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**Bebe McCasland's column is on Page 5**

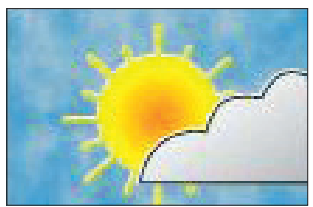


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# H BIG SPRING HERALD

**TUESDAY**

**OCTOBER 27, 2009**



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 280

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## 3 injured in explosion at refinery

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

An explosion involving a boiler at the Big Spring Refinery Monday night sent three employees to the hospital, where they were treated and released, according to refinery officials.

According to Joseph Israel,

chief operating officer for Alon USA, the company that owns the local refinery, the incident was reported at approximately 8:45 p.m. Monday.

"There was an incident at the Big Spring Refinery around 8:45 p.m. Monday, involving a boiler," said Israel

in a prepared statement this morning. "Three employees were taken to the hospital and released."

According to Alon USA public relations spokesman Blake Lewis, at least one of the three men injured was airlifted from the scene, but only as a precaution.

"He was treated and released, just like the other two employees," said Lewis. "He was airlifted simply as a precautionary measure. I'm not sure which hospital the men were taken to, but I have received word this morning that all three have been treated and released."

Alon officials declined to discuss the cause of the explosion, saying the incident is under internal company investigation.

"The refinery is operating at planned rates, with no impact on production," Israel

See **ALON**, Page 3

## CJIS problems could cost county future grant funds

**By STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Trouble with implementing a criminal reporting system may end up costing Howard County grant money in the future.

During their Monday meeting, county commissioners learned that Howard County had fallen below state requirements in implementing the Criminal Justice Information System. CJIS, a reporting system developed for the Department of Public Safety, is designed to report all criminal activity, from arrest through conviction, in the state of

Texas. The trouble with the system is that it is very labor-intensive. In Howard County alone, up to nine agencies are required to provide information to the system, making inter-agency coordination a problem, as well.

"One of the major problems with CJIS is that you have so many people involved in the reporting process and if just one of those people drops the ball, we're in trouble," said County Clerk Donna Wright. "And it's very, very time-consuming. Some of these

See **COUNTY**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan  
**Howard College officials get a look at how construction of the science building wing is progressing during a tour of the building Monday.**

## Admin building next at HC

**Trustees OK bids for \$1.8 million to refit structure**

**By STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

One of the oldest buildings on the Howard College campus is about to get a major

facelift. During their Monday meeting, College trustees approved \$1.8 million in bids to perform major renovation work on the main administration building.

The structure is one of the original buildings constructed at the Birdwell Lane campus, dating back to the early 1950s, and has not undergone significant renovation, officials said.

That will soon change. Lee George, construction manager of campus renovation projects, said the administration building will undergo major renovation in the coming months.

"The renovation will include work on the exterior and the windows, as well as some masonry elements," George told trustees. "The electrical and mechanical systems will undergo major renovation, also."

George estimated renovation of the structure would take approximately nine months.

Trustees also learned costs for the \$21.6 overall project have been less than expected.

Executive Vice President Terry Hansen told trustees to-date costs have been about 15 percent less than projected. If costs remain under budget, additional renovation projects may be targeted, he added.

In other business, trustees approved:

- The issuance of \$3.6 million in revenue bonds to finance renovation of the men's and women's dormitories. Unlike general obligation bonds,

See **HC**, Page 3

**Howard/Glasscock Relay For Life Community Kickoff will be held at 5:30 p.m. today at First United Methodist Church's Garrett Hall, 400 Scurry**



## Former State Senator Bivins dies

**By JOHN A. MOSELEY**  
Managing Editor

The death of Teel Bivins, a former Texas lawmaker and U.S. ambassador to Sweden, Monday at the age of 61 prompted statements from both former President George W. Bush and Kel Seliger, the man who replaced him in the Texas Senate.

Bivins, who had been battling a lengthy illness, died at his home in Amarillo, according to family spokeswoman Sharon Miner.

The Amarillo Republican served in the Texas Senate for 15 years before President George W. Bush appointed Bivins to be the U.S. ambassador to Sweden in 2004.

Bivins had been one of Bush's

most successful fundraisers during the 2000 and 2004 presidential campaigns. He stepped down from the diplomatic post for health reasons in early 2006.

In a statement, Bush called Bivins a "dear friend and a great man."

While in the Legislature,

See **BIVINS**, Page 3

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[www.bigspringherald.com](http://www.bigspringherald.com)

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Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. Sunday.

## BSHS to host speech tourney, judges sought

**By CLINT ADAMS**  
Special to the Herald

More than 250 students will descend on Big Spring High School this Halloween weekend to participate in the ninth annual Big Spring High School Speech and Debate Tournament.

This year's tournament is proving to be the largest tournament ever., orga-

nizers said.

"We have schools from as far away as Houston, Plano and El Paso coming to our tournament," BSHS Speech Coach Jennifer Adams said, "not to mention the fact that our tournament is the destination for all of the local schools."

Seventeen schools will compete at

See **TOURNEY**, Page 3

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## Obituaries

### Ronnie Neill

Ronnie Neill, 58, of Abilene, formerly of Big Spring died Saturday, Oct. 24, 2009, in Abilene. Graveside Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6 until 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

He was born July 14, 1951, in Big Spring to Ruby and Raymond Neill. He attended Moss Elementary School in the special ed program. He lived most of his life in Big Spring, moving to Abilene State Supported Living Center in 2002.

He is survived by three sisters: Barbara Kennedy and her husband Charlie, Linda Winterbauer, and Lela Thompson and her husband Ronnie, all of Big Spring; and several nieces and nephews.

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

### Jason Bailey Stevens

Jason Bailey Stevens, 27, of La Porte, formerly of Big Spring died Friday, Oct. 23, 2009. Memorial services will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29, 2009, at the Nalley-Pickle and Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

He was born Sept. 26, 1982, in Big Spring. He attended high school in La Porte and Forsan, graduating from Big Spring High School in 2001.

Jason is survived by one child, Charles Bailey Stevens of Seabrook; his mother, Lana Follis and Rob Runnels of La Porte; his father, Vance Stevens and Donna Hicks of Deer Park; two brothers, Landon Jared Stevens and wife, Randi, of Clyde, and Tyler of La Porte; one sister, Morgan of La Porte; his grandparents, Marijann Stevens of Big Spring, Don Stevens and wife, Cheryl, of Carrollton, and Bud and Angel Grantham of Big Spring; and many other relatives and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that a small donation be made to a children's fund of your choice.

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

## Take Note

• Donations are being accepted at Cosden Federal Credit Union and State National Bank to assist the Gary Feaster family, residents of Howard County who lost their home to a fire Sunday. Thanks to community support, the family no longer needs donations of clothing, but any monetary donations would be appreciated.

• The West Texas Pachyderm (Republican) Club would like to invite all interested parties to its last club meeting of the year at noon Oct. 29 at Big Spring Country Club. Lunch is available for a nominal fee. Anyone who would like more information can call 267-7387.

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

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

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

### Howard County Feed & Supply



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## Police blotter

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

- ROMELIA LEOS, 30, of 1206 Lancaster, was arrested Monday on nine local warrants.
- JOHN SALAZAR, 34, of 1808 Hearn, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- VIOLATION OF A PROTECTIVE ORDER was reported in the 1300 block of Gregg Street.
- THEFT was reported: in the 1700 block of FM 700. in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 900 block of Runnels.

## Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 78 inmates at the time of this report.

• ROMELIA ISABEL LEOS, 30, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on contempt charges for no driver's license (two counts), failure to appear (two counts), disorderly conduct - vulgar language, assault Class C, failure to maintain financial responsibility and no seatbelt.

• JOHN WILLIAM SALAZAR, 34, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• WILLIAM KEVIN THOMASON, 46, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

## Fire/EMS

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

- TRAUMA was reported in the 1000 block of S. Birdwell Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the 195 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Hearn. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 200 block of Refinery Road. Two people were transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of N. Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Highway 176. One person was transported to SMMC.

