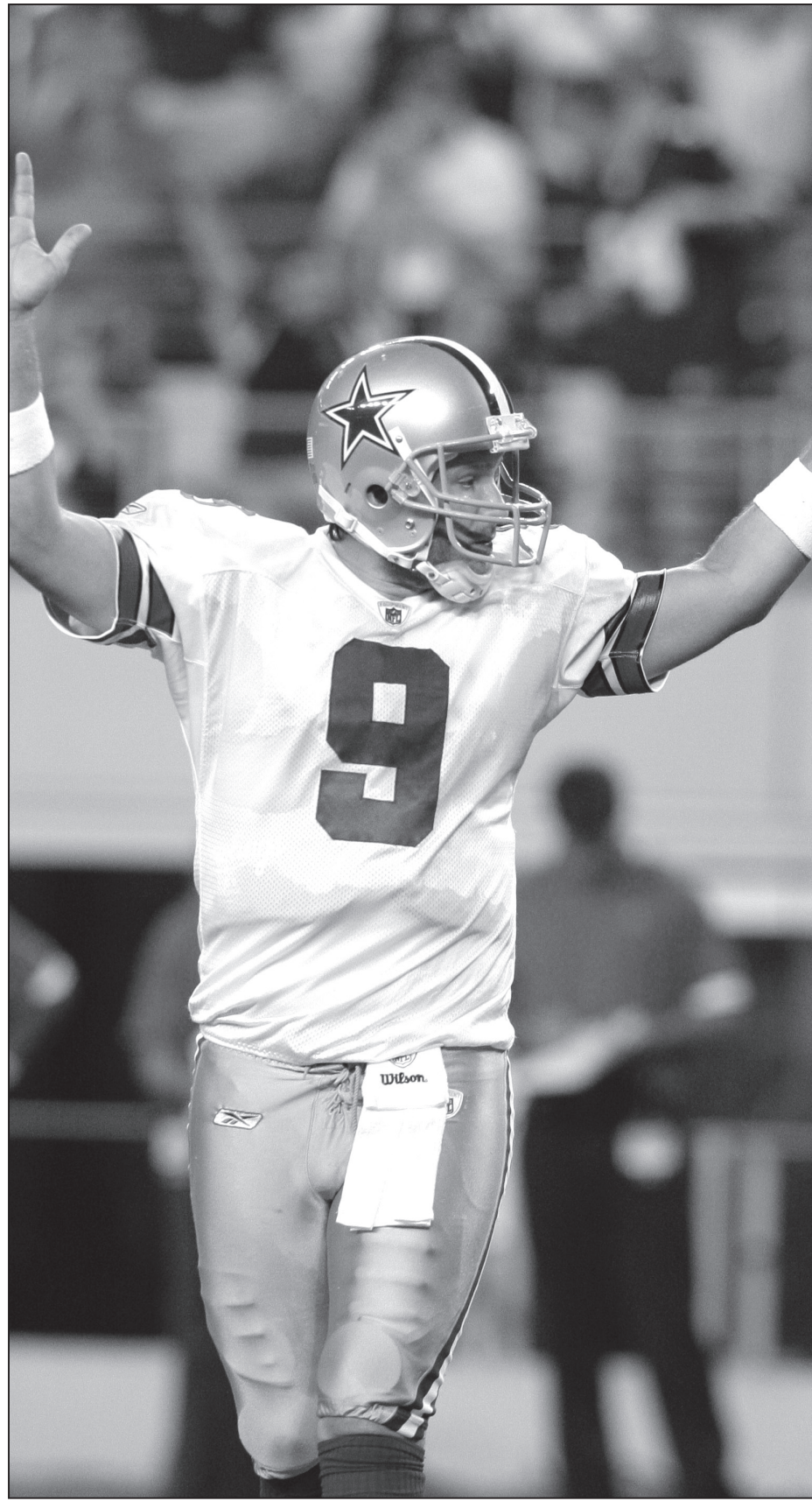
"There's only winners in this, because we came out of it with two very good quarterbacks."

The Aggies have improved depth at receiver this season and Tannehill is listed only as the reserve quarterback on the two-deep roster. Tannehill said he may line up at receiver in certain situations, but has taken snaps only at quarterback in preseason drills.

Tannehill admitted he was disappointed when Sherman told him that he'd picked Johnson to start the opener.

"It's definitely hard when you work so hard for something and you don't get what you want," said Tannehill, a former standout

See **A&M**, Page 2B



AP photo/LM Otero

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo (9) reacts as running back Felix Jones scores in the first half of a NFL preseason game against the San Francisco 49ers Saturday.

Blowout central: Texas likes first-game romps

JIM VERTUNO

AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN — While the NFL has its preseason, college football powerhouses like No. 2 Texas do their tuning up against teams that would seem to be little more than a speed bump on the road to chasing a national title.

The Longhorns begin their season Saturday night against Louisiana-Monroe, marking the 10th straight year Texas' first game has been against a team from a non-Bowl Championship Series conference. Seven of those came against Sun Belt Conference teams.

The results have been predictable. Texas has won those games by an average score of 49-6.

Few would expect otherwise Saturday, considering the Longhorns have Heisman-trophy contender Colt McCoy at quarterback and 15 returning starters from a team that went 12-1 last season.

The Warhawks? They went 4-8 a year ago and struggled in the Sun Belt.

Even so, the Longhorns promise there's no chance of looking past Louisiana-Monroe. Especially knowing the Warhawks went on the road to Alabama in 2007 and rolled out with a 21-14 win.

"They're going to get after you, especially considering how some people perceive them," said Texas linebacker-defensive end Sergio Kindle.

See **TEXAS**, Page 2B

Cowboys lose two more rooks

Williams, Hamlin make six Dallas rookies injured

JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — So much for the big boost on special teams the Dallas Cowboys were expecting from their rookie class, at least early this season.

Linebacker Jason Williams, the team's top draft pick, sustained a high ankle sprain and safety Michael Hamlin broke his arm in the preseason game against San Francisco on Saturday night.

Coach Wade Phillips said Monday that both will be out at least the next four weeks, and possibly six weeks.

Williams and Hamlin were among the draft picks expected to bring youthful energy to special teams, but that plan has been ruined with half of the 12-man class getting hurt this preseason.

Linebacker Brandon Williams already is out for the season because of a torn knee ligament and tackle Robert Brewster probably is, too, because of a torn pectoral muscle.

"It hurts us," Phillips said. "We thought that these guys were going to come in, and it looked like they were, going to come in and help us on special teams. It won't be the case for a little while for a couple of those guys and for Brandon Williams it won't be at all."

See **COWBOYS**, Page 2B



AP photo

Texas Head Coach Mack Brown looks on during a Longhorns football practice in Austin Aug. 19. Brown and the Longhorns open the season Saturday, hosting the University of Louisiana, Monroe.

Obituaries

Arnoldo 'Chubby' Abrego

Arnoldo "Chubby" Abrego, 47, of Big Spring died Monday, Aug. 31, 2009, at Midland Memorial Hospital. Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. Wednesday at First Baptist Church with the Rev. Jim Binnix, pastor of Midway Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

He was born March 6, 1962, in Big Spring to Laura and Timothy Abrego. Arnoldo married JoAnn Castillo Jan. 24, 1986, in Big Spring. He worked as a Southside Operator at Alon Refinery. He was a lifetime resident of Howard County and was a member of Midway Baptist Church. Arnoldo was an avid Coahoma Bulldog and Dallas Cowboy fan and loved his Harley motorcycle.

He is survived by his wife, JoAnn Abrego of Big Spring; two sons, Adrian Abrego and Guadalupe Abrego, both of Big Spring; mother, Laura Abrego of Big Spring; one brother, Alonzo Abrego and wife, Yolanda, of Lubbock; one sister, Linda Rodriguez and husband, Luis, of San Antonio; a niece, Amy Abrego of Big Spring; mother-in-law, Paula Heredia of Big Spring; father-in-law, Guadalupe Castillo of Big Spring; three brothers-in-law, Eddie Castillo and wife, Rosemary, and Raul Castillo and wife, Cheryl, all of Big Spring, and Milton Castillo and wife, Belinda, of Midland; one sister-in-law, Amy Hagens and husband, Kenneth, of Big Spring; twelve other nieces and nephews; two great nephews; and his special pet and companion, Harley Jarrett Abrego.

Pallbearers will be his brothers in Christ forever, Gene Piercefield, Greg Parrish, Delloyd Hooser, Adrian Hernandez, Don Adams and Doug Tatum.

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

Marvin Tate

Marvin Tate, 76, of Big Spring died Monday, Aug. 31, 2009, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

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

- CHELSEA LEE RICHARDSON, 26, of 1425 E. Sixth St. Apt. 106, was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of a dangerous drug.
• BRINDL NIKKOLE FOUST, 30, 2511 Chanute, was arrested Monday on a charge of criminal trespass.
• THEFT was reported in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
• POSSESSION OF A DANGEROUS DRUG was reported in the 3900 block of Connally.
• CRIMINAL TRESPASS was reported in the 200 block of FM 700.
• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 100 block of 18th Street.
• ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported: in the 1900 block of Highway 87. in the 2500 block of Fairchild.

Sheriff

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 77 inmates at the time of this report.
• BRINDL FOUST, 30, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.
• CHELSEA LEE HOLMES, 26, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of animal at large, failure to appear, failure to maintain financial responsibility and possession of a dangerous drug.
• RAYMOND ANTHONY VARGAS, 21, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a probation violation for possession of marijuana — two ounces or less.
• MORGAN LEE WATSON, 46, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of failure to maintain financial responsibility, violation of a promise to appear (two counts), expired driver's license and a local warrant.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of N. Johnson. One person was transported to SMMC.
• MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
• MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
• MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
• MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of Armstrong. One person was transported to SMMC.
• MEDICAL was reported in the 2300 block of Gateville. One person was transported to SMMC.
• MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Stadium. One person was transported to SMMC.
• MEDICAL was reported in the 1400 block of Princeton. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

TODAY
• 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 Hodnett 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.

