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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY

OCTOBER 5, 2010



VOLUME 105, NUMBER 258

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HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Although feeling a little anxious, Lisette remains calm in her owner's arms as she receives a blessing from the Rev. Barbara Kirk-Norris, rector of the St. Mary's Episcopal Church during the Blessing of the Animals Sunday afternoon. Also pictured is Patty Nabors of Big Spring. The annual event is held in observance of the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi.

Tax man cometh

In the mail, that is

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

Officials with the Howard County Tax Collector's Office say they expect to begin mailing out 2010 property tax bills in the next two weeks.



Sayles

County Tax Collector Kathy Sayles said her office is preparing for the annual mass mail-out, just as it has for years.

"This year's mail-out is a bit more routine than last year's," Sayles said. "Last year we had to wait for the results from the Big Spring Independent School District election concerning the combination of maintenance and operation costs before we could calculate the ISD's tax rate. This year we don't have any last-minute calculations to make, so it's simply a matter of how quickly we can get the software people to get the information together for us."

Once the statements are printed on or

See **TAXES**, Page 3

Mail ballot applications due soon

Deadline is Oct. 25, election officials say.

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

Time is running out for area voters planning to cast their ballot in the Nov. 2 election by mail, as local election officials urge residents to get their requests in ahead of the Oct. 26 deadline.

"I would encourage everyone to get their applications in as soon as possible," said

Howard County Election Administrator Sandra Bloom. "If you're 65 years old or older, disabled, confined to jail or you know you will be out of the county for the election, you can apply for a ballot by mail. You can write us a letter or send us a request by fax or e-mail.

"We'll be doing the mail-in ballots similar to the way we did them last year. Anyone who wants to vote by mail needs to call in and request their ballot, or send a written

request to our office."

According to Bloom, requests for a mail out ballot must include the voter's name, address of residence inside Howard County, the reason for their request and the address the ballot should be mailed to.

If the reason for requesting a mail out ballot is the voter will be out of the county during the election, Bloom said the ballot must be mailed to an address outside Howard County, as well as mailed

back from outside the county.

"We're hoping this will help our college students, military and voters temporarily working out of the county," said Bloom.

Howard County voters will have several local races to weigh in on, including the battle for the Precinct 4 seat on the commissioners court, as incumbent Democrat Gary Simer is squaring off against GOP candidate John Cline. Cline won the Republican

nomination in march by defeating Roy Don Beauchamp, while Simer went unopposed in the primaries.

Also on the ballot is the Precinct 2 seat on the county commissioners court, as Republican nominee Donnie Baker will face Democratic nominee Jim Sinclair. Incumbent Jerry Kilgore lost the contest for the Republican party's nod in March.

In the race for Justice of

See **BALLOTS**, Page 3

Fire marshal: Crank up those heaters, but put safety No. 1

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

With low temperatures expected to dip into the lower 50s this week, many area residents will firing-up their heating units for the first time this season, a task local officials say could turn dangerous if certain precautions aren't taken.

Big Spring Fire Marshal Carl Condray said the first cold-snap of the fall season usually signals an upswing in the number of fire- and



Condray

smoke-related calls he and the firefighters with the Big Spring Fire Department respond to.

"When the temperature begins to fall and people start looking for ways to stay warm, we usually see an increase in calls," said Condray. "Some are just smoke scares, but some of them are very serious, even life threatening."

Condray said one of the most common dangers comes from heating units that haven't been used since the winter and late spring.

"Make sure that your heater is adequately prepared for the season," said Condray. "By that I mean have it serviced by an air conditioning and heating professional. You can also have the gas company come out and check it over. Homeowners can also help reduce the risk of a fire by checking their filter. A

clean filter will allow the unit to be more effective and the fan unit to operate better.

"It also doesn't hurt to go out and take a look at your burners before you fire them up. Make sure they're clean and free of debris. A lot of times, when people don't have their heating unit serviced for several years, the burning will cause a lot of carbon build-up on the pilot lights and on the flames. If that happens,

See **SAFETY**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Bonnie F. Tubb

Bonnie F. Tubb, 84, of Big Spring died Sunday, Oct. 3, 2010, in an Odessa hospice facility. Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2010, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Rick Cunningham, minister of the 14th and Main Church of Christ, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born Nov. 1, 1925, in Callahan County and married Donnie F. Tubb on March 9, 1946, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death May 5, 2007.

Bonnie came to Big Spring as a young girl and graduated from Big Spring High School in 1943. She worked as an operator for Southwestern Bell Telephone for 30 years, retiring in 1973. She moved to the family farm in Clyde in the mid 1980s and returned to Big Spring in 1995. "Granny," as she was known to her family, loved taking care of her family and friends and enjoyed having her grandchildren spend time with her each summer.

She was a member of 14th and Main Church of Christ.

Survivors include two daughters, Connie Mayes and husband Gary of Big Spring, and Robbie Ray and husband Clark of Dumas; one son, Donnie F. Tubb II and wife Anne of Big Spring; one sister, Zirah Bednar of Big Spring; five grandchildren, Shawn Eason and wife Mara of Wylie, Summer Martin and husband Gary of Big Spring, Curtis McKnight and wife Kristi, and Wesley McKnight, all of Midland, and Donnie F. Tubb III of Big Spring; and 10 great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, John and Dessie Patton; and one brother, Clifton Patton.

Pallbearers will be Shawn Eason, Curtis McKnight, Wesley McKnight, Donnie F. Tubb III, Gary Martin and Summer Martin.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Children's Home of Lubbock, c/o Children's Home Foundation, P.O. Box 2449, Lubbock, Texas 79408.

