

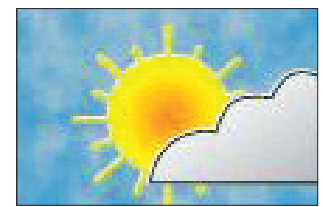
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BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY
 SEPTEMBER 8, 2010



VOLUME 105, NUMBER 236 COPYRIGHT 2010 50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Mom jailed for leaving tot alone

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer
 A Big Spring woman was arrested Tuesday morning and charged with abandoning/endangering a child with intent to return after police officials say she left her 4-year-old child home alone.



Ausbie

Tina Marie Ausbie, 23, whose address given at the time of her arrest was 801 E. 18th St., was taken into custody Tuesday on a charge of abandoning/endangering a child

with intent to return. Ausbie was arrested at a residence in the 1000 block of Sycamore. Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer for the Big Spring Police Department, said a neighbor discovered the child wandering around outside and contacted a police dispatcher.

"The mother apparently left the house to pick someone up," Everett said. "She also had two other children, younger than the 4-year-old, in her custody at the time, and she took those two children with her when she left. However, she didn't think the oldest child would wake up

before she returned. "Shortly before 10 a.m., neighbors spotted the child wandering around the neighborhood and called police dispatch. Officers arrived on the scene, and it was more than 30 minutes before Ausbie

See **MOM**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

The highlight of this Friday's homecoming festivities at Forsan High School will be the crowning of the homecoming queen. Nominees are, from left, Kay'C Stanley, Kevy O'Brien, Hali Wells and Shelby Clark. The queen will be crowned during halftime of the Forsan-Irion County football game Friday evening.

Buffaloes gathering

Homecoming queen to be named at halftime Friday

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer
 FORSAN — Forsan High School exes will gather this week when the school celebrates homecoming Friday evening. Because homecoming is taking place so early in the school year, few formal activities are scheduled, said Jan Sims, an instructor

at the school. One annual highlight that will go on as planned, however, is the crowning of the homecoming queen during halftime of Forsan's game against Irion County. The four senior nominees are:
 • Kevy O'Brien, the daughter of Freda Flores and the late John O'Brien.

• Shelby Clark, the daughter of Craig and Starla Clark.
 • Hali Wells, the daughter of Lloyd Wells and Jennifer Overton.
 • Kay'C Stanley, the daughter of D.F. and LaRhonda Wells.
 The nominees will be accompanied during the halftime ceremony.

See **FORSAN**, Page 3A

United Way luncheon is Thursday

Radio icon Jim Baum to be featured speaker

By BILL McCLELLAN
 News Editor

For 64 years, the United Way has been providing funds to local agencies which work to make Big Spring and Howard County a better place. Fund-raising for year 65 officially begins Thursday.



Nieto

That's the day for the annual United Way of Howard County and Big Spring kickoff luncheon. Tickets are \$12 each for the event, which gets underway at 11:30 a.m. at First United Methodist Church's Garrett Hall. Tickets are available at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, located at 215 W. Third St. Any tickets not sold will be available at the door.

Guest speaker will be longtime West Texas radio icon Jim Baum, a former Big Spring resident and Colorado City mayor. Locally, the United Way helps 14 agencies with funding. These agencies provide youth and family guidance through the Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts and YMCA; individualized physical therapy under the direction of the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center; youth services via the West Side Community Center and West Side Community Day Care; youth and adult assistance and learning through the Northside Community Center; victim support through Rape Crisis Victim Services, CASA of West Texas and the American Red Cross; spiritual and life support assistance with Isaiah 58 and the Salvation Army; eldercare on behalf of

See **UW**, Page 3A

INDEX
 Comics 8B
 Classified 5-7B
 Features 5-6A
 Obituaries 2A
 Opinion 4A
 Sports 1-3B

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Remember, Memory Walk coming

Planned Sept. 18 at Comanche Trail Park.

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

With a little less than \$1,000 already raised, time is running out for area residents looking to participate in the 2010 Alzheimer Association Memory Walk slated for Comanche Trail Park Saturday, Sept. 18. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m.

Opening ceremonies take place at 9 a.m.

Memory Walk Coordinator Rick Stovall said there is still time for area residents to sign up or form a team for the annual event, which raises money to support the Alzheimer Association's efforts in Howard County.

"We want to continue to encourage the good citizens of Howard County to support the Memory Walk through donations, walking and

spreading the word. We still desperately need team and individual participants," Stovall said. "People can sign up individually or as a team. The process is very simple. All they have to do is go to the Web site and set up their team's account. Once that's done, donors can actually make their contributions in person or online, which is very convenient for a lot of people.

See **WALK**, Page 3A

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Steers' tailbacks drive offense

Three backs bring toughness to position

BY ADAM COLEMAN
Sports Editor

Lukas Falcon, Pete Chavarria and Lee Garcia know what it's like to play running back and linebacker for Big Spring; punishing.

Judging from experience, Falcon believes it takes a strong player to handle it.

"It's a tough task really," he said. "You take a beating on both sides of the ball. All of us are in the trainer's room after every practice, in the morning, just trying to stay healthy."

That same hard-nosed mentality it takes to succeed at both position seems to be helping when the Steers need first downs and touchdowns.

The running backs' performance against Frenship coach Phillip Ritchey impressed heading into the Steers' home opener against Plainview at 7:30 p.m. on Friday at Memorial Stadium.

Chavarria led the way with 91 yards on eight carries against

the Tigers and Falcon chipped in 41 yards on the ground and the offense's only touchdown against the Tigers.

There were some negatives, like the lost fumbles that halted the Steers' efforts against Frenship. But even with that, Ritchey likes what he sees with Falcon and Chavarria's progression in addition to DaVonte Anderson's speed at quarterback.

"We stopped the film and really bragged on them in the film session in front of the whole team," Ritchey said. "We talked about the yards after contact. We were watching Pete from the time he was hit to the time he was going down, he was gaining three, four, five and up to nine yards on one play. Just taking people because his effort was so good. That's kind of contagious to your entire team."

But on Friday there was no Garcia, who started the Fort Stockton game. Garcia has been out with a foot in-



HERALD Photo/Tony Claxton

DaVonte Anderson hands the ball off to Pete Chavarria during the Big Spring Steers' game against Frenship. Although the running backs had a few fumbles, Ritchey hopes they bring the toughness they displayed in Friday's game to the game against Plainview.

jury and Ritchey said he is questionable for Friday's game against Plainview.

Having Garcia back, Ritchey said, will add depth at the run-

ning back position, something that will help against teams like Brownwood and Abilene Wylie. Until then, Ritchey called up Michael Oliva from ju-

nior varsity to help with depth.

Falcon and Chavarria agree Garcia's absence hurts the depth at tail-back, but when he returns, the Steers' will

have a handful of running backs capable of moving the chains.

As far as the game against Frenship goes,

See **STEERS**, Page 2B

Volleyball splits dual matches in Midland

BY ADAM COLEMAN
Sports Editor

MIDLAND — Consistency is key for head coach Lynn Osborne and the Lady Steers volleyball team, but they came away with a split in Tuesday's matches against Midland Christian and Sterling City.

Big Spring dropped the first match of the night to the Lady Mustangs in five games, 18-25, 25-22, 25-23, 21-25, 13-15.

The Lady Steers bounced back for a four-game win against Sterling City, 25-13, 25-16, 25-27, 25-18.

Despite the win, Osborne said the Sterling City match is where she saw the most mistakes.

"We came out playing

really well in the first game, but we weren't consistent the second game," she said. "We won, but we didn't play very well. Third game, we dropped a game to them. Played four games with them, just didn't play well. Too many mistakes, not very much intensity."

In the Sterling City match, setter Cerbi Ritchey led the way with 28 assists and libero Valerie Ross had 12 digs. Taylor Seaton and Desiree Anderson came through for the offense with 11 and 10 kills, respectively. Anderson also chipped in 10 digs.

