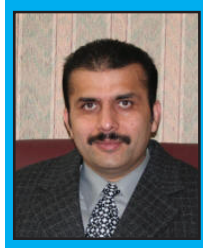




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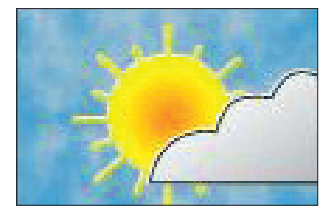


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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY

SEPTEMBER 7, 2010



VOLUME 105, NUMBER 235

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Hermine crosses into Texas

By PAUL J. WEBER
Associated Press Writer
McALLEN — Tropical Storm Hermine began to lose its punch as it pushed north Tuesday, after causing landslides in northeast Mexico and leaving one Texas town almost entirely without power.
As when Hurricane Alex

lashed the same flood-prone Rio Grande Valley in June, there was a feeling that Hermine could have been worse. There were no reports of serious injuries or major damage early Tuesday, and authorities ordered no evacuations.
Hermine dumped between 5 inches to a foot of rain

after crossing into Texas late Monday. The storm made landfall in northeastern Mexico with winds up to 65 mph (100 kph), arriving near the same spot as Alex, which killed at least 12 people in flooding in Mexico after remnant rains from the storm.
But unlike Alex, which

swiped Texas then plunged southwest into Mexico, Hermine was felt in more places.
"This is going to be much more of a memorable storm than Alex," National Weather Service meteorologist Joseph Tomaselli said Tuesday.
Hermine left all but one block of Raymondville, about

20 miles off the Texas coast, without electricity and ripped roofs off several buildings. A 5-year-old girl was also cut by broken glass when gusts from the storm threw a trampoline through the window of her family's home, said Robert Supulver of Willacy County's
See **HERMINE**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Heritage Museum Curator Tammy Schrecengost adjusts one of the displays on the "Let's Go to the Movies" exhibit at the museum. The exhibit, which celebrates the history of movies in Big Spring, runs through Oct. 31.

Daniels reception at 6:30 p.m. today

Melvin Daniels has been selected as the Hangar 25 Air Museum Veteran of the Month for September.
A reception in his honor will be held at 6:30 p.m. today at the museum, located at 1911 Apron Drive.
Lance Cpl. Daniels served in the U.S. Marines Corps from 1957 to 1960.
Refreshments will be served. The public is invited.

Triathlon Saturday

'Warriors' to descend upon Comanche Trail Park

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer
Big Spring's Comanche Trail Park will become the center of attention Saturday morning and afternoon, as more than 100 competitors from all over Texas look to take top honors in the annual Comanche Warrior Triathlon.
Featuring races in swimming, bicycling and running, the triathlon is a grueling test of athletic prowess and endurance, according to Troy Tompkins, one of the event's coordinators.
"The triathlon begins with a 500-meter open water swim, which will take place in Comanche Trail Lake," Tompkins said. "After that, the contestants will bike a 50 km course that will
See **TRIATHLON**, Page 3

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NO RECESSION HERE: Election spending sets records

By JIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON — Turns out politics, for all its focus on the gloomy economy, is a recession-proof industry.
This year's volatile election is bursting with money, setting fundraising and spending records in a high-stakes struggle for control of Congress amid looser but still fuzzy campaign finance rules.

Based on the latest financial reports, House and Senate candidates in this election cycle raised nearly \$1.2 billion, well ahead of the pace for contests in 2008, 2006 and 2004.
Races for governor in 37 states — more than half of those for open seats — are also setting fundraising records. Billionaire Republican Meg Whitman leads the way, pumping \$104 million of her own money into her campaign for California governor.

"We may be on track for the most expensive cycle ever, even more than '08, which is really hard to believe," said Michael Toner, a campaign finance lawyer at Bryan Cave and a former Federal Election Commission chairman.
Bitter intraparty fights, up to 100 competitive House races, a large number of open seats and early partisan attacks have created a growing demand for cash. The national parties are competing for

dollars with outside groups and their often-anonymous contributors. And while Democrats have an advantage at the national party level, Republican-leaning groups seem to have more than filled the void.
The money has been flowing into political battlegrounds since early this year, from a special Senate election in Massachusetts to a Demo-
See **SPENDING**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Shirley Nichols

Shirley Nichols, 68, of Big Spring died Friday, Sept. 3, 2010, at Midland Memorial Hospital. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home with the Rev. Ken McMeans officiating. Burial will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She was born Dec. 21, 1941, in Big Spring to Nell and J.W. Coots. She attended Big Spring schools and graduated from Howard College with her registered nursing degree. She married Doug Nichols Nov. 5, 1966, in Odessa. She worked for more than 18 years at the Veterans Administration Medical Center, retiring in 2002. She was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and was a member of College Baptist Church.

She is survived by her husband, Doug Nichols of Big Spring; two sons, Scotty Casselman of Big Spring and Brant Nichols of Tulsa; one grandson, Tyler Monroe Nichols of San Angelo; her mother, Nell Coots of Big Spring; one brother, Joe Coots and wife July of Midland; one sister, Sandra Allen and husband Jerry of Dallas; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father and one son, Stoney Casselman.

Pallbearers will be Jay Fryar, Charles Nichols, Wayland Nichols, Kevin Nichols, Vick Coots and Joe Coots.

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

Paid obituary

Jessie Malone 'Hap' Wilson

Jessie Malone "Hap" Wilson, 95, died Sunday, Sept. 5, 2010, in Whitney. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2010, at Marshall & Marshall Chapel in Whitney with the Rev. Herb Thompson of West Orange 1st Baptist Church in Orange, officiating. Interment will follow at Bethlehem Cemetery in Whitney. Visitation was held from Monday, Sept. 6, 2010.

Jessie was born May 23, 1915, in Cherokee County, near Alto. He was the son of Ethel Eva (Richardson) and George Wilson, MD. He married Mary Sue Connolly on July 15, 1939, and she preceded him in death June, 25, 2007.

He was a 32nd degree Mason and a U.S. Marine Veteran. He worked as a welder on the Dennison Dam and became superintendent of highway construction for R.W. McKinney until 1950. He then moved to Snyder and started in the oil fields, retiring in 1982 from the Texaco refinery he helped build.

Following his retirement he moved to Whitney, where he built their home on the farm and he continued to farm until 2004, when he had a stroke. He loved farming and raising cattle. He was an active member and deacon of the First Baptist Church of Whitney until his health and hearing began to fail.

Survivors includes his sons, Mike Wilson and wife Tammy of Whitney, Jeff Wilson and wife Karen of Big Spring; grandchildren, Jerry Wilson and wife Danielle, Jessica Lynn Jacobs, Karissa Casas and husband John, and Joshua Wilson; great-grandchildren, Jared Wilson, Taylor Jacobs, Hayden Jacobs, Samara Jacobs, Sarah Lynn Archer, Ranen Wilson; and great-great-grandchild, Anthony Archer

Marshall & Marshall Funeral Directors of Whitney are in charge of arrangements.

Paid obituary

Support Groups

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

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

William L. Brown

William L. "Bill or Bud" Brown, 69, of Big Spring died Monday, Sept. 6, 2010, in a Colorado City nursing home. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2010, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Elder David Machiavello of Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2010, at the funeral home.

He was born Feb. 3, 1941, in Conehatta, Miss. He had been a resident of Big Spring since the mid 1950s and had worked as an insurance agent for Reliable Life and American General for more than 30 years. He was a member of the Full Gospel Business Men's Association in the early 1980s, the Gideon's International and had ministered at the prisons and also at the fire stations. Bill played the guitar and sang, and was an avid student of scripture.

Survivors include one son, Bill Brown of Sherman; three daughters, Melisa Fowler and husband Jim of Odessa, Lori Metcalf and husband Jesse of Coahoma, and Rachel Hurford and husband Hurf of Odessa; one brother, Bo Brown and wife Blonzell of Decatur, Miss.; three sisters, Martha Nations of Jackson, Miss., Lola Kelly of Lake, Miss., and Jackie Gibbs and husband James Louis of Morton, Miss.; 11 grandchildren, Stephanie Bommersbach and husband Craig, Cassie Young, Ashton Brook Young, Cody Young and Tye Young, all of Odessa, Jesse Metcalf II and wife Meghan, Andy Metcalf and McKaylee Metcalf, all of Coahoma, Tatum Hurford and Tanner Hurford, both of Odessa, and Erin Kyle Brown of Sherman; and one great-grandchild, Hayden Bommersbach of Odessa.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, James C. Brown of Odessa.

The family suggests memorials be made to Compass Hospice or to your local fire department.

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

Paid obituary

Neal "Speck" Ward

Neal "Speck" Ward, 81, of Big Spring died Monday, Sept. 6, 2010, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Take Note

• The local division of the Disabled American Veterans will be holding a 9-11 memorial service at the Big Spring Mall at 6:30 p.m. The ceremony is being held in honor of the of the Americans who lost their lives in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and the local men and women who have lost their lives while serving in the armed forces since that tragic day. There memorial will be held just west of the Sears inside the mall, near the memorial wall. For more information on the memorial ceremony, contact Mike Tarpley at (432) 556-2227.

