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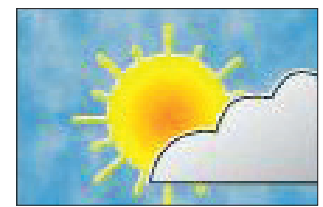
LADY STEERS
FALL TO COOPER
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BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 21, 2009



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BOUND FOR AREA CONTEST



Courtesy photo/Bob Fishback

The Forsan High School band performs at last weekend's University Interscholastic League Regional Marching Contest at Odessa's Ratliff Stadium. FHS will compete in the UIL Area Contest this Saturday at Lowery Field in Lubbock.

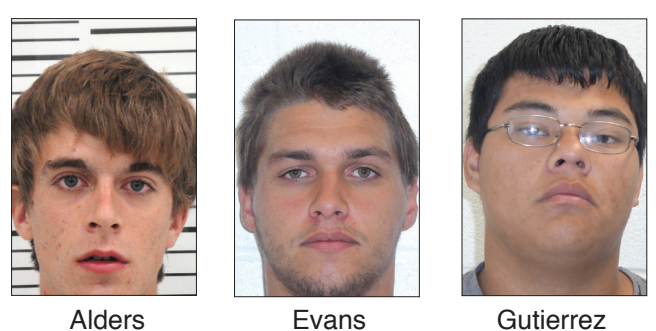
FHS tradition

Looking for 4th straight trip to state

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

FORSAN — It has been a long time since the Forsan High School band hasn't been a force to be reckoned and the group's leader isn't anxious to see the streak end anytime soon.
 The FHS band will seek its fourth straight trip to the University Interscholastic League state marching contest when it competes in the UIL Class 1A Area contest this Saturday at Lubbock's Lowery Field.

The band earned a spot in the Area contest by earning its 12th consecutive Division 1 rating at regional competition in Odessa this past weekend.
 The 113-member band is scheduled to perform at noon, Director Jim Rhodes said.
 Forsan is one of 18 bands competing Saturday. Of that number, seven will qualify for the area finals, with the overall top three qualifying for the state contest.
 See **FHS**, Page 3A



Alders Evans Gutierrez

Trio jailed in rash of vandalism

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

Three arrests have been made and more are expected in connection with a recent spate of vandalism.
 Marty Ray Evans, 19, Phillip Alders, 19 and Rudolph "Rudy" Gutierrez, 18, all of Big Spring, were arrested and charged with criminal mischief, said Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer for the Big Spring Police Department.
 The three men were arrested in connection with a vandalism spree that struck Big Spring Oct. 15. Everett said two homes, a business and 37 automobiles were damaged in locations throughout the city. The suspects apparently used a pellet gun to shoot out windows at the various locations.

"There were 34 cases in all. We have 37 damaged vehicles, two damaged homes and one damaged business in all," said Everett. "Apparently, the suspects were traveling in a vehicle and shooting the windows out of random vehicles using a BB gun, and they didn't do this just in one area. They were all over the city."
 According to Everett, reports were received in the 1100 block of Nolan; the 1300 block of Tucson; the 1100 block of Sycamore; the 600 block of State; the 200 block of Circle; the 2600 block of Langley; the 1400 block of Princeton; the 200 block of Jefferson; the 2500 block of Fairchild; the 600 block of Ridglea; the 600 block of State; the 2600 block of Ent; the 500 block of Scott;
 See **VANDALS**, Page 3A

Citizens urged to 'Make A Difference' Saturday

By **BILL McCLELLAN**
 News Editor

It doesn't always take a lot of effort to make a difference — to put a smile on someone's face or a coat of paint on an old fence. Picking up trash, delivering a meal or writing an encouraging note to a friend are simple ways to make a positive change.
 That's the focus Saturday as

Howard County residents are encouraged to participate in Make A Difference Day. Locally, the annual celebration is being sponsored through Keep Big Spring Beautiful and Keep Texas Beautiful, organizations which promote the Texas Trash Off and other cleanup events.
 So, choose your way to make a difference. It might be you'll want to spruce up an

area...
 "You can help Keep Big Spring Beautiful make a difference by looking over your residence. Is your property free of litter, weeds and other material that takes away from the nice appearance of your place?" said Pat Simmons, Keep Big Spring Beautiful spokesperson.
 Or, you might wish to choose to make a difference

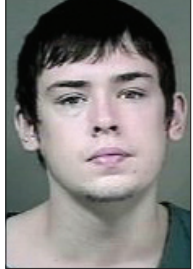
in someone's life rather than your own yard...
 "Take a plant to someone, visit a shut in or a nursing home, help an elderly neighbor by mowing their yard or running some errands," Simmons suggested.
 "It's a wonderful opportunity to make a difference, whether it be by cleaning up a vacant lot, planting a plant or doing something special

for someone," she added.
 Those who participate are invited to have lunch courtesy of Scenic Mountain Medical Center from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Saturday. Those who would like to have lunch need to contact Simmons before Saturday so SMMC can get a head count and to ensure there will be enough food.
 See **DIFFERENCE**, Page 3A

Murder plea nets Stanton man 30 years

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

A Stanton man was sentenced to 30 years in prison after pleading guilty to the November 2008 murder of a Martin County resident.
 Brian Neal Carlson, 22, of Stanton, pleaded guilty in 118th District Court to murdering Jerry Don McIntyre, 50, on or about last Thanksgiving.
 Carlson was arrested on murder charges in December after leading law enforcement officials to McIn-



Carlson

tyre's body, which had been dumped in a field near FM 1208 in far west Martin County.
 The two men had been acquaintances and McIntyre and Carlson had been living on the same property, officials

agreed upon after much deliberation and negotiation.
 "We knew the defense would try to push some mitigating factors ... including that this act was somehow provoked by the victim," Wilkerson said. "We felt the top end of the sentencing was not going to come into play in this case ... and we felt we could live with this (sentence)."
 Carlson, who had faced a maximum of 99 years or life in prison, agreed upon after much deliberation and negotiation.
 See **PLEA**, Page 3A

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BSHS netters win tight match against Plainview

Herald Staff Report

Big Spring High School's tennis team picked up a District 4-4A win Friday in a close match with the Plainview Bulldogs.

In the 19 matches played, the Steers were able to win 10, picking up the victory by the slimmest of margins.

The Steers won 7-of-9 matches in

the boys division. Mike Gonzales, Jeremy Langford, C.J. Burlison, Matt Garza and Tyler McKinley each picked up singles wins, while the teams of Langford and Womack and Ray and Gonzales both won their doubles contests.

"We got excellent play on the boys' side. Extremely good effort from top to bottom," said Tennis Coach Dana Jones. "Jonathan Womack played his

doubles match with Langford, but he had to pull out of singles due to a wrist injury. He was our No. 3 player, which caused the guys under him to move up a slot. We won three of the four matches where we had players moving up a rank. These are the kind of matches that give coaches gray hairs. It was nice to pull out a tight one."

Big Spring's ladies didn't fair as

well, winning just 2-of-9 matches. The Lady Steers' top two players, Kristina Chang and Jessica Womack, were each able to pull off straight sets victories.

Big Spring also got a pivotal win in mixed doubles as the team of Seth Yarbar and Anna Scott won in three sets.

See **TENNIS**, Page 3B

Cooper sweeps BSHS

Lady Steers forced to fight Lake View for playoffs again

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

For a third straight season, the Lady Steers final volleyball game with the San Angelo Lake View Maidens holds major implications for the continuation of each team's season.

The Lady Steers had a chance to basically clinch a playoff spot Tuesday. All they had to do was knock off Abilene Cooper at Steer Gym.

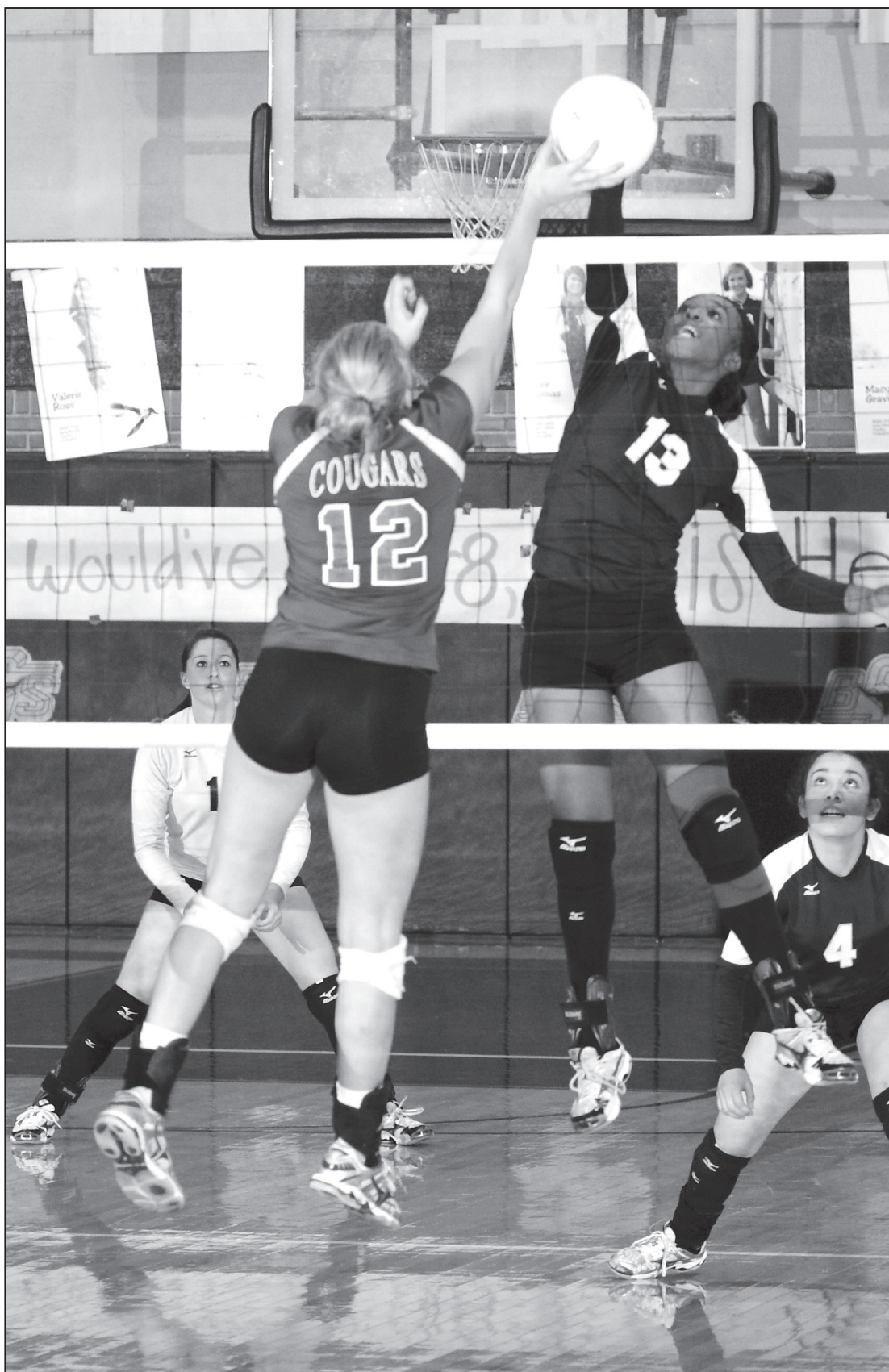
While the Lady Steers stood toe-to-toe with Cooper for a majority of the match, it was the Lady Cougars coming out on top in straight sets.

Had Big Spring (10-22, 1-6) won, it would have only needed Lake View (9-24, 0-6) to lose to Frenship (18-13, 6-1) Saturday. Frenship lost to Plainview (26-14, 5-2) in five sets, but it is the first district loss suffered by the Lady Steers since 2005.

Instead, regardless of Lake View's outcome vs. Frenship, the Lady Steers need a victory in their final regular season game Tuesday to clinch District 4-4A's final postseason spot. The match is set to take place at 6:30 p.m. at Lake View High School in San Angelo.