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

Paid obituary

Police blotter

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

- CHANCE FELKER COOKE, 25, of 3305 Maple, was arrested Monday on a warrant from another agency.
- THOMAS EVERETT RICHARDSON, 24, of 3509 E. Interstate Highway 20, was arrested Monday on a warrant for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.
- MICHAEL RAY LEWIS, 49, of 1002 N. Main St. Apt. 34, was arrested Monday on a warrant for violation of a protective order.
- GUY JAMES PETERSON, 20, of 311 W. Sixth St., was arrested Monday on charges of criminal trespass and resisting arrest, search or transportation.
- ASSAULT was reported: In the 1400 block of N. Highway 87. In the 400 block of E. Fourth Street. In the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Blvd. In the 1300 block of Mt. Vernon.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 600 block of Settles.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 2500 block of Allendale.

Alpha May Turney

Alpha May Turney died Thursday, Sept. 30, 2010, at her home in Checotah, Okla. Funeral services will be held Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2010, at First Baptist Church of Checotah, Okla., with Pastor Steve Dennis from First Baptist Church of Checotah officiating. Interment will follow in Greenlawn Cemetery.

Alpha May was born to Murphy and Delia Rowland Sept. 28, 1914, in Granbury and was raised in Big Spring, where she met Doyle C. Turney and married him in July 1934. She worked in Civil Service for several years and was the church pianist at Trinity Baptist Church for more than 20 years.

Alpha May was preceded in death by her husband, Doyle C. Turney; son, Jay W. Turney; a grandson; father, Murphy Lee Rowland; mother, Delia (Hayworth) Rowland; brothers, Bill and W.D. Rowland; and sisters, Myrtle Stroope, Zula Barber and Ruby Daniels.

Alpha May is survived by her brother, J.D. "Jake" Rowland of Big Spring; a granddaughter; a grandson; great-grandsons; great-granddaughter; great-great-granddaughters; and many nieces, nephews and extended family.

Services are entrusted to Hampton Mortuary. Friends may share condolences with the family at www.hamptonmortuary.com.

- THEFT was reported: In the 400 block of E. Fourth Street. In the 1800 block of S. Gregg Street.

Sheriff

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

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

- THOMAS EVERETT RICHARDSON, 24, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of unauthorized use of a vehicle.
- MARK ANTHONY LOPEZ, 18, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of burglary of a building.
- TRACI D. MYRICK, 39, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of burglary of a habitation.
- MICHAEL RAY LEWIS, 49, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of violation of bond/protective order.
- JONATHON RODRIGUEZ, 19, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.
- GUY JAMES PETERSON, 20, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of criminal trespass and resisting arrest, search or transportation.
- AARON SCOTT LANGFORD, 28, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a municipal warrant for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Fire/EMS

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

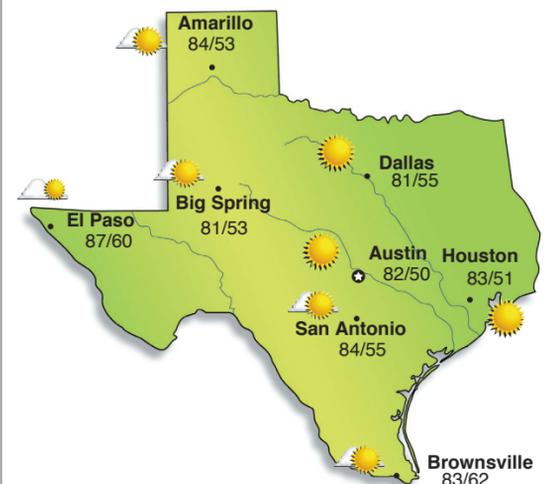
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Lincoln. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 200 block of Pine. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. Service refused.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 3600 block of Piper Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 10/6	Thu 10/7	Fri 10/8	Sat 10/9	Sun 10/10
81/53 Sunny, along with a few afternoon clouds. High 81F.	82/53 Sunshine. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the low 50s.	81/55 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the mid 50s.	83/57 Sunshine. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 50s.	78/58 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the upper 50s.
Sunrise: 7:43 AM Sunset: 7:24 PM	Sunrise: 7:44 AM Sunset: 7:23 PM	Sunrise: 7:45 AM Sunset: 7:22 PM	Sunrise: 7:45 AM Sunset: 7:21 PM	Sunrise: 7:46 AM Sunset: 7:19 PM

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Ablene	83	57	sunny	Kingsville	85	57	mst sunny
Amarillo	84	53	mst sunny	Livingston	83	46	sunny
Austin	82	50	sunny	Longview	83	49	sunny
Beaumont	83	51	sunny	Lubbock	82	52	mst sunny
Brownsville	83	62	mst sunny	Lufkin	84	49	sunny
Brownwood	84	52	sunny	Midland	83	56	mst sunny
Corpus Christi	83	58	mst sunny	Raymondville	86	60	mst sunny
Corsicana	81	51	sunny	Rosenberg	83	50	sunny
Dallas	81	55	sunny	San Antonio	84	55	mst sunny
Del Rio	84	56	mst sunny	San Marcos	83	50	sunny
El Paso	87	60	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	81	53	sunny
Fort Stockton	83	54	mst sunny	Sweetwater	82	55	mst sunny
Gainesville	80	51	sunny	Tyler	82	49	sunny
Greenville	80	50	sunny	Weatherford	80	51	sunny
Houston	83	51	sunny	Wichita Falls	83	53	sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	74	45	sunny	Minneapolis	72	45	pt sunny
Boston	60	51	rain	New York	65	52	rain
Chicago	74	51	mst sunny	Phoenix	85	65	t-storm
Dallas	81	55	sunny	San Francisco	65	57	rain
Denver	70	48	pt sunny	Seattle	68	52	sunny
Houston	83	51	sunny	St. Louis	79	55	sunny
Los Angeles	73	54	rain	Washington, DC	65	53	rain
Miami	83	69	rain				

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News briefs

Texas oilman and wife donate \$25M to Boy Scouts

DALLAS (AP) — A foundation started by a Texas oilman and his wife has donated \$25 million to a Dallas-area Boy Scouts group.