• Big Spring Band Boosters meet the second Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the BSHS Band Hall. All band parents are welcome.

• Mobile Meals is in need of volunteers to deliver meals to the homebound elderly in Big Spring. If you can donate at least one hour a week, call Macaria Cantu at 263-4016 and leave a message.

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Local 5-Day Forecast

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86/69	91/70	91/68	90/65	91/67
Variable clouds with thunderstorms, especially in the afternoon. High 86F.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the low 70s.	Slight chance of a thunderstorm.	Partly cloudy, chance of a thunderstorm.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the upper 60s.
Sunrise: 7:26 AM Sunset: 8:01 PM	Sunrise: 7:26 AM Sunset: 8:00 PM	Sunrise: 7:27 AM Sunset: 7:59 PM	Sunrise: 7:27 AM Sunset: 7:57 PM	Sunrise: 7:28 AM Sunset: 7:56 PM

Police blotter

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

- SPENCER WYATT SAUCEDO, 17, of 201 Jefferson, was arrested Monday on a charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor.
- SAMANTHA MARIE PAYNE, 26, of 303 E. Ninth St., was arrested Monday on a charge of assault – family violence.
- JIMMY FRANCIS GARRARD, 36, of 303 E. Ninth St., was arrested Monday on a charge of assault – family violence.
- JUSTIN STEPHEN MUNDELL, 35, of 505 Tubbs Loop Rd., was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- ASSAULT was reported: In the 300 block of E. Ninth Street. In the 1900 block of N. Highway 87.
- THEFT was reported in the 1700 block of E. Third Street.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 600 block of Baylor.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1700 block of E. 15th Street.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 300 block of E. 19th Street.
- DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported in the 1800 block of E. 15th Street.

Sheriff

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

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 68 inmates at the time of this report.

- KARRI DAWN TINDOL, 38, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated – second offense.
- JOSE INEZ BRITO, 24, was arrested Friday by DPS on municipal warrants for violation of a promise to appear and displaying an expired registration.
- SHANE LEE NEWSOM, 46, was arrested Friday by DPS on charges of driving while license invalid

See **SHERIFF**, Page 3

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HERMINE

Continued from Page 1

emergency operations center.
 "It was a lot of wind, a lot of rain coming real fast," Supulver said.
 As many as 30,000 homes were without power in the Rio Grande Valley early Tuesday, according to an online outage map of American Electric Power, the area's power utility. A company representative did not immediately return a message seeking comment.
 Tornado watches were in effect for 16 Texas counties early Tuesday.

TRIATHLON

Continued from Page 1

take them down Wasson Road, with a turnaround point near the Garden City Highway. After that, it wraps up with a 5 km run, which takes place inside the city park.
 "It's a pretty grueling contest to watch. Most of the athletes will complete the course within approximately two hours, but the really hardcore contestants will be able to finish in about an hour-and-a-half."
 Saturday's contest marks the third year the Comanche Warrior Triathlon has been held in Big Spring, according to Tompkins.
 "A lot of the participants will actually

come into town the night before because this things gets started really early in the morning," he said. "The triathlon itself will be over around 10 a.m. Traffic in the park during the triathlon will be tightly controlled, as well. Every effort is being made to keep the contestants as safe as possible during the event."
 "In 2008, we had between 75 and 80 competitors take part in the race," he added. "Last year we had about 100. We're expecting between 100 and 150 athletes this year. I've talked to a lot of the participants in the past, and they think the Comanche Warrior Triathlon is one of the best in this half of the state. It features a good open water swim, and the terrain offers some unique challenges for the competitors."
 Registration is to begin at 6 a.m. and

the competition starts at 8 a.m.
 Tompkins said the triathlon will begin with the 500-meter swim, near the Dora Roberts Community Center.
 "I hope people will come out and enjoy the triathlon. It's very much a spectator event," he said. "It really is amazing how much work these athletes do to prepare for the event, and just the level of energy they put out during the contest is insane. I get tired just watching them."
 For more information on the Comanche Warrior Triathlon, visit www.comanchewarriortriathlon.com or contact the CVB at (432) 263-8235.
Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at ctjdeskb@bigspringherald.com

SPENDING

Continued from Page 1

cratic primary fight for a Senate seat in Arkansas, from the race for Florida governor to the gubernatorial and Senate contests in California. The spending will now shift to the general election.
 Millions of dollars are pouring into campaigns that have been dominated by discussions about the government's fiscal prudence. There's no such thing as restraint when it comes to getting elected.
 Factors affecting the role of money:
COURT DECISIONS:
 The Supreme Court earlier this year freed corporations and unions to spend their money on ads targeting candidates for president and Con-

gress. A subsequent lower court ruling said individuals are also free to spend unlimited amounts on independent election ads.
 So far, however, corporations have generally avoided overt politicking.
 "The whole notion of 'Vote against Snodgrass by Gillette shaving cream' — it's just not going to happen," said Kenneth Goldstein, a University of Wisconsin-Madison political scientist who specializes in political media.
 Instead, corporations are funneling their money to trade associations such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce or other groups that can air election ads, often without having to disclose their donors.
 The desire for anonymity may have gotten an extra push when Target Corp. faced a backlash for its \$150,000 do-

nation to a Minnesota political group that was running ads in support of conservative Republican gubernatorial candidate Tom Emmer.
 "What we will see is corporations not wanting to anger their shareholders, not wanting to anger their retail customer by getting involved in partisan elections," said Paul Ryan, a senior lawyer at the Campaign Legal Center. "Instead they will employ strategies to obscure the fact, or hide completely the fact that they are dumping money into politics by routing their money through groups like the Chamber of Commerce."
OUTSIDE GROUPS:
 Since 2000, Republicans had relied on President George W. Bush's prodigious fundraising to keep the party well supplied with money. Now, however, the GOP lags be-

hind the Democratic Party. That has created a web of outside groups, a shadow party of sorts weighing in with millions of dollars to help Republican candidates.
 Among the most prominent is American Crossroads and its allied groups. It was created under the direction of former Bush political strategist Karl Rove and former Republican National Committee Chairman Ed Gillespie. The operation is run out of offices two blocks from the White House.
 "We wanted to create a group that was monolithically focused on helping get Republicans elected," said Steve Law, the president and CEO of American Crossroads and a former U.S. Chamber of Commerce lawyer.
THE PARTIES:
 The Democratic National

Committee and its Senate and House party affiliates have the advantage over their GOP counterparts in fundraising and cash on hand. That puts an additional burden on outside Republican groups such as American Crossroads.
 Republicans can also look to another quarter for help. The Republican Governors Association, which can raise unlimited sums from corporations, has outraised its Democratic rival and is prepared to spend \$65 million by Election Day, compared with \$50 million for the Democrats.
 While the governors' group cannot use the money to help federal candidates, its get-out-the-vote efforts will inevitably help all Republicans on the ballot. With the mood running against Democrats, that can't hurt.

SHERIFF

Continued from Page 2

with a previous conviction or suspension, failure to maintain financial responsibility and possession of drug paraphernalia.
 • SELESTINO HERNANDEZ III, 25, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on an Austin parole violation and a charge of burglary of a habitation.
 • RENE ANGEL VALDEZ JR., 49, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
 • GARY JAMES MIEARS, 33, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
 • HECTOR FERNANDEZ JR., 50, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
 • JOSHUA PAUL SILVA, 23, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of assault causing bodily injury.
 • VIRGINIA HINOJOS MORENO, 46, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of driving while license invalid, violation of a promise to appear and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
 • MARK TIMOTHY STANLEY, 48, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
 • ARTHUR MORENO ORTEGA, 47, was arrested Saturday by DPS on charges of intoxicated with child under 15 years, evading arrest or detention with a vehi-

cle, driving while intoxicated — second offense, a motion to revoke probation for possession of a controlled substance and bondsman off bond for driving while intoxicated.
 • CODY DEJUAN HAWKINS, 28, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for failure to appear (10 counts), driving while license invalid (two counts), violation of a promise to appear (five counts), displaying an expired registration (two counts) and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
 • JODY KYLE ROGERS, 51, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated — second offense.
 • KENDRA LYNN HARRISON, 39, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
 • RICARDO SALCEDO GARZA, 48, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.
 • KENNETH GRIFFIN, 38, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of public intoxication.
 • ELISEO MEDRANO, 20, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of minor in consumption of alcohol.
 • VALENTIN CALVIN ARLEDGE, 20, was arrested Saturday by DPS on charges of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension and ride not secured with safety belt.
 • RICHARD LEE OLIVAS, 23, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of bondsman off bond for

possession of marijuana — more than four ounces, less than five pounds.
 • STEPHANIE NIETO, 30, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of no driver's license and no valid inspection certificate.
 • HEATHER MARIE FONDA, 30, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of speeding in a school zone, failure to appear (two counts) and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
 • WILLIAM LEE HAYES, 53, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
 • RICARDO SALCEDO GARZA, 48, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
 • MICHAEL SHAE JACKMAN, 24, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.
 • TRINITY LEWIS OWEN, 30, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on charges of failure to identify as a fugitive — giving false information and public intoxication.
 • JOHNNY AGUILAR MARTINEZ II, 39, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated — third or more offense.
 • MARTIN DOMINGUEZ, 22, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to identify as a fugitive from justice and a motion to revoke probation for weapon offense.
 • RICHARD ADAM BAILEY, 33, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a

charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
 • JOHN MICHAEL EDMONDSON JR., 20, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of bondsman off bond for evading arrest or detention.
 • DEVON LEE BUTLER, 25, was arrested Monday by DPS on charges of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension and evading arrest or detention.
 • FRANK LEE JACKSON, 51, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of disorderly conduct — language.
 • JUSTIN WAYNE SMITH, 30, was arrested Monday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated — second offense.
 • SPENCER WYATT SAUCEDO, 17, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of consumption of alcohol by a minor and minor in possession of tobacco.
 • JIMMY FRANCIS GARRARD, 36, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of assault — family violence.
 • SAMANTHA MARIE PAYNE, 26, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of assault — family violence.
 • JERRY DON JONES, 58, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of assault — family violence.