The Lady Steers aren't completely eliminated from the playoff picture if they fall to Lake

See **LADY STEERS**, Page 3B



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Bridgette Tuitt (13) battles with Abilene Cooper's Ellie Harp as both attempt to tip the ball over the net during a District 4-4A volleyball match Tuesday at Steer Gym. Tuitt's teammates Selena Gonzales (4) and Valerie Ross look on in the background. Cooper defeated Big Spring in straight sets.

Cowboys LB Brooking fired up to face Falcons

JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — Whatever reasons the Atlanta Falcons had for giving up on linebacker Keith Brooking, the Dallas Cowboys are sure glad they did.

As intense as ever in his 12th NFL season, Brooking leads the team in tackles and has brought an edge they were missing. He's become the emotional leader and has a great feel for the pulse of the team.

Brooking insists he's not trying to prove anything to the folks in Atlanta. Still, he gets that chance Sunday, when Matt Ryan and the Falcons come to Cowboys Stadium.

"I'd be lying to you if I was like, 'Ah, I'm not trying to prove to those guys that I can still do it at a high level,'" he said. "But that's not my priority. ... I'm 12 years into my career. That window of opportunity is narrowing every passing day. I know I'm much closer to the end of my career than the beginning. I just want to enjoy these last few years and get the most out of every day and cherish every moment."

Brooking, the Cowboys have learned, does everything at full speed.

He's thrown haymakers at assistant coaches, and that was after he made a great play. He ran down the sideline watching receiver Miles Austin score a touchdown against Kansas City, then was the first guy off the bench to give Austin a stinging high-five.

"They call him 'The Mad Backer,'" running back Tashard Choice said. "You stay away from Brooking when he gets like that."

Football fans in Atlanta know all about it.

Brooking grew up in the area and never left — from youth leagues to high school, from college at Georgia Tech to 11 seasons with the Falcons. Atlanta took him in the first round of the 1998 draft and, as a rookie, he helped the Falcons make the Super Bowl. He made the Pro Bowl every year from 2001 to '05 and led the team in tackles the last eight seasons.

See **BROOKING**, Page 3B

Favorites falter in Heisman race, 'Bama RB emerges

RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer

Tim Tebow had his Heisman moment — after fumbling two times and taking six sacks against Arkansas. Jimmy Clausen made his case, too — in a loss to Southern California. Colt McCoy came up big against Oklahoma — with a touchdown-saving tackle after throwing an interception.

The standards for these Heisman Trophy contenders sure have dropped.

Halfway into a season that was supposed to be all about the superstar quarterbacks, the real front-runner for college football's most prestigious award is a running back who entered the season with little hype.

The Big Story

Tebow, McCoy and Sam Bradford were on all the magazine covers. Never before had three Heisman Trophy finalists returned to school the following year.

Playing for national championship contenders, it seemed like a slam dunk that those three stars would be back

See **HEISMAN**, Page 8B

Sports in brief

Sands' district cross country results

The Sands Lady Mustangs qualified for the regional cross country meet Monday, finishing third in their district meet.

Morgan Yarbrough also qualified as an individual with a third-place performance, finishing the 2-mile course in 13:21.

Sands' boys finished sixth as a team. The junior high boys claimed a district title.

Here are other individual results for the Mustangs and Lady Mustangs:

Junior high girls: 18. Stefanie Diaz 16:33; Elizabeth Martinez 18:21.

Junior high boys: 2. Jared Staggs 13:13; 13. Sergio Plata 15:05; 14. Will McMorris 15:12; 21. George Plata 16:26; 26. Austin Blount 17:08.

JV girls: 14. Callie McMorris 17:13; 17. Nora Gomez 17:27; 22. Jami Ybarra 17:37; 32. Rosa Gonzalez 20:34.

JV boys: 13. Sean Blagrave 25:56; 15. Joseph Gar-

land 27:04; 18. Anthony Villegas 30:42; 19. Jordan Cuellar 21:28.

Varsity girls: 3. Morgan Yarbrough 13:21; 12. Jennifer Gomez 14:44; 20. Ashli Stockton 15:04; 21. Meagan Yarbrough 15:07; 22. Angelica Diaz 15:11; 35. Alex Robles 15:48.

Varsity boys: 16. Junior Rogers 20:21; 17. Daniel Armendariz 20:27; 31. Brian Moore 22:19; 34. A.J. Hernandez 22:36; 40. Landon Parker 24:30; 41. Reuben McMorris 25:01.

Flag football tournament set for Saturday and Sunday

A non-contact flag football tournament is being held at Cotton Mize Field in Comanche Trail Park Saturday and Sunday.

At least eight players must make up a team with no limit on the amount of total athletes on a squad. Cost is \$200 per team. Participants must be at least 16-years-old.

Deadline to sign up is at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

For more information or to register, call Tommy Chavarria at 816-3598.

SMMC hosting 4-man scramble to benefit Relay for Life

Scenic Mountain Medical Center is hosting a 4-man scramble Saturday at the Municipal Golf Course at Comanche Trail Park.

Proceeds from the tournament will benefit Relay for Life. Cost is \$75 per golfer or \$300 per 4-some.

Players need to be at the course at 8 a.m. for late registrations and tee times.

Tickets available for Jerry's Youth Deer Hunt

Any youth ages 16 and under can buy a \$10 ticket to enjoy Jerry's Youth Deer Hunt Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. Proceeds from the Hunt go to Cancer Crushers Relay for Life team.

For more information, contact Beverly Grant at 268-4952 or 264-1168.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity Tuesday:

- ERIK QUALLS, 44, no address given, was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct.
- PHILLIP ALDERS, 19, 1803 Lancaster Apt. A, was arrested on a charge of criminal mischief.
- RUDOLPH GUTIERREZ, 18, 2614 S. Monticello, was arrested on a charge of criminal mischief.
- MARTY EVANS, 19, 1007 N. Birdwell, was arrested on a charge of criminal mischief.
- RICHARD SIMMONS, 33, 2000 S. Johnson, was arrested on a local warrant.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 1900 block of Martin Luther King.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 3700 Hamilton.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 400 block of Fourth.
- HARASSMENT was reported in the 400 block of Fourth.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity Tuesday:

- MEDICAL was reported in the 200 block of N. Fourth. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2900 block of W. Highway 80. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 700 block of Interstate 20. Service was refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 300 block of Aylesford. One person was transported to SMMC.

Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity Tuesday (officials reported 85 prisoners in the county jail):

- PHILLIP CHESTER ALDERS, 19, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of criminal mischief.
- KATHRENE CHAVARRIA, 38, was arrested on charges of credit or debit card abuse and possession of a dangerous drug.
- MARTY RAY EVANS, 18, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of criminal mischief.
- JAMES PAUL HARRIS, 23, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on charges of no drivers license and disregarding a stop light or signal.
- STANLEY WARREN LANGE, 55, was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct.
- YASMANY PERERA, 21, was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct.

Take Note

- A fund-raiser for Sara Merenenss Rice will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Forsan Baptist Church in Forsan. Call 816-7125 for more information.
- 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. Please call Sherry Hodnett, volunteer coordinator, at (432) 264-7599.
- Holy Trinity Catholic Youth Group is hosting a Halloween dance from 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Oct. 24, at the Sacred Hall Youth Center. Music provided by live DJ. Dance open to area junior high and high school teens. Admission \$4.
- 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. Anyone wishing to make a donation can do that at Citizens Credit Union, account 932728. All donations are appreciated.

Support Groups

TODAY

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

THURSDAY

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

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Cougars want to get going early vs. SMU

HOUSTON (AP) — No. 17 Houston and its prolific offense started slow against Tulane last weekend, scoring just nine points in the first half — a season low.

They got going after halftime to take control and cruise to the 44-16 win, but know starting strong will be important as they look to move up in the Conference USA standings. The Cougars next test is against an SMU team that is tied for the C-USA West lead with a 2-0 conference record.

Quarterback Case Keenum said starting fast is something the Cougars shoot for each game.

"It sets the tone for the whole team, offense, the defense, special teams," he said. "Whether we get the ball or the defense is out there to start fast and get a stop, it sets the tone for the game."

In fact, Saturday was the first time this year where Houston's No. 1 ranked offense didn't score a touchdown in the first quarter. Coach Kevin Sumlin said the uncharacteristic start isn't cause for concern.

"Whenever we don't score every time we have the ball everybody seems to think we've got a problem," he said. "Well, they've got coaches and defenses, too. So we'd love to score every time we have the ball, but sometimes that doesn't happen."

Sumlin thinks the pressure of performing like the top offense in the country may have gotten to his players this weekend. He noticed they didn't seem to be having fun and looked a bit "tight" in the first half.

"We didn't make a whole bunch of adjustments," Sumlin said of their second half play against Tulane. "We

just came out and I think our attitude changed and guys started flying around, smiling and having a good time."

The Cougars' new attitude resulted in a season-high 20 points in the third quarter points as they scored touchdowns on all three possessions.

Keenum, who leads the nation in passing and total offense, believes his team learned an important lesson against Tulane.

"You can't put too much pressure on yourself to perform," said Keenum, who had his 19th career 300-yard passing game against the Green Wave. "When it comes down to it you just have to go out there and play. We only get a certain amount of guaranteed opportunities and ... there's no point wasting it on putting pressure on yourself or nerves or any other

factor."

Starting well may be even more important Saturday against the Mustangs. SMU has outscored its opponents 94-50 in the first half this season. They've only trailed once at the break, a 12-7 deficit in a loss to No. 10 TCU.

Houston's Tyron Carrier, who has 483 yards receiving with four touchdowns, said talking about the importance of starting fast doesn't really help, everyone simply has to make happen.

"You've just got to go out there and make some big plays real early and get everybody out there having fun," he said. "You've got to show your excitement and show that you want to make plays and then everybody will become involved in it."

A-Rod, CC put Yanks on verge of World Series

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — None of the New York Yankees' 26 world championships include Alex Rodriguez or CC Sabathia. The splendid slugger and the workhorse starter both acknowledge that until they win a title, they're still not a big part of their club's hallowed history.

The way Rodriguez is hitting and Sabathia is pitching in the AL championship series, it's clear they're determined to put rings on their hired hands.

And after their two-man demolition of the Angels on Tuesday night, they're both one win away from playing in their first World Series.

Rodriguez connected on his fifth homer of the postseason while getting

three hits, Sabathia pitched eight resilient innings on three days' rest, and the Yankees beat Los Angeles 10-1 to take a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven ALCS.

With superstars earning every last zero in their paychecks, New York earned the chance to advance in Game 5 on Thursday night, when A.J. Burnett goes against Los Angeles ace John Lackey.

Rodriguez homered in the third straight game of his outstanding postseason, driving in a run in his record eighth consecutive playoff game with a two-run shot in the fifth inning. Sabathia pitched five-hit ball on three days' rest, holding the Angels' formerly fearsome lineup to nothing

more than Kendry Morales' homer.

The October abilities of Rodriguez and Sabathia have long been questioned. A-Rod has been consistently miserable in previous postseasons to the point of derision from his own fans, while Sabathia had never matched his regular-season prowess in the playoffs with his previous two teams.

Those reputations are now as dated as the old Yankee Stadium that sits across the street from the opulent new park where the Yankees' first World Series in six years will start next Wednesday if New York can get one more win.

The Yankees also built a big lead in their last trip to the ALCS in 2004 —

and anybody in Boston can tell you how poorly that turned out for New York. The Yankees blew four chances to finish off the Red Sox. They've got three chances to put away the Angels.

While Sabathia needs a few days' rest between starts, Rodriguez has been amazing in every outing. He's batting .407 (11 for 27) with five homers, 11 RBIs and 9 runs scored in just seven playoff games.

"I don't remember a player on our club, when we were playing in the playoffs, having back-to-back series so far like this," said Yankees manager Joe Girardi, who won three championships as New York's catcher. "He's been unbelievable."