As far as Midland Christian is concerned, Osborne said consistency was an issue there as well, but the Lady

Steers got too far behind in games and couldn't keep up.

She said Midland Christian is a solid team, but her players had the ability to win that match.

"I don't want to take anything away from Midland Christian," she said. "They were very beatable, we just needed to play consistent throughout the match. We kept letting ourselves get down by six, seven points. Then we would climb back out of that hole and sometimes you take a game and sometimes it's too late."

Seaton had 18 kills in this match. Anderson and Bridgette Tuitt were behind her with 10.

See **MIDLAND**, Page 2B

Blue Jays beat Rangers 8-5

TORONTO (AP) — If he keeps pounding the Rangers like this, Vernon Wells won't be welcome back in Texas this winter.

Wells hit two home runs, Adam Lind and John Buck also connected and the Toronto Blue Jays beat Texas 8-5 on Tuesday night for their seventh consecutive victory over the Rangers.

Wells has gone deep in three straight games and is batting .448 (13 for 29) with eight homers and 16 RBIs in eight games against his hometown team this year.

"I've got some people upset at home," said Wells, who lives near Arlington in the off-season.

Right now, Rangers fans are just upset that their first-place team is stumbling badly in Sep-

"It seems like every time we get a ball up in the zone against these guys, they don't miss it."

Ron Washington,
Texas Rangers manager

tember. Texas, which began the day with a seven-game lead in the AL West over Oakland, has lost five straight and nine of 12.

"It seems like every time we get a ball up in the zone against these guys, they don't miss it," Rangers manager Ron Washington said.

Vladimir Guerrero replied with a two-run shot for Texas, which has lost 12 of 17 in Toronto.

For Blue Jays manager Cito Gaston, the victory was the 900th of his career. Gaston led Toronto to consecutive World Series titles

in 1992 and 1993 but intends to retire after the season.

"He's done a lot in this game and for this city," Wells said. "The guys in here want to finish strong and have him go out the right way."

The Blue Jays lead the majors with 215 home runs this season, including a major league-high 119 at home. Toronto has gone deep in nine straight games, hitting 20 homers during that span. They have hit three or more home runs in a game 33 times, the most in baseball.

See **RANGERS**, Page 2B

Clijsters, Venus Williams win to set up marquee semifinal

NEW YORK (AP) — Nobody can say Kim Clijsters took an easy path to her U.S. Open title last year. She played both Williams sisters.

This year, she'll only play one, though this could be an even more effective version of Venus Williams than came to Flushing Meadows in 2009.

Clijsters and Williams each won their quarterfinal matches Tuesday to set up a marquee semifinal — the No. 2 seed, Clijsters, vs. the No. 3 seed, Williams, and a pair of women both seeking a third U.S. Open cham-

pionship.

"Just the ability to compete," Williams said when asked to describe her opponent. "I think in coming back from her layoff, I think she never lost that. Obviously she's a very good athlete. When you're a really, really incredible athlete, it really takes your game to another level."

Last year, Clijsters returned from a 2½-year layoff and was hoping to use the U.S. Open as a bit of a tune-up and a test — so she could see how big-time competition felt before she made the comeback in earnest in 2010.

In one of the best comeback stories of the year, she ended up winning the whole thing. It started looking like a real possibility when Clijsters beat Williams, who was visibly hobbling on an injured knee, 6-0, 0-6, 6-4 in the fourth round.

In last year's semifinals, a match remembered for a certain foot fault, Clijsters topped Serena Williams.

Serena isn't here this year because of an injury. Venus hurt her knee again, too, but recovered in time to play.

"This is probably some of the best

of Venus that I've seen for a while," Clijsters said.

Maybe not the cleanest tennis, but certainly good enough to win. Williams overcame nine double-faults and a total of 33 unforced errors — much of it caused by a wind that whipped around Arthur Ashe Stadium for yet another day — to beat reigning French Open champion Francesca Schiavone 7-6 (5), 6-4.

"I feel like when the stakes were higher I was able to raise my game," Williams said. "She did, too. She played some great points."

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.

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.

Big Spring Tennis Booster meeting

The Tennis Boosters meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at the Tennis Center. All BSJHS and BSHS parents are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Hole in One

Roddy Cathy shot a hole in one at Hole No. 3 at the Big Spring Country Club on Saturday. The shot, with a 5-iron, was 175 yards and six other players witnessed it.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

Wells hit two solo homers to left, one in the fourth inning and another in the seventh, giving him 27 on the

Coach's recovery inspires Dallas Cowboys

IRVING (AP) — Joe DeCamillis walks a little faster, screams a little louder. He's made it through five preseason games without taking any painkilling shots. Best of all, he's sleeping in

his own bed again. Well, most of the time.

DeCamillis isn't fully recovered from the broken neck he suffered when the Dallas Cowboys' practice facility collapsed last spring and, in some ways,

never will be. But he's making progress and continuing to amaze and inspire people in the organization and throughout the NFL.

"Hopefully, I can coach a little harder and be on top of

things a little bit better than I was last year," DeCamillis said. "I wasn't at my best last year, there was no question about it. But I'm getting close

See **COWBOYS**, Page 3B

STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

Falcon said it gives the running backs confidence they can carry for the rest of the season.

"It just proved we could run over any team, really, with our line and with our backs," he said. "It really boosts our confidence because it was against a good team like Frenship and it just showed what we could really do on the ground."

But there were still fumbles. Chavarria said the tailbacks have immediately addressed the three lost fumbles against

Frenship. On each of those fumbles, Big Spring was driving the ball downfield, but the turnovers kept putting the ball back in Frenship's hands.

"We beat ourselves up on the turnovers, fumbles," Chavarria said. "That's something we need to work on a lot. It's in the back on our

heads, that we know we have to hold on to that ball a little tighter, make sure we don't run into the quarterback."

A lot of what the Steers hope will make the running backs successful is counter and misdirection. Chavarria said players have been practicing those plays a lot this week.

In addition to what Chavarria

off his changeup." Marcum had elbow ligament replacement surgery in Sept. 2008 and did not pitch last season. "He's been able to prove that he's back from his injury and continues to get better,"

MIDLAND

Continued from Page 1B

The Lady Steers have a chance to string some wins together with Greenwood visiting at 2 p.m. on Sept. 11 in Steer Gym.

With four matches left before district play, including the Greenwood match, Osborne said it is important her players continue to make improvements.

"All the games are important," she said. "Every game is going to be im-

portant leading up to district. They need to learn what it's going to take to win and be ready for that district opponent."

Big Spring vs. Midland Christian

18-25, 25-22, 25-23, 21-25, 13-15

Setters:

Cerbi Ritchey - 28 assists, 6 kills, 3 blocks, 10 digs.

Clara Benavides - 19 assists, 1 kill, 2 aces, 9 digs.

Offense:

Taylor Seaton - 18 kills, 1 block, 2 digs.

Bridgette Tuitt - 10 kills, 1 block, 10 digs.

Desiree Anderson - 10 kills, 1 block, 1 assist, 15 digs.

Defense:

Valerie Ross - 19 digs, 1 ace.

Carson Reibe - 15 digs.

Big Spring vs. Sterling City
25-13, 25-16, 25-27, 25-18

Setters:

Cerbi Ritchey - 28 assists, 8 kills, 3 blocks, 100% serving, 7 digs.

Clara Benavides - 13 assists, 1 ace, 2 digs.

Offense:

Taylor Seaton - 11 kills, 3 blocks.

Desiree Anderson - 10 kills, 3 blocks, 10 digs.

Defense:

Valerie Ross - 12 digs, 1 ace.

Carson Reibe - 10 digs, 1 ace.

