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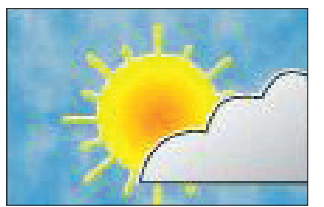
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THE BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 18, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 299

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Robberies mount



Video courtesy of Big Spring Police Department

A robbery suspect, left, armed with a knife, demands money from a clerk at the Star Stop located in the 4800 block of W. Highway 80 during a botched robbery Nov. 11. This suspect is just one of several local law enforcement officials are trying to track down in connection with the rash of aggravated robberies in Big Spring since Oct. 31.

At least four suspects sought in nearly a dozen cases, police say

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Any hopes the recent rash of aggravated robberies in the Crossroads area would slow down going into the holiday season appear to be dashed, with nearly a dozen reports since the end of October. The most recent additions to the maelstrom came Monday evening, reported in the 1200 block of Stanford at 8:14 p.m., followed by a pair of aggravated robberies, the first reported 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. And while police investigators are hesitant to label the report from the 1200 block of Stanford a robbery until more information is gathered, Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer for the Big Spring Police Department, said the other two cases are obviously aggravated robberies. “The suspect that committed the robbery at Zoom Grocery is believed to be a white male,

See **ROBBERY**, Page 3A

CISD upgrades: What to do next?

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

COAHOMA — Even as Coahoma Independent School District officials look forward to completion of construction work on their campuses, they are also thinking about what will come next. When school trustees hold their monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, they not only will get an update on existing projects, but will begin making plans for future improvements. The two-year, district-wide renovation project is nearing completion, with only a few

individual tasks remaining, Superintendent Randy Brown said. The biggest job still remaining is demolition of a classroom wing at the north side of the high school, then the construction of parking lots at both the high school and junior high. When the overall project is completed, officials will look for ways to best maintain and add on to those improvements. “As the project finishes up, in January and February a committee will get together and decide what are most

See **CISD**, Page 3A

HC to host free Christmas concert, ‘sneak peek’ at spring performance

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

The Howard College Music Department wants to get you in the mood for the holidays. The department’s instrumental and vocal ensembles will host a holiday-themed concert at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the Hall Center for the Arts. Admission is free. Aside from Christmas music, the concert will feature popular music from the 1940s to the present, organizers said. “We will have traditional Christmas music as well as a kind of ‘sneak peek’ at our spring show,” said Eddie Vandewalker, associate professor of music at HC. “We’ve got a whole new department and this will provide a short look at what’s to come.” Vandewalker, in his first year as director of the music program at Howard, said officials were reworking the department. “We’re looking for something new, fresh

What: Howard College holiday concert.
Where: Hall Center for the Arts on campus.
When: 6:30 p.m. Thursday.
Admission: Free.

and exciting to be the face of the college,” he said, explaining the reason for revamping the department. “We have put together a great concert for our community with a wide variety of music and we are excited about the performance,” Vandewalker said. “The students have put in a tremendous amount of work while preparing for this and I’m certain the audience will have a great time.” For more information, call the music department at 264-5145.

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

Heflin presented TORCH Award

Special to the Herald

State Rep. Joe Heflin of Crosbyton was presented today with the Texas Rural Health TORCHbearer Award by the Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals. Heflin was recognized for his efforts in the 81st session of the Texas Legislature in support of rural hospitals and working to improve access to health care for rural Texans. The award ceremony was held



Heflin

at Covenant Hospital in Plainview, one of the rural hospitals in the House District 85 which is represented by Heflin. The Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals, also known as TORCH, represents more than 150 rural hospitals, including those in Heflin’s district. According to TORCH President and CEO David Pearson, “Rep.

Heflin is one of a few state lawmakers who went well beyond the call of duty to help rural hospitals and pressed for enhanced health care in rural areas.” Heflin is credited with working in several areas, including pushing for programs to bring more doctors to rural Texas and trying to shelter rural hospitals from regulations that could add unnecessary costs for

See **HEFLIN**, Page 3A

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Look For The
Holiday Recipe Guide

In Sunday, November 22nd
Edition Of The Big Spring Herald

Steers, Lady Steers sweep in Fort Stockton

Herald Staff Report

FORT STOCKTON — The Big Spring Steers began their season in Fort Stockton with a bang Tuesday night.

The Steers outlasted Fort Stockton 76-72 in a double overtime thriller for their first victory of the season.

Big Spring (1-0) had built an early lead into a 10-point advantage in the second half, but the Panthers stormed back midway through the third quarter. From then on, no team led by more than five points.

“They played the whole time,” head coach Marcus Morris said. “There was some adversity, some calls that didn’t go our way, but they played through it.”

In the first overtime, the Panthers held a five-point advantage with 45 seconds left, but the Steers were able to force turnovers and climb back to a tie. They won it with free throws in the second overtime, Morris said.

“We didn’t give up,” he said. “We were down five points at one time and we could have just hung our heads, but we had a full court trap, the kids

got in the passing lanes and they were battling to make plays, and they didn’t want to lose.”

The Steers avenged a 76-61 loss last year at Steer Gym.

“It’s a big confidence boost,” Morris said. Last year left a bad taste in our mouth, and we wanted to go ahead and reverse the tables on them.”

Senior point guard Jerrell Williams led the team with 23 points, though he fouled out in the fourth quarter. Jacob Falcon put in 18, and Daniel Segundo made the third Steer in double figures with 15.

Lady Steers 58, Lady Panthers 38
FORT STOCKTON — The Lady Steers seem to be finding their offensive groove.

Sophomore Cerbi Ritchey scored 13 points, senior Linzee Yarbar added 12 and Valerie Ross scored 10 points in her season debut as Big Spring earned its first victory of the season in Fort Stockton on Tuesday night.

“I thought we played good defense, we got turnovers and scored in transition, and we got some fast break

See **BIG SPRING**, Page 2B



AP Photo via Austin American Statesman/Jay Janner

Hundreds attend a candlelight vigil at 2:42 a.m. Wednesday, the exact time of the 10th anniversary of the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse at the Aggie Bonfire Memorial on the Texas A&M campus in College Station.

Aggies remember bonfire collapse

Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION — A somber candlelight vigil marked by both silence and song commemorated the 10th anniversary early Wednesday of a bonfire collapse that killed 12 people at Texas A&M University.

More than 3,000 people cupping candles that flickered in the cold morning air gathered at the collapse site on campus at 2:42 a.m. — the exact time of the Nov. 18, 1999 accident that also injured 27 people.

Current and former students, victims’ families and others filled the grassy hills where a concrete and metal circular memorial now stands. The 30-minute event was somber but also musical as long stretches of silence were mixed with the crowd singing “Amazing Grace” and school songs such as “The Spirit of Aggieland.”

Freshman Andrea Cobb, 19, said it was important for her to take part even though she didn’t know the victims. She was only

nine when the collapse happened, but said she still feels the loss as part of the Aggie family.

“We don’t know them. But it’s important to remember them,” she said.

Students and others were building the 59-foot tower of 5,000 logs as part of an annual football season tradition. The bonfire was held on the eve of the game against the school’s archrival, the University of Texas, and attracted as many as 70,000 people.

The tradition ended after the accident.

The vigil came a few hours after about 4,000 people attended a ceremony Tuesday evening at the school’s basketball arena.

Jerry Ebanks, whose 19-year-old son Michael died in the collapse, said Tuesday he was grateful that Aggies still remember those who were killed.

“We remember Michael. All our friends remember Michael. It’s very heartwarming to know the entire Aggie community will do that also,” Ebanks said of his

son, who was from the Dallas area. “It helps us adjust to the loss.”

The annual bonfire, which began in 1909, was the ultimate tradition for many people on Texas A&M’s 5,200-acre campus in College Station, about 100 miles northwest of Houston.

A commission that investigated the collapse found that students had been cutting corners in construction for years and school officials had failed to adequately supervise them. No single person or group was blamed for the accident.

Many Aggies, including Texas Gov. Rick Perry, would like the bonfire tradition to resume. But others question whether such traditions, tied to the school’s military and rural roots, have a place at the school as it works to develop a national reputation as a university that values diversity, research and academic achievement.

An off-campus bonfire not affiliated with the school has been held each year since 2002.

Forsan splits road contest in Grady

Herald Staff Report

GRADY — Forsan Buffaloes fans in Grady on Tuesday night saw a lot of new faces.

A new coach and four new starters kicked off a new season with a 46-31 loss on the road for the Buffs, but head coach Bradley Batla said he saw some good things from his young squad.

“It was kind of what I expected because we’re so young,” he said. “We got after them, but they made some big shots. I was happy with the effort part of it, so that’s something to build off of.”

Grady’s Dylan Cox scored 19 points in the game, including four three-pointers. Jonathan Wiebe was the other Wildcat in double figures with 10.

Mike Hill led the Buffs with 10 points in eight minutes. Evan Burton, the team’s lone returning starter, scored nine points, grabbed 11 rebounds and made three blocks in the losing effort.

“The kids got after it,” said Batla, who takes over the varsity after coaching a junior varsity team that lost four games in the past three years. “I knew they would, but because we’re so young I didn’t know how we were going to score and we knew that was the problem. We’re on the right track though.”

Batla said his team is rebuilding now, but he’s confident they will be

fine down the road.

“I’m up for the challenge and I think the kids are,” he said. “They were down about the loss, and I told them, ‘Keep your heads in there and build off the good things we did, and fix the bad things.’ We’ll be fine.”

The Buffs return home to play Robert Lee on Friday. Tipoff is at 8 p.m.

Lady Buffs 40, Grady 31

GRADY — The Forsan Lady Buffaloes started the game hot and then went cold, but they pulled out a nine-point victory over Grady Tuesday on the road for their third victory of the season.

The Lady Buffs started the game on a 10-0 run and looked like they were going to take an easy win. The Lady Wildcats came storming back in the second quarter and took the lead from Forsan, forcing the team to bear down.

Head coach Robert Hillger said it wasn’t pretty, but he was happy with the way his team stuck it out.

“We didn’t block out very good and we made some fundamental mistakes,” Hillger said, “but we’ve got some stick-to-it-ness that I really like. I got a bunch of kids who can really play. We just have to get everybody on the same page, fix mental mistakes and make sure we’re all there together.”

See **FORSAN**, Page 2B

Royals’ Greinke shyly nabs Cy Young after dominant ’09 season

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Zack Greinke fidgeted a bit and spoke softly.

Winning the Cy Young Award brought up a whole lot of unwanted attention.

“A lot of stuff going on today when I usually just like doing nothing,” he said. “But just part of life.”

The Kansas City Royals ace easily beat out Felix Hernandez for the

honor Tuesday after a spectacular season short on wins but long on domination. Winning left the extremely shy Greinke with mixed emotions as he spoke from a studio in Florida during a series of conference calls and a video link.

“Back in Orlando, I haven’t really got a whole lot of attention from people, which has been nice,” he said. “So I hope it doesn’t get that way, where everyone is like, ‘Oh, hey, Zack, hi.’”

He’d prefer to remain anonymous when he’s not on the mound. He’s not looking forward to being introduced at banquets as “Cy Young Award winner Zack Greinke” for the rest of his life.

“In that way, it’s kind of like a negative for me,” he said.

It’s been quite a turnaround for Greinke, who led the AL in losses in 2005 and quit baseball for six weeks the following year after being diag-

nosed with a social anxiety disorder.

Greinke went 16-8 with a major league-low 2.16 ERA this season and received 25 of 28 first-place votes and three seconds for 134 points in balloting by the Baseball Writers’ Association of America.

Hernandez, 19-5 with a 2.49 ERA for the Seattle Mariners, drew two firsts, 23 seconds and one third for 80

See **GREINKE**, Page 2B

Sports in brief

Former Big Spring standout named All-Lone Star Conference

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

Piercefield 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. Piercefield is a manufacturing engineering technology major. He was named an all-district tight end and defensive end while at Big Spring High School.