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

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

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

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

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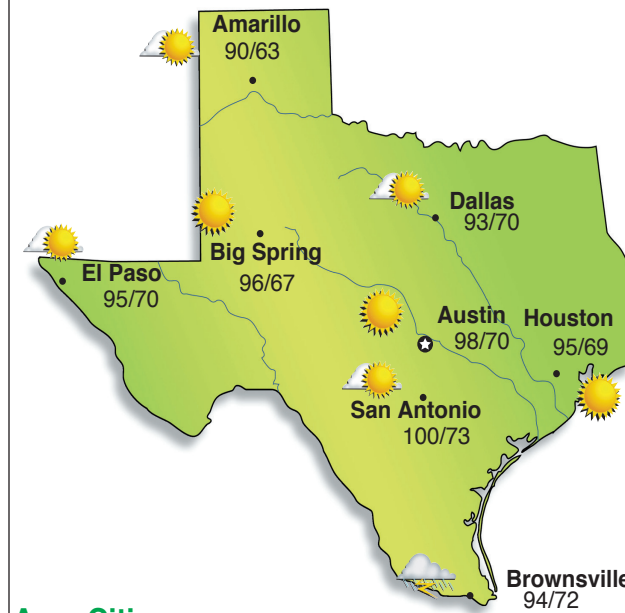
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Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast table with columns for Wed 9/2, Thu 9/3, Fri 9/4, Sat 9/5, Sun 9/6 and rows for temperature, conditions, sunrise, and sunset.

American Profile We Celebrate Hometown Life
Stories for and about hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities table with columns for City, Hi, Lo, Cond., and rows for Abilene, Amarillo, Austin, Beaumont, Brownsville, Brownwood, Corpus Christi, Corsicana, Dallas, Del Rio, El Paso, Fort Stockton, Gainesville, Greenville, Houston, Kingsville, Livingston, Longview, Lubbock, Lufkin, Midland, Raymondville, Rosenberg, San Antonio, San Marcos, Sulphur Springs, Sweetwater, Tyler, Weatherford, Wichita Falls.

Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 8 - 17 - 24 - 34. Bonus Ball: 7. Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 1.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 1 - 5 - 6 - 13 - 23. The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2 - 9 - 9 - 0. Sum It Up: 20.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9 - 5 - 2. Sum It Up: 16.

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Take Note

• DAV Chapter 47 will sponsor the third annual 9/11 Memorial at the Mall at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11 in front of the yellow ribbons at the Big Spring Mall. For more information, call Mike Tarpley, DAV junior vice commander at (432) 556-2227.

• The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglect children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. CASA currently has 10 active volunteers to serve the 55 plus children of Howard County in foster care. A class is forming in Howard County and 20 volunteers are needed. For more information on becoming a CASA volunteer, please contact Robyn LaForge at (432) 683-1114.

• West Texas Opportunities Inc., through a Job Access Reverse Commute project with the Texas Department of Transportation offers transportation to employment in Midland, on a limited schedule, Monday through Friday each week. This fixed route currently leaves Big Spring at 7 a.m. and makes a stop at the EZ Rider bus connection in downtown Midland. The route leaves Midland for the return to Big Spring at 4:15 p.m. As a promotional introduction, no fare is charged. Beginning April 1, the daily fare will be from \$3 to \$8, round-trip, depending on the number of passengers using the service. For more information, call Victor Enriquez, JARC coordinator, at West Texas Opportunities, (800) 245-9028.

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

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

• Bring joy and kindness to others by becoming a Compass Hospice volunteer. Help those at the end of life's journey. Make a difference in someone's life. Call 263-5999 to begin your journey.

TEXAS

Continued from Page 1B

Texas coach Mack Brown was fighting hard Monday against the perception that the Longhorns expect a romp.

No sooner was he finished talking about Louisiana-Monroe's best players and the Warhawks' team speed, then the first question in his weekly news conference was: In a blowout, what are his plans for when to pull the starting offense and will he let the second-team keep running the wide-open attack?

Later, he was dodging questions about when he'd pull McCoy for backup quarterback Garrett Gilbert, a freshman. Exasperated, Brown said he plans to play Gilbert at some point this season.

He shouldn't be too surprised considering the recent history. The run of blowouts would be even worse if not for a 21-13 win over Arkansas State in 2007.

Many Texas players remember that game and how, if not for a botched onside kick, Arkansas State would have had the ball in the closing moments with a chance to force overtime.

Even McCoy was sloppy in that one,

throwing two interceptions and having three others dropped by defenders.

Texas is hardly the only major program that has scheduled an opener that's expected to be an easy win. Top-ranked Florida begins its national title defense Saturday against Charleston Southern.

But in an era when strength-of-schedule matters in the BCS, Big 12 rival No. 3 Oklahoma plays No. 20 BYU on Saturday at the Dallas Cowboys' new stadium. And No. 9 Oklahoma State is hosting No. 13 Georgia in the marquee game of the weekend.

The last time Texas faced a school

from a BCS conference in the first game was 1999, Brown's second season. Unranked North Carolina State blocked three punts and beat No. 17 Texas 23-20.

Since then, it's been mostly Texas routs by scores like 66-7, 65-0 and 60-3.

In 2005, Texas opened with a 60-3 win over Louisiana-Lafayette to start a 13-0 season that ended with a national championship. The very next week, Texas went up to Ohio State and won the biggest intersectional game of the season.

There's no Ohio State-caliber opponent in the non-conference schedule this season.

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B

The other wounded draftees are quarterback Stephen McGee, who missed the last game and will miss the preseason finale because of a sprained knee, and linebacker Stephen Hodge, who is trying to control swelling on a knee. Phillips said Hodge may be able to practice this week.

The mounting injuries are more bad news for a draft class that was in the team's practice facility when it collapsed in May. None of them was seriously hurt, but there were 12 injuries, including a team scouting assistant who was paralyzed from the waist down and special teams coach Joe DeCamillis, who sustained a bro-

ken neck.

Jason Williams, Brewster, and McGee were the top three picks. Brandon Williams also was taken in the fourth round and Hamlin in the fifth. The only healthy players among Dallas' top seven picks are linebacker Victor Butler and cornerback DeAngelo Smith.

Soon, coaches will have to decide which injured players still deserve roster spots. The Cowboys have 76 players after cutting tackle Andre Douglas on Monday and must be down to 53 by Saturday.

Phillips said he's willing to keep Jason Williams and Hamlin and wait for them to get healthy. Dallas also is planning to carry two kickers: rookie David Buehler for kickoffs, Nick Folk for field goals. In the give-and-take world of roster juggling, that means the ranks will have be thinned at other positions. Dallas could decide

it's too much of a luxury keeping McGee as the third quarterback behind Tony Romo and Jon Kitna.

"We look at all the factors," Phillips said. "There's always competition at all the backup positions."

Phillips said most starters will play little, if at all in the preseason finale Friday night at Minnesota. Receiver Roy Williams (ankle) is expected to practice this week but was deemed "unlikely" for the game; receiver Sam Hurd (thigh) probably won't play against the Vikings, either. Defensive back Alan Ball is recovering from a concussion and will be held out, too.

Instead, this game will primarily will be the final audition for players trying to claim those precious last few roster spots.

"We know what Marion Barber's going to do, what Felix Jones and Romo and those guys are going to do, but it's unknown whether some of the

other guys can help that group or not," Phillips said. "So we'll see what they do. It'll be a good challenge for them."

Phillips sure made it sound like his starters are done with considering the way he reviewed the performance of his first-teamers for their body of work this preseason. Although Dallas is 1-2, Romo and the first-string offense have produced more than 450 yards and the defense has been pretty stingy.

"We'd like to have scored a few more times with all the yardage we've made offensively and defensively we'd like to have shut them out. But I think they've progressed well in the preseason against what you have to measure, which is the other team and how much they're doing," Phillips said. "We're not there yet, but I feel good about our first group."

A&M

Continued from Page 1B

quarterback at Big Spring High School. "At the same time, in life, things happen that way. You just have to be able to accept it and move on and just do the best you can every day."

Johnson completed 59.5 percent of his passes in 2008, but also threw 10 interceptions and ranked ninth in the Big 12 in pass efficiency.

Sherman partially blamed himself for the times

Johnson struggled, admitting that he threw too much of the complicated playbook at Johnson before he was ready to handle it. After a full season and a productive spring, Sherman expects Johnson to cut down his turnovers and make better, quicker decisions this year.

"Every once in a while, I'll have to remind him of it," Sherman said. "Sometimes, he'll hang on to a receiver downfield, he likes to throw the ball deep. He may lock onto somebody. But as far as how he's playing the game and how he's pushing the offense forward, I feel very comfortable with him."

Johnson said he feels more confident in the role than he was at this time last year, when he was backing up senior Stephen McGee. Sherman says he's simplified the terminology in the playbook and Johnson says he has a better grasp of it.

"I feel like I have a lot more control of what's going on," Johnson said. "I feel like I'm in a better rhythm. I like the stuff we're doing. It's more suited to my strengths. I understand the scheme a lot better than I did last year."

Sophomore Jeff Fuller, who led the Aggies with nine touchdown catches in 2008, said Johnson

showed how much progress he's made when he taught the offense to the younger receivers.

Fuller watched the quarterback competition closely and said the Aggies believe either one is capable of leading the team.

"I felt like it was a win-win situation, whichever way they went," Fuller said. "They're both really good players."

If Tannehill gets antsy sending in hand signals from the sideline, he can draw hope from last year's game against the Lobos in Albuquerque.

McGee beat out Johnson for the starting job last August, then sprained his throwing shoulder on A&M's opening series. Johnson replaced him, threw three touchdown passes in the Aggies' 28-22 victory and never relinquished the starting job again.

