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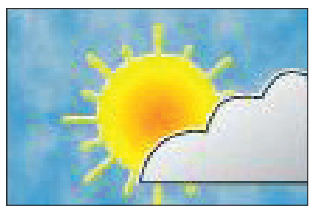
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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY

SEPTEMBER 28, 2010



VOLUME 105, NUMBER 252

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HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

Howard County commissioners discuss the 2010-2011 tax rate during a meeting Monday morning at the county courthouse. The court approved the effective rate of 52.2406 cents per \$100 valuation.

Water line repair may mean low pressures

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Officials with the city of Big Spring say repairs to a pair of water mains is expected to cause low water pressure for municipal customers beginning early Wednesday morning and continuing through Friday.

According to Todd Darden, assistant city manager and director of public works, the repairs are expected to begin at 4 a.m. Wednesday and will affect a number of city water customers.

"We'll be repairing a 20-inch main break on FM 700, between Cedar and Wasson," Darden said. "We'll also be replacing a 20-inch valve on Westover Road. We're asking customers to please conserve water during the repair. There may be low or no water pressure in some areas, and it's very important we conserve as much as possible."

Darden said interruption of water service to apartment buildings in the area, including Barcelona and Park Hill Terrace, should be temporary and only experienced during the beginning of the repair, shortly after 4 a.m.

"We'll have fire hydrants in the area open to help regulate the pressure within the water system," Darden said. "At this time, unless there are further unforeseen issues, we expect that lowered water pressure will be the main inconvenience experienced by city water customers."

Westover Road — from FM 700 to Pennsylvania — is expected to be closed for the duration of the repair, according to city officials, with residents living in that area asked to use the FM 700 side of the area for access.

For more information, contact the city's Public Works Office at 264-2501.



Darden

County tax bills going down? Lower effective rate means good news for some

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Howard County residents could see a drop in their property tax bills this year, as county commissioners voted unanimously Monday morning to approve the effect tax rate for 2010-2011.

Part of a \$15.1 million budget — which includes more than \$700,000 over last year's fiscal plan — the tax rate was set at 52.2406 cents per \$100 valuation, a substantial drop from last year's rate of 57.8656 cents per \$100 valuation. The adopted tax rate is expected to bring in the same amount of taxes as last year's rate, thanks mostly to an increase in mineral values across the board.

According to County Judge Mark Barr, it feels good for the court to be able to adopt the effective rate after several years of fiscal struggles,

but warned against looking too far ahead.

"It feels good to be able to go with the effective rate this year," Barr said. "It could vary next year, but we're very happy with the tax rate we've been able to approve this year. The reason we were able to do this is because our reserve fund is up and it probably needs to be taken down some. So we'll be taking this extra amount, about \$700,000, out of the reserve fund. Of course, we'll have to take a really close look at things next year."

While the county has struggled over the past several years to raise reserve fund levels, Barr said the county is currently sitting on a surplus that would sustain the governing entity in the face of a catastrophe.

"When I first came into office, we had about \$1 million in our

reserves. Now we have close to \$8 million," Barr said. "We're going to take it down a little with this year's budget, and we'd like to keep it at about \$6 million. That's the level it's recommended we keep it at because it gives us about six months of operating expense if something were to happen, God forbid. It would most likely take something of a national calamity to do that, however. We're in good shape and we're going to keep it that way. We'll take a good, close look at things next year and see where we are and how things are shaping up."

Howard County saw an increase of \$192,559,501 with a certified value of \$2,102,914,462, compared to the \$1,910,354,961 in 2009. Commissioners approved the county's 2010-2011

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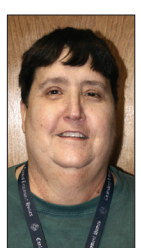
Angel Tree apps to be taken Oct. 4-16

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

The Big Spring Salvation Army will begin accepting applications for its annual Angel Tree program Oct. 4-16, as the local charity gets ready to step its operations up for the holiday season.

According to Salvation Army officials, the annual program — which provides Christmas gifts for the children of area low income families struggling through the holiday — has been a huge success in years past, and with economic times still extremely tough for many West Texans, this year's Angel Tree will be no exception.

"The Angel Tree program has helped so many families that are struggling just to make ends meet," said Salvation Army Social Worker Paula Lafler. "It's a sad thing to think about, to realize a lot of



Lafler

these children wouldn't otherwise have had a single present under the Christmas tree come the holiday. And with the economy still struggling, especially out there in West Texas, we're expecting the demand to be just as high or higher than last year."

Lafler said area families wanting to apply for assistance through the Angel Tree program can do so beginning Monday at 9 a.m.

"We'll be accepting applications Monday and continue through Friday," she said. "We'll also accept applications the following week, from Oct. 11 until Oct. 15. All they have to do is come by the office between 9 a.m. and noon, or 1 p.m. and 3 p.m."

The application process is simple, according to Lafler, and for some area children it could be the difference between waking up with gifts under the tree Christmas morning and waking up to nothing.

"They need to come in and bring a

picture ID for all of the adults, Social Security cards for all of the household members living there and proof of income," said Lafler. "That means check stubs from work, food stamps, AFDC, TANIF, HUD or any of those types of income. They need to bring those in with them, because we do verify them. They also need to bring in a copy of all of their expenses, as well as a list of what their children might want for Christmas, including clothes sizes and shoe sizes."

"The picture ID has to be a state issued ID, not the kind you can get at certain convenience stores. Also, they need to be sure to bring either the Social Security card itself, or a print out from the Social Security Office. It has to appear on something official, even DHS (Department of Health Services) records."

Once the names and gift ideas are collected and put on the Angel Trees

See **APPS**, Page 3

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Police blotter

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

- RICHARD LEVI HERNANDEZ, 20, of Lubbock, was arrested Monday on a warrant from another agency.
- WILLIAM SNEED, 35, of 901 W. Third St., was arrested Tuesday on warrants for expired license plate and failure to appear.
- PEDRO CHRISTOPHER CARRILLO, 25, of 1103 N. Goliad, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported: In the 1200 block of Dixie. In the 1800 block of S. Scurry.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 80 inmates at the time of this report.

- RICHARD LEVI HERNANDEZ, 20, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of terroristic threat.
- RONALD JOE HOPE, 38, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of issuance of a bad check.
- JEREMY HERNANDEZ, 22, was arrested Monday by DPS on charges of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension, failure to appear and no driver's license.
- ZACK MONROE TURMAN, 32, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- WILLIAM ELGIN SNEED, 35, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of displaying expired registration and failure to appear.
- PEDRO CHRISTOPHER CARRILLO, 25, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- JOSE ANTHONY NIETO, 30, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

Fire/EMS

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

- TRAUMA was reported in the 2100 block of Morrison. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 300 block of E. Third Street. Service refused.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 9400 block of Longshore Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 100 block of Ash. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1600 block of Stadium. One person was transported to SMMC.
- GAS LEAK was reported in the 1500 block of Stadium.

Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 1-11-16-23. Bonus Ball: 9.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 4-5-6-31-35.
Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4-4-1-5. Sum It Up: 14.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4-3-0. Sum It Up: 7.

Take Note

- Christian Community Service, the local association of ministers, has announced LifeChain Sunday, set for 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 3, at the corner of Birdwell Lane and 15th Street. Contact the Rev. Steve King, pastor of the Birdwell Lane Baptist Church, at 267-7157 for information and to pick up materials for the silent prayer chain. The event is scheduled as a community-wide response to need within the community.

- United Way Dine Out program featured restaurant this week is Sonic Drive-Ins. The local business will donate a portion of its proceeds received through Sunday to United Way of Big Spring and Howard County.

- Local resident Gale Pittman is planning to decorate a Christmas tree for the Heritage Museum Christmas Tree Forest in honor and memory of service men and women now on active duty and those who gave their lives for their country. The loved one does not need to be from Big Spring and it does not matter what war they fought in. Families should send information on their service man or woman to Gale Pittman, 3401 Sherrod Rd., Big Spring 79720.

- Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. Thursdays at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Bring this note when you join and receive a box of Weight Watchers snacks through Oct. 31. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.

- English as a Second Language (ESL) and computer sessions at the Northside Community Center are held during the day and evening on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Class sessions are from 10 a.m. to noon, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, call 263-2673.

- Ackerly Lunch Bunch will meet Saturday at 10 a.m. at Crispy's Café, 1904 S. Birdwell Lane in Big Spring. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. and orders will be taken from the menu. RSVP to Sissy Jones at (432) 213-4452.

- 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.

- If you were laid off between December 2008 and March 2010 and are interested in training, contact the Workforce Solutions Permian Basin office in Big Spring at 263-8373 or 1-800-749-8373. Training dollars are available to assist those affected by the layoffs and ultimate plant closure.

- The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We currently have 55 children in foster care without a volunteer. We need your help. A class is forming in Howard County and we need at least 27 volunteers to fill this need. If you're interested in volunteering please contact Suzy Milliken at 1-877-316-8346 or visit www.BecomeaCASA.org or www.casawtx.org.

