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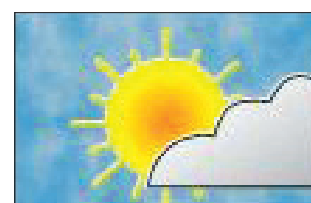


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H BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY

OCTOBER 1, 2009



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Man gets 45 years for sexual assault of child

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

A Big Spring man was sentenced to 45 years in prison after being convicted of aggravated sexual assault of a child Wednesday.

A 118th District Court jury deliberated about an hour before handing down the sentence on Jon Paul Proctor just before noon Wednesday.

Proctor was convicted of forcing a girl under the age of 14 to perform



Proctor

a sex act on him on or about Aug. 27, 2008.

He had been indicted on two counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child stemming from the incident, but was cleared by the jury on one count.

He had faced a maximum sentence of 99 years or life in prison. Proctor must serve half his sentence before becoming eli-

gible for parole.

Proctor was represented by Midland attorney Tom Hirsch.

Assistant District Attorney Robin D. Orr, who represented the state in the trial, credited the weight of physical evidence as being an important factor in the jury's decision.

"I am gratified by the jury's decision," Orr said. "The physical evidence corroborated the little girl's testimony and the DNA evidence pointed heavily toward the defen-

dant. I believe that evidence weighed heavily with the jury in their deliberations.

"This was a very difficult, emotional trial," Orr added. "But it's gratifying that the jury listened to the testimony and trusted the impact of the scientific evidence and came to the conclusion they did."

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

CAF Airshow scheduled Oct. 10-11

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

MIDLAND — The skies over Midland and Odessa will be abuzz Oct. 10-11, as the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) gets ready to present its annual Airshow, complete with the F/A-18s of the VFA-106 Tactical Demonstration Team.

"We are excited to have the VFA-106 Tactical Demo Team join us at AIRSHO this year," said CAF President, Stephan Brown. "At the 2009 AIRSHO, we will give the community an opportunity to witness the power and speed of the United States Military. The F/A-18 is an awesome example of how our modern military protects our freedoms."

The F/A-18 Hornet is an all-weather aircraft used as an attack aircraft as well as a fighter. The fighter was first introduced in 1987 and is able to climb at 50,000 feet per minute, reaching maximum speeds of almost 1,200 miles per hour.

According to CAF officials, the Hornet will take part in

See **AIRSHO**, Page 3

Fair puts ag in classroom

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

Even in a rural community such as Big Spring, agriculture's impact is still often misunderstood, producers say. So what better way to combat that misunderstanding than by educating the young?

Area fifth-graders got a first-hand look at how agriculture affects our every day lives during the Ag in the Classroom event held in conjunction with the first day of the Howard County Fair Wednesday.

The students were treated to number of demonstrations, including how to shoe a horse, grind corn and brand a cow.

While many of the events were fun — the interactive nature of the event allowed the students to get hands-on experience in several agriculture-related chores — they were also designed to make the students aware of agriculture's importance in this area.

"It's amazing to me that so many people who live in Big Spring and Howard have no idea what agriculture is or how it works," said Tom Koger, who gave a cow-branding demonstration. "Sometimes, I get dumber questions from the adults than I do from the kids. This is an opportunity to acquaint them with agriculture and just how important it is to this community."

See **FAIR**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Katie Grigg of Howard County Master Gardeners helps a local student build a terrarium during the Ag in the Classroom demonstrations sponsored by the county farm bureau at the Howard County Fair Wednesday.

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Heflin stresses importance of being counted

Special to the Herald

CROSBYTON — Representative Joe Heflin is encouraging all of his constituents to participate in the upcoming census. America's Founding Fathers, in 1787, included the requirement for an "enumeration" of people in the Constitution of the United States. The first census was conducted in 1790 and it has been done once every 10 years for the last 220 years.

Explaining the importance of an accurate census count, Rep. Heflin said, "As you probably know, another census will be conducted in 2010, and work has

already started to ensure an accurate count. The results of the decennial census will be used not only by the federal government but by our state and local governments for a variety of purposes, including decisions about program funding and redistricting elective offices."

Many local, state and federal programs are funded based on population so it is imperative for the census count to include everyone. Among the programs funded based on population are Medicaid, Medicare enrollment assistance, highway planning and construction, the Children's Health Insurance Program

(CHIP), the State Abstinence Education Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Family Violence Prevention/Battered Women's shelters.

Heflin continued, "The funds for these programs are Texas taxpayers' dollars coming back to our state and local community, so it is critically important for every Texan to be counted."

The Texas Legislature also will use the 2010 census numbers to redistrict its 181 legislative districts when the 82nd Legislature convenes its next regular session

See **CENSUS**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Brenda Roberts McGael

Brenda Roberts McGael, 48, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2009, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2, 2009, at Myers & Smith Chapel with Pastor Nick Portocarrero of Christ Community Fellowship officiating. Burial will follow at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends beginning at 1 p.m. Friday prior to the service.

She was born April 19, 1961, to Natalie and ArLlyn Roberts in Vernal, Utah. She was a lifetime resident of Howard County. She had been a waitress at Great Western and a nurse's aid at Mountain View Lodge. She had also worked at Family Dollar and Western Container.

She had also been a model at a local department store. She loved trips to Las Vegas, the beach and fishing. She was a loving mother and grandmother. She was a member of Christ Community Fellowship.

She is survived by one son, Jason Roberts and his wife, April, of Big Spring; two daughters, Taryn Shasta McGael of Minnesota and Ashley Brianna Henderson of Washington; her father, ArLlyn Roberts and his wife, D'Ann, of Utah; one sister, Cathy Collins and her husband, Ron, of Fort Worth; two brothers, Mark Roberts and his wife, Sherry, of Big Spring and Wayne Roberts and his wife, Robin, of Utah; two grandchildren, Kaleb Joseph Roberts and Natalie Delores Roberts, both of Big Spring; an aunt and uncle, Margaret and Dan Newsom of Garden City; an aunt, Joyce Hartline of Chandler; a number of nieces, nephews and cousins; and a dear friend, Ross White.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Natalie Newsom Roberts.

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

Paid obituary

William Ross Neal

William Ross Neal, 84, of Big Spring died Thursday, Oct. 1, 2009, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

C.L. Gooch

C.L. Gooch, 92, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2009, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Take Note

Howard County and Forsan 4-H Club members will clean the pocket park off Main Street in Big Spring Oct. 10 beginning at 10 a.m. The effort, planned as a way for 4-H to "give back" to the community that has supported its efforts for more than 100 years, will be led by AgriLife Extension agents and 4-H adult leaders with guidance from Master Gardeners and Keep Big Spring Beautiful.

Home Hospice would like to welcome anyone who would like to give a few hours of their time a month volunteering with patients or doing office work. There are many areas you can volunteer in. We train you at your convenience. Please call Sherry Hodnett, volunteer coordinator, at (432) 264-7599.

Robert Diaz is a lifelong Big Spring citizen and longtime city of Big Spring employee. Robert and Yvonne have four children and are raising four of their grandchildren. Robert has been on dialysis for about two years and is in need of a kidney transplant. Robert's wife, Yvonne is a match and they have been able to start the process due to the kindness and generosity of friends, family and Big Spring citizens. They are still in need due to all the fees that they will incur from the transplant. Anyone wishing to make a donation can do that at Citizens Credit Union, account 932728. All donations are appreciated.

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.

Road to Recovery, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call (877) 277-1618, the High Plains American Cancer Group Report Center. Anyone wishing to volunteer to drive in this program should call Sherry Hodnett, president of the Big Spring ACS Board, at 264-7599 at her office at Home Hospice.

Police blotter

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

- DERRICK DRAKE, 23, of 1425 E. Sixth St. Apt. 104, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.
- MARTY EVANS, 19, of 1410 E. 11th Place, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- CAROL SCAGGS, 62, of 2610 Fairchild, was arrested Wednesday on two local warrants and a charge of failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- BEVERLY ARMSTRONG, 47, of 1200 E. 15th St., was arrested Wednesday on two local warrants.
- CHAUNCEY FORD, 29, of 2000 Johnson, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant from another agency.
- MONTE MITCHELL, 41, of 2609 Chanute, was arrested Wednesday on two local warrants.
- THEFT was reported in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
- POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA – TWO OUNCES OR LESS was reported in the 1000 block of Settles.
- POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA was reported in the 1000 block of Lancaster.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 82 inmates at the time of this report.

- BEVERLY RYNEL ARMSTRONG, 47, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on contempt charges for expired driver's license and failure to appear.
- MARCUS LEON BURNETT, 35, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a probation revocation for contempt of court.
- DERRICK TODD DRAKE, 23, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.
- MARTY RAY EVANS, 19, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- CHAUNCEY LAVAR FORD, 29, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of contempt of court.
- MICHAEL ANGELO GARZA, 21, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for burglary of a habitation.
- MONTE MITCHELL, 41, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of assault Class C and failure to appear.
- JON PAUL PROCTOR, 32, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on judgment/sentence for aggravated sexual assault of a child.
- CAROL SCAGGS, 62, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of failure to maintain financial responsibility, failure to change address within 30 days and violation of a promise to appear.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of N. Salem Road. 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 500 block of N. Johnson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1400 block of Stadium. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3600 block of Boulder. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

TODAY

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

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Fri 10/2	Sat 10/3	Sun 10/4	Mon 10/5	Tue 10/6
 84/56	 81/62	 84/66	 91/65	 83/61
Sunrise: 7:41 AM Sunset: 7:29 PM	Sunrise: 7:41 AM Sunset: 7:28 PM	Sunrise: 7:42 AM Sunset: 7:27 PM	Sunrise: 7:43 AM Sunset: 7:25 PM	Sunrise: 7:44 AM Sunset: 7:24 PM

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Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abiene	78	56	sunny	Kingsville	93	73	t-storm
Amarillo	70	44	sunny	Livingston	78	58	t-storm
Austin	78	64	cloudy	Longview	78	53	pt sunny
Beaumont	78	63	t-storm	Lubbock	78	50	sunny
Brownsville	94	75	t-storm	Lufkin	78	57	pt sunny
Brownwood	79	57	mst sunny	Midland	84	59	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	89	74	t-storm	Raymondville	97	75	pt sunny
Corsicana	79	55	sunny	Rosenberg	79	65	t-storm
Dallas	80	56	sunny	San Antonio	79	70	cloudy
Del Rio	83	69	cloudy	San Marcos	79	64	cloudy
El Paso	85	63	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	78	53	sunny
Fort Stockton	86	63	pt sunny	Sweetwater	79	55	sunny
Gainesville	79	53	sunny	Tyler	78	53	pt sunny
Greenville	78	52	sunny	Weatherford	78	54	sunny
Houston	79	65	t-storm	Wichita Falls	79	52	sunny

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Lottery

The winning numbers in Wednesday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Lotto Texas" game were:
02-15-26-27-31-39.

The winning numbers in Wednesday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Cash 5" game were:
02-10-12-29-37.

The winning numbers in Wednesday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Daily 4 Night" game were:
5-6-9-3. Sum It Up: 23.

The winning numbers in Wednesday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Pick 3 Night" game were:
6-1-6. Sum It Up: 13

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday afternoon, in order:
2-6-2-6. Sum It Up: 16.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday afternoon, in order:
9-9-6. Sum It Up: 24.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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WTCMHMR plans ribbon cutting in Sweetwater

By VALERIE AVERY

Special to the Herald

SWEETWATER — West Texas Centers for MHMR, Nolan County officials and Sweetwater Chamber of Commerce representatives will cut the ribbon to the new MHMR Center, 1200 Henderson, at 2 p.m. Oct. 6 at the center's new Sweetwater facility.