Philanthropists Jan and Trevor Rees-Jones announced the gift on Monday to the Circle Ten Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Boy Scouts officials say it is the second-largest gift ever made to their organization.

Trevor Rees-Jones, himself a former scout, said in a statement that it was “the right gift to the right group,” adding that the Boy Scouts are “part of the service-first fabric of this country.”

The gift will establish an endowment program aimed at at-risk youth and pay for capital improvements to the council’s four camp properties.

Neiman Marcus to unveil its annual Christmas Book

DALLAS (AP) — Neiman Marcus is set to unveil its Christmas Book, known for its offerings of expensive and often outrageous gift ideas for the holiday season.

The Dallas-based luxury retailer will unveil this year’s catalog on Tuesday morning at its downtown Dallas store.

This year, Neiman Marcus is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its “his and hers gifts,” which have included everything from airplanes to camels. The company’s website says the first “his and hers” gifts, in 1960, were

Beechcraft airplanes.

In years past, everything from wool scarves to mummy cases have graced the pages of the book.

Texas AG calls for statewide foreclosure freeze

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott asked loan servicing companies on Monday to suspend all foreclosure activities over concerns about the accuracy of foreclosure documents.

In a letter sent to 27 companies that service mortgage loans in Texas, Abbott’s office demanded the immediate suspension of foreclosures, selling foreclosed properties and evicting people living in those properties.

The letter asks that companies obey the moratorium at least through Oct. 15 — the deadline Abbott established for companies to identify any employees who participated in unlawful practices and assure the state that the targeted companies are following Texas laws.

The attorney general’s office is investigating mortgage lenders to determine the “full harm Texas homeowners have suffered,” according to a letter signed by Paul D. Carmona, the chief of the state consumer protection and public health division.

“We will be pushing forward with our investigation and inquiry,” attorney general spokesman Jerry Strickland said. “This is in the interest of homeowners who are feeling the effects of foreclosures.”

Other states are taking similar action.

BALLOTS

Continued from Page 1

the Peace Precinct 1 Place 2 incumbent candidate Kathryn Wiseman will represent the Republican party, while Democratic nominee Ricky Hughes will try to unseat her. Hughes was unopposed in the March party primaries.

The State Representative District 85 seat will also be decided in November. Democrat Joe Heflin faces Republican nominee Jim Landtrock and Libertarian Robyn L. Burwell.

In addition, the District 19 seat on the U.S. House of Representatives is up for grabs in November. Incumbent Randy Neugebauer faces Democratic nominee Andy Wilson and Libertarian Richard “Chip” Peterson.

Early voting will begin Oct. 18 and end Oct. 29, according to information provided by the Texas Secretary of State’s office.

For more information on voter registration, contact Bloom at 264-2273.

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

TAXES

Continued from Page 1

around Oct. 12, Sayles said her staff will begin the task of making sure they get where they are supposed to go.

“After we get the statements printed, we start stuffing envelopes and try to get them mailed out as quickly as possible,” said Sayles. “The loan companies will request their statements, and we’ll get those

pulled and get those to them as well. Taxes normally become due as of Oct. 1, but we don’t get the statements really ready until several days after that.

“We print close to 36,000 statements each year. This year we’ll print about 36,000, which is up some mainly because of the mineral values. We have about 2,000 to 3,000 statements that belong to loan companies which we don’t have to mail out

separately, but that still leaves about 33,000 tax statements that we have to stuff into envelopes and mail out. We just all grab a box and start stuffing. We have some people who just work with the loan companies to make sure they receive theirs, but the rest of us just get busy stuffing the envelopes.”

Sayles said taxpayers have until Jan. 31 to pay their taxes and avoid penalties and interest. After that date, things

can get rather costly.

“Taxpayers have from Oct. 1 to Jan. 31 to pay their taxes without any penalties or interest,” said Sayles. “In February, the penalties will start at 7 percent (6 percent penalty, 1 percent interest), and increases each month.”

The tax penalty and interest schedule is as follows: After Jan. 31, 6 percent penalty and 1 percent interest; after Feb. 28, 7 percent penalty and 2 percent in-

terest; after March 31, 8 percent penalty and 3 percent interest; after April 30, 9 percent penalty and 4 percent interest; after May 31, 10 percent penalty and 5 percent interest; and after June 30, 12 percent penalty and 6 percent interest, including an additional 20 percent attorney fee.

For more information,

contact the Howard County Tax Collector’s Office at 264-2232.

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

SAFETY

Continued from Page 1

you’re not going to get a good mixture, which is indicated by a yellow burning flame. A good, proper flame will be blue.”

And while many residents will turn to central heating systems for comfort when the mercury drops, others will rely on space heaters.

According to officials with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, more than 25,000 residential fires in the United States every year are associated with the use of space heaters.

The CPSC suggests the following guidelines for safely using space heaters:

- Select a space heater with a guard around the flame area or the heating element. This will help keep children, pets and clothing away from the heat source.
- When selecting a heater, look for one that has been tested and certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory. These heaters have been determined to meet specific safety standards, and manufacturers are required to provide important use and care information to the consumer.
- Buy a heater that is the correct size for the area you want to heat. The wrong size heater could produce more pollutants and may not be an efficient use of energy.
- Read and follow the manufacturer’s operating instructions. A good practice is to read aloud the instructions and

warning labels to all members of the household to be certain that everyone understands how to operate the heater safely. Keep the owner’s manual in a convenient place to refer to when needed.

- Keep children and pets away from space heaters. Some heaters have very hot surfaces. Children should not be permitted to either adjust the controls or move the heater.

- Keep doors open to the rest of the house if you are using an unvented fuel-burning space heater. This helps to prevent pollutant build-up and promotes proper combustion. Even vented heaters require ventilation for proper combustion.

- Never leave a space heater on when you go to sleep or leave the area. For fuel-fired heaters, dangerous levels of carbon monoxide could accumulate or uncontrolled burning could cause a fire.