- Legal Aid of Northwest Texas is accepting appointments from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

Howard County Feed & Supply

Deer Corn Headquarters


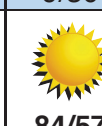
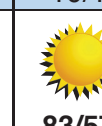
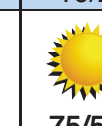
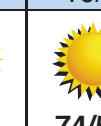


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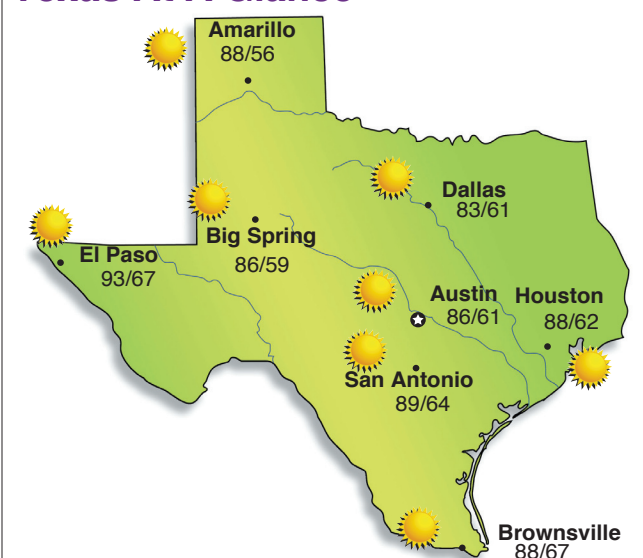
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Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

| Wed 9/29 | Thu 9/30 | Fri 10/1 | Sat 10/2 | Sun 10/3 |
|--|--|---|--|---|
|  86/59 Mainly sunny. High 86F. Winds light and variable. |  84/57 Sunshine. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the upper 50s. |  83/57 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 50s. |  75/54 Mainly sunny. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the mid 50s. |  74/53 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the low 50s. |
| Sunrise: 7:39 AM Sunset: 7:33 PM | Sunrise: 7:39 AM Sunset: 7:32 PM | Sunrise: 7:40 AM Sunset: 7:31 PM | Sunrise: 7:41 AM Sunset: 7:29 PM | Sunrise: 7:41 AM Sunset: 7:28 PM |

Texas At A Glance



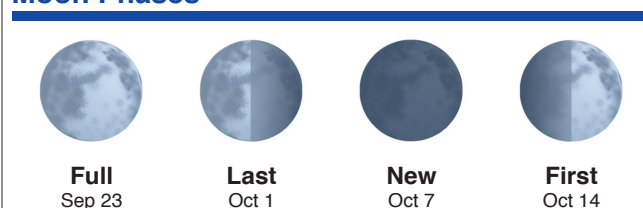
Area Cities

| City | Hi | Lo | Cond. | City | Hi | Lo | Cond. |
|----------------|----|----|-------|-----------------|----|----|-------|
| Ableno | 85 | 59 | sunny | Kingsville | 89 | 64 | sunny |
| Amarillo | 88 | 56 | sunny | Livingston | 88 | 58 | sunny |
| Austin | 86 | 61 | sunny | Longview | 84 | 58 | sunny |
| Beaumont | 88 | 61 | sunny | Lubbock | 87 | 56 | sunny |
| Brownsville | 88 | 67 | sunny | Lufkin | 87 | 60 | sunny |
| Brownwood | 87 | 58 | sunny | Midland | 90 | 62 | sunny |
| Corpus Christi | 88 | 66 | sunny | Raymondville | 90 | 65 | sunny |
| Corsicana | 83 | 59 | sunny | Rosenberg | 88 | 61 | sunny |
| Dallas | 83 | 61 | sunny | San Antonio | 89 | 64 | sunny |
| Del Rio | 94 | 65 | sunny | San Marcos | 87 | 61 | sunny |
| El Paso | 93 | 67 | sunny | Sulphur Springs | 82 | 59 | sunny |
| Fort Stockton | 89 | 61 | sunny | Sweetwater | 85 | 59 | sunny |
| Gainesville | 81 | 58 | sunny | Tyler | 83 | 57 | sunny |
| Greenville | 81 | 58 | sunny | Weatherford | 82 | 58 | sunny |
| Houston | 88 | 62 | sunny | Wichita Falls | 85 | 59 | sunny |

National Cities

| City | Hi | Lo | Cond. | City | Hi | Lo | Cond. |
|-------------|----|----|-----------|----------------|-----|----|-----------|
| Atlanta | 79 | 56 | mst sunny | Minneapolis | 71 | 51 | mst sunny |
| Boston | 78 | 63 | cloudy | New York | 74 | 66 | cloudy |
| Chicago | 71 | 54 | sunny | Phoenix | 103 | 77 | mst sunny |
| Dallas | 83 | 61 | sunny | San Francisco | 79 | 60 | mst sunny |
| Denver | 83 | 51 | sunny | Seattle | 72 | 53 | pt sunny |
| Houston | 88 | 62 | sunny | St. Louis | 74 | 58 | sunny |
| Los Angeles | 87 | 62 | pt sunny | Washington, DC | 75 | 64 | rain |
| Miami | 83 | 77 | rain | | | | |

Moon Phases



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TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS:

Granddad charged after toddler shot self

TYLER (AP) — An east Texas man is charged with a firearms violation after his 2-year-old grandson shot himself accidentally at a rural bar the family runs.

Charles Wayne Mclean of Flint is free on \$10,000 bond after he was charged Monday with making a firearm accessible to a child with serious bodily injury. That's after Jaden Mclean got a handgun from an office shelf at the Sports Club, about five miles east of Tyler, and shot himself once in the head.

Conviction of the Class A misdemeanor would mean a sentence of up to a year in jail and a fine of up to \$4,000.

Mclean says his grandson is home from the hospital and he expects a full recovery. He declined to comment on his case.

More debris removal at damaged motel

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Rain-delayed debris removal has resumed at a Corpus Christi motel as investigators seek the cause of an explosion left three people hurt.

Heavy rain and storms last week interrupted the investigation into the Sept. 16 blast that destroyed much of the Aquarium Inn.

Fire Marshal Andy Cardiel says investigators are focusing on whether natural gas led to the explosion.

The Corpus Christi Caller-Times reports damage has been estimated at more than \$700,000.

EFI Global, a Dallas-based forensic engineering company, has been hired by the motel's insurance company to aid investigators.

More Texas districts educating parents

DALLAS (AP) — Federal funding is helping Texas school districts teach parents as well as their children to expand English learning opportunities.

The Dallas Morning News reports a recent report by the Urban Institute found that one out of three Texas children younger than age 8 has at least one immigrant parent, compared to the national average of one out of four children.

The Dallas Independent School District has an extensive adult basic education program supported through federal grant money that last year served more than 5,000 people.

Regional coordinator Nelia Jones says it encourages "all those things we know how to do and take for granted."

Programs may include English instruction or Spanish-language parenting classes, in an effort to promote literacy in the home so that children arrive in school better prepared.

Man pleads guilty to slaying of UNT boss

DENTON (AP) — A University of North Texas food services employee has pleaded guilty to the 2009 shooting death of his boss after she criticized him for unsatisfactory work.

Testimony was scheduled to continue Tuesday in Denton in the penalty phase for 48-year-old William Xu. He pleaded guilty Monday to murder and faces up to life in prison.

The body of 55-year-old Jennifer Ying Ying Maik was discovered in August 2009 in her Denton home. Maik was a food service supervisor at UNT's Clark Hall. Police records indicate Maik had reprimanded Xu for poor work.

The Denton Record-Chronicle reports Xu has asked to be sentenced by Judge Bruce McFarling, instead of by a jury.

Aventine to move HQ from Illinois to Texas

PEKIN, Ill. (AP) — A company with 100 years of history in central Illinois is moving its corporate headquarters to Texas.

Company officials say Aventine Renewable Energy Holdings Inc. will keep its ethanol production in Pekin.

But the (Peoria) Journal Star reports that 17 corporate jobs will move to Dallas, where the company's top executives live.

Pekin Mayor Rusty Dunn calls the corporate move "disappointing," but he says the company hopes to expand production in Pekin in the future.

Aventine has its roots in a company called Illinois Sugar Refining, which started processing sugar beets in Pekin in the late 1890s.

2 Fort Hood soldiers killed in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Military officials say two Fort Hood soldiers have died following a bombing in Afghanistan.

The Defense Department on Tuesday announced the deaths of 40-year-old Sgt. Mark A. Simpson, 40, of Peoria, Ill., and 23-year-old Spc. Donald S. Morrison of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Military officials say the men died Sunday at Kandahar, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when insurgents bombed their vehicle a day earlier.

Simpson and Morrison were assigned to the 20th Engineer Battalion, 36th Engineer Brigade at Fort Hood.

Slain woman's boyfriend killed same day

MISSOURI CITY (AP) — Police are questioning a suspect after a pregnant Missouri City woman and her boyfriend were slain on the same day at separate locations.

Investigators say 27-year-old Leiah Jackson's unborn child also died in Sunday's attack in which she was stabbed, with a butcher knife, more than 20 times while at her home.

Police say it appears 30-year-old Yancey Daniels was shot in Houston less an hour before his girlfriend was stabbed. Jackson was more than eight months pregnant with the couple's son.

Missouri City police Capt. John Bailey says Houston police detained a person of interest and that the woman knew her attacker. No further details were released.

Parent's Corner: A collection of quotes to ponder

During the past year I have collected a few wonderful quotes that I would like to share with you. Volumes could be written on each one but



DARRELL RYAN

the quote alone is fully understood. As you read each one, think about how it affects your life. You'll enjoy the insight.

- The grass may look greener on the other side, but it still has to be mowed.
- Things that matter the most must not be at the mercy of things that matter the least.
- Great love and great

achievement involve great risks.

- When you lose, don't lose the lesson. Follow the three Rs: respect for self, respect for others and responsibility for your actions.
- If at first you don't succeed, try reading the instructions.
- Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a wonderful stroke of luck.
- Don't let a little dispute injure a great relationship. When you realize you've made a mistake, take immediate action to correct it.
- Spend some time alone each day.
- Open your arms to change but don't give up your values.
- Silence is sometimes the best answer.
- Live a good, honorable life, then when you get older you'll be

able to enjoy it a second time.

- A loving atmosphere in your home is the foundation for your life.
- When disagreements arise with love ones, deal only with the current situation and don't bring up the past.
- Share knowledge, it's the way to achieve immortality.
- Be gentle with the earth.
- Every year go somewhere you have never been.
- The best relationship is one in which your love for each other exceeds your need for each other.
- Judge your success by what you had to give up in the process of achieving it.
- Approach love and cooking with reckless abandon.
- The mighty oak was

once a little nut that stood its ground.

