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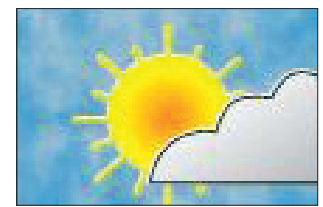


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H BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY

NOVEMBER 17, 2009



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Reduce the risk of holiday fires

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

While the Thanksgiving holiday will mean plenty of turkey, dressing and all the other trimmings, many area residents will look to trim something slightly taller and greener — their Christmas tree. And though the upcoming holiday is most definitely a chance for kids — both

young and old — to enjoy the change in weather and the seasonal cheer, it's not a time to forget about safety, according to Big Spring Fire Marshall Carl Condray.

"Try to select a fresh tree by looking for one that is green. The needles of pines

See **FIRES**, Page 3

More robberies

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The recent onslaught of robberies in the Big Spring area continues, as three separate incidents were reported Monday evening and are currently being investigated by the Big Spring Police Department.

The first robbery was reported in the 1200 block of Stanford at 8:14 p.m. The two remaining reports — both aggravated robberies — happened at 8:26 p.m. in

the 2500 block of Wasson Road — Zoom convenience store — and 10:20 p.m. in the 2300 block of Old Highway 80.

Further information on the robberies was not available at press time. Look for more information to be made available in a future edition of the *Big Spring Herald*.

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

Giving thanks

Volunteers needed to help with annual Salvation Army dinner

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

It's turkey time at the Big Spring Salvation Army, as the local charity prepares to open its arms — and its kitchen — to the community for its annual Thanksgiving dinner.

Prep work for the dinner is expected to get under way as early as Monday, Nov. 23, according to Salvation Army Capt. Ed Cheshire, and continue daily until serving time Nov. 26.

"We'll actually bring in most of the supplies and groceries that Monday, so there's going to be plenty to do at the beginning of next week," said Cheshire with a chuckle. "We'll be working on getting all of the vegetables ready and start cooking turkeys Tuesday. The bulk of the work gets done the day



HERALD file photo
Muffet Bomar was one of many volunteers preparing Thanksgiving meals at the Salvation Army last year. Volunteers are needed as the agency begins getting ready for this year's meal, set from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 26 in the dining hall at 811 W. Fifth St.

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PD: You can put thieves out of business this holiday season

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

As the Thanksgiving holiday — and plenty of after-Thanksgiving sales — approach, many area shoppers will be turning their attention toward their Christmas shopping lists, a prospect that can draw the attention of area criminals, according to local enforcement officials.

Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department, said thieves will be out and about this holiday season, just waiting to fill their stockings with ill-gotten gains.

"That's what they look for," said Everett. "You're go-

"That's how they have Christmas. Whether it's your presents or your money, you can kind of look at it as if the thieves are out there shopping. That's what they do for a living. They steal."



—Tony Everett, BSPD public information officer

ing around and looking for Christmas presents, and they are walking around looking for things to steal. That's how they have Christmas. Whether it's your presents or your money, you can kind of look at it as if the thieves are out there shopping. That's what they do for a living. They steal."

While these naughty-listed criminals may seem impossible to stop, Everett said there are some things you can do to keep you and your vehicle from being a target while shopping this season.

"Don't put your packages and presents in the back seat of your car without covering them up," he said. "The best

way to discourage criminals is to keep them out of sight and out of mind by putting them in the trunk. If you have to put them in the seat though, be sure to cover them up or obscure them in some way.

"If you put them in the trunk, it makes it a real pain for the thieves to get to them, and they don't necessarily want to be out there working on your lock in a situation where they can be seen. From time to time we try to patrol the parking lots of the mall and some of the stores looking for that sort of thing."

See **THIEVES**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Jean Clare (Andrews) Jenkins

Jean Clare (Andrews) Jenkins, of McAllen, died at her home Sunday, Nov. 15, 2009. She was born June 20, 1922, in Central Texas, the daughter of Douglas G. and Effie Mae Mixon. She moved to McAllen with her late husband, Albert G. Andrews, and children in 1952.

She worked alongside her husband and helped to co-found Mo-Vac Service Company Inc. in 1959, which continued to grow and now services the entire state of Texas and bordering states. Throughout her life, Jean loved to travel and traveled extensively throughout the United States, Mexico and Canada. She also loved horse racing and spent summers at her home in Ruidoso, N.M.

Jean was a very loving wife, mother and grandmother and will be greatly missed.

After the death of her husband, Albert G. Andrews, she met, married and is survived by her husband, Pete Jenkins of Big Spring. She is also survived by her son, Glynn Andrews and his wife Laurie of McAllen; her daughter, Joyce Hall and her husband Mac of Dallas; her stepson, Terry Jenkins and his wife Emma of Big Spring; her stepdaughter, Becky Jenkins of Houston; stepson, Brad Jenkins and his wife Kerry of Weatherford; and four grandchildren, Shawn Forshage and her husband Joe of Edinburg, Ginger Hanna and her husband Hanks of McAllen, Andrea Hall Zabinski and her husband Dan of Rockville, Md., and Collin Hall of Dallas.

Step grandchildren include Justin Jenkins and his wife Koby of Big Spring, and John Jenkins, also of Big Spring. She is also survived by nine great-grandchildren, Glynn Forshage, Claire Forshage, Evan Forshage, Price Forshage, Abigail Hanna, Jackson Hanna, Andy Zabinski, Ethan Zabinski and Riley Jenkins.

The family would like to extend special thanks Sharon Wernecke for her many years of love and support.

Visitation will be Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2009, from 1 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Kreidler Funeral Home on N. 10th Street in McAllen. Family will be receiving visitors from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. with a rosary held at 7 p.m. Funeral mass will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2009, at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in the chapel. Burial will follow at Valley Memorial Gardens on N. Taylor Road.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in memory of Jean Andrews Jenkins to M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, P.O. Box 4486, Houston 77210-4486.

Kreidler Funeral Home in McAllen is in charge of arrangements.

Paid obituary

Thomas (Tom) Lacy South

Thomas (Tom) Lacy South, 88, of Midland, formerly of Big Spring passed from this life Monday, Nov. 16, 2009, in Odessa. His memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2009, at Myers & Smith Chapel in Big Spring with Chaplain Larry Hood officiating. The private family graveside rites will be at 1 p.m. at Mount Olive Memorial Park in Big Spring.

Tom was born Jan. 6, 1921, in Baird to Carl Brent and Olive Curry South. He attended school in Big Spring, graduating in 1938. He then attended Texas A&M for two years. In 1940, he attended the civilian pilot training program to become a trainer for U.S. Air Corp pilots. He met Corinne Gray in Coleman and they married April 3, 1943. They were married for 45 years. He served in World War II as a pilot in India.

Following the war he worked in the Postal Service for two years, then joined his dad in the family business, Ideal Laundry and Dry Cleaners in Big Spring. He served in leadership positions as a city commissioner, American Business Club and the Big Spring Country Club. He was an avid golfer.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, CB South and his wife Corinne Gray South; and son, Lacy South.

He is survived by his wife, Helen Bizzell South; son, Thomas Robert South and his wife Jan; daughter-in-law, Judy Daniel South; and step-daughter, Carrie Covington and her husband Mike Covington. The grandchildren are Angie Ellis, Brent South and his wife Kim, Heather Isbell and her husband Mark, Holly Hall and her husband Jason, Scott South and his wife Alison, and John Covington and Dee. The great-grandchildren are Cori Ellis, Cade, Wade and Colt Isbell, Peyton and Mackenzie Hall, Cooper and Hannah South, Canyon South and Emily Covington.

Memorials can be made to the donor's favorite charity.

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

Paid obituary

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Bill Tucker

Bill Tucker, 79, of Sand Springs died Sunday, Nov. 15, 2009, at Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2009, at the Midway Baptist Church in Big Spring with the Rev. Mark Winn and the Rev. Jim Binnix officiating, and a granddaughter, Andi Schneider, participating. Interment will follow at Coahoma Cemetery in Coahoma.



The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

He was born Sept. 7, 1930, in Andice and married Shelbie Laneta Hobbs on Sept. 8, 1951, in

O'Donnell.

Bill graduated from Florence High School and served in the United States Navy from 1948 to 1955. He moved to Big Spring from Angleton and worked for Cosden Refinery for 42 years, retiring as an operator in 1991. He was an active member of Sand Springs Baptist Church, serving as a deacon, treasurer and teaching Sunday school.

Survivors include his wife, Laneta Tucker of Sand Springs; two daughters, Sheryl Schneider and husband, Mack, of Coahoma, and Connie Tucker of Fort Stockton; two sons, William Noel Tucker of Lampasas and Danny Tucker and wife, Elfi, of Sand Springs; five brothers, Howard Tucker of Georgetown, O.P. Tucker and wife, Lillian, of Lampasas, Duff Tucker and wife, Pat, of Florence, Charles Tucker and wife, Maggie, of Temple, and James Tucker and wife, Beth, of Florence; one sister and brother-in-law, Deana Phillips and Roscoe Kornes of Pottsville; a son-in-law, Roy Carter of San Angelo; two sisters-in-law, Marie Galloway of Stamford and Lola Faye Bearden of Snyder; two brothers-in-law, Clinard Hobbs and Kenneth Hobbs and wife, Nita, all of Alice; 11 grandchildren, Chris Schneider and wife, Christina, of San Angelo, Andi Schneider of Big Spring, William Tucker of San Angelo, Anthony Tucker and wife, Katie, of New Braunfels, Natalia Tucker of Lubbock, Shaun Carter and wife, Erica, of San Angelo, Traci Carter of Lubbock, Starla Hernandez of Big Spring, Tanner Tucker of Lampasas, Sara Kay Tucker of Oklahoma and Bo Swatzell of Big Spring; 13 great grandchildren, Nathan Schneider, Jonathon Schneider and Zackry Schneider, all of Big Spring, Summer Schneider and Logan Schneider both of Winters, Amika Gonzalez, Rolando Gonzalez and Britney Galan, all of San Angelo, DeShaun Hernandez, Mariah Hernandez, George Hernandez, Lyniah Hernandez and Jaden Hernandez, all of Big Spring; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ollie Prentice and Elizabeth Lou Tucker; a brother, Donald Tucker and his wife, Hazel; a grandson, Joseph Alan Schneider; two sisters-in-law, Gwen Tucker and Anna Hobbs; and two brothers-in-law, Buddy Galloway and Pete Bearden.

The family suggests memorials to Home Hospice, 111 E. Seventh St., Suite A, Big Spring 79720.

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

Paid obituary

Dorothy E. Wise

Dorothy E. Wise, 89, died Monday, Nov. 16, 2009, in San Marcos. Funeral services will be 1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009, at the Nalley-Pickle and Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park in Big Spring. The family will receive friends on Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

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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:

- CHARLES MCDUGLE, 32, of New Mexico, was arrested Monday on a warrant from another agency.
- THEFT was reported: in the 2000 block of Gregg Street. In the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.
- ROBBERY was reported in the 1200 block of Stanford.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1800 block of 11th Street.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 1800 block of 11th Street.
- AGGRAVATED ROBBERY was reported: in the 2300 block of Old Highway 80. in the 2500 block of Wasson.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 75 inmates at the time of this report.