- Never use or store flammable liquids — such as gasoline — around a space heater. The flammable vapors can flow from one part of the room to another and be ignited by the open flame or by an electrical spark.

- Be aware that mobile homes require specially designed heating equipment. Only electric or vented fuel-fired heaters should be used.

- Place heaters at least three feet away from ob-

jects such as bedding, furniture and drapes. Never use heaters to dry clothes or shoes. Do not place heaters where towels or other objects could fall on the heater and start a fire.

For more information on heater safety, visit the CPSC online at www.cpsc.gov

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

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEW

It's time to start planning for this year's Christmas

It may seem much too early in the year for thinking about Christmas gifts, but that's exactly what the Salvation Army in Big Spring is doing these days as it starts taking applications for the annual Angel Tree program.

Cpts. Ed and Terrie Cheshire and their staff have begun the task of providing presents for children and elderly citizens that might not otherwise have a merry Christmas.

Last year the Salvation Army helped more than 500 children, but organizers admit having some concern that even more will need help this year.

"The Angel Tree program has helped so many families who 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 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."

The Salvation Army began taking applications from parents needing the holiday assistance Monday and will continue to do so through Friday, Oct. 15, at the Corps building, located at 811 W. Fifth St. They will take applications from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. each day.

There will be no late registration because the Army's personnel have to get everything written on cards and get them distributed to the various Angel Tree sites.

The list of documents applicants need to bring with them to apply is rather lengthy, but applicants will be able to know whether or not they are approved on the spot.

Those seeking to apply should bring a picture ID for the person applying, Social Security cards for all household members, birth certificates for children 12 and under and some proof of income like a payroll check stub from work or forms provided by food stamps, AFDC, TANIF, HUD etc. They must also provide a copy of all of their expenses, as well as a list of what their children might want for Christmas, including clothing and shoe sizes.

"We do ask that parents be reasonable in their requests," Lafler said.

Once the names and gift ideas are collected and put on the trees 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.

Although the Angel Tree program is a large part of the Salvation Army's holiday spirit, it's by no means the only one. The local corps office staff is also gearing up for the Thanksgiving holiday, as well as the annual canned food drive.

For information concerning any of the Salvation Army's community programs, call 267-8239.

And for those of us more fortunate, we encourage participating once the Angel Trees go up around town. It just takes a few dollars to brighten this special time for a child or an elderly person.

Yes, the holiday season is coming. And with it comes a special time to share our good fortunes with others less fortunate. We invite you to reach out to a small child or elderly person in need this holiday season. The feeling you will receive from helping others is truly what the holiday spirit is all about.

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

When we walk with You, Lord, You show us heavenly mysteries.

Amen

Democrats need to turn off Fox News

During the 2000 presidential campaign, Democrat Al Gore became captive of the right-wing noise machine. The activists and their media had gone honking nuts over President Clinton's sexual indiscretion. Vice President Gore thought these people mattered and so distanced his campaign from a popular Democratic president.

Never mind that 23 million jobs were added under Clinton's watch. Never mind that Clinton was leaving the budget in surplus. Never mind that in the post-scandal midterm, Democrats actually gained five seats in the House. Never mind that Clinton was leaving office with a huge 66 percent approval rating, 3 percent higher than Ronald Reagan's.

Rush Limbaugh was enough to intimidate Al Gore. Not only did Gore keep Clinton off his campaign stages, but he took pot shots at him.

"I keep my commitments, to my wife and to my family and to my job," Gore piously reminded audiences. (How interesting that Gore's marriage is now breaking up, but Clinton's goes on.) Gore lost an election he should have easily won.

Democrats are at it again. They have more to be depressed about this time, for sure. But their willingness to believe the right's propaganda about leading unstoppable forces — while downplaying their own accom-

plishments — will make matters only worse.

Even in the most liberal parts of America, right-wing talk dominates the airwaves. The comments on newspaper Websites are weighted with anti-liberal bile. Come an actual election, the Democrat usually wins handily, and if a Republican prevails, it's not one of the hotheads.

But Democrats are the glass-half-empty party. (The other half is Pepto-Bismol.) It's getting late in the game to convince Democrats that the public's angst about the economy and the American future isn't all about them. They still have time to perk up.

Their health care reforms guarantee access to medical care, will slow spending that is bankrupting the nation and should reduce future deficits, to boot.

The financial reforms offer some protection against another economic freefall. These shouldn't be hard sells.

But you do have to sell them when the opposition is blasting these achievements 24/7. Sadly, few Democrats are blowing their horn, especially over health care, and some are actually running against that success. This is self-defeating behavior.

Back in March, when congressional Republicans denied Democrats an inch of cooperation on health care, their spokesmen inflated some public displeasure into surging waves of voter anger against Democrats. Fine, that's their job.

But Democrats did not have to cower when all of 300 tea party people demonstrated in March against their reforms. And so what if some loudmouths made a

racket at their town hall meetings. The rudeness probably offended many gentle folks at home.

Look at those polls tracking public support for health care reform. The lines closely follow the Democrats' willingness to defend what they've done. After passage, approval for the reforms rose.

Of course, this support is now inching down. When Democratic candidates back away from their party's legislation, people assume there's something wrong with it.

Nov. 2 need not be as grim a day for Democrats as they think it will be. In special congressional elections in upstate New York and western Pennsylvania — two blue-collar districts expected to go Republican — Democrats won. These were real elections.

Democrats don't need a more passionate base to win elections. They need more votes. A quiet vote counts as much as a strident one. No doubt the weird Christine O'Donnell will have more enthusiastic backers in the Delaware senatorial race than Democrat Chris Coons. And chances are she'll lose.

Democrats, turn off Fox, turn off Rushbo and put something livelier in your glass. Your funk is your worst enemy.

To find out more about Froma Harrop, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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FROMA HARROP



Bureaucrats in charge of health calls

Americans know best what kind of health care coverage is right for them and their families. They should be able to work with their own trusted physicians to determine the treatments and services that will meet their needs.