Junior Varsity

Big Spring vs. Midland Christian

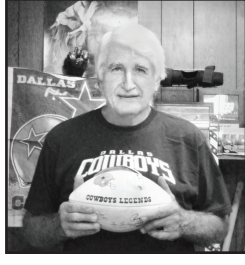
20-25, 17-25

Freshman
Big Spring vs. Midland Christian
8-25, 16-25

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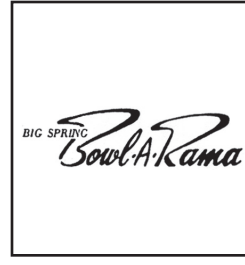
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- 7. Houston
- 8. Dallas
- 9. Texas A&M
- 10. Texas Longhorns

- 1. Plainview
- 2. Coahoma
- 3. Forsan
- 4. Garden City
- 5. Rankin
- 6. Sands
- 7. Indianapolis
- 8. Dallas
- 9. Texas A&M
- 10. Texas Longhorns

- 1. Big Spring
- 2. Coahoma
- 3. Forsan
- 4. Garden City
- 5. Grady
- 6. Sands
- 7. Indianapolis
- 8. Dallas
- 9. Texas A&M
- 10. Texas Longhorns

- 1. Big Spring
- 2. Wink
- 3. Forsan
- 4. Garden City
- 5. Grady
- 6. Sands
- 7. Indianapolis
- 8. Dallas
- 9. Texas A&M
- 10. Texas Longhorns

- 1. Big Spring
- 2. Coahoma
- 3. Forsan
- 4. Garden City
- 5. Grady
- 6. Sands
- 7. Houston
- 8. Dallas
- 9. Louisiana Tech
- 10. Texas Longhorns

- 1. Big Spring
- 2. Coahoma
- 3. Forsan
- 4. Garden City
- 5. Rankin
- 6. Sands
- 7. Indianapolis
- 8. Dallas
- 9. Texas A&M
- 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

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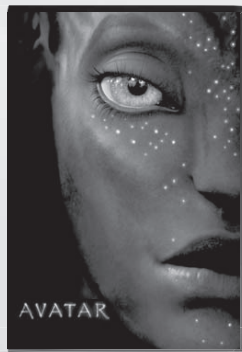
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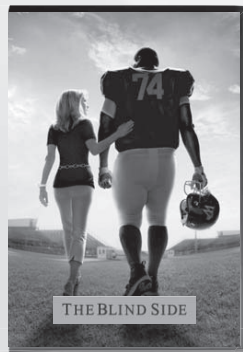
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Why not check this out? At the library

The Friends of the Library Book sale is approaching! The sale will be Sept. 24-26. Hours will be announced later.

The main plot in "Resurrection" (F MAL T) has to do with the controversial papyri, known as the Gnostic Gospels, found in Egypt, that are believed to be the lost gospels from apostles of Jesus Christ, including the gospels of Mary Magdalene. This is a fictionalized account of how they disappeared and why they remained hidden for nearly 30 years after their discovery. "Resurrection" (F MAL T) by Tucker Malarkey is a suspenseful love story peopled with a mix of fictional and historical characters. Malarkey's characters are a bit wooden, but they are (perhaps inadvertently) secondary to the intriguing religious debate. She has created a wonderful fiction based on the sketchy history of the Gnostic Gospels.

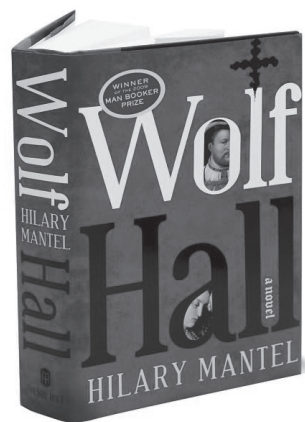


HOLLIS McCRIGHT

Hilary Mantel, in "Wolf Hall," (F MAN H) brings to

life a cunning and audacious man, Thomas Cromwell. Henry VIII wants to annul his marriage to Catherine and marry Anne Boleyn, his newest paramour. Still under the aegis of Catholicism, Cromwell will break the deadlock and bring to life the Anglican church. The HBO show, "The Tudors," brings the suspense to the television screen, but read about it in Mantel's book.

Iris Johansen always writes with an unexpected twist. In "Dark Summer," (F JOH I) you have a plucky veterinarian with an unhappy past who has made a good life for herself, an assortment of rescued animals and a couple of rescue humans. Enter our hero, a passionate man with a tragic past and a very special dog of his own, not to mention a secret that could change the world. The hero is, of course, pursued by a sadistic and megalomaniac villain. The plot has all the right elements — danger, romance, true friendships and betrayal. While not as well written as her Eve Duncan



mysteries/thrillers, this is still a good read.

Joy Fielding is a great suspense writer. In "Still Life," (F FIE J) Casey Marshall has a great life: a loving husband (cue ominous music), a successful design firm and super friends. All is well, until she is hit by a car, breaking every bone in her body and sending her into a coma. As one who had a sister in a coma, they can hear what you say. Even though Casey cannot see or speak, she soon discovers that friends aren't necessarily friends, and the accident really wasn't one. Another intense book from Fielding.

Now for some fun books: "The Beach Street Knitting Society and Yarn Club" (F McN G) by Gil McNeil is one of those feel-good books. Newly widowed Jo Mackenzie needs a break from London where her perfect life was torn apart by the death of her husband. However, said husband had just asked for a divorce, then the accident. Now a widow, she returns to the small seaside

town to take over a yarn shop owned by her grandmother. A story of renewal, it is an uplifting and healing book.

Debbie Macomber in "Right Next Door" (F MAC D) writes about Robin Masterson (single) whose son wants a dog. A dog, no less, that lives next door and is owned by a grumpy, gorgeous man. Do I need to write more? In the second story, Peter Sommars (15 years old) wants to be more independent which is why he wants his mom to start dating. The ideal "date man" is his best friend's father (conveniently single), who is also interested in said mom. Cute books.

Madeleine Wickham, best-selling author of the Shopaholic Series, has a new book out — "A Desirable Residence" (F WIC M). Reviewed by Ellen R. Cohen in Booklist: Teachers Liz and Jonathan Chambers have a difficult adolescent daughter, two mortgages, an old home and a new business — Silchester Tutorial College. When real estate mogul Marcus Witherstone finds tenants for the Chambers' old house, their finances improve. However, personal entanglements create problems for Liz and Marcus, as well as for 14-year-old Alice

and the tenants, Piers and Ginny. While circumventing the consequences of deceit and guilt, the main characters acknowledge and rectify mistakes, thus ensuring a satisfying completion.

"No Mercy," (M ARM L) by Lori Armstrong, is a different kind of mystery. Mercy Gunderson is on medical leave from the army and goes home to South Dakota (which isn't that much different from Iraq). She arrives home just after the death of her father and is pulled in five different directions. There's a dead Indian boy on her land, a dizzy sister, a relationship with the local sheriff and a mystery to solve. I have read "at it" and think mystery fiends will enjoy it. More mysteries in next week's column!

The library is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays, with the Internet/Video Room closing at 1:30. Regular hours are 10 until 6, Monday through Friday. The Internet/Video room closes one-half hour before closing. The library is located at 500 S. Main and our e-mail address is reference@co.howard.tx.us.

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.

Parent's Corner: All about dirt daubers

I was working in the garage area the other day when I ran across a dauber nest. Now when I was a kid we called them dirt daubers but I have discovered that they are actually mud daubers.

As you will recall, a mud dauber is a black or dark blue wasp, long and slender with a narrow, thread-like waist. Some have yellow markings. They are solitary creatures, different than hornets, yellow jackets or paper wasps, and construct small nests of mud in or around homes, sheds and barns and under open structures, bridges and similar sites.

Mud daubers are often seen at the edge of mud puddles collecting mud to construct their nests. The nests, which are constructed by the females, are individual cells that are partitioned off with mud and each cell is provisioned with several paralyzed spiders and implanted with an egg. There is no worker caste and the queens must care for their own young.

To construct a nest, mud is rolled into a ball, carried to the nest and molded into place with the wasp's mandibles. After completing the mud

nest the female captures several insects or spiders to provision the cells. Mud dauber wasp queens use their sting to paralyze their prey rather than to defend their nests. Prey are stung and paralyzed before being placed in the nest. The primary prey is the black widow spider.