- CHARLES THOMAS MCDUGLE, 32, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.
- ROBERTO SAIZ, 42, was arrested Monday by the HCSD on a parole revocation for forgery.
- ADRIAN SANDOVAL, 34, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on a charge of criminal mischief.
- DESIREE LAVERNE SAVELL, 31, was arrested Monday by the HCSD on a probation revocation for possession of a controlled substance.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of George. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Highway 350. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Highway 350. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of Courtney Place. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Donnelly. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 2600 block of Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

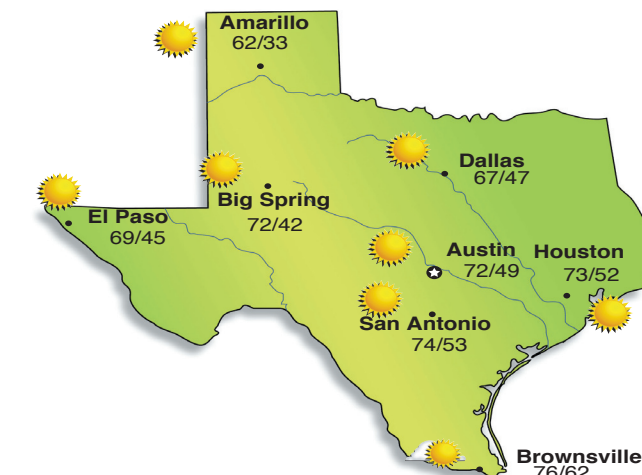
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 11/18	Thu 11/19	Fri 11/20	Sat 11/21	Sun 11/22
72/42	75/40	67/43	73/46	70/41
A mainly sunny sky. High 72F. Winds SSW at 10 to 15 mph.	More sun than clouds. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the low 40s.	Abundant sunshine. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 40s.	Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 40s.	Sunshine. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 40s.
Sunrise: 7:18 AM Sunset: 5:44 PM	Sunrise: 7:19 AM Sunset: 5:44 PM	Sunrise: 7:20 AM Sunset: 5:43 PM	Sunrise: 7:21 AM Sunset: 5:43 PM	Sunrise: 7:22 AM Sunset: 5:43 PM

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Texas At A Glance



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News in brief

Business foes of health care overhaul boost TV ads, other efforts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Business foes of health care overhaul legislation are outspending supporters at a rate of 2-to-1 for TV ads as they grow increasingly nervous over a final bill.

Led by the giant U.S. Chamber of Commerce, opponents of the Democratic health care drive have spent \$24 million on TV commercials over the past month to \$12 million spent by labor unions and other backers. That's an abrupt reversal from the vast spending advantage supporters enjoyed most of this year, according to Evan Tracey, president of Campaign Media Analysis Group, which tracks political ads.

More than half the opposition spending has been by the chamber. With the House narrowly approving its health overhaul on Nov. 7 and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., drafting his measure behind closed doors, the outpouring of cash underscores how crunch time has arrived for business and other groups trying to shape or scuttle the legislation.

"There's no input from any of us, no input from Republicans" as Reid puts the bill together, said R.

Bruce Josten, the chamber's top lobbyist. "So what option do we have than to take our message and story to the American people?"

Conservatives blast Obama, but his bow isn't unprecedented

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some conservative commentators seized on President Barack Obama's deep bow to Japan's Emperor Akihito over the weekend, accusing the U.S. commander in chief of groveling before a foreign leader.

So did he? While it may have been an awkward moment, it wasn't without precedent. And it appeared to be well within protocol guidelines that the State Department issues for foreign service officers working in other countries.

U.S. presidents from both political parties have often been criticized for their attempts at culturally sensitive greetings to high-ranking foreigners.

Former President George W. Bush, a Republican, was mocked for holding Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah's hand, a traditional sign of friendship in the Middle East, as they strolled together in 2005.

Search turns up body of missing NC 5-year-old

SANFORD, N.C. (AP) — When 5-year-old Shaniya Davis of North Carolina went missing, suspicion turned to a man described as her mother's boyfriend. As he was let go, police targeted another man spotted on hotel surveillance footage holding the child. Then, authorities arrested the girl's mother and accused her of offering her daughter for prostitution.

The arrests offered a glimmer of hope Shaniya would be found alive, but searchers discovered the girl's body Monday off a rural road, nearly a week after her mother reported her missing from a mobile home park.

Hundreds of volunteers who helped look for Shaniya left the search area dejected, unable to bring her home to her father and 7-year-old brother.

Particularly disturbing were the accusations against Shaniya's mother, 25-year-old Antoinette Davis. Police charged Davis with human trafficking and felony child abuse, saying Shaniya was offered for sex.

FIRES

Continued from Page 1

and spruces should bend and not break and should be hard to pull off the branches," said Condray. "On fir species, a needle pulled from a fresh tree will snap when bent, much like a fresh carrot. Also, look for a trunk sticky with sap.

"Cut off about two inches of the trunk and put the tree in a sturdy, water-holding stand. Keep the stand filled with water so the tree does not dry out quickly. Stand your tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources. Make sure the tree does not block foot traffic or doorways. If you use an artificial tree,

choose one that is tested and labeled as fire resistant. Artificial trees with built-in electrical systems should have the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label."

Picking your Christmas tree is just the beginning, according to Condray, as what you put on it can be just as important.

"Only use indoor lights indoors and outdoor lights outdoors. Again, look for the UL label," Condray advised. "Check lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires or loose connections. You should check them by setting them on a non-flammable surface and leaving them plugged in for 10 to 15 minutes to make sure they don't melt or smoke. Turn off

all the lights on trees and decorations when you go to bed or leave the house.

"When you're hanging the lights, be sure to keep them away from flammable materials such as curtains, and make sure the cords aren't near any sources of water. Never connect more than three sets of lights to an extension cord, and to prevent overheating, pinching and fraying cords, avoid running lights under rugs or behind furniture."

Condray said another holiday favorite — candles — can also pose a considerable risk if not handled with extreme care.

"Candles are one of the largest causes of house fires in the nation, especially toward this time of the year," he said.

"Historically, December has twice the number of candle fires than any other month because of all the decorative candles.

"The main thing people need to remember is to keep a good clear space around the candle, put them in a proper holder and never leave a candle burning unattended. If you're going to leave the room and not be there to enjoy it, put it out. Also, keep them off combustible surfaces such as table cloths."

Condray said many candles come in their own "holder," which may present their own kinds of danger.

"Some of the candles you can buy these days are inside glass jars and such," he said. "Some of them aren't exact-

ly the best quality and they can get really hot, especially as the candle burns down, and fracture the glass or jar. We've seen quite a few cases like that.

"Some people also like to put table decorations around them, some of which are made from dry fabrics or actual dried leaves, which makes for an excellent wick to help the flame spread. There are newer, battery operated ornaments that look like candles but don't use an open flame. While they may not provide the most classic look, they are certainly the safest option."

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

DINNER

Continued from Page 1

before, however, and that's when we really need our volunteers the most."

Cheshire said several local civic groups are expected to volunteer their time to make the Thanksgiving feast a success, but more help is always welcome around the local charity's kitchen.

"It really is just an immense amount of work, and it has to be done in a fairly short period of time," said Cheshire. "Our volunteers are absolutely vital to that

process. We have groups that come in just about every year and help, and this year we're hoping to see some new faces as well. Giving your time and volunteering during Thanksgiving really gives you a new perspective on the holiday."

"This is our way of saying thank you to the community," said Paula Lafler, social worker with the organization. "The dinner is free, so no one has to go without a good Thanksgiving meal this year."

Lafler said volunteers are expected to begin delivering meals to homebound residents at approximately 9 a.m.

Thursday, Nov. 26, but there's plenty of work for the Salvation Army staff and volunteers to do in the meantime.

"We need to get a solid count of how many meals will need to be delivered," said Lafler. "What we're asking is for people that need a meal delivered call before 4 p.m. Wednesday to make arrangements. We'll be delivering meals Thanksgiving day until about 11 a.m."

Lafler said area residents wanting to volunteer their services to help prepare the meal can simply show up at the charity's office, located at 811 W. Fifth St.,

Wednesday morning.

"They can call if they need more information, or if they just want to let us know they are coming. However, if they just want to show up at the office at 9 a.m., we'll be more than happy to put them to work," said Lafler. "We're also going to need volunteers to help Thanksgiving morning."

This year's holiday menu will be filled with traditional Thanksgiving fare, according to Cheshire.

"Thanksgiving just isn't Thanksgiving without turkey," he said with a laugh. "We'll also have the traditional

trimmings, like dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, and green beans. A lot of work goes into preparing a Thanksgiving meal, but it's well worth it."

Volunteers aren't the only aspect of the holiday dinner the local charity will be looking for, according to Lafler. "We also need people to donate pies and other deserts for the meal," she said.

Cheshire said the in-house meal will be served in the Salvation Army's dining hall from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

"It's open to everyone in the community," said Cheshire. "Anyone

— and I do mean anyone — that would like to come in and have a great Thanksgiving meal can just walk through our doors and grab a plate. Bring your family and have a great meal."

For more information on how you can help, or to set up a meal delivery, contact the Big Spring Salvation Army at 267-8239.

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

THIEVES

Continued from Page 1

Most importantly, Everett said, be aware.

"Be aware of what's going on around you," he stressed. "If you'll sit up at the front doors of Wal-Mart or the mall, you'll see people walking up and down the parking lots just looking in cars. After a minute or two you can tell they're not looking for their car or headed for their car. What they're doing is scoping out the inside of your vehicle to see if you have any packages or purses or anything laying loose

like that.

"We also suggest that people keep their doors locked whenever they go inside a store, and make sure you take your keys with you. If someone gets into your car to steal a radio or wallet and they find the keys, you're probably going to lose your car. We generally recover the cars that get stolen around here, but a lot of time they're not in any kind of condition to be driven."

Everett said it may seem downright unholid-ay-like to be so suspicious this Christmas, but it's much safer to err on the side of suspicion than to be caught

unaware.

"A lot of people will walk outside and in between cars and really not be aware of what's going on around them," said Everett. "You need to pay attention to whether or not people are there or they seem to be watching you. I would rather have someone be suspicious of me if I'm standing out in the parking lot than to not even notice me."

"Also for the ladies with purses, we suggest that they don't just hold them by the strap and just leave them hanging. That makes them really easy to take. If they have straps on them we suggest you keep them over

your shoulder so you can keep one arm over them and keep them secure. Don't be sure that you don't leave money visible."

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

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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
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Bill McClellan
News Editor

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

OUR VIEW

Border security means real dose of positive action

Juarez businessmen are asking for United Nations intervention as out-of-control violence threatens lives and livelihoods.

At the same time, the Texas Border Coalition is asking for \$6 billion and 5,000 new customs officers over the next four years in order to tighten security at ports of entry on the nation's borders. The coalition, made up of border city mayors, county judges and economic-development commissions, is concerned about human and drug smuggling at the ports.