• TRACY GONZALES, 25, was arrested Monday by DPS on charges of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension and no driver's license.
 • JOE RODRIGUEZ, 38, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of unlawful restraint — exposed to serious bodily injury.
 • SHANE LEE NEWSOM, 46, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of driving while license invalid and expired registration.
 • KEVIN CHALES HATTENBACH, 48, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of public intoxication, evading arrest or detention and resisting arrest, search or transportation.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
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 Captain Ellery "Ray" Wallace, 33, died Saturday. Funeral Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Burial with Military Honors will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.
 Shirley Nichols, 68, died Friday. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Candor really needed with TxDOT funds

Texas is far behind the curve when it comes to funding transportation infrastructure. In 1997, the Texas Department of Transportation estimated the state needed to spend \$11 billion annually over the following decade to maintain existing infrastructure and meet the needs of a growing state. Ten years later, a study by Texas Comptroller Susan Combs found the state was actually spending about \$3.1 billion annually.

In 2008, a blue-ribbon panel of civic and business leaders conducted a new assessment of Texas' transportation infrastructure needs over the next two decades. The 2030 Committee concluded Texas will need to spend \$313 billion, or more than \$15 billion annually over the next 20 years to keep the state moving. TxDOT's budget for the current biennium is about \$8.5 billion annually.

Yes, the Legislature needs to end the diversions of highway-fund money to purposes other than roads. But when those diversions total only \$1.15 billion, that doesn't come close to filling the gap for road maintenance and construction.

What's worse, Texas has essentially kicked the infrastructure can down the road by paying for construction with borrowed money. As Hearst Austin Bureau chief Peggy Fikac reported, TxDOT says the state — meaning taxpayers — will pay \$272.5 million next year for debt service on \$6.45 billion in transportation bonds. Between 2013 and 2032, debt service for those bonds will cost \$400 million annually.

You can lay a lot of asphalt for \$400 million. That's the penalty Texans will pay for not actually budgeting for the roads the state needs.

Some leaders in Austin are starting to come around to this realization. Senate Finance Chairman Steve Ogden, R-Bryan, is discussing the possibility of a constitutional amendment requiring voter approval that would raise the state's 20-cent-per-gallon motor fuels tax enough to pay off the debt service on the road bonds. The motor fuels tax hasn't been raised since 1990.

That, along with ending the highway fund diversions, would be a good start. But it's still not enough to meet the state's transportation needs. Instead of half-measures, Texans deserve some straight talk from Austin about what it will take to meet those needs.

THE EXPRESS-NEWS
SAN ANTONIO

LETTER POLICIES

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- 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 take the steps to improve ourselves, Lord, by coming to You through prayer.

Amen

The generic political race

Gallup was out last week with a new poll showing the generic Republican beating the generic Democrat in House contests by 10 points. The gap, Gallup points out, is the biggest one it has seen in midterm generic polls since it started doing them. It is substantially larger than the gap in 1994, when Republicans took control of the House in the first midterm election of the last Democratic president, Bill Clinton.

Does that mean it's time for Republicans to start picking the drapes for their new leadership offices? Should Nancy Pelosi be packing up her gavel?

Not so fast. In a choice between being 10 points ahead or 10 points behind, any hack worth her salt will tell you that 10 points ahead is better. But there are enough "buts" in generic polls to make any predictions at this point wildly premature.

First of all, polls are snapshots, not predictors. They tell you where folks are now, which is not necessarily where they'll be some 10 weeks from now. Politics and public opinion are volatile; every pollster I know will tell you generic polls jump around.

Secondly, generic candidates don't run. The generic Republican is not facing the generic Democrat in any district in America. Real candidates sometimes do much better — or much worse — than their generic equivalents, depending on all kinds of factors that don't go into the generic test.

Virtually everyone in Congress

gets re-elected every two years, even as people complain about how little they think of Congress. People hate Congress overwhelmingly, but most of them make an exception for the particular person who represents them — who helped find a lost Social Security check, spoke at their kid's graduation or welcomed them to their office. Incumbents do much better than generics any day.

Thirdly, the Republican Party is showing a number of signs that it is more than capable of stealing defeat from the jaws of victory. The tea party movement has brought real and genuine enthusiasm to the GOP, but it has also brought real divisiveness. Could Harry Reid beat the generic Republican? Not easily. Could he beat tea partier and political newcomer Sharron Angle? Much more likely.

Every Democrat I know is rooting for Palin-favorite Joe Miller to come out on top of incumbent Lisa Murkowski in Alaska precisely because she's running about 30 points better than he is against the Democrat in a general election contest. Republicans hardly have a monopoly on choosing the candidate who is least likely to win, but in this cycle, at least, they're way ahead of the Democrats on that score. It may not be thanks to the administration (which, after all, supported brand-new Democrat Arlen Specter in Pennsylvania over the eminently more electable Joe Sestak). But the Democrats have ended up with a stronger slate of candidates than a party with problems may deserve.

Lastly, for all the problems with the Democratic agenda, at least there is one. What swept the Republicans to victory in 1994 was not (just) running against the administration, but the perception

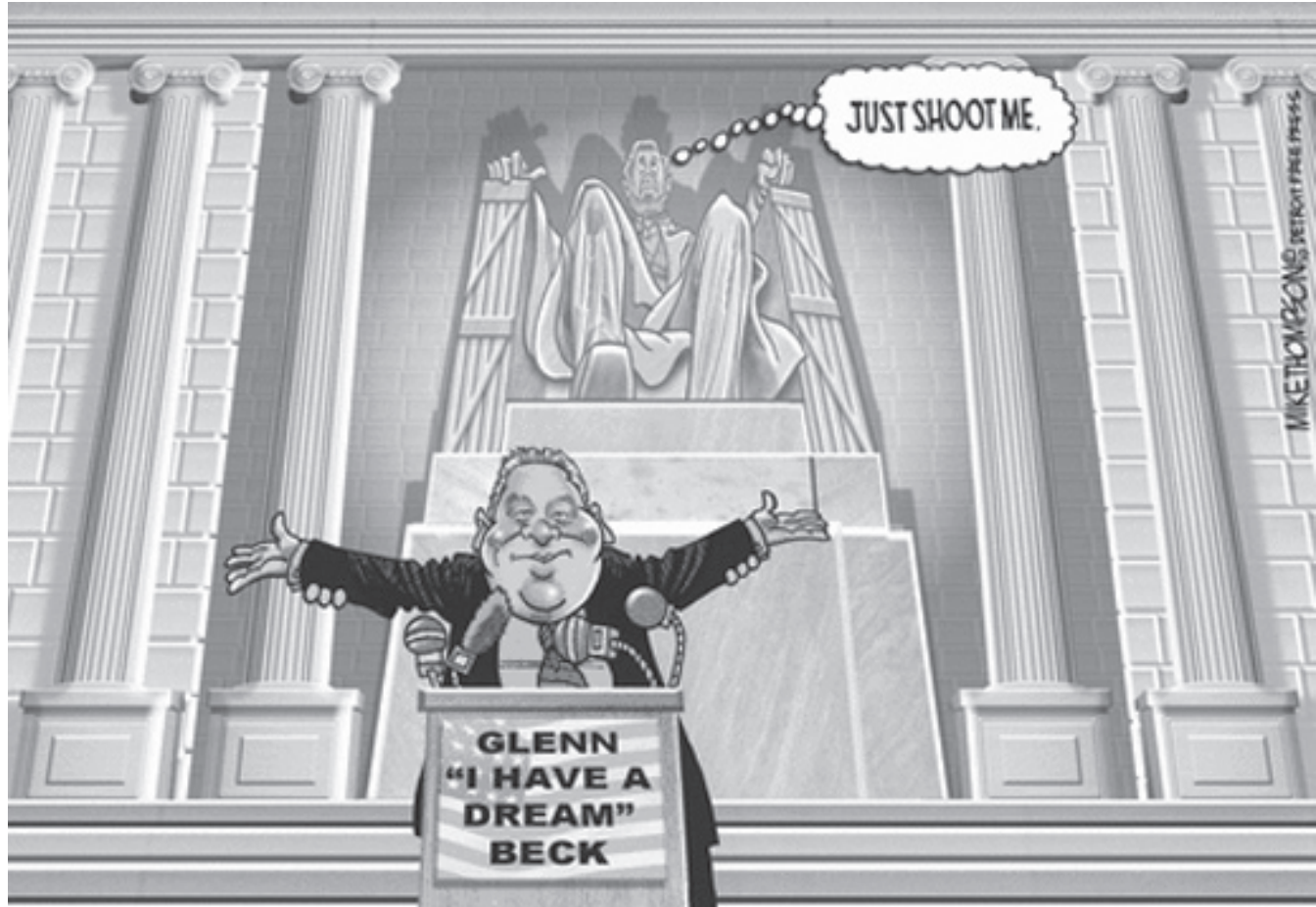
that they had a unifying agenda — a Contract with America — and were ready to govern. The Republicans have every reason to want to nationalize this election (after all, the generic Republican is a national construct). But other than being against everything the president is for, they have yet to put forth anything resembling a governing plan.