"You have to try to take a positive outlook on everything and always be ready," Tannehill said. "You just have to be prepared no matter what. Jerrod may not go down or miss a play throughout the whole season. Or he may come out on the first play. You never know. That's just the game of football."



By Steve Becker

Inducing a Defensive Error

West dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A 10
♥ 10 4 3
♦ A 8 7 6
♣ A 10 9 2

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

EAST
♠ 8 7 6 3
♥ Q J 9 6
♦ 10 5
♣ K 8 7

SOUTH
♠ K 4 2
♥ A 8 7 5 2
♦ K Q 3
♣ Q 4

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass 1♦ Pass 1♥
Pass 1NT Pass 3♦
Pass 3♥ Pass 4♥

Opening lead — queen of spades.

down one. The trumps are divided 4-1 and the diamonds 4-2, so he should lose three trump tricks and a club.

But if declarer plays his cards to best effect, he is likely to make the contract. Though he does not see the adverse cards and does not know that the trumps are divided 4-1, he should base all his plays on that assumption, since if the trumps are divided 3-2, the contract is assured. Accordingly, he wins the opening spade lead in dummy and returns the ten of hearts!

Now put yourself in East's shoes and imagine you see only your hand and dummy's. How many players do you know who would play the six on the ten?

Most of them would cover the ten with the jack, and declarer would then make the contract. He would play the ace, felling West's king, cash the king of spades, ruff a spade and lead dummy's remaining heart. East would eventually score the Q-9 of trumps and a club, but South would make the contract.

Note that if declarer's first trump lead from dummy were the three, East would almost surely play the six. South would then lose three trump tricks and a club and go down one because he failed to give East the chance to make a mistake.

Tomorrow: The one and only chance.
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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.

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

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

An inning before Wells' nifty catch, Texas stranded two runners when Marlon Byrd had an inning-ending deep flyball to center after RBI singles by Ian Kinsler and Josh Hamilton.

Brett Cecil (6-3) barely made it through the five innings needed for the victory. After four scoreless innings, Toronto's rookie left-hander gave up seven runs and took a Hamilton liner off his left hip before finally getting the final out of the fifth.

Kinsler had a two-run triple before Nelson Cruz hit a three-run homer that made it 11-7. In between, Michael Young had a sacrifice

fly and Hamilton got an infield single with the hard shot off Cecil.

After Gaston and a trainer checked on him, Cecil struggled through the rest of the inning before finally striking out David Murphy, the 10th batter in the frame, for the final out.

Young extended his majors-best hitting streak to 18 games overall with a single in the fourth, matching a Rangers record with a hit in his 23rd consecutive home game.

The 16 homers by Barajas, who has six of them his last 10 games, are his most since a career-best 21 in 2005 while playing for the Rangers.

NOTES: The only other player in the majors with eight RBIs this season was Washington's Josh Willingham at Milwaukee on July 27. The last AL player with at least eight RBIs was Garret Anderson of the Los Angeles Angels with 10 in a game two years ago. ... The largest deficit Texas has overcome to win was 10 runs. The Rangers trailed Detroit 14-4 on May 8, 2004, before rallying to win 16-15. ... Texas was 14-15 in August. ... It was Barajas' seventh career multihomer game. His only other one this season was also against the Rangers, in Toronto on April 22. Lind had his second multihomer game, both this season in Arlington. The other was June 8. ... Young matched Ivan Rodriguez's 23-game home hitting streak set in 1995.

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COFFEE

Continued from Page 1A

States based on a cotton program and a cotton market situation that are both significantly different today than when this case started. Since this case started, U.S. cotton production has decreased, but Brazil, China and India have all increased their cotton production. Given this ruling, I look forward to meeting with United States Trade Representative Ron Kirk next week to discuss these important issues. As always, I look forward to providing you an update on this upcoming meeting."

Neugebauer said he's excited to be able to hold informative "coffee meetings" across District 19, providing him with an opportunity to hear about the issues on the minds of his constituents. "These coffees provided me a wonderful opportunity to hear how upset the people of the 19th District are about what is going on in Washington," he said. "I want you to know that I'm angry too. Since the beginning of the year, Congress and the administration have been on a spending spree and the American people have had enough. I hope other members of Congress are hearing the same message from

those they represent. "At the coffees, many of you took the time to fill out forms with your thoughts and concerns. Soon, I will be sharing those thoughts with the entire nation from the House Floor and I will also deliver them to the White House, as well, so the President knows how West Texans feel about his health care reform proposal." For more on these meetings, visit www.randy.house.gov or call 888-763-1611.

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

Texas briefs

Report: Texas highest rate of repeat teen births

DALLAS (AP) — A new report says that Texas has the highest rate of repeat teen births of any state at 23 percent. Child Trends, a nonpartisan national research group, said in its report that among 73 major U.S. cities in 2006, the latest year for which city-level data are available, Dallas had the highest repeat percentage of repeat teen birth at 28 percent. Houston lead U.S. cities in girls under 15 giving birth. Among seven metro areas, Arlington had the lowest rate repeat teen birth rate at 19 percent, while Fort Worth's 25-percent rate was in a tie nationally for seventh-highest. Also making the list were San Antonio with 26 percent, and Houston and

Austin, both with repeat teen birth rates of 24 percent.

Bengal tiger at Amarillo Zoo dies

AMARILLO (AP) — Amarillo Zoo officials say a 19-year-old Bengal tiger that was struggling with seizures has been euthanized. The 225-pound tiger named Holly was put down over the weekend after it was determined her condition would not improve, curator Rhonda Votino said in Tuesday's Amarillo Globe-News. The large cat had been a big favorite among zoo visitors. Votino says Holly had been treated for arthritis for months. The seizures began about a week ago and medication did not help.

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

"We've been looking at (a tax rate of) around 55 cents to 60 cents, which is below the effective tax rate," said Barr. "The difference between the tax rate last year and this year is the drop in mineral values, which has been dramatic. Anytime your values go down, your tax rate goes up. I think everyone understands oil prices dropped significantly last year. "We're going to fine tune the budget a little bit because there are still some things we have to go over. However, as far as the big stuff is concerned, we pretty much have that nailed down at this point. We just have to go over some of the minor

things to make sure everyone is on the same page." Barr said this year's budget will include approximately \$1 million more than last year's fiscal plan, allowing the commissioners court to address some growing problems within the county. "Right now we're looking at adding \$1 million to the budget," said Barr. "Approximately half of that is for law enforcement, including deputies and jailers. That's where we've directed the majority of our attention this year. This is something the entire court is very concerned about. With the drive-by shootings we've had and the way the city has stepped up their anti-narcotics efforts, there's been

a lot more violence. And when you step up these efforts in the city, it spills out into the county. So that's something we've had to adapt to. "When you have a deputy driving down Highway 87 and a bullet comes through the windshield and another one ends up lodged in the refrigerator of an elderly woman who lives nearby, it's time to do something about it. So we've really directed the majority of the additional money in this budget toward law enforcement." Barr said he feels like the budget — which the commissioners court began working on several months ago — not only addresses immediate needs, but also lays out a fiscal plan that will allow the county to address

several other problems in the next several years. "I feel like we've come up with a really good plan for the coming year. We've put some money in for the roads," said Barr. "Also, the county and district clerk offices both need new software, and we're also looking at that. We're also putting some money into the budget for the fair buildings at the county fair grounds, and we're hoping to build up some funds for that facility so we can do something with it. These are all things we're looking at two to five years out from now, and we're setting money back to help cover the eventual cost of them." Prudent planning has already paid off for the court when it comes to the operating costs of the new county jail, which

opened its doors earlier this year. Concerns expressed last year during the designing of the facility regarding utility costs for the new jail seem to have worked out nicely for county coffers, according to Commissioner Jerry Kilgore. "We've seen a drop in the utility bills here at the courthouse since the new jail was built and we moved in," said Kilgore. "Of course, that's offset by the expenses we've seen out at the jail. But for the most part, the cost has been right around where we thought it would be, or a little lower." With Monday's decision not to go above the rollback rate of 62.7323 cents per \$100 valuation, Barr said the court can begin planning for the necessary steps to adopt

this year's tax rate. "We'll hold a public hearing on the proposed budget Sept. 14," said Barr. "It will be set in stone Sept. 28. We'll publish a notice of the tax proposed tax rate on Sept. 3, which is just a few days from now. We'll hold a public hearing on Sept. 14, which will give the public a chance to express their views on both the proposed tax rate and the proposed budget." Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

CHAMPS

Continued from Page 1A

who hit his first hole-in-one on Hole 15 during Sunday's play. Gressett hit the shot with a 3-iron. The feat was witnessed by Gary Gressett and Shane Forrest.

Jack Nicholas Championship Flight
1. Charlie Garcia 139, 2. Justin Myers 143, 3. Flea Martinez 145.

Chad Campbell Flight
1. Blake Nichols 154, 2. Mike Mendoza 154, 3. Clayton Weaver 158.

Ben Crenshaw Flight
1. Josh Helmstetler 164, 2. Dutch Barr 165, 3. Noe Arguello 172.

Lee Trevino Flight
1. Howard Bain 175, 2. Tim Strain 175, 3. James Taylor 175.

Chi Chi Rodriguez Flight
1. Gary Burton 183, 2. Robert Jackman 186, 3. Taylor Parrish 189.

Senior - Byron Nelson Flight
1. Jim Roger 148, 2. Jamie Collinworth 169, 3. Manuel Ramirez 170.

Women - Nancy Lopez Flight
1. Susie Hernandez 150, 2. Linda Dewaters 170.

AFFIRMED

Continued from Page 1A

ros, asking him several times, "Do you want to go back," referring to the fact Cisneros had been to prison in the past and could be sent back if he harmed Neely. Cisneros testified he caught up to Neely, throwing his hands up in the air, a gesture he said Neely returned. "I threw my hands up and yelled," he told the jury. "He (Neely) threw his hands up and yelled, too. I took that as competition and chased him." According to law enforcement officials, Neely was known for erratic behavior, possibly due to mental illness. It was unclear at the time of his death if Neely was homeless.