## Support groups

### TODAY

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

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

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

### WEDNESDAY

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

### THURSDAY

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

### FRIDAY

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

### SATURDAY

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






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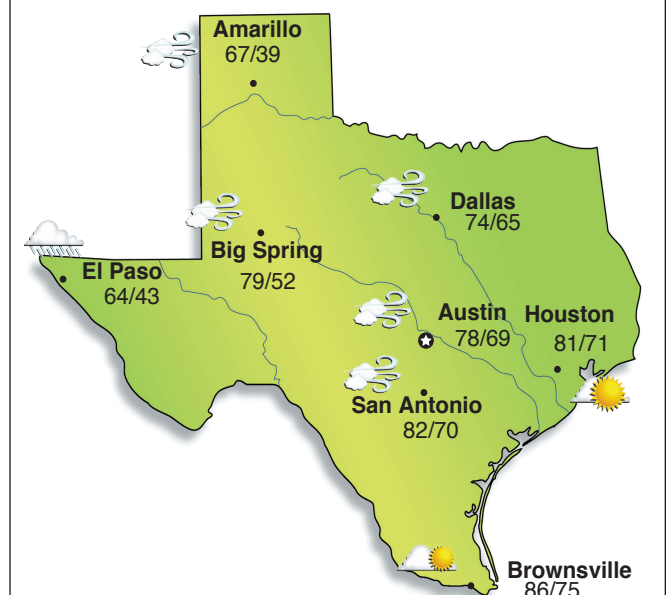
## Today's Weather

### Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 10/28	Thu 10/29	Fri 10/30	Sat 10/31	Sun 11/1
 <b>79/52</b> Windy with a few clouds from time to time. High 79F.	 <b>61/42</b> Partly cloudy, chance of a thunderstorm.	 <b>68/44</b> Mainly sunny and windy. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the mid 40s.	 <b>72/45</b> Sunny. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 40s.	 <b>74/48</b> Sunny. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the upper 40s.
<b>Sunrise:</b> 8:00 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 6:59 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 8:01 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 6:58 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 8:02 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 6:57 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 8:02 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 6:56 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 8:03 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 6:56 PM

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## Texas At A Glance



### Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	75	61	windy	Kingsville	86	73	windy
Amarillo	67	39	windy	Livingston	79	66	mst sunny
Austin	78	69	windy	Longview	74	63	sunny
Beaumont	80	68	mst sunny	Lubbock	75	45	windy
Brownsville	86	75	pt sunny	Lufkin	79	65	mst sunny
Brownwood	77	65	windy	Midland	78	50	windy
Corpus Christi	83	76	windy	Raymondville	88	72	windy
Corsicana	74	64	windy	Rosenberg	81	71	mst sunny
Dallas	74	65	windy	San Antonio	82	70	windy
Del Rio	81	63	windy	San Marcos	78	69	windy
El Paso	64	43	rain	Sulphur Springs	74	63	sunny
Fort Stockton	80	48	windy	Sweetwater	77	58	windy
Gainesville	73	62	windy	Tyler	74	62	mst sunny
Greenville	73	62	windy	Weatherford	72	63	windy
Houston	81	71	mst sunny	Wichita Falls	74	61	windy

## Lottery

The winning numbers in Monday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Two Step" game were: 13-15-16-30, Bonus: 20.

The winning numbers in Monday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Cash 5" game were: 02-25-26-28-32.

The winning numbers in Monday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Daily 4 Night" game were: 2-4-6-3.

The winning numbers in Monday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Pick 3 Night" game were: 8-9-4.

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# News briefs

## Sen. Reid takes chance including government-sponsored plan in health bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — The focus of the health overhaul debate now shifts to whether Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid can persuade a handful of moderate senators to get behind his new proposal for a government-sponsored insurance plan.

That's no sure bet. Even Reid, D-Nev., didn't claim to have the 60 votes needed to pass his proposal when he ended weeks of speculation by announcing that the Senate version of sweeping health care legislation would include a provision for the government to sell health insurance in competition with private insurers.

The issue has been the biggest flash point in the health care debate, and government-sponsored insurance had been seen as unlikely to be included in Senate legislation because of opposition from moderates. The House's health care bill, expected to be released as early as this week, is certain to contain a strong provision for a so-called public insurance option, though details aren't final.

"I think it's the fairest way to go," Reid told reporters Monday.

"We have 60 people in the caucus," he said. "We all hug together and see where we come out."

## The recession may be over, but recovery is fragile and job losses still mounting

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's about to become official: The recession is over — but not the pain.

The government will release figures this week expected to show that the economy has awakened from its deepest slump

since the 1930s and is in the early stages of a recovery. But the following week, the government will issue another set of figures expected to show unemployment continuing to rise toward and possibly above a clearly recessionary 10 percent.

How can both be possible?

The government releases third-quarter Gross Domestic Product figures on Thursday. Many forecasters say they will show GDP growing at an annual rate of about 3 percent, validating a widely held belief among economists that the recession ended in June or July.

But try telling that to the more than 15 million still unemployed, the small businesses and individuals who can't get loans and the people whose homes are worth less than their mortgages.

## Al-Qaida affiliate in Iraq claims responsibility for bombings that killed 155

BAGHDAD (AP) — Al-Qaida's umbrella group in Iraq claimed responsibility for the twin suicide bombings in the heart of Baghdad that killed at least 155 people, including 24 children trapped in a bus leaving a day care center.

The al-Qaida branch, known as the Islamic State of Iraq, said in a statement posted on the Internet late Monday that its "martyrs ... targeted the dens of infidelity."

Massive car bombs have been the hallmark of al-Qaida and Sunni insurgents seeking to overthrow the country's Shiite-dominated government in Iraq.

The attack Sunday in the heart of the Iraqi capital struck the Justice Ministry and the Baghdad Provincial Administration. It was Iraq's deadliest attacks in two years and it raised more fears about the country's ability to protect itself.

## COUNTY

Continued from Page 1

records we have to update go back seven years.

"I have one employee in my office who works on CJIS," Wright added. "But she also has five other jobs to do."

Because of recent state requirements, however,

the county must improve its reporting procedures or face possible consequences.

"You have to show a good reason why you're not reporting at least 90 percent of all activity," Wright said. "If you don't, the state can start pulling grant money."

Wright said the county's reporting level is currently at around 77 percent.

And Howard County is not alone is falling short of CJIS requirements — Wright said only 36 of the more than 200 counties in Texas met or exceeded the 90 percent reporting rate.

To rectify the situation, the county must form a committee to study the situation and recommend improvements. Commissioners voted unanimously to

name the following people to the committee: Wright, District Clerk Colleen Barton, County Attorney Josh Hamby, District Attorney Hardy L. Wilkerson, Chief of Police Lonnie Smith, Sheriff Stan Parker, Adult Probation Director Kent Minchew, Juvenile Probation Director Dennis Wells, County Judge Mark Barr and Mike Barton.

In other business, trustees approved:

- An expenditure of \$8,500 to purchase and install new shelving at the county library.

- An inter-local agreement between the county and the VA Medical Center.

- The appointment of Kathy Sayles as the county's representative on the appraisal district board.

## ALON

Continued from Page 1

said this morning.

Monday's explosion was the second in less than two years at the facility, which was heavily damaged in February 2008 when gas from a propylene tank caused a fire to rip through the refinery.

Repairs, which took nearly a year to complete following the 2008 explosion, cost approximately \$300 million to complete, according to information recently released by officials with the Howard County Appraisal District.

Alon officials declined to comment on the estimated cost to repair the damage caused by Monday night's fire.

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

## BIVINS

Continued from Page 1

Bivins rose to chair the powerful Senate Finance Committee and was a member of the Legislative Budget Board.

As a result of legislative redistricting in 2003, Howard County was moved into Bivins' 31st Texas Senate District following his final campaign for the post in 2002.

State Sen. Kel Seliger, who replaced Bivins in the Senate District 31 seat, issued a statement calling his predecessor both a friend and role model.

"Teel Bivins was a good friend and role model, who set a very high standard for commitment and accomplishment in public service, and will be sorely missed," Seliger said in this statement.

Seliger noted that four members of his current staff also worked for

Bivins when he represented the 31st District.

"They, along with my family, and his many friends and colleagues throughout Texas extend our sincerest condolences to his family," Seliger's statement added.

Before his election to the Texas Senate, Bivins had been a businessman and cattleman. He graduated from Tulane University and earned a law degree from Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

The Associated Press provided information for this story.

Contact Managing Editor John A. Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230, or by e-mail at editor@bigspringherald.com

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

## MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Ronnie Neill, 58, died Saturday. Graveside Services will be at 11:00 AM Wednesday at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 7:00 PM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Ron Enger, 64, died Sunday. Memorial Service will be at 4:00 PM Tuesday at Coahoma United Methodist Church.

## HC

Continued from Page 1

revenue bonds will be paid for through fees and other charges and not through tax money.

- Heard reports on fall semester enrollment and small classes.
- Approved handbook and catalog changes.

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

## TOURNEY

Continued from Page 1

the tournament this weekend.

"We don't compete at our own tournament," Adams said. "Because we use community judges, it wouldn't be

fair to the other schools. Rather, this is a fundraiser for our team to allow them to compete at other tournaments in the future."

More community judges, however, are needed.

"We are in need of judges for several time spots on Saturday," Ad-

ams said. "Many people are scared of the prospect of judging, but if you can watch a reality show and pick who you like and who you don't like, you can judge."

Anyone willing to help should call Jennifer or Clint Adams at 264-3641 ext. 1444 or ext. 1442.

**HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR**  
Safe Trick-or-Treating 5-7 PM  
Dance to *Midnight Express* 8:30 PM  
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24th Annual **BIG SPRING HERALD**

**Community Christmas Parade**  
5:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 5th  
Parade theme: **"A Cotton Pickin' Christmas"**  
Entry deadline - Noon, Friday, Nov. 13th  
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**\$50** Grand Marshall's Award: for best costuming

First-place plaques will be awarded in the following categories:  
1. Individual or family 2. Civic group, school or church  
3. Commercial 4. Industrial

In addition, certificates of commendation will be awarded to the second- and third-place entries in each of those categories. Also, a special award will be presented to the best sheriff's posse, riding club or other mounted entry.

**PARADE RULES**

1. The parade's official Santa Claus will be provided by the Herald. **NO OTHER SANTA WILL BE PERMITTED IN THE PARADE**
2. Floats should not exceed 55 feet in length, 8 feet in width and 14 feet in height.
3. Antique vehicles will be the only undecorated vehicles permitted without special permission from Parade Committee.
4. Vehicles of a strictly commercial nature will not be permitted.
5. Parade entries not in line by the start of the parade will be placed at the end of the parade and will not be eligible for awards.
6. For safety, do not throw candy from your float. Small children run up under the tires. Please have someone walking beside your float if you want to throw candy.