A single egg is deposited on the prey within each cell, and the cell sealed with mud. After the wasp has finished a series of cells, she departs and does not return. The larvae that hatch from the eggs feed on the prey items left by the adult wasp with the larvae maturing in about three weeks. Males may guard the nest while the female forages. New adult daubers emerge to start the process over again.

We are all aware that wasps usually evoke a great deal of anxiety or fear. However, I have discovered that solitary wasps, such as the mud daubers, do not defend their nest the way social wasps such as hornets and yellow-jackets do. They are very unlikely to sting, even when thoroughly aroused unless mishandled such as being touched or caught in clothing.

Control of these insects is not warranted since they normally pose little threat, therefore, mud daubers should be regarded as beneficial, since they remove and use as prey many species of spiders which most

people find disagreeable, and mud nests can be scraped off and discarded if they are objectionable.

To prevent mud daubers from building their nests in certain areas, wasp and hornet aerosol sprays can be used.

And, who would have thought

about the black widow spider being a prey of anything? I think the mud dauber just became my friend.

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



DARRELL RYAN



Cyber Bullying

Dig Deeper

iSAFE America Inc.

5963 La Place Court Ste. 309 Carlsbad, CA 92008 Tel: (760) 603-7911 www.isafe.org

Beware of the Cyber Bully

The iSAFE America research team has discovered a disturbing trend—cyber bullying has affected more than half the students surveyed, on both sides of the issue. Their latest assessments surveyed more than 1500 students ranging from fourth to eighth grade across the country. They found out:

- 58% of kids admit someone has said mean or hurtful things to them online
- 53% of kids admit having said something mean or hurtful things to another online
- 42% of kids have been bullied while online

The tradition of home as a

refuge from bullies on the school playground is over. The Internet is the new playground, and there are no off hours. The popularity of instant messaging, e-mail, webpages, and blogging means kids are a target 24 hours per day, seven days a week. Even worse, iSAFE found out 58 percent of kids have not told their parents or any adult about something mean or hurtful that had happened to them online.

Teachers and school officials need to be aware of the rising trend of cyber bullying as incidents online are brought onto school grounds.

iSAFE offers these tips to share with students who are being cyber bullied:

- Tell a trusted adult and

keep telling them until they take action.

- Never open, read or respond to messages from cyber bullies.
- If it is school related, tell your school. All schools have bullying solutions.
- Do not erase the messages. They may be needed to take action.
- If bullied through chat or IM, the bully can often be blocked.
- If you are threatened with harm, call the police.

Above all, students are the cure to the cyber bullying epidemic. By speaking out and telling adults they can stop bullying online and make the Internet experience a more positive one.

Cyber Bullying: Breaking It Down

Cyber Bullying is verbal harassment that occurs during online activities.

Cyber Bullying can take many forms. These are a few:

- A threatening e-mail
- Nasty instant messaging session
- Repeated notes sent to the cell phone
- A website set up to mock others
- "Borrowing" someone's screen name and pretending to be them while posting a message.
- Forwarding supposedly private messages, pictures, or video to others.

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212030

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Annie's Mailbox ®

Dear Annie: Many years ago, I was engaged to "Roy," a great guy. I called off the wedding two weeks before because I had a terrible case of cold feet. Roy and I remained friends for three years, but when I began dating someone else and miscarried his child, Roy stopped speaking to me. Since then, I have moved around and dated others, but they never compared to Roy.

Two years ago, my job took me back to Roy's city. I finally got up the courage to write him a note and tell him how I feel. I said I had thought about him over the years and am still in love with him. I gave him the choice to tell me off or that he was not interested, but he simply wrote back with his e-mail address and phone number.

The first time we spoke, it was a little awkward. I later e-mailed to see if he wanted to meet. He did. He invited me to his apartment, and we talked for a couple of hours and shared some laughs.

Maybe it is wishful thinking, but I thought I saw something in his eyes when he looked at me.

The problem is, I still don't know how Roy feels. Should I ask him? Or do I take his silence on the subject as his answer and leave well enough alone? -- Confused and Still in Love

Dear Confused: Once bitten, twice shy. Roy doesn't want to risk being hurt and humiliated again by the woman he once loved. If you want him back, you will have to regain his trust. There is a chance it could work if you are willing to take things slowly and build up a relationship from scratch. Don't expect declarations of undying love. Instead, invite him out for dinner, and let him get to know you again.

Dear Annie: I only hear from my father and stepmother when they need something. I don't hear from them for months, and then, when they want to go to a store or



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

doctor's appointment, they expect us to drop everything immediately.

We do not get invited to family events unless they need a ride. Mind you, they have other ways to get around but prefer that we drive them if it is raining or cold. Last year my partner was terribly sick and nearly died, but somehow they couldn't find a way to come to the hospital.

I am tired of being used like

this. If we say no, my brother and sisters call and cuss us out. Lately, we've been ignoring their calls. Are we wrong?

-- Last Resort Son in Louisville, Ky.

Dear Louisville: We assume your siblings live too far away to be of assistance, and berating you is how they assuage their own guilt at being unavailable. Feel free to ignore their barbs. But for aging parents, traveling in the rain and cold may be more difficult than you imagine. We hope you will encourage a better relationship by calling and visiting just to say hello -- and to check up on them.

Dear Annie: I totally agree with your response to "Sad Mom" that one child should not be singled out when it comes to party invitations. My children (all girls) either invited the entire class or only the girls. In fact, for my oldest daughter's first slumber party, she remarked that even though she didn't particularly care for one girl in

the class, she thought the girl would still like to come and have fun with the rest of the girls. She was in third grade at the time. I was and still am very proud of her.

Shame on parents who allow their children to be so rude. As the Bible says, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." -- Franksville, Wis.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, 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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Classic Ann Landers

Editor's Note: Hundreds of Ann Landers' loyal readers have requested that newspapers continue to publish her columns.

These letters originally appeared in 1999.

Dear Ann Landers: You have printed several letters about elderly people in

California who still are permitted to drive even though they are dangerous. I would like to add the story of our good friend "Arlene."

Arlene was 96 years old and had become quite forgetful. One time, an officer saw her sitting

in her parked car and asked her if she needed help. She told him she couldn't find her house, even though it was directly across the street from where she was parked. She would also show up at church in the middle of the week and wonder why there was no Sunday service. Recently, she went for a walk and rang a neighbor's doorbell. When the person answered, Arlene asked, "Do I know you?"

We were very concerned about her driving. Finally, our pastor wrote to the police and explained the problem. The day before Arlene's 97th birthday, two officers came to her door and requested her driver's license and car keys. Arlene handed

them over, but she was devastated. The next day, those wonderful officers came back to her home with a birthday cake.

After that, several church members provided transportation for Arlene. One couple volunteered to take her to church every Sunday. My husband and I drove her to the potluck suppers on Wednesdays. Arlene didn't always remember why we were picking her up, but she was always happy to see us.

Last year, our pastor, the church members and Arlene's nephew worked together to find a nice care facility for that dear woman, and she moved in a few months ago. I am certain if our church community had

not intervened, Arlene would still be driving. -- M.W. in Glendale, Calif.

Dear M.W.: I am happy for Arlene that she is now in "a nice care facility." I am also happy for the residents of Glendale. Thanks for letting us know. (P.S.: What a sweet and thoughtful police department your town has.)

Dear Ann Landers: A few years ago, you printed an insightful piece about gossip and the damage it can do. A great many people need to be reminded. Would you please print it again? -- Watertown, Wis.

Dear Watertown: I agree. Here it is. Thanks for asking.

Gossip -- Remember Me?

My name is Gossip. I have no respect for justice.

I maim without killing. I break hearts and ruin lives.

I am cunning and malicious and gather strength with age.

The more I am quoted, the more I am believed.

I flourish at every level of society.

My victims are helpless. They cannot protect themselves against me because I have no name and no face.

To track me down is impossible. The harder you try, the more elusive I become.

I am nobody's friend.

Once I tarnish a reputation, it is never the same.