With the Army veteran mimicking his actions, Cisneros said the two squared off on the bridge. "I had already made a butt of myself, going out there on the bridge. I wasn't going to back down after I had already called him out," Cisneros told the jury. "The third time (we squared off) I just said, 'What the hell.'" Cisneros claimed he never saw how Neely was thrown from the bridge, testifying only that Boswell had freed him from the war veteran's grasp, leaving him gasping on the ground. However, according to a letter introduced into evidence, Cisneros had told his wife his friend had "clothes lined" Neely, sending him plummeting to his death. Boswell, who pleaded guilty prior to the jury's

decision — part of a plea bargain with the District Attorney's Office that netted the local man a lesser charge of manslaughter and a sentence of 10 years in prison — has since been paroled, according to local law enforcement officials. Cisneros, who had already twice violated his parole and was on parole at the time of Neely's murder, had his charges enhanced during the trial, turning a would-be minimum sentence of 5 years in prison to 15 years. According to police records, he had been convicted in the past of burglary and forgery, and was on parole for both charges at the time of Neely's murder.

According to members of the jury, the enhanced sentence caused at least one member of the jury to hold out, forcing the court to wait several hours for a decision. According to court officials at the time of Cisneros's conviction, the Big Spring man would have to serve at least half of his sentence — approximately 8 years and nine months — before being eligible for parole, which would have been the end of 2006. Court officials, including those with the Court of Appeals, declined to comment on why Cisneros is still in prison, saying only the Big Spring man's fate is currently up to the prison's parole board.

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
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Arnoldo "Chubby" Abrego, 47, died Monday. Funeral Services will be at 3 p.m. Wednesday at First Baptist Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
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Managing Editor

OUR VIEW

Please drive safe, smart this holiday

What do you get when you combine a yellow cab with a police squad car? Something that looks a little strange, but Texas Department of Transportation officials unveiled one a couple of weeks ago in Austin.

Billed as TxDOT's newest public education tool: it was a unique “half and half” vehicle that appeared to be a taxi on one end and a patrol car on the other. It was part of the agency's annual Labor Day campaign to warn drivers that law enforcement will be out in force to arrest drivers who've had too much to drink during the upcoming Labor Day holiday weekend.

Thanks to the support of police departments and sheriff's offices in communities throughout Texas — especially those with a high incidence of alcohol-related fatalities — actual police cars were turned into mobile billboards reminding drivers to choose their ride: either by calling a cab, finding a sober ride home or letting officers provide a ride—to jail.

It's an important message, and one the public should take note of and heed, because through Monday, that's Labor Day, law enforcement statewide will be working overtime to find and arrest drunk drivers.

“Every hour, two Texans are killed or injured in an alcohol-related traffic crash,” said Carol Rawson, TxDOT's interim traffic operations director. “We hope by supporting this special stepped-up enforcement effort and encouraging drivers to plan ahead to get home safely, we can make the roads safer for everyone this Labor Day.”

In 2007, 1,672 people died in alcohol-related crashes in Texas.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, several cab companies and hundreds of law enforcement agencies are participating in the annual Drink, Drive, Go to Jail campaign.

“The price of a cab ride pales in comparison to the hefty fines, attorney fees and other cost associated with being arrested for driving while intoxicated,” said DPS Assistant Director of Texas Highway Patrol David Baker.

Convicted first-time DWI offenders can pay a fine of up to \$2,000, lose their driver's license for as long as a year and serve 180 days in jail.

That's a stiff price to pay, but it really is more expensive. Safety officials say other costs associated with a drunk driving arrest and conviction can add up to more than \$17,000 for bail, legal fees, court appearances, court-ordered classes, vehicle insurance increases and other expenses.

In other words, it's not worth it.

So, please, if you are planning on drinking and being out during the Labor Day holiday, appoint a designated driver or call a taxi.

It's not just economics. It's the smart thing to do. And more than that, though, it's the right thing to do, period.

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

When we take the long way, Lord, we can enjoy the scenery that You have given us.

Amen

Our health and that of loved ones'

Just how healthy — or unhealthy, for that matter — are you and your loved ones?

It's obviously a loaded question, and from past experience, you're going to find people who are vehemently opinionated one way or the other on both sides, but it's certainly worth asking.

Vices such as drinking and smoking immediately spring to mind for some, overeating and lack of exercise for others, but when you get right down to the heart of the matter, it has a lot to do with just how much we love ourselves and one another.

During the summer break from school, my daughter and I both sat down and talked about our weight and what it's doing to hurt us, both long term and short term.

And while the dangers of carrying around a few extra pounds is something I've researched at length, I found it eye-opening and sort of disturbing how little my 9-year-old daughter knew on the subject.

I suppose, in the back of my mind, I had simply expected the school system to teach her the dangers of obesity and overeating, which is a huge mistake regardless of the subject at hand.

We sat together and researched the subject on the Internet, using sites like WebMD.com and the federal government's initiative to guide us. I did my best to keep it from becoming a doom-and-

gloom matter like my parents did when I was a kid with smoking — and thank God they did, because I never got started — and she soaked the information right up.

Shortly after, I sat down and made some adjustments to our budget so we could fit in a membership for us both at the local YMCA. We looked at our individual needs and I opted to start lifting weights again, something I had really loved when I was a teenager, and my daughter — who is a total water-child — decided to start swimming laps.

Of course, that's only half the battle, as we all know. The physical exercise we put out doesn't mean nearly as much if we don't watch what we're putting into our bodies. So we began cutting out and limiting some of the harmful foods — pizza, ice cream and sodas, just to name a few — that had become a part of our day-to-day lives.

Granted, this whole process is nothing new for me. God knows I've made enough New Year's resolutions pertaining to my health and weight over the years to choke a horse (as if a horse could choke on resolutions), and they have all ended in defeat a couple of months later.

Despite past failures, we're doing pretty well. Don't get me wrong, we've entertained enough curve balls since we got started, ranging from the trials of trying to fit our workouts into an already overflowing schedule and the occasional pizza binge, but we've managed to work through each of them and come out strong on the other side.

And while our regimen has certainly had a positive effect on our overall health, it's also

helped draw the two of us closer together in a more emotional way.

Sure, she gets a crossways look from me when she asks for chips and dip with her dinner, and I get some serious finger-shaking from her when she sees me throw a candy bar in the grocery cart, but instead of making us angry at each other, it seems to be uniting us.

The benefits have been painfully slow for both of us, without a doubt. She has clothing sizes she wants to drop, and I have strength and weight goals I'm shooting for, and it's anything but easy for both of us. But we encourage one another with a hug here, or a compliment there.

In the end, I suppose if neither one of us drops a single pound, it's all been worth it. We're developing a new respect for one another with every pint of Ben & Jerry's we turn down and every drop of sweat we wipe from our brows.

Our children's health isn't something we should leave up to the school nurse, the state's health department or the commercials to “get active” on Cartoon Network.

Sure, each of these sources can help, but it's up to each of us to enforce and reinforce healthy decisions for our youth.

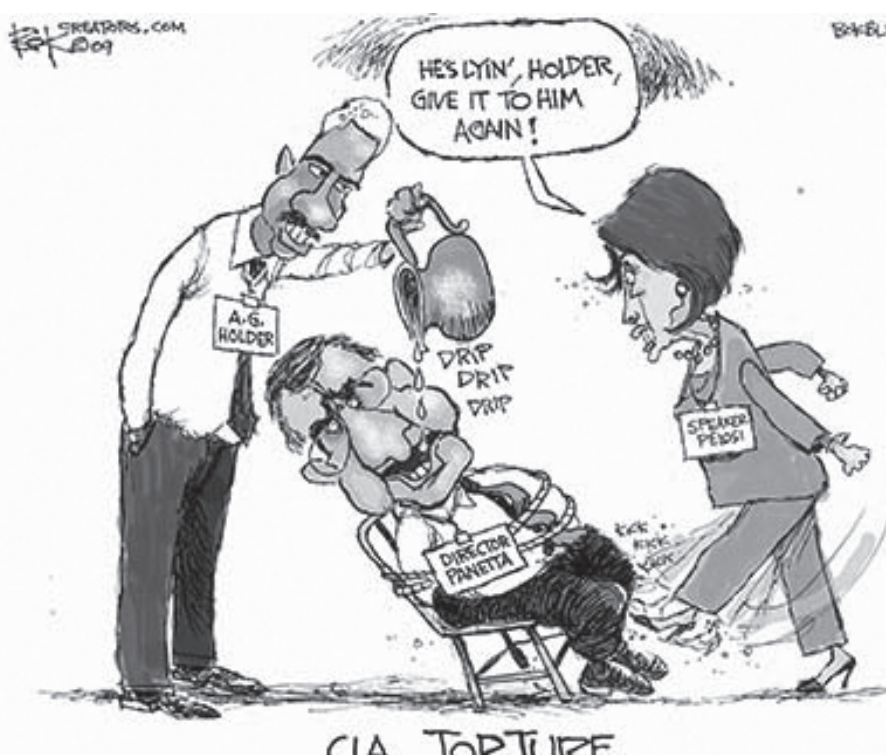
So, ask yourself, “Just how healthy am I and my loved ones?”

The answers — and the way you handle them — could have a serious impact on your life and the lives of those you care about.

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



THOMAS JENKINS



ADDRESSES

• BARACK OBAMA
President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

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703 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-5922

• JOHN CORNYN
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The great merger: GOP and lobbyists

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Lobbyists, sometimes known as the Republican Party, is on the march again.

The SPCL, with the aid of its media goons — Rush (Greasy Thumb) Limbaugh, Bill (Bugsy) O'Reilly and the Sundance Kid, Glenn Beck — is trying to convince Americans that publicly-financed health care is a fate worse than death or, at best, a prelude to it.