**2009 Christmas Parade Entry Form**

Name of organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of contact person: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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You will receive by return mail, your float number and a map showing where to go to line up.

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# EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

**Ron Midkiff**  
Publisher

**John A. Moseley**  
Managing Editor

**Bill McClellan**  
News Editor

## OUR VIEW

# Senior Fun Fest should be great event on Friday

What was that? There's nothing to do around here? That's a common complaint from teenagers in almost every community in America. Far too often, however, it's more likely to apply to senior citizens in most communities than for teens.

Too often, it seems, communities simply don't offer many activities for senior citizens, and that's a shame, because virtually everyone knows America is getting older.

That will not be the case this Friday, thanks to the Senior Fun Fest sponsored by Canterbury, RSVP and the Big Spring Senior Center.

The Senior Fun Fest will include a health fair, information booths, food, and even a chili supper and dance — enough activities are scheduled so that virtually every senior citizen in Big Spring should find something of interest.

The event begins at 9 a.m. Friday at the Big Spring Senior Center with the health fair. Lunch is scheduled at the senior center with barbecued brisket and all the fix-ins.

The suggested donation for the lunch is \$3.50 for those 60 and older, and \$6 for those under the age of 60.

Activities will continue that evening with a chili supper and dance which begins at 6 p.m.

For more information concerning the event, contact the Senior Center at 267-1628.

We here at the Herald offer kudos to all three organizations for banding together to sponsor and conduct the Senior Fun Fest, and we encourage the senior citizens of our community to turn out and take part.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

## LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we maintain peace and prosperity, Lord, by trusting in You.

Amen

# From Cuba with courage

She is an outstanding writer, a great political analyst, a popular blogger and an award-winning journalist. But those are not the best adjectives to describe Yoani Sanchez.

Courage is what makes her different.

After all, writing, analyzing politics, blogging and practicing journalism are much more difficult where she does it. Freedom of expression is a rare commodity in Havana.

Yet Sanchez, 34, insists on speaking her mind — apparently protected by her rapidly growing international notoriety — in a country where such daring people usually are held in prison.

Through her popular "Generación Y" blog, Sanchez keeps opening a small window for the world to see the harsh reality of daily life under a communist dictatorship.

Despite having very limited access to new technology and to cyberspace, many young Cubans are finding ways to communicate with the outside world — in ways that the totalitarian regime cannot totally suppress.

Sanchez is one of a growing number of young Cubans who, using servers in other countries, have created blogs and Internet news sites to present the side of Cuba that is not covered by the government-controlled news media.

Ironically, their publications circulate much more freely outside Cuba than they do on the island.

Yet these free voices from Havana have gained many followers all over the world.

In barely two years, "Generación Y" has grown to having millions of page views per month.

Her supporters translate and post her blogs in some 15 languages, and last year, Time magazine named her one of the world's 100 most influential people.

This is obviously recognition of not only her amazing courage but also the level of difficulty in practicing journalism in Cuba — of her tireless toil to send out her message from a country where the government restricts access to the Internet.

Mind you, Sanchez struggles to post her blog by buying a few

minutes of access on one of the few online computers available to Cubans in Havana and by evading government efforts to block her uploads and censor her writings. And in doing so, she has become a persona non grata in her own country.

Yet when Sanchez wins awards for her hazardous work, she is not allowed to leave Cuba to receive them.

Because she speaks so bluntly in spite of many impediments in Cuba, the government obviously fears what she would say if she were abroad and able to speak freely.

On four different occasions, Sanchez has been denied requests to travel outside the "island prison" she describes in her blog.

It happened last year, when she was invited to go to Madrid to receive a prize for digital journalism. And it happened again last week, when she was denied permission to travel to New York to receive a prestigious Maria Moors Cabot citation at Columbia University for practicing journalism that promotes inter-American understanding.

"I am a little delusional" Sanchez wrote on her blog later.

"Until a minute before the Maria Moors Cabot prize ceremony ... I thought the Cuban government would change its decision and let me leave."

But when Sanchez realized she wasn't going anywhere, she courageously posted a video, now on YouTube, showing exactly what happened Oct. 12, when she was denied permission to travel to New York at the Cuban government's immigration office in Havana.

"I need to know if you have lifted the ban on my traveling that has been in effect for a year," Sanchez told a clerk surrounded by uniformed officers.

But the clerk, like a programmed robot, kept repeating the same phrase: "You are still not authorized to travel."

And with each vague response to Sanchez's questions, the conversation kept getting more intense.

"You know this is a violation of my constitutional rights," Sanchez told the clerk. "You people are violating my rights as a citizen, the ability to travel, to leave and enter my country. It is very serious. That a military institution denies a fundamental right of a civilian citizen, it is like the right to an education, to food."

In this video, you see some-

thing rarely seen in the past 50 years: a fearless Cuban confronting government officials with words most Cubans wish they had the courage to say.

"You are making a travesty of life," Sanchez told them. "This institution that you represent, this permission to leave, someday this is going to end. My grandchildren are not going to live under these conditions. When I tell them the story of how the institutions of my country violated my rights, my right to travel, they're not going to believe me. What will you tell your children? That you dedicated yourself to violating the rights of Cubans? Is that what you'll say?"

The video is more powerful than any acceptance speech Sanchez could have delivered in New York.

Millions of people will watch it on the Internet.

Yet Sanchez wasn't about to miss an opportunity to speak about freedom of expression at a prestigious American university.

And so she posted another video message, taped in a Havana park and viewed at the awards ceremony.

"We Cubans are like small children who need Father's permission to leave the house," she said. "And in the case of the little girl named Yoani Sanchez, the personal and social price I've paid for posting my views of the world and of my reality has condemned me to immobility."

Nevertheless, although she can't leave Cuba, Sanchez said the recognition she has received from the award has served as "a protective shield against the repression and, above all, state control that any person who thinks differently can suffer in Cuba."

She said she dreams of the day when Cuban bloggers no longer are punished "simply because they don't follow the party line or fall within the boundaries of an ideology."

In one of her most recent blog entries, Sanchez describes Twitter as a bird "who raises me up with his feet," and she notes that even though uniformed officers affirm that she cannot leave Cuba, technology allows her to travel like never before.

"I am already thousands of kilometers from here," Sanchez wrote, "in this virtual world that they cannot understand nor fence in."

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# Parents behaving badly

As it turns out, it was no secret that Richard and Mayumi Heene were very bad parents. Their associates knew it. Television producers witnessed it.

Their willingness to put their children in danger to get attention was nothing new.

They chased storms with their children. They used them to become "stars" of reality television.

They taught them an ugly and offensive rap song about not being "pussies," which they posted on YouTube.

In the wake of their horrifying hoax, all kinds of stories are coming out about these bad parents.

Former associates describe the father in the worst possible terms. They made it onto "Wife Swap" — twice, no less, back by popular demand the second time — precisely because they provided such a striking contrast to the other family, with its stable and normal parents who would not teach their children to swear, or tolerate it if they did, who wouldn't film them defecating by the side of the road or covered in feces, as the Heenes did, who didn't go looking for danger with three young children along.

It's easy to blame the media for giving too much attention to their hoax. But what else could they do?

A balloon flying thousands of

miles above the ground with a 6-year-old boy inside, traveling 50 miles before it landed, is one of those stories that will always capture attention.

Law enforcement has to take such a report seriously. So, frankly, do the media.

Long before the days of 24-hour cable news, we were riveted by similar tales — the girl in the well is the one I remember best.

Like everyone else, I held my breath waiting for that balloon to land. But I also thought, even then, who leaves a balloon in the backyard with a 6-year-old playing unsupervised? What were these people doing?

Turns out, they were trying to get a reality show and using their kids to do it.

So wrong. The problem with procreation is that you don't need a license to do it.

You don't need to pass any character test, prove your fitness, establish your maturity.

If the Heenes had applied to adopt a child, they'd have been bounced in a New York minute. No agency in the country would entrust someone else's baby to these people.

But no one could stop them from having their own.

The law has long struggled with the question of when to take children from their biological parents.

A whole body of law has developed protecting parental rights against state intervention and establishing high standards for children to be removed from their parents' home, particularly if such removal is permanent.

No one who knows anything about the foster care system would pretend for one minute that it is a panacea.

There are good foster parents and good foster homes, but there are almost certainly just as many bad ones.

Kids who are taken from their parents often spend the rest of their lives missing them.

A former student of mine, Andrew Bridge, wrote a haunting memoir last year about his life in foster care, always longing for his mentally ill mother to take him back. Hope was her name; "Hope's Boy" was the name of his book.

Still. There have to be limits, and those limits have to be enforced.

Reality television blurs the line between children and child actors, between pretend parents and real ones.

Bad parenting is not entertainment.

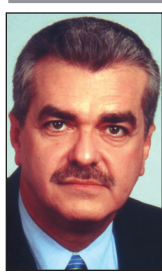
It's abuse, even if it gets ratings.

Richard Heene is likely to be charged for his role in the hoax, which is a crime against the people of Colorado.

I have not yet heard of anyone who needed the help of law enforcement while they were busy chasing an empty balloon, but that is always the danger with false alarms.

But his greater crime, and his wife's, was the one they committed against their own children. They should be punished, and their children protected.