- The best way to forget your own problems is to help someone solve his.
- The secret of contentment is the realization that life is a gift not a right.
- Humor is to life what shock absorbers are to automobiles.
- Treat the earth well: We do not inherit it from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.
- Life is like a coin. You can spend it anyway you wish, but you can only spend it once.
- Do more than exist: Live. Do more than touch: Feel. Do more than look: Observe. Do more than read: Absorb. Do more than hear: Listen. Do more than think: Ponder. Do more than talk: Say

something.

- A bend in the road is not the end of the road, unless you fail to make the turn.
- Grant me the wisdom to see the beauty of all creation.
- Belief is the thermometer that regulates what we accomplish.
- I can't usually mean I don't know how!
- Inch by inch, anything's a cinch.
- Who an individual is, is more important than anything he does.
- You can blame others for the past but only yourself for the future.

• People are usually as happy as they decide to be.

- Life treats you like you treat life.
- I am determines I can. We are only limited by the scope and size of our own personal vision.
- It's not the IQ of a person that counts, it's the I will!

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

RATE

Continued from Page 1

budget — including the \$750,000 increase — approximately two weeks ago.

Barr said the 2010-2011

budget looks good from a fiscal standpoint, but it will take a sharp eye to keep it that way in the coming years.

"The budget is right on the money," Barr said. "Like I've said, we have reserves and we'll be able to take

care of any emergency that comes up. We also managed to give county employees — all except the commissioners — a raise this time around. The county is in a good financial position right

now, and we have to be very diligent that we keep it that way."

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

APPS

Continued from Page 1

in the form of cards, area shoppers will have the opportunity to brighten a child's holiday by choosing one and purchasing items for them.

The trees will be erected in area stores and shops, according to Lafler.

"The plan, as of right now, is to have the trees located at the same places as last year," said lafler. "However, we really haven't gotten that far yet, so there could be some minor changes. As soon as we have that part of the

program solidified, we'll get the word out to the public."

For more information on the Angel Tree program, call 267-8239 or stop by their office, located at 811 W. Fifth Street.

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

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EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OTHER VIEWS

Perry's no-show at border summit damages Texas

If a summit of U.S. and Mexican border governors takes place and only one governor from the United States attends, is it still a bi-national conference? No, this isn't a reformulation of the metaphysical question about a tree falling in the forest. It actually happened — or didn't happen.

The 28th gathering of the leaders of the four U.S. and six Mexican border states was to take place this year. But in a sign of just how toxic trans-border issues have become, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson was the only U.S. governor to actually attend the recent meeting. And he was the host, although he wasn't supposed to play that role.

The conference was scheduled to take place in Arizona. But after Arizona enacted its controversial state immigration law, the six Mexican governors refused to attend. When Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer cancelled the conference, Richardson offered to be the substitute host.

The Mexican governors agreed to go to New Mexico. But Brewer boycotted the conference. And in a misguided show of solidarity with Brewer, Texas Gov. Rick Perry refused to attend. California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger also skipped the conference due to ongoing efforts to address his state's budget crisis.

These summits have been productive in the past, leading to cross-border agreements on a broad range of issues. Beyond immigration, Mexican and U.S. leaders still have plenty to talk about, from an ongoing trade dispute to the growing threat of narco-terrorism.

It would have been better for everyone had the conference gone on as scheduled. The Mexican governors could have made a much more persuasive statement about SB 1070 to the people of Arizona in Phoenix than they did by boycotting and going to Santa Fe.

But once the venue moved to New Mexico, it was in the interest of Texas for its governor to be present. Perry may have scored some partisan political points by staying away, but that's small consolation when Texas exports to Mexico are falling victim to a trade war and bullets from drug cartel gunmen are landing on this side of the border.

THE EXPRESS-NEWS
SAN ANTONIO

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The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
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A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We have personal power at our fingertips, Lord, when we walk with You.

Amen

Tea Party pulling a fast one

Is the tea party one of the most successful scams in American political history?

Before you dismiss the question, note that word “successful.” Judge the tea party purely on the grounds of effectiveness and you have to admire how a very small group has shaken American political life and seized the microphone offered by the media, including the so-called liberal media.

But it's equally important to recognize that the tea party constitutes a sliver of opinion on the extreme end of politics receiving attention out of all proportion with its numbers.

Yes, there is a lot of discontent in America. But that discontent is better represented by the moderate voters who expressed quiet disillusionment to President Obama at the CNBC town hall meeting on Monday than by tea party ideologues who proclaim the unconstitutionality of the New Deal and everything since.

The tea party drowns out such voices because it has money — some of it from un-populist corporate sources, as Jane Mayer documented last month in *The New Yorker* — and has used modest numbers strategically in small states to magnify its impact.

Just recently, tea party victories in Alaska and Delaware Senate primaries shook the nation. In Delaware, Christine O'Donnell received 30,563 votes in the Republican primary, 3,542 votes more than moderate Rep. Mike Castle. In Alaska, Joe Miller won 55,878 votes for a margin

of 2,006 over incumbent Sen. Lisa Murkowski, who is now running as a write-in candidate.

Do the math. For weeks now, our national political conversation has been driven by 86,441 voters and a margin of 5,548 votes. A bit of perspective: When John McCain lost in 2008, he received 59.9 million votes.

Earlier this year, much was made of the defeat of Sen. Bob Bennett, a Utah conservative insufficiently conservative for the tea party. Bennett lost not in a primary but at a Republican convention attended by all of 3,500 delegates.

Even in larger states, the tea party's triumphs were built on small shares of the electorate. Rand Paul received 206,986 votes in Kentucky, where there are more than 1 million registered Republicans and nearly 2.9 million registered voters. Sharron Angle won with 70,452 votes in Nevada, a state with more than 1 million registered voters.

The media have given substantial coverage to tea party rallies and even small demonstrations. But how many people are actually involved in this movement?

Last April, a New York Times/CBS News poll found that 18 percent of Americans identified themselves as supporters of the tea party movement, but slightly less than a fifth of these sympathizers said they had actually attended a tea party rally or meeting. That means just over 3 percent of Americans can be characterized as tea party activists. A more recent poll by Democracy Corps, just before Labor Day, found that 6 percent of voters said they had attended a tea party rally or meeting.

The tea party is not the only small group in history to wield more power than you'd expect from its numbers. In 2008,

Barack Obama did very well in party caucuses, which draw many fewer voters than primaries. And it was Lenin who offered the classic definition of a vanguard party as involving “people who make revolutionary activity their profession” in organizations that “must perforce not be very extensive.”

But something is haywire in our media and our politics. Jill Lepore, a Harvard historian whose new book is “The Whites of Their Eyes: The Tea Party's Revolution and the Battle Over American History,” observed in an interview that there is a “hall of mirrors” effect created by the rise of “niche” opinion media. They magnify small movements into powerhouses while old-fashioned journalism, which is supposed to put such movements in perspective, reacts to the same niche incentives.

There is also the decline of alternative forces in politics. The Republican establishment, such as it is, has long depended far more on big money than on troops in the field. In search of new battalions, GOP leaders stoked the tea party, stood largely mute in the face of its more outrageous untruths about Obama — and now has to defend candidates like O'Donnell and Angle.

And where are the progressives? Sulking is not an alternative to organizing, and weary resignation is the first step toward capitulation. The tea party may be pulling a fast one on the country and the media. But if it has more audacity than everyone else, it will, I am sorry to say, deserve to get away with it.

Veteran Washington Post columnist E.J. Dionne offers reasoned political analysis from an energetic progressive viewpoint.

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We outnumber religious fanatics

Years ago, I criticized atheists who wanted to dissuade believers of their faith.

My argument was always the same: Why don't you just leave us alone?

Lately, though, I haven't felt so sturdy. We never are going to see the best of religion reflected in its worst practitioners, but they sure can suck the life out of your faith — if you let them.

There's a lot of good in religion. But at its worst, it protects pedophile priests and fuels extremists who kill in God's name. It also emboldens the smallest minds among us who traffic in hate but declare themselves messengers of the Messiah.

Baptist minister Fred Phelps travels the country to protest funerals for our men and women killed in battle. Phelps and his fellow misanthropes hold up signs that read “Thank God for dead soldiers” and “God hates homosexuals.”

Earlier this month, a small-time minister named Terry Jones ignited international outrage after he threatened to burn copies of the Quran.

There's a lot of hand-wringing among journalists over making this obscure and ridiculous man the biggest headline on the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. Too often, we navigate by the compass of the outliers, covering people and events we would have ignored before blogs and 24-hour cable. But after Gen. David Petraeus announced he

was worried about the safety of our military overseas, we could not ignore Jones.

Unexpected good came from this coverage. Calls for tolerance and understanding launched tough conversations in congregations and in backyards across America. Sales of the Quran spiked on Amazon.com.

Still, recent events make it no longer possible for me to dismiss outright atheists' objections to religion. My faith hasn't faltered, but I admit to occasional struggles on that front. I blame myself, not God. To paraphrase my friend the Rev. Dr. Bob Gross, God is like a light bulb. If all you see are shadows, look around.

Bob was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and raised in Queens. He served in the Navy for four years and then worked for the celebrated Riverside Church in Manhattan while he attended seminary in the mid-1990s.

For the past 10 years, he has been pastor of the mostly blue-collar congregation of Lake Avenue United Church of Christ in Elyria, Ohio.

He feels called to the heartland. “The salt's gotta leave the shaker,” he said. “I could live in New York or Boston and be surrounded by people who look and think like me, or I could go where the congregation was diverse in its ideas and beliefs.”

Bob has a gift for connecting a wide smattering of dots. His dissertation mined the traditions of African-American churches for ways to reach white working-class Christians. I called him to talk about how Christians like me are fighting despair over charlatans' attempts to hijack our faith.