Unfortunately, the health reform law, which was rushed through Congress and forced on the American public, empowers the government to make decisions that should be left to doctors and patients.

The health reform law undermines Americans' control over their health care in multiple ways, and one of the most troubling provisions gives unchecked power to the United States Preventative Services Task Force.

This task force's recommendations will determine whether or not an insurance company must cover certain preventative services. If the task force does not favorably endorse a procedure that an individual and his doctor decide is important for his health care, the patient could be forced to pay for the service out of pocket or choose to forgo it altogether.

Before health reform, a recommendation from the task force would have been just that — a recommendation. A doctor might take it into consideration as he or she decided when and how often a specific patient should have a preventative service, such as a mammogram or colonoscopy. But the physician would also be looking at other key information like an individual's medical risks and family

history, factors that could easily defy a blanket task force recommendation.

Concerned about the reach of this task force provision, I asked the Congressional Research Service (CRS) to analyze the health reform law, and CRS reported that the task force's powers are indeed absolute. That means the panel's decision is no longer a recommendation — it's an edict that will directly affect patients' access to preventative care.

It is stunning that in America today a single panel of bureaucrats has veto power over a patient's access to potentially life-saving medical care. What's more alarming is that the only recourse for patients and physicians who oppose a task force ruling is for Congress to overrule the decision. Even the Secretary of Health and Human Services lacks the power to reverse a task force proclamation under the health reform law.

In November of 2009, prior to health reform, the task force decided that women between the ages of 40 and 49 should not get annual breast cancer screenings. After the mammogram recommendation was issued, I heard from various cancer advocacy organizations and countless doctors and patients justifiably voicing their outrage. Seventy-five percent of women who get breast cancer have no known risk factors, and women from 40 to 49 have a one in 68 chance of getting the disease. The task force's recommendation was dangerously off-base, and it posed a real threat to women's health in our country. The opposition was so intense that the Democrats' health care bill added a special exception to reverse the impact of the task force's mammogram ruling.

In 1997, I was an original cosponsor of a resolution that specifically encouraged women

in this age bracket to get regular mammograms. I was joined by 51 of my Senate colleagues from both sides of the aisle saying that early screening for breast cancer is crucial to increasing the survival rate of this disease. We listened to doctors who agreed that securing access to these preventative services would increase early detection, allow treatments to begin sooner, and ultimately save lives. One recommendation from this task force could undermine the work that has been done over the years to fight breast cancer.

I also asked CRS whether the mammogram exception in the health reform bill would be a permanent solution. The answer, not surprisingly, is "no." If the task force resubmits its mammogram recommendation, it will take Congressional intervention to once again preserve women's access to this cancer screening that we know saves lives.

For breast cancer and other life threatening diseases, whether treatment will be covered by insurance should not be dependent on one government panel's opinion — or worse, on an act of Congress.

This is an unacceptable health care policy, and it sets a bad precedent.

What will happen the next time patients, doctors, and national experts disagree with the task force? Will Congress come to the rescue?

Patients and their doctors should have the freedom to decide what is best for them — not the federal government. This is a prime reason that the health care law must be repealed and replaced with better reforms that will actually improve health care in America.

Kay Bailey Hutchison is the senior U.S. Senator from Texas.

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Doggy Word Find

Just in time for Adopt a Shelter Dog Month, see how many related words you can find and circle in the puzzle.

ADOPT	DOG	LEASH
BOWL	FAMILY	RESCUE
CAGE	FRIEND	SHELTER
CANINE	FURRY	VETERINARIAN

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

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

• **1863:** U.S. PRESIDENT LINCOLN DECLARES THE LAST THURSDAY IN NOVEMBER TO BE THANKSGIVING DAY.

• **1929:** THE KINGDOM OF SERBS, CROATS AND SLOVENES IS NAMED THE KINGDOM OF YUGOSLAVIA.

• **1985:** THE SPACE SHUTTLE ATLANTIS MAKES ITS MAIDEN VOYAGE.



WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE DOG THAT IS A CROSS BETWEEN A POODLE AND A LABRADOR?

ANSWER: LABRADOODLE

Dog Match

Match the items with the right task.

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. Leash | A. Walking |
| 2. Clippers | B. Praising |
| 3. Treat | C. Feeding |
| 4. Food Bowl | D. Grooming |

Answers: 1A 2D 3B 4C



lead

another word for a dog leash

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Happy

SPANISH: Feliz

ITALIAN: Felice

FRENCH: Heureux

GERMAN: Glücklich

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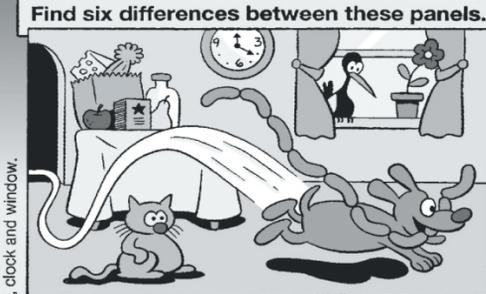
Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: DOG

SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

BY BOB WEBER JR.

Count Weirdly captured Slylock Fox and Max Mouse. They are being held in a plastic bubble. Weirdly warns that if they break out of the bubble, the hose will automatically shut off their air supply, and there is no oxygen in the room. Slylock doesn't believe that the room has no oxygen. Why not?

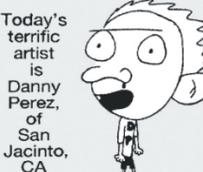


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Which of the following animals do not have ears?

- a) Fish
- b) Butterflies
- c) Crickets
- d) Snakes
- e) Frogs

Answer -- (b) (d)

Bird Poop:

Young hummingbird
gets another chance

Inside the small cardboard carrier, a buzzing sound notified us that it was ready. Although she had hoped to give it one last feeding of formula, Ocoee Moore and I knew that before she could slip her hand inside to catch it, the hummingbird would quickly rise to the branches above her head. Watching the tiny helicopter confirm our suspicions brought back memories of the previous month.