Organizers of last week's Lincoln Memorial rally have gone out of their way to say it wasn't about politics, but about faith and spirituality. In addition to making some people nervous about the idea of one group judging the faith and spirituality of others (as in Glenn Beck saying he doesn't recognize the president's brand of Christianity, and one of Beck's rally partners, evangelist leader Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, telling NPR he doesn't recognize Beck's), the focus on faith over politics highlights the void as to the latter.

What all this means is not that Democrats will hold on to the House come next fall, but that they can — and that even if they don't, it hardly spells doom for the president. The one area where the gap between the parties is clearest is that of enthusiasm. Enthusiasm comes from activists and ideologues. Instead of attacking them, this president and his team have to remember to spend some time wooing them.

Clinton lost the House in 1994, but he won re-election handily, in part by running against the Republican Congress. All of which suggests that there are occasions when one must be careful what they wish for.

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Another curse for Afghanistan

As if war, tyranny, drugs, corruption, disease and misogyny weren't misfortune enough for Afghanistan, now the Pentagon reports that it also suffers that worst affliction of all — mineral resources.

"What did we do to deserve this?" cry the Afghans. "Now they'll never go home!"

You betcha. Why else, countless observers point out, would the Pentagon be announcing the "discovery" of vast deposits of iron, copper, gold, cobalt and lithium. This isn't exactly hot news. The first press release to this effect came from Marco Polo. It was followed up in more detail by the Soviet Union during its own unhappy occupation and now the Chinese already have a deal going for a copper mine.

The preponderance of Washington (and world) opinion is that this timing is meant to stanch the flow of our NATO allies scrambling for the exits. Not to mention the similar nosedive of American public opinion.

If Western folks can just be persuaded that they can siphon

off some of these riches for themselves, they may be more willing to stay and prosecute the occupation. And if nothing else, surely no one wants between \$1 trillion and \$3 trillion worth of wealth falling into the hands of the Taliban, or worse, al-Qaeda.

You'll note that nowhere in all the excitement so far has anyone suggested how the exploitation of these minerals might in some small way benefit the local population.

Such an outcome would require strong government regulation, potent labor unions, effective environmental controls and an honest administration.

Good luck. We don't even have those in the United States.

More typically, extracting mineral wealth in poor countries dislocates poor farmers, exploits workers, draws shameless mining companies, pollutes the water, ruins landscapes, corrupts officials and triggers foreign intervention.

Some locals do get jobs, but often even this work goes to imported rootless workers. Local residents would be expected rather to continue growing heroin to maintain their own survival. Most profits would go to foreign investors and plenty of the local share would find its way to banks in Singapore, Hong Kong, Zurich and Wall Street.

All of which could make you suspect why the Pentagon is suddenly so involved in geology. You don't suppose it's interested in extending the occupation or expanding riches for multinational corporations?

Well no, we can probably write those suspicions off. We're not into conspiracy theories.

In any event, whoever exploits Afghanistan's resources is facing a long wait for cash flow.

Mines have a serious need for roads, heavy equipment, electricity, railroads, water and living amenities. All of these remain in short supply over there.

Not to mention security, of which there is basically none without calling on NATO, warlords, or the Taliban.

If the U.S. stays on, it will be our military doing the dirty work.

If we leave, it will be the warlords or the insurgents doing it, heavily subsidized by the mining corporations.

The future for your average Afghan, consequently, is bleak. There's only corruption and devastation on the horizon, of which Afghanistan has already suffered enough.

OtherWords columnist William A. Collins is a former state representative and a former mayor of Norwalk, Conn.



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Backpack Word Find

Just in time for Backpack Safety Month, see how many related words you can find and circle in the puzzle.

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BACKPACK	HURTS	SPINE
BOOKS	PAINS	STRAPS
CLASSROOM	SAFETY	WEIGHT

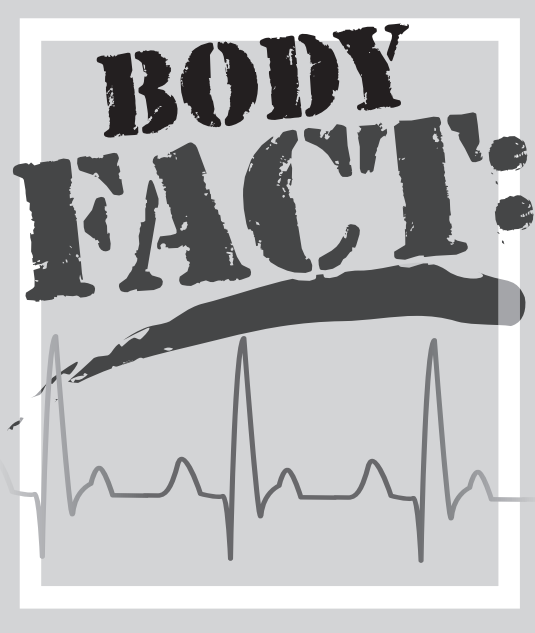
C Z W S K O O B U Y N T
P L T H R S C L L F H S
P A A Y T E F A S G M P
E P I S R L T D I X Q I
M G R N S E A E S B K N
A C H E S R W E X A N E
S O I X H S O W H C H T
D V N U C P V O O K S R
B B R H V A U X M P Q I
A T O F V R L P B A X S
S O P P R T Q M G C B M
L H H T F S S J B K D V

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1939:** SOUTH AFRICA DECLARES WAR ON GERMANY.
- **1995:** CAL RIPKEN, JR. BREAKS LOU GEHRIG'S MAJOR LEAGUE RECORD FOR CONSECUTIVE GAMES PLAYED.
- **1997:** MORE THAN TWO BILLION PEOPLE WATCH PRINCESS DIANA BE LAID TO REST ON TELEVISION.



TRUE OR FALSE:

WEARING A BACKPACK INCORRECTLY
CAN CAUSE POOR POSTURE.

ANSWER: TRUE

School Match

Match the tools with the people who use them.

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. Grading Book | A. Janitor |
| 2. Backpack | B. Teacher |
| 3. Mop | C. Lunch lady |
| 4. Ladle | D. Student |

ANSWERS: 1B 2D 3A 4C



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intended to provide
comfort and reduce
injury

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Pain

SPANISH: Dolor

ITALIAN: Dolore

FRENCH: Douler

GERMAN: Shmertz

Did you KNOW!



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the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: BACKPACK

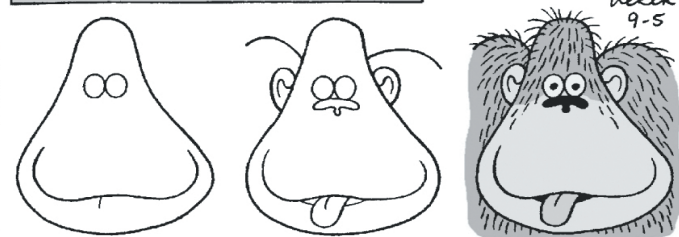
SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

BY BOB WEBER JR.

Mandy Mink's tricycle got stuck in a muddy field. She left to get help, and when she returned, her tricycle was gone. There were no witnesses, and no footprints other than Mandy's were found. One of these suspects is the thief. Which one does Slylock Fox suspect is guilty?



HOW TO DRAW an orangutan



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Kangaroos are capable
of going for months
without...

- a) eating
- b) drinking
- c) sleeping
- d) breathing

Answer -- b) As long as their
drinking for months.
Kangaroos can go without
food contains some water.

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Bird Poop:

Chihuahan raven would forever remind us of Poe

The change was noticeable. Mornings were cooler. In the evenings, the couple could once again venture into their backyard after the evening meal to enjoy latecomers at the bird feeder.

Having heard a blend of croaks and gravelly protests, they assumed a grackle was lending its voice to the strident humming of the cicadas. Not seeing the vocal trespasser, they were satisfied that it had flown to their neighbor's yard to pilfer dog food.