There's no doubt that tightening up security at border ports of entry would be a good idea.

But there's a major question here: Who would pay for this effort?

Take Texas as an example. Gov. Rick Perry is constantly pointing out the necessity for the federal government to pay for border security, because the border is a federal concern.

This isn't a financial burden that should be visited upon Texans already straining to make ends meet during the current economic crisis. It is clearly a federal responsibility.

It's equally apparent that shoring up security at land ports of entry along the U.S. borders should be a federal responsibility. And that is true for both northern and southern borders.

There's good reasons for concentrating on the ports. A coalition report says, "In the present environment, the (drug) cartels are choosing to conduct their trade across the bridges and highways, through ports of entry and are rejecting the risk of crossing the Rio Grande and open spaces between the ports of entry."

It's hard to tell what the federal government's response to the coalition will be. Possibly the government will generate more high-profile, low-results border security conferences of which it seems so fond.

But what's needed along the border is solid, positive action, not empty gestures and hollow promises.

THE TIMES
EL PASO

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

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- 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

All's well, Lord, when it ends with You.

Amen

The shrink and the terrorist

There have been two views on what happened last week when Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan opened fire on unarmed military colleagues at Fort Hood, Texas, killing 12 soldiers and one civilian. The politically correct version blames a lonely soldier's personal meltdown, precipitated by the fear of being deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan. The politically incorrect view portrays Hasan, the son of Palestinian immigrants, as a homegrown Islamic terrorist, whether he coordinated with any terrorist groups or not.

In the end, it may turn out that both views are correct — in that Hasan would not be the first unstable person to immerse himself in an extremist ideology before he turned his rage on his fellow man. Perhaps that is how seemingly benign men become terrorists.

I've been hearing from folks who are furious at headlines and reports that downplay Hasan's religion and focus on his opposition to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It's astonishing how people have used their political beliefs to recast this murderous ram-

page to reflect their politics. New York Times columnist Bob Herbert, for example, wrote a column Saturday that focused on the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder suffered by troops who have served three or four tours of duty — unbothered by the fact that Hasan never served in a war zone.

Gen. George Casey, the Army chief of staff, went on the Sunday television shows to warn against jumping to conclusions on this case. That's his job; he must work to prevent a backlash against Muslims serving their country in the military, often at great personal sacrifice. Let me add that to view all Muslim troops as suspect — or otherwise attempt to isolate them — would be to reward Hasan's attack.

That said, soldiers reported hearing Hasan proclaim "Allahu Akbar" — God is Great — as he opened fire.

The Associated Press has reported that law enforcement had investigated whether he posted pro-suicide-bombing statements online. According to news reports, former co-workers from Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington complained that he would not allow his photograph to be taken with women for group holiday pictures. On Monday, the Washington Post reported on Hasan's association with a Yemeni al-Qaida promoter who hailed Hasan as "a hero" and a "man of conscience who could

not bear living the contradiction of being a Muslim and serving in an army that is fighting against his own people."

If the Fort Hood shooter had been a white man who yelled the N-word before firing, I don't think you would see military brass warning against a rush to judgment that the shooter was a racist.

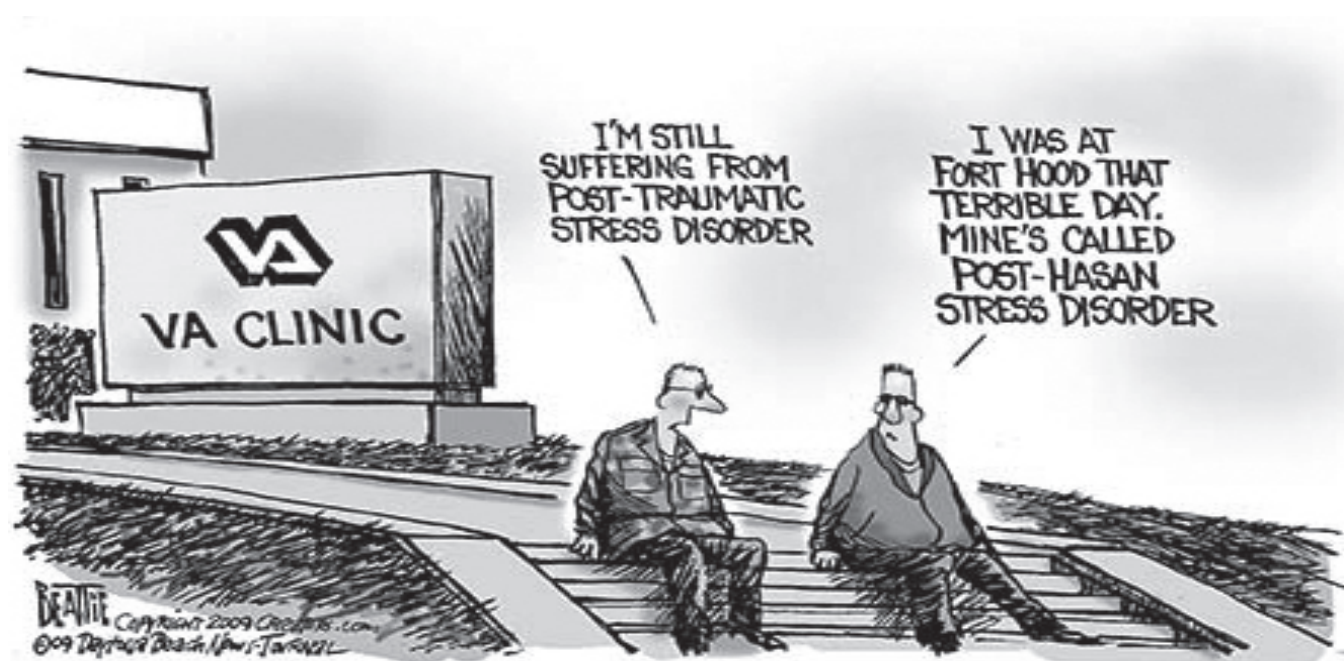
I watched the story as it broke Thursday, and I understand why news anchors hesitated before coming to conclusions on the shooting. After all, early reports got it wrong — it was reported Hasan was dead.

By now, however, it seems pretty clear that Hasan perpetrated what Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., called on Fox News possibly "the most destructive terrorist act to be committed on American soil since 9/11."

And guess what? Most Americans are not stupid — they can process that information with the clear understanding that Hasan does not represent your average Muslim or your average Muslim serving in the U.S. military. His own words as he opened fire — "Allahu Akbar" — and perhaps his online screeds show who he was. He acted not as a stressed-out shrink, but a violent and twisted extremist.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at
dsaunders@sfchronicle.com.

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White House economic baloney

Of the many thoughts I had watching President Barack Obama's umpteenth speech on the economy Thursday morning, the most troubling was his refusal to accept responsibility for his disastrous policies.

With unemployment having soared to 10.2 percent, wouldn't it have been reasonable to expect that any Obama speech on the economy would at least acknowledge that his "stimulus" plan didn't come close to achieving the results he promised, starting with his claim that unemployment would peak at 8 percent?

Even a fallible leader would be humbled by this failed performance, but enjoying messianic stature, the expectations bar is rightfully much higher for Obama.

Yet instead of showing contrition, he took to the microphone in a surreal, boastful mode, as if calculating that assuming an offensive posture would fool people into ignoring reality.

He bragged about the "bold steps" he had taken "to break the back of this recession." He said he'd prevented "responsible homeowners from losing their homes ... cut taxes for middle-class families ... and created and saved more than a million jobs." But, "We all know that there are limits to what government can and should do, even during such difficult times."

Let's examine his claims. Bold actions to end the recession and "created and saved more than a million jobs"?

Well, he has engineered massive spending and debt explosions, but many weren't even calculated to stimulate the economy, especially in the short run. ABC reported that as of Oct. 30,

the White House claimed 640,329 jobs had been created or saved as a result of the \$159 billion in stimulus funds allocated as of Sept. 30, a figure provably bogus on its face, considering that the jobs reports were inflated and that many of the "created" jobs were short-lived and already over. But ABC noted that even if you accept the administration's projected figure of 1 million, which Obama is now clearly claiming, the math indicates that the stimulus cost taxpayers \$160,000 per job created or saved.

Just to illustrate the speciousness of Obama's preposterously unprovable claim that saved jobs are measurable, you should know that two administration financial officials, Ed DeSeve and Jared Bernstein, were unable to say how many of the 640,329 jobs were saved and how many were created. It's also noteworthy that Obama promised in January that more than 90 percent of the stimulus jobs would be in the private sector, but more than half — 325,000 — were in education alone.

Then there's Obama's assertion that he prevented responsible homeowners from losing their homes, when everyone knows that included in his unconstitutional \$75 billion government bailout of mortgagors were payments to those millions who irresponsibly did not pay their mortgage debts.

As for his claim that he has cut taxes for middle-class families, he didn't mention that his treasury secretary, Tim Geithner, and his National Economic Council director, Larry Summers, have already refused to rule out the possibility that Obama will raise taxes on the middle class.

Of course, the promise would already have been permanently breached if Obama had gotten his way on the cap-and-tax bill and Obamacare, each of which would have necessarily resulted in middle-class tax hikes, just as his planned double-digit trillions

of new government debt would necessitate across-the-board tax increases just to service the interest.

Of all the words Obama uttered, though, nothing came close in sheer audacity to his announcement that he had planned "a forum at the White House on jobs and economic growth ... to talk about how we can work together to create jobs and get this economy moving again."

Isn't this the precise combination of words Obama used to sell his stimulus package in the first place: "creating jobs to get the economy moving again"? The answer is yes. A few months ago, Obama wasn't looking for experts to tell him how to stimulate the economy. He claimed to be the expert with the magic bullet solution.

Having demonstrably failed, Obama is now convening a photo-op summit, designed to deflect blame and personal accountability for his policy failures and to provide an excuse to give us more of the same, because you can bet that he won't be inviting Friedman free market-ers, but academic adherents to failed Keynesian thinking and businesspeople whose judgment and policy endorsement he has purchased or will purchase with your money.

Despite Obama's claim that he recognizes that "there are limits to what government can and should do," more and more Americans realize he believes quite the opposite and that he is committed to doing everything in his power to continue to dismantle the economic system that has made America the most prosperous nation in history.

We don't need a summit, but midterm elections to restore to power those who believe in the free market — among other enduring American ideals.

David Limbaugh is a writer,
author and attorney.

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Peanut Puzzle

1				2			3
4							5
6							

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1907: OKLAHOMA BECAME THE 46TH STATE.
- 1933: THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES DEVELOPED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.
- 2004: CONDOLEEZZA RICE REPLACED COLIN POWELL AS SECRETARY OF STATE.

ACROSS

1. Popular legume
4. Synthetic material
6. Without great effort

DOWN

1. Make ready for use
2. Fruit with a hard shell
3. Small amount of food
5. Measurement of moments passed

Answers:
ACROSS
1. peanuts 4. plastic 6. easiest
DOWN
1. prepare 2. nuts 3. snack 4. time



WHAT CREAMY SPREAD,
ALTHOUGH HIGH IN CALORIES,
IS VERY HEALTHY TO EAT
IN MODERATION?