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MIGUEL PEREZ



SUSAN ESTRICH

**Bird Poop:**

# Swainson's hawk they called 'Dodo' survives trauma

Describing the raptor as dazed, the veterinarian added he had found no broken bones. Since the game warden was out of town, he wondered if we could come and get the bird.



**BEBE McCASLAND**

Traveling west-northwest, we noticed the first yellow and bronze tinges of October, especially along bar ditches and several draws. Seeds of today's colors had found their way to the only water sources within miles.

Placed in a wire, outdoor cage by a tech-vet, the dark brown bird of prey moved to the opposite end as our vehicle crunched on the rutted surface of an unpaved drive. Observing the hawk through the windshield, we noticed it actively paced back and forth. Each time the bird reached the end of the enclosure, it bumped into chicken wire, turned, then retraced its path.

Hearing our approach, the hawk stopped and spread its wings defensively. Only a Swainson's hawk would have the brown to reddish-brown bib on a creamy-white chest. The pale linings of its wings and dark

flight feathers were striking.

When a sudden noise behind us caused the bird to fold its wings and try to walk away from danger, we were close enough to see it had bloodied the area above its bill. The raptor had injured itself a little more each time it hit the end of the cage.

A previous trip to this clinic had taught us to come prepared. Since the bottom of the enclosure was constructed of 2x4s overlaid with chicken wire, we inserted a piece of plywood through the narrow door and over the boards. Any misstep could cause me to fall through rusty wire. Once inside, I crawled toward the hawk.

Crouched directly in front of the bird, I moved my hand in front of its face. What I had suspected from the way the hawk reacted was now confirmed. It could not see.

At that moment, a client left the building. The noise caused the hawk to start pacing again. As it walked past me, I easily grabbed it. Caught by something it did not see, the medium-sized raptor strained against my hands with taloned feet flailing the air. Quickly, Art placed a large towel over the bird as I removed my hands from underneath.

Wrapped like a pa-poose, the Swainson's



Courtesy photo

**Often seen on fence posts and telephone poles, the Swainson's hawk hunts grasshoppers, rabbits, ground squirrels, rats, lizards and snakes. Found over open country, the raptor migrates with large flocks of its specie to the distant plains of Argentina.**

was contained. After handing it through the door that was only as wide as my shoulders, I squeezed through the exit, pulled out the plank and we, and our guest, headed home.

Since the hawk had been found beside a highway, a vehicle may have caused its head trauma and the ensuing swelling. Such an injury could have resulted in the bird's inability

to see. Without sight, it could not self-feed.

To lessen stress on the bird, I ruled out manhandling it for every feeding. Instead, the tempting taste of a baby mouse was inserted into its mouth whenever it opened its bill defensively as if to bite an imaginary enemy. Recognizing food, it went from gulping tiny rodents to full-sized mice. Soon it was anticipating the

touch of any possible food against the side of its bill.

After five days of hand-feeding the Swainson's, my morning routine changed. With the hope that maybe its sight was returning, I opened the gate. Holding at the end of a he-mostat a large mouse, I started to place it inside. When only an inch above the floor, the mouse was struck with the full force of

the hawk's foot. Only the length of the he-mostat had prevented my fingers from being included within the talons' grasp.

Having regained its sight, the bird had anticipated the food. Natural and forceful, its footing its prey indicated that the feeding of small mice, injected with anti-inflammatory medication, had been

See **HAWK**, Page 6

**Stargazer:**

# Our Garden of Eden in the cosmos

There are many things I like about stargazing, not the least of which is the unfathomable beauty and wonder found in the night sky. I especially appreciate how this can be enjoyed at many levels.



**PAUL DERRICK**

Peering naked-eye into the richness of the Milky Way under a dark moonless sky, observing unimaginably distant objects through binoculars and telescopes, seeing images from the incredible Hubble Space Telescope — things I've done so many times one might suspect by now a 69-year old stargazer like me would be jaded by it all. But one would be wrong. The beauty and wonder of the cosmos can still take my breath away and leave me

without words. I doubt I'll ever tire of it.

That being said, having recently watched all six episodes of Ken Burns' "The National Parks: America's Best Idea" on PBS has led me to refocus my perspective. I've not been unaware of beauty and wonder of nature right here on Earth. For years our family has traveled, visited and camped in numerous parks in many states and even other countries, and I've had a special love affair with Texas' Big Bend and the Davis Mountains since my first visit in 1970.

So how could the program expand my point of view? A comment by a narrator about Earth being a Garden of Eden got me thinking. According to the Hebrew creation story, Earth was a Garden of Eden until our long-ago ancestors messed up and got thrown out.

But when I behold the beauty, magnificence and bounteousness our planet still has to offer, I wonder if the ancients

really got the story right. Maybe we're still in the garden, and it remains to be seen whether we will preserve or destroy it.

Yes, the beauty of the Milky Way, the full Moon, and Venus as the "evening star" are hard to beat. Views of Saturn and its rings never fail to awe. And what artist could match nature's exquisite colors and

shapes captured by Hubble?

Yet, within our solar system, Earth is the only place we can survive, much less find hospitable. We would burn to ashes on Mercury and Venus, and freeze solid on the outer planets and their moons, and even on our Moon. And even if we

See **GAZER**, Page 6

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**Owner - Brenda Stansel**

## HAWK

Continued from Page 5

effective.

For two days, the hawk ate all the mice placed in its enclosure. Then it regressed, would not eat on its own and had to be force-fed again. This pattern of behavior continued even after it was taken to South Plains in Lubbock.

Since the Swainson's could see, Gail Barnes, a volunteer, placed it in a mew in the barn for exercise. Indicating it might take some time before the bird fully recovered,

she answered my question, "How long?" by saying, "As long as it takes." Thus started a conversation that lasted for months.

Frustrated, Gail called weekly to say the hawk would eat, and then refuse food for days. Its schedule fluctuated between being force-fed and its own independent way of deciding to dine. By the end of November, she called to ask, "What's with your bird?" Some days the only way to get it to eat is to hand it the food!"

By mid-December, a call indicated that the bird was eating on its own. A few days

later, a disappointed voice said they were back to force-feeding. "Your bird now has a name," Gail said before closing our chat.

The volunteers had started calling the reluctant diner "dodo bird." It would have the same fate as the extinct creature of the late 17th century. At times it seemed hopeless, as if this stupid-acting bird was willing its destruction.

Patience persisted, even though by March there would be days the Swainson's required force-feeding. During one of those efforts, the hawk attacked Tom McLaughlin, a volunteer that

worked with "Toenails." Its aggression was interpreted, however, as progress.

As its circuitry slowly rewired itself, the hawk was beginning to resemble the raptor it used to be. Detesting its human mentors was an early sign of success. A decision was made that when the Swainson's hawks returned in late spring, "dodo" could join them.

To insure its complete recovery, the hawk was placed in a flight cage. For weeks, it could ignore the volunteer who brought live mice for it to catch. After perching high above on a roost, the hawk's energy-driven prac-

tice flights were strong and swift. Its long, narrow wings executed near perfect landings.

Nearly six months had passed. No longer considered a "dodo," the recovery of a lost soul seemed complete. Taking the Swainson's hawk to a remote canyon, Gail's husband, Larry, opened the carrier and said good-bye to the troublesome raptor. As it gained altitude and spread its wings in a cloudless sky, the once addled aviator thanked everyone involved by flying away.

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

## GAZER

Continued from Page 5

didn't burn or freeze, we would be hard-pressed to find food to eat, air to breathe and water to drink.

Some day our species will surely colonize the Moon, Mars and beyond, living in biospheres that provide food, air, water and comfortable temperatures. But will they

have mountains to climb, rivers to raft, glaciers to hike, oceans to swim in, beaches for building sand castles, fields and forests to romp through? Will they have Old Faithful, Niagara Falls, giant sequoia and redwood trees, whales, and crying seagulls chasing after fishing boats?

The first line of a marvelous "Sesame Street" song comes to mind: "I'd like to visit the Moon, but I don't think I'd like to live there."

To be sure, I'll never cease marveling at the beauty and wonder of the distant cosmos, but I'll make sure I also look around and fully appreciate the Garden of Eden in my own back yard.

Sky Calendar

\* 31 Sat.: Halloween is a traditional cross-quarter day celebrating the middle of fall.

\* Nov. 1 Sun. morning: Mars is passing through the Beehive star cluster — binoculars will help.

\* 2 Mon.: The full Moon is called the Hunter's Moon, Frosty Moon and Beaver Moon.

Naked-eye planets. Evening: Jupiter is the brightest object in the south. Morning: At dawn Venus is low in the east with Saturn above and Mercury below near the horizon; Mars is high in the east.

Time Change. Before retiring Halloween night, set your clocks back one hour

("fall back") to Standard Time.

Astro Milestones. Oct. 29 is the 353rd birthday of Edmund Halley (1656-1742), English astronomer of Halley's Comet fame.

*Paul Derrick is an amateur astronomer who lives in Waco. Contact him at 918 N. 30th, Waco, 76707; (254) 753-6920; or paulderrickwaco@aol.com. See the Stargazer. Web site at stargazerpaul.com*

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# Study tips for kids at home



Regardless of where a person might be, distractions abound in this highly technological age. Adults at the office can get distracted by the Internet, instant messaging, text messages on their cell phones, and a host of other things that weren't around as recently as 10 years ago.