The renovated building houses Nolan County's Mental Health and Mental Retardation services and the Little Lives Early Childhood Intervention program.

Nearly 100 employees provide care and services for people living in Nolan and Fisher counties.

An open house will follow the ribbon cutting and visitors will be taken on tours by West Texas Centers for MHMR employees. Refreshments will be served and

numerous giveaways will be provided throughout the afternoon.

Smith will welcome visitors from Nolan and Fisher counties throughout the afternoon, including special guests State Rep. Susan King (R-Abilene) and Nolan County Judge Tim Fambrough.

"This is just an exciting day for our agency," said Judge Fambrough, who also serves as a member of the West Texas Centers for MHMR Board of Trustees. "We spend a great deal of time asking the people we serve what they desire, and nearly all emphatically have said that they want all their care to come from one location."

West Texas Centers had maintained four service locations in Sweetwater — Nolan County Mental Health Center, Little Lives ECI, Mental Retardation Residential pro-

grams and Mental Retardation Vocational programs. All services are now provided under one roof, which is advantageous to the agency's clients and to the agency as a whole, West Texas Centers for MHMR CEO Shelley Smith said.

Smith and her staff have met with Nolan County leaders, including Judge Fambrough and businessman Ronnie Cox since early 2006. Cox was instrumental in locating the building and its owner, Linco, who modified and renovated it according to the Center's needs.

"Linco has gone above and beyond what has been asked of them," Smith said. "This building is designed specifically for the consumers we serve."

Work moved quickly because of the initiative of the community, Smith said.

"This has been a collective effort on the part of the entire Sweetwater community," Smith said. "If Sweetwater had not gone out of their way to find this building, we would never have achieved this dream. It shows what happens when partnerships and the communities get together and work toward one common goal."

Nolan County MHMR provides care for 284 clients each month in the ECI program; 314 in mental health; and 57 in the three mental retardation programs — residential, foster care and vocational services.

"It only makes sense from a cost-savings standpoint to have all our employees in one place where we can contain building maintenance costs as well," Smith said. "I am particularly proud that the building has been remodeled

specifically for our needs."

West Texas Centers for MHMR provides support and services to more than 2,200 consumers and family members each month who are in need of assistance.

The Nolan County MHMR renovations are just one of several construction projects West Texas Centers for MHMR has undertaken the past few years. Upton County recently opened the Upton County Mental Health Center in McCamey.

West Texas Center is the mental health authority for 23 rural counties in West Texas. Counties served by West Texas Centers are: Andrews, Borden, Crane, Dawson, Fisher, Gaines, Garza, Glasscock, Howard, Kent, Loving, Martin, Mitchell, Nolan, Reeves, Runnels, Scurry, Terrell, Terry, Upton, Ward, Winkler and Yoakum counties.

Fair Board:

Staulcup seems to have a real 'burden for service'

By NANCY KOGER

Special to the Herald

"Some people just have a burden for service," Jo Ann Staulcup says she realized when she got on the Howard County Fair Board. "That's the reason they do things like this."

For several years Staulcup worked at a booth at the fair and wondered exactly what board members did. When she retired, she decided to find out. "They do hot, hard, heavy labor for days,



STAULCUP

fair," she has learned during her seven years on the board.

The Ballinger native grew up on a cotton and cattle farm and loves fairs. She sees their purpose as a way to expose young people to rural life

and traditions. "I hate to see arts and skills that folks used to have to use die out because of lack of knowledge," she states.

When asked about her responsibilities with the fair board, Jo Ann describes herself as a "gofer," "the one who does what nobody else does." Some of her tasks have been to produce the publicity brochure and to arrange for media contacts. This year she also became the person in charge of outside booths. "That's what

happens when you miss a board meeting," she laughingly admits.

Her first assignment was working with the Kountry Kids, a contest to promote cotton and encourage children's participation. She handed that task over to Jeanie Coor, whom she says has done a really great job.

Staulcup knows something about that "burden for service." She has been a City Council member for 8 years, serves as presi-

dent of the Friends of the Library, and is secretary of the board of Haven House, a non-profit group which provides lodging for spouses of vets in the local VA facility. She serves on the Howard County Health Clinic board and works at her church, Trinity Baptist.

She and her husband John both worked at the VA Hospital, are both retired, and stay busy helping with the Festival of Lights and Keep Big Spring Beautiful organizations.

The busy lady sees the county fair as an important asset to the

community and is willing to work to make it continue. She says, "I'd like for us to some-

AIRSHO

Continued from Page 1

the show's annual Legacy Flight, which features modern aircraft and their predecessors together, wing to wing.

"At this year's Airsho, the CAF's own Grumman Wildcat will fly in formation with the F/A-18 Hornet in the Legacy Flight," said CAF Airsho Director Gena Linebarger. "The Legacy Flight is visual proof of

the evolution of United States Naval Airpower. This flight is awesome to watch, it shows you the strides our country has made in its efforts to preserve our freedom. It makes you proud to be an American."

Designed and built prior to and during the early years of World War II, the Grumman Wildcat was one of America's most capable naval fighters in the battles of the Coral Sea, Midway and Guadalca-

historians.

The FM-2 Wildcat that will be making the Legacy Flight was donated to the CAF in 1986 by Bob and Claire Reiss of San Diego, according to CAF officials, and is currently painted as a Martlet VI in the colors of the British Squadron 835 honoring the fact that the British were the first to fly the Wildcat in combat.

Airsho will open its gates to the public at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 10.

Advance tickets for the show are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children ages 6-12 years, with children under 6 years free. Tickets at the gate will be \$20 for adults and \$5 for children ages 6-12 years. Tickets are available at Western National Bank and FINA 7-Eleven locations, online at www.AIRSHO.org and at the Commemorative Air Force Headquarters at Midland International Airport.

For more information on the show, visit www.

airsho.org online or call (432) 563-1000.

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

FAIR

Continued from Page 1

This marks the 24th year for the program, which combines a bit of history — such as branding, horse shoeing, antique tractors and hand-cranked corn grinders — with the high tech — students got to climb into the cab of a \$190,000 tractor complete with GPS navigation and satellite radio

and tour a trailer that displayed many of the products produced by farmers and ranchers.

"So many kids unfortunately do not have a clue about agriculture," said Mike Moates of the Howard County Farm Bureau. "We try to show them how we used to do things in the old days and how things are done today."

Organizers also hoped to — pardon the pun — plant a seed in the students' minds about

a possible agriculture-related career.

"We wanted to show them that there's a lot of other things involved in agriculture than just driving a tractor," he said. "There's things such as research or working for a company that provides feed or chemicals for farm and ranch use. Hopefully, they'll see that they may have a future in this."

The tour was the first public event of the fair's opening day. To-

night's events include the crowning of the fair queen.

Admission to the fair, which runs through Saturday, is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.


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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288
Brenda Roberts McGael, 48, died Tuesday. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends beginning at 1 p.m. Friday prior to the service.

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In Loving Memory
Mary Martinez

I can't believe it has been a year that has passed. And there is not a single day that I don't think about you especially when I see your purple grapes. But I have to believe you are in a better place.

I love you always!
Sandra

CENSUS

Continued from Page 1

in January 2011. In that regard, Heflin offered the following sobering statistic, "There are currently more legislators residing in Harris County than there are west of Interstate 35. Given that fact and the growth in other parts of the state, it is even more

important for every person in West Texas to be counted. I hope everyone will take the time to complete and turn in their census form by the April 1, 2010, deadline."

Heflin represents Texas House District 85, which include Borden, Glasscock and Howard Counties. He may be reached at his Capitol office in Austin, 512-463-0604; at his district office in Crosbyton, 806-675-1583; or in Big Spring at 432-213-2897.

I enjoy chicken-fried steak with thick gravy. Granted, I do not enjoy it as often as I did before I became aware of cholesterol and triglyceride issues. Wisdom dictates that I change eating habits of yesteryear.

One simple way to refrain from eating unhealthy food is to fill up on good things. Worded another way, "overcome evil with good." Filling up on fruits and vegetables is more enjoyable than it used to be and is certainly healthier than the thick-gravy approach to eating.

In a similar way, "hungering and thirsting for righteousness" prompts us to indulge on Jesus, "The Bread of Life." The more we fill our hearts with the word of God, the less we desire sinful behaviors and choices. Indeed, we consider the word of God to be "sweeter than honey."

Spiritual health is directly linked to spiritual diet! Do you have a holy hunger?

AN ENCOURAGING WORD



By Eddy Pitchford

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Sunday Worship.....	10:20 AM
Sunday Worship.....	5:00 PM
Wednesday Class.....	7:00 PM

EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

Bill McClellan
News Editor

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

OUR VIEW

It's time to start planning for this year's Christmas

It may seem much too early in the year for thinking about Christmas gifts, but that's exactly what the Salvation Army in Big Spring is doing these days as it starts taking applications for the annual Angel Tree program.

Their Salvation Army staff has begun the task of providing presents for children and elderly citizens that might not otherwise have a merry Christmas.

Every year the Salvation Army helps hundreds of children and senior citizens, but organizers admit having some concern that even more will need help this year.

“It's going to be a tough Christmas holiday for a lot of families this year,” was the way Salvation Army social worker Paula Lafler put it.

The Salvation Army will be taking applications from parents needing the holiday assistance Monday, Oct. 5, at the Corps building, located at 811 W. Fifth St., and will continue to do so from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. each day through Friday, Oct. 16. There will be no late registration because the Army's personnel have to get everything written on cards and get them distributed to the various Angel Tree sites.

The list of documents applicants need to bring with them to apply is rather lengthy, but applicants will be able to know whether or not they are approved on the spot.

Those seeking to apply should bring a picture ID for the person applying, Social Security cards for all household members, birth certificates for children 12 and under and some proof of income like a payroll check stub from work or forms provided by food stamps, AFDC, TANIF, HUD etc. They must also provide a copy of all of their expenses, as well as a list of what their children might want for Christmas, including clothing and shoe sizes.

Once the names and gift ideas are collected and put on the trees in the form of cards, area shoppers will have the opportunity to brighten a child's holiday by choosing one and purchasing items for them.

Although the Angel Tree program is a large part of the Salvation Army's holiday spirit, it's by no means the only one. The local corps office staff is also gearing up for the Thanksgiving holiday, as well as the annual canned food drive.

For information concerning any of the Salvation Army's community programs, call 267-8239.

And for those of us more fortunate, we encourage participating once the Angel Trees go up around town. It just takes a few dollars to brighten this special time for a child or an elderly person.

Yes, the holiday season is coming. And with it comes a special time to share our good fortunes with others less fortunate. We invite you to reach out to a small child or elderly person in need this holiday season. The feeling you will receive from helping others is truly what the holiday spirit is all about.

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

Today is the perfect gift of being with You, Lord, thank You.

Amen

Alon move makes some sense

Here we go again. OK, so I've used that line too many times already, but it just seems like so much of what goes on in Big Spring — from city and county government to the court system — is hugely reciprocal, churning in a large, never-ending circle where change is impossible, if only unlikely.

When news broke last week that Alon USA, owner of the Big Spring Refinery, had filed suit against the Howard County Appraisal District to dispute its 2009 tax valuation, I'd like to tell you I was surprised, even taken aback. But truthfully, I was neither.

Let's take a look at the bare-bones of the matter. The appraisal district looks over the refinery and says, “Hey, you're facility is worth \$249 million.” The refinery owners — for some strange reason I like to envision Ben and Jerry, of ice cream fame, standing there with their arms crossed and a scowl on their faces — simply shake their heads and say, “Nuh uh.”