ANSWER: PEANUT BUTTER

**New
Word**

PEANUT

oval seed of a South American plant

**How they
SAY that in...**

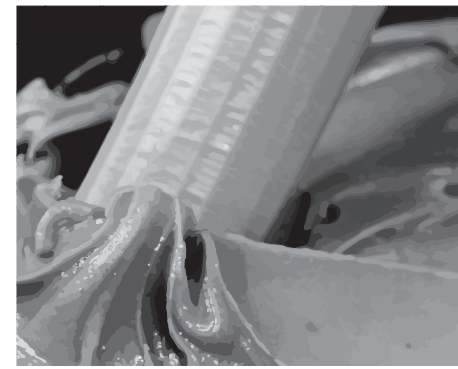
- ENGLISH:** Bread
- SPANISH:** Pan
- ITALIAN:** Pane
- FRENCH:** Pain
- GERMAN:** Brot

**Did you
know?**

THERE IS ANOTHER REASON TO LOVE PEANUT BUTTER. IT CONTAINS RESVERATROL, WHICH CAN HELP PREVENT CANCER.



**GET THE
PICTURE?**



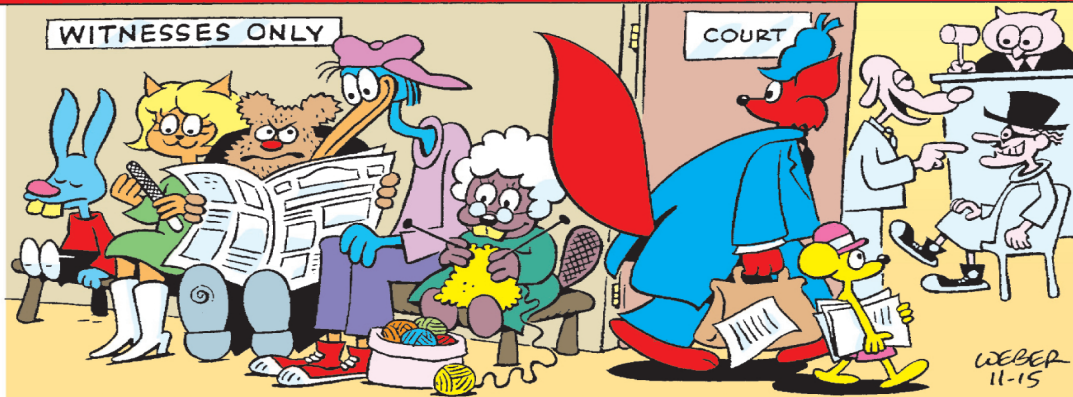
Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: PEANUT BUTTER AND CELERY

SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

BY BOB WEBER JR

Count Weirdly is on trial for stealing milk and graham crackers from the Forest Nursery School. Slylock Fox called the rabbit, bird, bear, cat and beaver to testify. The rabbit was called before the bird, but after the bear. The cat was called before the beaver, but after the bird. Can you list the order in which the animals testified?



HOW TO DRAW a Viking

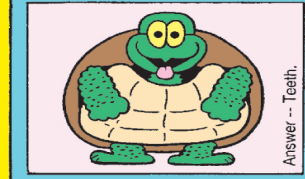


YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Rebecca Norman, age 9, of Madison, WI



A turtle is the only reptile with a shell. What do other reptiles have that a turtle lacks?



Find six differences between these panels.



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Bird Poop:

EMS personnel can't save wounded hawk

Having left Lajitas before dawn, the vehicle cruised through Presidio while most of the town slept. Highlighted by the rising sun, the Three Sisters and Chinati mountains were bathed in a golden hue. After stopping at the railroad crossing in Marfa while another container train headed east, the crew passed the historic courthouse and continued toward Fort Davis. A shorter, faster route through Fort Stockton was not considered since they served this portion of far West Texas.



BEBE
McCASLAND

The winding drive through Limpia Canyon was slow but afforded another opportunity to see a herd of javelina

and numerous deer. Leaving the mountains behind at Balmorhea, the threesome was soon turning east on to Interstate 20 at Pecos. After delivering their patient to a VA hospital, they would return to the Rio Grande area.

When my phone rang that morning, I was surprised to hear, "Will you be at home? We're two miles west of Big Spring. Be there shortly." Estimating how long it would take someone to drive to our home, I was concerned by the delay in arrival.

Not expecting a large white vehicle with blue trim, red and white lights and medical insignia on the side, I thought someone had mistaken our house for our neighbor's. Instead, a woman hurried toward the porch. Dressed in blue slacks and polo shirt with the same emblem, she identified herself as being employed by the EMS, Emergency Medical Service, that covers

Lajitas, Presidio and Fort Davis.

Since she had not had time to explain their transporting a patient to our VA hospital, I only knew that someone had found a hawk and was bringing it to us. While we had received birds in shoeboxes, paper sacks, carriers, laundry baskets and even the top half of a grocery cart, we had never had one delivered by a medical team and ambulance.

In some of the most rugged terrain in West Texas, the driver had seen and realized a large hawk standing by the road could not fly. Stopping only long enough to throw a blanket over it, the woman had placed the raptor between the legs of the EMT on the passenger side.

Continuing their long journey with two patients, they called the Humane Society and animal control in several cities along the way. Finally they learned of our rescue work.

Having finished their delivery to the VA hospital, they brought the bird of prey to our doorstep. Laying the raptor on its back, I covered its head. "It's the left wing," said the woman. After spreading it, the cause of the injury



Courtesy photo

Weighing two and a half pounds and with a wingspan of four feet, the red-tailed hawk has such sharp vision it can stalk its prey from the air. The raptor also avails itself of telephone poles and fence posts while searching the nearby landscape.

was evident. Uncanny was the technician and I uttering, "Shot," at the same time.

"We'd figured that out real quick," she continued. With no utility lines or barbed wire fences in the area where the hawk was found, the woman knew

the wing had another reason for being broken. She and her crew had seen their share of gunshot wounds. To that I added, "So have we."

Having delivered their patients, the EMS had no time to visit before returning west. As

they pulled away from the curb, I was overcome with their kindness. The woman had told me that the veteran had enjoyed knowing he was not making the trip alone.

With typical light

See **HAWK**, Page 7

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.

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

Parent's Corner:

Optimism certainly beats pessimism

Would you rate yourself as optimistic or pessimistic? Let's examine these two attitudes. Optimism is reacting to setbacks through a positive attitude; that bad events are temporary setbacks, isolated to particular circumstances and can be overcome by effort and abilities.

It inoculates against depression, improves

health and combines with talent and desire to enable achievement. Optimism psychology is in the field of cognitive science; it can be practiced and learned, even by those who have not previously done so.

Pessimism is reacting to setbacks from a presumption of personal helplessness. An individual will think that bad events will last a long time, they are my fault and will undermine everything I do.

Pessimism will develop from a feeling of helplessness. Animal research, and subsequent research with humans, established that both animals and

humans can learn helplessness. When faced with situations where they were powerless to change an annoying element, two out of three (both animals and humans) would cease trying to affect the situation.

Further, when placed in a new situation with a different annoying element, they would make no attempt from the beginning. One in three would shrug off situations and continue acting to improve their lot regardless.

How we talk to ourselves about negative occurrences is the predominant determinant of optimism versus pessimism. According to research, much of depression has its initial beginning in pessimism or learned helplessness and that, through paying attention to and changing how one thinks (cognitive

therapy) an individual can change pessimism to optimism and move out of their depression. By changing how we think, we can change how we feel.

We must admit, however, there is a value in a certain amount of pessimism. It can keep us from taking risky actions in areas where the downside risks are unacceptable.

Thus, many executives must, to some extent, be professional pessimists since they must weigh risks that could result in devastating loss to the organization and harsh personal consequences for employees, owners, partners, and customers.

Pessimism has also played a survival role during most of human history, as we lived through harsh climatic

See **RYAN**, Page 7



DARRELL
RYAN

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

You, Too, Can Be a Magician

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 10 6 4
♥ A K J 9 3
♦ A 5 2
♣ J 4

WEST
♠ 2
♥ 6
♦ K J 10 9 6 4
♣ K Q 10 9 3

EAST
♠ Q J 9 8
♥ Q 10 8 7 2
♦ 3
♣ 7 6 5

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

The bidding:
South West North East
1♠ 2♦ 2♥ Pass
2♠ 3♦ 4♠

Opening lead — king of clubs.
When you're declarer in a suit contract, it is normal to assess your prospects by counting your losers. However, in hands where you plan to do lots of ruffing back and forth, counting your losers is not always a reliable guide to your chances.

For example, take this deal where it appears you must lose two trump tricks, two diamonds and a club. You therefore seem destined to go down two.

But you can do much better than that. You duck West's king-of-clubs

lead and take his queen continuation with the ace. When you next play the A-K of trumps, you learn that East has two sure trump tricks coming.

This is certainly discouraging, but you're not licked yet. Shifting gears slightly, you cash the A-K of hearts. When West shows up with a singleton heart, you can deduce that he started with 6-5-1-1 distribution. This is a very promising development, as it now seems likely you'll win 10 tricks even though you have five losers!

So you ruff a heart in your hand, a club in dummy and another heart in your hand. You then continue with a diamond to the ace and ruff dummy's last heart with your last trump. By this time, 11 tricks have been played, and you've won 10 of them!

West's two remaining cards are the K-J of diamonds, which are ready to gobble up your last two cards, the Q-8 of diamonds. East also can win the last two tricks with his two remaining cards, the Q-J of trumps. West's two diamond winners are thus obliterated by East's two trump tricks, and in the meantime, you are home with the contract. Two of your five losers have simply disappeared.

The principle demonstrated here is a very elementary one: The defense can't beat four spades if you take 10 tricks!

Tomorrow: Good management.

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Ship with 100 tourists stuck in Antarctic ice

MOSCOW (AP)—A Russian icebreaker carrying over 100 tourists, scientists and journalists on a cruise around Antarctica was struggling to free itself from sea ice but was not in any danger, a shipping company said Tuesday.

The Captain Khlebnikov icebreaker is about 5 miles (8 kilometers) from clear water near Snow Hill Island in the Weddell Sea, German Kuzin of the Fareastern Shipping Company told Russia's Vesti 24 television. He said neither

the ship nor the passengers faced any risks.

The ship was trying to move slowly through the ice but the winds were too light to break up the ice pack, he said. An Argentine official said the ice would delay the ship's return

by three to six days.

"The icebreaker is trying to move and is waiting for more favorable winds," Kuzin said. "After the winds get stronger, the ice grip will weaken ... and it will break free."

Kuzin said the tourists were

using the unplanned stop to take helicopter tours of the surrounding area. Russian news agencies said a BBC camera crew filming a documentary about the Antarctic was also on board.

HAWK

Continued from Page 6

adult coloration, the red-tailed hawk was a splendid specimen.

Dark brown above with intermingling whitish and rufous hues, the raptor below had a pale, creamy chest and belly streaked with brown. From above, its tail was rufous, the sign of maturity. Underneath, it was a light cinnamon embellished at the end with a blackish band and white tips.