While adults might be capable of juggling these distractions and still meeting the demands of their commitments and responsibilities, children are likely less capable. In fact, distractions such as social networking Web sites, instant messaging and cell phones can make study time exceedingly difficult. However, there are steps parents can take to

ensure their children can focus without distraction on their schoolwork.

- Have a household study hour. Parents of two or more children might find a daily household study hour an effective means to minimizing distraction. Let children sit together as they study or do their homework, even if they're in different grades. During this household study hour, parents should refrain from watching television or doing anything else that could distract kids from their studies. Use the time kids are studying to prepare dinner, read a book or magazine, clean up around the house, or walk the dog.

But avoid doing anything that kids might find more fun than their homework.

- Make it a daily commitment. Kids don't necessarily have homework or a test to study for every day. However, on days when kids don't take any work or studies home from school, spend at least a little time going over current lessons. Making a daily commitment will help reinforce lessons already learned and will also help establish a known routine wherein kids expect to do some schoolwork every day. Substantial time does not need to be set aside on "off days," but enough time to make it more than a passing exercise.

- Schedule study time after snack time. Children won't be able to concentrate fully if their stomach is growling. So before kids sit down to crack the books after getting home from school, sit with them and have a snack. This can be a time for them to unwind and a healthy snack will give them the energy they need to study hard and get their work done.

- Make the study area comfortable. Kids will be distracted by an uncomfortable seat or a room that's too hot or too cold. While it's common for kids to study at the desk in their bedroom, such an arrangement might prove too distracting, as many of today's kids have bedrooms that resemble an electronics store showroom. A study area that's not within earshot of a television should have comfortable chairs (no studying on the couch), a pleasant temperature (room temperature should suffice) and plenty of fresh air so kids don't grow tired or congested as they do their work.



**Winter Word Find**

Just in time for the winter season, see how many related words you can find and circle in the puzzle.

COAT	HAT	SNOW
COLD	ICE	TEMPERATURE
FLURRY	INDOORS	WIND
GLOVES	SCARF	WINTER

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

**Cold-Weather Scramble**

Unscramble the words to complete the sentences.

1. Check your **T A I H G E N** before winter.
2. **S R T E I** can slip on ice and snow.
3. You should **N B E U L D** up in the winter.
4. Stay **S D N O R O I** when it is very cold.

Answers: 1. heating 2. tires 3. bundle 4. indoors

**THIS DAY IN...**



**HISTORY**

• 1917: THE UNITED STATES DECLARED WAR ON AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

• 1941: THE JAPANESE ATTACKED U.S. SHIPS AT PEARL HARBOR.

• 1999: THE RECORDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA FILES A LAWSUIT AGAINST NAPSTER.



HOW MANY CARS WOULD IT TAKE TO EQUAL THE WEIGHT OF ONE LOADED SNOW PLOW?

ANSWER: 17 TO EQUAL 50,000 POUNDS

*How they SAY that in...*

- ENGLISH:** Blizzard
- SPANISH:** Ventisca
- ITALIAN:** Bufera di neve
- FRENCH:** Tempête de neige
- GERMAN:** Blizzard

**Did You Know?**



THE FIRST SNOWBOARD WAS DEVELOPED IN 1964 BY ATTACHING TWO SKIS TOGETHER.

**GET THE PICTURE?**



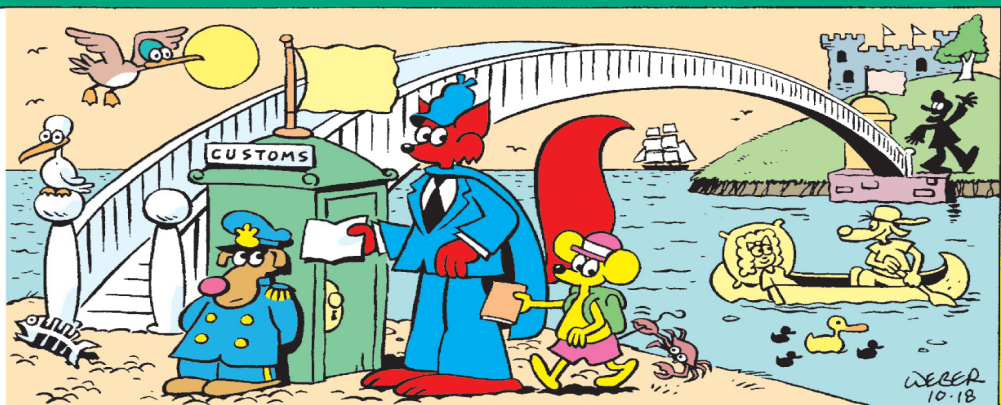
Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: SKI GOGGLES

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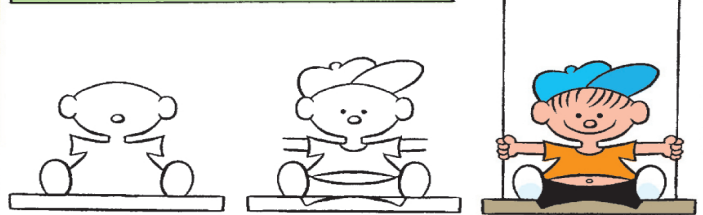
**BY BOB WEBER JR.**

Slick Smitty didn't have a passport required to make the eight-minute walk across the bridge to another country. The guard has a routine. He watches the bridge for four minutes and then goes into his booth for four minutes. How does Slylock Fox suspect Smitty was able to walk across the bridge without a passport?



Answer -- Smitty walked halfway across the bridge while the guard was in his booth. When he got to the middle, he turned around and walked back to the guard. Since Smitty didn't have a passport, the guard sent him to the other country because he thought Smitty started there.

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The scrambled words are countries found in Europe. How many can you unscramble?

- a) GYNAHRU
- b) WAROYN
- c) CEFRAN
- d) MYENRAG

Answer -- a) Hungary b) Norway c) France d) Germany

**Find six differences between these panels.**



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### IN BRIEF

#### Big Spring to host swim invitational

The Big Spring High School Swim Invitational is scheduled for Friday and Saturday in Big Spring in a contest of area district teams.

The meet, which is the Steers' fourth of the year, is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m.

#### Lady Steers hope to clinch playoffs against Lake View

The Big Spring volleyball team faces a must-win match in its regular season finale tonight when it takes on San Angelo Lake View for a shot at the postseason.

The Lady Steers (10-22, 1-6) fell to Abilene Cooper on Oct. 20 in Steer Gym, missing a chance to clinch early. For the third straight season, the Lake View match holds major implications.

If Big Spring loses to the Maidens (9-25, 0-7) tonight, it will set up a play-in match between the two.

#### 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 on Saturday and Sunday. Proceeds from the hunt go to Cancer Crushes Relay for Life team.

For more information, contact Beverly Grant at 268-4952 or 264-1138.

#### Big Spring netters to face Snyder at home

The Big Spring high school tennis team will go for its second straight win this afternoon when it takes on the Snyder Tigers at 4 p.m.

The team squeaked by Plainview 10-9 on Oct. 17, winning seven of nine boys matches.

This is the team's last regular season matchup before regional play begins Friday in San Angelo.

#### Steers fall from AP top ten rankings

Following a 21-18 loss at Abilene Cooper on Friday, Big Spring fell out of the 4A Texas high school AP top 10 rankings released Monday.

The Steers did receive 10 votes in the poll, ranking behind North Richland Hills and Denton Ryan outside the top 10.

Big Spring will take on Lakeview at Memorial Stadium. Kickoff is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

#### UIL to decide grid title sites for all classes

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — State championship football games will have predetermined sites in all Texas high school classifications starting next year.

The University Interscholastic League's Legislative Council voted Monday to have fixed sites in classes 1A through 4A. Class 5A games are in their third year of having fixed sites.

Below 5A, coaches still determine championship game sites either by mutual agreement or a coin flip, just as they do through each round of the playoffs.

## Ware, Cowboys agree to extension

### Associated Press

IRVING— Three-time Pro Bowl linebacker DeMarcus Ware finally has his big contract with the Dallas Cowboys. He just won't be getting paid as much as some of the elite quarterbacks he will be trying to sack.

After months of talks that intensified over the past two weeks, Ware agreed Monday to a \$78 million, six-year deal through the 2015 season that guarantees him \$40 million.

"I feel like I work really hard and am really deserving of what they've given me," Ware

said. "All this is behind me now. It's time to get to work. You know what it's time to bring home. I'm not going to say what it is, we're just going to show you, and I'm going to show you."

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones called Ware a "cornerstone player" for the Cowboys (4-2), who have gone 12 seasons without winning a playoff game and longer than that since winning three Super Bowl championships in four seasons (1992-95).

The 27-year-old Ware, who was in the final season of

the contract he signed after being the 11th overall pick in the 2005 draft, has 57½ sacks while starting all 70 of his regular-season games.

"Going into this negotiation, how do you ask for too much money for DeMarcus Ware given what he's accomplished," said his agent, Pat Dye. "We were asking for a lot more money than we ended up settling on. ... Ultimately they were not going to pay DeMarcus like an elite quarterback and certainly we understood that."

There were initial talks

about a deal after last season, but Dye said contracts signed in August by quarterbacks Eli Manning (six years, \$97 million) and Philip Rivers (six years, \$93 million with \$38 million guaranteed) provided "some kind of ceiling" and narrowed the focus in negotiations. Talks picked up during the Cowboys' bye week which preceded their 37-21 victory over Atlanta on Sunday.