So Ben and Jerry — yes, I know they don't own the refinery, but bear with me, because it makes this whole process so much more bearable for me — go to the appraisal board, basically the boss of the boss, and force them to look at it. The board, using whatever formula it is they use, comes back and says, “OK, fellas. You're facility is now worth \$169 million.”

Ben and Jerry, still standing there with their arms crossed, look at their new valuation and say, “Nuh uh. We want to pay taxes on \$80 million.”

Granted, I have serious doubts

about where that \$80 million either went or came from, but for the sake of staying on track, we'll let that one go.

Bear in mind, this is the same amount the appraisal board nixed off their valuation to begin with. And before you get the wrong idea, I really do believe the good folks that serve on the appraisal board are coming up with this number based on facts, not just cutting “them good ol' boys” a discount because they decided to show up.

And so here we are, ready for two economic juggernauts to go to war. Each will once again be armed with the best attorneys — who will be financing new jets based on the income they will receive thanks to the “Nuh uh” heard 'round the Crossroads — maybe even the same attorneys that went to battle over this very same matter last year.

In fact, since the legislature has totally failed to address this issue, why don't we just get a video of last year's week-long trial, and we can just voice-dub the new figures in. I mean, c'mon, does it really matter if the voice and lips match up with these guys? And then we can just play it for the judge — 118th District Judge Robert H. Moore III, to be exact — and save everyone a great deal of time and money.

As loudly as I groaned at the prospect of heading back into court to watch another tax trial, I'm sure Moore — who is entirely too classy to admit it — groaned just as loud, or even louder. While I'm forced to report on what happens in court, Moore has to actually understand it, and there are more industry terms and jargon than you can shake a stick at.

Now, I realize some of you are saying to yourself, “Why in the world would Alon USA do this to us, the taxpayers?” Unfortunately, this is one of the few easy questions in the entire mael-

strom. They are doing it because it's very, very profitable.

Here's an example for all you homeowners out there. Let's say your house gets a valuation of \$100,000. Regardless of whether you agree or not, you decide to head on down to the appraisal board and see if you can catch a break. And, somehow, you do. The board comes back and hands you a valuation of \$60,000. In county taxes, you just saved more than \$200.

We all know \$200 is a drop in the bucket to Alon USA. However, a \$249 million valuation — based on a 57-cent tax rate — comes out to about \$1.41 million, while an \$80 million valuation comes out to around \$456,000. That's about \$1 million in savings. They'd have to be fools to walk away from that, right?

In the end, if we're going to start looking around the community for someone to lynch for all this mess, we might want to direct our view at the legislature, which failed to cinch-up this topic during its session.

Is Alon USA taking advantage of the situation? Sure they are. But so will every one of us when it comes time to do our taxes. We'll milk every loophole we can get our greedy little hands on, and when it's all over, if you expect us to apologize to Uncle Sam, you're, well... Nuts.

Let's all hope both sides in this lawsuit find a more timely, more economic way to settle this disagreement. Let's all hope it doesn't take more than two years, like it did last time.

However, I get the feeling it's going to go a lot like when my dad used to tell me, “Son, wish in one hand and spit in the other, and see which one fills up first.”

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



THOMAS JENKINS

ADDRESSES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

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

• **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**
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Phone: 202-224-5922

• **JOHN CORNYN**
U.S. Senator

517 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
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• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**
U.S. Representative
1510 Scurry
Big Spring
Phone: (432) 264-0722

STATE GOVERNMENT

• **RICK PERRY**
Governor
State Capitol, Room 2S.1
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, 78711
Phone: (512) 463-2000

Even the audience was staged

They were told that the Cuban government couldn't be trusted — warned by thousands that there was no way that outside promoters could stage and control a massive music concert under a very repressive communist dictatorship.

But Juanes and his friends persisted, as “useful fools” usually do.

Although the group of artists led by the Colombian pop singer was warned that the Castro dictatorship would use them to project an image of freedom that doesn't really exist on the communist island, these naive performers went ahead with their “Peace Without Borders” concert, attended by more than a million people, in Havana's Revolution Plaza.

And given the sizes of their egos, were it not for an unmasking video, they would be telling us that the whole thing was a huge success, that with 5 1/2 hours of music, they have begun to transform a 50-year-long entrenched dictatorship, and that they are miracle workers.

Many more people would be falling for their self-indulging rhetoric were it not for a video that reveals that they were much bigger “useful fools” than even their worst critics expected.

The video, shot only hours before the concert, shows the moment when Juanes and the other performers finally realized that they had been duped and betrayed by Cuban authorities and that the audience they thought would be given free access to the concert was made up mostly of hand-picked communists.

The footage was shot by journalists accompanying the performers at Havana's Hotel Nacional on the morning of the

Sept. 20 concert and posted on YouTube. On it, we see and hear Juanes and some of the others angrily protesting as they discover that access to the concert is being scrutinized strictly by Cuban authorities.

“We are very upset, very upset,” Juanes shouts repeatedly. “We can't permit that normal people aren't allowed in the show, that a person who has not brought a white shirt isn't allowed in,” Juanes tells fellow performers Miguel Bosé of Spain and Olga Tañón of Puerto Rico.

Their confrontation with Cuban authorities gets to a point where Juanes and Bosé threaten to cancel the concert and leave Cuba. “We're leaving!” Juanes shouts. “This is finished.”

The video shows that it was Tañón who persuaded the men to go on with the show, in spite of conflicting reports about whether the authorities finally relaxed their selective security at the plaza's four highly controlled entry points.

But the video also shows just what “useful fools” look like. At one point, amazingly, Juanes actually acknowledged that he felt he was being followed since he arrived in Havana.

“I just realized a little while ago that since yesterday, the guy who's bringing me breakfast, the guy who is accompanying me, then I see him in the concert, and now I see him hiding there sending messages,” Juanes shouts in the video, once again demonstrating amazing naiveté about the Cuban regime's Machiavellian tactics.

Going to Cuba and expecting not to be watched by spies is like going to Disney World and expecting not to see Mickey Mouse everywhere. They come out of the woodwork.

Yet the Colombian superstar and the other self-appointed peace ambassadors clearly were shaken by the pressure appar-

ently exerted on them by the Cuban government. In the video, you see Juanes, Bosé and Tañón weeping as they realize that in spite of their sacrifices, the brutal police state is living up to its reputation.

“We have complied with everything,” Bosé says. “Why do they punish us like this? Why do they mistreat us like this? Why do they humiliate us like this?”

At this point, of course, you feel like shouting back at the video: “Because you are in Cuba, dummy. Now you know how it feels!”

Granted, much to the surprise of many critics, including me, Juanes and Bosé sang a song about freedom. Instead of sticking with their phony “peace” theme in a country where the cry should be for freedom, Juanes even dared to utter the words “Cuba Libre,” or “Free Cuba,” near the end of the concert.

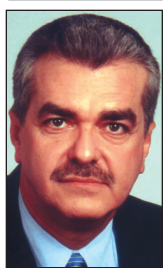
But it was too little too late. They already had been used by the Cuban government to put on a show in which even the audience was staged. They already had opened the way for Castro on the following day to charge in a newspaper column that the concert was a blow against the U.S. economic embargo against his regime. They already had shown that they are the kind of idealists who allow themselves to be used by leftist despots.

Nevertheless, instead of caving in at Revolution Plaza, imagine the statement they could have made had they actually canceled the concert, got on the next plane out of Havana and denounced the repression they encountered in Cuba.

That would have been truly revolutionary.

By walking out, perhaps they actually could have accomplished something.

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MIGUEL PEREZ

TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS:

Massive Texas wind farm operating

ROSCOE (AP) — A massive West Texas wind farm billed as the largest in the world is up and running.

German company E.ON Climate and Renewables on Thursday announced the completion of the 100,000-acre wind farm near Roscoe that spans four counties.

The company says the 627-turbine wind farm is now producing energy. It has the capacity to generate 781.5 megawatts, enough electricity to power more than 230,000 homes.

Texas is the nation's top wind power-producing state.

Police officer arrested for third time

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A San Antonio police officer has resigned after his third arrest.

Jason Rozacky, 36, has been under investigation since his ex-girlfriend's apartment was broken into and she was assaulted. The 14-year officer resigned Tuesday and remained in the Bexar County Jail on Thursday.

Mike Helle, president of the San Antonio Police Officers Association, emphasized Rozacky is innocent until proven guilty.

Rozacky was charged with burglary and intent to commit assault Aug. 26 after the break-in and assault. He was arrested about a month later on a charge of tampering with a witness. His latest arrest was for allegedly making repeated phone calls to the ex-girlfriend.

Teacher, pepper spray stop fight

FORT WORTH (AP) — A Fort Worth charter school teacher used pepper spray to break up a fight between two students in which no injuries were reported.

Police were called around 2 p.m. Wednesday to the Richard Milburn Academy where a teacher had already pepper-sprayed the students involved.

Authorities say two 16-year-old students got into a fight and by the time police arrived, they were either picked up by their parents or had left.

There were no reports of any arrests.

Academy spokeswoman Lara Brooks says the matter is under investigation.

Houston man forfeits animals

HOUSTON (AP) — A man who owned more than 1,000 recently seized birds, gerbils and other animals has agreed to forfeit all but two of them to the Houston Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Thirty-four-year-old Joselito Rivera Boado also agreed Wednesday to vacate his northwest Houston house in 30 days and forfeit his house to the county. That's in order to help satisfy \$213,458 in medical and boarding costs for the animals that were seized by animal rescue personnel a week ago.

Assistant county attorney Linda Geffin says between 100 to 200 of the animals have died.

The SPCA has said the owners indicated they planned to sell the animals at flea markets.

No charges have been filed.

Former Olympian sentenced

DALLAS (AP) — Two Zimbabwe citizens and a Texan found guilty of defrauding the U.S. government by filing false income tax returns have been sentenced to federal prison.

A statement Wednesday from the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Texas says Fabian Muyaba, Joseph Mudekunya and Nichelle Henson, of Como, Texas, were convicted in June on various offenses related to a conspiracy scheme in which they profited.

Muyaba received a 10-year prison sentence. He testified to being the 100-meter record holder for his country and a former Olympic athlete. Mudekunya was sentenced to eight years and one month and was ordered to pay back \$422,000. Henson was sentenced to four years.

Mudekunya and Muyaba are part-time Texas residents.

Vaccine expected to trickle to Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Department of State Health Services is urging state residents to be patient as shipments of swine flu vaccine begin trickling into the state over the next week or two.

Department commissioner Dr. David Lakey said Wednesday that the first week's allocation of about 237,000 doses of FluMist will go to children 2 and 3 years of age.

"All of us will have to be patient and flexible as we meet this challenge," Lakey said in a news release. "For example, pregnant women are one of the highest priority groups for vaccination, but the first vaccine available to us is FluMist. Pregnant women should not receive FluMist."

FluMist is only for healthy people ages 2 to 49, so many high-risk residents must wait for the shot version. The priority groups for the swine flu vaccine are: pregnant women; people caring for infants under 6 months old; health care workers; all people ages 6 months through 24 years old; and people 25 to 64 with health conditions that put them at high risk of flu complications.

"We've been told that we'll have about 15 million doses for Texas after all is said and done, but it won't be available all at once," Lakey said. "The vaccine will trickle in week to week, especially at first. It's a fluid situation driven primarily by how much vaccine the manufacturers produce each week."

He said that the 15 million does should be enough to meet demand in Texas, but it could be late January before all the doses are received.

Department spokesman Doug McBride said the agency hopes some shots will be arriving in the

second week's batch of vaccines. For that batch, pregnant women and more 2 and 3-year-olds are expected to get the vaccines.