At meeting after town hall meeting around the country dozens, sometimes hundreds, of snarling citizens have shown up to drown out a hapless congressman who is trying to explain what the health care bill Congress is now working on might look like.

Such Republican stalwarts as Sarah Palin have come forward to announce that they weren't about to allow government bureaucrats decide when their children and elderly parents should die — and they didn't care how many votes it cost them.

Newt Gingrich, the party's roving pseudo-intellectual, agreed with that assessment as did Chuck Grassley, the Republican point man on health care legislation.

Grassley suggested that the “controversial” parts of the health care bill be removed; you know, the Nazi stuff like hospice counseling. (I've known Sen. Grassley ever since he was the youngest member of the Iowa

Legislature and I always thought he was smarter than he looked. I was wrong.)

Congress responded with a hysteria generally reserved for large fires in crowded theaters; it went back home, hid under the bed and didn't answer the phone, hoping the critics would go away. Instead, the public health care option went away.

They're still working on a health care bill in Washington but the idea that there should be a publicly financed insurance option that would compete with private plans (and keep them honest, perhaps?) seems all but dead, the victim of Republican Swiftboating.

The Republicans have gotten really good at this sort of thing. For example, they have managed to take a no-brainer — hospice counseling — and make it seem like a diabolical plot to kill the aged before their time and to strangle special needs infants in their cribs, a breathtaking leap of the imagination, given that conservatives show very little imagination about anything else.

Richard Nixon, the godfather of political dirty-trickery, must be smiling right now. (If he can see us through all of that smoke and fire.)

Hospice isn't really anything like euthanasia. What is being suggested is informing terminal ill patients of their end-of-life options. Do they want to be kept alive by extraordinary means or would they prefer to go gentle into that good night, preferably in their homes surrounded by loved ones? Their choice. It has nothing to do with killing old people and to suggest otherwise

is contemptible.

About 30 percent of Medicare money is spent in the last 30 days of a patient's life. That patient is very often comatose or suffering from dementia or in constant pain. In any case he or she is unable to say, “Stop this torture.” It is too late. Hospice offers the possibility of planning a death with dignity.

And if you scoff at the concept of “death with dignity” then I doubt you've ever stood vigil over a loved one who lies in a hospital bed, unconscious, wired-up, plugged in and more resembling a lab experiment than a human being.

By the way, there are experiments that indicate that people who are taken off the machines and sent home to await death to overtake them often live longer than their colleagues, the ones getting the state-of-the-art medical treatment.

I've done it both ways. One is painful to watch, the other excruciating.

I still have some hope for the health care plan, but it is fading. The panic-mongers are out, whipping up fear and resentment in the weakest part of the population — Congress.

There's an old saying that a camel is a horse built by committee.

I'm afraid that our health care system is going to look like a camel after a committee of lobbyists has conspired to improve it.

Donald Kaul is a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning Washington correspondent who, by his own account, is right more than he's wrong. E-mail him at dkaul2@earthlink.net

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Chicken Word Find

Just in time for National Chicken Month, see how many related words you can find and circle in the puzzle.

- | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|
| BAKED | EGGS | MEAL |
| BIRD | FOWL | POULTRY |
| CHICKEN | FRIED | ROOSTER |
| CLUCK | GRILLED | WINGS |

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

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1654: LOUIS XIV WAS CROWNED AS THE KING OF FRANCE.
- 1776: RICHARD HENRY LEE OF VIRGINIA PROPOSED A DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.
- 1929: VATICAN CITY IN ROME, ITALY BECAME A SOVEREIGN STATE.

Poultry Scramble

Unscramble the words to complete the sentences.

1. A chicken takes 21 days to **C H A T H**.
2. Chickens can come in many **R O C S L O**.
3. Chickens were once considered **A D S E C R**.
4. **E F R A** of chickens is Alektorophobia.

Answers: 1. hatch 2. colors 3. sacred 4. fear



WATTLE

brightly colored skin hanging from the neck of certain birds



TRUE OR FALSE?
CHICKENS ARE CAPABLE
OF SUSTAINED FLIGHT.

ANSWER: FALSE

*How they
SAY that in...*

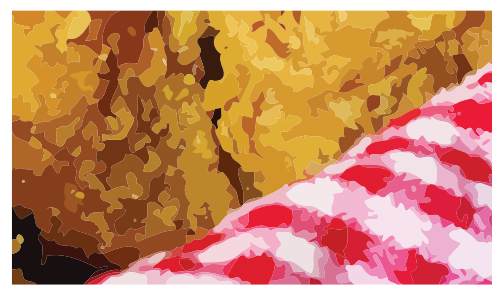
- ENGLISH:** Chicken
- SPANISH:** Pollo
- ITALIAN:** Pollo
- FRENCH:** Poulet
- GERMAN:** Huhn

Did You Know?

THERE ARE MORE THAN 150 VARIETIES OF DOMESTIC CHICKENS. ALL CAN BE TRACED BACK TO GALLUS, THE RED JUNGLE FOWL.



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Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: FRIED CHICKEN

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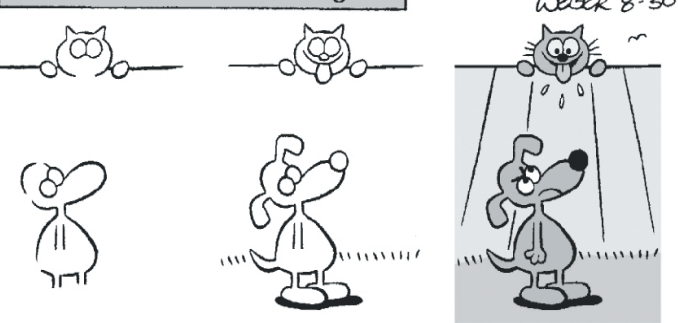
BY BOB WEBER JR.

Count Weirdly is holding Slylock Fox captive. Max Mouse plans to cut the chain. Unfortunately, the chain cannot be cut. It is a super-strong carbon-modified metal invented by Count Weirdly. How will Max free Slylock?



Solution -- The chain may be too strong for the saw, but the eye hook it is attached to is not. Max will cut the hook and Slylock will escape with the chain still attached to him.

HOW TO DRAW a teasing cat



YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Logan, age 8, of Florence, OR



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Super Challenge
I have existed in the sea since before dinosaurs. More than 95% of my body is water. I don't have fangs, but I do have venom. I can catch food, but I don't have a brain. What am I?

Answer -- A jellyfish.

Find six differences between these panels.



www.kidcartoonists.com



The fourth Find the six differences collection is here. Send \$4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to Six Differences No. 4, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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Public Hearing
The District Judge will conduct a public hearing on the salaries of the Auditor, Assistant Auditors, and Court Reporter. Citizens are invited to attend and comment.
The hearing will be held at 9:00am on September 16, 2009 at the 118th District Court Building, 312 Scurry Street, Big Spring, TX.
Signed: Jackie Olson
County Auditor
#6245 September 1, 2009

Legals

THE STATE OF TEXAS:
CAUSE No. 43943
TO: Elizabeth R. Merrick and All Whom it May Concern, Respondents; GREETING:
NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 AM on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after the date you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you."
The petition of Johnathan David Tinker, Petitioner was filed in the 118th District Court of Howard County, Texas on the 26th day of August 2009 against Elizabeth R. Merrick respondent in the above entitled cause and entitled 'In the Interest of Penelope B. Merrick, a child (or children).'
The suit requests modification as is more fully shown by Petition on file in this suit.
The date and place of birth of the child/children who is/are the subject of the suit is/are:
Penelope B. Merrick
10/05/2002 Howard County
"The court has authority in this suit to render an order in the child's (children's) interest that will be binding on you, including the termination of the Parent-child Relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's (children's) adoption."
ISSUED and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Howard County, Texas this the 28th day of August 2009.
Attorney for Petitioner or Petitioner:
R.C. Eric Augesen
408 N. Texas
Odessa, Texas 79761
Clerk of the Court:
Colleen Barton, District Clerk
Howard County, Texas
By Brandie Martinez, Deputy
#6246 September 1, 2009

Legals

Glasscock County Public Notice
A copy of the proposed 2009-2010 budget for Glasscock County is available for inspection in the offices of the County/ District Clerk or the County Treasurer, Courthouse, Garden City, Texas 79739.
A budget hearing will be conducted September 14, 2009 @ 9:00 A.M. in the Courtroom of the Glasscock County Courthouse. Any citizen is welcome to attend.
W.E. Bednar
County Judge
#6247 September 1, 2009

Legals

Glasscock County Public Notice
Pursuant to Texas Local Government Code 152.013, Glasscock County Commissioners Court will set the increase amounts in the 2009-2010 budget for the elected or precinct officers as follows, at their regular meeting on September 14, 2009 @ 9:00 AM.
Sheriff 26000.00
Secretary 48.00
Longevity 48.00
Supplies 2600.00
Maintenance Agreements 4100.00
Schools & Conferences 1000.00
New Car 1000.00
Tax Assessor-Collector
Longevity 48.00
Schools & Conferences 2000.00
Postage 500.00
Data Processing 3000.00
County & District Clerk
Longevity 48.00
Bonds & Dues 150.00
County Judge
Longevity 48.00
Justice of the Peace
Salary 7000.00
Longevity 48.00
Miscellaneous 100.00
County Commissioners
Pr#1 Longevity 48.00
Pr#2 Longevity 48.00
Pr#4 Longevity 48.00
Schools & Conferences 2000.00
County Treasurer
Longevity 48.00
Supplies 250.00
Constable
Longevity 48.00
Equipment 1000.00
On all elected or precinct officers the following amounts are added:
Retirement 0.26
Insurance 212.00
#6248 September 1, 2009