Seven Lady Steers earn all-district volleyball honors

All district 4-4A volleyball teams were announced Wednesday, and the Big Spring Lady Steers were well represented.

Sophomores Bridgette Tuitt and Cerbi Ritchey earned first-team all-district honors. Juniors Valerie Ross and Desiree Anderson, as well as senior Callie Shaffer earned second-team all district, and Sloan Davis and Taylor Seaton both garnered honorable mention honors.

Ritchey and Seaton earned academic all-district. The Lady Steers made their second straight play-off appearance this season and finished 11-25.

Garden City girls hoops defeats Stanton

GARDEN CITY — The Garden City Lady Bearkats held Stanton to single digits in all four quarters as they defeated the Bulldogs 37-32 in Garden City.

Morgan Schwartz led the Lady Bearkats with nine points. She hit two three-pointers in the game.

Stanton will travel to Crane Saturday at 2:30 p.m. Garden City will play Coahoma at home at 2 p.m.

Hole-in-one reported

Blake Thomas aced hole No. 11 at Comanche Trail Golf Course on Saturday with an eight-iron. It was witnessed by his father.

Obituaries

Dorothy E. Wise

Dorothy E. Wise, 89, of Granbury, formerly of Big Spring died Monday, Nov. 16, 2009, in a San Marcos nursing home. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009, at the Nalley-Pickle and Welch Rosewood Chapel in Big Spring with the Rev. Chris Johnson, pastor of First Baptist Church in Ozona, officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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

She was born April 25, 1920, in Utopia and married Willard Wise in June 1936 in Leakey. He preceded her in death June 23, 2001.

Dorothy was a longtime resident of Big Spring and had worked as an aide at the Big Spring State Hospital for 20 years, retiring in 1974. She was a Baptist.

Survivors include seven daughters, Margie Ross of Granbury, Edith Adams and husband, Doug, of Junction, Georgia Moose of Odessa, Ginger Rowan and husband, Hank, of Anchorage, Alaska, Beth Karras of Norwood, Penn., Patricia Roten and husband, Robert, of San Marcos, and Barbara Myers and husband, Ray, of Ozona; one son, W.L. Wise Jr. and wife, Renate, of Round Rock; one sister, Virginia Brown of Pearsall; 16 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by a son-in-law, Scott Ross; four brothers, John, Billy, Jack and Wayland Wallis; and one sister, Ruth Smith.

The family suggests memorials be made to a favorite charity.

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

Myrtle Walker

Myrtle Walker, 98, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2009, in a local nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Take Note

• T&P Federal Credit Union has set up an account for Arthur Hernandez Jr. for medical expenses. Arthur has had numerous medical problems the past couple of years. He has had several surgeries on his stomach, the last one a few weeks ago. After the surgery he developed a staph infection. He is still in the hospital. The out-of-pocket expenses, the travel and expenses for his wife and many other numerous expenses are mounting up. Please help Arthur and his wife Melinda in this difficult time and make a much-needed donation.

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

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

• Scenic Mountain Medical Center's Relay for Life team is selling cookbooks to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. The cookbooks can be purchased at the PBX operator's booth for \$10 apiece. For more information, contact Beverly Grant at 268-4952.

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

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

Police blotter

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

- ERIC RANGEL, 30, of 503 S. Goliad, was arrested Tuesday on charges of driving while license suspended/invalid and no insurance.
- OSCAR SOLIS, 48, of 1606 Canary, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant from another agency.
- RICARDO CASTILLO, 31, of 801 E. 14th St., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of burglary of a vehicle.
- THEFT was reported: in the 200 block of FM 700. in the 1500 block of FM 700. in the 100 block of 13th Street. In the 1700 block of FM 700. in the 1700 block of FM 700.
- TERRORISTIC THREAT was reported in the 1300 block of Tucson.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 100 block of 13th Street.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 81 inmates at the time of this report.

- SPENCER BRIGGS, 19, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of criminal trespass and consumption of alcohol by a minor.
- RICARDO CASTILLO, 31, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of burglary of a vehicle.
- MICKEY AUBRY EMERSON, 47, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated — third or more offense.

• CALVIN AUSTIN GARVIN, 19, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of criminal trespass and consumption of alcohol by a minor.

• KY HOFACKET, 20, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of criminal trespass and consumption of alcohol by a minor.

• CARLTON THOMAS JOHNSTON, 18, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of criminal trespass and consumption of alcohol by a minor.

• JOSEPH ANDREW MACKEY, 19, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of criminal trespass and consumption of alcohol by a minor.

• ELIUD RAMOS, 33, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated — second offense.

• ERIC MIGUEL RANGEL, 31, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• OSCAR SOLIS, 48, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a parole revocation for violation of parole.

• FRANCISCO VEGA, 35, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on a charge of driving while license invalid and failure to appear charges for assault — family violence, failure to appear and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Highway 350. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the area of Highland Cove. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 7100 block of Todd Road. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 200 block of Sandlin. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

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

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

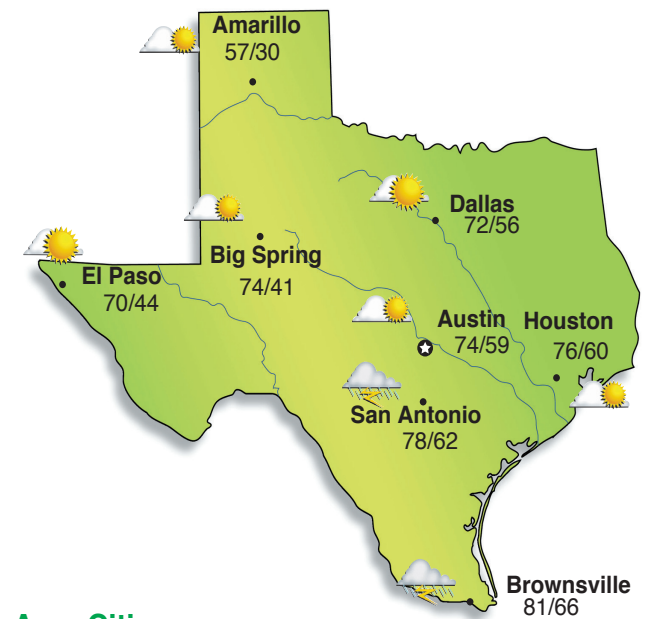
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Thu 11/19	Fri 11/20	Sat 11/21	Sun 11/22	Mon 11/23
74/41 Partly cloudy skies. High 74F. Winds W at 5 to 10 mph.	64/35 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	68/43 Sunny. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 40s.	73/45 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 40s.	70/35 Sunny. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 30s.
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	Sunrise: 7:22 AM Sunset: 5:42 PM

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Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abiene	71	45	mst sunny	Kingsville	82	65	t-storm
Amarillo	57	30	pt sunny	Livingston	75	54	mst sunny
Austin	74	59	pt sunny	Longview	72	53	mst sunny
Beaumont	74	55	mst sunny	Lubbock	69	34	mst sunny
Brownsville	81	66	t-storm	Lufkin	73	54	mst sunny
Brownwood	74	52	mst sunny	Midland	77	42	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	79	67	t-storm	Raymondville	82	65	t-storm
Corsicana	72	55	mst sunny	Rosenberg	76	61	pt sunny
Dallas	72	56	mst sunny	San Antonio	78	62	t-storm
Del Rio	74	58	pt sunny	San Marcos	75	59	t-storm
El Paso	70	44	mst sunny	Sulphur Springs	72	55	mst sunny
Fort Stockton	76	47	pt sunny	Sweetwater	72	44	mst sunny
Gainesville	70	52	mst sunny	Tyler	72	53	mst sunny
Greenville	70	53	mst sunny	Weatherford	71	51	mst sunny
Houston	76	60	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	69	42	mst sunny

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Lottery

The winning numbers in Tuesday evening's drawing of the "Mega Millions" game were: 08-22-27-49-50, Mega Ball: 28

The winning numbers in Tuesday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Daily 4 Night" game were: 7-2-1-8

The winning numbers in Tuesday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Cash 5" game were: 03-06-18-32-36

The winning numbers in Tuesday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Pick 3 Night" game were: 6-5-9

BIG SPRING HERALD

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The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811
BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$8.85 monthly; \$95.58 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$14.58 monthly Howard; \$18.33 elsewhere.

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No politicking planned by TCU's Patterson

Associated Press

FORT WORTH—TCU coach Gary Patterson has no plans to lobby for votes and a spot in the national championship game if his team ends the regular season undefeated.

Patterson believes that all the fourth-ranked Horned Frogs (10-0, 6-0 Mountain West) can do to prove themselves is play well.

If that's not enough, he figures campaigning won't really change anything.

"Do you think it would do me good to politick to play for a national championship?"

Patterson said Tuesday. "All I can do to change people's minds is the play on the field."

That has been Patterson's stance throughout his nine seasons as TCU's coach.

But the Frogs have reached new heights this year.

TCU is fourth in the Bowl Championship Series standings, higher than any team from a conference without an automatic bid has ever been this late in a season.

The Frogs trail only Florida, Alabama and Texas — the trio from which the national championship matchup most

likely will be set if the Gators or Crimson Tide are still undefeated after they play each other in the SEC championship game and the Longhorns don't slip up in the Big 12.

Patterson still isn't an advocate for a playoff system despite the uncertainty of a title shot for his Frogs, who are coming off a 55-27 victory over No. 23 Utah, last year's BCS buster and the only outsider to play twice in the big-money games.

"All those people that you're talking about started at the top. You have to give them credit, give them the respect

of what they've been able to do up until this point," Patterson said. "For us, you have some conversations if somebody slips up."

And, of course, the Frogs win their last two games.

Florida, Alabama and Texas all began the season ranked in the top five of the AP poll. TCU, which ended last season seventh, began this year 10 points lower and has made a steady climb into contention.

Now the Frogs need only wins Saturday at Wyoming (5-5) and then the following weekend at home against winless New Mexico to complete

their first undefeated regular season since 1938, when they won their only national championship and Heisman Trophy winner Davey O'Brien was the quarterback.

"We've got quite a task at hand this week, just because of playing a team that also has a chance to be bowl eligible. So for us, we just need to keep minding our own business," Patterson said.

"Playing at home (to end the regular season), if you could get by this ball game, then I think you can start letting your mind think a little bit more."

BIG SPRING

Continued from 1B

points so that helped us," head coach Mike Warren said.

The team also made 11 free throws, which helped the Lady Steers down the stretch.

"They were excited, Warren said. "We tried to stress defense this week, and we shot better from the free throw line. So that helped."

Warren said Ross' return was a big plus. The team will be at full strength Tuesday when

Bridgette Tuitt returns, he said, one of the team's leading scorers from a year ago.

Every Lady Steer saw the court Tuesday night. Warren said he's getting different rotations in the game to keep the players fresh. He said the win is a big boost for his young team.

"It gives confidence to these girls that they can do it," Warren said. "They're still young — we have mainly juniors and sophomores so they're day to day, but this will give us a shot in the arm."

Warren hopes the victory

gives the team some momentum heading to Lamesa on Friday, where the Lady Steers lost last season.

"We're hoping to get them back Friday," Warren said.

Big Spring 76, Ft. Stockton 72, 2OT
BS - 17 13 12 16 18 - 76
FS - 17 14 7 19 15 - 72

BS - Daniel Segundo 15, Marc Segundo 5, Tristian Clay 4, Jerrell Williams 23, Jacob Falcon 18, Seth Pearson 4, Chris Turner 2

FS - Galvan 2, Cantu 29, Mesa 4, Gossett 13, Martinez 10, Howard 2, Milam 5

FORSAN

Continued from 1B

Hillger said he liked the way his team rebounded after losing the lead.