In late August, Ocoee, who is volunteering as a sub-permittee, had felt the newly released was ready for its freedom. Accompanied by a more mature hummer, it had proved promising during feedings and flights in her home.

When given the opportunity, the older and larger of the two had departed after a brief good-bye. The remaining bird had flown upward into a mesquite, but hesitated to go further. With my feeder and Ocoee's formula provided nearby, we felt the youngster would soon gain the confidence to venture into the upper portions of the trees.

Continuing to check the feeders throughout the day gave me an opportunity to see the newcomers in our side yard. Occasionally the older bird would land some four to five feet above my head. Not seeing the smaller hummer brought the realization that it had finally discovered its new world.

The next morning, having planned to water the front lawn, I raised one of our garage doors. It was the shortest route to the sprinklers and faucets, and Sunday papers awaited my appetite for leisurely reading.

As I walked back into the garage

with the weekend "rags" under my arm, I heard it. Not knowing what the sound was, I took another few steps. The mysterious noise made its presence known again. With each additional step, the squeak grew louder.

Looking under each vehicle, I saw nothing. Not satisfied, I left the garage, turned and reentered. The same scenario happened.

When the noise reached its loudest effort, I stopped. Feeling I was getting very close to whatever was making such a call, I stopped and waited. Ten seconds passed.

The direction of the next squeak was above me. Slowly glancing upward, I saw the younger hummingbird perched on our ceiling fan.

Installed to provide air circulation for avian guests, the fan had been idled due to lack of patients. With insulated garage doors, we were fortunate to keep the inside temperatures below those of the outdoors.

Seemingly, the little bird was excited that I had finally found it. Flying upward then back to the edge of a blade, the hummer had difficulty gripping it. After sliding off, it decided to land on our SUV.

With nothing to grip, it started sliding down the hood. Waiting in front of the vehicle to grab the bird, I was denied a capture by the hummingbird's reluctance to stop its adventure.

Flying to the driver's outside mirror, it once again tried to perch. Newly washed and waxed, the slick exterior of the SUV offered no place to land.

Next, it flew to the north door. Located in the top panel, windows offered a view of the outdoors and natural light. Landing on the narrow metal edge at the bottom of the glass, the hummingbird seemed content to remain there.

Because the bird might have been



BEBE
MCCASLAND



Courtesy photo

Known for its flight, the black-chinned hummingbird can move backward, rise and fall rapidly, even remain stationary while in the air. As it weaves its way through numerous trees and branches, a whistling noise announces its presence.

crushed if I had lowered the south door, it remained open in hopes that the hummer might decide to fly outside. Reluctantly, I realized that was not to be.

After getting a pole net, I slowly approached the bird. Continuing to enjoy its view, it did not move. Placing the net over the hummer, I then enclosed the bird within the palm of my right hand.

Carefully removing the soft mesh, I marveled at the tiny being and the beauty of its plumage. The contrast of grayish buff against emerging glossy green was nature's infinite artistry.

When notified, Ocoee felt "it just wasn't ready. The call you heard is the sound it makes when I walk into its area of the house." Shortly, she arrived to take the youngster home.

Near the end of September, she brought her charge back to the side yard. Not wanting it to imprint on her, she felt it needed to be ready to migrate. As it left her care, the black-chinned hummingbird made the whizzing noise associated with flight. Its growing maturity was notable.

Fortunately, our trumpet vine and Turk's cap were still in bloom. While extracting nectar from their inner structure, the bird could also relish tiny insects attracted to the plants. With the mesquites offering gnats, small flies and other insects, the hummer would be well fed while enjoying the buzzing antics of other black-chins.

Soon, a much cooler morning in

See **BIRD**, Page 7

Annie's Mailbox®

Dear Annie: I am 15 years old and the youngest of four children. My father and mother have had bickering matches for as long as I can remember. Their fights sometimes get physical, but not enough to do real harm.

My mother has constantly tried to improve my father's personality and parenting skills. He doesn't understand how to communicate with his family, specifically his children. Each conversation includes rude comments, sarcastic remarks and hurtful words.

Well, now the physical stuff has been directed at us. His reason for attacking us was because we were defending my mother from his fists. The fact that he knocked her hand off the steering wheel while she was driving only makes it worse.

Annie, my father does not act like this in front of his parents or his friends. To them, he is perfect. But when he comes home, the littlest mistake will set him off.

I am tired of this constant fighting, and my mother has told me she wants to go to a counselor. She tried that several years ago, and Dad refused, saying he wasn't the problem. My mother works long hours, and I am afraid she won't divorce him because she doesn't have the money. How do I make this better? — *Terrified Teen*

Dear Teen: Honey, if your father is hitting you or your mother, he is an abuser. It's not simply an anger issue, because he is capable of controlling himself in front of others. Your mother should seek counseling without him, and she or you can call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (ndvh.org) and ask for assistance. Please don't wait.

Dear Annie: Six of my old college friends (along with our husbands) met at our country club for lunch. It had been many years since we were together, and some of us had never met the others' husbands. However, the men were gracious and sat at one end of the table so "the ladies" could catch up.

One of the husbands is a minister. As the waitress was serving us, this man announced that he would be happy to "bless the meal." We put down our cutlery and sat quietly while he prayed.

Was it inappropriate for him to impose his level

of religion on all of us? He had no idea if any of us was a practicing Christian, Jew, Muslim or atheist. No one asked him to say a blessing. Nonetheless, we complied with his "order" rather than making a scene. How should this have been handled? — *Los Angeles*

Dear L.A.: You handled it perfectly. Instead of making an announcement, the minister should have asked if it was OK to bless the meal. But there wasn't much you could do after the fact. You behaved with polite courtesy, allowing him to observe his beliefs while you sat quietly and waited until he was finished. We assume the blessing was nondenominational, but if not, please inform the man's wife that the blessing was inappropriate and potentially offensive for some.