"We're certainly not going to be a team that's going to step up and pay a defensive play-

See **WARE**, page 14

## Jackson, Eagles roll to win over Redskins

### Associated Press

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) — DeSean Jackson scored on a 67-yard run and a 57-yard reception, both in the first half. His night might have been perfect if his tender right ankle hadn't messed up his touchdown tap dance.

"I was out there having fun, man, honestly," Jackson said. "My ankle was kind of hurting. I really didn't feel it, but it did kind of affect my dance a little bit. I could put it to perfection a little bit better than that."

The Philadelphia Eagles had reason to do the soft shoe Monday night as they rebounded from an embarrassing loss and dispatched the Washington Redskins 27-17. Three turnovers were converted into points as the visitors raced to a 20-point lead in a game that was as lopsided as expected.

Donovan McNabb completed 15 of 25 passes for 156 yards, getting his 200th touchdown pass and surpassing 30,000 yards passing for his career. The defense sacked Jason Campbell six times, and newcomer Will Witherspoon ran back an interception for a touchdown and created another turnover — even though he's been with the team less than a week.

Nearly all the scoring came in the first half of an injury-filled game as the Eagles (4-2) regained their stride after last week's jarring loss to the Oakland Raiders. The scariest moment for Philadelphia came when Brian Westbrook left in the first quarter with a concussion. Coach Andy Reid said he expects Westbrook to recover fully but wasn't certain whether his star running

back will play next week.

The news was bad all around for the Redskins (2-5), who got no discernible boost from Sherm Lewis' debut as a play caller and lost Pro Bowl tight end Chris Cooley to a broken right ankle. The offensive line is already a mess without Chris Samuels and Randy Thomas, and the team still hasn't scored more than 17 points in a game this season.

"You can say but so much," defensive tackle Albert Haynesworth said. "You've got to actually want to. So once we get to that point — where we want to do something — then we'll do something. But if we just keep going our separate ways, then we'll just keep getting slaughtered like we have."

Jackson scored on the fourth play from scrimmage, scampering on the left sideline untouched almost all the way thanks in part to downfield blocking from Jeremy Maclin. It was the longest Philadelphia run of the season by far — the team's previous best was 25 yards.

Jackson got his second score when he put a double move on Carlos Rogers and got wide open down the left side, turning a third-and-22 at the Philadelphia 43 into six points in the final two minutes of the first half.

Jackson also had a 29-yard punt return and played the second half with a right foot injury that required X-rays at halftime.

"He's wicked fast," Redskins coach Jim Zorn said.

Witherspoon, acquired in a trade with the St. Louis Rams on Tuesday, started at middle linebacker because of Omar Gaither's season-ending foot



AP Photo / Manuel Balce Ceneta

Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver DeSean Jackson scores a touchdown during the second quarter against the Washington Redskins on Monday in Landover, Md.

injury. The new guy returned an interception 9 yards for a touchdown and knocked the ball away from Campbell for a fumble that set up a field goal. Safety Quintin Mikell

helped with both turnovers, blitzing to tip the pass that Witherspoon picked off, and recovering the fumble after Campbell was stripped.

See **MNF**, page 14

## Bradford opts for surgery on shoulder; will enter draft

### Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — As his teammates gathered around him in a show of support, Heisman Trophy winner Sam Bradford described the unanimous advice it took for him to enter the NFL draft and end his college career at Oklahoma that was the fulfillment of his childhood

dreams.

"To make this decision and realize that I've probably played my last game at Oklahoma," Bradford said, taking pause at the thought, "it's really tough."

Bradford was raised by a former Sooners lineman just up the interstate in Oklahoma City and he considered the

team a fitting substitute for the pro sports franchise, the state lacked. He signed with Oklahoma as an unheralded recruit, only to win the starting quarterback's job as a red-shirt freshman and then have his career take off as a sophomore.

He broke the school records with 4,720 yards passing and

50 touchdowns en route to the Heisman Trophy and the BCS championship game a year ago, and it was a 24-14 loss to Florida in the title game that brought him back for another season for another shot.

He leaves Oklahoma, which has never produced a starting NFL quarterback, as perhaps the school's most notable passer. Among his school records are the career marks for passing yardage and touchdowns.

"It's extremely tough considering that this is where I grew up, this is where I dreamed about playing. To put this in the past it's extremely tough," Bradford said.

"But I've been extremely blessed to be here. The past 3½ years have been 3½ of the best years of my life. I wouldn't trade a day of it."

Teammates including fellow captain Gerald McCoy and Brody Eldridge, tight end Jermaine Gresham — who's also out for the season following knee surgery — and starters Chris Brown, Ryan Broyles and Trent Williams filed in behind Bradford as he spoke in the team's meeting room.

Dr. James Andrews will perform season-ending surgery on Bradford's right, throwing shoulder Wednesday in

See **BRADFORD**, page 13



AP Photo / Chris Landsberger

Surrounded by his teammates, Sam Bradford addresses the media as he makes an official announcement on Monday in Norman, Okla. that he is having season ending shoulder surgery and plans to enter the NFL draft. Bradford holds school records in passing yards and TDs.





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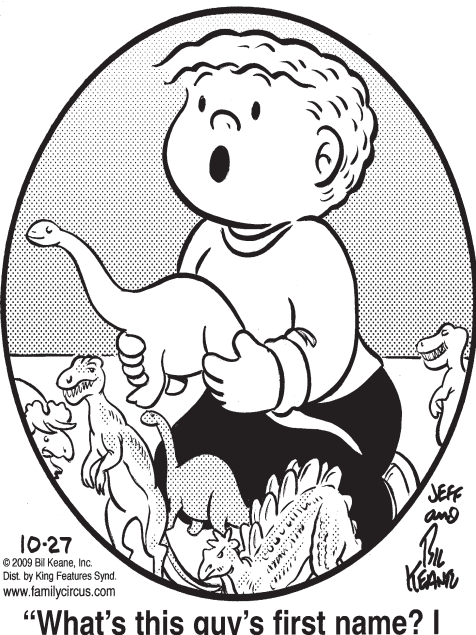
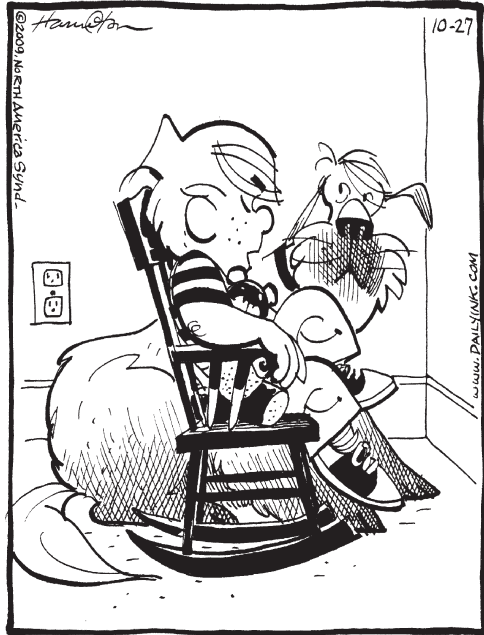