"We settled down, we executed when we needed to, but we've got to be more consistent with that," he said. "If we are more consistent, we'll be fine."

Three Lady Buffs finished in double figures. Hillger admits that he

doesn't have one go-to scorer but uses a group approach.

"It really is a collective effort of about three or four girls that are pretty consistent for us," Hillger said. "We're athletic enough that we can move it around and get a shot that we want to get. Now sometimes we don't do that, but it will come."

The girls will take on Robert Lee in Forsan Friday at 6:30 p.m.

GREINKE

Continued from 1B

points.

"I didn't expect this outcome that heavily favored Greinke. Nonetheless, I feel good because I know that I had a good season," Hernandez said in Maracaibo, Venezuela. "There are many good pitchers. I don't think I'm the best, but I'm one of the best."

Detroit's Justin Verlander

was third with the remaining first-place vote and 14 points, followed by the Yankees' CC Sabathia (13) and Toronto's Roy Halladay (11).

The NL winner will be announced Thursday.

Even before winning, this was sure to be a big week for Greinke. He is getting married on Saturday to high school girlfriend Emily Kuchar, a former Dallas Cowboys cheerleader, and then is heading to Hawaii for

a three-week honeymoon.

The 26-year-old right-hander was the sixth overall pick in the 2002 amateur draft. He made his major league debut in 2004 and got hit hard the next year. After leaving spring training in February 2006 to combat his anxiety, he worked his way back to the majors by late September.

Greinke was 7-7 the following year and 13-10 in 2008 before his breakout season. His ERA was the lowest in the

AL since Pedro Martinez's 1.74 ERA in 2000, and his 242 strikeouts were second in the league behind Verlander.

Steve Carlton was the only Cy Young Award winner who pitched for a club that was worse. The Hall of Fame lefty was 27-10 with a 1.97 ERA for the 1972 Philadelphia Phillies, who went 59-97.

Kansas City, which tied for last place in the AL Central at 65-97, scored just 13 runs in Greinke's eight losses and 21

runs in his nine no-decisions. He failed to get a victory in six starts in which he allowed one run or none.

Despite what he's overcome, Greinke doesn't view himself as a role model.

"I really don't like having a bunch of attention, so even if I did see myself in that light, I don't do anything about it," he said. "I'm real uncomfortable doing stuff like that, to be around people and doing stuff like that," he said.

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Shuttle nears space station, looks 'beautiful'

MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Space shuttle Atlantis closed in on the International Space Station on Wednesday for a high-flying linkup and supply drop.

Astronaut Nicole Stott, a space station resident for the past 2½ months, was thrilled to see her ride home. She spotted Atlantis from three miles out, a couple hours before its scheduled late morning arrival.

"I have my ticket all ready and stamped, waiting for you guys when you get here," Stott radioed to shuttle commander Charles Hobaugh.

"Who is this?" Hobaugh teased. "It's your favorite passenger,"

she replied. "You look beautiful out there."

Just before docking, Hobaugh was going to guide Atlantis through a pirouette for the space station cameras, for a final check to make sure there's no damage to the thermal tiles on its belly.

NASA says so far, all indications are that the shuttle made it through Monday's liftoff just fine. The astronauts surveyed their ship Tuesday for any signs of launch damage. A quick look at the laser images shows everything in good shape. Experts will continue to analyze the data, as well as all the photos that will be taken of Atlantis before it docks.

Atlantis will remain at the orbiting outpost for a week, enough

time for the two crews to unload nearly 15 tons of spare parts.

The six astronauts on the shuttle and six on the station will make for one big crowd.

"We're crashing the party," Hobaugh called out as the shuttle drew to within a mile.

Atlantis is loaded with pumps, tanks, gyroscopes and other huge spare parts for the orbiting outpost, as well as some small, fragile science experiments. Perhaps the most delicate of all are four butterfly larvae, a student experiment. The plan is for the larvae to develop into Painted Lady butterflies over the next week or two and return on the next shuttle flight in February.

NJ POLICE:

Driver texting about drug deal hits biker

MEDFORD, N.J. (AP) — Police say a man who drove his car into a New Jersey cyclist had been sending a text message about a drug deal.

Authorities say 42-year-old Lisa Granert of Cherry Hill was riding her bike and wearing a reflective vest in Medford after 6 p.m. Monday night.

Police say 28-year-old Robert Sharrer of Pemberton told them he was texting when his vehicle drifted onto the shoulder and crashed into Granert. Police say she suffered head injuries and was flown to a trauma unit. She was in stable condition Tuesday.

Police say Sharrer's text was about a drug deal. Authorities say they found unauthorized prescription drugs in Sharrer's car and charged him with drug possession. They say he'll also be charged in the collision.

ROBBERY

Continued from Page 1A

approximately 5 feet, 9 inches tall with a slender build," said Everett. "He was wearing a light-colored hoodie under a black jacket, with black pants, gloves and a black face mask. He pointed a handgun at the clerk and demanded money, then fled the scene on foot."

Everett said no injuries were reported as a result of the robbery.

"The second robbery Monday night took place at a residence in the 2300 block of Old Highway 80," said Everett. "The suspect is believed to be a Hispanic male, approximately 30 years old, between 5 feet, 6 inches and 5 feet, 8 inches tall. He is heavy set with a goatee, wearing a blue jacket, jeans and tennis shoes."

"The suspect knocked on the victim's door and claimed he was having car problems and needed to use a telephone. The victim turned to get the telephone and the suspect put a handgun to his chest and demanded money. The suspect fled the scene on foot."

The incidents Monday join a long list of open robbery cases in Big Spring, according to Everett, including the following:

• November 14, 1100 block of N. Lamesa (Kates Fina Mart). Suspect believed to be a white male, between 5 feet, 9 inches and 5 feet, 10 inches tall, slender build, wearing a dark hoodie, black mask, possibly holding a handgun underneath a sock. Suspect fled the business on foot.

• November 13, 11:40 p.m., 2900 block of E. Interstate Highway 20 (Camlot Inn). Suspect believed to be male, 5 feet, 6 inches tall, 160 pounds, in his mid-20s to mid-30s, wearing a white T-shirt. The suspect knocked on the victims' hotel room door and pointed a handgun at them, demanding money. The suspect is believed to have fled on foot.

• November 13, 600 block of W. Interstate Highway 20 (Motel 6). Suspect believed to be a Hispanic male wearing a white tank top and shorts. Knocked on the victim's hotel room door, entering the

room when the victim answered the door. The suspect demanded money and fled on foot.

• November 11, 8:56 p.m., 4800 block of W. Highway 80 (Star Stop). Suspect is believed to be a Hispanic male approximately 5 feet, 9 inches tall, wearing black and white plaid shirt and blue jeans, using a gray shirt on his face in place of a bandana. Suspect displayed a knife and demanded money from the clerk and fled the scene on foot. The suspect was later seen being picked up by a newer model black Nissan Titan pickup, but a license plate number couldn't be obtained.

• November 11, 7:40 a.m., 1500 block of Lancaster (Sun Laundry). Suspect believed to be a Hispanic male in his mid-20s, approximately 5 feet, 10 inches tall, with black hair and a black goatee, wearing a black T-shirt and shorts. According to police reports, the suspect entered the business, displayed a handgun and demanded money. The suspect fled the scene on foot.

• November 10, 7:06 p.m., Scottish Inn Mo-

tel (E. Third Street). Suspect believed to be male, 5 feet, 7 inches tall, heavy build with short, black hair, wearing a white tank top and shorts. According to police, the victim paid for a room at the motel office and was getting back into their vehicle when the suspect approached on foot, pulled a handgun and took the victim's wallet. The suspect fled on foot.

• November 4, 11:55 p.m., 1700 block of E. FM 700 (7-Eleven convenience store). The suspect is described as a Hispanic male, approximately 30 years old, wearing a dark colored hoodie and sunglasses. The suspect kept his hands in his pocket, as if he had a gun, according to police officials.

• November 4, 8:08 p.m., 2300 block of Wasson Road (7-Eleven convenience store). Suspect believed to be a Hispanic male in his late-20s, wearing a blue hoodie under a black and blue checkered coat, blue jeans and dark glasses. According to police reports, the suspect claimed to have a gun in his pocket but never displayed it.

• October 31, 2:49 a.m., 2300 block of Wasson Road (7-Eleven convenience store). Suspect described as a Hispanic male, approximately 5 feet, 5 inches tall, in his mid to late-30s, wearing a black jacket over a blue hoodie, black pants and aviator sunglasses. The suspect did display a firearm during the course of the robbery.

According to Everett, the robberies are believed to be the work of at least four different criminals, but whether or not the stick-up men are working together is unclear.

"We haven't seen anything to indicate these four suspects are working together," said Everett. "However, that's not to say one of them doesn't know another, and maybe told them they pulled off a job at a certain location and been successful. Each of them has their own M.O., and that's the pattern they are following."

Everett said the police department is taking measures to attempt to combat these robberies, but declined to comment on the nature of their efforts.

Anyone with information on these or any other crime can contact the BSPD at 264-2550 or Big Spring Crimestoppers at 264-TIPS (8477). Information could be worth a reward up to \$1,000, and callers to Crimestoppers may remain anonymous.

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

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Thomas (Tom) Lacy South, 88, died Monday. A memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

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CISD

Continued from Page 1A

pressing needs and wants are," Brown said. "Just because this project is about to be finished doesn't mean that we are finished."

Instead, the committee will look at several possible future projects to improve the overall look of the campuses, he

noted.

"We need to do some landscaping, things like that," he said. "These will not be big-ticket items, but things we can do out of the local budget. We have some really nice facilities. Now, we're going to make sure they stay that way."

Also Thursday, trustees will discuss a possible project by personnel with Atmos Energy

that could result in new bleachers at the baseball field.

"They contacted me and indicated they'd like to do a service project within the district," Brown said. "One idea was adding some bleachers to the baseball field ... We'll see if we can get some supplies donated. If we can, Atmos will supply the labor for the project."

In other business Thursday, trustees will consider:

- Personnel matters.
- Revenue and expenditure reports.
- Superintendent's report.

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

HEFLIN

Continued from Page 1A

patients and local taxpayers.

"Joe Heflin is someone who fully understands the importance of protecting our limited resources," added Pearson. "He knows that when rural hospitals

struggle, the community soon starts to feel the effects. Joe truly gets it and he makes it a personal priority to fight for rural hospitals."

"Without enthusiastic support from people like Rep. Heflin, some of our rural hospitals could not survive," said Don McBeath, director of advocacy for TORCH. "We truly appreciate

his efforts and his willingness to fight for our rural citizens to have access to care."

Heflin has one of the most rural districts in the Texas Legislature with 16 counties covering more than 15,000 square miles and spanning 243 miles north to south and 183 miles east to west. It spreads from Plainview in the

Panhandle, to west of San Angelo, to north of Abilene. The 85th House district has 12 hospitals, eight of which have 25 or less beds.

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Top-ranked Kansas holds off Memphis 57-55

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — In the rematch, Kansas missed the free throws and Memphis had the final shot.

The Jayhawks won again, but not without a tougher-than-expected fight from the undermanned and supposedly overmatched Tigers.

Cole Aldrich had 18 points, 11 rebounds and blocked five shots, helping No. 1 Kansas overcome a sloppy night to hold off Memphis 57-55 in a rematch of the 2008 national championship game Tuesday.

No miracles from Mario, no confetti flying from the rafters, but still another exciting finish.

"I can tell you this for sure: I'm 32 but I'm getting out at 35," Memphis coach Josh Pastner said. "I don't know how these coaches coach until they're 70. It's unbelievable."

Kansas (2-0) managed to lead most of the night despite 21 mostly sloppy turnovers, but couldn't shake the scrappy Tigers.