Dear Annie: I'd like to address your response to "Scared," the young girl with a friend who cuts. As an ex-cutter, I'm glad you told this girl to continue to be a support for her friend. But I'm not sure suggesting she get some exercise will help. Although I understand it releases endorphins, this comment could further lower her self-esteem by making her think she needs to lose weight.

Here are a couple of tricks that I found effective to stop cutting: snapping a rubber band around her wrist when she has the desire to cut, and squeezing ice in her palm until it numbs. Obviously, it is important to keep away from cutting tools and other triggers. Hope this advice helps. This girl certainly isn't alone. — *Prior Cutter*

Dear Prior: Thanks for the additional suggestions. We know our readers appreciate them.

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, Calif. 90045.

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Perry reports \$10M in Texas gov race

AUSTIN (AP) — Republican Gov. Rick Perry reported Monday that he has \$10 million in available campaign cash — nearly four times as much as Democrat Bill White heading into the final month of the costly Texas governor's race.

White, a former Houston mayor, announced he has \$2.75 million in cash on hand.

Perry out-raised White in the latest reporting period, having collected \$8.26 million between July 1 and Sept. 23. White reported that he raised than \$4.68 million in that span.

The gubernatorial campaigns had to file new reports on their fundraising to the Texas Ethics Commission by Monday night.

"Texans from across the state continue to generously support Gov. Perry's re-election campaign and his principled leadership which has made Texas the envy of the nation," Perry spokesman Mark Miner said in a written statement announcing the figures.

White's campaign explained the large difference in available cash between the two candidates by saying that White spent more than \$11 million in the period, some of it on television ads that will air in the weeks to come. White's campaign finance chair, Scott Atlas, said Texans "are voting with their pocketbooks for new leadership."

White, who emphasizes his leadership experience

Perry out-raised White in the latest reporting period, having collected \$8.26 million between July 1 and Sept. 23. White reported that he raised than \$4.68 million in that span.

in Houston and his business background, is considered the Texas Democrats' best hope in years to recapture the governorship. Right now all statewide elected offices are held by Republicans, a trend that began in the 1990s

as George W. Bush swept into power.

Perry has held elected office for 25 years and is seeking an unprecedented third full four-year term as governor.

Among his biggest donors were businessman Harold Simmons, of Dallas, who gave \$250,000; Houston Astros owner Drayton McLane, who contributed \$50,000; and Houston-based homebuilder Bob Perry and his wife, who gave at least \$100,000.

White's detailed list of top donors shows that Robert L. Patton Jr., owner of Fort Worth Magazine, gave \$125,000 to his campaign. Geologist Jeffrey Todd Mitchell, of Spring, gave \$80,000; and attorneys John Eddie Williams Jr., of Houston, and Nelson Roach, of Daingerfield, each

contributed \$50,000.

The Democratic Governors Association, a national group, gave White \$500,000.

The money race is important because it shows how the gubernatorial candidates are poised to campaign in the final weeks.

There are no limits on campaign contributions in the state's governor's race. The candidates spend millions of dollars buying television advertising, crucial to reaching voters in this state of more than 24 million people. Both already have been airing positive and negative TV ads.

When the last fundraising reports were filed in July, White held an advantage with more than \$9 million in campaign cash on hand, surpassing Perry's \$5.9 million.

Parent's Corner: Wondering where we fit

Throughout my life I have known many wonderful people. I have also known some who can never be forgotten. Some of these "unforgettable" folks fit into a type cast that are recognizable anywhere.

We have folks like this in every occupation but allow me to introduce you to some I've known. These are discussed in humor and I hope no one takes offense at the following descriptions, but I'm sure we've all known such individuals. We may even find that we fit into one or two of the categories.

Susie Sunshine has optimism on a grand scale. Everything is always rosy and even when she's having a bad day there are things to be happy about.

Gloria Gloom is just the opposite. She is disappointed at home and at work. She has prolonged pain and a constant medical condition and is waiting for the opportunity to tell you all about it.

Nick Nervous, the Don Knotts of any profession, has big eyes, is always jittery and constantly worried and is never settled. You feel yourself getting nervous just being around him.

Hilda Hyper is always involved in 58 projects at the same time and wants to tell you about every one of them, whether you are interested or not.

Sarah Silent is of course the silent type who is always around but won't say a word!

Larry Loud and Jacky Joker are almost two of a kind just being loud and obnoxious and most of the time you wish they were somewhere else.

Simon Serious never smiles, hates jokes and is annoyed at any humor. You know he is a prime subject for a cardiac arrest!

Gayle Giggles, on the other hand, is never serious and giggles about everything she is told. You wonder if she comprehends what life is all about.

Nola Knowitall is a pain to be around and extremely difficult to talk with. She is an encyclopedia of knowledge and wants you to be aware of that fact.

Stanley Storyteller is an interesting fellow but has a reputation of repeating his stories as often as possible to whom-ever will listen.

To close out I'll tell you about Danny Depressed. His life is like a song of the '50s called "Life Gets Tedious, Don't It?"

His story is: Life Is Depressive, Ain't It?

Sun comes up and the sun goes down; hands on the clock keep going around.

I just get up when it's time to lay down. Life is depressive, ain't it? My shoes untied, but I don't care; I ain't planning on going no where.

Just have to wash and comb my hair. Life is depressive, ain't it? Water in the well getting lower and lower, Can't take a bath for six months more.

But I've heard it said and it's true I'm shore, that too much bathin'll weaken ya.

Cow's gone dry and the hens won't lay. Fish quit bitin' last Saturday. Troubles pilin' up day by day and now I'm getting dandruff.