Legals

The City of Forsan will hold a meeting at 7:00 P.M. on September 8, 2009 at the City Hall to consider adopting a proposed tax rate for tax year 2009. The proposed tax rate is 0.191599 per \$100 of value. The proposed tax rate would increase total taxes in the City of Forsan by 1.95%.
#6249 September 1, 2009

Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Aquarius moon is a zany one, and even the pragmatic Virgo sun will bend to her eccentric inclinations. Everyone knows that without experiencing a bit of silliness, it's difficult to know what to take seriously. As a bonus, the Virgo sun will find a practical application for some of the madness. For instance, teams bond over the odd fun.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You aren't afraid of those who are quick to anger. A temper indicates strong feelings, after all, and you want to be near that kind of passion. When the sparks fly, they catch on to you in a favorable way.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You admire someone who is deeply creative, mostly because you can relate. You will get a clue as to what inspires this person, and you'll be similarly encouraged by the same stimulus.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Can you be diplomatic and still be true to yourself? You will wonder this as you observe others making statements that are annoyingly correct and subverting the truth in order to keep the peace. Dare to take a stand.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Waste no time in getting mad. There's something wonderful that comes out of a mistake. Anyway, if things went exactly as planned all the time, you'd surely get bored.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

The environments and activities that seem so regular to you are, in fact, novel to someone else. There will be a "tourist" in your world. As you show this person around, you'll realize how unique your lifestyle really is.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You have a special talent for managing children and those who act like them. Your playful nature will be highlighted, and you'll easily come up with many games and amusements.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You don't find much amusement in large spectacles or sensational news. Your profound appreciation for subtle and detailed work makes it possible for you to enjoy yourself in quiet, unassuming circumstances.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's a fine line between leadership and dictatorship. You'll be among those who appreciate your guidance, as long as they can readily see what's in it for them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's no question that you would lay down your life for the ones you love. That doesn't mean you never get angry or edgy with them. Show the breadth of your love by being patient. Also, extend the benefit of the doubt.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Participating in a group will have an overwhelmingly positive impact on your day. You'll embrace your humanity as you react to the stories, hardships and triumphs of your fellows.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be

working with new people. You may be in a position to choose your colleagues, either by hiring or partnering with them. Go for qualified candidates who understand the culture of your working environment.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You are seldom at a loss for words, but what happens this afternoon will have you thinking before you speak. It's likely that the wisest thing to say cannot be verbalized anyway. Your open heart needs no announcement.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 1). Your inherent understanding of fair trade will serve you well as you create mutually beneficial arrangements. This month brings the kind of riches that make you truly happy. You stumble onto a fantastic idea in October. See it through to the final stage. Persistence pays off in March. June brings relationship magic. Gemini and Pisces people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 15, 43, 2 and 29.

YOUR MOON SIGN: (part two) Do you know what your moon sign is? It's easy to find out by looking in an astrology book or keying "moon sign" into a search engine. If it turns out that you're a Taurus moon, you are highly susceptible to the look, feel, taste, smell and sound of things.

Taurus moon people have a preference for fine chocolate — and the concept of "thread count" is not lost on them! Some are so discerning in their tastes that less-than-fresh foods give them a tummy ache and less-than-gold jewelry gives them a

rash. You can't blame them if they're willing to pay more for things when you consider the degree to which inferior products upset them. That's not to say they're hard to please. Simple, natural goodness can send them into a state of ecstasy. If your moon is in

Gemini, the social aspects of life bring you great joy. You love to connect and communicate with others, and your soul is satisfied by sharing and learning. Gemini moon people are fresh, alert, hip and popular — it's the ideal moon for anyone who wants to do well in sales.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: She has multiple Grammy Awards, multiple millions of records sold and multiple planets in Virgo. She even has her own hotel! But Gloria Estefan is one Latin diva who doesn't let it go to her head. Virgo is an earth sign and its natives prefer to stay grounded in the things that make life truly sweet — family, hard work and, in Estefan's case, the music that keeps the world dancing.

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

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News in brief

Some Californians return to rubble even as wildfires threaten thousands of homes

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Bert Voorhees and his son fetched several cases of wine from the brackish water of their backyard swimming pool, about all he salvaged from his home in deadly fires that have swept Southern California.

"You're going to be living in a lunar landscape for at least a couple of years, and these trees might not come back," said Voorhees, 53. "Are enough of our neighbors going to rebuild?"

Residents began to return to the ashes of their homes on Monday and ponder what's next even as the blazes fanned out, destroying 53 homes and threatening 12,000 others. Lack of wind has kept the flames from driving into the hearts of the dense suburbs northeast of Los Angeles.

"This is a very angry fire that we're fighting right now," U.S. Forest Service Cmdr. Mike Dietrich said Monday night. "I'm not overly optimistic but yet at the same time, our firefighters are going to be taking every action to keep this fire from burning more destruction."

Beth Halaas, who lives next door to Voorhees, knew her creekside home in Big Tujunga Canyon was gone when she saw her favorite Norwegian dishware on television news, but she was desperate to see for herself and cajoled fire officials to escort her through barricaded roads Monday.

After 8 years of war, more troops may mark next phase of fight in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AP) — More troops and a new strategy for using them are emerging as critical components to the 8-year-old effort by U.S. and NATO forces to defeat the Taliban and secure Afghanistan.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates, acknowledging bright spots but also "gloom and doom" in a new assessment of the war, said Monday the Obama administration would look closely at requests for resources.

Asking for more troops is not part of the classified assessment delivered by Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top commander in Afghanistan, according to officials. However, he is expected to ask for more troops in a separate request in a few weeks, two NATO officials told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. They were not authorized to speak publicly on the matter.

McChrystal's assessment is expected to offer a blunt appraisal of the Taliban's increasing tactical prowess and diminishing popular support in Afghanistan for both the foreign-led war effort and the fragile, corruption-riddled central government.

"The situation in Afghanistan is serious," McChrystal said Monday, and success "demands a revised implementation strategy, commitment and resolve, and increased unity of effort."

Mexico struggles to evacuate thousands as fierce Hurricane Jimena nears resorts

LOS CABOS, Mexico (AP) — Emergency workers struggled to evacuate thousands of reluctant slum dwellers as extremely dangerous Hurricane Jimena approached Mexico's resort-studded Baja California Peninsula on Tuesday.

Jimena, just short of Category 5 status with winds of near 155 mph (250 kph), could rake the harsh desert region fringed with picturesque beaches and fishing villages as a major storm by Tuesday evening

Police, firefighters and navy personnel drove through shantytowns, trying to persuade some 10,000 people to evacuate shacks made of plastic sheeting, wood, reeds and even blankets.

"For the safety of you and your family, board a vehicle or head to the nearest shelter," firefighter Ricardo Villalobos bellowed over a loudspeaker as his fire truck wound its way through the sand streets of Colonia Obrera, a slum built along a stream bed that regularly springs to life when a hurricane hits.

Alleged abductor talked about unstoppable 'rape fantasy'

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The man accused of abducting and sexually abusing Jaycee Lee Dugard testified during a previous kidnapping and rape case that he prowled through residential neighborhoods as a Peeping Tom and had strong rape desires.

During his 1977 kidnapping trial, Phillip Garrido also said he leered at girls as young as seven and 10, and he admitted to exposing himself to some of them.

He testified that LSD and cocaine acted as sexual stimulants, and that he frequently masturbated and often in public places including the "side of schools, grammar schools and high schools, in my own car while I was watching young females."

The portrait of the 58-year-old Garrido comes from trial transcripts and a psychiatric report from unrelated case files made public Monday. In that case, Garrido was convicted in Reno, Nev., of kidnapping a stranger. He later admitted to raping her in a rented storage unit described by investigators as a "sex palace" with items for playing out his sexual fantasies.

Gay weddings begin in Vermont as law allowing same-sex marriages takes effect

DUXBURY, Vt. (AP) — After 17 years together, Bill Slimback and Bob Sullivan couldn't wait another minute to get married. So they didn't.

With Vermont's new law allowing same-sex marriage only a minute old, they tied the knot in a midnight ceremony at a rustic Vermont lodge, becoming one of the first couples to legally wed under a

law that took effect at midnight Tuesday.

Dressed in suits, saying their vows under a large wall-mounted moose head, the two Whitehall, N.Y., men promised their love, exchanged rings and held hands during a modest 17-minute ceremony. Moose Meadow Lodge co-owner Greg Trulson, who's also a Justice of the Peace, presided.

"It feels wonderful," said Slimback, 38, an out-of-work Teamster who is taking Sullivan's last name as his own. "It's a day I've been long waiting for, and a day I truly honestly thought would never come."

Government, airline industry are prodded to deal with pilot fatigue

WASHINGTON (AP) — Current federal rules for how many hours pilots can be scheduled to work were written in an age of propeller-driven planes. Officials back then defined a reasonable work day for a pilot without a scientific understanding of fatigue and well before the modern airline industry.

Finding ways to prevent pilot fatigue has stymied federal regulators and the airline industry for decades. The National Transportation Safety Board has been recommending since 1990 that rules on how many hours pilots can be scheduled to work be updated to take into account early starting times and frequent takeoffs and landings.

On Tuesday, a committee made up of airline officials and union leaders is expected to deliver recommendations for updating the regulations. Although Federal Aviation Administrator Randy Babbitt has promised to vet those recommendations swiftly and turn them into a formal proposal by the FAA, the process will at a minimum take months to complete.

NTSB Chairman Deborah Hersman said she doesn't expect the suggestions to be offered Tuesday to address all the issues that are part of the fatigue problem, but she hopes they will supply a foundation.

"You have to build all the rest of the house around it," she said.

Poland marks 70th anniversary of outbreak of WWII

GDANSK, Poland (AP) — Officials from across the Europe and the U.S. gathered in northern Poland on Tuesday to mark the outbreak of World War II 70 years ago, in a ceremony bringing together former foes and friends to pay tribute to the tens of millions killed in the conflict.