"Ideally, we continue to get enough that we can address more and more of the high-priority groups," McBride said.

Lakey said that about 3.4 million doses of the vaccine had been expected to arrive in the state by mid-October, but the latest estimates are that no more than 1.7 million doses will be available by then. After mid-October, the weekly allotments are expected to be larger.

About 12,000 health care providers in Texas have signed up to provide the vaccine.

Judge asked to exclude some claims

ELDORADO (AP) — A polygamist sect member set to go on trial on a sexual assault charge asked a judge Wednesday to exclude allegations about multiple marriages and illegal bank activity, saying the accusations are unsubstantiated and unfairly prejudicial.

Raymond Jessop, a member of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, was indicted last year on a charge of sexual assault of a child stemming from his alleged marriage to a 16-year-old girl. His trial — scheduled to start Oct. 26 — will be the first stemming from the April 2008 raid of the Yearning For Zion Ranch in West Texas.

The Texas attorney general's office filed a notice in court last week accusing Jessop, 38, of marrying several women, of trying to skirt anti-money laundering laws and of using his wife's name to front a company in Arizona. While no additional charges were filed, prosecutors want to use the allegations to increase the punishment Jessop could face if convicted.

Jessop's attorney, Mark Stevens, said in a court filing in Schleicher County on Wednesday that

prosecutors cannot offer sufficient proof of the allegations and should not be allowed to make them or enter evidence that would be "unfairly prejudicial, confusing and misleading" to jurors.

He also objected to prosecutors accusing Jessop of being closely aligned with Warren Jeffs, the jailed FLDS leader who was on the FBI's most wanted list before being arrested and convicted in Utah as an accomplice to rape.

"It is apparent that the state wants to taint Raymond Jessop with Warren Jeffs's notoriety. The indictment in this case, however, does not allege a conspiracy, and, in fact, says nothing at all about Warren Jeffs. It is fundamentally unfair," Stevens said in his filing.

A pretrial hearing is set for Friday.

Commissioners dismissed by Perry

DALLAS (AP) — A report concluding a faulty investigation led to a Texas man's execution won't be reviewed by a state board as planned after the governor abruptly removed three people from the panel, forcing the meeting's cancellation and dealing a blow to advocacy groups who claim the inmate was innocent.

Gov. Rick Perry, who has said the execution was appropriate, replaced the head of the Texas Forensic Science Commission and two of its eight other board members Wednesday. The upheaval on the commission came just 48 hours before it was to consider a report critical of the arson finding leading to Cameron Todd Willingham's execution for the deaths of his three daughters in a 1991 fire.

Baltimore-based arson expert Craig Beyler, who was hired by the commission, concluded the arson finding was scientifically unsupported and investigators at the scene had "poor understandings of fire science." His report has bolstered arguments from advocacy groups that Willingham was innocent and wrongly executed.

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October Angel Food menu includes Thanksgiving Box

Special to the Herald

Angel Food orders will be taken Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church, located at 2702 N. Birdwell Lane.

Orders will also be taken Friday, Oct. 9, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the church. Orders will also be taken both Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall.

Angel Food now accepts the Lone Star Card, but the order must be made at the church location. Advance orders for a Thanksgiving box to be delivered with the November orders are also being taken. You may buy any and all boxes or specials without any restrictions.

REGULAR BOX — \$30

Three 8-ounce New York Strip Steaks, one pound of bake or fry fish sticks, 10 count flour tortilla wraps, one pound steak fajita strips, one pound pasta, 32 ounces shelf stable milk, two pound chicken stir fry skillet meal, 25 ounces marinara sauce, one dozen eggs, one pound of 80/20 ground beef, one pound frozen baby lima beans, dessert item, one pound breaded white meat chicken tenders, one pound frozen mixed vegetables, one pound center cut hickory smoked ham steak and an 8-10 count bag of fresh apples.

SENIOR BOX — \$28

Ten prepared, fully-cooked meals with heating instructions and desserts: Assorted cookies, sugar-

free applesauce, vanilla pudding, apple juice, orange juice and diced pineapple, roasted chicken, red-skinned potatoes, sugar snap peas and carrots; meat lasagna, green beans and cauliflower; Salisbury steak, gravy, red-skinned potatoes, cauliflower and peas and carrots; meat loaf and gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, carrots, cauliflower; chicken chow mein, sugar snap peas, cauliflower; cheese manicotti, green beans peas and carrots; chili with beef and beans, corn/red peppers, peas; boneless pork patty, roasted sweet potatoes, sugar snap peas, broccoli/cauliflower blend; fettuccini alfredo, Brussels sprouts, zucchini; lemon pepper baked fish, rice, peas and zucchini/red pepper blend.

ALLERGEN-FREE BOX — \$25

Four 4-ounce breaded chicken breast fillets, one pound breaded chicken breast nuggets, one pound breaded wings, four 4-ounce breaded cubed steak, one pound breaded chicken tenders. Breaded items are battered with water, white rice, brown rice, modified tapioca starch, flax seed, sugar, salt, spices, dehydrated garlic, spice extractives and oleoresin paprika.

THANKSGIVING BOX — \$36

Seven-pound Perdue roaster, 2.5 pounds boneless netted ham, two pounds frozen diced sweet potatoes, 12 frozen corn on the cob, two pounds frozen green beans, one pound frozen cranberries, 17 ounces ready to cook corn bread stuffing, eight large heat and serve dinner rolls, 4.5 ounces gravy mix, one dessert item (pie or cake) and one recipe

sheet.

SPECIAL 1 ASSORTED MEAT GRILL BOX — \$23

Three 8-ounce ribeye steaks, four 8-ounce lean hamburger steaks, four 8-ounce pork chops and 1.5 pounds bratwurst sausage with cheese.

SPECIAL 2 ASSORTED STEAK BOX — \$22

Two 12-ounce bone-in rib eye steaks, two 12-ounce T-bone steaks and two 12-ounce Kansas City strip steaks.

SPECIAL 3 BREADED CHICKEN COMBO BOX — \$20

Four pounds breaded chicken pieces, two pounds breaded chicken breasts fillets, two pounds breaded chicken tenders and two pounds breaded white meat chicken nuggets.

SPECIAL 4 FRUIT AND VEGGIE BOX — \$22

One golden pineapple, two pounds golden onions, three-pound bag tangerines, one head green cabbage, two bulbs jumbo garlic, one cantaloupe, four Bosc pears, two green bell peppers, four juicy limes, three-pound bag Idaho potatoes, three-pound bag large red potatoes and one pound whole peeled baby carrots.

All orders must be paid for at the time the order is placed. We accept cash, money orders and Lone Star Cards. For more information, call 267-2203, 267-3241 or 263-2536.

The pick up date for October orders will be Oct. 24 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the church.

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Consumer spending jumps 1.3 percent in August

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Consumer spending, propelled by the wildly popular Cash for Clunkers auto sales program, shot up in August by the largest amount in nearly eight years even though personal incomes continued to lag.

The Commerce Department said Thursday that consumer spending rose 1.3 percent in August, even better than the 1.1 percent gain that had been expected. Incomes, the fuel for future spending gains, continued to lag, edging up

0.2 percent in August, the same as the July increase.

The big jump in consumer spending, which accounts for 70 percent of total economic activity, is a good indication that the economy was returning to positive growth this summer. But economists are worried that any rebound from the recession could falter if income growth does not improve.

The government had reported Wednesday that the overall economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, was shrinking at an annual rate of

0.7 percent in the April-June quarter, the fourth straight quarterly decline as the nation continued to be battered by the longest recession since the 1930s.

The strong increase in spending in August, which followed a 0.3 percent rise in July, sets the stage for a return to positive growth. Many economists believe the GDP grew at an annual rate as high as 3 percent to 3.5 percent in the summer and should maintain growth at that level.

However, they are worried

that growth could slip to a much more sluggish pace next year as the impact of government stimulus programs lessens and households continue to be battered by rising unemployment and a variety of other problems.

The big jump in spending and much weaker gain in incomes translated into a big drop in the savings rate. Personal savings in August fell to 3 percent of after-tax incomes, down from 4 percent in July. That was still nearly double the savings rate of a year ago and economists believe the

savings rate will keep trending higher as households try to repair investment savings shredded by the recession.

Inflation, as measured by a gauge tied to consumer spending, showed a 0.3 percent rise in August, but that reflected higher energy costs. Excluding food and energy, this inflation gauge edged up just 0.1 percent and is 1.3 percent higher than a year ago, well within the comfort zone for the Federal Reserve, meaning that the central bank can continue to keep a key interest rate at a record low.

Health care may hit House, Senate floor during mid-October

DAVID ESPO

AP Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Historic health care legislation could be on the floor of both houses of Congress as early as mid-October as Democrats work to answer President Barack Obama's call for greater protections for those who have unreliable insurance or no coverage at all.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said Wednesday the Senate debate could begin the week of Columbus Day, Oct. 12, even though lawmakers are scheduled to be on vacation at the time.

Democratic aides said the House was working on roughly the same timetable, although after months of missed deadlines, neither House Speaker Nancy Pelosi nor Reid would provide a detailed schedule.

Debate in the Senate could take weeks, compared with mere days in the House.

But even now, two weeks before the projected start of debate, key decisions are yet to be made about elements of the bills.

Reid must decide, for example, whether to include an option for the government to sell insurance in competition with private industry, a provision sought by liberals who argue it would subject private insurers to much-needed competition.

Legislation that cleared the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee earlier in the year includes the so-called public option, but the Senate Finance Committee twice rejected proposals along those lines this week.

There is no such uncertainty in the House, where Pelosi has said it will be included in legislation that goes to the floor.

And even at this late date, Democrats in both houses are struggling to find ways to hold down the cost of the overhaul legislation while assuring quality health coverage for millions of lower-income individuals and families.

In the House, the issue has been the subject of closed-door negotiations in recent days.



AP photo/Dita Alangkara

A boy stands near a building flattened by an earthquake in Padang, West Sumatra, Indonesia. A second powerful earthquake rocked western Indonesia on Thursday as rescuers struggled to reach survivors of the previous day's quake, which killed more than 500 people and left thousands trapped under collapsed buildings.

Second quake shakes Indonesia

IRWAN FIRDAUS

Associated Press Writer

PADANG, Indonesia — Rescue workers used excavators Thursday to pull out victims, some screaming in pain, from the heavy rubble of buildings felled by a powerful earthquake that killed at least 531 people. The death toll was expected to rise.

The brunt of Wednesday's 7.6-magnitude earthquake, which originated in the sea off Sumatra island, appeared to have been borne by Padang town where 376 people were killed. Four other

districts accounted for the remaining deaths.

The region was jolted by another powerful earthquake Thursday morning, causing damage but no reported fatalities.

More than 500 buildings including hotels, schools, hospitals and a mall were destroyed or damaged in Padang. Thousands are believed trapped in the rubble.

"Oh God, help me! help me!" Friska Yuniwati, a 30-year-old woman, screamed in pain, as she was carried to an ambulance in downtown Padang. She had been pulled out minutes earlier

from the rubble of a house, her face covered in bruises and eyes shut.

Padang's state-run Djamil Hospital was overwhelmed by the influx of victims and families. Dozens of injured people were being treated under tents outside the hospital, which was itself partly damaged.

"Let's not underestimate (the disaster). Let's be prepared for the worst. We will do everything we can to help the victims," President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said in Jakarta before flying to Padang.