The fate of this raptor had been determined by the senseless cruelty of a shooter. Shattered and protruding from the flesh, the compound fracture could not be mended. An invitation to infection and loss of viable bone, the injury would deny the soaring hawk its graceful place in the sky.

Knowing what had to be done to alleviate the red-tail's suffering made our decision no easier.

In the same locale where this bird of prey had been found, we had once watched an aerial display in the high, desolate mountains of the

desert.

From above, an adventurous red-tailed hawk had swooped down toward a gliding, golden eagle. The difference in their sizes was evident. As the distance between the two birds decreased, it appeared that the hawk would sink its talons into the back of the eagle.

At the last available second, the eagle had turned on its back, extended its talons to greet the oncoming hawk and then righted itself as the red-tail veered toward safety. Repeating the dive and subsequent parry several times, the two raptors had

given us a rare glimpse into both of their lives.

Only the efforts of the EMS crew in regard to the raptor could ease our disappointment in not being able to save the red-tail's life.

Its prowess in hunting, soaring and benefiting man by its control of rodents had ended with such a thoughtless and criminal activity. In the quiet of the desert its cry to its mate would no longer be heard.

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

RYAN

Continued from Page 6

changes and dangerous environs. Worrying about high-risk negative consequences could keep the worrier

and his or her dependents alive. However, enough optimism to act was required, and in the developed world today, the justification for pessimism is more infrequent.

When a real risk of a severe negative consequence exists, a cautious, risk-avoiding approach is appro-

priate, such as viewing the risk as pervasive, permanent, and applying to you and yours personally.

This can be a life-threatening or a life-damaging risk.

But, when the risk is small such as some wasted time and effort, a little public embarrassment, or the pos-

sibility of a number of failures prior to success, take the optimistic view and act!

Optimism usually pays off.

Darrell Ryan is director of federal programs for the Big Spring Independent School District.

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Texas' choice: Win like '05 or crater like '06

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Mack Brown has given the Texas Longhorns a choice.

Finish the season like 2005, when they won the national championship, or crater down the stretch like they did in 2006. That team lost its last two games and didn't even get to play for a Big 12 title.

The No. 3 Longhorns (10-0, 6-0 Big 12) can wrap up the Big 12 South with a win Saturday night at home against Kansas (5-5, 1-5). Texas hasn't won the division since 2005.

Brown has shown his team video highlights and lowlights of those seasons. In 2005, Texas walloped Kansas 66-14, beat Texas A&M 40-29 and crushed Colorado 70-3 in the Big 12 title game.

In 2006, the Longhorns needed to win only one of their final two games to win the Big 12 South. They lost 45-42 at unranked Kansas State and 12-7 at home to unranked Texas A&M.

Instead of the Big 12 and a BCS bowl, Texas tumbled into the Alamo Bowl.

"We're in the exact same position," Brown said Monday. "They can talk about being a great team, but you've got

to finish. You have to earn the right to be the best team."

Quarterback Colt McCoy and a handful of other fifth-year seniors were on the scout team when Texas won the 2005 national championship. They have not won any hardware of their own, on any level.

"Coach told us that no player here has won a national championship on the field," center Chris Hall said.

The 2006 season fell apart when McCoy got hurt early against Kansas State. A pinched nerve in his neck on a hard tackle sent him to the bench and Kansas

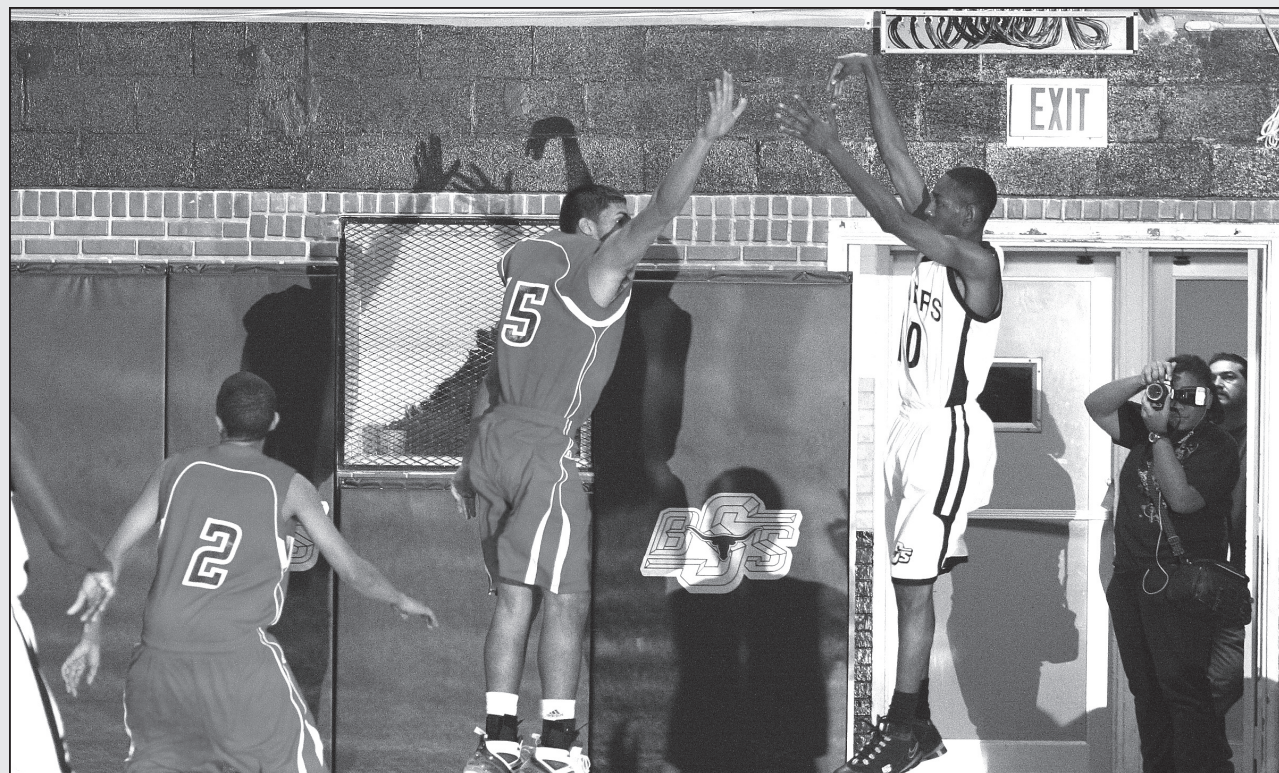
State jumped out to a big lead.

The Longhorns rallied behind backup Jevan Snead but still lost. The defeat knocked Texas out of the national championship picture but not out of the Big 12. That came two weeks later when McCoy, still sore, had one of his worst games and Texas lost to the rival Aggies.

Last season, it was the BCS computers that did Texas in. Stuck in a three-way tie for the South, the league tiebreaker depended on the highest BCS ranking.

See **LONGHORNS**, Page 14

ON POINT



HERALD Photo/Tony Claxton

Steer point guard Jerrell Williams attempts a three-pointer last season at Steer Gym.

Steers open up vs. Fort Stockton

By **JOE ZIGTEMA**
Sports Editor

The Big Spring Steers basketball team is looking to Jerrell Williams for big things this year.

Williams, a senior point guard, will lead the Steers in their season opener tonight at 8 p.m. in Fort Stockton, hoping to get the team back to the playoffs, where it appeared last season for the first time since 1997.

Head coach Marcus Morris said Williams, the Steers' leading scorer from a year ago, is poised for a breakout year.

"Last year as a junior, we relied on him for pretty much everything," Morris said. "This year he knows what it's like, he knows what to expect so there shouldn't be a lot of growing pains."

Morris is expecting the Steers to be fun to watch this season.

"We play fast," he said. "We play good defense. I expect us to be better offensively this year as far as sharing the ball more. We took way too many quick shots last year. Sometimes when they were

going in it was fun, but there were a lot of times where it didn't work."

In the team's first two scrimmages, Morris said he liked the way his team has played team basketball.

"We're not very big, but we play well together, we shoot the ball well, and so far through our two scrimmages we've had more assists," Morris said. "We're sharing the ball."

"We're moving the ball and playing good defense like I asked, and good things will happen to us if we keep that up."

Williams will be joined in the backcourt by junior Tristian Clay, a left-handed shooting specialist who was a first-team all-district player at Forsan last year.

"He has a good knack for the game," Morris said of Clay. "He knows when and where to make the pass. He's very coachable and has been fun to be around."

Jacob Falcon is another newcomer, who moved

See **STEERS**, Page 14

Kansas dominates No. 1 spot in AP poll

Associated Press

An opening week in which only one ranked team lost meant few changes in the first poll of the regular season.

In fact, there were no changes among the top 14 teams, while Ohio State moved up one spot to join Michigan in a tie at No. 15.

Kansas beat Hofstra 101-65 in its only game and was the runaway No. 1 in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, just as it was in the preseason Top 25. The Jayhawks received 58 first-place votes from the national media panel, three more than in the preseason poll.

Michigan State beat Florida Gulf Coast 97-58 in its opener and was again No. 1 on five ballots to hold second.

Texas, which again had one first-place vote, Kentucky, which dropped from three No. 1 votes to one, and Villanova remained third through fifth.

Defending champion North Carolina, who lost their only first-place vote from the preseason poll, won its game against Florida International, North Carolina Central and Valparaiso last week by an average of almost 25 points.

This week the No. 6 Tar Heels will see the quality of their competition pick up considerably with the possibility of facing five ranked opponents in the next eight games.

They will play Ohio State in the 2K Sports Classic on Thursday in New York, and could face California in the final or third-place game. Also included in the stretch is a home game against No. 2 Michigan State in a rematch of last year's national championship game, a trip to No. 4 Kentucky and game against No. 3 Texas in Dallas Cowboys Stadium on Dec. 19.

Purdue, which beat Cal

State Northridge 89-63 in its only game, remains No. 7.

West Virginia, Duke and Tennessee held on to round out the top 10.

Maryland was the only newcomer to the poll at No. 25. The Terrapins moved into the rankings for the first time since the final poll of the 2006-07 season. They replaced Mississippi State, which fell out from 18th following its season-opening 88-74 loss to Rider.

Butler was 11th and was followed by Connecticut, California, Washington, Michigan, Ohio State, Oklahoma, Dayton, Georgetown and Louisville. The last five ranked teams were Georgia Tech, Clemson, Illinois, Minnesota and Maryland.

The Big Ten still leads with six ranked teams — Michigan State, Purdue, Michigan, Ohio State, Illinois and Minnesota. The Atlantic Coast Conference (Maryland, North Carolina, Duke, Georgia Tech, Clemson) and Big East (Villanova, West Virginia, Connecticut, Georgetown, Louisville) had five each.