Memphis (1-1) closed within three on Doneal Mack's 3-pointer with a minute left, then cut the lead to 56-55 on Elliot Williams' long 3 with 17 seconds left. Sherron Collins hit 1 of 2 free throws at the other end to give Memphis a final chance, but Williams' contested 3-pointer clanged off the back iron.

Williams thought the shot was in. The Jayhawks held their breath until it caromed away.

"We've known for the past few days that they're really going to give us a challenge and it proved to be right,"

Aldrich said.

Memphis wasn't supposed to have much of a chance against the depth and talent of Kansas, and had a miserable night from 3-point range, hitting 6 of 25. The Tigers hung around with scrappy defense, keeping the score low and the Jayhawks within reach far longer than anyone expected against the nation's top-ranked team.

Williams had 21 points to lead Memphis, 0-9 all-time against No. 1 teams.

A loss, but a step in the right direction.

"The message we sent is that nobody is going to run over us," Williams said.

The last time these teams played, it turned into one of the greatest games in Final Four history.

That was 18 months ago. These aren't the same teams. Not even close.

Collins is the only major contributor left. Aldrich, despite outplaying North Carolina's Tyler Hansbrough in the semifinals, logged four minutes in the final. The rest of the Jayhawks were either buried on the bench or watched it on TV.

Memphis' Pierre Henderson-Niles, Willie Kemp and Mack played a combined seven minutes in the title game. None of the other Tigers were even on the roster.

Different teams, certainly a different feel.

The Tigers came out jittery, shooting airballs and wild 3-pointers that caromed high off the glass, getting

their pockets picked from behind.

Kansas played out of control out of the gate, forcing up shots, turning it over on poor post entry passes and weak dribbles into the lane.

At the 15:55 mark, Kansas led 4-2.

"I thought we really got sped up," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "Some of the plays we made in transition, we really got sped up."

Fed up with the foolishness, Self yelled out to Collins: "1 game, get the ball to the big fella." The Jayhawks did and Aldrich hit a layup, then a rebound slam before sitting out the final 1:34 after picking up his second foul.

Kansas went right back to the big fella in the second half.

Tyshawn Taylor found Aldrich on an alley-oop to open the half and Collins set up another dunk on an over-the-top pass to the post. That seemed to jump start the Jayhawks, who finally pushed their lead to double digits, 38-28 on Henry's fastbreak layup.

Aldrich added a dunk on a dish from Collins to put Kansas up 52-45 with just under 3 minutes left. He finished 7 for 10 from the field after taking just five shots against Hofstra on Friday.

"I saw him in high school a bunch and I knew he was going to be good," Pastner said. They do a real good job with their bigs. He's a future pro."

The Jayhawks needed every bit of what Aldrich gave them.

Collins, Kansas' leading scorer, had 12 points and couldn't play down the stretch while struggling with leg



AP Photo/Jeff Roberson

Memphis' Elliot Williams, right, shoots as Kansas' Cole Aldrich defends Tuesday in St. Louis.

cramps. Former Memphis recruit Xavier Henry seemed too amped up at times — Tigers' fans booed him plenty early — scoring 11 points on 3-of-11 shooting and turning it over four times.

Taylor had seven turnovers, most on forced passes in traffic, and the Jayhawks could only get off five 3-point shots — making one — against Memphis' pressure defense.

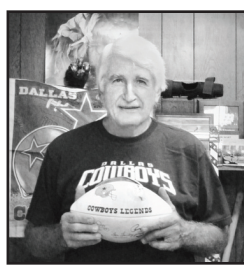
"Hopefully, it'll be a good teaching tool for us," Self said.

Pigskin Pics Football Contest



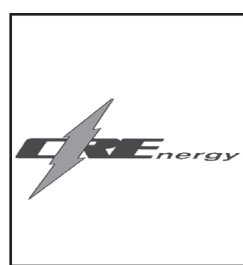
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1. Big Spring
2. Stanton
3. Sands
4. Garden City
5. UT Austin
6. TCU
7. Texas Tech
8. Texas A&M
9. Dallas
10. Texas Longhorns

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

Pigskin Picks Entry Form

Team

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2. Stanton vs. Olton

10. Texas Longhorns vs. Kansas

Cap Rock Energy

6. TCU vs. Wyoming

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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

Bill McClellan
News Editor

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

OUR VIEW

Salvation Army needs volunteers for kettles effort

It's a holiday tradition virtually everywhere and Big Spring is no exception. The annual Salvation Army Kettle campaign is now under way locally, with bell ringers stationed at both entrances to the Walmart Supercenter and Beall's.

When the holiday season arrives, we expect to see bell ringers manning the entrances to businesses where the kettles are located. But don't be so used to seeing them that you walk by without at least making one donation this year.

Why? Well, because the kettle campaign is of tremendous importance. According to Salvation Army Capt. Ed and Terrie Cheshire, who administer the local Salvation Army Corps, money from the kettles is used in several ways.

"That money allows us to supplement the food that's donated for holiday food packages," Terrie Cheshire said. "It also becomes extremely important when we run into a situation like we did last year, when several of the Angel Trees had cards that weren't adopted. Money from the kettles allowed us to buy presents for the unadopted angels so that nobody went without."

What's more, the Salvation Army needs volunteers to man the kettles this season.

"The more volunteers we can get the better," Cheshire explained. "We always need all the help we can get, because we always run short of people to man the kettles throughout each day during the holiday season. Someone still has to be there, however, so we wind up supplementing the volunteers with paid workers. And it just bears to reason that the more volunteers we have, the less we have to spend on paid workers."

Those wishing to volunteer can contact Salvation Army officials by calling 267-8239.

And don't forget that the Salvation Army's Angel Tree project will get under way in a few days — Nov. 23 to be exact. Angel Trees will be located at the Howard County Library, Higginbotham-Bartlett, the Heritage Museum, Maurice's, Bealls and Walmart.

We here at the Herald encourage those who can to lend the Salvation Army a hand, either as a volunteer for the kettle campaign or to adopt and angel once the Angel Tree project begins. Better yet, if possible, do both.

You'll be doing yourself a favor, and someone else, an invaluable service.

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 stick with Your heavenly words,
Lord.

Amen

Say adios to Zelaya

After getting most world leaders reluctantly to demand his reinstatement as president of Honduras — even though they know he doesn't deserve it — Jose Manuel Zelaya now says he will not accept it.

The ousted leftist president, booted out of his country June 28, has backed out of a U.S.-brokered deal that could have reinstated him to the presidency, at least for a short while, and brought some stability to his politically torn nation.

"In my position as president elected by the Honduran people, I reaffirm my decision that from this date forward, no matter what, I will not accept any agreement to return to the presidency," Zelaya wrote from his Brazilian Embassy refuge in a letter sent Saturday to President Barack Obama.

What? Is this some kind of riddle? Obama initially must have thought that something was lost in the Spanish-to-English translation.

Some background: Although Zelaya could have been constitutionally removed from office back in June — for numerous lawbreaking efforts to prolong his stay in power beyond January 2010 — the Honduran military stupidly took Zelaya from his home in his pajamas, deported him to Costa Rica and turned him into the "victim" of what appeared to be a coup d'etat and the subject of sympathy instead of the rejection he deserved.

Because Zelaya had been elected democratically and it appeared that he had been ousted by a coup, leaders of the Free

World — including Obama — had no choice but to stand up for democracy and to call for Zelaya's reinstatement. They pressured the interim government, led by Roberto Micheletti, to allow Zelaya to return to the presidency, in spite of clear indications that most Hondurans, as well as their Supreme Court and their Congress, were against it. Polls say most Hondurans clearly hoped that the interim government could remain in power until they chose a new president in national elections, which had been scheduled for Nov. 29 all along.

Yet now Zelaya says he won't accept further negotiations that could return him to power, which is exactly what he was asking for! Knowing that any agreement would force him to accept the Nov. 29 election — in which neither he nor Micheletti is a candidate — he now claims that returning to the presidency under a negotiated settlement would somehow legitimize the coup.

"I will accept no accord to return to the presidency as a cover for the coup," Zelaya wrote to Obama.

Of course, that was a cheap excuse for also telling Obama that he will not support the upcoming presidential elections and that he will ask his supporters to abstain from voting.

Obviously realizing that his return to power would be brief and mostly symbolic and that he would become history once a new president was elected in a couple of weeks, Zelaya decided to back out of any possible agreement.

In other words, from now on, all Zelaya intends to do is keep whining and trying to make trouble. He is only interested in keeping himself in play, even if in the process he has to keep his

country in a state of crisis.

Granted, the Honduran Congress was slow to ratify the Oct. 30 agreement that would have returned Zelaya to power, together with Micheletti, as part of a "national unity" government until the new president took office in January. But with further international pressure, it was the only chance Zelaya had to save face and return to a position he doesn't really deserve.

After all, Zelaya had the U.S. government and the international community on the verge of reinstating him as president of Honduras, against the will of the majority of Honduran people, the courts and the legislature.

Nevertheless, in his five-page letter to Obama, Zelaya blamed U.S. officials because the Honduran people have not found a way to swallow the bitter pill he represents. He says the Obama administration is at fault because U.S. officials backed out of demanding his restitution as a condition for U.S. recognition of the outcome of the election. Once the agreement was reached and U.S. officials said they would recognize the vote regardless of Zelaya's return, the deposed president found a new excuse to keep whining and stay under spotlights he doesn't deserve.

In his letter to Obama, while pledging to reject a settlement "no matter what," Zelaya asked the American president "for a quick reply."

Obama should abide. After going out of our way to impose a potential leftist dictator over a country that rejects him, we should let Zelaya drown in his crocodile tears. Obama's response should be quick and brief. The word "adios" would suffice.

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ADDRESSES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

• BARACK OBAMA

President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

• KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

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Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-5922

• JOHN CORNYN

U.S. Senator
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Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-2934

• RANDY NEUGEBAUER

U.S. Representative
19th Cong. District
1510 Scurry
Big Spring
Phone: (432) 264-0722

STATE GOVERNMENT

• RICK PERRY

Governor
State Capitol, Rm 2S.1
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Phone: (512) 463-2000

• JOE HEFLIN

State Representative
Texas 85th District
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, 78768
Phone: (432) 213-2897

• KEL SELIGER

State Senator
Texas 31st District
401 Austin, Suite 101

Big Spring, 79720
Phone: (432) 268-9909

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MARK BARR, COUNTY JUDGE — Home and Office: (432) 517-0707.

EMMA BROWN — Home: 267-2649.

JERRY KILGORE — 263-0724; Work (Jerry's Barbers): 267-5471.

JIMMIE LONG — Home: 466-0793.

GARY SIMER — Home: 263-0260.

The party of fiscal babies

Nearly every Republican these days calls for tax cuts and lower deficits, and in the same sentence. Point out that these goals clash — that taxes pay for government and not paying for government causes deficits, and the Republican counters, "We must shrink government, instead." Sure. And you're just the boys to do it.

There hasn't been a balanced budget since the last Democratic administration. During the George W. Bush years of mindless tax-cutting, the national debt doubled, and GOP claims to fiscal rectitude became a bizarre joke. The last fig leaf fell off this summer when Republicans demagogued efforts to save over \$100 billion by ending subsidies for the private Medicare Advantage health plans.

Here was the lowest-hanging fruit in the fastest-growing government program. It was something most Medicare beneficiaries would barely notice was gone, yet Republicans hollered that Democrats were pulling the plug on grandma.

That dashed any residual Republican pretenses that Bush had led them astray on spending, and a lesson was learned. Clearly, they're not changing a thing.

Bruce Bartlett, an economist in Ronald Reagan's Treasury

Department, has criticizing such inconsistencies for several years. Republicans could have embraced his 2006 book, "Imposter: How George W. Bush Bankrupted America and Betrayed the Reagan Legacy," as evidence that they truly regretted the fiscal wreckage of the Bush years. Instead, they turned Bartlett into a Republican pariah.