Pigskin Picks Football Contest



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6. Lenorah Grady
7. Plains
8. TCU
9. Texas Tech
10. Texas Longhorns

1. Big Spring
2. Stanton
3. Fort Davis
4. Colorado City
5. Borden County
6. Ira
7. Plains
8. TCU
9. Texas Tech
10. Texas Longhorns

1. Big Spring
2. Stanton
3. Garden City
4. Coahoma
5. Borden County
6. Lenorah Grady
7. Plains
8. TCU
9. Texas Tech
10. Texas Longhorns

1. Big Spring
2. Stanton
3. Garden City
4. Coahoma
5. Borden County
6. Lenorah Grady
7. Plains
8. TCU
9. Texas Tech
10. Texas Longhorns

1. Big Spring
2. Stanton
3. Garden City
4. Coahoma
5. Sands
6. Lenorah Grady
7. Forsan
8. TCU
9. Texas Tech
10. Texas Longhorns

Enter To Win \$50 At These Participating Merchants

Rules: Find this week's games in the merchants' ads on this page. Choose the teams you think will win. Clip and fill in the official entry blank on this page with your team choice. The entry with the most correct picks will win \$50. You must be 18 to enter. Only official entry forms accepted. In the event of a tie, the tie breaker will determine the winner. Guess the winner and the combined scores for the total points. Decisions of the judges are final. Employees and families of employees of *The Big Spring Herald* are ineligible. All entries must be received at one of the participating merchants by 1 p.m. Friday of the week played. Winners will be announced in the *Big Spring Herald* the Wednesday following the games.

Pigskin Picks Entry Form

Team

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
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Name: _____

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Tie Breaker - Circle the winner and note total points scored

Cowboys Vs. Atlanta

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2. Stanton vs. Tahoka
10. Texas Longhorns vs. Missouri
Cap Rock Energy
6. Lenorah Grady vs. O'Donnell
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Kuwait grants women passports without spousal nod

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Kuwait's highest court granted women the right to obtain a passport without their husband's approval, the case's lawyer said Wednesday, in the latest stride for women's rights in this small oil-rich emirate.

Unlike with highly conservative neighbors like Saudi Arabia, women in Kuwait can vote, serve in parliament and drive — and now can ob-

tain their own passports.

In many countries in the region, women cannot travel or obtain a passport without the consent of their male guardian.

Attorney Adel Qurban, whose case the court was ruling on, said the landmark decision "freed" Kuwaiti women from the 1962 law requiring their husband's signature to obtain a passport.

His client, Fatima al-Baghi,

is one of thousands of women who have been petitioning courts for this right.

The court found the article in the decades-old law "unconstitutional" because it goes against the principal of equal rights for men and women.

"It undermines her free will and compromises her humanity," the court explained according to a copy of the decision provided by the lawyer.

Activist Aisha al-Rsheid hailed Tuesday's ruling, but said females in this traditional male-dominated society were still a long way from the equality promised by the 1962 constitution.

"We want to see women judges and prosecutors, we want women to give their citizenship to their children, and we want women to have the right to state-provided houses," just like men, she said.

With its history as a trading community, Kuwait has long been more liberal than the Bedouin societies in the interior of the Arabian peninsula and its 1962 constitution provides for a parliament and equality of the sexes.

Conservative elements in the country, however, have long promoted a stricter interpretation of Islam, especially regarding relations between men and women.

Investigators baffled by girl's disappearance

RON WORD

Associated Press Writer JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Investigators have no clues three days after a 7-year-old girl vanished on her way home from school, a sheriff in north Florida said Wednesday.

The mother of Somer Thompson went on all three national network morning news shows with a tearful appeal for the child's return.

"Somer, you're not in trouble — if you're scared, just come home," Diena Thomp-



AP photo Somer Thompson

son said on NBC's "Today" show Wednesday. "And if somebody has her, please, please bring her back to us. She belongs with her family."

"She's got a twin and he's lost without her," Thompson said in a later news confer-

ence.

Clay County Sheriff Rick Beseler said investigators are baffled.

"Somer disappeared off the face of the earth. We just don't have a clue right now where she is," Beseler said.

He said officers have expanded the initial search area and interviewed about 75 known sex offenders in a five-square-mile radius. Teams of volunteers are walking arm-to-arm through the woods, and deputies are using helicopters and search dogs.

"We just really need a break

in this case. We need a tip, we need a phone call," Beseler said. "Somebody knows where Somer is, and we need that person to call us."

Investigators have said they suspect foul play.

"The likelihood she has been taken by someone is high," the sheriff said.

The girl vanished on her mile-long walk home from school Monday in Orange Park, near Jacksonville.

Thompson said Somer was squabbling with another child, and her sister told her to stop. The girl got upset,

walked ahead of the group and wasn't seen again.

Orange Park is a suburb of Jacksonville just south of Jacksonville Naval Air Station. The area where the girl disappeared is a heavily populated residential area with homes, apartment complexes and condominiums. There are wooded areas and retention ponds.

Orange Park is also about 50 miles north of Satsuma, where Haleigh Cummings disappeared in February. She has not been found.

Murder, arson charged in 2003 California wildfire

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP) — Almost six years after a wildfire destroyed nearly 1,000 homes in Southern California, prosecutors say they have enough evidence to charge a prison inmate with arson and murder in connection with the 2003 blaze.

San Bernardino County District Attorney Michael Ramos said Tuesday that a special criminal grand jury indicted Rickie Lee Fowler, a 28-year-old prison inmate, on arson and murder charges in connection to the wildfire that has been linked to five heart attack deaths.

Fowler is serving

time in state prison for burglary. He was first interviewed in connection with fire in February 2004, based on a telephone tip, but there was not enough evidence to charge him, San Bernardino County Deputy District Attorney Vic Stull said.

The investigation began to gain steam in February 2008, and new evidence obtained as recently as three weeks ago allowed prosecutors to identify Fowler as a suspect, Stull said.

He faces five counts of murder, one count of aggravated arson and one count of arson of an inhabited structure. The

statute of limitations on arson would have run out on Oct. 25.

The notorious Old Fire erupted in the Waterman Canyon area of the San Bernardino Mountains above the city of San Bernardino and eventually swept across 90,000 acres, or about 140 square miles.

Several witnesses reported seeing a passenger in a white van tossing burning objects into dry brush. In late 2004, authorities said they were focusing on a young man they believed may have been the arsonist and were trying to identify a second man but did not

have enough evidence to make arrests.

Another man, Martin Valdez Jr., was also believed to be a suspect but he was shot and killed in Muscoy in 2006.

Stull said prosecutors were not sure who actually threw a road flare that started the blaze but are confident they have enough evidence.

Lisa McDermith, the daughter-in-law of one of the victims, James McDermith, said the retired accountant had a heart attack while driving to retrieve a trailer he planned to use to evacuate from his house.

"We're happy for this,

not only for us but for all the families who lost a family member and who lost homes," she said. "He caused a lot of grief to so many people. There will finally be some closure."

In addition to McDermith, the individuals whose deaths are being prosecuted are Charles Howard Cunningham, 93; retired fire captain Chad Leo Williams, 70; Robert Norman Taylor, 54; and Ralph Eugene McWilliams, 67.

Although authorities initially linked six fatal heart attacks to the distress of the evacuations, Stull said in one

of those cases the victim's widow felt that the attack was not caused by the fire.

FHS

Continued from Page 1A

The competition will be first-rate, with Forsan traditional Class 1A powers such as Sudan, Wink and Sudan, as well as Tahoka and Canadian, a pair of programs that recently dropped down in classi-

fication from Class 2A.

But Rhodes does not believe his band will be competing against those other schools, but against its own collective expectations.

"I believe that if you just try to be the best you can be, then what is supposed to happen, will happen," he said. "Sure, we want to go back to the state contest, but

our goal is to be the best band we can be. That's all we can do."

Excelling in high-stakes competition is nothing new to Forsan — the Buffalo Band is the defending Class 1A state marching champion — and Rhodes believes this year's group can live up to the program's lofty expectations.

"This year's band has had some outstanding senior leadership," he said. "And their overall attitude has been great. They are really taking on the task of defending their title ... This band is as great as any I've had at Forsan with regards to leadership and attitude."

Contact Staff Writer

VANDALS

Continued from Page 1A

the 1400 block of Park; the 600 block of Scott; the 700 block of Tulane; the 600 block of Tulane; the 1000 block of Stadium; and the 100 block of Eighth Street.

No injuries were reported as a result of the vandalism, according to Everett, but the monetary damages are sure to be staggering.

"This will be well into the thousands of dollars," said Everett. "The damage to the two residences and the business were also windows that were shot out, and anyone that's ever had to replace one can tell you it's not cheap."

The three suspects were jailed Tuesday and are awaiting arraignment on the charges, a state jail felony punishable by between six months and two years in a state jail facility.

A fourth suspect is being sought in connection with the incidents. Everett said he expects that person to be arrested soon.

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

PLEA

Continued from Page 1A

must serve 15 years of his sentence before becoming eligible for parole. He was represented by Big Spring attorney Tim Yeats.

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

DIFFERENCE

Continued from Page 1A

Those who would like to participate but have no ideas on how to make a difference, can also contact Simmons for ideas.

"You can do this at your own home or anywhere in the community. It can be a family thing or a club or just an individual. What's important is to make a difference," said Simmons.

For more information or to partake of the meal provided by Scenic Mountain Medical Center, contact Simmons at (432) 263-4607.

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BROOKING

Continued from Page 1B

Last year, Brooking struggled in pass coverage and was out of position on a key play in a play-off loss. His contract ran out and the Falcons let him go.

Brooking picked Dallas because coach Wade Phillips was his defensive coordinator in Atlanta in 2002 and '03, the only years he had over 200 tackles. Best of all, the Cowboys had a vacancy at his position, weakside inside linebacker.

Zach Thomas played there last season, then moved on. Brooking's arrival seemed like a swap of grizzled veterans, good enough to plug in on first and second downs, but nothing special.

At least, that was the perception.

"I looked at him on tape and he looked like he did before — and what he did before was outstanding," Phillips said. "We thought he'd be a good fit for us and he is."

Brooking does get replaced by a defensive back in most passing situations. But when he's in there, No. 51 is usually in the middle of the action.

On a fourth down against

Denver two games ago, he flew into the backfield and plowed into Denver's Knowshon Moreno, standing him up to prevent a first down. Against the Chiefs, he picked up his first sack since November 2007, but turned even more heads on a play in which he was leveled by a cut block but still got up and tackled running back Jamaal Charles on a screen pass.

"Have I lost a little bit?" Brooking said. "Yeah, I've lost a little bit. C'mon, I'm realistic about it. But I'm better than most."

He smiled and laughed, then continued explaining this revitalization that seems a surprise to everyone but him.

"I knew that if I played a position that really suits me that I could still get it done at a high level," he said. "There was never any doubt. Once I landed here on that first day of free agency, I knew what was going to take place."

Sure enough, Brooking has 29 solo tackles and 37 total stops. He's ahead of fellow inside linebacker Bradie James, who's led Dallas in tackles the last four years.

"I see an excitement out of Keith, like he's really having fun playing the game still," Falcons center Todd McClure said. "He's able to run and make plays."

When Brooking arrived, he realized he was the new guy. He couldn't declare himself a leader; he had to earn it. So he quietly did his job over the summer, showing he was a tireless worker and a guy who knew the playbook.

Then the games started to count and teammates saw the real Keith Brooking.

"He just wants to win," nose tackle Jay Ratliff said. "You can sense that from him. You can't help but feed off of that."

After Dallas lost to Denver, Brooking felt comfortable enough to speak up, telling reporters the team needed to work harder in practice. When the Cowboys needed overtime to beat the lowly Chiefs, Brooking was the first player at his locker the next day to answer questions about what went wrong.

"I'm going to do whatever it takes to help this team win," Brooking said. "If it's keeping my mouth shut and not saying a word, then you won't hear me talk for the rest of the year. If it's standing up and saying something that needs to be said, I'm going to stand up and say something."