I topple governments and wreck marriages.

I make innocent people

cry in their pillows.

My name is Gossip.

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Odds and Ends

Gamer suspended over name of W.Va. town: Fort Gay

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (AP) — Microsoft Corp. and Xbox Live are apologizing to a West Virginia town and a 26-year-old gamer

accused of violating the online gaming service's code of conduct by declaring he's from Fort Gay.

The town in western West Virginia is real. But Seattle-based Microsoft and the Xbox Live enforcement team

wouldn't take Josh Moore's word for it.

They suspended his gaming privileges for a few days last week until he could convince them his Wayne County hometown is real.

Xbox Live chief enforcement officer Stephen Toulouse acknowledges the agent reviewing a fellow gamer's complaint against Moore made a mistake. He says keeping up with

slang and policing Xbox Live for offensive language is challenging, but mistakes in judgment are rare.

Fla. race drops Guevara image after outcry

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Organizers of an irreverent Florida auto race that used Che Guevara's image in its

logo have dropped the Cuban revolutionary from promotional materials after an outcry.

They're also changing the title from the previous "24 Hours of Cuba of the North."

The December event at Palm Beach International Raceway is part of a national, tongue-in-cheek racing circuit whose entries cost less than \$500. Most have zany names and em-

blems — like the "Southern Discomfort 2010" in South Carolina, whose logo features a cartoon hillbilly.

For many in Florida's native Cuban community, the image of Guevara with racing goggles around his neck crossed the boundary of good taste.

Officials tell The Palm Beach Post they're working on a new name and emblem.

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Marj Carpenter will not be able to speak at the event due to circumstances beyond her control.

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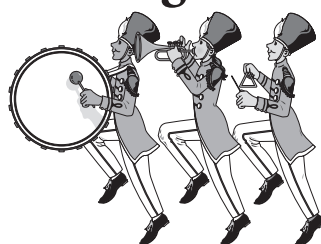
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News in brief

Looking to show action on economy, Obama to promote trio of proposals for growth Wednesday

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is pitching a trio of economic proposals Wednesday in an effort to show the public he's taking action to spur economic growth.

During a trip to Cleveland, the president will outline a \$50 billion infrastructure investment, a permanent expansion of research and development tax credits for companies and new tax breaks that would allow businesses to write off 100 percent of their new capital investments through 2011.

The administration hopes the proposals will increase business and consumer confidence, while also giving Democrats a boost in the November elections. But each proposal would require congressional approval, which is highly uncertain given Washington's partisan atmosphere.

White House, religious leaders pressure Fla. minister not to burn Quran; he's still praying

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP) — The leader of a small Florida church that espouses anti-Islam philosophy said he was still praying about whether to go through with his plan to burn copies of the Quran on Sept. 11, which the White House, religious leaders and others are pressuring him to call off.

The Rev. Terry Jones said he has received more than 100 death threats and has started wearing a .40-caliber pistol strapped to his hip but still did not back off his plan Tuesday to burn the book Muslims consider the word of God and insist be treated with the utmost respect. The 58-year-old minister said the death threats started not long after he proclaimed in July that he would stage "International Burn-a-Quran Day."

Supporters, though, have been mailing copies of the holy text to his church of about 50 followers to be incinerated in a bonfire on Saturday to mark the ninth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

Gen. David Petraeus took the rare

step of a military leader taking a position on a domestic matter when he warned in an e-mail to The Associated Press that "images of the burning of a Quran would undoubtedly be used by extremists in Afghanistan — and around the world — to inflame public opinion and incite violence."

Jones responded that he is also concerned but is "wondering, 'When do we stop?'" He refused to cancel the protest at his Dove World Outreach Center but said he was still praying about it.

AP Exclusive: Owner of peanut company linked to 9 salmonella deaths is back in business

WASHINGTON (AP) — The peanut industry executive whose filthy processing plants were blamed in a salmonella outbreak two years ago that killed nine people and sickened hundreds more is back in the business.

Stewart Parnell, former president of the now-bankrupt Peanut Corp. of America, is working as a consultant to peanut companies as the federal government's criminal investigation against him has languished for more than 18 months, The Associated Press has learned.

Parnell, who invoked the Fifth Amendment to avoid testifying before Congress in February 2009, once directed employees to "turn them loose" after samples of peanuts had tested positive for salmonella and then were cleared in a second test, according to e-mails uncovered at the time by congressional investigators.

In an interview with the AP, Parnell expressed exasperation and said he wants the pending criminal investigation resolved — one way or another.

Suspected U.S. missile strike kills 6 militants in NW Pakistan, say intelligence officials

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP) — A suspected U.S. drone killed at least six militants in northwestern Pakistan on Wednesday when it fired a missile at a house linked to a group that often carries out attacks on NATO troops in neighboring Af-

ghanistan, intelligence officials said. The U.S. has stepped up drone strikes in recent days, carrying out five suspected attacks in less than a week in North Waziristan, a tribal area along the border that is effectively controlled by militants at war with foreign troops in Afghanistan.

The U.S. refuses to publicly acknowledge such strikes, but officials have said privately that they have killed several senior Taliban and al-Qaida militants.

Wednesday's strike hit a house in the village of Dande Darpa Khel near Miran Shah, the main town in North Waziristan, two Pakistani intelligence officials said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

U.S. expands military training in Yemen, reflecting a broader counterterror program

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. special operations forces are expanding their training of the Yemeni military as the Obama administration broadens its program to counter terrorism in countries reluctant to harbor a visible American military presence.

That balancing act has become an administration trademark, funneling millions of dollars in aid and low-profile military trainers to countries like Pakistan and Yemen in order to take on a more diverse, independent and scattered al-Qaida network.

The scope and amount of the military training in Yemen has grown slowly, reflecting the Pentagon's intention to tackle the terror threat while still being sensitive to fears that a larger American footprint in Yemen could help fuel the insurgency.

Over the past year, the number of elite U.S. trainers moving in and out of Yemen has doubled, from 25 to about 50 now. The numbers fluctuate depending on the training schedule, but U.S. forces are now providing a more complex level of instruction

that combines tactical ground and air operations.

At stake is the stability of a troubled, poverty-stricken nation struggling to thwart al-Qaida-linked terrorists who are growing stronger and are increasingly targeting the U.S. and other Western interests.

BP to release report on internal probe on Gulf of Mexico disaster before key evidence analyzed

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Oil giant BP PLC on Wednesday planned to release the conclusions of its internal investigation into the rig explosion that killed 11 workers and led to the massive Gulf of Mexico spill.

BP was striking first with a detailed report about what it believes went wrong on the Deepwater Horizon on April 20. It comes just days after a key piece of evidence in the explosion was raised to the surface but has not yet been analyzed. It also comes as the blame game heats up in Washington and in the courtroom.

BP was unlikely to place too much onus on itself, given the hundreds of lawsuits and billions of dollars of liabilities it faces. In public hearings, the company has tried to shift some blame to rig owner Transocean Ltd. and cement contractor Halliburton. BP was leasing the rig from Transocean and owned the well that blew out a mile under the Gulf surface, spewing some 206 million gallons of oil into the water over three months.


BP's report is far from the final word on possible causes of the explosion, as several divisions of the U.S. government are also investigating.

Also, a key piece of the puzzle — the blowout preventer that failed to stop the oil from leaking from the well off the Louisiana coast — was raised from the water on Saturday. As of Tuesday afternoon, it had not reached a NASA facility in New Orleans where government investigators planned to analyze it.

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Ancient city by the sea rises amid Egypt's resorts

PAUL SCHEMM
Associated Press Writer
MARINA, Egypt (AP) — Today, it's a sprawl of luxury vacation homes where Egypt's wealthy play on the white beaches of the Mediterranean coast.

But 2,000 years ago, this was a thriving Greco-Roman port city, boasting villas of merchants grown rich on the wheat and olive trade.

The ancient city, known as Leukaspis or Antiphras, was hidden for centuries after it was nearly wiped out by a fourth century tsunami that devastated the region.