As the couple settled into the lawn chairs the following evening, they heard the discordant announcement again. Walking about the yard and staring up into his pecan tree, the man could not see any bird that would have made that sound. Joining him, his wife wondered about the strange call.

Having dined earlier than normal the next evening, the couple decided to be early in their attempt to spot the visitor. Sitting quietly, they heard the approach of their evening interloper. What they did not expect was a fairly large black bird landing at the opposite end of the yard.

Nonchalantly walking through their St. Augustine grass, it quickly caught insects hidden among the tufts. Arriving at the base of the feeder, the bird began to feast on the cracked corn and maize in the chicken scratch/wild birdseed combination.

Having forgotten to turn off a small sprinkler at the other end of the yard, the couple watched as the bird enjoyed a bath. Its thirst quenched by the droplets on the blades of grass, the visitor walked about the perimeter of the lawn. Nothing missed its attention.

An unending curiosity led the bird to inspect much of the mani-



BEBE
MCCASLAND



Courtesy photo

Playful and inquisitive, the Chihuahan raven is both clown and persistent gatherer of information. Its guttural voice announces its dominant presence to both humans and other birds.

cured lawn. Satisfied that it had accomplished its patrol, it slowly approached the couple. Stopping at the man's shoes, it jumped backward after pecking the laces. Next came the end of his trousers.

Again, a peck and move. Then grasping a bit of khaki in its bill, it tugged at the material.

Moving to the woman's feet, it was fascinated by the adornments on her thongs. With the same ritual accomplished, the bird fluffed its feathers, swished its wedge-shaped tail and flew to the man's shoulder.

Afraid that any movement would have frightened the bird away, the couple remained as still as possible. With it pecking at the buttons on his shirt and playing with his hair, he realized the bird wasn't all that eager to leave.

Finally, the woman said, "That's somebody's bird!" As her husband turned toward her, the bird playfully nipped at his ear. "I felt that one," he offered as he remained in the chair with the bird investigating his attire.

As evening turned to night, the bird flew into the upper branches of the pecan tree. Looking at each other, the couple could hardly believe what had happened.

Anticipating and hoping the bird would continue to stay in their yard, they were rewarded the next morning by its appearance. An offering of canned dog food, small bits of apple and lean raw beef would suffice until they could discover other foods to feed it.

Having often seen what they now thought was a raven, the couple had noticed the specie dining on road kill

as they drove on county roads. For the bird to be inside the city limits of a community with nearly 100,000 people was puzzling.

Since the raven had come to them, it might also go to others who might not have the best intentions for the bird. After searching for information, the man notified Parks & Wildlife.

When he called, my first question was did he think he could put it in a dog carrier. Since he had lifted it on and off his shoulder, he thought he could get it in a container.

Able to pet the raven, he described how it would close its eyes and let him ruffle the feathers around its neck.

"What did you notice about the feathers when you did that?" I asked. He said he had not expected a white base underneath.

Formerly called a white-necked raven, the specie he now described is a Chihuahan raven. When he mentioned petting the bird caused it to make a noise that sounded like a soft murmuring, I indicated someone else had probably stroked the bird.

As we drove to South Plains in Lubbock with the raven, we talked about how Lamesa and Stanton attract migrating flocks. Surrounded by agricultural land and open spaces, the outskirts of these communities offer insects, mice, sorghums, and melons. After successful nesting, the families leave for the winter but promise a spring return.

Imprinted upon humans, the raven had been deprived of its place in the sky. Fortunately, as an educational ambassador, it would be a living example of a captive that would rather be free.

Although it was destined to live in the confines of a sanctuary, the lesson it could impart to the public would echo Edgar Allan Poe's poetic statement, "Nevermore."

Bebe McCasland is author of The Scoop from Bird Poop. She is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

News in brief

U.S. commander in Afghanistan warns against Quran burning

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The top U.S. and NATO commander in Afghanistan warned Tuesday an American church's threat to burn copies of the Muslim holy book the Quran could endanger U.S. troops in the country and Americans worldwide.

"Images of the burning of a Quran would undoubtedly be used by extrem-

ists in Afghanistan — and around the world — to inflame public opinion and incite violence," Gen. David Petraeus said in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

His comments followed a protest Monday by hundreds of Afghans over the plans by Gainesville, Florida-based Dove World Outreach Center — a small evangelical Christian church that espouses anti-Islam philosophy — to burn copies of the Quran on

church grounds to mark the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States that provoked the Afghan war.

U.S. expects to spend billions on Afghanistan training long after drawdown of its forces

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government's financial commitment to Afghanistan is likely to linger and reach into the billions long after it pulls combat troops from the country, newly disclosed spending estimates show.

The United States expects to spend about \$6 billion a year training and

supporting Afghan troops and police after it begins withdrawing its own combat troops in 2011.

The estimates of U.S. spending through 2015, detailed in a NATO training mission document, are an acknowledgment that Afghanistan will remain largely dependent on the United States for its security.

That reality could become problematic for the Obama administration as it continues to seek money for Afghanistan from Congress.

In Brussels, a NATO official said Monday that alliance commander Gen. David Petraeus had asked for 2,000 more soldiers, with nearly half to be trainers.

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Crop Production Services Announces Acquisition of Big Spring Farm Supply

Crop Production Services, is pleased to announce a new addition to its South Plains Division. As of Friday morning, August 27, 2010, CPS closed on the acquisition of Big Spring Farm Supply, Inc. in Big Spring, Texas. Big Spring Farm Supply has been owned and operated by Ronnie and Diane Wood for the past 32 years. They have partnered with the CPS Roscoe location over the years as their customer and as a consignment location.

Due to changes in the agricultural industry over the years, Ronnie and Diane decided that they could better service their customers by joining the CPS family. David Goodman, Keaton Hughes and Katelyn Villaneuva will also be joining the CPS family at the Big Spring location. Quentin Merket, who is currently a salesperson for CPS, will split his time between the Big Spring and Lamesa locations. Crop Production Services is delighted to have this group of outstanding individuals to join them and is confident that they will be an asset to the organization. Please stop by or give them a call and help us in welcoming them to our group.

Back to work

After time off, Lady Steers at Midland Christian

BY ADAM COLEMAN
Sports Editor

There were no long bus trips and two-day tournaments for the Big Spring volleyball team last weekend. The Lady Steers got a chance to breathe with no scheduled matches Friday and Saturday.

Big Spring has been busy since the season opener, with only two dates at home and the rest on the road, so far.

"I think it was much needed," head coach Lynn Osborne said. "We really have some tendonitis problems. I thought time off was going to be the only thing that was going to get us ready."

After dropping a match to Bronte on Aug. 31, Big Spring (11-13) is back on the road against Midland Christian at 5 p.m. and Sterling City at 6 p.m. today at Midland Christian High School.

In addition to rest, the time off has allowed the Lady Steers to hit the courts and work on some of the ailing parts of their game.

In the Bronte match, Osborne said her players had struggles passing the ball and limiting the errors, so ball control has been a focus in practice.

One other issue is preventing opponents from getting large leads during games.

Keeping a lead has

been no problem for the Lady Steers, as seen in their Game 2 win against Bronte by 10 points. But Osborne said when Big Spring gets down by seven or eight points during games, her players have a hard time keeping up.

In practice, Osborne said she's conducted mini-games to help with that problem.

"I believe they're going to work their way out of it," she said. "I think it's something that's kind of been a problem for us all the way through the program and for years. It's something that they know is a problem and something they're very determined to work through. I believe they're taking the right steps and have the right frame of mind to work through it."

So the Lady Steers hope the time off brings good results when they face Midland Christian and Sterling City.

Big Spring recently played against Midland Christian in the Seminole tournament, taking a 2-1 loss to the Lady Mustangs. Osborne said it would be good to get even with MCHS this time around.

Sterling City is a bit of an enigma to Osborne. Big Spring played Sterling City last season, but Osborne said the Lady Eagles have a new coach and a new system in place this year.

There are some positives for Big Spring heading into tonight's matches.

Osborne said a handful of players are beginning to contribute in a major way. She said defensively, Valerie Ross and Carson Reibe have shined, piling up digs often. Diamond Mayes is starting to become a force in the middle, too, with her ability to block.

Outside hitter Desiree Anderson continues to be an offensive force and Osborne said Bridgette Tuitt is on the cusp of being a dominant player. Belle Feaster has been the vocal leader on the floor, too.

Cerbi Ritchey and Taylor Seaton's performances the last few games bodes well, too.

"Taylor Seaton's really impressing me," Osborne said. "She is playing with a lot more aggression than she ever has before. I'm really impressed with that. Cerbi is starting to add some kills and I knew she could be a big hitter for us, but we just have to get her to be a little more aggressive. She's starting to do that."

Contact Sports Editor Adam Coleman at 263-7331 ext. 237.



HERALD Photo/Tony Claxton

Cerbi Ritchey prepares to pass the ball to Taylor Seaton during the Big Spring volleyball team's match against Bronte. The Lady Steers take on Midland Christian at 5 p.m. and Sterling City at 6 p.m. today at Midland Christian High School.