"Whatever this team needs, I'll be there for them and to help them in any possible way that I can. That's the only way I know how to do things."

LADY STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

View. Assuming the Maidens lose to Frenship Saturday, a Big Spring loss in the season finale would set up a play-in game between the Maidens and Lady Steers with the winner of that final match advancing to the postseason.

The play-in game was needed last season and the Lady Steers were able to come away with a five-set victory, advancing to the postseason for the first time since 2005.

The first set in Cooper's straight sets win Tuesday didn't go the Lady Steers' way for even a moment. Cooper used an early 5-0 run to get out to a 7-3 advantage and pulled away for a 16-9 lead midway through the game. The Lady Cougars eventually won the opening set 25-17.

Big Spring stood up to the Lady

Cougars in the second game, pulling out to a 5-1 start. Cooper rallied and the set was tied at 9-9 before a 6-0 run by the Lady Cougars gave them a 15-9 advantage.

Big Spring bounced back with a 7-0 push, pulling within a point at 20-19. However, Cooper won five of the next six points, winning the second set 25-20.

The momentum carried over at the start of the third game as Cooper got out to a 7-2 advantage. A 9-2 run by the Lady Steers temporarily gave them a 12-9 lead, but it wouldn't hold up.

Cooper went on a 6-1 rally to overtake the Lady Steers and pulled away for a match-clinching 25-17 win.

With the victory, Cooper stays in the hunt for a district title, but has to defeat Plainview Saturday and Frenship Tuesday to clinch it outright.

Notes: Big Spring's freshman and junior varsity squads also fell to Abilene Cooper Tuesday.

The freshmen played two games — one against Cooper's freshmen and one against its sophomores.

Cooper's freshman squad ousted the Lady Steers in three sets, 19-25, 25-19, 25-21. The sophomores defeated Big Spring, 25-16, 25-18.

The JV girls fell in straight sets, 25-15, 25-17. Diamond Mayes had a solid game at the net with a team-high seven blocks. Kim Gonzales led the team in defense with 10 digs and Carson Reibe converted 100 percent of her passes.

Both teams play at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at San Angelo Lake View.

Abilene Cooper def. Big Spring 25-17, 25-20, 25-17

Kills: Bridgette Tuitt 7, Desiree Anderson 6, Cerbi Ritchey 5, Macy Graves 3, Halee Thomas 1, Valerie Ross 1, Callie Shafer 1.
Assists: Ritchey 13, Shafer 11.
Digs: Ross 20, Sloan Davis 17, Ritchey 8, Shafer 7, Tuitt 4, Thomas 2, Graves 1, Anderson 1.
Blocks: Thomas 6, Graves 5, Ritchey 3.
Aces: Davis 1, Thomas 1, Shafer 1.

TENNIS

Continued from Page 1B

"It was tough play for our girls, but we got really good wins from Kristina and Jessica," noted Jones. "When matches are this close, every win counts. We also got good play from Seth and Anna to win mixed doubles."

The tennis team returns to action Tuesday, playing host to Snyder at Figure 7 Tennis Center in Comanche Trail Park.

Big Spring def. Plainview, 10-9

Results (BSHS players listed first)

Girls singles
Kristina Chang def. Alaina Heine, 7-5, 6-1
Jessica Womack def. Morgan Marlar, 7-5, 6-1
Reba Smith lost to Hannah Tomlinson, 6-1, 6-1
Alyssa Byrd lost to Rachel Ballinger, 6-2, 4-6, 6-1
Leslie Cash lost to Raquel Fierro, 6-0, 6-4

Andrea Cansino lost to Tabitha Davies, 6-0, 6-2
Girls doubles
Chang/Womack lost to Heine/Davies, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4
Byrd/Cash lost to Marlar/Fierro, 6-0, 6-4
Smith/Cansino lost to Ballinger/Tomlinson, 6-0, 6-4
Boys singles
Mike Gonzales def. Eli Villareal, 6-1, 6-4
Jeremy Langford def. Jake Davis, 6-3, 6-2
C.J. Burleson def. Matthew Little, 6-2, 6-1
Matt Garza def. James Brush, 6-0, 6-0
Jonathan Ray lost to Jeremy Brush, 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (7-5)
Tyler McKinley def. Tucker Simmons, 6-3, 7-5
Boys doubles
Womack/Langford def. Davis/Villareal, 6-2, 6-4
Ray/Gonzales def. Little/Ja. Brush, 7-5, 6-0
McKinley/Burleson lost to Je. Brush/Hardin, 6-3, 6-4
Mixed doubles
Seth Yarbar/Anna Scott def. Simmons/Munoz, 4-6, 6-4, 7-5

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sudoku

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

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

An Elegant Performance

West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 8 7 4 3
♥ K Q 10 6
♦ K 7 5
♣ 10 2

WEST
♠ A K Q 10 9 2
♥ 9 7 5
♦ J 4
♣ 7 6

EAST
♠ J 6 5
♥ 8 3 2
♦ A Q 9 6
♣ J 9 5

SOUTH
♠ —
♥ A J 4
♦ 10 8 3 2
♣ A K Q 8 4 3

The bidding:
West 2♠ North Pass East 3♠ South 4♠
Pass 5♣

Opening lead — king of spades.
Assume you get to five clubs on the bidding shown and West leads the king of spades. You ruff and observe that your chances of making the contract are not good.

First, there's the possibility of losing a trump trick if the trumps are not divided 3-2. Second, there's a strong probability, considering West's opening weak two-bid, that East has the ace of diamonds and that you might therefore lose three diamond tricks.

When you play the A-K-Q of clubs, the trumps turn out to be divided 3-2, so the only problem remaining is to limit yourself to two diamond losers. Is there any way you can accomplish that task, you ask yourself, and the answer is that you have an excellent chance of doing so.

After drawing trumps, you cross to the ten of hearts and ruff a spade. You then cash the A-K-Q of hearts, discarding a diamond from your hand, and ruff still another spade. Having run East out of spades, hearts and trumps, this is the three-card end position:

North ♦ K 7 5

West ♠ A ♦ J 4

East ♠ A Q 9

South ♦ 10 8 3

You lead the three of diamonds, and you're sure to win a diamond trick, regardless of what West does. If he plays the four, you cover with dummy's five, forcing East to win and yield a trick to dummy's king. If West instead plays the jack of diamonds on the three, you cover with dummy's king. East wins with the ace but must then yield the game-going trick to your ten.

Tomorrow: Thoughtful defense.

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In Sunday's
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American Profile
FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME
Fast-paced SIX-MAN FOOTBALL gives small high schools a reason to cheer

High scores, high stakes

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American Profile

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Owner - Brenda Stansel

EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEW

Make sure you're counted during the 2010 Census

It might seem a little early to be stressing the importance of the 2010 U.S. Census, but that doesn't seem to hold true for people like State Rep. Joe Heflin, who did just that a couple of weeks ago, issuing a press release detailing just how important it is for all of us to be counted.

In fact, the Crosbyton Democrat encouraged all of his constituents to participate in the census.

But why? How could the U.S. Census be of importance to a state representative?

Simple ... money and votes. Now that's something any politician can understand.

More importantly, though, it's important for the public to understand quite a lot will be at stake in this census.

"The results of the 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," Heflin explained.

Indeed, many local, state and federal programs are funded based on population, and that's why it is extremely important 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, family violence prevention/battered women's shelters, the list is rather lengthy.

Heflin also noted that "the funds for these programs are Texas taxpayers' dollars coming back to our state and local community."

And yes, 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 in 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."

That's something many of us in West Texas forget sometimes ... most of the population of our state resides in the eastern third of our state, geographically speaking.

It has long seemed like the I-35 corridor seems to hold sway in Austin, but the impact that area has over our lives will be even greater if we don't make sure that every person in West Texas is counted.

So, we'd remind everyone to heed Heflin's request that everyone take the time to complete and turn in their census form by the April 1, 2010, deadline.

In the long run, you'll be doing yourself and all of us here in West Texas a big favor.

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

May we have avid ambitions and determination to know You, Lord.

Amen

Big difference for science, medicine

Dr. Carol Greider may be the only Nobel laureate to have been folding laundry when she got the call.

She was up early, and there was a lot of laundry. After the phone call, she woke up her two children and told them she had won the Nobel Prize. As she told The New York Times, "One of the things I did with the press conference that Johns Hopkins gave was to have my two kids there. In the newspapers, there's a picture of me and my kids right there. How many men have won the Nobel in the last few years, and they have kids the same age as mine, and their kids aren't in the picture? That's a big difference, right? And that makes a statement."

That is not the only statement Greider made with her victory, not the only big difference. I am the last one to explain her field — "telomeres" research. But when asked why that field has attracted more women than most others, she took the opportunity to explain what it takes for women to succeed, a subject that has nothing to do with telomeres, or even science.

"There's nothing about the topic that attracts women. It's probably more the founder effect. Women researchers were fostered early on by Joe Gall (of Yale University), and they got jobs around the country and

they trained other women." Women need to help other women, she explained, because most men still help other men.

"The old boys network" is no longer driven by conscious discrimination; modern men don't say, even to themselves, "I only want to work with men." As Greider explains, "It's not that they are biased against women or want to hurt them. They just don't think of them. And they often feel more comfortable promoting their male colleagues."

But do women "do" science differently? Might they be — inherently — less capable or less able, as former Harvard President Larry Summers famously suggested?

For years, feminist theoreticians and advocates have struggled with how to deal with the differences between (most) men and (most) women, how to celebrate what women uniquely bring to the table without playing into the very stereotypes that keep us from getting our seats at that table.

Greider, who I am sure spends much more time thinking about different kinds of theories, had no trouble figuring out where Summers was wrong. "Women do things differently, which is why I think it would be important if more women were at higher levels in academic medicine. I think people might work together more, things might be more collaborative. It would change how science is done and even how institutions are run."

But it wouldn't change science. It isn't about the brain's capacity for science. "That doesn't mean that women necessarily have a

different way of thinking about the mechanics of experiments. I think it's more a different social way of interacting that would bring results in differently."

Different, and maybe better.

Greider was a 23-year-old graduate student at Berkeley when, on Christmas Day in 1984, she made the discovery that led to this prize. She was working for a woman who had been trained by a man who believed in supporting women. This is not really complicated.

Women succeed the same way men do. Someone gives them a chance.

One of the most depressing trends I have encountered of late is women my age, women in their 40s, 50s and 60s, who are unwilling to help the younger women coming into our professions, resentful that it is easier for them than it was for us, dismissive of their desires to balance work and life with greater freedom than we had. What a stupid shame.

Dr. Greider's work holds promise for treating cancer. Imagine what might have been lost had she been unable to find a mentor to support her work.

Consider what we have gained because Joe Gall supported Elizabeth Blackburn (who shares the Nobel Prize with Greider, along with Jack Szostak), who supported Carol Greider.

And now Greider stands as a shining example to all of our daughters, and sons, about just how big a difference one woman can make.

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The Rush to end Miss America

Miss America officials have decided to kill off their beauty pageant.

That's not what they're saying, but you tell me what it means when a beauty pageant that professes to champion America's young women issues a news release with "Rush" and "thrilled" in the same sentence:

"We are thrilled to have Rush join us for our pageant this year," said the Miss America Organization's president and CEO, Art McMaster. "We know that the 2010 Miss America Pageant will be filled with new twists and exciting opportunities with him as one of our national judges."

No, he's not talking about the Canadian rock band.

Yes, he's apparently serious about right-wing talk show host Rush Limbaugh.

Let's ponder the possibilities, shall we?

All those pretty young women shimmy down the runway wearing skimpy swimsuits and smiles that slowly fade into suppressed shrieks as they come face to ogling face with the same guy who just last month said the Marines rejected Hillary Clinton because they "do not have uniforms that fit that big an ass."