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HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler

Sands Mustangs spread back Johnny Rogers (12) passes the ball as he scrambles away from a Hermleigh defender in non-district six-man football action Aug. 28 in Ackerly. Rogers and the Mustangs are one of only two teams, along with Stanton, in the Crossroads region playing Friday night as a majority of squads are using this week as a bye. Sands — ranked No. 5 in six-man Division II — hosts No. 7 Dawson at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Take five

Sands, Stanton only Crossroads region teams in action Friday

By JONATHAN HULL
Sports Editor

If attending high school football games is generally what you do for Friday night entertainment this time of year, then your options are pretty limited in the Crossroads region this week.

Only two teams — the Sands Mustangs and the Stanton Buffaloes — will take the gridiron Friday with Sands being the lone area squad playing a

home game.

Meanwhile, Big Spring, Forsan, Coahoma, Grady and Garden City have all elected to take the week off, leaving fans, players and coaches either bored or coaching a much-needed break.

The Steers (5-0) are undefeated at the break and get an extra week to prepare for district rival Frenship, which has

See **AREA**, Page 13

Cowboys run wild

Dallas has elite ground attack despite injuries

JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — Imagine how many yards the Dallas Cowboys would be running for if they could keep their running backs healthy.

Even with starter Marion Barber missing the last game because of an injury and backup Felix Jones leaving two games with injuries, Dallas has averaged a whopping 193.7 yards rushing per game, 23 yards better than any other NFL team.

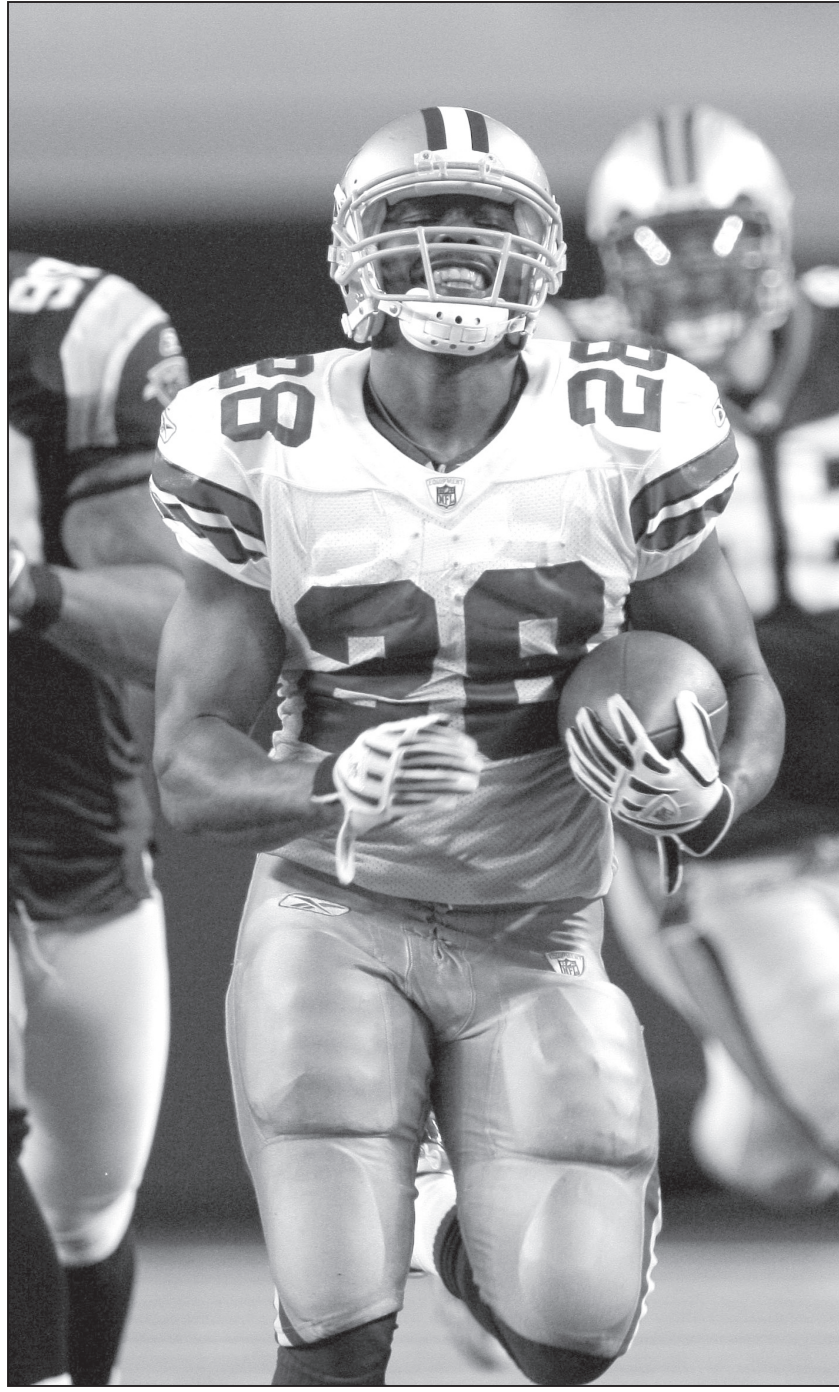
OK, three weeks into the season, league-leading totals are pretty worthless. But here's a pretty significant statistic: The Cowboys have run for more than 200 yards each of the last two games, a back-to-back feat they haven't pulled off since 1979. In other words, it never happened in all the years Emmitt Smith was running for the most yards in NFL history.

So, what gives?

How can Dallas be so much more successful than last year, when it ranked 21st in rushing, with pretty much the same runners and blockers?

"I don't have the answer," offensive line

See **COWBOYS**, Page 14



AP photo/Ralph Lauer

Dallas Cowboys running back Felix Jones (28) sprints away from several Carolina Panthers in the second half for a long run during an NFL game Monday in Arlington.

10 Sweetwater football players suspected of gang violence

BETSY BLANEY

Associated Press Writer

SWEETWATER — Local police say Sweetwaters on the town's high school football team are part of a gang that has beaten up several teenagers in the last several months.

No one has been arrested or detained in the attacks — one in August on a 17-year-old football player from the high school in nearby Roscoe and the other in June on several teens from a nearby town, according to Sweetwater police Chief Jim Kelley.

John Young, a Sweetwater attorney representing three of the juveniles allegedly involved in the attacks, disagreed that the group is a gang. He declined to name his clients or comment further.

"We are fully cooperating, and we're going to allow the system to run the course," he said.

The mother of the 17-year-old football player, Kristi Graham, wants authorities to pursue felony charges. She said her son, Riley Gilmore, was at a dance in Sweetwater when he agreed to meet and fight a teenager with whom he had an ongoing disagreement. She said her son, who through his mother declined to be interviewed, hasn't been clear about what the disagreement was about.

When Gilmore — a 6-foot-2, 300-pound line player — went to meet the other teenager, he discovered he was outnumbered, Graham said. Kelley said Gilmore was kicked and punched by about 10 members of a gang.

"He was in fear of his life," Graham said. "A schoolyard fight is one on one. A schoolyard fight is not 10 on one."

Gilmore's nose was broken in three places, his kneecap was dislocated and fractured and he had a concussion, Graham said.

One of the teens injured in the June attack also suffered a concussion, Kelley said.

Because no charges have been filed, the football players remain on the team. Kelley said he will present the case to a prosecutor as soon as the investigation is done.

See **GANG**, Page 14

A&M's prolific offense has Hogs' attention

NOAH TRISTER

AP Sports Writer

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — When Arkansas' grueling schedule was released, the Texas A&M game stood out largely because it's being played at the Dallas Cowboys' new stadium.

Now, this weekend's matchup has the Razorbacks' attention for another reason: The Aggies' offense is unlike anything Arkansas has faced

this season.

"They're a very fast-paced offense," Arkansas coach Bobby Petrino said. "They run it and throw it well. You see the quick passing game utilized in the West Coast offense."

Texas A&M is nowhere near the Top 25, and in some ways the Aggies will be a welcome sight for Arkansas after the Razorbacks lost to Georgia and Alabama in back-to-back weeks.

Still, the Hogs have reason to be

concerned. Texas A&M is ranked No. 1 in the nation in total offense, and nobody has come close to stopping the Aggies' hurry-up, no-huddle scheme.

The Aggies' lofty offensive ranking comes with its share of disclaimers. Texas A&M (3-0) opened the season with home games against New Mexico, Utah State and Alabama-Birmingham — not

See **A&M**, Page 13

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

If you're looking, it's not difficult to find evidence that there's more at work in the world than meets the eye. Some will be curious about the nature of unseen forces, and others will simply accept that they are.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Either way, the Pisces moon features soulful expressions, facilitates deep connections and highlights profoundly heartfelt experiences.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You have a point to make, and you'll be given the floor. You'll be in excellent form when the attention is on you. Your succinct presentation will let everyone in your audience know that you respect their time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You've a tendency to agonize about the next step. If you get stuck, mention it to the people around you. They'll give you all sorts of ideas that you

won't agree with and suddenly you'll realize the direction you do want to go.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll be exploring a different culture, though not the ways of those from another country. This is the culture of a different business or family. Let your natural wit and gift of gab lead the way.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll make a sale when you realize what you cannot control, like the other person's response to what you're offering, and set some goals around what you do have control over — like how many people you will approach.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You try and try to fit in, but you always end up standing out in some manner — it's just who you are. Embrace it and don't worry about conforming right now. You bring an interesting diversity to the group, and they love you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're more than a little fascinated by the success of friends. Even strangers in the media will annoy you with their

rags-to-riches stories. Don't waste one more second in feeling jealous. Get to work.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). So, you're not exactly feeling passion for the job at hand. There has to be one aspect of it that moves you, though. Tap into it now because this is your ticket to some extra funds. Money always follows emotion.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll be dealing with someone who may as well be from another planet. Don't assume you know anything about this person's past or present. Ask open-ended questions. Your humor and warmth will bridge the gap.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Today, you naturally have the kind of social subtleties that will endear people to you forever. Spend time getting to know a new friend better. The laughter and fun will help you create a long-lasting friendship.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You understand the power of style, especially when it comes to dressing appropriately for the occasion and bring-

ing the right accoutrements. A trendy addition will freshen up your classic repertoire.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll have the thought that it's just not fair what you must go for to prove your love. And maybe you're right. Try to assess your relationships from a different angle. There's a way in which you can interact that "is" fair.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll forge a connection of spirit. You have an almost telepathic understanding of someone's thoughts and feelings. You know this person's needs without being verbally told. This tie is beautiful and rare.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (OCTOBER 1). That path you have chosen is the best one for your spiritual unfolding. You have overcome many difficulties and this year, you focus on the most difficult one of all: how to be happy when everything is going right. You will learn to relax and have fun, laugh often and not take your work so seriously. You're in for a real treat. Cancer

and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 4, 13, 17 and 49.

PERK UP A RELATIONSHIP BY DOING THIS ONE THING: As the sun traverses the sign of partnership and marriage, we want our relationships to be as harmonious as possible. Here's one thing you can do to improve a relationship you hold dear. **GEMINI:** Find out what the other person needs. A simple "Is there anything I can do to help you?" will do the trick. **CANCER:** Create happy memories. Sure, wonderful experiences could just happen by accident, but they'll happen far more often if you make some plans. Do some scheming and dreaming about how you can link as many positive associations as possible to your relationship. **LEO:** Slow down and give the other person lots of room to express him or herself. You're so fantastically entertaining and you take care to give others the floor, too, without interrupting or upstaging them. **VIRGO:** Focus on the here and now. Whatever hap-

pened in the past is completely over and if it's unpleasant, it's not worth bringing up. When you forgive, get the closure you need to do it all the way.

C E L E B R I T Y P R O F I L E S: Seann William Scott was inspired to become an actor after working in a movie theater and watching all the movies he could see for free. He's since added to the cinematic lexicon with more than 30 film acting credits, including perhaps his most famous role as Stifler in "American Pie." This friendly Libra has natal Mercury in hard-working Virgo and Saturn in Leo, the sign of show business.