More recently, it was nearly buried under the modern resort of Marina in a development craze that turned this coast into the summer playground for Egypt's elite.

Nearly 25 years after

its discovery, Egyptian authorities are preparing to open ancient Leukaspis' tombs, villas and city streets to visitors — a rare example of a Classical era city in a country better known for its pyramids and Pharaonic temples.

“Visitors can go to understand how people lived back then, how they built their graves, lived in villas or traded in the main agora (square),” said Ahmed Amin, the local inspector for the antiquities department. “Everyone’s heard of the resort Marina, now they will know the historic Marina.”

The history of the two Marinas is inextricably linked. When Chinese engineers began cutting into the sandy coast to build the roads for the new resort in 1986, they struck the ancient tombs and houses of a town founded in the second century B.C.

About 200 acres were set aside for archaeology, while everywhere else along the coast up sprouted holiday villages for Egyptians escaping the stifling summer heat of the interior for the Mediterranean’s cool breezes.

The ancient city yielded up its secrets in a much more gradual fashion to a team of Polish archaeologists excavating the site through the 1990s.

A portrait emerged of a prosperous port town, with up to 15,000 residents at its height, exporting grains, livestock, wine and olives to the rest of the Mediterranean.

Merchants lived in elegant two-story villas set along zigzagging streets with pillared courtyards flanked by living and prayer rooms.

Rainwater collected from roofs ran down special hollowed out pillars into channels under the floor leading to the family cisterns. Waste disappeared into a sophisticated sewer system.

Around the town center, where the two main streets intersect, was the social and economic heart of the city and there can still be found the remains of a basilica, a hall for public events that became a church after Christianity spread across the Roman Empire.

A semicircular niche lined with benches underneath a portico provided a space for town elders to discuss business before retiring to the bathhouse across the street.

Greek columns and bright limestone walls up to six feet high (2 meters) stand in some places, reflecting the sun in an electric blue sky over the dark waters of the nearby sea. Visitors will also be

able to climb down the steep shafts of the rock-cut tombs to the deeply buried burial chambers of the city’s necropolis.

It is from the sea from which the city gained much of its livelihood. It began as a way station in the coastal trade between Egypt and Libya to the west. Later, it began exporting goods from its surrounding farms overseas, particularly to the island of Crete, just 300 miles (480 kilometers) away — a shorter trip than that from Egypt’s main coastal city Alexandria.

And from the sea came its end. Leukaspis was largely destroyed when a massive earthquake near Crete in 365 A.D. set off a tsunami wave that also devastated nearby Alexandria. In the ensuing centuries, tough economic times and a collapsing Roman Empire meant that most settlements along the coast disappeared.

Today, the remains of the port are lost. In the late 1990s, an artificial lagoon was built, surrounded by summer homes for top government officials.

“It was built by dynamite detonation so whatever was there I think is gone,” said Agnieszka Dobrowska, an architect who helped excavate the ancient city with the Polish team in the 1990s.

However, Egyptian government interest in the site rose in the last few years, part of a renewed focus on developing the country’s Classical past. In 2005, Dobrowska returned as part of a USAID project to turn ancient Marina into an open air museum for tourists.

It couldn’t have come at a better time for ancient Marina, which had long attracted covetous glances from real estate developers.

“I am quite happy it still exists, because when I was involved there were big plans to incorporate this site in a big golf course being constructed by one of these tycoons. Apparently the antiquities authorities didn’t allow it, so that’s quite good,” recalls Dobrowska.

Redoing the site is part of a plan to bring more year-around tourism to what is now largely a summer destination for just Egyptians — perhaps with a mind to attracting European tourists currently flocking to beaches in nearby Tunisia during the winter.

Much still needs to be done to achieve the government’s target to open the site by mid-September, as ancient fragments of pottery still litter the ground and bones lie open in their tombs.

But if old Marina is a success then similar transformation could happen to a massive temple of Osiris just 30 miles (50 kilometers) away, where a Dominican archaeological team is searching for the burial place of the doomed Classical lovers, Anthony and Cleopatra.

“The plan is to do the same for Taposiris Magna so that tourists can visit both,” said Khaled Aboul-Hamd, antiquities director for the region.

These north coast ruins may also attract the attention of the visitors to the nearby El-Alamein battlefield and cemeteries for the World War II battle that Winston Churchill once called the turning point of the war.

In fact, there are signs the allied troops took refuge in the deep rock cut tombs of Marina, just six miles (10 kilometers) from the furthest point of the Axis advance on Alexandria.

Crouched down awaiting the onslaught of German Gen. Rommel’s famed Afrika Corps, the young British Tommies would have shared space with the rib bones and skull fragments of Marina’s inhabitants in burial chambers hidden 25 feet (8 meters) below ground.

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The new moon in Virgo speaks to the gardener in all of us. Some will profess that there is not a gardener in all of us, but with a less literal interpretation, perhaps they will change their minds. We all have something to grow. And here’s the best gardening tip around: To acquire a green thumb, try to see things from the plant’s perspective.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You are not imagining it. There is definitely a pressure on you to act in a way that will satisfy the expectations of your colleagues, friends and loved ones. But the stress is only there if you agree to take it on.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). As much as you try, it’s not so easy these days to read the minds of your loved ones. This will work in your favor now, since they have surprises that will delight you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your communication with the world is unique, and you will succeed best when you cater to your specific style. Set yourself up to have the home field advantage. Make the world come to you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You may have a rough start this morning, but keep going anyway — a good start is not required for a good ending. It’s more about the plan, endurance and the ability to adapt to overcome the inevitable obstacles.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You’ll improve on a relationship that is already going pretty well. Now that you are both comfortable, you can speak candidly. You’ll find that you agree on many more topics than you had imagined.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Friends keep you moving. You’ll either have to keep up with them, or it’ll be your job to lead them along —

both ways have you going at full capacity. And you’ll become worldly in the process.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). In some ways, your friendship is a bargain. Whatever you get from your people, you give them back even more. You are inclined to knock yourself out with this now, and your intention will be deeply felt.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You don’t have to have a super-athletic ability to be athletic — all you need is to enjoy the athletic pursuit. The same goes for being an intellectual. If you take pleasure in learning, you are an intellectual.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You may unconsciously have an intention that will not bring you a great response from others. Instead of trying to impress someone, set the intention of having fun yourself. Others will get swept up in the fun, too.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The average life is wrought with rude awakenings. So ride this dream for as long as it lasts. You could have an extremely long run. Go softly, so as not to break the spell.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It’s too easy to get distracted. You may have to implement a “no surfing” rule for this day just so you can get some work done. The types of surfing to ban include Internet, media channels and actual waves.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Consider taking a break from a relationship that is unsatisfying to you. When was the last time you really felt heard by the other person? Putting some space and time between you will help you gain perspective.

TODAY’S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 8). You are a golden member of your tribe. You bring rapport and understanding to the mix and will enjoy the respect you gain in return. A windfall happens within seven weeks. November’s pursuit of a professional goal will attract very sweet and helpful



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Tomorrow's Horoscope

assistance. Family additions happen in February. Aquarius and Pisces people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 1, 44, 28 and 14.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: “Do you have any guidance for a Virgo who is changing career paths? I have recently decided to become a life coach. I have experience in the realm of fitness and nutrition and think I can help people get fit and healthy.”