Not a Hillary fan? OK, here's his take on why John Edwards was unfaithful to his cancer-stricken wife:

"My theory that I just explained to you about ... what

could have John Edwards' motivations been to have the affair with Rielle Hunter, given his wife is smarter than he is and probably nagging him a lot about doing this, and he found somebody that did something with her mouth other than talk."

What might the Miss America officials be thinking?

First, a little history: The pageant was founded in 1921, the year after American women got the vote. In its heyday, it had nearly 55 million viewers.

Over time, it lost favor with most of the viewing public for a long list of reasons, which Limbaugh undoubtedly would claim was compiled entirely by "feminazis."

A few years ago, ABC dumped the pageant. Officials moved the contest from Atlantic City, N.J., to Las Vegas, and it had a brief stint on Country Music Television before landing on its current home, TLC.

Viewers now number about 2 million, which I imagine is less than the number many infomercials get.

Miss America officials did not return my call by deadline, but McMaster, in an interview with the Las Vegas Sun's John Katsilometes, did elaborate on why he picked Limbaugh.

Well, kinda. "I want people to understand how the pageant judging happens," McMaster said. "We don't just pick out seven names. We have seven different categories, and we need people who are experts in those categories."

Hmm. What sort of expert might Limbaugh be?

Here's his own description of men like him: "We're not sex-

ists; we're chauvinists. We're male chauvinist pigs, and we're happy to be because we think that's what men were destined to be. We think that's what women want."

You know what else Limbaugh thinks women want?

"Some of these babes, I'm telling you, like the sexual harassment crowd. They're out there protesting what they actually wish would happen to them sometimes."

Makes ya just wanna hug him till he can't breathe, doesn't it?

Full disclosure: In the past year or so, Limbaugh has referred to me as "blitheringly ignorant," a "ditz," "brain-dead" and "mind-numbed." Being my mother's daughter, I smiled politely but told him that no matter how many names he calls me, I can't be his girlfriend.

Five years ago, I might have written quite a rant about the ridiculous and demeaning tradition of the Miss America Pageant.

I would have gone on and on about how the swimsuit competition demeans our bright young women, whose only runway should come with frequent flier miles.

But Rush Limbaugh is the new face of Miss America, and he'd be the first to tell you his influence is far greater than mine.

I'm counting on it, Rush.

Connie Schultz is a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for *The Plain Dealer in Cleveland* and the author of two books, "Life Happens" and "... and His Lovely Wife."

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SUSAN ESTRICH



CONNIE SCHULTZ

Why not check this out?

From daring true stories to Christmas wrapping and cooking ideas

This is a book that can be read time and time again. "Between a Rock and a Hard Place" (927.965 RAL A) is the story of Aron Ralston. He is the man who, with precious little water and food, with his right arm pinned for nearly five days by a boulder in a narrow canyon shaft in central-eastern Utah, amputated the arm with a pocketknife, and rappelled and hiked his way to his own rescue. What makes his account of his ordeal extraordinary, too, is the detail and precision Ralston brings to the telling.



HOLLIS
MCCRIGHT

It's also the extremes of failure and achievement we see forged in this life-or-death crisis: carelessness at not telling friends where he was going, despair as he wrote his epitaph on the canyon wall, even a certain unthinking in taking five days to figure out his deliverance. But those were all trumped by Ralston's amazing resourcefulness in prolonging his supplies and finding a way out, his boundless enthusiasm for life, and his dogged force of will at enduring far longer than anyone could have expected. This is a synopsis of the review that appeared in Booklist.

Have you been sneezing and rubbing your itchy, burning eyes? Well, folks, it is that time of year again - fall! Allergens are in the air, aimed directly at your eyes and nose. Here is a resource that can help to calm the air: "The Allergy Sourcebook" (616.97 ZEL M) by Merla Zellerbach. In her book, she describes common allergic reactions, finding a health care professional, treatment and test choices, and simple steps that can be taken to alleviate allergic retains. This is an excellent resource, especially for dusty, windy West Texas.

A couple of neat books have been donated to the library. "Great Gift Wrapping" (745.54 NIE B) by Burgind

Niermann takes you step by step from choosing a style of wrapping paper to wrapping the present and then crowning it with an exquisite bow. If you have an oddly shaped package, then Niermann shows you how to best wrap it. The second book is "Wrap It Up: 50 Creative and Stylish Gift-Wrap Ideas" (745.54 WAL S) by Sally Walton. It has some luscious ideas on wrapping.

Christmas will be here before you know it and here is just the thing to help you get in a holiday mood! "Bon Appétit Christmas" (641.568 BON A) takes ideas from the magazine "Bon Appétit". It is full of ideas for entertaining, baking and preparing gifts from your kitchen for friends and family. Southern Living always has great recipes and ideas - check out an older volume, "Christmas with Southern Living 1994" (641 ING V) by Vicki L. Ingham and Dondra G. Parham. For some country style, check out Taste of Home's "Holiday and Celebrations Cookbook 2001" (641 TAS H).

The book sale continues. Take a trip down to the basement to see what is left. You can browse from the time the library opens to about 5:15 p.m. when the basement is closed.

If you are trying to cut down your red meat consumption or if the price of meat is too high, try eating vegetarian. To me, a pot of blackeyed peas or red beans with hot water cornbread can really be a complete meal. In "Vegetarian Times Fast and Easy" (641.563 WIL P) from the editors of Vegetarian Times, there are some tasty sounding recipes. Each recipe is noted either vegan or not. True vegans only each plant materials while a partial vegan will eat food that contains eggs or milk. Either way, there are recipes for beverages, soups, appetizers, main dishes, etc.

Mick Brown has written a thoughtful and stylish writing biography of Phil Spector - "Tearing down the Wall of Sound: The Rise and Fall of Phil Spector" (B SPE P). Mick manages to cram the book with myriad facts, while never seeming to make it

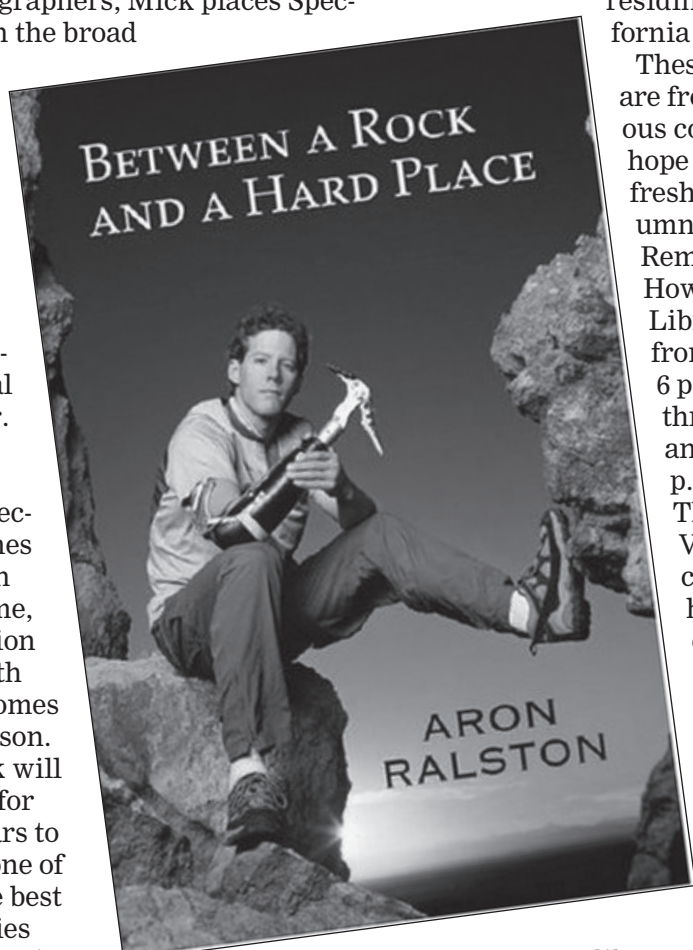
information heavy, but he also never loses sight of his subject. Unlike many biographers, Mick places Spector within the broad

sweep of his life and times while simultaneously showing him to be a three-dimensional character. From the earliest pages, Spector becomes more than just a name, a reputation and a myth - he becomes a real person. This book will stand out for many years to come as one of the single best biographies about a musician, or for that matter a man or woman from whatever walk of life. This review is taken from Amazon.com; I have not read

the book. Of course, Spector has been convicted of murder and is now residing in a California prison.

These reviews are from previous columns. I hope to have a fresh new column next week. Remember that Howard County Library is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. The Internet/Video room closes one-half hour before closing. The Library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260. Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us; the online catalog should be working.

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.



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News in brief

Oil spill in Gulf after two vessels collide

HOUSTON (AP) — The Coast Guard says there's been an oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico after the collision of two vessels.

Late Tuesday night, the Coast Guard says that the tank ship AET Endeavor collided with the 820-foot Liberian-flagged tanker vessel Krymsk, which had oil leaking from it after being damaged in the collision.

The crew was transferring oil from the damaged tank to prevent more leakage. The amount of oil spilled is unknown.

There were no injuries.

The collision happened about 40 miles southeast of Galveston.

Student shot near Navarro College

CORSICANA (AP) — Corsicana police say a Navarro College student is in critical condition after being shot multiple times during a robbery at an apartment complex near campus.

After the shooting Tuesday evening, the college was locked down. The school's Web site said Wednesday morning that the lockdown had ended and classes would resume.

Corsicana Sgt. Ken Kirkwood said that three to four people robbed the victim and another person at gunpoint. The other person was not injured.

Jeremiah Blair, a 21-year-old student, was taken by air to Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, about 55 miles north of Corsicana.

Kirkwood says there have not yet been any arrests.

UT getting Walter Cronkite's papers

AUSTIN (AP) — A University of Texas official says legendary newsman's Walter Cronkite's papers and photographs will be permanently

housed at the Austin campus and then exhibited in May.

Don Carleton, director of the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History Center, told The Daily Texan student newspaper that the papers are the "most influential documents in the history of broadcast journalism."

He worked with Cronkite from 1988 until his death in July to secure the papers for the center, the newspaper reported. Cronkite's will has been finalized allowing for the transfer.

The center already has the majority of Cronkite's papers stored in its archives, including all of his reporter's notebooks from his 1968 tour through Vietnam.

Carleton said a May exhibition is planned.

Cronkite wrote for the student newspaper before dropping out of UT in 1935 in his junior year.

Inmate electrocuted on work detail

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — A Texas prison inmate has been electrocuted while performing maintenance work on an underground water main outside the Huntsville Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Thirty-nine-year-old Todd Hughes was on a crew working on a broken water line at what's known as the Walls Unit Tuesday afternoon when he was electrocuted apparently by an adjacent electrical line. A second inmate on the crew was hurt and treated at the unit infirmary.

Prison officials said the agency's Office of Inspector General is investigating.

Hughes had been in prison since July 2007 and was serving a seven-year sentence for intoxication manslaughter from Orange County.

Trial to begin for soldier accused in child death

EL PASO (AP) — A jury was selected Tuesday in

the trial of a one-time Fort Bliss soldier charged with capital murder in the death of a toddler and his wife were taking care of.

Nakia Jonathan Dawkins and his wife were arrested last year after a 2-year-old girl in their custody died from severe internal injuries. A pathologist determined that Milanya Harris was severely beaten and had bruises over 40 percent of her body. She also had nine tumor-like blood clots in her brain, according to an autopsy.

Dawkins, who was an Army staff sergeant when he was arrested, has pleaded not guilty. Opening arguments were scheduled for Wednesday morning.

"He's innocent and we're going to trial," his lawyer Theresa Caballero told the El Paso Times for Tuesday's edition. "We're going to fight the charges."

According to a charging affidavit initially filed in the case, he and his wife both implicated themselves. Dawkins's status with the Army was unclear Tuesday.

His wife, Shawntrell Dawkins, is scheduled to stand trial in December.

Texas now has almost 1 million swine flu doses

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas has been allocated 960,400 doses of the swine flu vaccine.

The Texas Department of State Health Services said Tuesday that the number of vaccine doses earmarked over the last three weeks add up to nearly a million.