“We're all born children of God,” he said. “We're not born

Christians, Muslims or Jews. How we understand our relationship to God is different, from you to me to the imam down the street to the rabbi across town. And we've gotten good at pointing out our differences, including among Christians.”

Last Sunday, Bob asked his congregation to make a chart of the phases of their lives, one decade at a time, by answering these questions:

- 1) What was going on in your life?
- 2) Who were the important people in your life?
- 3) Where was God in your life? Did you find God in your faith community? On your walks in the park? In the pages of a novel you were reading?

Bob suspected that, like him, most of his fellow worshippers could find evidence of God in the people around them.

“When I look at the highs and lows in my own life, there were always people who represented God,” he said. “They walked with me through the most difficult times and celebrated with me on the mountaintop.”

Bob's reflections reminded me of a Sunday morning in 1988 when I showed up at a black church in Cleveland. I was a reporter full of questions but left with answers I didn't know I needed until I heard the gospel choir sing, “You're the only Jesus that some will ever know.”

Or as my mother used to say: Don't talk your faith. Live it. And when in doubt, look around.

Connie Schultz is a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for The Plain Dealer in Cleveland and an essayist for Parade magazine.

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E.J.
DIONNE



CONNIE
SCHULTZ

Bird Poop: A grebe visits West Texas

In a hurry to get to work, the man skidded to a stop after his truck barely missed the dark blob in the road. As the dust started to settle after his abrupt braking, he waited for the traffic behind him to pass. Apparently, those drivers had not seen it.

Making a U-turn, he slowly approached the dark gray bundle of feathers. At first, he had thought it was another clod of dried mud left behind by construction workers. Only at the last second had he realized it was some kind of bird struggling to rise from the asphalt.



BEBE McCASLAND

With the distant traffic lights halting the next wave of trucks and cars, he hurried to remove whatever it was from the onslaught of vehicles. As his hands gathered the squirming being, he tried to brush some of the road's grit and dust from its soft, thick plumage. For this effort, defensively, it pecked him numerous times.

Even for such a small bird, its short, pointed bill encouraged the man to look for anything to contain it other than his hands. An old jacket stuffed behind the seats would have to do until he could get a box.

As he placed the bird on the soft inner lining of the coat, the man took one last look at its head. His attention had been drawn to its deep yellow, or golden eyes.

Telling me he would deliver the bird to Parks & Wildlife in Midland, the man emphasized repeatedly



Courtesy photo

In flight, the least grebe has a white patch on its flight feathers. The smallest of grebes found in the United States, the secretive waterfowl spends most of its time in or under water. Although its chicks are capable of swimming and diving soon after hatching, most enjoy the free ride given on the backs of their parents.

the slim, black bill and colorful eyes. "The rest of the bird is shades of gray. It hardly weighs anything," he added.

We knew it was a grebe with our first glance inside the carrier. Dependent upon water for every facet of its existence, the bird had probably mistaken the roadway's sheen for a pond during late evening. Joined by webbing, its lobed toes needed the surface of a lake or other body of water to push against as it gained enough momentum for flight. Having landed on the pavement, it could not become airborne again.

With its legs placed closer to the rear of its body, the bird would have a difficult time

standing or walking. Yet this physique had two notable attributes. It enabled the grebe to be an underwater swimming marvel, and in the air, it could steer by extending its feet backward.

Since the man had described its lack of heft, we placed it on our scale. Feathers and all, it weighed a mere four and a half ounces.

In our bathtub, the grebe readily proved it could swim and dive. Only circumstances had brought it to us rather than to a nightly haven.

Confirming that it was neither an eared or pied-billed grebe, that we had often handled, we were delighted to have a least grebe.

What puzzled us was why a water bird known to frequent the lower Rio Grande Valley and coastal areas had been discovered in Odessa. Also known to be in the southernmost parts of California, and Arizona, the bird was often called a Mexican or border grebe.

Soon our guest left the roadway's dirt on the bottom of the tub. Still in its breeding plumage, the crown of its head and chin were blackish, while its head, short neck and upper parts were a darker gray. Its lower body was lighter. After some hurried preening and fluffing of feathers, it looked more presentable.

By the time we

reached an area lake, the grebe was well groomed for its departure.

As I lowered it toward the water, its legs and feet moved in anticipation. Paddling a short distance, it dove beneath the surface.

Knowing it was feasting on aquatic insects and very small fish, we waited.

Twenty seconds later, it reappeared much farther away. Repeating this routine, it was nearly out of sight by the time we decided to leave.

Perhaps that evening, the bird would continue its journey.

Not capable of the long migrations of most waterfowl, the least grebe was known

to relocate within its southern territorial lakes and ponds. Maybe it could find enough stock tanks, lakes and even bar ditches filled with rain to insure its arrival.

During the next breeding season, it would assist its mate in building a nest of decaying plants and mud that was secured to underwater growth. Sharing the duties of incubation and carrying its young on its back, the least grebe would once again renew its avian obligations.

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

Gloria Stuart, 'Titanic' co-star, dies at 100

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Gloria Stuart, the 1930s Hollywood leading lady who years later became the oldest Academy Award acting nominee for her role as the spunky survivor in "Titanic," has died. She was 100.

Stuart died of respiratory failure Sunday night at her Los Angeles home, her daughter, Sylvia Thompson, said Monday. The actress had been diagnosed with lung cancer five years ago and had beaten breast cancer about 20 years ago, Thompson said.

"She did not believe in illness. She paid no attention to it, and it served her well," Thompson said. "She

had a great life. I'm not sad. I'm happy for her."

In her youth, Stuart was a blond beauty who starred in B pictures as well as some higher-profile ones such as "The Invisible Man," Busby Berkeley's "Gold Diggers of 1935" and two Shirley Temple movies, "Poor Little Rich Girl" and "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm." But by the mid-1940s she had retired.

She resumed acting in the 1970s, doing occasional television and film work, including Pe-

ter O'Toole's 1982 comedy "My Favorite Year." But Stuart's later career would have remained largely a footnote if James Cameron had not chosen her for his 1997 epic about the doomed luxury liner that struck an iceberg and sank on its maiden voyage in 1912.

Stuart co-starred as Rose Calvert, the

101-year-old survivor played by Kate Winslet as a young woman. Both earned Oscar nominations, Winslet as best actress and Stuart as supporting actress.

"I am so saddened to hear of the loss of this remarkable woman," Winslet said. "I feel blessed to have met her, known her and to have acted alongside her.

Anyone who spent time in her presence will know what an extraordinary shining light she truly was. She will be deeply missed."

Cameron wanted an actress who was "still viable, not alcoholic, rheumatic or falling down," Stuart once said. Then in her mid-80s, Stuart endured hours in the makeup chair so

she could look 15 years older.

"The sparkle in her eye was as bright at her hundredth birthday party as it was when I first met her in 1996, and, I'm sure, as it was when she was a silver screen star in the early 30's or a young girl running through the orange orchards of Santa Monica in 1920," Cameron sai-

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Kids' Corner

What's the Difference?

There are five things different between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?



Answers: 1. extra bracelet 2. writing missing on pamphlet 3. watch has arms 4. earrings different 5. skirt is different

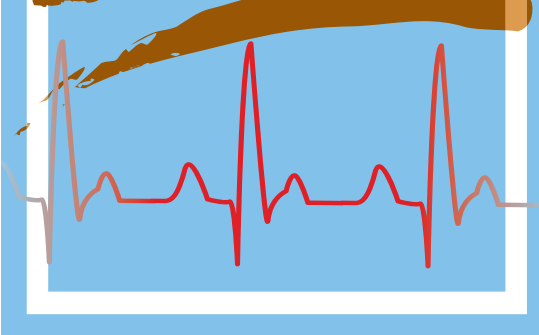
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TRUE OR FALSE:
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ANSWER: FALSE

New Word

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of the joints

How they SAY that in...

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SPANISH: Edad

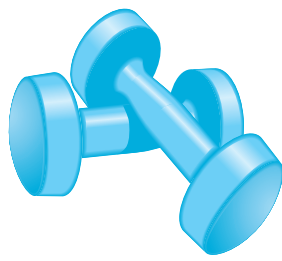
ITALIAN: Età

FRENCH: Âge

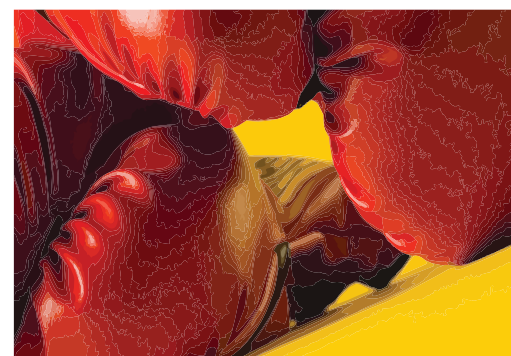
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SUPERVISED WEIGHT LIFTING
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BUILD MUSCLE
STRENGTH, WHICH
TENDS TO DECLINE
AS ONE AGES.



GET THE PICTURE?