Ahead of the international commemoration, Polish leaders came together at dawn on Gdansk's Westerplatte peninsula for a ceremony marking the exact time the German battleship Schleswig-Holstein shelled a tiny Polish military outpost where the Polish navy's arsenal was housed in the war's opening salvo.



Keep Big Spring Beautiful!

Mission: To empower Big Spring citizens through education to take responsibility for enhancing their community environment.

Vision: Every Big Spring citizen will take individual responsibility for making Big Spring the cleanest, most beautiful city in Texas.

Meeting Day: First Monday of every month

Time: 12:00 Noon

Location: SWCID Campus Maddux Student Center

Projects For September 2009

★ **FM 700 Cleanup • September 12th**

(9 a.m. at North entrance to fairgrounds)

★ **General Meeting • September 14th**

(Meet at Cactus Room, Howard College.)

★ **Howard County Fair • September 30th**

Contact President Walter Ward

(432) 935-6455

www.keepbigspringbeautiful.org



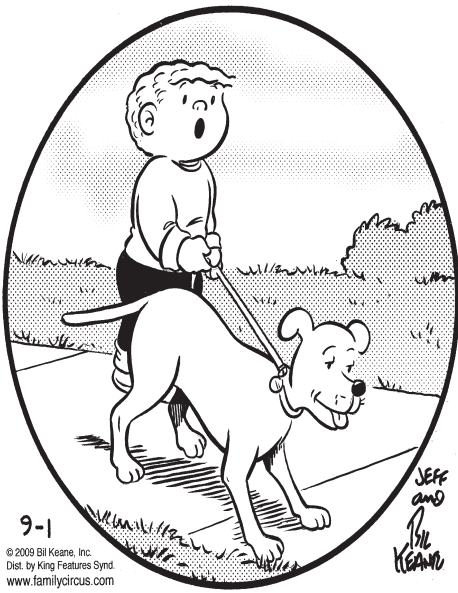
Table with 18 columns representing different TV channels (WFAA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLN, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN) and rows for various time slots (5:30 PM to 1:30 AM) listing the programs being broadcast.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"It's my dad's way of sayin' that it's football season!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Is it okay if Barfy takes me for a walk now?"

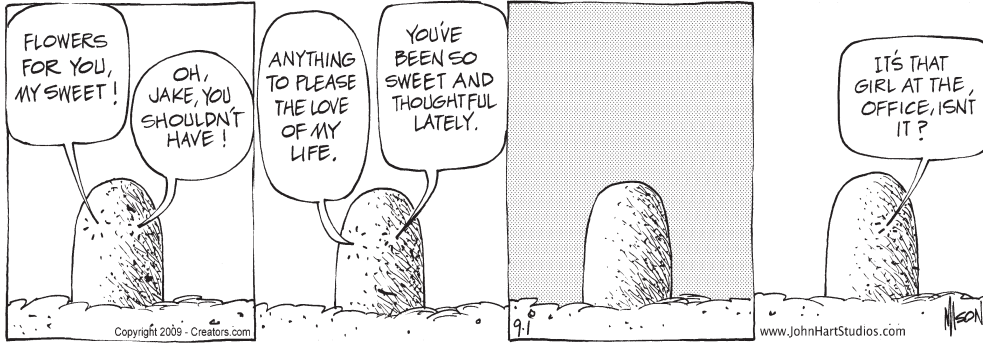
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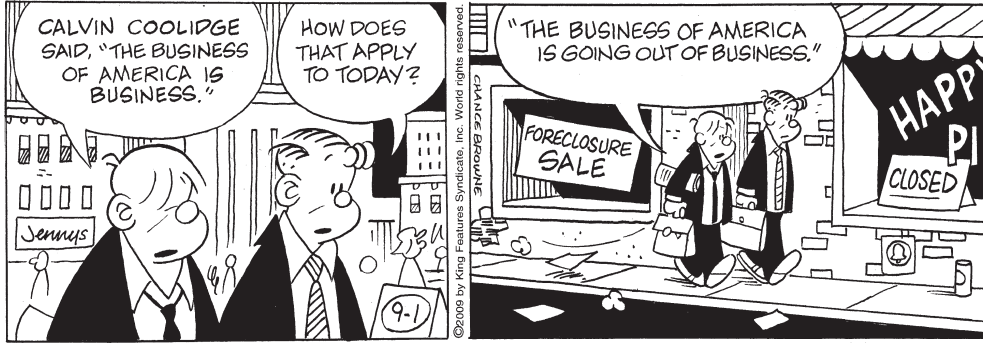
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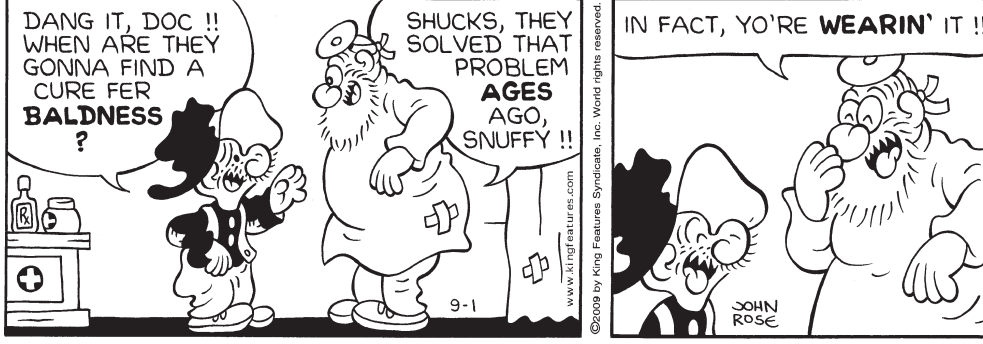
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, September 1, the 244th day of 2009. There are 121 days left in the year. Highlights in history on this date: In 1494, France's King Charles VIII invades Italy to claim throne of Naples. In 1674, William of Orange takes Grave, Belgium, but is unable to invade France. In 1879, Britain signs peace treaty with Zulus in South Africa. In 1923, The Great Kanto Earthquake shakes the Tokyo metropolitan area, killing more than 142,000 people. In 1942, A federal judge in Sacramento, California, upholds the wartime detention of Japanese-Americans and nationals. In 1945, Japan surrenders aboard U.S. battleship Missouri at end of World War II. In 1958, A British soldier is killed in Cyprus by Greek Cypriot rebels fighting against a British plan for partnership between Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

In 1968, Relief officials in Iran say more than 8,000 people are known to have perished in series of earthquakes. In 1972, American Bobby Fischer wins the international chess crown in Reykjavik, Iceland, defeating Boris Spassky of the Soviet Union. In 1979, U.S. space probe Pioneer 11 becomes the first man-made object to reach Saturn, passing through the ring plane within 21,000 kilometers (13,000 miles) of Saturn's atmosphere. In 1993, Bosnia's government rejects a plan to end 17 months of ethnic warfare and peace talks collapse. In 1994, San Francisco Superior Court jury awards a former secretary at Baker & McKenzie, the world's largest law firm, a record US\$7.1 million in punitive damages in a sexual-harassment case against the firm. In 2001, Forty-four people are killed in one of Tokyo's worst fires, when an explosion and blaze rip through a crowded gambling parlor and bar in the capital's most popular late-night entertainment area.

In 2003, A three-member Israeli government commission issues a landmark report that found widespread official discrimination against the country's Arab citizens. 2006 - An Iranian passenger plane in the northeastern city of Mashhad skids off the runway and rakes its wing along the ground, sparking a fire that kills 29 of the 148 people. In 2007, More than two dozen Colombian prisoners arrested three years ago in an alleged plot against President Hugo Chavez are freed in a goodwill gesture Chavez hopes will help facilitate a prisoner exchange in Colombia.

Answer to previous puzzle: A grid of words including GRAD, OFFS, SLAP, YORE, LORE, CATER, MAIL, DROP, RINSE, RAISING, THE ROOF, CEO, YES, AROMA, WOMEN, CAB, MARINA, HON, ALTO, PRESSING, MATTERS, LEOS, RUE, SHORES, ERS, EMBER, ONKEY, AXE, ERR, LIFTING, A FINGER, ALLOT, AVID, AREA, PLANE, TONE, WILD, SPED, EWER, KEYS.

Newsday Crossword

GLOBAL GRR by Billie Truitt Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Asterisk, 5 Online auctioneer, 9 Hawaiian dances, 14 Eye rudely, 15 Voice below a soprano, 16 Wipe clean, 17 Conks out, 18 Used a doorbell, 19 Bit of tomfoolery, 20 Large dog breed, 23 Summer clock setting, in NJ, 24 Co- (condo relatives), 25 Updates an electrical system, 27 Fall bloom, 30 Go out in the rain, say, 32 Tax expert's initials, 33 Smidgen, 34 What a voter casts, 38 Small dog breed, 42 Magazine boss, 43 Before, poetically, 44 Noticeable space, 45 Start on a cruise, 47 Harbor markers, 49 Sleep, 52 Writing tool, 53 Caramel-colored, 54 Large dog breed, 60 the open (visible), 62 " pin, pick it up... ", 63 Went on horseback, 64 Vanity, 65 British noble, 66 Lobby for, 67 Bowl of greens, 68 Flower stalk, 69 Peered at, 8 Active-cultures food, 9 Hats and helmets, 10 Caterer's coffeepot, 11 At some future time, 12 All kidding __, 13 Religious groups, 21 Busy mo. at the IRS, 22 Beginner, slangily, 26 " __ just have to do!", 27 High point, 28 Rushed, 29 Car with a meter, 30 Rummy variety, 31 Old anesthetic, 33 Hair stylist, 35 Lincoln Logs alternative, 36 Anthem start, 37 Recipe amts., 39 Part of a list, 40 Mixed together, 41 Noah's ship, 46 Comes up, 47 Honey handler, 48 False, 49 Brings to a halt, 50 First lady before Michelle, 51 Up to, 52 Biblical song, 55 Chair, 56 Roll-call response, 57 British Conservative, 58 Border, 59 Clarinet feature, 61 State east of Wash.