Texas was allocated 454,200 doses last week. The number includes 233,100 in the shot form and 221,100 in the nasal mist form.

In the week ending Oct. 9, Texas was allocated 363,800 doses, which included 235,000 shots and 128,800 mists.

The state's allocation for the week ending Oct. 2 was 142,400 doses, all in mist form.

To reach priority vaccine groups, the state health department is allocating vaccine to those who serve pregnant women, 2- to 4-year-old children, 5- to 18-year-olds at higher risk of serious consequences from the flu and health care workers who provide direct patient care.

Starved toddler looked like infant, mom charged

HOUSTON (AP) — An emaciated toddler who looked like an infant when he was hospitalized remains in critical condition in Houston.

Officials told the Houston Chronicle on Tuesday that 3-year-old Kayvon Lewis is suffering from starvation symptoms and worry he won't live.

His mother, 30-year-old Marcia Bert Holliday, has been charged with injury to a child by omission. She was arrested after taking him to the hospital last week and was being held at the Harris County Jail in lieu of a \$20,000 bond. No attorney information was available online for Holliday.

She told authorities the boy wouldn't eat and had seizures daily.

Child Protective Services spokeswoman Estella Olguin says Kayvon's 5 and 6-year-old siblings have never attended school. They have been placed in foster care.

Watchdog group labels Hutchison a 'porker'

AUSTIN (AP) — Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison received the dubious "porker of the month" award Tuesday from a government spending watchdog group.

Washington, D.C.-based Citizens Against Government Waste said Hutchison deserved the award because she called herself a conservative while promoting lavish spending practices. Hutchison, a member of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee, has requested \$1.6 billion for 149 projects in the 2010 fiscal year, the group said.

Gov. Rick Perry, who faces a challenge from Hutchison in the upcoming Republican primary, has made her federal spending requests an issue in the race. Perry spokesman Mark Miner said Tuesday that Hutchison's "earmarks" have contributed to spiraling federal debt.

"The senator has made a career out of wasteful spending," Miner said. "Sen. Hutchison is continuing to spend money without any regard to how you're going to pay for it."

Hutchison spokeswoman Jennifer Baker said Tuesday the senator was proud of the federal money she's brought to Texas.

Baker added the money, including appropriations for military installations and transportation projects, would go to other states if not for Hutchison's advocacy.

"The appropriations process does not add a single penny to the budget. Kay Bailey Hutchison has effectively fought to ensure that the money already budgeted by Congress is spent in Texas," Baker said. "Texans deserve to know why Rick Perry is attacking Kay Bailey Hutchison for returning our tax dollars to Texas."

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Please type or print your recipe legibly and submit it with this form.

Finalist will be required to cook entry and drop off at the Big Spring Herald on the day of judging.

Winners will be notified that same evening and empty containers may be picked up the day after judging of the contest.

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The City of Forsan (hereinafter called the OWNER) will receive Bids for WATER FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS - PHASE III, TCDBGP Contract No. 729251, until **3:00 PM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2009** in person at City Hall, 106 E. Main Street, Forsan, Texas or by mail to **Mayor Roger Hudgins, City of Forsan, P.O. Box 714, Forsan, Texas 79733-0714**. All Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at: **3:00 PM, NOVEMBER 10, 2009**.

Consideration for award of the Bid will be made at **7:00 PM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2009**. City Council Meeting, City of Forsan, 106 E. Main Street, Forsan, Texas 79733.

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Alternate Bid - Deduct ALine 10"
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Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications, are on file at the office of Burgess & Niple, Inc., 1030 Andrews Highway, Suite 211, Midland, Texas 79701.

Copies of the Contract Documents may be purchased for \$150.00 from Burgess & Niple, Inc. for each set of documents obtained. No refunds will be made.

A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of the OWNER, negotiable U.S. Government bond (at par value) or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable Surety in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total Bid shall be submitted with each Bid.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon) wage rate, as issued by the Texas Department of Rural Affairs, and as set forth in the Contract Documents, must be paid on the project, and the Contractor must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin on the entire project.

Attention is also called to General Condition 148 "Restrictions on Public Buildings and Public Works Projects." The Bidder certifies by the submission of its bid that the Contractor, Subcontractors, and materials used on this project are not of a foreign country included on the USTR list.

The Prime Contractor will review the equal employment opportunity section under the General Contract Conditions - Part I and will take affirmative action to meet minority and female participation goals in each task. The OWNER reserves the right to reject any or all Bids or to waive any informalities in the Bidding.

If the Bid is not awarded at the previously mentioned meeting of the Forsan City Council on **7:00 PM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2009**, then the Bids may be held by the OWNER for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days from the date of the opening for the purpose of reviewing the Bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders.

Date **OCTOBER 19, 2009**
By: **Roger Hudgins**
Mayor, City of Forsan
#6312 October 21 & 28, 2009

It's the last full day of the solar transit through Libra and a wonderful moment to touch base with your loved ones. Haven't you learned a lot about one another in the past weeks? Celebrate what you know now and the bonds that you've built. The outgoing Sagittarius moon brings a stroke of luck to all of your social endeavors.

ARIES

(March 21-April 19). You'll be bothered by someone you know and love. This person's antics and whimsical behavior are just crazy enough to shake up your mindset. After spending time with this one, you will no longer desire the safest path.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You are a creature of habit, which is why today will have its uncomfortable moments. Things will settle down in due course — the snow in your globe was due for a shaking up.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Obstacles arise. Take a break and then come back to the problem. You'll see that the way is there, it will simply take a little more effort. When the escalator is broken, it just becomes stairs.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The departure date for the trip you have been considering is approaching fast. Time to go from general scheming to specific plotting and deciding what to pack. A minimalist approach will serve you well.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're creative now, and also more sensitive than usual. In order to keep the flow of production

strong, you would do well to avoid critical energy altogether. Imagine that all of your answers are correct, and keep coming up with more.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You've done things in your life that you can be proud of. Therefore, your example is strong. People want to be like you. A dream scenario unfolds. You will be a beloved leader without having to order anyone around.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). How long should you keep at something before you decide it's not working and give up? Well, you'll hold on longer than most, and because of that, you'll see the breakthrough that many never reach.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). People around you seem to be living louder than usual. Whether you're extra-sensitive or there's just more racket outside than normal, you wonder when the world got to be such a noisy place. Find a quick escape to reset.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When you want to do something, it doesn't matter whether the choice is wise or prudent. Furthermore, you're the only one who can really know what's good for you. Let negative counsel go in one ear and out the other.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Dress slightly outside your comfort zone. Your boldness will be attractive. A compliment from an unlikely source will make you blush and give you something to think about.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your talent will develop if the atmosphere around you is conducive to growth. Right now, pleasant comments are the only useful ones, and you'll hear plenty of

them. Add your own to the mix, too.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You have a choice of whom to befriend and even stand next to. Listen to what people tell you about themselves. Hear between the lines, and pay attention to their actions.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 21). You are open-minded and optimistic, which makes this one of your most creative years yet. You're not afraid to throw ideas out there and follow through, even when others say it can't be done. A new addition to your family is featured in December. There's a financial bonus then, too, and another one in July. Aquarius and Taurus people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 49, 2, 15, 30 and 17.

DOES HE LOVE ME? I WANNA KNOW! Are you getting mixed signals? With the sun moving out of Libra, you need a clear answer. When a TAURUS guy loves you, he'll want to spoil you. He'll first show you all of the things he enjoys — like his favorite restaurant, the places he likes to hang out and the style in which he likes to live. Then he'll learn what impresses you and do his best to deliver. He wants you to be satisfied with all he brings to a relationship. If your Taurus guy doesn't seem that enthusiastic about courting you and you'd like to increase his interest, start by catering to his finely tuned senses. Remember, this Venus-ruled man is drawn in by beauty in all forms and levels. He appreciates the loveliness of a woman's smile, not just for the gleam of her pearly teeth but for what it tells him about her heart. A giving and compassionate

woman with a voracious appetite for life who also happens to smell like springtime and have hair that catches the sunlight — well, that's his kind of girl. Do the things that make you feel like the great beauty you are.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Last year Snoop Dogg launched his own clothing line, Rich and Infamous. Libras do have a terrific eye, as the sign of the scales is ruled by artistic and aesthetic Venus. And though Snoop Dogg is known for his laid-back attitude, his natal Venus is in the sign of hard work and perfectionism, and Virgo and his moon are in passionate Aries, indicating a self-motivated and driven personality.

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

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News in brief

Afghan president's chief political rival accepts Nov. 7 runoff, says he is ready

KABUL (AP) — President Hamid Karzai's chief political rival agreed Wednesday to take part in the Nov. 7 runoff election, setting the stage for a high-stakes showdown in the face of Taliban threats and approaching winter snows.

Ex-Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah made his comment to reporters one day after Karzai bowed to intense U.S. and international pressure and accepted findings of a U.N.-backed panel that there had been massive fraud on his behalf in the Aug. 20 vote.

Those findings showed Karzai failed to win the 50 percent required to avoid a runoff.

Election officials have fired 200 district election chiefs — about half of those from the first round — following complaints by candidates or observers about misconduct in their regions, the U.N. said last week.

Abdullah said he telephoned Karzai to thank him for agreeing to the second-round ballot.

Analysis: New Afghan voting may not confer legitimacy to a shaky U.S. ally

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama's relief at the agreement that could quiet the political crisis over Afghanistan's spoiled election masks his predicament as he weighs an expansion of the unpopular Afghanistan war.

The administration says its ambitious plans for Afghanistan rely on a "credible partner" in Kabul. But there is no guarantee that the hastily arranged voting will confer the legitimacy the fraudulent Aug. 20 election lacked.

No matter who wins the November election runoff that Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai agreed to during pressured consultations with American leaders, the United States is wedded to a shaky government in which corruption has become second nature.

"This has been a very difficult time in Afghanistan to not only carry out an election under difficult circum-

stances, where there were a whole host of security issues that had to be resolved, but also postelection a lot of uncertainty," Obama said Tuesday.

Obama pointed to the Nov. 7 runoff as "a path forward in order to complete this election process." He said nothing about his deliberations over what could be a huge surge of U.S. armed forces in Afghanistan, a calculation badly thrown off by the botched August voting.

Insurance industry antitrust exemption at risk in Senate health care overhaul debate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top Senate Democrats intend to try to strip the health insurance industry of its exemption from federal antitrust laws as part of the debate over health care, according to congressional officials, the latest evidence of a deepening struggle over President Barack Obama's top domestic priority.

If enacted, the switch would mean greater federal regulation for an industry that recently has stepped up its criticism of portions of a health care bill moving toward the Senate floor.

Congressional officials said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada and Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, arranged to make the announcement Wednesday, joined by Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York.

The officials who disclosed the plans did so on condition of anonymity to avoid pre-empting a formal announcement.

In a statement, the major industry trade group, America's Health Insurance Plans, said the industry already was one of the most regulated in the country. The focus on the industry's antitrust exemption, it said, was "a political ploy designed to distract attention away from the real issue of rising health care costs."

Intelligence officials say suspected U.S. missile kills 3 in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — Intelligence officials say a suspected U.S. missile strike has killed three alleged militants in Pakistan's North

Waziristan tribal region.

The region lies adjacent to South Waziristan, an al-Qaida and Taliban stronghold that is the target of an offensive by Pakistani army soldiers.

Two intelligence officials say the drone-fired missile struck Spalaga, a village close to the border with South Waziristan, on Wednesday. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to media.

North Waziristan is a militant stronghold as well, but the army has cut deals with insurgents there to keep them out of the fight in South Waziristan.

Police: Trains collide in northern India, killing 21 people and injuring 17

NEW DELHI (AP) — A passenger train crashed into another train's rear carriage reserved for women and disabled passengers, killing 21 people and injuring 17 who remained trapped for hours Wednesday near the Taj Mahal in northern India, police said.