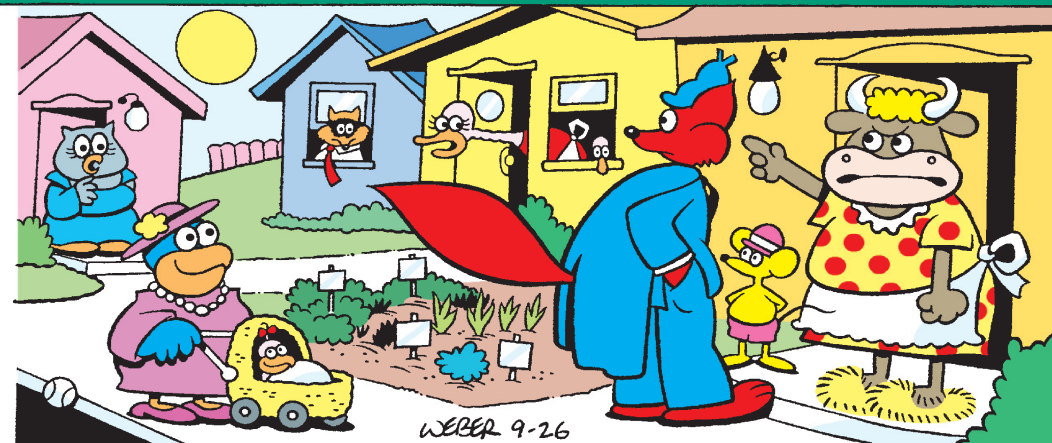
Can you guess what
the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: BOXING GLOVES

SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

BY BOB WEBER JR

Miss Mabel is furious! She claims a neighbor has been sneaking over to her garden and eating her vegetable plants. Which neighbor did Slylock Fox dismiss as a suspect first and why?



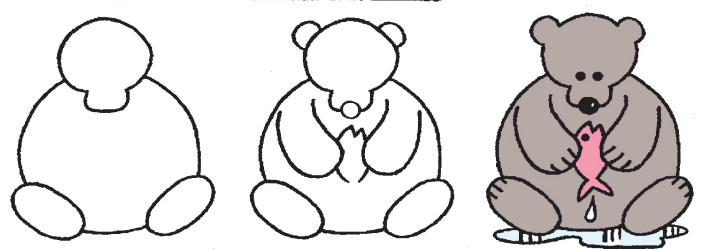
Answer -- Slylock does not think the owl ate Mabel's vegetables. Owls are meat-eaters. The raccoon, parrot, and ostrich are still suspects. The raccoon is an omnivore (eats plants and meat), and the ostrich and parrot eat plants.

Find six differences between these panels.



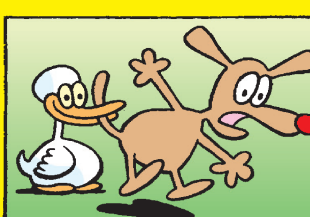
www.kidcartoonists.com

HOW TO DRAW a hungry bear



YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Sean Sherwood, age 10, of Salt Lake City, UT



A male duck is called a ...
a) sir b) drake c) groom

Relieved Cowboys go into bye

IRVING (AP) — A 1-2 record has never looked so good for the Dallas Cowboys.

It is certainly much better than the doomsday mood that could have engulfed the Cowboys for two weeks without that victory going into their bye weekend.

“Obviously we were off track, but I think it did give us some spark for us to win that game,” offensive guard Leonard Davis said in a still-subdued locker room Monday, a day after winning 27-13 at Houston. “Yeah, there is some sense of relief.”

The Cowboys avoided their first 0-3 start since 2001, and their first three-game losing streak under coach Wade Phillips, by finally Sunday looking like the team that went into this season expected to be one of the NFC’s best.

Dallas had a turnover-free game on offense, with Tony Romo throwing two touchdown passes to oft-criticized receiver Roy Williams. The defense had four sacks and finally forced

some turnovers for the first time this season, with two interceptions and a fumble recovery.

“It’s a relief, it’s excitement, it’s all in one,” safety Gerald Sensabaugh said. “It’s great to see us our team play like that. We did great in all three phases. We put up a lot of points, had a lot of stops, played some sound football.”

Last season, the Cowboys went into the bye week after a 26-20 overtime victory at then-winless Kansas City. That made Dallas 3-2 instead of 2-3 for an extra week. The Cowboys won five of their next six games after their break and went on to win the NFC East title.

This time, they avoided being winless for an extended period.

“Obviously you feel better going into a week after you get a win,” Marcus Spears said. “At the end of the day, you’re 1-2. That’s not the prettiest record, but it’s a step in the right direction.”

Despite two losses, the Cowboys are

within one game of NFC East-leading Philadelphia (2-1) while division foes Washington and the New York Giants are also 1-2. There are still 13 games left in the regular season.

The victory for the Cowboys came after some inspirational words the night before the game from special teams coach Joe DeCamillis, who is still recovering from the broken neck he sustained when the Cowboys’ practice facility collapsed during a rookie minicamp in May 2009.

“I wasn’t big on speeches last week, but Joe D was talking about when the facility collapsed and he was under the rubble and he had to make a decision whether he wanted to live or die. He didn’t want to die. He basically had to do whatever he could to live,” Sensabaugh said. “He made the game situation like that. We are 0-2, we are falling behind and if wanted to live we had to go out there and play like we wanted to. We had a lot of guys playing with a lot of fire. ... We were a totally different team.”

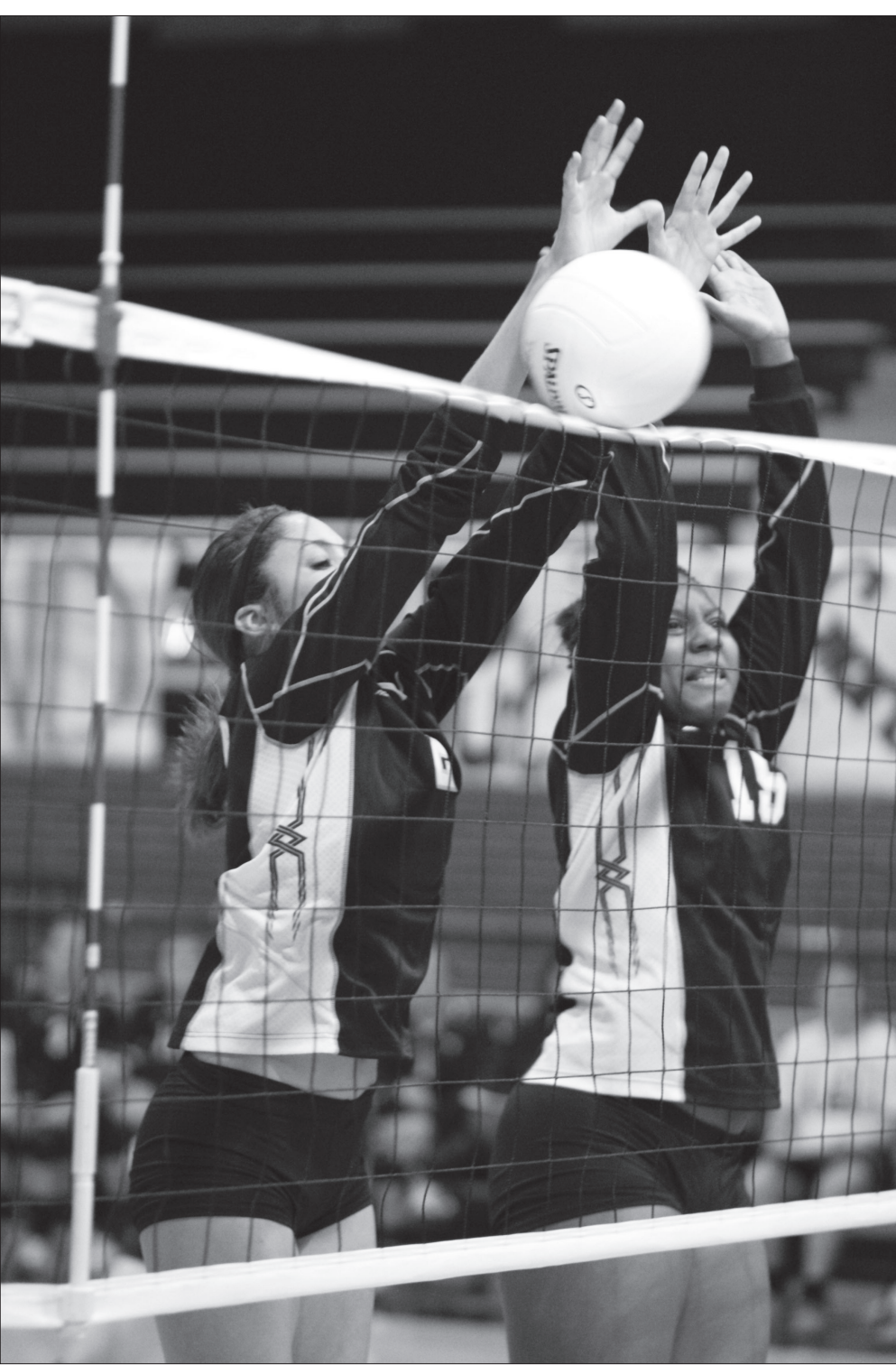
DeCamillis delivered his speech to special teams players, though coach Wade Phillips said that incorporates most everybody on the team.

All the players know what happened to DeCamillis, but his passionate words Saturday night were the first time many of them had heard it so personally from the coach.

“When he talked about it, it resonated because you knew his story, you knew what happened. He gave it to us real and just how he felt,” Spears said. “You can relate it to something like football, because this game, a lot of it is like life, about perseverance, coming back from tough times, sticking together with teammates. ... It was amazing to here him say that.”

Phillips said DeCamillis gets the players “riled up” every week and that sometimes even owner Jerry Jones sits in on those special teams meetings “just to get motivated.”

Still, Phillips said this time was a bit different because it was so much more personal.



HERALD Photo/Tony Claxton

Taylor Seaton, left, and Diamond Mayes team up on a block during one of the Big Spring volleyball team’s matches this season. After sweeping Sweetwater to open District 5-3A play, the Lady Steers are on the road again against Snyder at 6 p.m. in Snyder. The freshman and junior varsity teams play at 5 p.m.

Smoak, Pauley lead Mariners past Rangers

ARLINGTON (AP) — The Seattle Mariners are getting a late-season glimpse of their future.

Justin Smoak homered and had three hits, fellow rookie David Pauley pitched six effective innings, and the Mariners edged the AL West champion Texas Rangers 7-5 on Monday night.

The Mariners, who fell out of the race with a 16-28 start, had five rookies in the lineup auditioning for roles on next year’s team.