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: My relationship with my younger sister is on the tip of breaking. "Lana" is 15 and habitually goes through my things and steals from me. When confronted, she becomes defensive and lies.

She's been doing this for years and shows no sign of stopping. Mom says she is "trying her hardest" to rectify the problem, but nothing changes. (Lana has also stolen from her.)

Lana has taken CDs, books, clothes, personal hygiene items, gifts from friends, jewelry and money.

She is not a kleptomaniac. She is just evil and spiteful. I'm convinced this would end if I could put a lock on my bedroom door, but my mother won't hear of it.

She says she doesn't want us to live that way, but, Annie, we already live that way.

I can barely afford to pay for college fees and text-

books, let alone move out and replace all my stuff. I am tempted to contact Lana's cheerleading coach and request that she be removed from the team until she apologizes and agrees to stop, or pays me back for all the things she's stolen.

The only problem is I can't do it anonymously and my mother would be angry if she found out.

I can't take it anymore. What do I do? — *Debbie*

Dear Debbie: Go to the hardware store, buy a lock and put it up yourself. Show your mother this letter, and tell her we said to do this.

We don't know if Lana has some mental health issues or is just excessively jealous of you, but if Mom can't get her to stop stealing, professional help might curb her more damaging behavior.

We also recommend you start saving your money and find a way to move out

of the house as soon as possible. It will salvage your relationship with both Mom and Lana.

Dear Annie: I attended a wedding dinner at an upscale hotel.

A table just outside the dining room was set up for wedding gifts. I left my present on that table like everyone else.

Weeks passed and I did not receive a thank-you note, so I began to wonder if the couple had received my gift.

Sure enough, it had gotten lost and they never saw it. Am I obligated to buy another present? — *Still Wondering in Alabama*



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Alabama: You are not obligated to replace a gift that was lost through no fault of your own, although if you are particularly close to the family, you may wish to do so.

This is why we strongly recommend that gifts be sent directly from the store to the home. That way, if anything is lost or missing, it can be traced and replaced by the store.

Open display tables of gifts are not uncommon, but there is an unfortunate risk of theft or loss.

Dear Annie: I want to thank "A Doctor in California" for his state-

ment that not everyone who uses pain medication is an addict. I particularly appreciated his sentence stating: "If it is prescribed by a physician and his condition monitored regularly for the purpose of improving function and maximizing potential, it is legal and beneficial."

He goes on to say if he can't cure his patient, his next goal is to alleviate suffering.

I've suffered a chronic and debilitating pain condition for many years.

I went through the whole gamut of natural remedies (massage, acupuncture, you name it), as well as over-the-counter painkillers.

Too many of us are accused of being addicts because we need painkillers to have some quality of life.

There is so much media blitz about addictions and, face it, so many abusers that it hurts those of us who truly need prescrip-

tion assistance.

To hear from a doctor who understands what we face, both physically and socially, brought tears to my eyes. — *A Chronic Pain Patient*

Dear Patient: Many readers, and their families, were grateful that doctor wrote.

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

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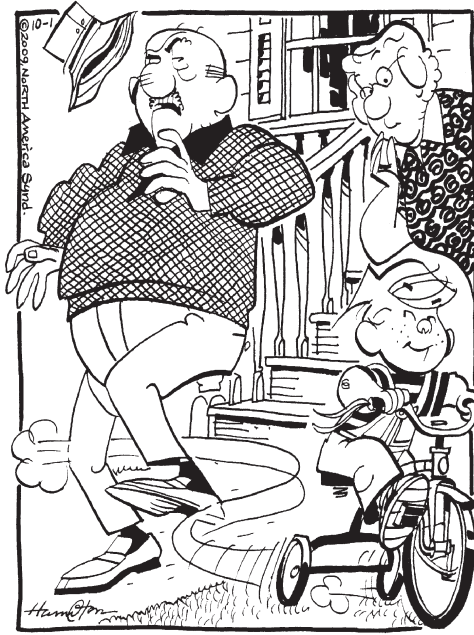
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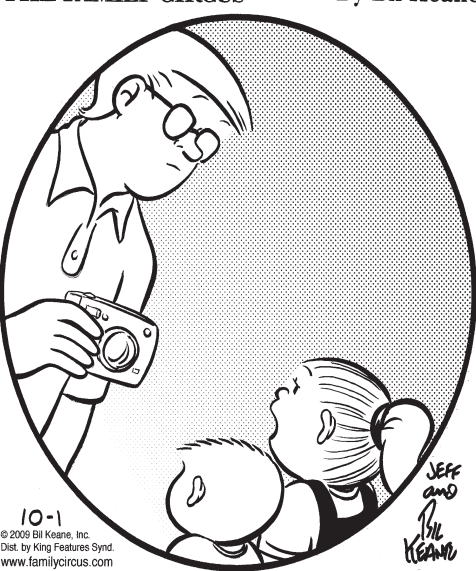
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Seinfeld	Granger	BBC	Cash Cab	that Weapon 2, Joe Pesci	Michael Madsen	NUMB3RS	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas	Horn	SportsCenter
6:30	News	Jeopardy!	Noticiero Gancho	Lopez	News CBS	12 Corazonas	News NBC	Office	Brad	Business	Cash Cab	The Ice Hotel		CSI: NY	Montana	Interrupt		
7:30	Entertain	Fortune	Two Men	Entertain	Survivor: Samoa	Más Sabe el Diabolo	Update	Fam. Guy	Update	Fam. Guy	Discovery	Movie: Analyze This, Lisa Kudrow	UFC Unleashed	CSI: NY	Movie: The Inkwell, Suzanne Douglas	Wizards	WNBA	College Football: Colorado at West Virginia.
8:PM	FlashForward	FlashForward	Nombrea-Amor	Fringe	CSI: Crime Scn	Pobres	Office	The Replacements, Orlando Jones	Light of the Southwest	Sprna	National Parks	Movie: The Whole Nine Yards	TNA Wrestling	Movie: Something's Gotta Give, Keanu Reeves	Frankie	Phineas	Baseball Tonight	
9:PM	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Mañana es	Simpsons	(:01) The Mentalist	Victorinos	The Jay Leno Show	Seinfeld	Upd	The National Parks: America's Best Idea	Discovery	Movie: The World: Part I	Spike Girl	Movie: The Gotta Give, Keanu Reeves	W. Williams	Wizards	World Series	
10:PM	News	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Seinfeld	Upd	Van Impe	Discovery	Movie: History of the World: Part I	MAN	Movie: The Gotta Give, Keanu Reeves	W. Williams	Life De	SportsNation	Baseball
11:PM	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	TMZ	Late Show	Titulares	Tonight Show	Seinfeld	Upd	Van Impe	Discovery	Movie: History of the World: Part I	MAN	Movie: The Gotta Give, Keanu Reeves	W. Williams	So Raven	World Series	
12:AM	Insider	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Casa de la Risa	Law & Order: SVU	Late Late Show	Insider	Programa	News	Light of the Southwest	Swallow	T. Smiley	Movie: It's a Wonderful Life	MAN	Movie: Belly of the Beast, Tom W.	Cold Case	W. Williams	Emperor	SportsCenter
1:AM	News	News	Torrente, un Torbel	King-Hill	Insider	Programa	News	Movie: The Replacements, Orlando Jones	Light of the Southwest	Swallow	T. Smiley	Movie: It's a Wonderful Life	MAN	Movie: Belly of the Beast, Tom W.	Cold Case	W. Williams	Emperor	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



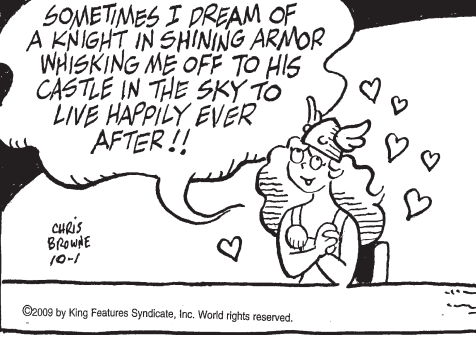
"WHEN HE STARTS DRIVING, WE'RE MOVING!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



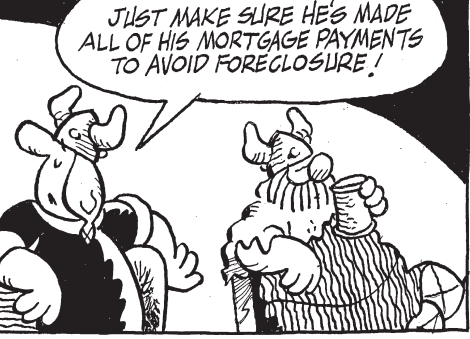
"Since your new camera never runs out of film, does it run out of digitals?"

HAGAR



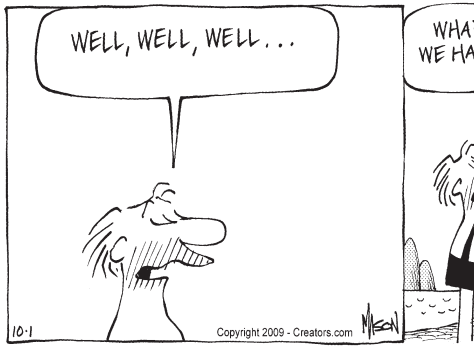
SOMETIMES I DREAM OF A KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR WHISKING ME OFF TO HIS CASTLE IN THE SKY TO LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER!!

BLONDIE



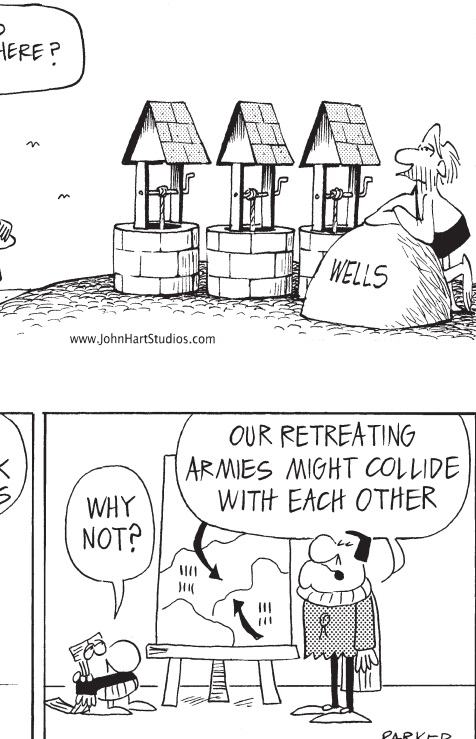
WE'D LIKE TO APPLY FOR A LOAN SO WE CAN REMODEL OUR BATHROOM. SOUNDS LOVELY! OF COURSE, RATES HAVE GONE UP SLIGHTLY.

BC



WELL, WELL, WELL... WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?

WIZARD OF ID



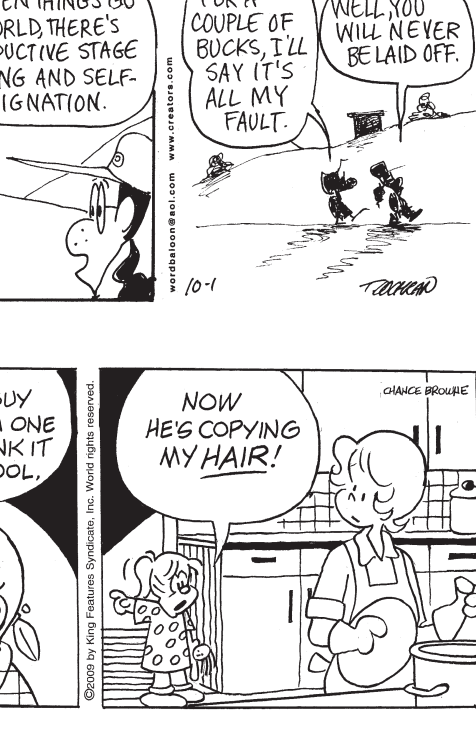
HAVE RODNEY'S DIVISION ATTACK YORKTOWN, WHILE WANKLE'S SQUAD TAKES OUT DVANESBURG. IT'S NOT WISE TO ATTACK ON TWO FRONTS.