Rescuers used gas cutters to open the wrecked compartment to free trapped passengers following the collision near Agra, the site of the famed white-marble monument about 130 miles (210 kilometers) southeast of

New Delhi, said Rajesh Bajpai, a railway spokesman.

Rescuers recovered 19 bodies during a rescue operation that lasted nearly seven hours, said Rajesh Dikshit, a police spokesman. Two of the 19 injured people died in hospital, Dikshit told The Associated Press.

No foreigners were among the victims, he said.

Watchdog says bailout helped but cost the government credibility

WASHINGTON (AP) — A government watchdog said the \$700 billion bailout for the financial industry played a major role in rescuing the economy over the last year but also engendered anger and distrust among Americans because of secrecy and confusion about the way the program was handled.

The mixed and blunt assessment by Neil Barofsky, the special inspector general in charge of oversight for the bailout fund, appears in a quarterly report scheduled for release Wednesday.

Barofsky said the Troubled Asset Relief Program has come at great cost to taxpayers, to the integrity of the financial system and to the public's perception of the federal government.



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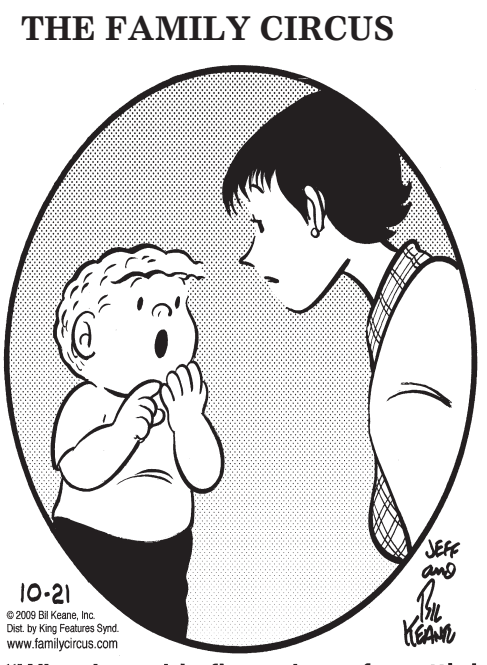
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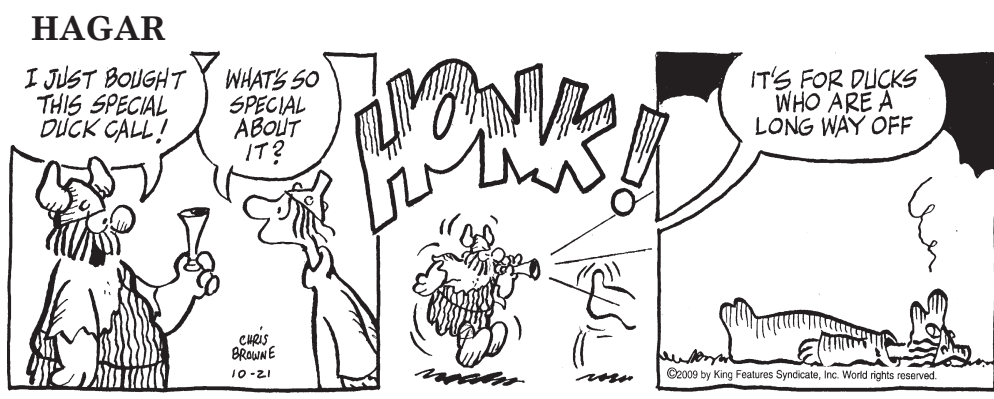
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5:PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Seinfeld Office	Cortes Harris	BBC Business	Cash Cab	Stripes, Warren Oates	CSI: Crime Scn	of Golf -- Day Two.	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Suite Life	Horn Interrupt	SportsCenter
6:PM	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Gancho	Lopez	News CBS	12 Cora-zones	News NBC	Name	Mark	News-Lehrer	MythBusters	CSI: Crime Scn	CSI: Crime Scn			Wizards of Waverly Hills	SportsNation	Baseball
7:PM	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Gancho	Lopez	News CBS	12 Cora-zones	News NBC	Name	Mark	News-Lehrer	MythBusters	CSI: Crime Scn	CSI: Crime Scn			Wizards of Waverly Hills	SportsNation	Baseball
8:PM	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Gancho	Lopez	News CBS	12 Cora-zones	News NBC	Name	Mark	News-Lehrer	MythBusters	CSI: Crime Scn	CSI: Crime Scn			Wizards of Waverly Hills	SportsNation	Baseball
9:PM	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Gancho	Lopez	News CBS	12 Cora-zones	News NBC	Name	Mark	News-Lehrer	MythBusters	CSI: Crime Scn	CSI: Crime Scn			Wizards of Waverly Hills	SportsNation	Baseball
10:PM	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Gancho	Lopez	News CBS	12 Cora-zones	News NBC	Name	Mark	News-Lehrer	MythBusters	CSI: Crime Scn	CSI: Crime Scn			Wizards of Waverly Hills	SportsNation	Baseball
11:PM	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Gancho	Lopez	News CBS	12 Cora-zones	News NBC	Name	Mark	News-Lehrer	MythBusters	CSI: Crime Scn	CSI: Crime Scn			Wizards of Waverly Hills	SportsNation	Baseball
12:AM	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Gancho	Lopez	News CBS	12 Cora-zones	News NBC	Name	Mark	News-Lehrer	MythBusters	CSI: Crime Scn	CSI: Crime Scn			Wizards of Waverly Hills	SportsNation	Baseball
1:AM	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Gancho	Lopez	News CBS	12 Cora-zones	News NBC	Name	Mark	News-Lehrer	MythBusters	CSI: Crime Scn	CSI: Crime Scn			Wizards of Waverly Hills	SportsNation	Baseball



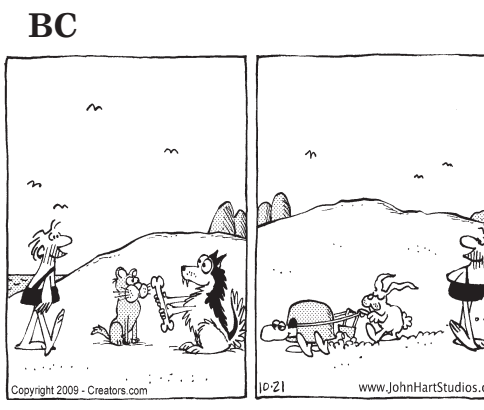
"MR. WILSON SAID I WAS GETTIN' IN HIS HAIR. HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?"



"Why does this finger keep forgettin' to grow as much as the rest?"



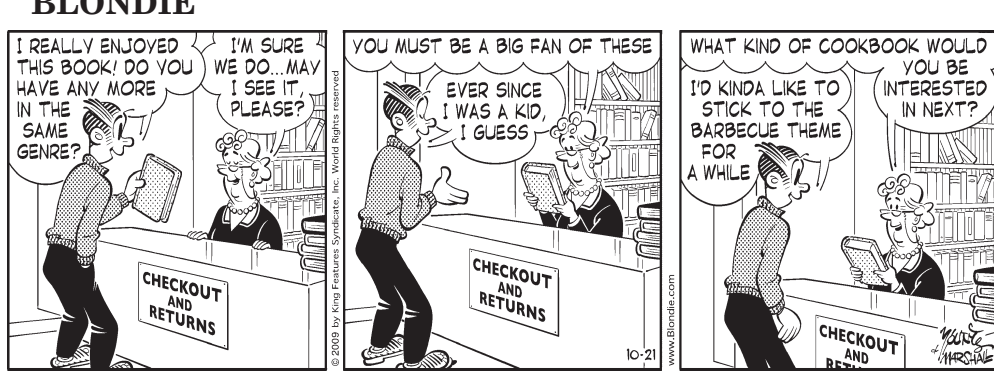
I JUST BOUGHT THIS SPECIAL DUCK CALL! WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT IT? IT'S FOR DUCKS WHO ARE A LONG WAY OFF



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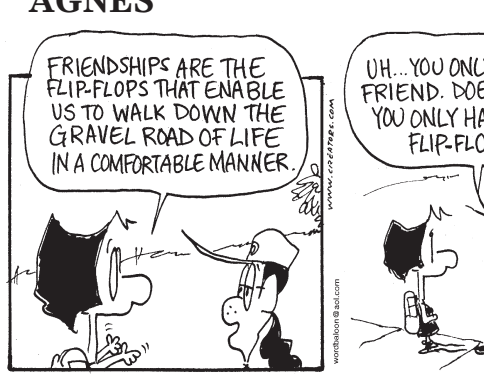
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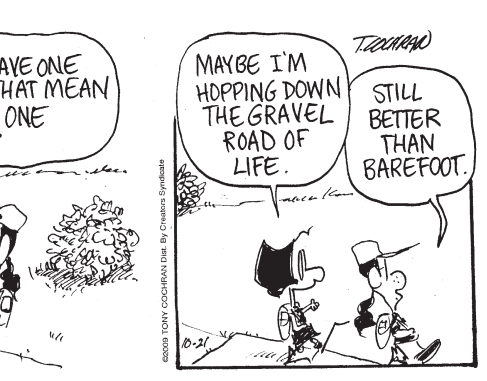
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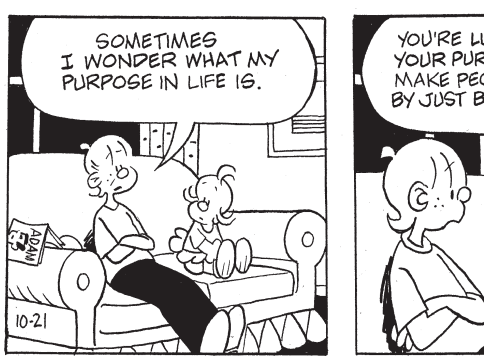
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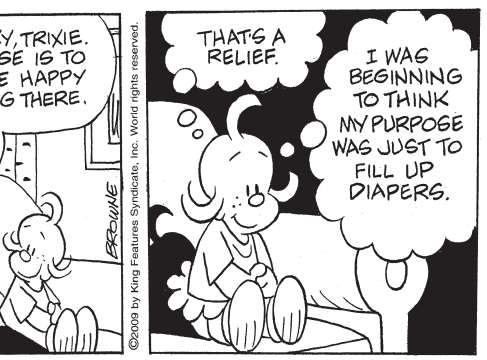
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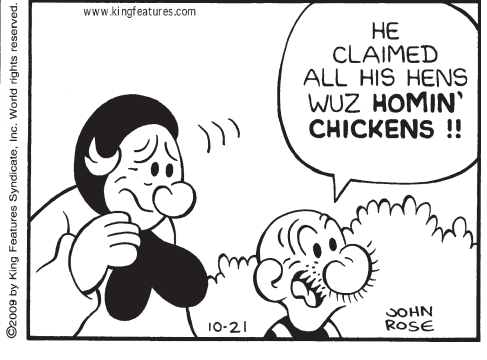
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This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, October 21, the 294th day of 2009. There are 71 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

- In 1797, The U.S. Navy frigate Constitution, also known as Old Ironsides, is launched in Boston's harbor.
- In 1879, American inventor Thomas A. Edison demonstrates the first electric lamp.
- In 1923, Start of a 160-day heat wave in Marble Bar, Western Australia, during which the temperature did not fall below 38 degrees Celsius (100 degrees Fahrenheit).
- In 1967, tens of thousands of Vietnam War protesters march in Washington, D.C.
- In 1988, a federal grand jury in New York indicts former Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos and his wife, Imelda, on charges of fraud and racketeering. Marcos dies before he can be brought to trial; his widow, Imelda, is acquitted in 1990.

In 1994, the United States and North Korea sign a pact to end tensions over Pyongyang's nuclear program.

In 2003, a series of massive wildfires in southern California rages across wooded and suburban regions surrounding Los Angeles and San Diego, killing at least 22 people and scorching about 743,000 acres (301,000 hectares). Some 3,500 homes are destroyed.

In 2004, Japan starts the clean up from its deadliest typhoon in over a decade, a day after the storm ripped across the country, killing 55 people and leaving 24 missing.