Bartlett has just come out with another book, "The New American Economy: The Failure of Reaganomics and a New Way Forward." It has received an equally chilly reception from the right-wing media and associated think tanks. That is, they're making no mention of it.

I asked Bartlett whether he feels beaten up by former fellow Republicans. (He's now an independent.) No, he said, "One of the funny things since 'Imposter' came out is the refusal of people on the right to even debate me."

One can't entirely blame them for trying to smother his book sales.

Democrats would be hard-pressed to find better talking points anywhere else — though Bartlett does find fault with them, too.

Bartlett's main point is that there's almost no place to cut domestic discretionary spending. Subtract money going for defense, entitlements (such as Medicare) and payments on the debt, and there's precious little left. Domestic discretionary spending in fiscal 2008 last year totaled \$485 billion, while the deficit was \$459 billion. You would have had to kill nearly every domestic program to balance

the budget. That would have meant nothing for education, agriculture, housing, border patrols, the FBI, highways.

Taxes must go up, and on that subject, Bartlett takes issue with the current president. "You have to look at some other broad-based revenue raising," he said, "but then you run up against the problem that Obama has made the promise not to raise taxes on anyone earning less than \$200,000." He deems that approach "irresponsible." The rich can't bear all the costs of government.

The answer is a value-added tax, which is basically a national sales tax. The VAT would tax consumption, rather than income, and at low cost to economic growth. Europeans use a VAT to pay for their cushy benefits.

Bartlett thinks that Congress should commit itself to a number, say \$1 trillion, for deficit savings over 10 years. Then it should ask a commission to find a third of that money from higher revenues, a third from entitlement cuts and a third from discretionary spending.

Welcome to the world of growups, where tax cuts don't magically pay for themselves — and where middle-class people must pay more for middle-class benefits.

When it comes to addressing deficits, Democrats may be lax adolescents, but Republicans are total babies.

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MIGUEL PEREZ



FROMA HARROP

BIG SPRING HERALD

710 Scurry

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Announcements

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Legals

City of Big Spring Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals

The City of Big Spring Zoning Board of Adjustments will hold a meeting on Wednesday, December 2, 2009 at 5:30 pm in the City Council Chambers, located at 307 E. 4th Street Big Spring, Texas to consider the following:
J. Gale Kilgore, LT 11 & N/2 of LT 10 BK 34 of College Heights Addition, Located at 2411 Main, is requesting a variance for a side yard setback for a carport.
Don Adams, LT 7 BK 1 of Hayden Addition, Located at 1212 E. 15th St. is requesting a variance for a side yard setback for a carport.
Cynthia Flowers, LT S/57 of LT 14 BK 7 of Washington Place Addition, Located at 1201 Settles, is requesting a variance for a front yard setback for a porch.
#6335 November 15 & 18, 2009

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Add fun and taste: Chicken with orange and honey

American Institute for Cancer Research

Add some fun and taste to your menu by dressing up chicken with oranges, golden raisins and honey. Chicken is the country's favorite meat, most likely due to its versatility and because it's lower in fat than red meat but still loaded with nutrients such as vitamins B6 and B12.

Central to this recipe is the navel orange. The resemblance of the orange's blossom end to the human navel accounts for the name of this citrus wonder. It is also referred to as a Washington, Riverside or Bahia Navel Orange. Cultivated primarily in Brazil, California, Florida and Arizona, navels are among the most common varieties of oranges. Because they are seedless, they can only be propagated through cuttings. Technically, every navel orange comes from the same orange tree – the Brazilian orange, which generated a spontaneous mutation on a plantation in Brazil in 1820.

Grapes come in many varieties and colors, but the most common type of raisin is made from the Thompson green seedless grape. These raisins range in color from plum to black. Golden



raisins also are made from the same grapes, but are processed differently to retain their golden-green color and unique taste.

A bit of honey adds to the naturally sweet flavor of the orange and raisins, and the cinnamon provides a subtle balance to the dish. Ladling the wonderful sauce over your creation ensures that the chicken is juicy and has been permeated with all the flavor of the broth and ingredients.

Sprinkling on almonds adds crunch and more nutrition. The makers of honey - bees - are crucial to pollination of almond trees. Both are celebrated in this dish.

The result is a chicken entrée that is a bit out of the ordinary—one that is sure to please your taste buds.

Chicken with Orange and Honey Sauce

- 2 medium navel oranges
- 2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. salt, divided
- 1/4 tsp. freshly ground pepper
- 4 chicken breasts, about 1 1/4 pound, skinless
- 1 cup low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 Tbsp. canola oil
- 1/2 cup golden raisins
- 2 Tbsp. honey
- 1/2 tsp. powdered cinnamon
- 1/4 cup slivered almonds, toasted

Zest and juice one orange. Remove the skin and pith from the other orange, then halve and slice. Reserve zest and juice separately from the orange slices.

Combine flour, 1/4 tsp. salt and pepper in a shallow dish. Dredge chicken in the flour, shaking off any excess. Transfer the remaining flour to a small bowl, add broth and whisk to combine.

In large skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Add chicken and cook 3 to 5 minutes per side or until browned.

Transfer to plate.

Add the flour-broth mixture, reserved orange zest and juice, raisins, honey, cinnamon and remaining 1/4 tsp. salt.

Bring to boil. Reduce heat to simmer, return chicken and any accumulated juices to pan and cook, turning chicken once until an instant-read thermometer inserted into thickest part of meat registers 165 degrees and sauce has thickened, about 10 to 12 minutes.

Transfer chicken to serving platter. Spoon sauce over chicken and garnish with reserved orange slices and almonds.

Makes 4 servings. Per serving: 340 calories, 8 g total fat (1 g saturated fat), 37 g carbohydrate,

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



By Steve Becker

Good Management

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 9 8 5 3
♥ 5 4
♦ 6 3
♣ Q 9 8 3

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

EAST
♠ A 10 7 4
♥ J 8 7 3
♦ 8 4
♣ K J 10

SOUTH
♠ 6
♥ A K Q 10
♦ A K Q J 9 7 5 2
♣ —

The bidding:
South West North East
2♦ Pass 2 NT Pass
3♦ Pass 3 NT Pass
6♦

Opening lead—king of spades.

Here is a well-played hand of ancient vintage where South, in effect, bid six diamonds all by himself. He reasoned that he had an excellent chance of avoiding a heart loser, and that the only trick he was likely to lose was a spade.

West led the king of spades, East signaling for a continuation by playing the seven. But West very wisely shifted to the ace of clubs, not because he expected the ace to win,

but because he wanted East to know that declarer was void of clubs, and that East should guard hearts, not clubs, if declarer elected to cash all of his trumps.

This was excellent thinking on West's part, since East might otherwise have discarded a heart at some point later on if declarer ran trumps. However, South managed to counter West's revelatory play by adopting an altogether different approach. Declarer realized that if either defender held four hearts to the jack, that player would hang on to every one of them since South's hand was by now virtually an open book.

Accordingly, after ruffing the ace of clubs, declarer drew only one round of trumps and then played the A-K-Q of hearts. When West showed out on the third heart but was unable to ruff, South next trumped the ten of hearts in dummy to make the slam.

Declarer's method of play was clearly correct. True, it would have failed had West held two trumps instead of one, but in that case the slam would have failed however South played. In effect, declarer had to hope that, if the heart jack did not fall as the top hearts were cashed, the defender who was short in hearts was also short in diamonds. When this proved to be the case, the slam came rolling home.

Tomorrow: A false sense of security.

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Nutritionwise

Q. How much cholesterol-lowering power can I expect from one bowl of oatmeal a day?

A: The best research linking oatmeal consumption and cholesterol levels shows drops of about 10 mg/dl in LDL ("bad") cholesterol with a daily serving of 3/4 cup of quick or old-fashioned oats as measured before



KAREN COLLINS MS, RD, CDN

cooking. A standard serving, according to the label, starts with a half-cup of oats, so the 3/4 cup would be one-and-a-half servings. This amount of oats – equivalent to three packets of instant oatmeal – provides three grams of soluble fiber. Although oats' fiber (beta-glucan) is established as effective in lowering cholesterol, research also supports aiming for soluble fiber from a variety of sources, such as barley, legumes and many fruits.

According to the National Cholesterol Education Program, increasing consumption of soluble fiber by 5 to 10 grams a day can decrease LDL cholesterol about five percent. The program's guidelines recommend aiming for a total of at least 5 to 10 grams of soluble fiber daily, and preferably 10 to 25 grams a day. So if two or three bowls of oatmeal is unrealistic for you, you could reach the overall target by combining options. For example, you get 2 grams of soluble fiber

from each 1/2 cup oats (measured before cooking), 2 or 3 grams from each 1/2 cup of kidney beans or other legumes, and 1 or 2 grams from each piece of fruit or each half-cup of broccoli, carrots or some other vegetables. The amount your cholesterol drops will likely also depend on what foods oatmeal replaces: if it means you're omitting some unhealthy foods like bacon and sausage or doughnuts, it may lead to a bigger change in blood cholesterol than if it replaces a generally healthy choice like a bowl of shredded wheat.

Q: I hear so much about antioxidants in dark chocolate providing health benefits. Does milk chocolate really offer nothing?

A: In equal size portions with equal calories, dark chocolate provides nearly three times the total antioxidant power that you get from milk chocolate, according to USDA data. Studies show that the higher the nonfat cocoa solids, the higher the antioxidant compounds chocolate contains. But milk chocolate's antioxidants are also

significant. In fact, the ORAC score (a measure of antioxidant power) of milk chocolate is higher than that of red grapes, blueberries, nuts or almonds if you compare equal weights of all foods. But that's not a fair comparison, since you'd get many times more calories getting those antioxidants from chocolate (whether milk or dark chocolate) than from fruit.

Furthermore, although nuts are concentrated in calories, they provide additional benefits beyond their antioxidants, such as

fiber, protein and other nutrients. To maintain a healthy weight most people should limit chocolate to small amounts daily so it will only provide a fraction of a day's antioxidant total compared to antioxidants from vegetables, fruits, whole grain, beans, nuts and other selections such as tea or coffee. Bottom line: You get more antioxidants from dark chocolate, but if milk chocolate is your preference, enjoy it and keep your focus on a balanced diet for the health benefits.

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Maersk Alabama repels 2nd pirate attack with guns

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Somali pirates attacked the Maersk Alabama on Wednesday for the second time in seven months, though private guards on board the U.S.-flagged ship repelled the attack with gunfire and a high-decibel noise device.

A U.S. surveillance plane was monitoring the ship as it continued to its destination on the Kenyan coast, while a pirate said that the captain of a ship hijacked Monday with 28 North Korean crew members on board had died of wounds.

Pirates hijacked the Maersk Alabama last April and took ship captain Richard Phillips hostage, holding him at gunpoint in a lifeboat for five days. Navy SEAL sharpshooters freed Phillips while killing three pirates in a daring nighttime attack.

Four suspected pirates in a skiff attacked the ship again on Wednesday around 6:30 a.m. local time, firing on the

ship with automatic weapons from about 300 yards (meters) away, a statement from the U.S. Fifth Fleet in Bahrain said.

An on-board security team repelled the attack by using evasive maneuvers, small-arms fire and a Long Range Acoustic Device, which can beam earsplitting alarm tones, the fleet said.

Vice Adm. Bill Gortney of the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, said the Maersk Alabama had followed the maritime industry's "best practices" in having a security team on board.

"This is a great example of how merchant mariners can take proactive action to prevent being attacked and why we recommend that ships follow industry best practices if they're in high-risk areas," Gortney said in a statement.