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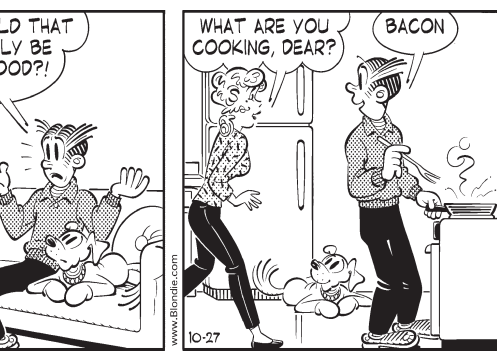
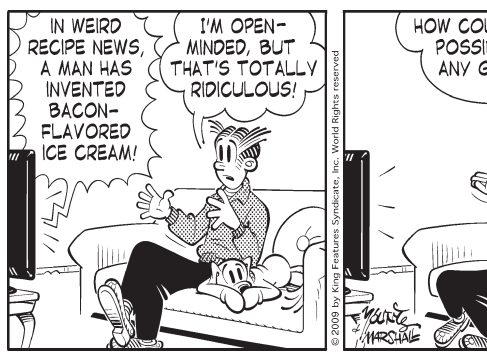
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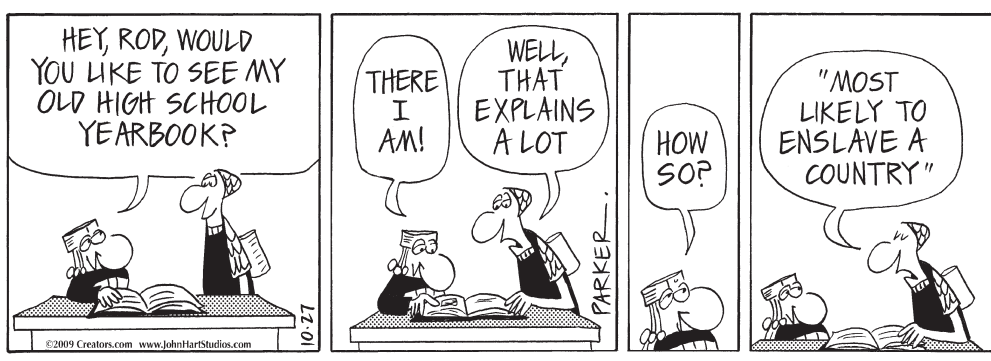
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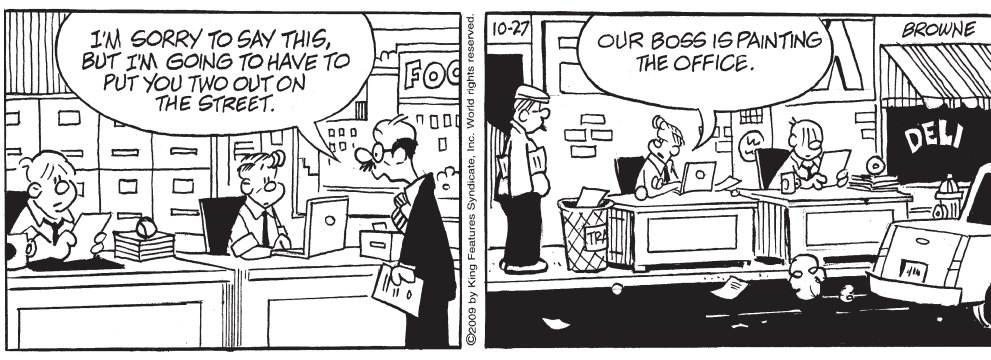
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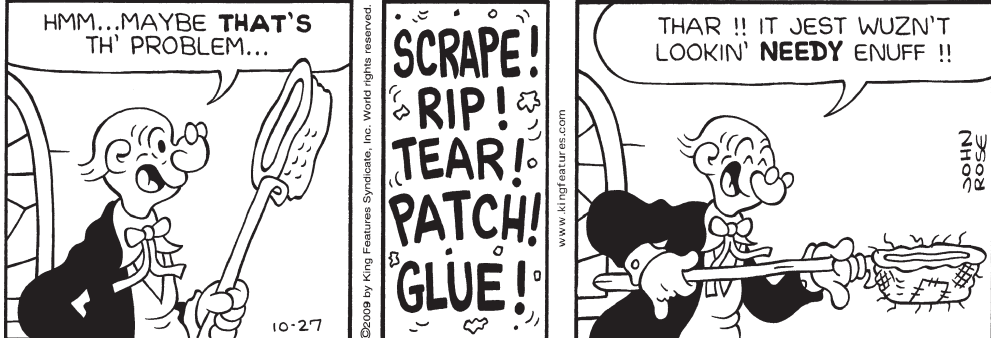
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This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 27, the 300th day of 2009. There are 65 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Oct. 27, 1787, the first of the Federalist Papers, a series of essays calling for ratification of the U.S. Constitution, was published in New York. On this date: In 1795, the United States and Spain signed the Treaty of San Lorenzo (also known as "Pinckney's Treaty"), which provided for free navigation of the Mississippi River. In 1858, the 26th president of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, was born in New York City. In 1880, Theodore Roosevelt married his first wife, Alice Lee. In 1904, the first rapid transit subway, the Interborough Rapid Transit (IRT), was inaugurated in New York City. In 1907, Union Station in Washington, D.C., opened. In 1922, the first annual celebration of Navy Day took place. In 1938, Du Pont announced a name for its new synthetic yarn: "nylon." In 1954, Walt Disney's first television program, entitled "Disneyland" after the yet-to-be completed theme park, premiered on ABC. In 1969, a 6.4 magnitude earthquake shook Banja Luka, Yugoslavia, killing some 20 people. In 1978, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin were named winners of the Nobel Peace Prize for their progress toward achieving a Middle East accord. Today's Birthdays: Actress Nanette Fabray is 89. Baseball Hall-of-Famer and sportscaster Ralph Kiner is 87. Actress Ruby Dee is 85. Former Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher is 84. Actor-comedian John Cleese is 70. Author Maxine Hong Kingston is 69. Country singer Lee Greenwood is 67. Producer-director Ivan Reitman is 63. Country singer-musician Jack Daniels is 60. Rock musician Garry Tallent (Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band) is 60. Author Fran Lebowitz is 59. Rock musician K.K. Downing (Judas Priest) is 58. TV personality Jayne Kennedy is 58. Actor-director Roberto Benigni is 57. Actor Peter Firth is 56. Actor Robert Picardo is 56. World Golf Hall of Famer Patty Sheehan is 53. Singer Simon Le Bon (Duran Duran) is 51. Musician J.D. McFadden is 45. Rock musician Jason Finn (Presidents of the United States of America) is 42. Rock singer Scott Weiland is 42. Actress Sheeri Rappaport is 32. Violinist Vanessa-Mae is 31. Actress-singer Kelly Osbourne is 25.

Thought for Today: "If men were angels, no government would be necessary." — President James Madison (1751-1836).

Answer to previous puzzle: STROP DAME SNOB ARENA INON NONO LOUIS ATAD ATTN TYPOS LINEDRIVE NEW AIL APBS ALTERS ABC SEEK RAIL CIDER PATIENTADVOCATE CLANS TREE EGOS ASS SPEARS SENT SEA TSK WAITSTAFF LARGE ELSE ERIE UTURN SPEW NEST REDID TOES TATA PREPS

Newsday Crossword

KIDS' COSTUMES by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and answers. Clues include: 1 Garden soil, 5 Keeps a nest egg, 10 Champion's boast, 14 Opera solo, 15 Martini fruit, 16 Adidas rival, 17 Armored vehicle, 18 More prudent, 19 Load, as cargo, 20 Thin pasta, 22 Quick kisses, 23 Elaborate meal, 24 Part of the foot, 25 Go quickly, 27 Garments, 30 Fly like an eagle, 31 Sweeping tool, 33 Swiss peak, 34 Hill-building insect, 35 Mothers and fathers, 37 Animal park, 38 Collar, as a crook, 39 Open-mouthed, 40 Shed tears, 41 Group of percussion instruments, 43 Largest mammal, 45 "Darn it!", 46 Washday woe, 48 National bird, 50 Abandoned Old West site, 54 Elaborate party, 55 Jeweler's weight, 56 Region, 57 Class-reunion attendee, 10 Bee or beetle, 11 Barber's bottle, 12 "All right already!", 13 6 p.m. broadcast, 21 August zodiac sign, 22 High-school dances, 24 Very much, 25 Sub tracker, 26 Stealthy thief, 27 Ice-cream holder, 28 Marry secretly, 29 Washday woe, 30 Hourglass, 31 "Spoiled" tot, 32 Sales agent, for short, 35 Glue relative, 36 Allows to ripen, 40 Classified-page listings, 42 Ailment, 43 Fritters away, 44 Best-seller, 46 Yard plant, 47 Breakfast bread, 48 Omelet ingredients, 49 Org. for those 50+, 50 Jacks or hopscotch, 51 Sandwich cookie, 52 Garden nuisance, 53 Short snoozes, 55 Unmannerly man.

# Special teams doing special things for No. 3 Texas

**Associated Press**

AUSTIN— Every football coach preaches the value of good special teams. For some, it's more than lip service.

When No. 3 Texas and No. 13 Oklahoma State tee it up Saturday, the fun really starts when the kicks start flying.

The Longhorns have scored six special teams touchdowns this season on blocked kicks, punt returns and kickoff returns. Everyone from freshmen (D.J. Monroe has returned two kickoffs for scores) to seniors (Jordan Shipley has two punt returns for TDs) gets in on the act.

"Everybody wants to be on those teams," Shipley said.

The Cowboys have Perrish Cox, the Big 12's career leader in kickoff return yardage, who has four career kick returns for touchdowns.

Since 2002, Texas (7-0, 4-0 Big 12) has blocked 45 kicks, second only to Fresno State's 48. The Longhorns have blocked three punts this season, returning two for scores, including the last touchdown of the first half in Texas' 41-7 win last week over Missouri.

"Our kicking game is the best we've had," Texas coach Mack Brown said.

Brown puts his kick block-

ing teams in the hands of secondary coach Duane Akina, who recruits players from among the starters. Akina makes it a privilege to be on special teams, not just an extra burden.

That shows up in starting safety Earl Thomas being one of the best tacklers on kickoff coverage. The blocked punt against Missouri was by Malcolm Williams, who last week also got his first start at wide receiver.

Akina has even joked that he'd like to get quarterback Colt McCoy on some of his kick block teams. McCoy said he tried to sneak into a punt block meeting in the preseason.

"They kicked me out," McCoy said.

Brown loves seeing his starters so gung-ho about the kick team duties.

"When you see Earl Thomas is covering kickoffs, you know your team is committed to doing everything they need to do to win," Brown said.

It wasn't always that way.

Way back in 1999, Brown's second season in Austin, Texas lost its season opener after North Carolina blocked three punts. Brown vowed to make a change and get his

best players and athletes on the field for kicks, blocks and coverage.

Oklahoma State (6-1, 3-0) will try to pin the Longhorns back with deep punts and kickoffs. Cowboys freshman punter Quinn Sharp ranks seventh in the nation with a 45.3-yard average. On kickoffs, Quinn leads the nation with 24 touchbacks.

If the Cowboys can keep Shipley or Monroe from ever leaving their end zone, they've already won the battle.

Brown said Monday the Longhorns are putting in extra work this year. The Longhorns spend 30 minutes of every practice working out the kick teams.

"Every day," Brown said. "Every phase."

Some of the units get nicknames. The punt return team is the "Posse." Shipley had a game-changing punt return for a touchdown in the first half of Texas' 34-24 win over Texas Tech.