AP Top 25

1. Kansas
2. Michigan State
3. Texas
4. Kentucky
5. Villanova
6. North Carolina
7. Purdue
8. West Virginia
9. Duke
10. Tennessee
11. Butler
12. Connecticut
13. California
14. Washington
15. Michigan
16. Ohio State
17. Oklahoma
18. Dayton
19. Georgetown
20. Louisville
21. Georgia Tech
22. Clemson
23. Illinois
24. Minnesota
25. Maryland

12 Bulldogs named to all-district 7-2A teams

Herald Staff Report

COAHOMA — Twelve Coahoma Bulldogs were named to the all-district 7-2A team released Monday, including three seniors who made the first team.

Quarterback Josh Paniagua, receiver Lupe Abrego and lineman Macy Bailey were named first team offense, and Abrego was named to the first-team defense at defensive back.

Paniagua passed for 2,333 yards and 24 touchdowns in his senior campaign, much of it to Abrego, who amassed 809 yards and 11 touchdowns through the air.

Senior tight end Lane Douglass, junior wide receiver Hunter Williams and junior center Josh Castilaw, and sophomore lineman Jacob Echavarria were named to the second-team offense. Williams caught 22 balls for 388 yards and five touchdowns.

Douglass made 24 receptions for 227 yards and two touchdowns from his tight end position.

Sophomore lineman Brandon Sanders earned honorable mention all-district honors.

Lineman Castilaw and junior punter Dakota Griffith were named second-team defense. Defensive backs Pete Acosta and Tanner Ruiz, and linebacker Brayden Iden all earned honorable mention honors.

Sports in brief

Former Big Spring standout named All-Lone Star Conference

Kyle Penfield, a 2006 Big Spring graduate and Tarleton State football player, was named to the first team all-Lone Star Conference defense.

Penfield has started two seasons at deep snapper for Tarleton State, which is headed to the second round of the Division II playoffs against Central Washington.

The Texans beat Texas A&M Kingsville 57-56 in double overtime Saturday. Penfield is a manufacturing engineering technology major. He was named an all-district tight end and defensive end while at Big Spring High School.

Lady Steer Booster Club to meet Monday

The next Lady Steer Booster Club meeting will be Monday, Nov. 30, at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School Athletic Training Center conference room. All supporters of the Lady Steers sports are encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Stan Feaster at sfeaster@howardcollege.edu or call 816-9480.

Lady Hawks game change

Howard College has rescheduled its women's basketball game slated for Nov. 21 against Lubbock Christian JV. The game will take place Nov. 23 before the men's game against Wayland Baptist JV.

Eleven Big Spring runners compete in San Antonio marathon

Three runners finished the San Antonio marathon and eight runners finished a half-marathon at the Rock 'n' Roll San Antonio marathon Sunday.

Adrian Calvio, Javier Flores and Eric Hansen finished the 26-mile course.

The half-marathon finishers were Melissa Daniels, who finished in the top 300 of more than 12,000 female finishers, Tabitha Madry, Tori Gauer, Sterling Gee, Ellen Miller, Sandy Tucker, Shontaye Bowman and Amanda Calvio.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The best way to explore new territory is to carpool, caravan or otherwise convene. There is a courageous and curious spirit on the rise as the moon follows Mercury into the daring realm of Sagittarius.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Enthusiastic communication helps us join forces for the purpose of venturing forward. Bonds are built during a shared adventure.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A seemingly irreconcilable problem at work begs for a new approach. This is a case where changing the way you see a situation will be the same as solving it. Try on different perspectives.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You are one of those people for whom good work is its own reward. But isn't it nice to have it recognized once in a while? Someone will pay you a well-deserved compliment this afternoon.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Determination is key. These momentary setbacks will be over soon enough. It's a testament to your fortitude that you have persevered in the face of adversity, and soon there will be nothing trying to stop you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're so likeable that you will have strangers making up excuses just to talk to you. Is it your disarming smile? Your quick wit? Your easy way with words? The answer is: all of the above.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Taking the bad with the good isn't as easy as it sounds. Fortunately,

the good you gain today will vastly outweigh the bad you must put up with. Besides, you have a clever way of avoiding obligations you perceive to be unpleasant.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If your day had a theme sound, it would be the sound of a cork popping open from a bottle of champagne. This is a day to celebrate! Do you need a reason? No! Call some friends and go get busy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The application of preventive measures in the here and now will reap myriad benefits in the soon to come. Be bold, be steadfast, and tomorrow you'll enjoy a moment of glorious reward.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When asked by well-meaning Western disciples whether they might join her efforts, Mother Teresa would often reply: "Find your own

Calcutta." Opportunities to help those in need are everywhere.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There will be many obstacles to doing good work today. You'll be able to turn more than one into an opportunity, though. So when someone says "no," take it as your cue to ponder exciting options.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It doesn't feel as though the work that is set before you is inspiring enough to cultivate your talent. In fact, it feels like tedious drudgery. Go walking, and you'll come back with a new attitude.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Eat steak for breakfast, pancakes for dinner. Take out your ruled paper and write perpendicular to the lines. Turn the equation on its side and see if you can't solve it that way.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Make the most of your social time. You'll like the way it feels to have your friends around you. They will provide support, security and style. Together you make quite an impact.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 17). You will care for yourself better than ever this year with efforts to stay fit and positive. Changes to your diet improve your vitality. Also, you select just the right attire and decorate your physical environment in such a way as to make a stellar impression on others. A love connection inspires you to create in January. Pisces and Virgo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 44, 33, 18 and 50.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: The creator and producer of "Saturday Night Live," Lorne Michaels is a Scorpio with Mars, the warrior planet, in Scorpio, as well. This mysterious sign has an advantage when it comes to guessing what will make people laugh. The essence of comedy is truth and pain -- two specialties of Scorpio. This strong, passionate sign is drawn to exploring honest emotion wherever it may come from.

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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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: My son, "Terry," is 30 and newly divorced with two sons. My husband and I have been helping him since he had a hard time finding a job.

He lived with us for three months. My husband (his stepfather) bought him a car and insurance so he could get to work and be able to pick up his boys.

In April, Terry moved into an apartment. We paid the security deposit and first month's rent. He found a job in June, but with child support payments, he still had a hard time with the rent, so we continued to help him through the summer.

The problem is, in August, he let "Larry" move in with him. Larry is an alcoholic with no job.

He has a filthy mouth and is into porn. Terry says he's just "helping him out." We think this

is terrible and have decided to stop giving Terry money for rent because we don't want to help.

Larry. I don't think our grandsons should be around this man.

Terry says he doesn't need our permission to let someone move in. I believe if he were paying his own way, it wouldn't be my business. Am I wrong for not wanting to help anymore? — *Slapped in the Face*

Dear Slapped: You are absolutely right. You are not obligated to pay your son's rent under any circumstances.

If he chooses to bring an unsavory character into his life, that is his choice, but you don't have to subsidize it. Don't be angry.

Be firm and practical. Tell him he can do what he wishes, but he'll be

doing it on his own. If you feel you must help him in some way, offer to pay a portion of his child support.

Dear Annie: November 17



**KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR**

Prematurity Awareness Month. My wife and I would like to share the story of our daughter's birth, in the hope that it will encourage women to get prenatal care during pregnancy.

Lauren was born at 26 and a half weeks, weighing 2 pounds and 1 ounce, and spent five frightening months in the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit

before we could bring her home.

As an African-American, my wife had a higher risk of an early delivery, and even though she did everything right, she still went into preterm labor.

Today, Lauren is a healthy, beautiful 5-year-old with lots of personality and a keen intelligence.

Her only medical concern is asthma.

We are convinced that my wife's prenatal and personal care helped with Lauren's overall health, despite her early birth.

We want to warn other parents about the seriousness of premature

birth and let them know there are things they can do to lower the chances that their baby will be born too soon.

Parents can get information about the warning signs of preterm labor and how to help give their baby a healthy start in life at marchofdimes.com/fightforpreemies. — *Densel and Nikki Fleming*

Dear Annie and Nikki Fleming: We are glad your daughter is a healthy 5-year-old, and we appreciate your letting our readers know about the website so they, too, can give their babies the best possible start.

Dear Annie: I read the response to "Doctor in California" and agree that the media put such a spin on many medications that people can be afraid to use them.

I am a dog groomer.

One day a regular client brought in her dog. It had lost all its hair around the ears, and the skin had turned a bright red.

The owner was using a cream the doctor had given her, but it wasn't helping much. She told me the doctor had also suggested steroid shots, but she had refused because she didn't want her pet to "become addicted and gain all that muscle."

Holding back a giggle, I assured her it was a different kind of steroid and would help her dog immensely. Two weeks later, the dog's skin was back to normal. — *Ginger*

Dear Ginger: We're envisioning a new canine superhero.

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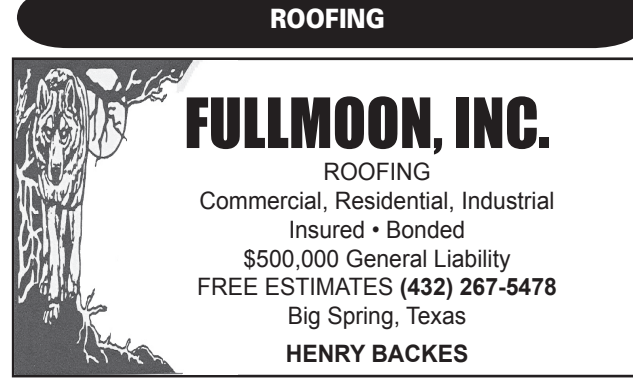


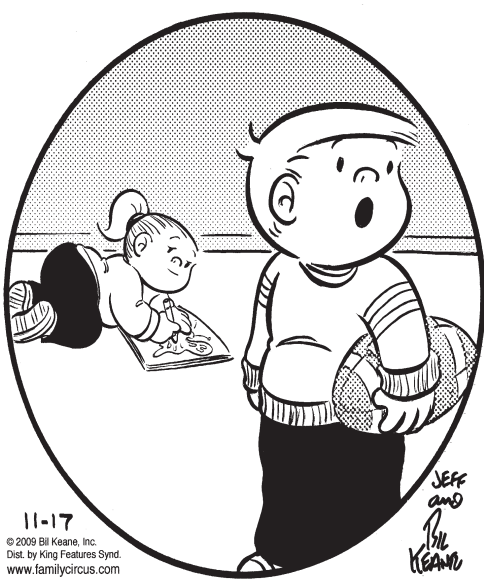
Table with 27 columns representing different stations and their programming schedules for the week of Nov 17, 2009.

DENNIS THE MENACE



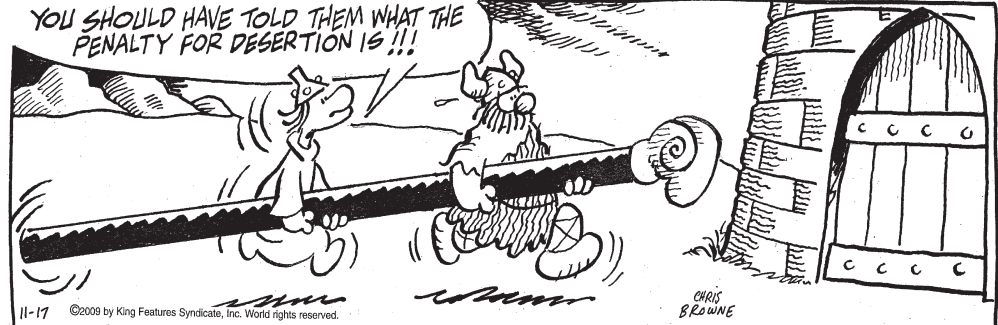
"ARE THOSE THE HILLS MY DAD SAID MR. WILSON IS RIDER THAN 2?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Dolly keeps humming 'Santa Claus is Comin' to Town' and we haven't even had Thanksgiving yet!"