AGNES



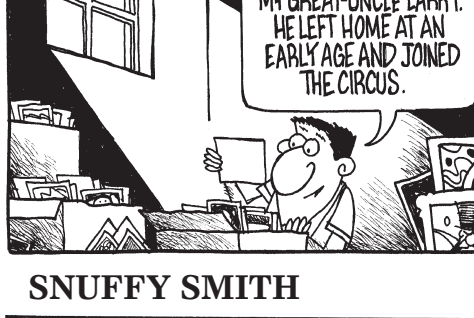
I THINK I CAN MAKE A VERY COMFORTABLE LIVING AS A PROFESSIONAL BLAME-TAKER.

HI AND LOIS



YOU CAN'T HAVE A PONYTAIL! WHY NOT? I SAW A GUY ON TV WITH ONE AND I THINK IT LOOKS COOL.

THE OTHER COAST



HERE'S A PHOTO OF MY GREAT-UNCLE LARRY. HE LEFT HOME AT AN EARLY AGE AND JOINED THE CIRCUS.

SNUFFY SMITH



SO WHAT'S IT CALLED WHEN THEY PLAY IT? LEAPPEOPLE!!

BEETLE BAILEY



EVERYONE SAYS I'M STUPID! YOU'RE NOT STUPID, ZERO, JUST A LITTLE NAIVE.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

In 1949, a 42-day strike by the United Steelworkers of America began over the issue of retirement benefits. In 1961, Roger Maris of the New York Yankees hit his 61st home run during a 162-game season, compared to Babe Ruth's 60 home runs during a 154-game season. In 1964, the Free Speech Movement was launched at the University of California at Berkeley. In 1971, Walt Disney World opened in Orlando, Fla. In 1979, Nigeria's military rulers handed over power to a civilian government. In 1987, eight people were killed when an earthquake measuring magnitude 5.9 struck the Los Angeles area. Today's Birthdays: Former President Jimmy Carter is 85. Pianist Roger Williams is 85. Actor Tom Bosley is 82. Actress-singer Julie Andrews is 74. Actress Stella Stevens is 71. Rock musician Jerry Martini (Sly and the Family Stone) is 66. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Rod Carew is 64. Jazz musician Dave Holland is 63. Actor Stephen Collins is 62. Actor Randy Quaid is 59. Marathon runner Grete Waitz is 56.

Retired MLB All-Star Jeff

Retired MLB All-Star Jeff Reardon is 54. Rhythm-and-blues singer Howard Hewett is 54. Actress Yvette Freeman is 52. Alt-country-rock musician Tim O'Reagan (The Jayhawks) is 51. Singer Youssou N'Dour is 50. Actor Esai Morales is 47. Retired MLB All-Star Mark McGwire is 46. Actress-model Cindy Margolis is 44. Rock singer-musician Kevin Griffin (Better Than Ezra) is 41. Singer Keith Duffy is 35. NFL player Ryan Pontbriand is 30. Actress Jurnee Smollett is 23. Actress Brie Larson is 20. Thought for Today: "Just think of the tragedy of teaching children not to doubt." — Clarence Darrow, American lawyer (1857-1938).

Answer to previous puzzle

GRIEF	TOTE	ELBA
RACER	AMEN	TAIL
INBLACK	ANDWHITE	
MGM	CAEN	ANDES
EAST	MINI	
BLOWSHOT	ANDCOLD	
RAZE	RIFE	ALI
ANA	MATADOR	RAI
WAR	AMOS	DEMS
LIKENIGHT	ANDDAY	
NESS	ALAS	
ATBAT	ARTS	PTA
FROM	STEMTOSTERN	
RICE	ALMA	AARON
OPAL	DION	UNITE

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
1 Iowa State's place
5 Stadium exits
10 Med. tests
14 Bunyan's bovine
15 Playground rejoinder
16 Reveal
17 Kellogg's cereal since '77
20 Father Time tool
21 Regal letters
22 Scrip writers
23 Eschew the TelePrompTer
26 Wipe clean
28 Cause goose bumps
32 Cleveland opponent in 1884
34 Rice-and-beans dish
36 Zippo
40 Run out
41 Unruly one
43 With no one else
44 Legendary blues singer
48 Performs well
50 Moody episodes
51 Hit location
54 The Jetsons' dog
56 GI entertainers
57 Disencumber
59 Votes in
64 AFI's #1 all-time musical
68 "Very funny!"
69 Campfire creation
70 Barrel pellets
- DOWN
1 The basics
2 Artist Chagall
3 Cyber seller
4 Sunni or Shia
5 Ticked off
6 "___" was saying...
7 Atlas abbr.
8 High-muck-a-muck
9 Glide along
10 Go out, in a way
11 Fate
12 Mortarboard tossers
13 Just now
18 Sort of pants
19 In that case
24 Presidential monogram
25 UN agency
27 High repute
28 Cows and sows
29 Izod alternative
30 October's birthstone
31 Try to block
33 Cross inscription
35 Classic soda brand
37 Yours, in Tours
38 Shoulder muscle
39 Pound sounds
42 Shoe part
45 Immediately, in an idiom
46 Horror master Craven

PUZZLIN' by Robert A. Doll

Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18				19				
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28	29	30	31		32		33					
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40								41	42			
43				44	45	46	47					
				48	49				50			
51	52	53			54			55				
56				57	58			59	60	61	62	63
64				65			66	67				
68								69			70	
71								72			73	

FEARLESS FOOTBALL FORECAST

This week's games



Jonathan Hull



Jeff Lane



Robert Smith



Bill Norris



Tim Larson



Tim Knox

Stanton at Iraan
Dawson at Sands
Fort Stockton at Monahans
Odessa at Odessa Permian
Pampa at Plainview
New Mexico at Texas Tech
Texas A&M at Arkansas
Kent State at Baylor
Oklahoma at Miami
LSU at Georgia
USC at Cal
SMU at TCU
Houston at UTEP
Tulsa at Rice
Colorado at West Virginia
Washington at Notre Dame
Cowboys at Broncos
Raiders at Texans
Jets at Saints
Ravens at Patriots
Bills at Dolphins
Titans at Jaguars
Lions at Bears
Chargers at Steelers
Packers at Vikings

Last week
To date

Iraan Sands
Monahans
Odessa Permian
Pampa Tech
A&M
Baylor
Oklahoma
Georgia
USC
TCU
Houston
Tulsa
Colorado
Washington
Cowboys
Texans
Saints
Patriots
Bills
Titans
Bears
Steelers
Vikings

18-7 .720
80-35 .696

Iraan Sands
Monahans
Permian
Pampa Tech
A&M
Baylor
Oklahoma
LSU
Cal
TCU
Houston
Tulsa
West Virginia
Notre Dame
Cowboys
Texans
Saints
Ravens
Bills
Titans
Bears
Steelers
Packers

17-8 .680
77-38 .670

Iraan Sands
Monahans
Odessa Permian
Plainview
Tech
A&M
Baylor
Oklahoma
LSU
USC
TCU
Houston
Tulsa
West Virginia
Notre Dame
Cowboys
Texans
Saints
Ravens
Bills
Titans
Bears
Chargers
Vikings

18-7 .720
77-38 .670

Iraan Sands
Monahans
Permian
Pampa Tech
Arkansas
Baylor
Oklahoma
LSU
USC
TCU
Houston
Rice
West Virginia
Washington
Cowboys
Texans
Saints
Ravens
Bills
Titans
Bears
Steelers
Vikings

17-8 .680
69-46 .600

Iraan Dawson
Monahans
Permian
Pampa Tech
Arkansas
Baylor
Oklahoma
Georgia
USC
TCU
Houston
Tulsa
West Virginia
Washington
Cowboys
Texans
Saints
Ravens
Bills
Titans
Bears
Steelers
Packers

18-7 .720
78-37 .678

Iraan Sands
Monahans
Permian
Pampa Tech
A&M
Baylor
Oklahoma
LSU
USC
TCU
Houston
Tulsa
West Virginia
Notre Dame
Cowboys
Texans
Saints
Ravens
Bills
Titans
Bears
Steelers
Packers

15-10 .600
74-41 .643

AREA

Continued from Page 8

dominated 4-4A play for the better part of the past decade.

Head Coach Phillip Ritchey says the Steers needed the break and the bye week shouldn't break the momentum Big Spring has incurred over the past few weeks.

"We're tired. We need some time off. We're looking forward to having a week off and recovering," said Ritchey. "I don't think this will hinder us in any way when we get back on the field. These guys are going to be ready for Frenship."

Coahoma (3-2) is coming off a 49-32 loss to Kermit last week. It was a game the Bulldogs could have easily won had they not turned the ball over six times and had two touchdowns called back due to penalties.

They'll begin District 7-2A play on the road at Tuscola Oct. 9, taking on the Jim Ned Indians.

Forsan (2-3) was drubbed by Iraan 56-0 Friday. The young Buffs were obviously outmatched and have needed some time to allow several players fully recover from injury.

The Buffs take on perennial rival Stanton next week in Forsan in a matchup dubbed the Battle of the Buffs. It's also the District 2-1A opener for both squads.

Garden City (4-1) has won its past four games by halftime, utilizing the 45-point mercy rule that governs six-man football. The Bearkats host Sterling City Oct. 9 in their first district contest of the season.

Grady (3-2) also begins league play when it comes off the bye week, playing host to Aspermont. The Wildcats are coming off their second loss of the season — 48-38 to Ropes. Both of Grady's losses — the other being a 40-30 defeat at the hands of Meadow — this season have been by a 10-point margin.

Dawson (5-0) at Sands (5-0)

ACKERLY — The Sands Mustangs have the

honor of playing host to one of the state's elite six-man football matchups the week.

The Mustangs, currently ranked No. 5 in the state, faced the seventh-ranked Dawson Dragons at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Both teams feature prolific run games. Dawson is led by senior Landon Brown, who has gained 669 yards on the ground and has accounted for 24 touchdowns this season. Dawson averages 490 total offensive yards per game.

Sands puts up 371 yards of total offense per contest with 256 of it coming via the ground game. Spread back Johnny Rogers has rushed for 618 yards and 12 touchdowns this season, while passing for another 416 and eight scores. Rogers is yet to throw an interception this year.

He is complimented by fellow senior Daniel Armendariz, who has 453 yards rushing and 11 touchdowns.

Dawson knocked off Sands at this point last season to the tune of 64-58.

However, the Mustangs got revenge in the first round of the 2008 playoffs, taking down Dawson 60-52. The Mustangs trailed 52-36 as the fourth quarter started, but score 24 unanswered points for the win.

Stanton (2-2) at Iraan (3-2)

STANTON — The Stanton Buffaloes decided to be the odd man out as the only 11-man squad in the Crossroads region not to schedule its bye for this week.

Instead, the Buffs took last Friday off after beating Roby 40-6 as a part of the homecoming celebration in Stanton.

The Buffs face a daunting challenge coming out of their bye as they make a long trip to take on the Iraan Braves.