Wells, Hill, Escobar homer, Blue Jays beat Texas

TORONTO (AP) — When they weren't beating up on the Texas Rangers, the Toronto Blue Jays had their own fans ducking for cover Monday.

Vernon Wells hit a three-run homer, Aaron Hill had a two-run shot and the Toronto Blue Jays beat Texas 7-2, handing the reeling Rangers their seventh loss in nine games.

Yunel Escobar added a solo drive for Toronto, which leads the majors with 211 homers.

"The only way you're going to have a chance against these guys is you've got to keep the ball in the ballpark," Rang-

ers manager Ron Washington said. "They got seven and six came via the long ball."

Even the seats were no haven on this day. In the seventh, a fan was struck on the right shoulder by a falling metal letter "B" after a foul ball by Jose Bautista hit a sign honoring Jackie Robinson.

The man was treated with ice packs and returned to his seat.

"I was very surprised, because I didn't expect a 'B' to fall on me," said the injured fan, who gave only his first name as Ian and said he was

a season-ticket holder from Toronto.

Tommy Hunter (12-3) struggled early as the AL West-leading Rangers lost their fourth straight. Texas has lost six in a row to Toronto since a win on opening day, getting outscored 48-24 in that span.

The Rangers left 10 men on base and went 3 for 13 with runners in scoring position. "We need to start hitting better," infielder Jorge Cantu said. "We haven't been scoring that many runs. We need to find a way to get on base."

Washington said he's seen "a little bit of everything"

during the Rangers' poor run.

"One day it might be the pitching, one day it might be the defense, one day it might be us not putting enough runs on the board," Washington said. "We've just got to work our way through this, and we will."

Ricky Romero (12-8) allowed one run and seven hits in seven innings. Shawn Camp pitched the eighth and Brian Tallet gave up Michael Young's RBI double in the ninth.

Romero is 2-1 with an 0.92 ERA in four career starts

against Texas.

"It's been fun to play behind Ricky," Wells said. "He challenges everybody, he throws strikes, he's been able to have command of some nasty stuff. His ball moves all over the place and he's been able to harness it. He's learning how to pitch in the toughest division in baseball and it's been fun to watch him grow."

Toronto took a 1-0 lead in the second when John Buck struck out on a wild pitch with two outs, allowing him to reach base and letting

See RANGERS, Page 12

Big stage: No. 3 Boise St tops No. 10 Va. Tech 33-30

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) — For the gatecrashers in blue, this was the Respect Bowl. A mini-national championship game, if you will, because they certainly weren't going to be playing in the real one in January if they didn't win this one on Labor Day.

So it's little wonder Kellen Moore confessed to being a little nervous when he trotted onto the field with Boise State trailing by four with 1:47 to play Monday night. The Broncos aren't used to trailing anyone, and they're certainly not used to having to resort to their two-minute offense to win a game.

"We know how much was at stake for us, so it was kind of like a bowl game. But we've still got 11, 12 games to go."

Austin Pettis,
Boise State wide receiver

Moore passed the test with time to spare, hitting Austin Pettis for a 13-yard touchdown with 1:09 remaining to give No. 3 Boise State a 33-30 win over No. 10 Virginia Tech. Like it or not, the Broncos look as if they're here to stay when it comes to the BCS title hunt; they'll most certainly be favored in every game on their schedule from here on out.

"You should gain a little respect," Moore said, "beating Virginia Tech out here."

In what was essentially a road atmosphere against another team with national championship ambitions, the Broncos (1-0) blew a 17-0 first-quarter lead in a mistake-filled game that combined the natural jitters of the big stage with the natural choppiness

that comes in the season opener. Still, it was compelling viewing — back and forth, back and forth they went amid two blocked punts, 18 penalties, timely throws and incredible runs and catches.

"We know how much was at stake for us, so it was kind of like a bowl game," Pettis said. "But we've still got 11, 12 games to go. There's a lot we need to work on, too, because there was a lot of mistakes we made. We can't afford any slip-ups, especially after setting ourselves up like this."

See BOISE, Page 12

Sports in brief

Big Spring Quarterback Club

The club meets every Monday at 7 p.m. All parents of football players 7th through 12th grade are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Denise Carrillo at 816-1685.

Three-person scramble

The Gaines County Golf Course is hosting this

tournament Saturday and Sunday. Entry fee is \$80 per person plus the cart.

Shotgun starts at 8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Call 432-758-3808 to enter.

Coahoma Girls Softball Association meeting

The group is having a board meeting at 7 p.m. to-

day at the community center in Coahoma.

Holy Trinity Golf Tournament

This is a 4-person scramble set for Sunday at the Comanche Trail Golf Course. Shotgun start is at 10 a.m. Entry fee is \$20 per person. That does not include the green fee and cart fee.

For more information, contact Tommy Billalba at 816-1091.

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Legals

Small Taxing Unit Notice
The City of Forsan will hold a meeting at 7:00 PM on September 14, 2010 at City Hall to consider adopting a proposed tax rate for tax year 2010-11. The proposed tax rate is 0.361468 per \$100 of value. The proposed tax rate would increase total taxes in 2010-2011 by \$1,351.96 #6686 September 7, 2010

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Annie's Mailbox[®]

Dear Annie: Several years ago, I married the man of my dreams.

"Darren" was everything I wanted. He had three children, two from a previous marriage and one from an earlier relationship.

Darren told me all about his children before we married, and I appreciated his honesty.

He gave me the option of ending our relationship if this was something I couldn't handle.

He allowed his oldest child to be adopted by her stepfather, and here's what I couldn't handle: While I was out shopping, someone who knew this child repeated a bit of information that devastated me.

She said she thought there was sexual abuse going on. I immediately told Darren.

Now, I am being chastised by a member of the clergy who said I should have kept quiet and treated this information as gossip. Should I have? — *Stepmom*

Dear Stepmom: Absolutely not. While it is terrible to accuse an innocent person of abuse, it is worse to allow a child to be abused because you are reluctant to speak out.

Darren deserved to know what you heard so he could check out the information to see if there was any truth to it.

Dear Annie: I am a 13-year-old girl and think I might have breast cancer. I looked at the signs online, and I'm scared.

How can I bring this up to my mom? As far as I know, there's no history of it in my family. — *Worried in Arizona*

Dear Worried: We're not sure why you think you have breast cancer.

If you found a lump, please know that many are benign cysts and harmless.

However, it makes sense to have any anomaly checked out by a physician. Bring this letter to your mom, and tell her you wrote it.

And, Mom: Please make an appointment with a doctor so your daughter can rest easy knowing she is OK. We hope she is.

Dear Annie: I read with interest the letter from "Michigan Molly," whose friends invite themselves to her summer home.

My best friend, "Sherri," and her husband own a cottage in northern Michigan.

Every summer, she invites my family to spend a couple of weeks with



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

them. I always make sure to help with laundry, dishes and food when we visit.

Over the winter, my husband spent a lot of time helping them renovate the cottage.

My son absolutely loves it there, and I've come to know many of the summer residents and look forward to seeing them.

Months ago, Sherri invited my son and me for a week in early August because she wanted my help with some event.

Two days before, I saw Sherri at a party, and she said she no longer needed me that week and I'd be up anyway a few weeks later.

Annie, I totally understand that it is her cottage and she can invite or uninvite whoever she wants.

However, I planned part of my summer around this week and turned down other opportunities for my children.

What hurts the most is that my son won't be able to experience a summer vacation that he really loves.

He talks about going up there all the time. Her telling me two days before seems so callous that I've decided not to go back again.

It's like I've lost my best friend, and my heart is breaking for my son.

How do I deal with this? Please don't tell me to talk with her. I'm not a good communicator. — *Sitting at Home in Michigan*

Dear Michigan: You are interpreting this much more harshly than you need to.

Sherri probably has no idea that you restructured your summer around her cottage invitation and assumed it was no big deal for you to skip that week.