Against Colorado, Texas trailed 14-10 in the third before freshman Marquise Goodwin blocked a punt that Ben Wells picked up for the go-ahead touchdown. Shipley scored on another return in the fourth.



AP photo / Jeff Roberson

**Texas wide receiver Jordan Shipley steps into the end zone after catching an 8-yard pass for a touchdown during the first quarter against Missouri on Saturday in Columbia, Mo. Texas beat Missouri 41-7.**

"It's a huge momentum swing," Shipley said. "There's nothing bigger than a punt block or a long return for a

# Texans heating up, look to extend winning streak to 3 vs. Buffalo

**Associated Press**

HOUSTON— Two good wins, tougher defense and the Houston Texans are 4-3.

They are still looking uphill at the undefeated Colts in their division. But with a trip to lowly Buffalo this week, the chance of winning three straight for just the second time in franchise history seems possible.

The Texans beat Cincinnati last week before jumping out to an early lead and holding on for a 24-21 win over the 49ers on Sunday.

The biggest reason for Houston's recent success has been the stunning turnaround of the run defense. The Texans are allowing 48.5 yards rushing a game in the last four after averaging an NFL-worst 205 yards in the first three.

The rushing totals of Houston's last

four opponents each rank among the 10 lowest in franchise history.

"It's been very good for the past month," coach Gary Kubiak said. "I think that's going with the success of our team here in the past few weeks because our defense has stepped it up and played so well. We had a lot of ground to make up and hopefully we can keep going."

Houston's defense played its most dominant half on Sunday against the 49ers, allowing 1 yard in the first quarter and a first-half, franchise-low 50 yards by halftime.

Despite that start, the Texans were disappointed they gave up three touchdowns after Shaun Hill was benched for Alex Smith at halftime.

"We're good, but we still strive to be great," linebacker DeMeco Ryans said. "We've got to get consistent and

play the entire game. We do have the potential to be great. We have the right guys and the right goals."

Another key to Houston's improvement is the steady progress of quarterback Matt Schaub and Houston's third-ranked passing game. Schaub has set a franchise record by throwing a career-high 16 touchdown passes this season. He had two touchdown throws on Sunday in his first game without an interception since Week 2.

"He was exceptional the way he ran the team," Kubiak said, adding that Schaub avoided five sacks. "He made great decisions all day.

He doesn't turn the ball over. That's the difference between us winning and losing. I thought it was as good as he had played and managed our team all year long."

## BRADFORD

Continued from page 8

Birmingham, Ala. Bradford's recovery is expected to take four to six months, with the NFL draft slightly less than six months away. Bradford said he'll stick with his plan to enter his name in the draft in January as long as his rehab is going according to plan.

He said he doesn't know when he expects to get drafted.

"We'll figure that out," Bradford said.

Bradford said he will not hire an agent until after the season is over, so he can continue to travel with the team and remain involved. He intends to complete his degree in the spring, and is hopeful he can do so by taking online courses.

"I just know him personally, how hard this is for him to do this because I know deep

down in his heart he wants to play," coach Bob Stoops said. "But really for his future, immediate and long range, we are all the way fully supportive and want what's best for him. And as hard as it is for him to do, this is the right path to take."

Bradford was hurt just before halftime in the Sooners' season-opening loss to BYU and returned to play one full game before getting injured again in an Oct. 17 loss against Texas. He accompanied the Sooners for their win at Kansas on Saturday, then announced his

decision the following day.

"After talking to a lot of people and getting a lot of information, it seemed like this was kind of the unanimous decision that everyone came to," Bradford said.

Bradford was projected as high as the No. 1 overall pick in this year's NFL draft before deciding to return to school. He took out an insurance policy to protect his future earnings, but declined Monday to talk about the terms of it.

"Some people think money is everything,

but to me money is not everything," Bradford said. "To look at these guys and look at the relationships I've built and the experience that I've had here. Not many



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WARE

Continued from page 8

like a quarterback," said Stephen Jones, the team's vice president and owner's son. "We're not going to do that."

Still, Jones and Dye said the negotiations were never contentious.

"It's about getting what you deserve," Ware said. "I feel like I've gotten what I deserve in my situation."

Jerry Jones said he shook hands with Ware before Sunday's game, agreeing to the deal they finalized Monday. The two were seen talking and laughing as they walked together in the tunnel toward the locker room after the game.

Ware has a unique blend of strength, agility and quickness, allowing him to make plays and be a dominating force all over the field. He has increased his sack total each season, from eight as a rookie to 11½ to 14 and then an NFL-leading 20 last season.

Ware has four sacks in the past two games despite playing with a stress fracture in his left foot after being shut out the first four games this season.

"He probably can play with one leg, so it's not something that has to do with his ability," teammate Marcus Spears said Monday. "It's just having that mentality of having to overcome that and playing well. It just adds to his legend."

Ware is the fourth player in Cowboys history with three consecutive 10-sack seasons. The last Dallas player with more than Ware in a single season was Hall of Fame defensive tack-

le Randy White with 16 in 1978.

There was also Ware's NFL record-matching streak of 10 consecutive games with a sack (2007-08), the longest in the NFL in 15 years.

Jerry Jones said Ware has accomplished far more than former coach Bill Parcells, who used to compare Ware to Lawrence Taylor, expected when he was drafted. The owner said Ware has really exceeded everybody's expectations.

"He's a cornerstone player for this franchise and will be for a long time to come," Jones said. "It is something special that he's the type of person that if you're to spend the time that we all spend and the energy that we spend with the Cowboys, this is who you want to hang out with and who you want to be around."

The Cowboys drafted Ware from Troy instead of Shawne Merriman, who taken the next pick by San Diego when Dallas coach Wade Phillips was the defensive coordinator there.

"I've been lucky to be around a lot of good ones. He's at the top of the class, and it doesn't take long to call the roll," said Phillips of Ware. "He's an all-around player."

"I was around Merriman, he had 17 sacks in 12 games. Of course, Reggie White and Bruce Smith were special. (Ware) is special. He's a special guy in that way," the coach said. "He's got all the things it takes and he utilizes them and he works hard at it. He's only going to get better."

MNF

Continued from page 8

"You can't expect to get a sack, cause a fumble, turnover, interception for touchdown — whatever," Witherspoon said. "It's like, 'What? Who in their right mind would think that in their first game?' But when it comes down to it, it happened."

Westbrook was hurt when his helmet collided with linebacker London Fletcher's right knee at the end of a 5-yard run. The running back remained on the ground for several minutes before he was helped up and led off the field directly to the locker room.

"It looked bad," Mikell said. "Anytime a guy is just out like that and not responding, you don't know what's going on. We were praying."

Offensive consultant

Lewis has been with the Redskins for only three weeks after being lured out of a retirement consisting of bingo-calling and serving Meals on Wheels — and his first try at calling the plays proved as unsuccessful as when Zorn was handling the task.

Zorn was stripped of the duty by the front office after last week's loss to Kansas City, causing so much consternation that the front office then felt the need to announce that Zorn won't be fired anytime soon.

It made no difference. The makeshift offensive line again failed to protect Campbell or create room for Clinton Portis, who rushed for only 43 yards and at one point chucked his helmet on the sideline in frustration.

"Well, the result was the same. We got 17

points," Zorn said. "It was difficult for me. It was difficult to stand and watch. The hard part is to keep your mouth shut."

Campbell finished 29 for 43 for 284 yards and two touchdowns. He threw his seventh interception of the season, one more than he had all last season. Washington

trailed 27-10 at halftime, and Campbell's consolation touchdown pass to Fred Davis in the final two minutes was the only score of the second half.

"You have to take the bitter with the sweet," running back Rock Cartwright said. "And right now we're at a bitter moment."

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.

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



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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Safety First

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A  
♥ A J 6  
♦ Q J 8 7 2  
♣ K 9 6 3

WEST

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

EAST

♠ 10 8 5 3 2  
♥ 10 8 4 3  
♦ A K 3  
♣ 8

SOUTH

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

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1♦ Pass 1♥ Pass  
2♥ Pass 3NT  
Opening lead — six of spades.

In most deals, declarer's main objective is to make the contract. In attempting to meet this goal, he should not allow himself to be diverted by other factors that are not relevant to his primary objective.

Consider this case where declarer might easily go wrong. West leads a spade to dummy's ace, and the question is how to continue.

Let's say South leads a diamond from dummy, attempting to establish his longest suit. East goes up with the king and returns a spade through South's K-J. It doesn't matter

whether declarer takes his king on this trick or the next one; in either case, the defenders' spades become established before dummy's diamonds do.

If declarer now attempts to make the contract by leading a club to the king and a club back, planning to finesse, he learns soon enough that West has the queen. The best South can do at this point is to cash out for down one.

The result is the same if declarer, at trick two, starts out by playing the king and another club. After East shows out, there is no way to secure a ninth trick.

Yet there is a sure way to make the contract. South starts with eight tricks, and all he has to do is to find a ninth. This can be done, regardless of how the clubs are divided, if he plays a low club to the ace at trick two and returns a low club toward dummy's K-9-6. Then:

1. If West shows out, South goes up with the king and returns a club toward the jack.

2. If West follows low at trick three, South inserts the nine, assuring three club tricks, come what may.

3. If West follows suit with the ten or queen, South wins with the king and is again sure of at least three club tricks.

The safety play in clubs ensures the contract against any possible lie of the cards.

Tomorrow: Asleep at the switch.  
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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

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Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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