“Looking at our kids and going forward, what can we expect out of them, you want to see some consistency and this is what we’re going to get,” Mariners interim manager Daren Brown said.

Pauley (4-8) allowed two runs and eight hits, struck out three and walked two.

Entering Monday night’s start, the Mariners had scored only 18 runs this season in Pauley’s first 13 starts. This time, his teammates provided him with six runs.

“That helps a lot,” Pauley said. “That gives you an opportunity to sit back a little bit, you’ve got a little cushion to work the plate a

little more instead of trying to be too fine. In those situations, that’s when you get hurt.”

Brandon League pitched a perfect ninth for his fifth save in 11 chances.

Smoak, traded to the Mariners by the Rangers on July 9 in the deal that sent left-hander Cliff Lee to Texas, hit a towering three-run shot to left in the fifth off C.J. Wilson (14-8) that extended Seattle’s lead to 6-1.

Smoak struggled in his initial go around with the Mariners and was sent to Triple-A Tacoma. He helped the Mariners win the Pacific Coast League championship with a .438 batting average in eight playoff games, then was recalled by the Mariners on Sept. 18.

Smoak enjoyed his first trip to Texas since he was traded.

“It’s always satisfying no matter who it is, but against them, yes it’s satisfying, but it’s base-another game tomorrow,” Smoak said. “...I’m proud of (the Rangers) for what they’ve accomplished this year and we’ve got to look forward to the future and keep playing hard and

keep playing well and hopefully next year this club will be able to do that.”

Rangers manager Ron Washington said he wasn’t surprised at Smoak’s production. Smoak was one of Texas’ top prospects, but to get Lee, the Rangers had to part with some of their best young talent.

“We always saw potential in Smoak. ... We know he’s gonna be a good player,” Washington said. “He’s still young. He got us.”

Nelson Cruz’s three-run homer in the seventh off Anthony Varvaro pulled the Rangers within 6-5.

But Seattle loaded the bases in the eighth and Franklin Gutierrez raced home from third on Pedro Strop’s wild pitch to make it 7-5.

Vladimir Guerrero added his 29th homer for Texas, which had its three-game winning streak snapped.

Before the game, the Rangers raised the AL West championship flag after clinching their first division title since 1999 on Saturday in Oakland.

Washington had most of his regulars back in

See **RANGERS**, Page 12

Nowitzki on Dallas Mavericks: ‘This is where my heart is’

DALLAS (AP) — Dirk Nowitzki would have listened if LeBron James or Dwyane Wade asked him to join them in Miami.

Since they didn’t, he never seriously considered leaving the Dallas Mavericks.

“I wanted to weigh my options a little bit, but there was not much weighing to do,” Nowitzki said Monday. “This is where I was at, this is where I wanted to be, really. This is where my heart is at, so it was a really easy decision in the end.”

Nowitzki never had a news

“I wanted to weigh my options a little bit, but there was not much weighing to do. This is where I was at, this is where I wanted to be, really.”

Dirk Nowitzki on free agency, Dallas Mavericks

conference after signing a four-year contract worth around \$80 million, so his appearance at media day was both a chance to look back and to look forward.

He’ll open his 13th training camp Tuesday already the most accomplished player in franchise history with every meaningful career feat, an MVP award and an appear-

ance in the finals. He’s also the lone constant in a streak of 10 straight 50-win seasons.

However, he’s also in jeopardy of becoming one of those great players who never win a championship, and that’s what drives him.

That’s why South Beach might’ve been enticing.

“It obviously would have been something I had to think

about very hard,” Nowitzki said. “My goal is a championship and obviously that would’ve been a nice option to have. But it never happened so I didn’t have to think about it.”

Nowitzki turned 32 this summer, so he knew his first time on the open market also was “the last time I was going to be a free agent when it mat-

tered in my career.”

But there weren’t any contenders missing only a 7-footer who likes to shoot from the perimeter. And because of his championship obsession, he wasn’t interested in going to the highest bidder.

“It wouldn’t have felt right to put another uniform on,” Nowitzki said. “The fans, everybody here have been so loyal to me the last 12 years, it would have felt like running away a little bit, in a way. So I’m here for the long run —

See **MAVS**, 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.

Over 80 2-man scramble

Gaines County Golf Course is hosting an over

80 2-man scramble Oct. 23 and 24. The combined aged of the team must equal 80 or older. The starting times are 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. and the entry fee is \$80 per player plus the cart. The entry fee includes lunch on Oct. 23. Call 758-3808 to sign up.

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BY OWNER: 3 Bdrm, 2 living area, CH/A, plus extra lot. \$58K OBO. House is in Big Spring. Serious Buyers Only (940)300-3225 ask for Norma.

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sudoku ANSWERS

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

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Challenges abound as the sun in Libra squares off with Pluto, that far-off dwarf planet named for the ruler of the underworld. Many will be curious about the mysterious world that lies around the corner. For some, the curiosity drives them to make the turn. For others, the mystery is repellant. Maybe all fear is fear of the unknown.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It seems almost unfair the way it only takes you a moment to conjure up an image of your ideal scenario, but it can take a lifetime to bring this imagining into reality. Don't worry. Your current dream won't take quite as long.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You have the ability to plant a lovely thought in someone else's mental landscape. Put something there that is conducive to bringing in the unique conditions of a friend's world.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Short breaks are a good idea, unless, if given the choice, you think there's a chance you won't come back to

finish your task. You are on the final stretch, so don't give up now.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When you observe people, sometimes you can read what they are thinking as clearly as if they were cartoons with thought bubbles over their heads. Today will bring several such instances.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). While dealing with artistic types, keep in mind that they can be insecure and often need a good deal of praise and nurturing. Actually, it helps to remember this in all of today's dealings.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The most important job to do is the one you agreed to do long ago. It might not be the most glamorous job, but its importance cannot be argued. Your future good fortune springs from this work.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You could still make your aim, but if you fall short of the goal, it won't be by much. So stay friendly to yourself. Anyway, you're much further along than you would be if you hadn't made a goal at all.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Delayed reactions are a normal part of life. For instance, you may not even realize how you feel about today's events until a week from now, when the excitement has completely blown over.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You are in high gear all day. Your friends will regard you as some kind of superhero, even though your tasks are mostly domestic and there are no

villains to fight. **CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Of course you want things to work perfectly at all times. And yet, it's when things go wrong that you will really shine. People notice. You will likely be promoted, praised and paid for the way you behave under pressure.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Some are content with the information they are given. You like to know the backstory of those you come into contact with. Go easy on the questions, though. You'll learn more through observation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The ones who have something to teach you are not always wearing classroom-appropriate clothes and carrying textbooks. You'll get valuable training from an unlikely person.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 25). You are in demand, and it will take skill to give everyone the love and attention they want from you. You'll be pampered in October and will upgrade important tools in November. In January, your investments are seeds that you plant and then leave unattended. They grow naturally, and you'll see your fruits in August. Cancer and Taurus people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 50, 21, 25, 14 and 37.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a single father (Aries) with sole custody of a 6-year-old girl (Cancer). My ex-wife has visitation rights and rarely exercises them. Yet she continues to fight me for custody. I'm being persecuted by lawyers and representatives of the state. I am an excellent father who only wants the best for his daughter, and in our case, the best thing is for her mother to stay far

away. I'm the one who should be angry -- my ex-wife became a drug addict and left me for another man. If she really loved her daughter like she professes to, she would leave us alone. What should I do to get my ex-wife off my back?"

In this highly stressful circumstance, the best thing for a hotheaded Aries to do is get into a peaceful mode of operation. It is unhealthy for you to carry around this negativity toward your ex-wife, and this will sorely affect your daughter's self-esteem, as well as her future relationships, as she picks up on your anger. Cancer people are very sensitive! Find a healthy way (perhaps with the help of a therapist) to deal with your anger. As you become less angry, the situation will clear itself up as if by magic.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Academy Award-winner Catherine Zeta-Jones is a sharing and caring Libra. She even shares her birthday with husband Michael Douglas. They may be 25 years apart, but these Libran loves have so much in common including two children. Libras are sophisticated and artistic. They enjoy an intellectual connection, prize friendship and devote themselves to a harmonious lifestyle.

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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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Day for a Queen

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q 5 4
♥ 8 2
♦ A K 10 9 4 3
♣ 5 2

WEST
♠ 10 9 2
♥ J 10 7 4
♦ Q 6
♣ K J 9 3

EAST
♠ K J 8 6 3
♥ Q 6 3
♦ J 8 5
♣ 10 4

SOUTH
♠ A 7
♥ A K 9 5
♦ 7 2
♣ A Q 8 7 6

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

Opening lead — ten of spades.
To play first and think later may be effective in some games, but not in bridge.

Consider this deal where West led the ten of spades against three notrump. Declarer could not afford to put up the queen, which would leave him wide open in the suit if East had the king. So he played low from dummy and, after East had signaled with the eight, won the trick with the ace.

South's best source of tricks was obviously diamonds, so he led a diamond at trick two and finessed the nine after West followed low. East won with the jack, but it didn't matter whether he tried to reach his partner with a heart or a club; in either case, declarer would win the return and scamper home with nine tricks.

Superficially, the outcome seems normal enough, but actually, the contract would have failed had West not suffered a lapse at the critical moment.

When declarer led a diamond toward dummy at trick two, West should have put up the queen! Had he done that, South would have found it impossible to score nine tricks. If declarer ducked the queen, West would put a quick end to South's chances by playing a second round of spades, while if declarer won the queen, he would limit himself to just two diamond tricks.

The queen play by West may not be easy to think of in the heat of battle, but there is no doubt that it is the right play.

West should reason that if declarer has the jack of diamonds, his queen is of no earthly use, and therefore no harm can come from playing it. At the same time, he should reason that if his partner has the jack, the play of the queen can't hurt and just might do a lot of good.