By not returning, you, not Sherri, are depriving your son of a wonderful experience. Either tell her it hurt you that she canceled at the last minute, or let it go and pretend it never happened.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annies-mailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Even those who are not technically afraid of the dark can, from time to time, find themselves, in the dimming light, turning common items into scary monsters in an imaginative blink. It will be more common now, as the sky darkens on this new moon eve. A retrograde Mercury contributes to the shadowy and distorted emotional atmosphere.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Instead of waiting for the muses to speak to you, summon them with your curiosity. They love a good mystery. Articulate the questions of your heart, and the muses will rush to your assistance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There is no clear set of instructions for life. So you don't have to worry that you're missing out on something everyone else knows. We're all faking it pretty well right now, but the truth is, we're making it up as we go.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There will be two paths: One is long and winding. The other is a straight shot. Take the straight shot. Yes, life is about the journey. But it's also about knowing where you want to go and getting there.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Beware of the swarm of unorganized thoughts that makes its way toward you this afternoon. Save yourself by escaping into water. A nice long bath will calm the

swarm. Things will start to line up in the most manageable fashion.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Responsibilities get passed along. It's like a game of hot potato — except the person who finally holds on to the potato will not get burned. Instead, he or she will get paid and promoted. Make sure that person is you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You may not know where the ideas come from, but you can immediately tell the good ones from the bad ones. You will be very successful as you act on the good ones.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You will realize how important hope is, and you will find a way to provide it for those who are having a particularly difficult time. Just having the right attitude may be enough. Your optimism will be a symbol for others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The process of creation is not as straightforward as the craft magazines and cooking shows would have you believe. On the way to making something good, you'll first make a mess.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You have a magical way of bringing people together. It may seem like the most casual swirl, and yet something important comes of one particular mix of talents and interests.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Instead of wandering around searching for answers, assume that you already know all you need to know and that you are here to use your ability to serve others. It's your sense of service that will activate the magic.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be in a thoughtful mood and will visualize the possible outcome of your actions before you commit. These imaginings will be both terrible and fabulous. You'll have to follow through to know how things turn out.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Nobody seems to know what to do about a certain very general problem that faces your group. You will be struck with inspiration. You'll know just how to turn things around. Create a specific task list.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 7). Whatever you do, you take the time to do it right. But there's also an impulsive move you make this month that will expand your good fortune. A friendship develops through shared adventure in October. You'll gain several new connections in December. A financial bonus comes in time to brighten the holidays. Capricorn and Cancer people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 25, 20, 2 and 39.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I've been interviewing for a lot of jobs, trying to find a good fit. No offers yet. But I was wondering if there is a sign I should stay away from. I'm a Taurus."

You don't have an offer yet, but you're already looking for cosmic reasons why a hypothetical offer won't work out? The concept of congruency is especially important for Taurus. The bull has amazing power when intention, thought and deed are all going for the same end. However, your strength diminishes when you are out of alignment. If

you're going through the motions of interviewing but are on the fence about whether you really want to work, your odds of landing a decent job are very slim, especially in this competitive employment market. Decide that you want to work, and think specifically about what you want to contribute and how you can help others. Visualize yourself being successful — do this several times a day. Then don't be surprised when you feel yourself shifting into the right attitude to attract the work that will fulfill you, challenge you and stretch you into the person you have always wanted to be.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Virgo Evan Rachel Wood has often been described as "wise beyond her years," a characterization not uncommon for those born under the Pisces moon. Pisces is the final sign of the zodiac and an amalgamation of all the signs before it. It's an excellent moon for serious actors to be born under, as it lends the ability to deeply empathize with a wide variety of people very different from oneself.

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

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5:PM :30	News ABC	Vida Notic.	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	King	Scrivner	BBC	King	Cash Cab	Dirty Harry, Reni Santoni	Scene Investigation	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Romano		SportsCenter
6:PM :30	Jeopardy!	Llena de Amor (SS)	Two Men	News	El Cartel II	News	King	Uri Harel	Business	King	Swamp Loggers	DEA	Bones			Mickey Mouse	Tennis: U.S. Open, Men's Round of 16 and Women's Quarterfinals	SportsCenter Spec.
7:PM :30	Wipeout	Soy Tu Dueña (SS)	Glee	Ent	NCIS	Minute to Win It	Office	Office	NOVA (DVS)	One Tree Hill	Swords: Life	Movie: Magnum Force, David Soul	DEA	Bones	Movie: The Honeymooners	Tinker Bell and the Lost	30 for 30	
8:PM :30	(01) Wipeout	Ahora	Glee	NCIS: Los Angeles	El Fantasma de	America's Got Talent	Office	Office	Carrier (DVS)	Life Unexpected	Swords: Life	POV	Married	Law & Order	Truth About Hip Hop	Deck	2010 Poker	
9:PM :30	Nightline	México vs. Colombia. (SS)	Simpsons Friends	The Good Wife	La Diosa Coronada	Office	Office	Office	Married	The Colony		Movie: Magnum Force, David Soul	Scrapers	Law & Order	Phineas	2010 Poker		
10:PM :30	News	Nightline	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Lopez Tonight	Mark Cortes	Roseanne	Swords: Life		Blue	CSI: NY	The Mo'Nique	Deck	30 for 30	SportsCenter	
11:PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Impacto Noticiero SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Late	Decisiones	Late Night	My Boys	Ministerio-Vida	Bernie	Swords: Life		Cops	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Hannah	NASCAR 2010 Poker	Baseball NFL Live	
12:AM :30	Extra	Tontas Cielo	Paid		Decisiones	Late Night	Sex & Upd	Church	Cops	The Colony		Movie: Unforgiven, Morgan Freeman	CSI: Crime Scene	Dark Blue	Movie: I Got the Hook-Up	Wizards	2010 Poker	
1:AM :30	Paid	Mujer... Cero	King-Hill	Insider	Pagado	News	Sex & Upd	Church	Monma	Overhaul'n		Star Trek: Voyager	Leverage	Suite Life	Suite Life	NFL Films		

DENNIS THE MENACE

9-7

"I'll bet nobody ever asks for this recipe!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

9-7

"Why can't I play school, too?"

HAGAR

9-7

"POOR GUNTHER! HE RETURNED FROM HIS LAST RAID EMPTY-HANDED..."

"...AND NOW PEOPLE SHUN HIM!"

"THAT'S HOW IT GOES..."

"IN THIS BUSINESS YOU'RE ONLY AS GOOD AS YOUR LAST SACKING AND LOOTING!"

BC

9-7

BRUSH BRUSH BRUSH BRUSH

BLONDIE

9-7

BUMSTEAD, EXPLAIN WHY YOU WERE SLEEPING ON THE JOB OR I'M FIRING YOU ON THE SPOT!!

THAT'S EASY, BOSS... YOU RUN THIS SHIP WITH SUCH MASTERY AND FINESSE THAT IT LULLS ME INTO AN OVERLY SEDATED SENSE OF CALM AND PEACE

UNBELIEVABLE! JUST WHEN I GET BUMSTEAD RIGHT WHERE I WANT HIM, HE NAILS ONE!

WIZARD OF ID

9-7

YOU KNOW WHAT THE DIFFERENCE IS BETWEEN THIS PLACE AND THE STOCK MARKET?

WHAT?

AGNES

9-7

HELLO, MISS BECKERICH! I'M ANNOUNCING A NEW AGNES! AN AGNES WHO WILL TACKLE THIS YEAR WITH GUSTO AND ZEAL!

THIS NEW AGNES WILL BE ATTENTIVE, COHERENT AND FINISH ALL ASSIGNMENTS IN A CONSCIENTIOUS AND TIMELY MANNER!

SHE FEARS I SUFFERED A CLOSED-HEAD INJURY ON MY WAY TO SCHOOL.

HI AND LOIS

9-7

A WHOLE LOT OF NOTHING...

...BUT IT WAS A WHOLE LOT BETTER THAN THIS.

WOULD ANYONE ELSE LIKE TO SHARE WHAT THEY DID ON THEIR SUMMER VACATION?

THE OTHER COAST

9-7

I'M A VOLUNTEER WITH THE LOCAL SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM.

I RESCUE CAMPERS WHO GET DRUNK, THEN GO SWIMMING, MOUNTAIN CLIMBERS UNPREPARED FOR THE WEATHER.

SKIERS WHO SKI OUT OF BOUNDS AND HIKERS WHO GO INTO THE WILDERNESS WITHOUT A MAP.

SO BASICALLY, YOU'RE INTERFERING WITH NATURAL SELECTION.

PRETTY MUCH.

SNUFFY SMITH

9-7

LUREN, IS IT TRUE THAT YOU'RE DATING THE PRINCIPAL'S SCHOOL?

WHO WANTS TO KNOW?

ACTUALLY, 'BOUT A DOZEN GALS WAITIN' AT TH' GOSSIP FENCE !!

BEEBLE BAILEY

9-7

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

S&T SNORKEL IS GIVING DEMONSTRATION ON CAMOUFLAGE, SIR.

DON'T KID ME! THAT'S NOT CAMOUFLAGE!

BUT IT IS, SIR.

THAT'S S&T SNORKEL!

This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 7, the 250th day of 2010. There are 115 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 7, 1940, Nazi Germany began its eight-month blitz of Britain during World War II with the first air attack on London.

On this date:

In 1533, England's Queen Elizabeth I was born in Greenwich.

In 1825, the Marquis de Lafayette, the French hero of the American Revolution, bade farewell to President John Quincy Adams at the White House.

In 1892, James J. Corbett knocked out John L. Sullivan to win the world heavyweight crown in New Orleans in a fight conducted under the Marquess of Queensberry rules.

In 1907, the British liner RMS Lusitania set out from Liverpool, England, on its maiden voyage, arriving six days later in New York.

In 1927, American television pioneer Philo T. Farnsworth, 21, succeeded in transmitting the image of a line through purely electronic means with a device called an "image dissector."

In 1968, feminists protested outside the Miss America pageant in Atlantic City, N.J. (The pageant crown went to Miss Illinois Judith Ford.)