However, Roger Middleton, a piracy expert at the London-based think tank Chatham House, said the international

maritime community was still "solidly against" armed guards aboard vessels at sea, but that American ships have taken a different line than the rest of the international community.

"Shipping companies are still pretty much overwhelmingly opposed to the idea of armed guards," Middleton said. "Lots of private security companies employ people who don't have maritime experience. Also, there's the idea that it's the responsibility of states and navies to provide security. I would think it's a step backward if we start privatizing security of the shipping trade."

A Massachusetts Maritime Academy professor, who is also the father of a sailor who was on the Maersk Alabama during the first pirate attack in April, said about 20 percent of the ships off East Africa are armed.

The owners of the Maersk Alabama have spent a con-

siderable amount of money since the April hijacking to make the vessel pirate-proof, Murphy said, including structural features and safety equipment. The most dramatic change is what he called a security force of "highly trained ex-military personnel."

"Somali pirates understand one thing and only one thing, and that's force," said Capt. Joseph Murphy, who teaches maritime security at the school. "They analyze risk very carefully, and when the risk is too high they are going to step back. They are not going to jeopardize themselves."

The wife of the Maersk Alabama's captain, Paul Rochford, told WBZ-AM radio in Boston that she was "really happy" there were weapons on board for this attack.

"It probably surprised the pirates. They were probably shocked," said Kimberly Rochford. "I'm really happy

at least it didn't turn out like the last time."

A self-proclaimed pirate told The Associated Press from the Somali pirate town of Haradhere that colleagues out at sea had called around 9 a.m. — 2½ hours after the attack.

"They told us that they got in trouble with an American ship, then we lost them. We have been trying to locate them since," said a self-described pirate who gave his name as Abdi Nor.

A U.S. Navy P-3 surveillance aircraft "is monitoring Maersk Alabama and has good voice communication with the vessel," said Lt. Nathan Christensen, the Bahrain-based spokesman for the 5th Fleet.

"Everything is safe and secure and Maersk Alabama is proceeding to their intended destination," Christensen said. The ship was heading for the Kenyan port town of Mombasa.

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Victim Right

A victim of crime is defined by Chapter 56 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, as (1) someone who is the victim of sexual assault, kidnapping, or aggravated robbery or who has suffered bodily injury or death because of the criminal conduct of another, (2) the close relative (spouse, parent, adult brother or sister, or child) of a deceased victim or (3) the guardian of a victim. The law also applies to victims of juvenile crime, including victims who suffer property loss.

The State of Texas intends that victims of crime receive the following safeguards, assurances and considerations:

Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter 56 Texas Constitution, Article I Section 30

- Receive adequate protection from harm and threats of harm arising from cooperation with prosecution efforts;
- have their safety considered by the magistrate when setting bail;
- receive information, on request, of relevant court proceedings, including appellate proceedings, of cancellations and rescheduling prior to the event, and appellate court decisions after the decisions are entered but before they are made public;
- be informed, when requested, by a peace officer about the defendant's right to bail and criminal investigation procedures, and from the prosecutor's office about general procedures in the criminal justice system, including plea agreements, restitution, appeals and parole;
- provide pertinent information concerning the impact of the crime to the probation department prior to sentencing;
- information about the Texas Crime Victims' Compensation Fund and payment for a medical examination for a victim of sexual assault, and, on request, referral to social service agencies that provide additional assistance;
- information, on request, about parole procedures; notification of parole proceedings and of the inmate's release; and the opportunity to participate in the parole process by submitting written information to the Board of Pardons and Paroles for inclusion in the defendant's file for consideration by the Board prior to parole;
- a separate or secure waiting area at all public court proceedings;
- prompt return of any property that is no longer needed as evidence;
- have the prosecutor notify, upon request, an employer that the need for the victim's testimony may involve the victim's absence from work;
- on request, counseling and testing regarding AIDS and HIV infection and testing for victims of sexual assault
- request victim-offender mediation coordinated by the Victim Services Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;
- be informed of the use and purpose of a victim impact statement, to complete a victim impact statement and to have the statement considered before sentencing and acceptance of a plea bargain and before an inmate is released on parole.

A victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim may be present at all public court proceedings, with the consent of the presiding judge;

A judge, attorney for the state, peace officer, or law enforcement agency is not liable for a failure or inability to provide a service enumerated herein.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Sagittarius moon agrees with Mercury, newly stationed in Sagittarius, as well. They both urge us to go somewhere. Anywhere you've never been will do. Our minds need opening, and our lives need a



HOLIDAY MATHIS

thrill. There's nothing like the excitement of the unknown to add fuel to our fire — or, in many cases, start the fire in the first place.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If you can't seem to stick to the "program," then don't fight it. Let yourself stray into your own little world. Your imagination will take you to magical places perfectly catered to you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Quiet and

calm is your style now, and keeping your environment hushed will be essential to your productivity. If you can't control the various elements around you, go where they'll be controlled for you — maybe the library.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll make connections, just like you always do. What's remarkable is how immediately useful these ties will be. It seems that your prayers have been answered in the form of social opportunities.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The lengths some people will go to look respectable — take it as a tip-off. Those who try too hard are compensating for something. For business and pleasure, seek those with quiet, unassuming confidence.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll be successful when you follow your nature. So don't try to straighten your curly

hair or be modest when you want to show off. Act on your impulses. Be free as a child.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You've heard it said a million times that money can't buy happiness. Most of the things you want to buy today will only be a pain to maintain, insure and store. Consider renting.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When you make a promise, you don't rest until you deliver upon it. Use this fact to keep yourself in line with your own goals. Take the thing you want and promise someone else you'll make it happen.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You are growing your skill set. There is a task that you want to master, but it hasn't been easy for you to do so. If you can't do it right, do it often. Eventually you'll get it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You've been fighting for your work. It would be a shame to turn a temporary defeat

into a permanent loss. Use today's respite to regroup. You have "weapons" you haven't thought to bring out yet.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You may have been up late last night. Either that, or your dreams were so engaging that they actually took a lot out of you. If you have trouble getting motivated this morning, lay low and wait for your second wind.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Even if you can't eliminate the problem at its source, develop a few coping mechanisms to make the best of it. Look away from the computer regularly, indulge in a little celebrity gossip.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Somehow you manage to put other people's interests before your own without selling yourself short or making yourself small. You just love people, and serving others is as

natural to you as breathing air.

T O D A Y ' S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 18). You know what you want! You are strong and assertive and will, on many occasions, need to temper your zeal in order to gain the trust and cooperation of those around you. By blending empathy with your leadership skills you will gain the loyalty of your colleagues, friends and family. Wedding bells ring in June. Aquarius and Libra people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 15, 49, 21 and 18.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Libra, and I just broke up with my Pisces girlfriend. I really thought we'd get married. It was beautiful at first, and she was very loving and happy for a few months. Then she started to change. She got angry all the time at minor things, like the DVD player. She'd curse in traffic at the person in

the next lane for some small infraction. I became embarrassed by the outbursts, and eventually I had to ask myself if I really wanted to live with her energy the rest of my life. The thing is, I'm almost 50, and the longest I've ever been with someone is a year. Some of my friends say that putting up with a person's quirks are just part of being in a relationship. What do you think?"

You're a Libra and a gentleman. It would be nice for you to be with a woman who represents the same classy public persona you feel comfortable with. Furthermore, for you, it's all about balance. You can make it work with a person you can't stand some of the time, but not with a person you can't stand all of the time. Best of luck!

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I have two children who attend public school in California. We were relatively happy with our children's education until our oldest started fifth grade.

We had heard rumors for many years that one particular fifth-grade teacher was absolutely awful, and of course, our son got her.

This woman is mean and degrading and belittles the children on a daily basis.

What's worse, she seems to get pleasure from her horrible treatment of these poor kids.

We have talked to the principal. We're not the first ones who have done so.

We have been told on numerous occasions that we need to talk to the teacher to try to fix this problem, and short of this, there is nothing that can be done.

Our son is on a wait-

ing list to be moved out of the class, but that doesn't solve the problem.

It is very apparent that the teacher is protected against any ramifications of her terrible behavior. But who looks out for the kids?

I have searched for some type of advocacy group that would help support the children who are tormented each day and have come up empty.

How do we take a stand against the public school system and the unions that protect the teachers? — *Frustrated*

Dear Frustrated: Did you take the principal's advice and speak to the teacher? You'd be surprised how many times these issues can be defused by respectfully asking the teacher how you can help your child do better in her class.

It's wonderful that you

are a forceful advocate for your child.

Every parent should be. However, until your son can be transferred, we urge you to use this opportunity to explain that he will encounter difficult people in life, including teachers, and it will help to learn the coping skills necessary to deal with them.

Dear Annie: After 20 years of marriage, my wife and I separated, with the plan that I would undergo therapy to discover why I had become disconnected from her over the past

few years.

We agreed that after eight months or so, we would attend joint counseling sessions to see what had changed.

After six months, I discovered she had had sex with a man and then later

with a woman. She stated, "We're separated, so I feel free to date and do not regret it." I consider this adultery. What do you think? — *Husband of a Sudden Bisexual*

Dear Husband: A married person who has sex outside the marriage has committed adultery. However, a legal separation, as opposed to an informal

parting, often gives spouses tacit permission to date others.

We assume this was not the case here. But you have a bigger problem. If your wife is bisexual, your marriage may not be reconcilable.

If she isn't already in counseling, you should make it a condition of your continued efforts to save the relationship. Provided, of course, you still want to.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Bad Roomies," who offered to let a jobless couple move in with them and, after three months, the situation became untenable.

The couple even started going through "Roomies" personal things. Your answer to kick them out could subject the homeowners to a lawsuit.

In Illinois, even if

there is no formal rental agreement, the owners cannot toss the couple into the street.

They need to go to court and get an order of eviction and have the sheriff's office come and remove the couple.

This protects "Roomies" from a lawsuit and also from any potential violence that may occur during the eviction. Please let them know. — *Illinois Lawyer*

Dear Lawyer: Thank you for clarifying this. Although it depends on the state in which they live, in most cases, getting this annoying couple out of their home requires a court order. It is unfortunate that in our litigious society, no good deed goes unpunished.

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► News in brief

Kidnapper's apology, guilty pleas could reap forgiveness from Elizabeth Smart and family

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — An apology and a guilty plea to federal charges will likely bring the woman who kidnapped Elizabeth Smart the very thing she says she wants — forgiveness from Smart and her family.

"Absolutely," Elizabeth's father, Ed Smart said Tuesday after Wanda Eileen Barzee pleaded guilty to charges of kidnapping and unlawful transportation of a minor in U.S. District Court.

"We all make mistakes in life," he said. "If we can't forgive each other, heaven help us."

In a public apology, Barzee, 64, said she was "humbled as I realize how much Elizabeth Smart has been victimized and the role that I played in it."

"I am so sorry, Elizabeth, for all the pain and suffering I have caused you and your family," Barzee said, taking an emotional pause between sentences. "It is my hope that you will be able to find it in your heart to forgive me."

Afghanistan is on hold awaiting decisions in Kabul and White House

KABUL (AP) — Its protracted presidential election has finally been decided, but Afghanistan is on hold.

President Barack Obama hasn't said how many troops he'll send. Speculation abounds about whether Afghan President Hamid Karzai will assemble a Cabinet of reformers or political friends. It's unclear whether humanitarian work will be curtailed by the U.N.'s decision to relocate several hundred workers out of the country after five staffers were killed in an attack.

And overhanging the uncertainty is the question on everyone's mind: Will security in this impoverished nation worsen or improve as fall turns to winter?

"God knows what will happen," Ghulam Sakhi Wardak said Tuesday, standing beside concrete security blast walls his company makes on the outskirts of Kabul. "So far, the attacks have not decreased."

Asked what he wants from the next five years of the Karzai administration, Wardak replied, "A government that serves the people with total honesty."