Iraan dropped its first two games of the season, but have racked up more than 300 yards rushing in three straight matchups, including a 56-0 victory over Forsan last week.

Stanton will also focus primarily on its running game, hoping the combination of quarterback Tyler Fulton and running backs Nathan Nix and Taylor Spinks can keep the Braves off balance.

Last season, Iraan pounded Stanton 33-15.

A&M

Continued from Page 8

exactly a Murderer's Row of September opponents. Also, the pace of the Aggies' offense can inflate yardage stats.

Texas A&M has run 257 plays, 56 more than Arkansas in the same number of games.

But it's that tiring pace that has the Razorbacks concerned.

"They run the spread offense — a lot of plays, get in and get out," safety Matt Harris said. "We're going to have to be well conditioned and pretty disciplined."

Arkansas faced Tulsa last year when the Golden Hurricane were undefeated and averaging over 600 yards per game. The Razorbacks didn't wilt against that exotic offense and held on for a 30-23 win. That was a highlight for the Arkansas defense, which struggled last year and is off to a poor start this season.

After winning their opener against Missouri State, the Razorbacks lost 52-41 to Georgia and 35-7 to Alabama. In those two games, Arkansas allowed six scoring plays of over 40 yards.

"We take those big plays out, and we know that we're a heck of a defense," Harris said.

Even that seems like a stretch. Alabama didn't need any huge plays on its final touchdown drive. The Crimson Tide methodically moved 99 yards in 13 plays and scored on a short run.

Texas A&M's Jerrod Johnson has thrown for 961 yards and nine touchdowns without an interception this season. He's also a threat to run, which keeps defenses off balance.

"A running quarterback makes the DBs peek back, makes the linebackers peek back," Arkansas defensive lineman Tenarius Wright said. "You don't know whether to stick with the receiver or look at the quarterback."

Although the Aggies haven't beaten anyone of note, a win over a Southeastern Conference team could give Johnson some national recognition, especially since the Big 12 has been home to so many good quarterbacks lately.

"Those things come," Texas A&M coach Mike Sherman said. "You can't force them. If at the end of the season you're standing with those types of numbers, and you're fortunate enough to, then people will recognize that."

Sports in brief

Lady Steers move game with Lake View to Friday night

Big Spring's Lady Steers volleyball team moved their District 4-4A match with San Angelo Lake View from 1 p.m. Saturday to 6:30 p.m. Friday at Steer Gym.

The move was made to accommodate band marching contest also, slated for Saturday.

Big Spring High School's senior class hosting powder puff football tourney

Big Spring High School's Class of 2010 is sponsoring a powder puff football tournament at 6 p.m. Friday at Blankenship Field.

The freshmen will face the sophomores in the opener, followed by a matchup between the juniors and seniors. The winners of those two games will then compete for the championship.

Admission is \$2.

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Chicago still favored, with Rio next, for 2016 Olympics

COPENHAGEN (AP) — The tense and tight battle to host the 2016 Olympics sped toward its climax with Chicago, backed by President Barack Obama's star power, the bookmakers' favorite Thursday after a long, emotional and at times acrimonious campaign.

The stakes are huge for all four cities — Chicago, Rio de Janeiro, Tokyo, Madrid — and for the International Olympic Committee. It faces the choice of sending the games to uncharted territory

in South America, appealing to those committee members who believe the Olympics should touch all corners of the globe, or opting in tough economic times for more familiar and perhaps more lucrative ground in Europe, the United States and Asia.

The winner gets the international prestige of staging the world's biggest sports extravaganza and billions of dollars in potential investment. The losers will rue what might have been.

According to British bookmakers, Chicago was pulling away in the last hours as the clear but not overwhelming favorite over Rio, with Madrid and Tokyo lagging.

"But don't forget that Paris was the favorite to beat London the last time," said Graham Sharpe, spokesman for betting agency William Hill. "The favorite doesn't always win."

Years of preparations and lobbying by the four candidates will come down to 30 minutes of voting by the IOC's members on Friday afternoon, when they will eliminate the city with the fewest votes in successive rounds of secret balloting until one city receives a majority.

The round-by-round system makes predicting a winner perilous, because the outcome depends on how members shift their votes after their favorite candidates are eliminated. If Madrid is ejected

first, would its supporters swing behind Rio, Tokyo or Chicago, and by how much in each case? And if Tokyo goes out next, where will its backers go? The variables are such that any city could conceivably go out — even if Chicago and Rio have long been seen as the front-runners.

All four cities were making their final pushes for support.

Brazilian president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva insisted Rio is ready "body and soul" if picked and he borrowed Obama's catchphrase, saying: "We want to overcome and show the world that yes we can."

Japan's new prime minister, Yukio Hatoyama, was arriving belatedly to boost Tokyo's flagging bid. The Japanese city's bid team wasn't sure if Hatoyama would actually have time for the important process of meeting and lobbying IOC members — as Silva and first lady Michelle Obama have.

Obama will be joined Friday by her husband. President Obama is jetting in for a few hours to lend his charisma and appeal to Chicago's final presentation.

All four cities get 45 minutes to present their cases Friday before the vote, with follow-up questions. Some undecided IOC members are waiting to see how they perform before making their choice — adding further uncertainty to the outcome.

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.

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

GANG

Continued from Page 8

"It's still very much ongoing," Kelley said.

Kelley said police consider the group a gang because it has a common color, signs or symbols and a name — TKO.

According to Graham, her son begged his attackers to quit hitting him after he was knocked to the ground. When they continued, Graham said, Gilmore crawled to the parking lot and got into his car for protection. Once inside, members of the gang jumped on top of the hood and

started beating on it, Graham said.

Charges could range from aggravated assault or engaging in organized criminal activity, both felonies, to simple assault, a misdemeanor. Some of the members are under 17 and would be charged as juveniles.

Felony charges, Graham said, would "make them think about what they've done. They need to be accountable for their actions."

However, Ann Reed, Nolan County district attorney, said the case likely would be prosecuted by the county attorney who handles juvenile and misdemeanor cases.

"I have not seen an offense report, but the information I have (about the case) does not have the elements of a felony," she said.

Terry Pittman, superintendent of Sweetwater schools, said any action he could take with the players would depend on charges. The players could face suspensions if they are charged with felonies, he said.

The football coach, Craig Slaughter, declined to comment. The Mustangs are 0-5 in Slaughter's first year at the 3A school known for its winning tradition. The school fields a perennial playoff team and the Mustangs won a state championship in 1985.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Battle for Trump Control

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 9 6 3
♥ 10 7 4
♦ Q 10 7 2
♣ 8 5 2

WEST
♠ Q 8 5 2
♥ A K J 2
♦ 6 3
♣ J 10 6

EAST
♠ 4
♥ 9 8 6 3
♦ 9 8 5 4
♣ Q 9 7 3

SOUTH
♠ A K J 10 7
♥ Q 5
♦ A K J
♣ A K 4

The bidding:
South West North East
2♣ * Pass 2♦ Pass
2♥ Pass 3♣ Pass
4♣

* strong and artificial
Opening lead — king of hearts.

This deal was played in a four-table team match. The contract at each table was four spades, and all four Wests started by leading the A-K-J of hearts.

At the first table, declarer ruffed and played the A-K of spades. When East showed out, South could not afford another trump lead because West would win and lead another heart to establish his eight of trumps as the setting trick.

Instead, declarer played the A-K-J of diamonds, hoping to discard a club on dummy's fourth diamond. But West ruffed the third diamond, and South finished down two.

At table two, after ruffing the jack of hearts, declarer played the ace of spades and then the jack, attempting to guard against a 4-1 trump division. West took the queen and, observing that a heart lead could be ruffed in dummy, shifted to a club. South won, drew trumps and took the rest of the tricks to make the contract.

At table three, declarer ruffed the heart and also played the A-J of spades. But West countered by refusing to win the trick. South could not overcome this fine play. He led the A-K-J of diamonds, but West ruffed, and South later lost a club to go down one.

At the last table, South also ruffed the jack of hearts but came up with the only sure way to guard against a 4-1 trump division. He led the jack of spades without cashing a high trump first.

West ducked — it would not have helped him to win the trick — and South, intent upon protecting himself against a 4-1 break, continued with the ten. West took his queen, but there was nothing he could do to stop the contract. So South made four spades, thanks to his super-duper safety play.

Tomorrow: Double-dummy problem.

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COWBOYS

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coach Hudson Houck said Wednesday. "I wish I did."

A logical reason would be the team's preseason pledge to running more. However, that's not the case. The Cowboys actually have five fewer carries than three games into last year, yet they have 129 more yards.

The obvious difference is they're running more effectively.

The linemen are in their second year under Houck and are back at full strength with right guard Kyle Kosier recovered from foot problems that limited him to three games last season. Barber is more comfortable in his second year as the starter, while Jones and third-stringer Tashard Choice are better in their second NFL season.

Offensive coordinator Jason Garrett is doing things differently, too.

His basic formation uses two tight ends,

Jason Witten and Martellus Bennett, and sometimes he goes with a third, rookie John Phillips. Other times he goes with fullback Deon Anderson. The results show Garrett is doing a good job mixing things up, sometimes calling the perfect play against a defense.

For instance, against Carolina on Monday night, he called for a left-side run when the Panthers were blitzing from the right side. Jones broke through for 40 yards. He had a 56-yarder against the New York Giants the week before and Barber had a 35-yarder that game, too.

All told, the Cowboys have seven runs of at least 20 yards and 18 of 10 yards or more.

Could that be the secret to the surge in production, that Dallas has become a big-play running team instead of a grind-it-out type?

"The interesting thing is, we can do both," running backs coach Skip Peete said. "With Marion and Tashard,

we can grind it. Then with Felix there's a chance of a big play every time he touches it. It's very exciting to watch."

Dallas is going to get a stiff test Sunday against Denver. The Broncos have the stingiest defense in the NFL, allowing only 214.7 total yards per game.

A bigger issue is the health of the Cowboys' running backs. With Barber and Jones hobbling, Choice is likely to start and could be the only one who suits up.

Jones is almost certainly out because of sprained ligament in his left knee. Barber could be back from a thigh strain. There's no telling yet whether he'll start, relieve or be inactive again. If he'll miss the game, Dallas probably would call up

Chauncey Washington from the practice squad. Anderson is the only other ballcarrier on the 53-man roster and he has two carries over

three seasons.

"It's a tenuous situation certainly," coach Wade Phillips said. "We're looking at what we can do or what the possibilities are. We certainly don't want to go into the game with one running back."

Choice is no typical third-stringer. He already has 100 yards on 22 carries, a solid 4.5 yards per carry, and he did a nice job as the primary running back over the final month of 2008 when Barber and Jones were hurt.

"Being put in that position last year and coming through and showing the team ... is really important, more for the coaches and then my teammates," Choice said. "Once those guys look at you in the huddle and know that you can play, it's a good feeling."

And they certainly do.

"We are very confident when he is out there," quarterback Tony Romo said. "He is a smart, smart kid."

Barber hurt his left thigh at the end of his 35-yard run and missed the last game. Phillips said Barber was limited in practice Wednesday, but not as limited as last week. How Barber looks Thursday will go a long way toward determining his availability Sunday.

Jones overcame a thigh bruise in the opener, then sprained a ligament in his left knee Monday night.

"I guess, realistically, I should rule him out (Sunday), but I'm still not," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said. "He has a lot of resolve and, at best, these things are very subjective."

After Denver, Dallas plays at lowly Kansas City, then has a bye. So there's a notion Dallas might let Felix Jones have a three-week break.

"That's being pretty conservative, at this juncture," Jerry Jones said. "That may turn out to be the case, but I'm not ready to say that now."

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