Tomorrow: Zia magic.
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sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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

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| | KMID (3) Midland | UNI (4) Spanish | KPEJ (5) Odessa | KOSA (7) Odessa | KTLE (8) Telemundo | KWES (9) Midland | WTBS (11) Atlanta | KMLM (12) Odessa | KPBT (13) Odessa | KWWT (14) Odessa | DISC (20) Discovery | AMC (21) Classics | SPIKE (22) Spike TV | TNT (23) Atlanta | BET (26) Black Ent. | DISN (27) Disney | ESPN2 (28) Sports | ESPN (29) Sports |
|--------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---|
| 5:PM :30 | News ABC | Vida | Lopez | News | Noticias | News | King | Chumney | BBC | Lyrics | Cash Cab | What's Love Got to Do With It | CSI: Crime Scene | Law & Order | 106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live | Good | Nation | SportsCenter |
| 6:PM :30 | Jeopardy! | Llena de Amor (SS) | Two Men | News | El Cartel II | News | Seinfeld | Granger | Business | Lyrics | Cash Cab | What's Love Got to Do With It | Deadliest Warrior | Bones | 106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live | Sonny | Pardon | Monday Night Countdown |
| 7:PM :30 | Dancing With the Stars | Hasta que el Dinero | Two Men | Ent | How I Met My Rules | Ent | Millionaire | American | PBS News-Hour | '70s | Man, Woman, | Movie: Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood | Deadliest Warrior | Bones | Movie: The Wood, Richard T. Jones | Phineas | Boys of Fall | Monday Night Countdown |
| 8:PM :30 | | Soy Tu Dueña (SS) | Lone Star | Two Men | El Fantasma de | The Event | Chuck | Fam. Guy | Antiques Roadshow | 90210 | Man, Woman, | Movie: No Country for Old Men, Josh Brolin | Deadliest Warrior | Bones | Movie: Camp Rock 2: The Final Jam | Phineas | 2010 Poker | NFL Football: Green Bay Packers at Chicago Bears. |
| 9:PM :30 | (-01) Castle | Cristina (SS) | Simpsons | Hawaii | Alguien te Mira | Chase | Fam. Guy | Fam. Guy | When Worlds Collide | Gossip Girl | Man, Woman, | Movie: Grease | Deadliest Warrior | Bones | Game | Hannah | Baseball Tonight | |
| 10:PM :30 | News Nightline | Impacto | How I Met My Rules | News | Noticias | News | Lopez | House | Charlie Rose | King | Man, Woman, | (-45) Rubicon | Deadliest Warrior | Bones | Game | Hannah | Baseball Tonight | |
| 11:PM :30 | Jimmy Kimmel Live | Corazón Salvaje | Law & Order: SVU | Late | Decisiones | Late Night | Earl | Scrivner | BBC | South Pk | Man, Woman, | (-45) Mad Men | Deadliest Warrior | Bones | Game | Hannah | Baseball Tonight | |
| 12:AM :30 | Extra | Tontas Cielo | Paid | Insider | Pagado | News | Earl | Scrivner | BBC | South Pk | Man, Woman, | (-45) Mad Men | Deadliest Warrior | Bones | Game | Hannah | Baseball Tonight | |
| 1:AM :30 | Paid | Raymond | Insider | Pagado | News | News | Earl | Scrivner | BBC | South Pk | Man, Woman, | (-45) Mad Men | Deadliest Warrior | Bones | Game | Hannah | Baseball Tonight | |
| 1:AM :30 | Paid | Mujer... | TMZ | Ent | Pagado | Poker After Dark | Movie: Metro, Miami | Light of the Southwest | Overhauled | Amazing Video | Leverage | Wizards | NFL Films | NFL Prime-Time | SportsCenter | | | |

DENNIS THE MENACE

Panel 1: Dennis is holding a gift box. "I'M SORRY IT COULDN'T BE BIGGER, MOM."

Panel 2: Mom is looking at the gift. "IT'S NOT THE SIZE OF THE GIFT, DEAR... IT'S THE SIZE OF THE LOVE BEHIND IT."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

Panel: A man is looking in a review mirror. "Daddy knows where we've been by lookin' in the review mirror."

HAGAR

Panel 1: Hagar is talking to a group of people. "I NEED A VOLUNTEER..."

Panel 2: Hagar is talking to a group of people. "...TO TELL MY WIFE I WON'T BE HOME FOR DINNER, BUT UNFORTUNATELY, YOU WILL HAVE TO MISS THE UPCOMING BATTLE"

BLONDIE

Panel 1: Blondie is talking to a man. "WELCOME BACK, BOSS! HOW WAS YOUR FLIGHT?"

Panel 2: Blondie is talking to a man. "IN FACT, IT GAVE ME A TERRIFIC IDEA FOR MAKING OUR MEETINGS A LITTLE MORE INTERESTING"

Panel 3: Blondie is talking to a man. "I HEARD THE BOSS IS GOING TO START CHARGING A FEE FOR FIRST-CLASS SEATING AT THE CONFERENCE TABLE"

Panel 4: Blondie is talking to a man. "DOES THAT INCLUDE SNACKS?"

BC

Panel 1: A man is talking to a woman. "WOLF SPOTS SOMETHING BEHIND THAT BUSH!"

Panel 2: A man is talking to a woman. "...NOTHING HERE."

Panel 3: A man is talking to a woman. "SOME HUNTING DOG YOU ARE!"

WIZARD OF ID

Panel 1: A woman is talking to a man. "CAN YOU CONTACT MY DEAR DEPARTED GRANDPA?"

Panel 2: A woman is talking to a man. "HE SAYS... HEY, FLOYD, I MISS... (0000XXX) ERROR ERROR XX00)"

Panel 3: A woman is talking to a man. "WHAT?"

Panel 4: A woman is talking to a man. "SORRY, I'M STILL RUNNING 'VISTA'"

This Date In History

Today is Monday, Sept. 27, the 270th day of 2010. There are 95 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 27, 1939, Warsaw, Poland, surrendered after weeks of resistance to invading forces from Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union during World War II.

On this date:

In 1540, Pope Paul III issued a papal bull establishing the Society of Jesus, or Jesuits, as a religious order.

In 1779, John Adams was named by Congress to negotiate the Revolutionary War's peace terms with Britain.

In 1854, the first great disaster involving an Atlantic Ocean passenger vessel occurred when the steamship SS Arctic sank off Newfoundland; of the more than 400 people on board, only 86 survived.

In 1928, the United States said it was recognizing the Nationalist Chinese govern-

ment.

In 1942, Glenn Miller and his Orchestra performed together for the last time, at the Central Theater in Passaic, N.J., prior to Miller's entry into the Army.

In 1954, "Tonight!" hosted by Steve Allen, made its network debut on NBC-TV.

In 1964, the government publicly released the report of the Warren Commission, which found that Lee Harvey Oswald had acted alone in assassinating President John F. Kennedy.

In 1979, Congress gave final approval to forming the U.S. Department of Education.

In 1985, Hurricane Gloria brushed the Outer Banks of North Carolina as a Category 3 storm; it proceeded to head up the Atlantic Coast toward New England.

In 1994, more than 350 Republican congressional candidates gathered on the steps of the U.S. Capitol to sign the "Contract with America," a 10-point platform they pledged to enact if voters sent a GOP majority to the House.

Today's Birthdays: Former Illinois Sen. Charles Percy is 91. Actress Jayne Meadows is 88. Actress Sada Thompson is 81. Actress Kathleen Nolan is 77. Actor Wilford Brimley is 76. Actor Claude Jarman Jr. is 76. Author Barbara Howar is 76. Producer Don Cornelius ("Soul Train") is 74. World Golf Hall of Famer Kathy Whitworth is 71. Singer-musician Randy Bachman (Bachman-Turner Overdrive) is 67. Rock singer Meat Loaf is 63. Actress Liz Torres is 63. Actor A Martinez is 62. Baseball Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt is 61. Actor Cary-Hirokyi Tagawa is 60. Rock musician Greg Ham (Men At Work) is 57. Singer Shaun Cassidy is 52. Rock singer Stephan (STEE'-fan) Jenkins (Third Eye Blind) is 46.

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AGNES

Panel 1: Agnes is talking to a man. "DID YOU MAKE YOUR BED?"

Panel 2: Agnes is talking to a man. "I AM LIVING EACH DAY LIKE IT'S MY LAST."

Panel 3: Agnes is talking to a man. "... AND IF THIS IS INDEED MY LAST DAY ON EARTH, I CAN HARDLY SEE WHY YOU CARE IF MY BED IS MADE."

Panel 4: Agnes is talking to a man. "WOW... LAST DAY ON EARTH, AND I'M GROUNDED."

HI AND LOIS

Panel 1: Lois is talking to a man. "WHERE ARE YOU GOING?"

Panel 2: Lois is talking to a man. "OVER TO THIRSTY'S HOUSE."

Panel 3: Lois is talking to a man. "YOU HAVE YOUR BOOK CLUB HERE TONIGHT, RIGHT?"

Panel 4: Lois is talking to a man. "YES, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK SO HAPPY TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE."

Newsday Crossword

NOT SO FAST by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

Answer to previous puzzle

| | |
|------------|------------|
| AMALGAMATE | HARK |
| RELIEDUPON | GLEN |
| ACTONESAGE | WAVE |
| HINTATA | AMNESIA |
| PATELLAE | YOLKED |
| INUSE | CPT |
| KIDS | CHOOSER |
| ACE | QUIXOTE |
| JPS | PEAK |
| SEE | WEARE |
| INPARK | SSMINNOW |
| STACKUP | FENNEL |
| TATI | DEMARCATED |
| IKEA | UNACCENTED |
| LESS | STRESSTEST |

THE OTHER COAST

Panel 1: A man is talking to a woman. "WHERE ARE YOU GOING?"

Panel 2: A man is talking to a woman. "OVER TO THIRSTY'S HOUSE."