HAGAR



YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD THEM WHAT THE PENALTY FOR DESERTION IS!!!

BLONDIE



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 17, the 321st day of 2009. There are 44 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

- On Nov. 17, 1800, Congress held its first session in Washington in the partially completed Capitol building.
In 1558, Elizabeth I acceded to the English throne upon the death of Queen Mary.
In 1869, the Suez Canal opened in Egypt.
In 1934, Lyndon Baines Johnson married Claudia Alta Taylor, better known as Lady Bird, in San Antonio.
In 1962, Washington's Dulles International Airport was dedicated by President John F. Kennedy.
In 1969, the first round of Strategic Arms Limitation Talks between the United States and the Soviet Union opened in Helsinki, Finland.
In 1970, the Soviet Union landed an unmanned, remote-

controlled vehicle on the moon, the Lunokhod 1.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon told Associated Press managing editors meeting in Orlando, Fla.: "People have got to know whether or not their president is a crook. Well, I'm not a crook."

In 1979, Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini ordered the release of 13 black and/or female American hostages being held at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

In 1987, a federal jury in Denver convicted two neo-Nazis and acquitted two others of civil rights violations in the 1984 slaying of radio talk show host Alan Berg.

In 1997, 62 people, most of them foreign tourists, were killed when militants opened fire at the Temple of Hatshepsut in Luxor, Egypt; the attackers were killed by police.

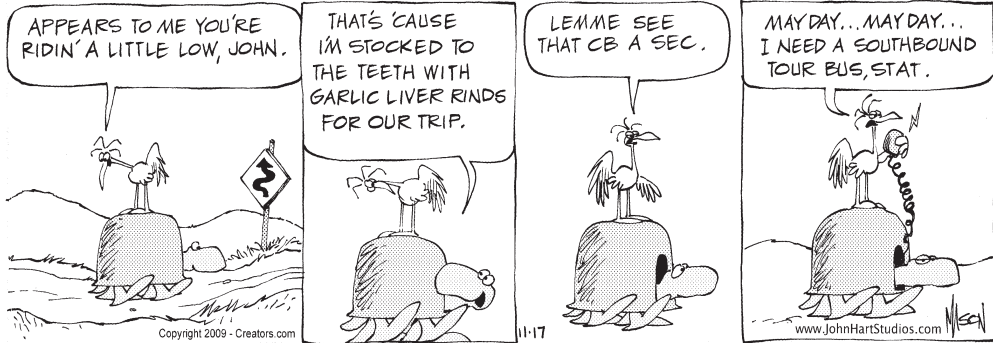
Today's Birthdays: Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., is 75. Rock musician Gerry McGee (The Ventures) is 72. Singer Gordon Lightfoot is 71. Singer-songwriter Bob Gaudio is 68. Movie director Martin Scorsese is 67. Actress Lauren Hutton is 66. Actor-director Danny DeVito is 65. "Saturday Night Live" producer Lorne Michaels

is 65. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Tom Seaver is 65. Movie director Roland Joffe is 64. Former Democratic National Chairman Howard Dean is 61. Actor Stephen Root is 58. Rock musician Jim Babjak (The Smithereens) is 52. Actress Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio is 51. Actor William Moses is 50. Entertainer RuPaul is 49. Actor Dylan Walsh is 46. U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice is 45. Actress Sophie Marceau is 43. Actress-model Daisy Fuentes is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ronnie DeVoe (New Edition; Bell Biv DeVoe) is 42. Rock musician Ben Wilson (Blues Traveler) is 42. Actor Leonard Roberts is 37.

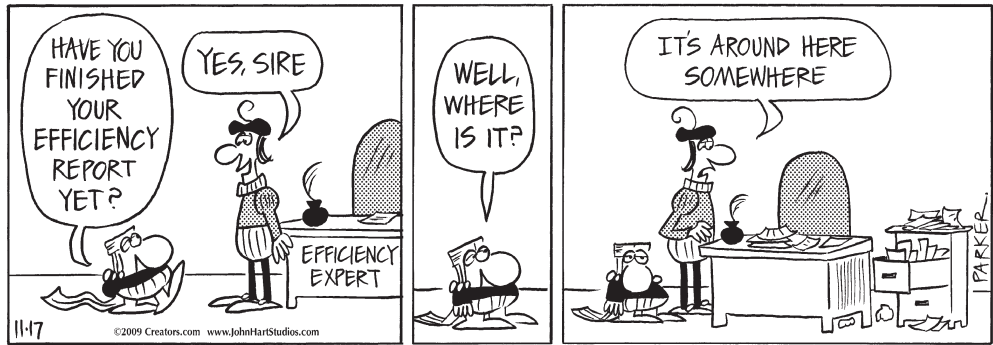
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Answer to previous puzzle: A crossword grid with words like FREER, MATH, ETCH, LEAVE, ARIA, MERE, EASEL, JEER, PEEL, EMERYBOARD, LUMP, OUR, ELOPES, OFFEND, STRAY, GLUM, SPAR, SMACK, RUMBA, ONE, TEXAN, EXERT, STEP, NERO, OMAHA, OUTSET, EGOISM, INN, REND, EMPTYWORDS, ANTE, BEES, IDEAL, STAR, ATOM, SOAMI, ESPY, SANE, ERRED.

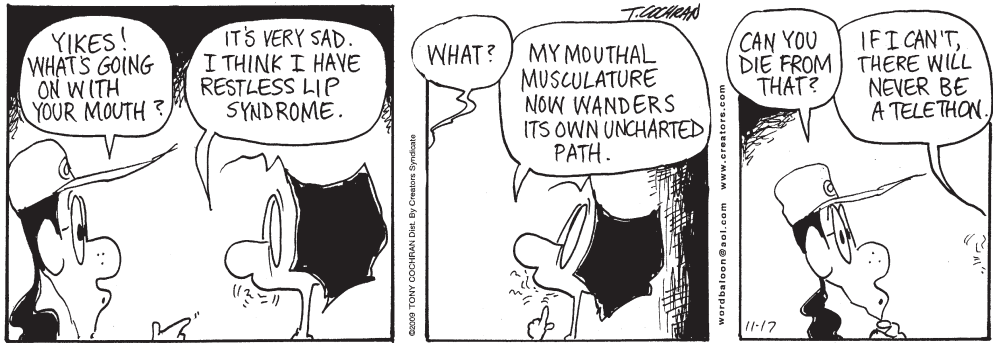
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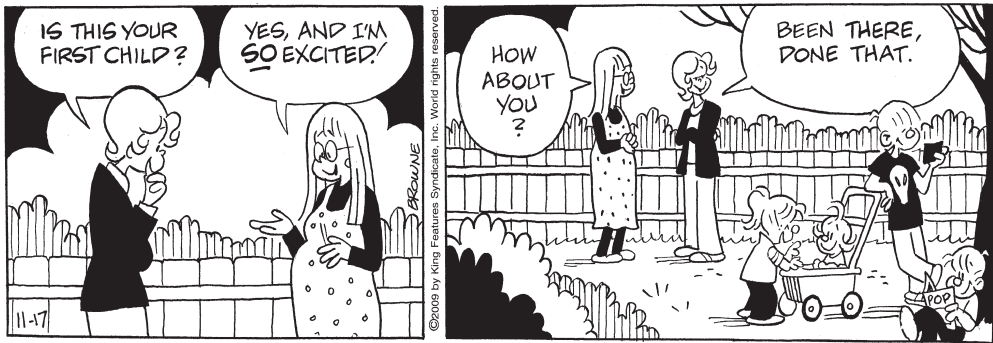
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AGNES



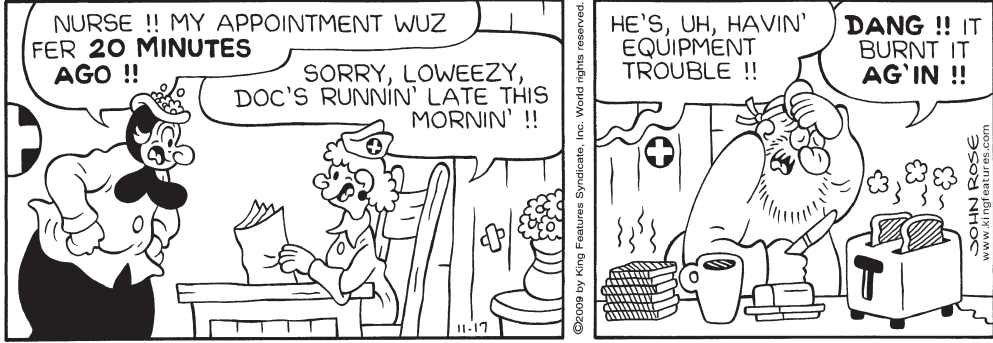
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



Newsday Crossword

SHAPE OF THINGS by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 Comical quality 6 Poisonous snakes 10 Church service 14 Have __ up one's sleeve 15 Flow slowly 16 Black-and-white cookie 17 Some soup beans 18 Actor Sharif 19 Close by 20 Where the President works 22 Sunrise direction 23 Big fuss 24 Disreputable 26 Seattle clock setting: Abbr. 29 Madrid Mrs. 31 Political argument 35 King Kong, for one 36 Gator kin 39 Store events 40 Prepare for trouble 44 Happen next 45 Fizzy drink 46 Approx. landing hour 47 More profound 49 UFO crew 51 Bashful 52 Pie edging 55 Snakelike fish 57 Computer input 60 Complete satisfactorily 65 Chess corner piece 66 Boat's exterior 67 Tire in the trunk 68 Penny-__ (small-time) 69 Life of Riley 70 Invite to enter 71 Stinging insects 72 RR depots 73 Garden invaders 8 War's opposite 9 Butter or cream cheese 10 Pouch brought to a bank 11 Region 12 Salty bodies of water 13 Separate into stacks 21 Coerce 25 Flat-topped elevation 26 Walked back and forth 27 Backbone 28 Not wordy 30 __ and crafts 32 Spiny houseplants 33 12, to 120 34 English-class assignment 37 Expression of surprise 38 Give up, as rights 41 Small frosted treats 42 Impolite look 43 Ocean contents 48 Goes quickly 50 Playground fixture 53 Crouch down 54 Oklahoma city 56 Run out, as a subscription 57 Dull-colored 58 Top-rated 59 Carryall 61 Stein fillers 62 Rouse from sleep 63 Like a desert 64 Hankerings

A crossword grid with numbered squares for the Newsday Crossword puzzle.

Ravens blank Browns; Lewis miffed at block

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Even after Baltimore had punished Brady Quinn, Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis got in one more vicious hit on Cleveland's quarterback.