13x13 crossword grid with numbers indicating starting positions for the clues.

Annie's Mailbox®

Dear Annie: I met "William" at work three years ago, and it was obvious he had feelings for me. I felt no attraction and turned down his advances, but as soon as I left that job, he began calling me several times a day.

At first I ignored the calls, but every once in a while I would answer and tell him to leave me alone.

He would say he loved me and wanted a relationship. Then he said if I refused to give him a chance, he would end his life. I'm ashamed to say, I was so annoyed that I said I didn't care. Then I blocked his phone number.

The calls stopped for about six months, but started up again and this time included texts.

I blocked that number, as well, and he was quiet for about a year. Recently, he began texting me again from a new phone number, but this time he just said, "Hello, how are you?"

Being an idiot, I wrote back that I was fine and asked how he was. By then I had moved to another state, but he somehow found out and sent me a very uncomfortable message asking what I would think if he showed up here, a good 1,000 miles away.

This scared me, and I

told him to stop it immediately, that he was being a creepy stalker and to leave me alone.

He called me some vulgar names and said he was just in love. I never replied. Now he keeps texting. How do I make him stop?

I can't change my phone number because it's the only way people have to contact me. — *Creeped Out in Wyoming*

Dear Creeped Out: There are anti-stalking laws in most states that cover "textual harassment."

Since you have notified William that you want him to stop contacting you and he keeps texting, notify the police and your cell phone company. Keep a record of his messages, but do not contact him again for any reason.

Dear Annie: I live 15 minutes away from my in-laws and see them often with my wife and children.

The problem is, when my own family visits from across the country, my in-laws feel they should be included in the festivities and become offended if we neglect to invite them to anything.

I have tried to explain that time with my family is precious. I want

my daughters to get to know my parents better.

I can't seem to make my in-laws understand I'd like some space when my family visits, and I am beginning to resent their selfishness.

We spend the majority of holidays with my in-laws, and my parents never complain. The situation seems to get worse every year. Is it asking too much for my parents to get some private time? — *D.*

Dear D.: Of course not, but you have to be firm and your wife has to support you. The next time your parents are scheduled to visit, your wife should make it clear to her parents that they are not to horn in on her in-laws' time with you or the children.

You should invite them to share one event, but that's it. If they get offended, it's their problem. Don't let them guilt you into capitulating.

Dear Annie:



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

"Desperate in Pennsylvania" asked about a click in her throat. She may want to get a CT scan to rule out Eagle's syndrome, where an elongated part of the temporal bone of the skull contacts the adjacent anatomical structures.

Patients usually exhibit unilateral neck pain, sore throat or tinnitus (ringing or clicking in the ears). Sometimes the physician can palpate the tip of the styloid process in the back of the throat. If she is diagnosed with Eagle's syndrome, treatment is a surgical procedure called a partial styloidectomy. Hope this helps. — *Dentist in Hawaii*

Dear Hawaii: Thanks for the suggestion. We hope "Pennsylvania" will check out all the possibilities.

Dear Annie: Two years ago, my husband attended an out-of-town business convention. While he was away, I

received a call from his cell phone. In the background, I could hear laughter and loud music, and the muffled voice of my husband saying, "My wife wouldn't really approve of this." My heart sank.

When I interrogated him for nearly two hours the next morning, my fears were confirmed.

He said the company sponsored an excursion to a strip club. I was home thousands of miles away caring for our five children, and he was off on "business" looking at naked women.

He denied receiving a lap dance, which was my initial suspicion, and insisted the comment was in reference to his smoking a cigarette.

Recently we were out with one of his co-workers, who brought up the hilarious time when "Bob's" cell phone dialed me in the middle of a lap dance. I was furious.

Now he says that yes, he did receive a lap dance paid for by the company. He claims he lied because he knew how angry I'd be.

I am not a prude by any means. I am a fun-loving, hardworking, adventurous wife. His needs at home have always been met with a

smile. To be disrespected in such a manner is beyond my understanding. This situation could be a marriage wrecker if I don't figure out how to get past it. He refuses counseling. What should I do? — *Mortified in the Midwest*

Dear Mortified: Enlightened companies do not undermine their employees' marriages by encouraging visits to strip clubs and paying for lap dances.

It is not only vulgar and juvenile, it can intimidate otherwise sensible men into participating in order to be part of the group (and can be viewed as sexual harassment toward female employees).

Your problem is compounded by the fact that your husband lied. If this is the only instance where he has had a lapse in judgment, please try to forgive him. You have five children, and a one-time idiocy should not break up your marriage. Since we understand how difficult this is, please get counseling on your own.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, long-time editors of the Ann Landers column.

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Bird Poop:

Young swallow keeps its rescuers guessing

When the car stopped curbside in front of our house, Art called, "You have another bird!" Since there had been no warning of a delivery, I wondered what was coming our way during the last week of August. As she approached the front porch, the woman looked familiar. Having brought me nestlings in the past, she was disappointed that, because of the demands of her own growing family,



BEBE McCASLAND

she couldn't raise the youngster clutched in her hand. Opening her fingers slowly as I raised a swallow from her grasp, the woman thanked me for taking her charge. Feeding it insects, and often, would not be a problem, I thought. Figuring out which specie was going to be the challenge. When Art saw the grayish-brown hues of the top of the bird and the lighter feathers beneath, he asked where had she found it. Having removed its nest from the quarry located between Big Spring and Garden City, a workman had given it to the woman's husband. Since we had driven by the limestone facility on our way to pick up

a hawk one year, we were familiar with the surrounding rangeland and the product that lay hidden beneath the scrubs and grasses. Agreeing it was one of the plainest swallows we had ever seen, we could tell by the development of its feathers that it was close to becoming a fledgling. Our only clue as to its identity would be if it resembled its parents. For four days, the swallow dined and exercised. Upon calling Gail Barnes at South Plains in Lubbock, I mentioned we were still unsure as to what we had, even though we had looked through numerous books. We were headed her way. When no call came after our visit, I sensed we weren't the only ones in the dark. The ringing of the phone several days later was welcome. "You had a northern rough-winged swallow. It's doing well," said Gail. Concentrating on that particular specie,



Courtesy photo

Found throughout the United States during the summer, the northern rough-winged swallow winters in the southern hemisphere. With an appetite for flies, cotton-boll weevils, moths and dragonflies, the bird's wingspan, more than double its length, contributes to its notable flight abilities.

we had concerns that required more reading. Although the rough-wings normally used burrows they dug into the banks or bluffs along rivers or streams, they would adapt to what the surrounding terrain offered. Perhaps the parents had built a flimsy nest of dried grasses and leaves in a pipe. Known to find crevices under bridges, or holes in walls, the swallows had adjusted to the western environment and succeeded in raising their young. In handling the swallow, we had not felt

or seen any "rough" segment on the leading edges of the wings. Through our search for more information, we learned the bird would acquire this distinction after a year of development. At that time, along the outer primary feather of each wing, tiny hooks would combine into a saw-like effect. In flight, these serrations contribute to a whistling vibration that assists in courtship. Although we had enjoyed having another specie, we were to miss other facets of its life.

In its juvenile plumage, the northern rough-winged swallow, attired in the most colorful rendition of its growth, would have its throat and upper breast covered by a soft buff hue. Cinnamon-colored wing bars would highlight its announcement of emerging adulthood. With breeding maturity achieved, the bird again would be the drab coloration of its nestling days. *Bebe McCasland is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.*

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Rescued boaters back with families

PORT ARANSAS (AP) — Three Texas boaters missing for a week were reunited with their families early Sunday after they were found alive, sitting on top of their capsized catamaran 180 miles from land, the Coast Guard said.

The crew of the Affordable Fantasy spotted the men Saturday night off Port Aransas and rescued them from their 23-foot catamaran, said Petty Officer 3rd Class Renee Aiello. A Coast Guard boat met them and brought them back to land, where emergency management services crews were waiting for them. They declined medical attention.

They were identified as Curtis Hall, 28, of Palacios; Tressel Hawkins, 43, of Markham; and James Phillips, 30, of Blessing, who owned the boat. The three were reported missing Aug. 22 after they left Matagorda, about 90 miles southwest of Houston, on a fishing trip and never returned. Port Aransas is about 130 miles from Matagorda. The three went to sleep that Friday night and were awakened by



AP photo/Houston Chronicle/James Nielsen

James Phillips, right, one of three fisherman who were rescued after eight days adrift in the Gulf of Mexico hugs his daughter Laney Phillips, 7, as his wife Shane Phillips looks on Sunday in Blessing, Texas.

water coming in, said Shane Phillips, whose husband, James, was relaxing Sunday with his five children. "They tried to start the pumps to get the water out," she told the Houston Chronicle. "They would not start." They fired off three flares hoping to get the

attention of workers at a nearby oil rig, but no one responded. The boat capsized that night. The Coast Guard officials said they survived because they stuck with the boat. The men also rationed bubble gum and crackers and used a hose to suck fresh water out of the internal "washdown" tank. Fishermen often keep such a tank to wash fish slime off their boat when they are out in the salt water. "It's not the cleanest, not the greatest and it tasted like diesel," Shane Phillips told the newspaper. The Coast Guard had called off its search Friday after scouring 86,000 square miles of water without finding them.

"It's like finding a needle in a haystack out in the Gulf of Mexico," Aiello said late Saturday. "It's obvious they had a will to survive, and they did it for seven days." Hall's fiancée, Rebecca Kern, said it was difficult to describe her emotions. "It's just been a roller coaster of emotions all week, the not knowing, getting upset and fearing for them out there. We weren't going to give up," she said. "We knew they were out there on that boat and we had to bring them home."

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