You are right in line with the strengths of your sign. Virgos are exceptionally nurturing people and are naturally inclined toward the healing arts and pursuits that educate people as to how to improve their lives. Virgo is the sign of improvement. Sometimes Virgos get a bad rap because they are analytical to a degree that

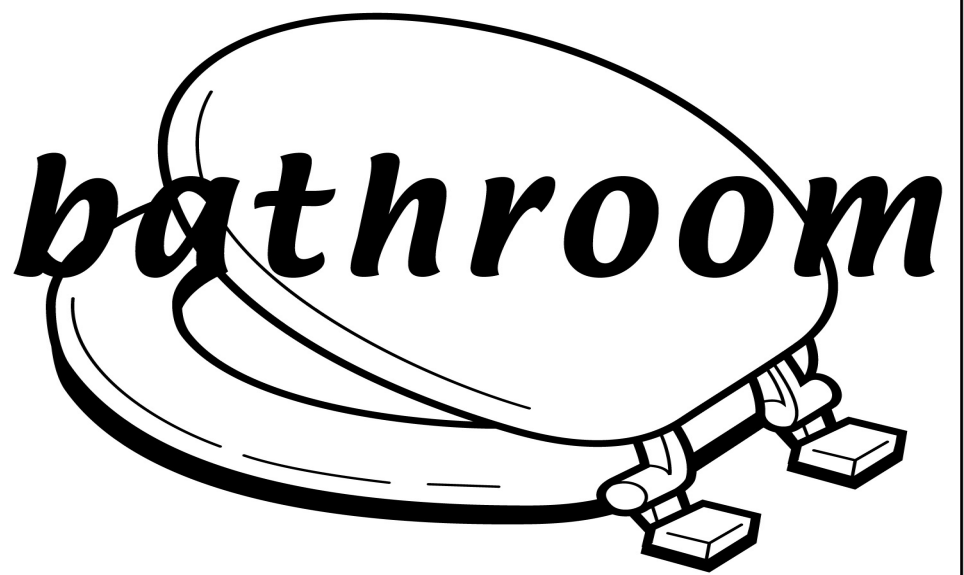
makes some people uncomfortable. Not everyone in the world wants to strive for perfection, but whatever the pursuit may be, Virgo has a natural tendency to try for the best outcome imaginable. Though certification is not necessary to become a life coach, you will probably enjoy the structure of a formal class. The methods you learn will not only help you assist your clients in getting results, but you will also learn how to market your skills and get the number of clients necessary for you to run a business that will sustain your lifestyle. Use your intuition to pick the right schooling for you.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: This Virgo knows how to “Get the Party Started,” and she sometimes turns the party into an opportunity to do good in the world. The pop music phenomenon known as Pink recently donated her shoes to raise money to help the victims of landmines. Among other charities, she is an avid PETA supporter. Pink has her sun, Mercury, Venus and Saturn all in the nurturing sign of Virgo.

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News in brief

Report: Most districts avoid tax elections

DALLAS (AP) — A newspaper report says 30 percent of Texas school districts have asked their voters for tax rate increases since state lawmakers adopted the requirement four years ago.

The Dallas Morning News, citing figures from a website that tracks tax rate elections in Texas, reported Wednesday that about a fifth of the state's 1,025 districts won voter approval for increases.

Another 78 districts have been turned down by voters, including 17 that have lost twice. That's according to figures from www.TexasISD.com.

More than 800 districts are at or below the maximum tax rate that can be levied without going to voters — \$1.04 per \$100 valuation. The maximum equals an annual tax of \$2,080 on a home valued at \$200,000, not including local taxes.

Woman accused of stealing from nonprofits

AUSTIN (AP) — Travis County prosecutors say they are trying to extradite from Venezuela a woman accused of stealing nearly \$450,000 from two Austin nonprofits and a church.

The Austin American-Statesman reported Wednesday that authorities believe 51-year-old Louanne Aponte fled to South America in February to avoid prosecution over charges of taking more than \$300,000 from Family Connections. She was executive director for six years at the now-defunct nonprofit that specialized in child care services.

Aponte also is accused of draining more than \$130,000 from the Texas

Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, where she was treasurer for a decade. Authorities say she also took more than \$8,000 from her church.

Aponte didn't respond to e-mail messages from the newspaper.

Study: Texas Enterprise fund companies struggling

AUSTIN (AP) — Two-thirds of the Texas Enterprise Fund companies that had to meet job-creation goals in 2009 in exchange for millions of dollars in taxpayer money failed to bring in the jobs they promised, according to a report released Wednesday.

That percentage is up from the previous year, when Texans for Public Justice also issued a study on enterprise fund companies and found that 42 percent of those it reviewed were failing to meet their job-creation targets.

Gov. Rick Perry, a Republican seeking re-election against Democrat Bill White, points to the fund as an effective tool to help lure companies to the state. The fund is a deal-closing account created by the Legislature at Perry's urging. The governor frequently credits the fund for helping to create some 53,000 new jobs in Texas and generating billions of dollars in capital investment.

The new study looked at compliance reports filed by 50 enterprise fund companies and the job creation targets they agreed to.

Thirty-three of those projects failed to deliver on their job promises for 2009, the study found. Six contracts were canceled. Some companies had their contracts with the state changed to lower their job-creation goals or to

postpone deadlines, changes reported on earlier this year by The Associated Press.

Authorities: Man guns down wife, son kills him

MANVEL (AP) — Authorities say a Houston-area man who broke into his former home and fatally shot his estranged wife was gunned down by his son.

Brazoria County sheriff's investigator Jeff Dandeneau said an ongoing divorce was a factor in the deaths Saturday of 70-year-old Karla J. Boone and 63-year-old Stanley R. Boone.

Dandeneau tells the Houston Chronicle that Stanley Boone apparently broke into the home before dawn, and gunfire was exchanged. He says the son had a minor flesh wound and was treated and released from a hospital.

No charges have been filed against the son.

Stanley Boone brought divorce proceedings against his wife in 2009 after more than 30 years of marriage. A judge had issued a restraining order barring them from contacting each other.

Hermine's remnants head north after storm weakens

RAYMONDVILLE (AP) — It's power spent, what was left of Tropical Storm Hermine was making its way north Wednesday, having drenched parts of northeastern Mexico and south Texas before weakening.

Remnants of the storm that was downgraded to a tropical depression Tuesday night could spread as far north as Oklahoma and Kansas in the coming days.

The storm brought winds gusting to about 70 mph and downpours to Texas but left only minor scrapes in the storm-weary Rio Grande Valley, which is proving resilient this hurricane season after taking a third tropical system on the chin.

The storm struck the flood-prone valley just after the cleanup finished from Hurricane Alex at the start of the summer and an unnamed tropical depression in July. Only last week had Hidalgo County on the U.S.-Mexico border stowed its last water pump.

But Hermine's remnants were expected to cover more of the U.S. than Alex, which swiped Texas in June as a Category 1 storm before plunging southwest and breaking up over Mexico.

"This is going to be much more of a memorable storm than Alex," National Weather Service meteorologist Joseph Tomaselli said.

Fortunately, this time, much of the

5 inches to a foot of rain from Hermine fell harmlessly in the Gulf, and flooding was limited to only minor nuisances. Up to 4 inches of rain was reported in south Texas, with more rain expected in central and north Texas Wednesday as the storm's core continued to move north, according to the National Weather Service.

Houston suburb won't pursue immigration laws

TOMBALL (AP) — A Houston suburb stepped briefly into the fray over illegal immigration Tuesday before city leaders voted not to consider laws that would ban illegal immigrants from renting property or owning businesses or that would have made English its official language.

The Tomball City Council discussed several ordinances that would have also prevented illegal immigrants from owning property or operating any business.

Council members said they were dissuaded in part from pursuing a ban on renting to illegal immigrants based on the experience of Farmers Branch, a Dallas suburb that for years has been trying to enforce a similar ordinance. A federal judge ruled the ordinance unconstitutional in March, and Farmers Branch is appealing. Farmers Branch has spent more than \$3.3 million in legal fees related to the ordinance.

Tomball Councilman Derek Townsend, who proposed the ordinances, said he fully supports immigration as long as it's legal. Critics called his proposals racist and reactionary.

"Let's make this perfectly clear. It's not about race. It's about legalities," Townsend said at the meeting.

Another Republican mulls run for Texas speaker

AUSTIN (AP) — Another conservative legislator is mulling a challenge to moderate Texas House Speaker Joe Straus, raising the specter of a Republican leadership battle just as lawmakers begin to tackle a huge budget shortfall early next year.