Angered over Quinn's questionable chop block on Ravens linebacker Terrell Suggs following an interception, Lewis accused Quinn of a dirty play.

"Heck yeah it was a cheap shot," Lewis snapped after Baltimore rocked Cleveland 16-0. "When you're running down and you're looking at the quarterback going at somebody's knees who doesn't even have the ball. I want to see if he gets the same fine I got or even higher. Now this man is out four or five weeks because of some baloney like that."

For 30 minutes, the Ravens were inefficient, unproductive and disorganized.

In 17 seconds, they changed all that.

Ray Rice scored on a 13-yard run on Baltimore's first possession of the third quarter and safety Dawan Landry returned an interception of Quinn 48 yards for a touchdown on Cleveland's next play as the Ravens overcame a horrendous start and routed the hapless Browns.

The game also included two plays that could force the league to hand out fines, and it ended with Browns wide receiver Josh Cribbs being carried from the field on a stretcher following another nasty hit. He was taken to a hospital for tests. Cleveland coach Eric Mangini said Cribbs was transported as a precaution.

"He's got feeling and movement in all parts of his body," Mangini said.

The Ravens (5-4) didn't score in the opening half, when they used up their three timeouts in the first 6:15, committed silly penalties, converted just one third down and actually made the Browns (1-8) look respectable.

"I guess I agree it wasn't pretty," quarterback Joe Flacco said. "It was an ugly win, but that's the way some wins are in the NFL."

Following his second interception, Quinn dropped and rolled into Suggs' right knee, drawing a 15-yard penalty and incensing the Ravens.

Suggs limped to the locker room. It's not known how long he'll be out.

"That's an illegal blow," Lewis said. "I don't care how you want to look at it."

Quinn said he didn't hit Suggs intentionally.

"I was trying to go for the ball carrier," he said. "Suggs came across at the last second in my vision. I would never wish that upon anyone. I was upset about it on the field. We worked out in Arizona together. I couldn't be any more sorry about that. That was never the intent. I'm sorry to Terrell and the rest of their team."

Despite being down by 16, the Browns, who never crossed Baltimore's 45, were fighting for yards on the final play. Quinn threw short to Cribbs, who then



AP Photo/Mark Duncan

Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice (27) runs for eight years against the Cleveland Browns in the second quarter Monday in Cleveland.

lateraled to tight end Robert Royal. After he got rid of the ball, Cribbs got drilled in the chin by defensive end Dwan Edwards as the clock expired.

As Cribbs laid motionless in the middle of the field, players from both teams knelt in prayer. Royal said Cribbs was making jokes and moving his arms and legs.

Ravens defensive end Trevor Pryce questioned Mangini's motive in running a dangerous play.

"I didn't see it, but I heard it," he said of Edwards' hit on Cribbs. "With five seconds left in the game, and you're down 16-0, to throw a hook-and-lateral, what's the point of that? I'm not trying to question their coaching, it's none of my business. But you see what the result was."

"You do a hook-and-lateral play with a whole bunch of guys that are big and run fast, people are running around crazy and someone is going to get hurt."

Edwards said he wasn't trying to injure Cribbs and wasn't looking for retribution on Quinn for his hit on Suggs.

"I was just hustling to the ball," he said. "He had just pitched it and I reacted. It wasn't him that hit Suggs. I consider myself a hustle player and I tried to hustle and make a play — not let them get a score."

The first time Baltimore got the ball in the sec-

ond half, Flacco connected on a 41-yard pass to Derrick Mason, who spun out of cornerback Brandon McDonald's tackle and raced down the sideline to the Cleveland 13. Rice took it in from there to make it 7-0.

On the next snap, Quinn, making his first start since being pulled 10 quarters into the season by Mangini, threw high and wide to Royal and the ball bounced to Landry, who scampered in untouched to make it 13-0.

The Ravens missed the extra point, but that hardly mattered against a Cleveland offense that has scored only five offensive TDs in its past 15 games.

It was Baltimore's first shutout since Nov. 26, 2006, and it came at the perfect time for the Ravens, who had dropped four of five and were in danger of falling too far behind Cincinnati and Pittsburgh in the AFC North.

Pryce said the Ravens adjusted to Cleveland's no-huddle at halftime.

"You have to weather the storm when you're playing a team like Cleveland that has nothing to lose," Pryce said. "What they were doing was smart. They were running a no-huddle, quick substitution game plan. And that stuff messes with you badly. You waste more energy running on and off the field than you do in the game itself. That was the big thing we had to address in the second half."

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Mavs' Nowitzki hits fallaway for OT winner

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Dirk Nowitzki thought his shot was perfect when it left his hand.

He'll definitely take the lucky overtime bounce.

Nowitzki hit a fallaway 18-footer with a hand in his face as time expired to give the Dallas Mavericks a 115-113 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks on Monday night.

"I thought it was going straight in. The bounce was obviously lucky," said Nowitzki, who scored seven of his 32 points in overtime. "When it bounced up, it seemed like it was up there forever. We got a lucky bounce and we definitely needed it."

With 3.1 seconds left, Nowitzki caught a pass from Jason Kidd, who finished a point short of a triple-double, and threw it up over Luc Richard Mbah a Moute. The ball rattled off the rim and kissed the backboard, dropping softly through the hoop as the backboard lights came on.

"Great catch because they were both fighting," said Kidd, who had nine points, 10 rebounds and 17 assists. "(Dirk) made a heck of a catch and then from there he

does what he does, that's making baskets. He's been doing it for us all season and his whole career."

The play was upheld after a brief review.

"It was a tough shot. It went in and out and went back in," Mbah a Moute said. "It's tough, it's very tough. He's a good player. I probably should've tried harder to deny him the ball, but they just throw it up and he's 7-foot."

Nowitzki, who also had 11 rebounds, untucked his jersey and celebrated with his teammates near the Mavericks' bench after the shot went in. He jumped into Jose Barea and was immediately tackled by Kidd as Dallas finished a 3-1 road trip with a pileup.

"He got up a shot and we got a fortunate bounce," coach Rick Carlisle said. "We feel fortunate. We played hard enough to deserve the game and they did to. It's a great win for us and a tough loss for them."

Bucks rookie Brandon Jennings had 25 points, seven rebounds and eight assists in his first game since scoring 55 against the Warriors on Saturday night. But it wasn't enough to extend Milwaukee's winning

streak to five.

The short-handed Mavericks lost forward Shawn Marion to a sprained left ankle in the second quarter. Owner Mark Cuban said Marion is day to day, but should be fine.

Drew Gooden had 22 points and 14 rebounds again playing in place of center Erick Dampier.

Trailing by 18 midway through the third, the Bucks cut it to 85-82 on Jennings' 3 just before time expired in the period.

Jennings' underhand runner gave the Bucks a 104-102 lead, but Jason Terry tied it with a jumper with 32 seconds left. Luke Ridnour and Jennings both missed shots for Milwaukee that would've won it in regulation.

Jennings said he didn't see Ersan Ilyasova open in the corner.

"I wanted the ball at the last second," Jennings said. "I didn't know Ersan's man had doubled me. When I looked back at the tape I saw he was wide open for the jump shot. It's something I'm going to learn from. It's a long season."

Ilyasova finished with 19 points, Ridnour added 17 and Andrew Bogut and Mbah a Moute each



AP Photo/Morry Gash

Dallas Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki reacts after making the game-winning shot during overtime against the Milwaukee Bucks on Monday in Milwaukee. The Mavericks won 115-113.

had 13 for the Bucks.

Dampier was hospitalized after warmups ahead of Sunday night's 95-90 victory in Detroit, but the Mavericks have said little about it beyond he wasn't feeling well. Carlisle didn't elaborate before the game, but said Dampier was flying to Milwaukee and rejoining the team in time to fly home on the Mavericks' charter flight.

That flight back to Dallas is certain to be celebratory now.

"It'll be great," Kidd said. "This is a big win. ... We've given some away and tonight, it was kind of looking like that, but we stayed involved and made some plays down the stretch."

NOTES: Jennings' 55-point effort on Saturday night made him the youngest player to score 50 or more in

NBA history at 20 years, 52 days. LeBron James is second at 20 years, 80 days. ... Cuban spoke at an event for Milwaukee business leaders. He said he appreciated the Bucks for trading his franchise the rights to Nowitzki, selected ninth in 1998, and Pat Garrity for Robert "Tractor" Traylor, who was picked sixth. Traylor played two forgettable years in Milwaukee.

TCU same as teams ahead of them after big win: Still undefeated

Associated Press

FORT WORTH — TCU has easily proven itself as the best in the Mountain West with lopsided victories over the league's other Top 25 teams — at BYU and now Utah, last year's BCS buster.

The No. 4 Horned Frogs are 10-0 for only the second time since their undefeated 1938 national championship team led by Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Davey O'Brien. And they have likely overcome the last significant hurdle to their first perfect regular season since that title seven decades ago by dismantling Utah 55-28.

"We've got a chance to be special," coach Gary

Patterson said Sunday, again reminding everyone that there are two regular season games left. "It's hard to be perfect."

So far, the Frogs (10-0, 6-0 MWC) still are and stayed No. 4 in both the Bowl Championship Series standings and the Associated Press poll Sunday.

But how do they stack up against those other perfect teams ahead of them? That trio of Florida, Alabama and Texas.

"Right now, the same. We're undefeated," Patterson said before getting diplomatic minutes after the Utah game Saturday night. "You're not going to get me in to that one. I may end up playing one, so we'll just leave it how it is. But it's a good question."

While Patterson's tone didn't change the day after the game, Utah coach Kyle Whittingham was a bit more blunt in his assessment of TCU.

"That's the best team I've faced," Whittingham said after the Utes (8-2, 5-1) gave up their most points since 1990, then slipped seven spots to 23rd in the AP poll. "They are a solid team from top to bottom. ... They were who we thought they were."

Even without guaranteed access to the Bowl Championship Series, the Frogs have upped the ante. They have a legitimate chance to be the first team from a conference without an automatic BCS bid to play for the national title — if Texas and/or the SEC teams slip up.

If Texas beats Kansas, McCoy would set an NCAA record for wins by a starting quarterback. He and former Georgia quarterback David Greene are tied at 42.

Vince Young led Texas to the 2005 title. McCoy's resume, although impressive, includes the late-season collapses and near misses.

"My goal is to win a championship," McCoy said.

Brown also said that suspended kick returner D.J. Monroe will practice with the team but remains suspended indefinitely after his drunken driving arrest south of Austin early Sunday.

Brown said Monroe twice told Texas coaches and staff between 11 p.m. and midnight that he was in his room, but that he later went out.

"He was out past curfew," Brown said. "We've told them all: You stay in, you act right, you do the things you're supposed to or you're held accountable."

LONGHORNS

Continued from Page 8

That went to Oklahoma, a team Texas beat on the field.

Texas players believe that if they remain undefeated — which would mean division and league championships — they will play for the national crown.

"I've never won a championship in my life," senior defensive tackle Lamarr Houston said. "I would like to win one."

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