In 1969, Senate Republican leader Everett M. Dirksen died in Washington, D.C. at age 73.

In 1977, the Panama Canal treaties, calling for the U.S. to eventually turn over control of the waterway to Panama, were signed in Washington by President Jimmy Carter and Panamanian leader Omar Torrijos (toh-REE'-hohs).

In 1979, the Entertainment and Sports Programming Network (ESPN) made its cable TV debut.

In 1996, rapper Tupac Shakur was shot and mortally wounded on the Las Vegas Strip; he died six days later.

Today's Birthdays: Sen. Daniel Inouye (in-OH'-way) (D-Hawaii) is 86. Jazz musician Sonny Rollins is 80. Singer Alfa Anderson (Chic) is 64. Singer Gloria Gaynor is 61. Rock singer Chrissie Hynde (The Pretenders) is 59. Actress Julie Kavner is 59. Rock musician Benmont Tench (Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers) is 57. Actor Corbin Bernsen is 56. Actor Michael Emerson (TV: "Lost") is 56. Pianist Michael Feinstein is 54. Singer Margot Chapman is 53. Actor W. Earl Brown is 47. Actor Toby Jones is 44. Model-actress Angie Everhart is 41. Actress Monique Gabriela Curnen is 40. Actor Tom Everett Scott is 40. Rock musician Chad Sexton (311) is 40. Actress Diane Farr is 39. Actress Shannon Elizabeth is 37. Actor Oliver Hudson is 34. Actor Devon Sawa (SAH'-wuh) is 32.

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Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

1 Slightly wet

5 Not illuminated

9 Meat-loaf topping

14 Phrase of understanding

15 Healing plant

16 Lubricated

17 Frying utensils

18 Sacred ceremony

19 Catches sight of

20 With 48 Across, work hard

23 Recycling container

24 Take first place

25 Confidential

29 Coin toss

31 Luau side dish

34 Eiffel Tower locale

35 Alda of M*A*S*H

36 Prepare

37 Works hard

40 Offend the nose

41 European skiing locales

42 Playful aquatic mammal

43 "For shame!"

44 Colorings

45 Most despicable

46 Hive dweller

47 W. Hemisphere alliance

48 See 20 Across

55 Transparent, as fabrics

56 Very funny person

57 Coop group

59 Angry

60 Farmland measure

61 __ Scotia, Canada

62 Handbag

63 Loch __ Monster

64 Cameo stone

DOWN

1 Potato-chip topping

2 Immediately, in memos

3 Waiter's handout

4 Pain in the neck

5 "Rats!"

6 Foreigner

7 Goes bad

8 Highly sharpened

9 Spread stories

10 Become ready to harvest

11 Often

12 President's rejection

13 NFL distances

21 Santa-like

22 Having debts

25 Gush

26 Makes simpler

27 Small stream

28 Take a chance with

29 Film failures

30 What police officers enforce

31 Piece of dinnerware

32 Desert stopovers

33 Not moving

35 Well-qualified

36 Vet's patients

38 Cake tier

39 One way to cook

44 Thermometer unit

45 Moistens in the oven

46 Red veggies

47 Air-freshener targets

48 Drive__ window

49 Listen to

50 Tehran's country

51 Delightful

52 Cry of dread

53 Garish store sign

54 Be jealous of

55 Sample of soup

58 Jazz instrument

Body of Work

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AFAR CORAL SITE
SORE IMAGE AWAY
PRIVATE PRACTICE
SEA MINT OINKS
APES STAR
MODELS OUTEAT
AFIRE SENT VEE
MAJOR LEAGUE TEAM
AGO OURS NURSE
ENTERS CANTIER
EWES ROBE
ASONE GOAL OAR
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OMIT ROGET MOPLY
GINS CLASS MESS

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Revis signs 4-year deal with Jets

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP) — Darrelle Revis was walking toward his teammates on the practice field when a strange feeling came over him.

"I had butterflies," the New York Jets' cornerback said with a grin Monday.

For a guy who routinely shuts down opponents' best wide receivers, the acknowledgment of insecurity was stunning.

"I didn't know how my teammates were going to accept me," Revis said, "because I haven't been here for a month."

After some loud, welcoming cheers and good-natured ribbing, Revis knew he was finally back home. He signed his four-year deal Monday afternoon, apologizing to fans for not getting back sooner and officially making his return after a 36-day holdout.

"It was a good feeling just to see the guys," Revis said, "just wanting to be around them because I haven't been here for a while."

Revis agreed to a new contract late Sunday night and took an early morn-

ing flight Monday from his home in South Florida. He arrived at the Jets' training facility after 1 p.m., rejoined his teammates and signed the deal.

"It was a long process," he said. "It was rough on me. You know I'm a football player and I love to play the game and I'm happy it's over with. I can go play football now."

And, he'll get started right away. Revis is expected to practice Tuesday and be ready to play in the season opener next Monday night against Baltimore.

"I do think we may play Revis, I'm not sure," coach Rex Ryan quipped. "I think he might need to practice for several weeks before we play him, but don't be shocked if he's out there."

"In other words, he's definitely playing."

Revis said he has stayed in shape by working out during his holdout, but he acknowledges that he's not necessarily in football shape.

"I haven't had pads on and I haven't had contact," he said. "So that's something I have to get back into and just

take it slow in the process."

The Jets and Revis' agents declined to announce financial terms of the deal, but it is reportedly worth at least \$46 million, including \$32 million guaranteed. Revis said all along he wanted to be the highest-paid player at his position, something agent Jonathan Feinsod said the Jets cornerback would be — without releasing terms.

"The numbers would reflect in our minds that he's being paid as the highest-paid cornerback," Feinsod said.

After months of waiting and wondering about his future, the All-Pro cornerback was just happy to be back on the field.

"This experience humbled me so much just because I love to play football," Revis said. "At one point, it was something that was taken away, that I love to do. I've never had anything taken away from me that I love to do. So this was a point in my life where it was serious."

Perhaps the most crucial moment of

the negotiations came Saturday, when both Ryan and owner Woody Johnson flew to South Florida to meet with Revis, mother Diana Gilbert and uncle and former NFL player Sean Gilbert to try to solve the contract impasse.

"It meant a lot to me," Revis said, "to show the passion they have for me to come down to Florida and just chat with me and see if we can come to a common ground and both sides can see the right thing."

Both the Jets and Revis' agents spoke all weekend until reaching what general manager Mike Tannenbaum called "a breakthrough" before coming to an agreement around 11 p.m. Sunday night.

"I think the thing was, the season is upon us," Johnson said. "It was basically, let's see if we can leave this room with something."

During the discussion with Revis, Johnson brought up the cornerback's Hall of Fame potential.

"We talked about how important it is to keep on the right track," Johnson said.

Leinart agrees to deal with Texans

HOUSTON (AP) — Matt Leinart has agreed to a one-year deal with the Houston Texans, according to agent Tom Condon.

Leinart was cut by Arizona on Saturday. Condon confirmed in a phone interview with The Associated Press on Monday that Leinart had reached a deal with the Texans.

The Texans would not confirm the deal. The team returns to practice Wednesday, leading up to Sunday's season opener against Indianapolis.

The Texans were looking for insurance

at backup quarterback after Dan Orlovsky threw two interceptions in Houston's last preseason game last week. John David Booty, another former Southern Cal quarterback, threw two touchdown passes in that game, but was cut over the weekend.

The Cardinals took Leinart with the No. 10 overall pick in the 2006 draft, after he guided the Trojans to two national championships and a third title game appearance. With Kurt Warner retired, Leinart figured to finally get his chance to start this season, but Derek Ander-

son won the job in training camp.

Leinart complained that he had issues with coach Ken Whisenhunt, and the two met late in the preseason. Leinart threw for 3,893 yards with 14 touchdowns and 20 interceptions with Arizona.

Houston had the NFL's top passing offense last season (291 yards per game) and starter Matt Schaub led the league with 4,770 yards passing.

Coach Gary Kubiak said Orlovsky needed to cut down on mistakes this year in preseason action.

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BOISE

Continued from Page 7

Coach Chris Petersen and his players kept saying the right things, that the victory only means that they're 1-0 and that it means little if they don't keep winning. And they're right: Their next game at Wyoming in two weeks is the next must-win, and of course they'll have to run the table in the Western Athletic Conference if they're to become the first team from a league without an automatic BCS bid to play for a national championship.

"We've just got a long, tough, hard season," said Peterson, who improved to 50-4 at Boise State, "and the bull's-eye will continue to grow. And it's just going to be one game at a time."

RANGERS

Continued from Page 7

Wells score from third. Rangers catcher Taylor Teagarden tried to throw home on the play, but Washington said Teagarden should have gone to first.

"The right play is at first base," Washington said. "You've got Buck up there swinging and missing, the ball's not too far away, (Buck) can't run, it's the third out. You take the easy one."

The Blue Jays broke it open with a five-run third. Dewayne Wise singled, Bautista walked and Wells lined his 25th home run.

Lyle Overbay then doubled and Hill connected for a drive to left, his 23rd homer and second in as many days.

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