Small businesses paring back health insurance plans

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Faced with high health insurance costs, a North Carolina brokerage passed the buck on to its employees, a Texas public relations firm switched from group insurance to stipends, and a Missouri travel agency let its workers walk away instead paying for insurance.

Across the country, businesses already strapped by the economy to turn a profit are sacrificing or scaling back employee health insurance plans because of their escalating costs. The crunch has particularly socked smaller employers, who have become a centerpiece in the debate over how to overhaul the nation's health care system.

In recent weeks, small business owners have pleaded their case to the White House and Congress. Top Democrats in both the House and Senate have announced probes into how health insurers price their policies for small businesses. And lawmakers have proposed a variety of insurance rating changes, mandates and tax breaks to try to control costs.

That comes against a backdrop of some stark statistics:

— Small businesses are paying an average 18 percent more than the largest firms for comparable health insurance policies, according to a study financed by the Commonwealth Fund.

Urban League and On Deck Capital partner to offer loans to businesses

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The National Urban League is teaming with a small-business financial specialist to offer loans to companies unable to get approved by banks.

On Deck Capital will provide loans through Urban League local affiliates, starting in Philadelphia and Los Angeles and then expanding across the country, it was announced Wednesday.

The program offers one-year loans ranging from \$5,000 to \$100,000 at interest rates of 18 to 36 percent. All the loans must be repaid through automatic daily "micro-payments" from the business' bank accounts.

The program will focus on urban areas with high concentrations of minority businesses and help create new jobs there, said Patricia A. Coulter, president and CEO of the Urban League of Philadelphia.

"In today's really tight market, credit has dried up, banks are not lending," she said. "It's even more critical for small and minority businesses to have access to capital."

W.Va. Sen. Robert Byrd at 56 years, 320 days becomes longest-serving member of Congress ever

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate is marking a new milestone Wednesday when West Virginia Sen. Robert C. Byrd becomes the longest-serving lawmaker in congressional history.

"I look forward to serving you for the next 56 years and 320 days," Byrd said in a statement marking the occasion. His only regret, Byrd said, was that his late wife, Erma, was not there with him.

"I know that she is looking down from the heavens smiling at me and saying congratulations, my dear Robert — but don't let it go to your head," Byrd said.

It was unclear whether Byrd would be able to attend Wednesday's session.

Setting records is old news to the white-haired Democratic lawmaker. Since June 12, 2006, Byrd has been the longest-serving senator and later that year he was elected to an unprecedented ninth term. His colleagues have elected him to more leadership positions than any senator in history.

Ford, Subaru, VW collect awards

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ford, Subaru and Volkswagen sit atop the insurance industry's annual list of the safest new vehicles, according to a closely watched assessment used by car companies to lure safety-conscious consumers to showrooms.

The Virginia-based Insurance Institute for Highway Safety awarded its "top safety pick" on Wednesday to 19 passenger cars and eight sport utility vehicles for the 2010 model year. The institute substantially reduced the number of awards compared with 2009, because of tougher requirements for roof strength.

Ford Motor Co. and its Volvo unit received the most awards with six, followed by five awards apiece for Japanese automaker Subaru and German automaker Volkswagen AG and its Audi unit.

**Ford, Lincoln And Mercury
Year End Sales Event
2009 Year Model Closeout**

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2009 F250 Crew 4X4 Lariat Diesel

Pueblo Gold **\$6000 Cashback** Stk# 2232

2009 F150 Supercrew XLT

Blue Flame **\$6500 Cashback** Stk# 2175

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2009 Mustang V-6 Premium

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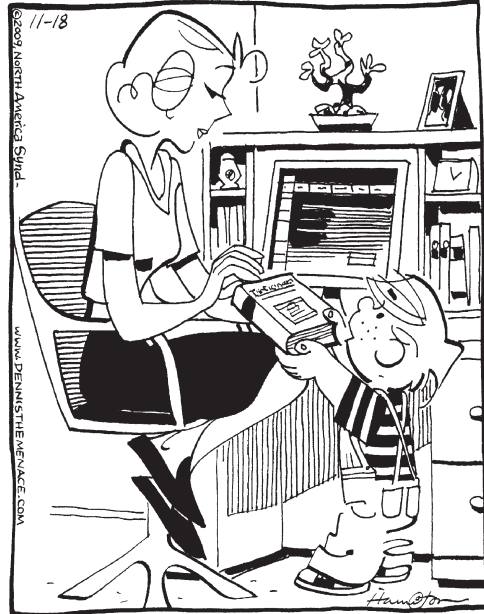


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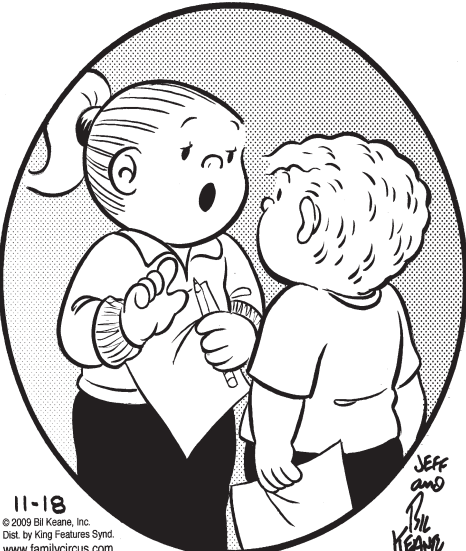
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5:PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	George Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Seinfeld Office	Cortes Harris	BBC Business	Cash Cab	The Prisoner	UFC Unleashed	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas & Ferb	Horn	SportsCenter
6:PM :30	News ABC	Jeopardy! Fortune	Gancho	Two Men	News CBS	12 Corazonas	News NBC	Name	Mark Swallow	News-Lehrer	Cash Cab	MythBusters	Ultimate Fighting Championship 105	Bones		Wizards of Waverly Hills	NFL Live	NBA Basketball: Cavaliers at Wizards
7:PM :30	Entertain	Entertain	Nombre-Amor	You Can Dance	Entertain	Más Sabe el Diabolo	Mercy	Payne Upd	Payne House	Secrets-Shangri	MythBusters	Movie: Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines		Bones	Movie: Waist Deep, Larenz Tate	Adventures of Sharkboy	College Football: Teams TBA.	
8:PM :30	Family	Family	Sortilegio	Glee	Criminal Minds	Pobres	Law & Order: SVU	Light of the Southwest	Payne	Lost Cave Temples	MythBusters					Phineas		NBA Basketball: Spurs at Mavericks
9:PM :30	In the Spotlight With	In the Spotlight With	Don Francisco	Simpsons Friends	CSI: NY	Victorinos	The Jay Leno Show	Browns	Browns	Mustang	MythBusters		The Ultimate Fighter	Leverage	First In	Phineas		
10:PM :30	News	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticiero	News	Lopez Tonight	Upd	Myths and Heroes	MythBusters	Movie: End of Days, Kevin Pollak	The Ultimate Fighter	Dark Blue	The Mo'Nique	Wizards of Waverly Hills	SportsCtr.	
11:PM :30	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	TMZ	Late Show	Decisiones	Tonight Show	Seinfeld	Israel	Crown	MythBusters		Joe Rogan Spl	Leverage	W. Williams	Life De	Fastbreak	SportsCenter
12:AM :30	Insider	Insider	La Escuelita VIP	Law & Order: SVU	Late Late Show	Decisiones	Late Night-Jim	Sex & Sanchez	Upd	MythBusters	(12:15) Movie: Any Given Sunday, Dennis Quaid	CSI: Crime Scn	Dark Blue	Movie: Waist Deep, Larenz Tate	Kim	NASCAR		
1:AM :30	Jeans	Jeans	Mujer	RENO 911	Insider	Programa	Poker After Dark	Lopez Tonight	Light of the Southwest	Cash Cab	Cash Cab	Star Trek: Voyager	Cold Case	Emperor	College Football: Teams TBA			

DENNIS THE MENACE



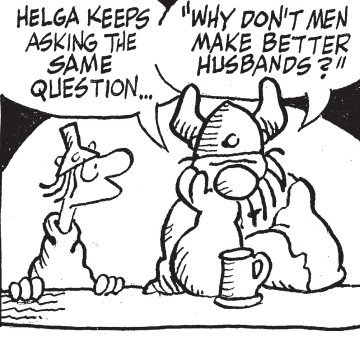
"CAN YOU LOOK UP 'TROUBLE' IN THE DICTIONARY? MR. WILSON SAYS MY PICTURE IS THERE."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Parents like to pick short names for their kids 'cause it makes it easier to call them."

HAGAR



HELGA KEEPS ASKING THE SAME QUESTION... "WHY DON'T MEN MAKE BETTER HUSBANDS?"

LACK OF COMBAT EXPERIENCE?



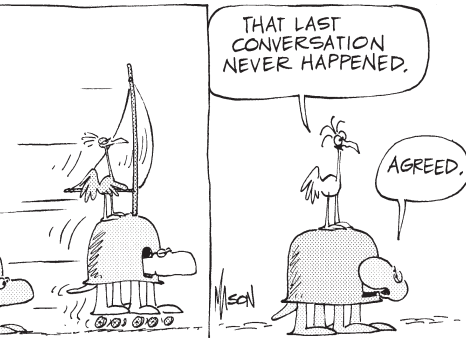
LACK OF COMBAT EXPERIENCE?

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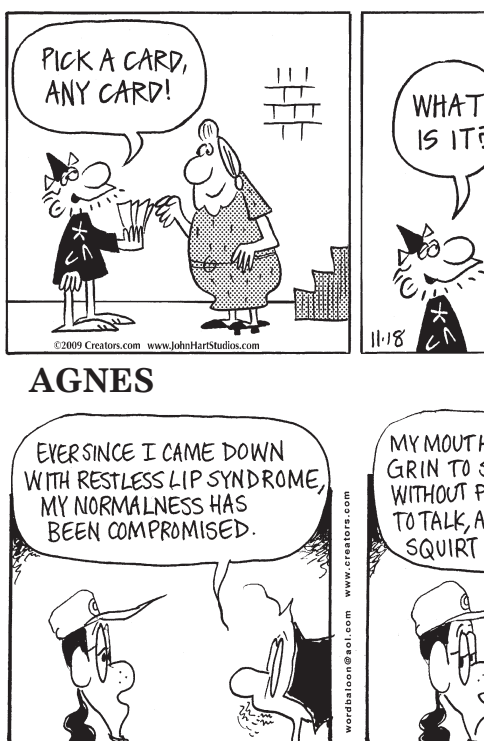
THE TWO OF US MAKE UP THE PERFECT TRAVELING DUO. WE'RE INGENIOUS. I CAN'T THINK OF A SINGLE MORE EFFICIENT MIGRATION SOLUTION. CAUSE THERE AIN'T ONE. THAT LAST CONVERSATION NEVER HAPPENED. AGREED.

WIZARD OF ID



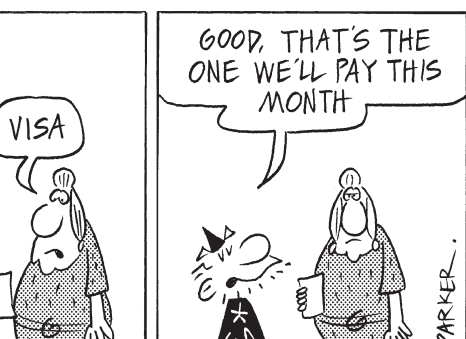
PICK A CARD, ANY CARD! WHAT IS IT? VISA. GOOD, THAT'S THE ONE WE'LL PAY THIS MONTH.