Panel 3: A man is talking to a woman. "YOU HAVE YOUR BOOK CLUB HERE TONIGHT, RIGHT?"

Panel 4: A man is talking to a woman. "YES, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK SO HAPPY TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE."

SNUFFY SMITH

Panel 1: Snuffy is talking to a man. "THAT DOES IT!! I QUIT!!"

Panel 2: Snuffy is talking to a man. "SOMETIMES MY LUKEY DREAMS HE'S WORKIN'!!"

Panel 3: Snuffy is talking to a man. "YEP!! MY SNUFFY DOES TH' SAME!!"

Panel 4: Snuffy is talking to a man. "YO'RE FIRED!!"

Panel 5: Snuffy is talking to a man. "'CEPT IN HIS DREAMS HE'S ALWAYS BOSS!!"

ACROSS

1 March 17 honoree, for short

6 Fine shirt fabric

10 First part of a play

14 Pleasant scent

15 One of the Great Lakes

16 Active person

17 "Be patient!"

19 Thick piece

20 Wrote

21 Gains altitude

23 Midterm, for one

25 Painting or sculpture

26 Repeated word for word

30 Is sorry for

34 Combination of musical tones

35 Hay units

36 Sounds of surprise

38 Lubricates

39 Spectrum-showing device

40 Knock it off

41 Acted as a guide

42 Look happy

43 Doglike scavenger

44 Predict

46 Leather worker

47 Teacher's org.

48 Parade spoiler

50 Feeling guilty

54 Make null and void

58 Pool sticks

59 "Be patient!"

62 Army-medal recipient

63 Lip-balm additive

DOWN

1 Settled on the sofa

2 Ensnare

3 Jab with a finger

4 Prayer ending

5 No longer pure

6 Watermelon throwaways

7 Nest-egg letters

8 Mona ___ (famous painting)

9 Door openers

10 Stick (to)

11 "Be patient!"

12 Take care of

13 Annoys

18 Angry, with "off"

22 Elevator compartments

24 Mobile home

26 Environmental sci.

27 Head of a fire department

28 "Be patient!"

29 Hosp. sites

31 "If all ___ fails..."

32 Emerald or pearl

33 Glistened

35 French cheese

37 Prepare for a boxing match

39 Afternoon hrs.

40 Thesaurus entry, for short

42 Line made with a needle

43 Stumbling blocks

45 Motive

46 Wedding-cake level

49 Poker-pot fees

50 Post-workout feeling

51 Took to court

52 Dutch cheese

53 Ration (out)

55 CEO's "Right now!"

56 Drive-___ window

57 Part of EMT: Abbr.

60 Phone-book listings: Abbr.

61 Letter before tee

BEETLE BAILEY

Panel 1: Beetle is talking to a man. "DIDN'T YOU READ MY BUMPER STICKER?"

Panel 2: Beetle is talking to a man. "NO. WHAT DOES IT SAY?"

Panel 3: Beetle is talking to a man. "I BRAKE FOR TAILGATERS"

Newsday Crossword

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Power struggle in Big 12 South begins

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The chances that Texas will return to the BCS championship game for a second straight year are greatly diminished, if not gone, after a humiliating rout at home.

That doesn't mean the Longhorns are done in the Big 12.

What better way to shake off a 34-12 loss to UCLA than with a victory over archrival Oklahoma just seven days later?

"The only big games at Texas, (former) coach (Darrell) Royal told me, are the ones that you lose," coach Mack Brown said Monday on the Big 12 coaches' call. "We've lost ones before that got big. Everybody gets mad and everybody gets angry, and all we can do is go back to work."

The annual Red River Rivalry game at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas will be lessened in stature this year after the Longhorns' stunning loss on Saturday highlighted a day of struggles by the Big 12's powerhouses. The Sooners edged Cincinnati 31-29 and No. 6 Nebraska was unimpressive in a 17-3 win against South Dakota State of the Football Championship Subdivision.

That leaves serious questions about whether the Big 12 has a legitimate national title contender while two other conferences will have their best teams playing at center stage Saturday night: No. 1 Alabama hosts No. 7 Florida in the SEC, and No. 9 Stanford visits No. 4 Oregon in the Pac-10.

In these parts, it still doesn't get much bigger than No. 8 Oklahoma vs. No. 21 Texas. The teams have combined to win the last six Big 12 championships, escalating tensions between rivals that have been playing for over a century.

"That just made it more intense, I think, and the fact that we've been in the national hunt — both of us over the years — also intensified it or at least brought it more attention nationally," Sooners coach Bob Stoops said. "In the end, being in the same division has really made it even more important."

And this week, it's one of two big games in the division. Texas A&M (3-0) will visit Oklahoma State (3-0) on Thursday night in the only

game featuring two of the conference's six remaining undefeated teams. All three of the North's unbeaten teams — Nebraska, Missouri and Kansas State — are off this weekend, leaving the spotlight to shine on the South.

The winner of Thursday night's game emerges as the top challenger in the South to the Red River rivalry victor.

"There's no question that you want to get going in conference play, and you're playing good football teams," Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy said. "You want to keep momentum going. Our guys have performed pretty well up to this point, so we want them to continue on and keep some momentum as we roll through conference."

For now, the Cowboys and Aggies have flown under the radar, with each team posting two blowouts and barely scraping by once. With a national TV audience looking on, both unranked teams have a chance to make a statement in their Big 12 opener.

"We look at every week as a big test and this week certainly because they're a team that has had some good success here as of late with coach Gundy. He's done a great job. A&M coach Mike Sherman said. "They're moving the ball on offense, they're playing good defense and they have very good special teams units."

"It'll be a good test for us, no doubt about it. The kids are anxious to play the game."

On eve of Miami Heat camp, LeBron James takes center stage

CORAL GABLES, Fla. (AP) — In one breath, LeBron James insisted that he's moved past the venom directed his way after he chose to join the Miami Heat. In the next, the NBA's two-time reigning MVP said all those naysayers out there are his fuel.

Which rings true?

Apparently, both.

"I don't want to keep harping about what people have said about me," James said. "But

personally, I'm motivated by what has gone on this summer."

Music to the collective Heat ears, right there. Donning his new Heat home uniform and spending the afternoon flanked by fellow star teammates Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh, James began a new Miami chapter Monday, hours before his team was to fly north for training camp in Florida's Panhandle.

Since "The Decision," as it's known, James has been called a quitter by Cleveland owner and former boss Dan Gilbert, had his competitiveness questioned by the Orlando Magic, heard Dallas owner Mark Cuban say he made a bad business deal, and found himself taking note of what was written and said by countless pundits.

It's all made James feel like he has something to prove again.

"It's funny how things happen in life and how people react," James said. "It seems like a lot of people try to tell you what to do with your life and most of the time they don't even have their own life in order. That was just funny to me. So I'm really excited for this opportunity for this franchise, getting an opportunity to bring my game to this city."

James signed a \$109.8 million, six-year deal

with Miami on July 9, one day after starring in an hourlong TV special to announce he was leaving Cleveland. He hasn't reached out to Gilbert, but has spoken with teammates he left behind and predicts Cleveland could exceed expectations this season.

Here in Miami, the Heat can't exceed expectations, only meet them.

This team was built to win titles, and James

shrugged off the notion this season was "championship-or-bust."

"Not bust," James said. "But it is championship."

"Ditto," Wade added. "What he said."

It won't be easy, of course, which will be the message Heat coach Erik Spoelstra begins instilling Tuesday morning at Hurlburt Field, the U.S. Air Force installation where Miami's journey begins.

RANGERS

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the lineup after resting five starters Sunday at Oakland.

Next on the Rangers' agenda: determine the makeup of their playoff roster.

Seattle took a 2-0 lead in the second on RBI doubles from Adam Moore and Greg Halman.

Guerrero's homer that glanced off the top of the left-field wall leading off the second made it 2-1, but Gutierrez's sacrifice fly in the third gave Seattle a 3-1 advantage.

Wilson allowed six runs and eight hits, struck out five and walked one in five innings while losing his third straight decision.

Wilson will be in the playoff rotation, but he said he isn't looking ahead even though he hasn't won since Aug.

30. "We don't even know who we're playing yet, so how can I prepare for that?" Wilson said.

NOTES: Pauley is winless in six home decisions, but is 4-2 on the road. ... Seattle RHP David Aardsma, out since Sept. 19 with a left oblique strain, will play catch Tuesday in an effort to return to the bullpen before the end of the season. ... Halman's double was his first major league hit.

... Rangers OF Josh Hamilton took 25 swings off a tee, ran hard in the outfield, and shagged fly balls prior to the game. Hamilton has been out since Sept. 4 with two fractured ribs and muscle spasms in his right side, and he reported no discomfort after Monday's session. Washington said Hamilton must still go through a regular batting practice before he can play in a game. Hamilton missed his 23rd straight game.

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MAVS

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four more years to reach our goal. I'm ready."

He even took less than a maximum contract so the Mavericks could enhance his supporting cast.

The result is a deep team with all sorts of versatility — big guards and small guards, a frontcourt featuring bulky center Brendan Haywood or a more athletic look with Tyson Chandler.

Nowitzki also is excited about changes in the backcourt, like the expanded role for speedy Roddy Beaubois.

Beaubois was a raw rookie last season who showed in the playoff finale against San Antonio that he could provide a spark either playing alongside Jason Kidd or taking his place at point guard.

A foot injury forced Beaubois to miss some valuable playing time with the French national team and will force him to miss much of training camp, but he should be ready for the regular season.

"I think our future is in Roddy's hands," Nowitzki said. "He's explosive off the dribble. A second before he makes a move, he doesn't know what he's doing. That unpredictability he brings to the game I think is what we need."

Nowitzki thinks the makeup of the roster should help the Mavericks compete with anyone in the West, including the two-time defending champion Los Angeles Lakers.

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