2006 - Donations of clothing set off stampedes in impoverished Bangladesh leaving at least eight people dead. All are women except for one child.

In 2007, a Soyuz craft with two Russian cosmonauts and a Malaysian aboard undocks from the international space station for the return to Earth.

In 2008, former Prime Minister of Thailand Thaksin Shinawatra is convicted of corruption in absentia and sentenced to two years in prison.

Today's Birthdays: Hokusai, Japanese artist (1760-1849); Samuel T. Coleridge, English poet-philosopher (1772-1834); Alfred Nobel, Swedish inventor and founder of prize (1833-1896); Georg Solti, Hungarian-born conductor (1912-1997); Timothy Leary, U.S. psychologist, author and popularizer of LSD (1920-1996); Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli politician and former prime minister (1949-); Carrie Fisher, U.S. actress-writer (1956-); Ken Watanabe, Japanese actor (1959-).

Thought for Today:
You will never 'find' time for anything. If you want time you must make it — Charles Buxton, English author (1823-1871).

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Answer to previous puzzle

THIS	THUS	STOPS
RUST	HUSH	WAVES
AMSO	ELSE	EXERT
COURTYARD	DIRT	
TREMOR	STEM	
	TENS	ONEWAY
TWICE	ETTE	TOFU
UHOH	DREAD	EVIL
BETA	EDIT	CRETE
ENAMEL	NANO	
	OMIT	ONWARD
LAMB	BIGLEAGUE	
DEVIL	OBOE	SALE
AGILE	NETS	TIED
MODEM	EGOS	ENDS

Newsday Crossword

- CUTUPS by Shirley Soloway
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com
- ACROSS**
- 1 Valuable sparklers
 - 5 Soak in the tub
 - 10 Two-band radio
 - 14 Yoked team
 - 15 Rims
 - 16 Grain storehouse
 - 17 Be too picky
 - 19 Tie securer
 - 20 Breakfast beverage
 - 21 They're against you
 - 23 Stage signal
 - 24 VII x VIII
 - 26 Sound sleepers?
 - 28 Shoe specialists
 - 33 Toucan's toenail
 - 34 Impressive group
 - 35 Sagacious
 - 37 ___ yesterday (gullible)
 - 40 Impolite look
 - 41 Diner freebies
 - 42 Soft cheese
 - 43 Young
 - 44 In the past
 - 45 Center
 - 46 Finely sharpened
 - 48 Decorates, in a way
 - 50 Watched Junior
 - 53 Kangaroo's pouch, e.g.
 - 54 Your and my
 - 55 Ensnare
 - 57 Haifa greeting
- DOWN**
- 62 Notion
 - 64 Try to be funny
 - 66 Vast bodies of water
 - 67 Stable occupant
 - 68 Taj Mahal city
 - 69 Wraps things up
 - 70 Not flighty
 - 71 Actual
 - 8 Long sandwiches
 - 9 Perfume ingredients
 - 10 Be inquisitive
 - 11 Be less than candid
 - 12 Batter ingredient
 - 13 Small specks
 - 18 Brit's TV
 - 22 Fa follower
 - 25 Novelist Shaw
 - 27 Synagogue leaders
 - 28 Young seal
 - 29 Sweet sandwich
 - 30 Dine
 - 31 Beer ingredient
 - 32 From then on
 - 36 Blossom holders
 - 38 Get up
 - 39 Badminton dividers
 - 41 Kings and queens
 - 45 Ice-cream flavor
 - 47 Superlative suffix
 - 49 Took in some sun
 - 50 Idaho's capital
 - 51 English poet
 - 52 Seer's deck
 - 56 Chute starter
 - 58 Not quite shut
 - 59 Theater level
 - 60 Cajun veggie offering
 - 61 Caterer's offering
 - 63 Wild equine
 - 65 CBS police series

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Annie's Mailbox®

'I am so distraught to think I may have caused our dog's death'

Dear Annie: I've done something terrible and I can't sleep. My heart is broken. We contracted with a tree removal company to take out a large weeping willow. The workers arrived before 9

a.m., but they were frightened of our dog, "Rocko," so I moved him to another part of our yard, along with his water and food dish. Two hours later, I left for work.

The weather became

surprisingly hot and humid, and when my husband arrived home, our beloved Rocko was dead. He was 14 years old, and maybe it was coming, but what if it was the heat and the lack of his favorite

shade tree? It never occurred to me that it would get so hot.

My eyes were swollen from the tears. How could I have ever let my "good boy" suffer like that?

I will never get over feeling so sad for my husband and kids. Rocko was a wonderful dog. I just wish I could know that he died from old age and not my stupidity. Can a dog die from the heat in less than four hours — especially one with a lot of fur? — Brokenhearted in Michigan

Dear Michigan: Unfortunately, dogs with a lot of fur can easily overheat. We spoke to Dr. Bernadine Cruz, a nationally recognized veterinarian. She is sure you thought you



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

did the best you could to put your beloved pet in the safest place possible with food and water. Unless you had a post mortem, there's always a chance

there could have been other issues involved in Rocko's death besides heat and insufficient shade, including age, obesity or an underlying illness.

As sad as it is, please know your letter may save another pet's life by reminding pet owners to take all precautions possible and discuss any questions with their vets. For further information, readers can go to avma.org/care4pets.

Dear Annie: Thousands of homeowners are facing foreclosure

of their family home for one tragic reason or another. They can receive help through state and nonprofit agencies at no cost.

Unfortunately, homeowners often seek help from scam artists who prey upon those in need. These scammers set up their ads and websites to look legitimate. Please tell your readers to seek help through the aforementioned agencies.

— Certified Foreclosure Interventionist, Maine

Dear CFI: We appreciate the opportunity to keep our readers informed. Anyone who is facing foreclosure can contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (hud.gov) at 451 7th St., SW, Washington, D.C., 20410 for referrals to state agencies that offer foreclosure counseling and assistance.

Readers can also contact the Homeowner Preservation Foundation (hopenow.com) at 1-888-995-HOPE (1-888-995-4673).

Dear Annie: This is for "TRB in Illinois," whose son has disabilities. She should know about state-run early intervention programs for children under age 3. (In Illinois, they are offered through the Department of Human Services.) Families pay on a sliding scale according to income.

I strongly recommend she get in contact with the special education department at her local school district.

Therapists will work with her and the school to develop an education and services plan (called an IEP) tailored to her son's specific needs.

Most importantly, his teachers will have experience in educating children with every level of physical and developmental disability, and he will see that he is not so alone in his challenges.

Nothing is more important than figuring out how to best help your son reach his potential. — RMB from Illinois

Dear RMB: Thank you so much for this useful information. We hope "TRB" will check into it before the new school year begins.

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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HEISMAN

Continued from Page 1B

in New York for the Heisman hand-out in December.

Now, none of them is a lock to be a finalist again.

Bradford re-injured his right shoulder early in the Texas game Saturday and might be done for the season. Hopefully he can recover in time to rebuild his draft stock.

Heismanpundit.com, which polls 13 Heisman voters throughout the sea-

son, had Tebow and McCoy leading what it described as a wide-open race coming into this weekend.

Tebow was great in leading Florida to a game-winning field goal in the final minutes of the Gators' 23-20 victory against Arkansas. But that was after he contributed to Florida's early woes with turnovers and poor decisions.

Tebow ranks third in the country in passer rating (164.6), but he's thrown only eight TD passes, is averaging 3.8 yards per carry, and 79 quarterbacks have passed for more yards than Tebow's 1,032.

McCoy was downright ordinary in Texas' 16-13 victory against Oklahoma. His most notable play was cutting down Brian Jackson, who had a clear sideline after making a fourth-quarter pick.

Like Tebow, McCoy hasn't been nearly as good as he was last year. The senior is 39th in the country in passer rating at 137.9.

McCoy and Tebow could still win the Heisman, especially if they lead their teams to the BCS national title game, but they'll need to play much better in the second half.

Clausen looks like the leading candidate among quarterbacks. He's the second-rated passer in the nation (166.4) with 1,804 yards and 14 touchdowns. Even though he couldn't close the deal against USC, Clausen stood in against the Trojans' pressure and was the biggest reason Notre Dame had a chance to win.

Cincinnati's Tony Pike looked as if he could make a push for the Heisman, but he injured his left wrist last week against South Florida.

Houston's Case Keenum will put up huge numbers, but he needed to lead the Cougars to a perfect season to gain widespread support.

Boise State's Kellen Moore is the leading passer in the country, but will have the same problem in the Heisman race as his team will have in the national title race: A soft schedule provides few opportunities for eye-catching performances.

There's been talk about a defensive player seriously getting into the mix with Nebraska defensive tackle Ndamkong Suh, Tennessee safety Eric Berry and Alabama linebacker Rolando McClain getting talked up. But that's just talk.

If you're searching for the leading Heisman contender, take a look at Crimson Tide running back Mark Ingram.

It was the sophomore who had the breakout performance this past weekend, running for 246 yards and the game-sealing touchdown in Alabama's 20-6 victory against South Carolina.

"He really inspires the offensive line when we know we have a good back like him." Tide tackle Drew Davis said.

Ingram ranks fourth in the nation in rushing at 129 yards per game and is averaging 6.7 per carry with 11

touchdowns. He has been the backbone of the offense for the No. 1 team in the nation and if he keeps it up he might become Alabama's first Heisman Trophy winner.

BCS breakdown

The first BCS standings had Alabama, Florida and Texas at the top, as expected.

Here's what you need to know: The path to Pasadena, Calif., and the BCS national championship game is simple for the Tide, Gators and Longhorns. Just win, baby.

Looking for the looming controversy?

Could a one-loss team make the title game ahead of an undefeated Cincinnati?

The Bearcats from the Big East are fifth in the standings, but USC is already ahead of the Bearcats in the polls.

Boise State is fourth in the standings, but a long shot to make the BCS title game. The bigger issue for the Broncos could be what lurks behind. Unbeaten TCU has a tougher remaining schedule and could keep Boise State from making any BCS game.

The hurry-up

—Why when Purdue beats Ohio State does it reflect poorly on the Big Ten, but when Arkansas nearly beats Florida it's another example of how deep the SEC is?

—The most surprising team in the country: Idaho. The Vandals are 6-1 and 3-0 in the Western Athletic Conference under third-year coach Robb Ackey. Idaho went 2-10 last year and won 12 games over the previous five seasons.

Looking ahead

Big game for a potential BCS buster.

No. 10 TCU plays at No. 16 BYU Saturday night in a game with Mountain West Conference title implications and much more for the unbeaten Horned Frogs.

The rest of TCU's schedule is much tougher than Boise State's and it gives the Horned Frogs a chance to catch the Broncos and earn a Bowl Championship Series appearance from a non-automatic qualifying conference.

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Only \$20,995</p> <p>2009 Lincoln Towncar Signature Limited - Gold With Neutral Leather, 25,000 Miles, Full Warranty Remains, Excellent Condition. \$32,995</p>	<p>*** FORD/NISSAN TRUCKS ***</p> <p>2006 Ford F-250 Crew Cab Lariat, Powerstroke Diesel, 2WD - Dark Maroon With Tan Leather, Fully Equipped, Short Wheel Base. \$24,995</p> <p>2006 Ford F150 V-6 - Short Bed, Bright Red, Automatic, Cruise, Regular Cab, Only 24K Miles, Tan Cloth, Seats NOW \$13,995</p> <p>2006 Ford F150 Super Crew, XLT - 2WD, Bought Here New, 75K Local Miles, Excellent Value, Midnight Blue. NOW \$15,995</p> <p>2006 Ford F150 Supercrew Lariat - White/Leather, Local One Owner w/53,000 Miles. Was \$24,995 NOW \$19,995</p> <p>2003 Ford F250 Crew Cab XL - White, 5.4 V-8. Was \$12,995 NOW \$9,995</p> <p>2004 Ford Ranger S/C XLT - White w/Cloth, Local One Owner, w/62,000 Miles. 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