AGNES



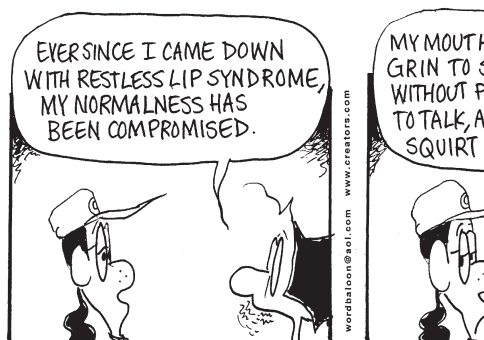
EVER SINCE I CAME DOWN WITH RESTLESS LIP SYNDROME, MY NORMALNESS HAS BEEN COMPROMISED. MY MOUTH SQUIRMS FROM GRIN TO SNEER AND BACK WITHOUT PROVOCATION! I TRY TO TALK AND FUNNY OWL NOISES SQUIRT OUT! ACTUALLY, I LIKE THE NEW YOU BETTER. I FEEL INSULTED RIGHT NOW, BUT IT'S HARD TO COMMUNICATE THAT WITH JUST MY EYE BROWS.

HI AND LOIS



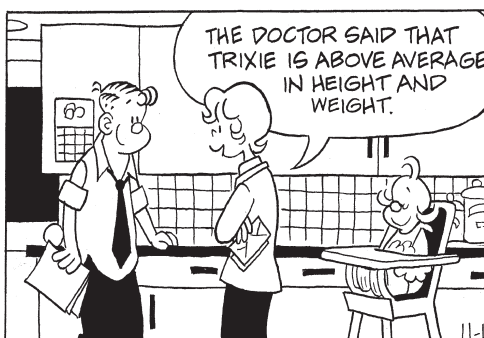
THE DOCTOR SAID THAT TRIxie IS ABOVE AVERAGE IN HEIGHT AND WEIGHT. I ALWAYS ACE MY EXAMS.

THE OTHER COAST



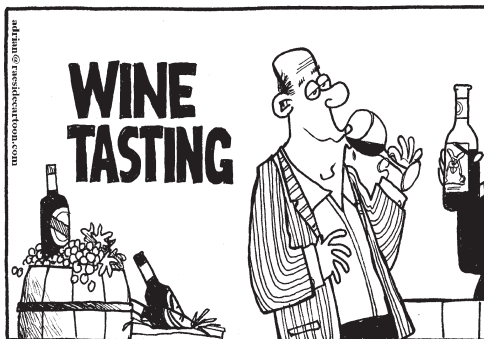
IT HAS THE CONSISTENCY OF DISHWATER AND THE BOUQUET OF AN OPEN SEWER, BUT IT HAS A CUTE BUNNY ON THE LABEL.

SNUFFY SMITH



SAYS HERE THIS 'MIRACLE BERRY' WILL MELT TH' FAT RIGHT OFF YA !! IT DON'T WORK, EL, I'VE TRIED IT !! I TRIED IT IN PIE...TRIED IT IN SHORTCAKE...TRIED IT IN MUFFINS...

BETLE BAILEY



CREAK AS YOU GET OLDER YOU GET NOISIER CRUNCH

This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 18, the 322nd day of 2009. There are 43 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 18, 1959, "Ben-Hur," MGM's Biblical-era spectacle starring Charlton Heston and directed by William Wyler, had its world premiere at Loew's State Theatre in New York.

On this date:

In 1883, the United States and Canada adopted a system of Standard Time zones.

In 1886, the 21st president of the United States, Chester A. Arthur, died in New York.

In 1909, President William Howard Taft ordered two warships to Nicaragua, a day after the government of President Jose Santos Zelaya executed two American mercenaries along with several hundred revolutionaries. Lyricist Johnny Mercer was born in Savannah, Ga.

In 1928, Walt Disney's first sound-synchronized animated

SMALL CHANGES

Evans is 67. Actress Susan Sullivan is 67. Former Cherokee Nation chief Wilma Mankiller is 64. Country singer Jacky Ward is 63. Actor Jameson Parker is 62. Actress-singer Andrea Marcovicci is 61. College Football Hall of Famer Jack Tatum is 61. Rock musician Herman Rarebell is 60. Singer Graham Parker is 59. Actor Delroy Lindo is 57. Comedian Kevin Nealon is 56. Football Hall of Fame quarterback Warren Moon is 53. Actor Oscar Nunez is 51. Actress Elizabeth Perkins is 49. Singer Kim Wilde is 49. Rock musician Kirk Hammett (Metallica) is 47. Rock singer Tim DeLaughter is 44. Actor Romany Malco is 41.

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Answer to previous puzzle

HUMOR	ASPS	MASS
ANACE	SEEP	OREO
LIMAS	OMAR	NEAR
OVALOFFICE	EAST	
ADO	SEAMY	
PST	SRA	DEBATE
APE	CROC	SALES
CIRCLE	THEWAGONS	
ENSUE	SODA	ETA
DEEPER	ETS	SHY
CRUST	EEL	
DATA	SQUAREAWAY	
ROOK	HULL	SPARE
ANTE	EASE	ASKIN
BEES	STAS	WEEDS

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 W. Coast force
 - 5 Clear a windshield, perhaps
 - 10 Encouraging touches
 - 14 Scandinavian capital
 - 15 Lazy one
 - 16 Admired celeb
 - 17 Male deer
 - 18 Ben Stiller's mom
 - 19 Something taboo
 - 20 Monotonous talking
 - 22 Croatian capital
 - 24 Promissory note
 - 25 Russian plains
 - 27 Common '20s cars
 - 31 Sweet sandwich
 - 32 Exist
 - 33 Hollywood awards
 - 35 Rest periods of a sort
 - 39 Gulf War missiles
 - 41 Atty.'s title
 - 42 Eskimo dwelling
 - 43 Car for hire
 - 44 Followed in order
 - 46 Sixth-sense letters
 - 47 First in line
 - 49 Tempts
 - 51 Make a side comment
 - 54 ___ Antonio, TX
 - 55 Two-person bike
 - 56 Big 23 Down of filmdom
 - 61 Beetle Bailey dog
 - 62 High-fashion handbag
 - 64 Courtroom statement
- DOWN**
- 1 Forfeiture
 - 2 ___ spumanti
 - 3 Make preparations
 - 4 Pooch
 - 5 Night-lighting reductions
 - 6 Biblical paradise
 - 7 National symbols
 - 8 "___ the fields we go"
 - 9 Cows, when eating
 - 10 Table game
 - 11 Love a lot
 - 12 Answering-machine sounds
 - 13 Messy person
 - 21 One-person concerts
 - 23 Tailless primate
 - 26 Rotational force
 - 27 Sailboat pole
 - 28 Predatory dolphin
 - 29 Two, to Richelieu
 - 30 Aromas
 - 34 Beast of burden
 - 36 Actor Baldwin
 - 37 Work as a model
 - 38 Soaks (up)
 - 40 Doorbell sound
 - 42 Luggage attachment
 - 44 Frees from an obligation
 - 45 Catch in a trap
 - 48 Poetic "before"
 - 50 Rubber-stamp accessory
 - 51 Bit of info
 - 52 Musical start, for short
 - 53 Wheeled footwear
 - 55 Nursery-school attendees
 - 57 Picked out of a lineup
 - 58 Gymnast
 - Korbut
 - 59 Gas in garish signs
 - 60 Overly infatuated
 - 63 Uncooked

SMALL CHANGES by Shirley Soloway Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
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Texas briefs

Suspect arrested over Corpus Christi stabbing

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — A Corpus Christi teen is accused of attacking another youth by using a nail-studded board to cause more than two dozen wounds.

Seventeen-year-old Federico Garcia of Corpus Christi remained in the Nueces County Jail on Wednesday on a charge of aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury.

Booking clerk Mary Lou Cortez said bail was \$75,000. She told The Associated Press that there was no attorney was listed for Garcia.

Capt. Todd Green says 17-year-old John Hernandez of Corpus Christi had 26 stab wounds when he was discovered early Saturday outside a residence.

Green said Hernandez suffered non-life threatening injuries. Police later determined the apparent weapon was a board with nail studs. Police did not immediately provide further details Wednesday.

Police say Garcia was arrested Tuesday afternoon at a home.

Bexar County jail guard indicted

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A guard in San Antonio has been indicted on federal civil rights charges over the alleged December 2004 beating of two inmates.

The Justice Department announced the indictment of 54-year-old Daniel Melgoza, who works at the Bexar (BAYR) County Detention Center.

The four-count indictment, announced Tuesday, alleges Melgoza violated the rights of two detainees by kicking and hitting them, plus obstructed justice by allegedly trying to cover it up.

If convicted, Melgoza faces 10 years in prison on each civil rights count and 20 years on each obstruction of justice charge.

Defense attorney Marilyn Bradley says Melgoza was suspended without



Comedian Billy Crystal, center, serves an early Thanksgiving dinner to clients at the Salvation Army Carr P. Collins Social Service Center in Dallas.

AP photo

pay for nearly four years, but was reinstated in September 2008. Bradley says Melgoza will plead not guilty.

Prosecutor Cliff Herberg said no state charges were filed because of evidentiary problems.

Billy Crystal: Dallas Cowboy for a day

DALLAS (AP) — Comedian and sports fan Billy Crystal traded a stage for a Salvation Army center to help serve an early Thanksgiving lunch to the needy in Dallas.

The native New Yorker said "This isn't gonna play well in New Jersey" as he put on a Cowboys jersey with his name and No. 9, the same number as Dallas quarterback Tony Romo.

Crystal is in Dallas through the weekend for performances of his show "700 Sundays."

He spent part of Tuesday offering pumpkin pie and visiting with diners, serving up one liners such as

"How about this Cowboy?"

Crystal, who's a renowned fan of baseball's New York Yankees, said he wanted to pitch in because he admires the Cowboys and the NFL franchise.

Prison over Haltom City death of boyfriend

FORT WORTH (AP) — A man convicted of killing his daughter's boyfriend outside a Haltom City warehouse has been sentenced to 40 years in prison.

A Tarrant County jury on Tuesday sentenced 44-year-old Vinton Derrick Cummings.

Jurors on Friday convicted Cummings of murder in the October 2008 shooting death of 20-year-old Temple Jernigan.

Witnesses testified Cummings believed the boyfriend was interfering with the father-daughter relationship. Jernigan was slain after Cummings asked to meet him so he allegedly could pass along some money to his daughter.

An attorney for Cummings acknowledged Jernigan was shot twice, but claimed it was self defense.

Prosecutor Robb Catalano says Cummings was an amateur bodybuilder and evidence found by police indicated he had illegal human growth hormone at his home.

Physicist Chu returns to UH

HOUSTON (AP) — Superconductivity physicist Paul Chu is returning to the University of Houston after working overseas for most of the decade.

Chu since 2001 served as president of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Chu, when his appointment was announced in November 2000, said he planned to lead the Hong Kong institution for a few years, then return to UH.

Chu brings with him a \$2.8 million grant from the U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research to further his search

for new superconducting materials.

Chu in 1987 discovered a compound that allows electricity to flow without resistance at a temperature higher than the boiling point of nitrogen — high-temperature superconductivity.

Texas voters this month approved establishing a \$500 million fund to help universities expand their research programs.

Acquittal in food tainting case in Burnet

BURNET (AP) — Call it the case of the eaten evidence.

Jurors cited a lack of evidence in acquitting a restaurant cook accused in 2008 of spitting on the hamburger of the police chief of Burnet (BER-net).

A jury on Tuesday found Jaime Perez not guilty of harassment of a public servant.

Defense attorney Tim Cowart says the state never proved its case.

Prosecutor Joe Greer said there was no physical evidence because Chief Paul Nelson "ate it."

Police previously said Nelson in October 2008 was leading an investigation in a domestic dispute complaint involving Perez.

Perez was later fired from the Burnet restaurant, which has since closed.

Burnet is about 50 miles northwest of Austin.

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