State Rep. Warren Chisum told The Associated Press on Tuesday that he would decide before the November elections whether to mount a challenge to the top House leader. Chisum is a Republican from Pampa.

State Rep. Leo Berman, a Tyler Republican, already has announced plans to run against Straus when lawmakers return to Austin in January. Chisum said he's not upset with Straus but wants to ensure the Legislature has experienced leaders.



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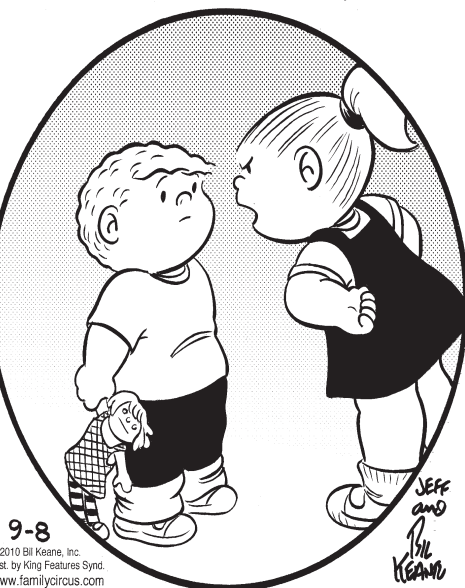
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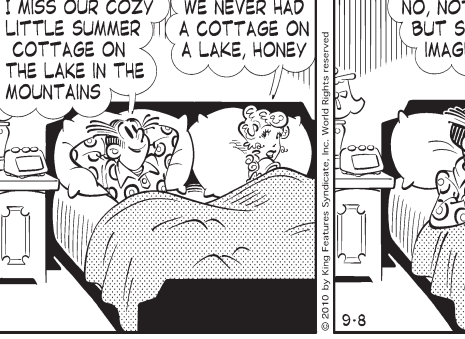


'I'm supposed to be bossy! I'm older than you!'

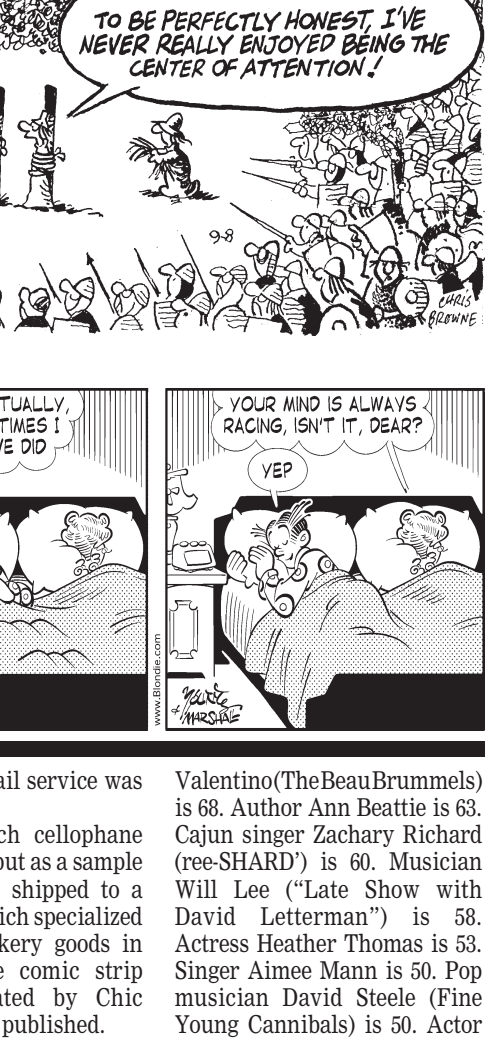
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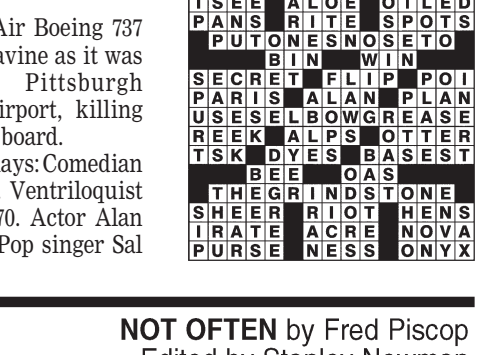
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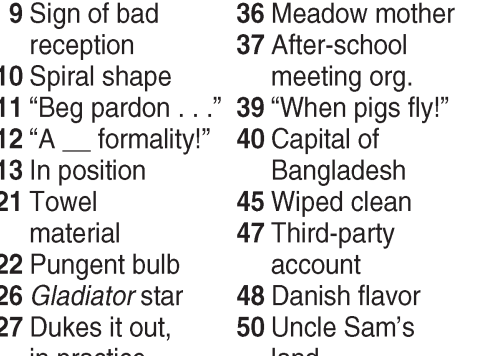
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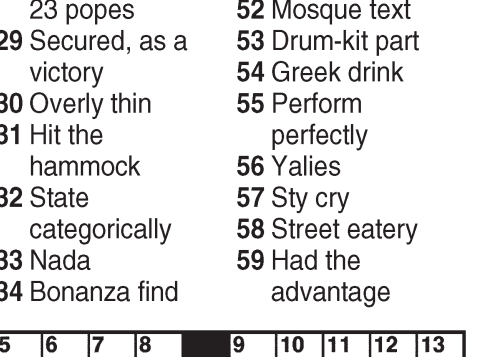
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This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 8, the 251st day of 2010. There are 114 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 8, 1935, Sen. Huey P. Long, D-La., "The Kingfish" of Louisiana politics, was shot and mortally wounded inside the State Capitol in Baton Rouge; he died two days later at age 42.

Francisco air mail service was inaugurated. In 1930, Scotch cellophane tape made its debut as a sample of the tape was shipped to a Chicago firm which specialized in wrapping bakery goods in cellophane. The comic strip "Blondie," created by Chic Young, was first published.

Valentino (The Beau Brummell) is 68. Author Ann Beattie is 63. Cajun singer Zachary Richard (ree-SHARD) is 60. Musician Will Lee ("Late Show with David Letterman") is 58.

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS 1 Government honcho 5 Dentist's request 9 Impostors 14 Saver of the day 15 Puppy pickup spot 16 Nervous giggle 17 Spain's longest river 18 Show off one's muscles 19 All eyes and ears 20 Not often 23 Twain kid 24 Give the thumbs down to 25 ___ room (place to play) 27 [Not my mistake] 28 Triangular sail 31 Stubble remover 35 Nonpayer's risk, for short 37 Somewhat, in music 38 Not often 41 In need of a rubdown 42 Basin partner 43 Good with tools, say 44 Tandem's capacity 45 Time of anticipation 46 Huge expanse 48 Ante- relative 49 Moves furtively 54 Not often 59 Parties with poi 60 Baloney peddler

- 61 Gumbo veggie 62 Cyber-mag 63 The skinny 64 Cause of quaking 65 Rationed, with "out" 66 Distort 67 One of the Brontë sisters DOWN 1 Food Channel hosts 2 Gridiron ref 3 Tell's missile 4 Far from cramped 5 Burning up 6 Seer's reading 7 Sporting blade 8 Barbershop call 9 Sign of bad reception 10 Spiral shape 11 "Beg pardon..." 12 "A ___ formality!" 13 In position 21 Towel material 22 Pungent bulb 26 Gladiator star 27 Dukes it out, in practice 28 Name of 23 popes 29 Secured, as a victory 30 Overly thin 31 Hit the hammock 32 State categorically 33 Nada 34 Bonanza find

NOT OFTEN by Fred Piscop

Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- 36 Meadow mother 37 After-school meeting org. 39 "When pigs fly!" 40 Capital of Bangladesh 45 Wiped clean 47 Third-party account 48 Danish flavor 50 Uncle Sam's land 51 Compare 52 Mosque text 53 Drum-kit part 54 Greek drink 55 Perform perfectly 56 Yalies 57 Sty cry 58 Street eatery 59 Had the advantage

13x13 crossword grid with numbers 1-67.