Tin roof leaks and the chimney leans and there's a hole in seat of my ole blue jeans

And I've ate the last of the pork-n-beans. Just can't depend on nothing. Open the door and the flies swarm in, close the door and I'm sweating' again

And in the process I cracked my shin; Life is sure depressive, ain't it? A mouse chawin' at the pantry door. He's been at it for a month or more When he gets through he'll sure be sore, cause there ain't a thing left in there.

Hound dog howling so forlorn; laziest ol' dog that ever was born.

He's howling cause he's sitting on a thorn and just too tired to move over. So as I go my weary way, there's not much I can do or say

To make today a better day. Life is so depressive ain't it?

Now, with that being said, where do we fit?

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



DARRELL RYAN

BIRD

Continued from Page 6

October may gently suggest a more southern clime is in the offing. Along

with other migrants, it will take the hint and leave, only to return next summer.

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

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Tall Task

Lady Steers face No. 3 Abilene Wylie



HERLAD Photo/Tony Claxton

Bridgette Tuitt spikes the ball in the Big Spring Lady Steers' match against Snyder. They play No. 3 Abilene Wylie at 6 p.m. today in Steer Gym.

BY ADAM COLEMAN

Sports Editor

A record of 34-1 doesn't suggest anything but being close to perfection.

However, while Abilene Wylie is close to perfection, the Lady Bulldogs' record doesn't mean they're unbeatable.

"Every team has a weakness and I think theirs is probably short serving," Big Spring outside hitter Desiree Anderson said. "But their strength is they pick up every ball and they're very consistent, so we've got to make sure we're consistent, too, to make them get out of system not us."

The Lady Steers (16-14, 2-0 in district play) will try to expose every weakness they can in their match against Wylie at 6:30 p.m. today in Steer Gym. With the record, the Lady Bulldogs are the No. 3 team in the state, according to the latest Texas Girls Coaches Association State Volleyball Poll.

Big Spring might be facing Wylie at the right time, though. The Lady Steers have won five of their last six matches, four of those being sweeps. As daunting as the task might seem, they have a chance to make a statement in District 5-3A play.

Led by players such as Allison Phillips and Ali Hayes, Big Spring head coach Lynn Osborne said she knows the challenge the Lady Steers are up against tonight.

Osborne said the Lady Bulldogs move well laterally, but they have a problem moving forward and the Lady Steers will attempt to make Wylie get out system as often as they can.

Another obstacle to overcome will be Wylie's defense. The Lady Steers are expecting the Lady Bulldogs to dig the ball well and block a lot of shots.

But the key to that is persistence.

"You have to expect that from every team," libero Valerie Ross said. "Just work hard, just keep

trying and keep swinging. Keep your players up, keep talking. Have their back.

The Lady Bulldogs' matchup against Snyder — which they won in a sweep — is where Osborne said she saw Wylie make few mistakes. But there were times where Snyder applied pressure, which is what Big Spring has to do, she said.

Osborne said the Lady Steers are going to have to continue swinging, looking for the kill and looking for the big blocks.

That's what might make the difference in this match. Osborne said defense wins games, and big blocks from Diamond Mayes and Taylor Seaton, among others and digs from Ross will only help.

Osborne said she is hoping to make the Lady Bulldogs fight for a win tonight, knowing the Lady Steers will have to do the same.

"We sat them down and kind of explained to them, when Snyder did this, I saw this," she said. "I saw them make mistakes. Kind

Hawk team ropers lead men to third

BY CINDY SMITH

Special to the Herald

The Hawk Men's Rodeo Team was led by the team ropers in a third place finish at Sul Ross State University Sept. 30 through Oct. 1 in Alpine.

Sophomore returner Payton Norell from Delton, Colo., hooked up with freshman Tait Gurney from Monroe, Utah to win the average in the team roping turning in a 13.6 time on two head. The duo won the first round with a 6.0 and held on to second in the short round with a 7.6.

Fellow team ropers Josh Siggins and Cullen Teller, both returners for the Hawks, finished fourth in the long go with a 6.6 and third in the short go with a 7.9 which was enough to take home third in the average with a 14.5.

"Things really came together this week," said Greg Kernick, Howard College Rodeo coach. "We are getting sharper at the barrier and allowing ourselves the opportunity to win."

Other Hawk men making a statement this weekend were two time CNFR qualifier Cody Samora of Cortez, Colo., and Reigning National Champion All Around Cowboy, Jason Schaffer of Broadus, Mont.

Samora brought home third in the first round of the bull riding with a mark of 82. With no

bulls being ridden in the short round, Samora finished in third for the weekend.

Schaffer struck in the tie down roping hauling in a 9.0 on his first animal to finish second in that round. A no time in the short round took him out of any chances in the average.

Kaci Smith, freshman from Pervis, Miss., once again led the women's team clocking in at 17.47 in the long round of the barrel racing. A blistering 16.90 run won the short round and Smith brought home a split for fourth place on the weekend.

Another freshman, Page Woodward from West Weber, Utah, tied her first goat in 7.9 seconds to finish fourth in the first round but after an 8.5 run in the short round, she finished seventh for the round and the average.

"Some of our ladies are showing consistency," added Kernick. "Now we just have to build on that and keep getting better each week."

The Hawk rodeo teams will continue working through their fall schedule by competing next at Vernon College on Oct. 7-9 in Vernon.

For more on the HC Hawk Rodeo Team and updated schedule and results, visit www.hchawk.com.

Beware Cowboys after bye week under Phillips

JAIME ARON

AP Pro Football Writer

IRVING (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys came back from their bye week still in the thick of things.

It may seem early to be watching the standings, but the Cowboys put themselves at risk of getting left behind by losing their first two games.

While they're still just a meager 1-2, Dallas is a half-game behind everyone else in the NFC East and only 1½ games behind the best record in the NFC.

Any team could seize control over the next month — and the Cowboys are set up to do it.

Their next four games are against teams at or below .500. Three of those games are at home, starting Sunday against Tennessee (2-2).

Plus, there's this tidbit: Dallas has won at least three straight games coming out of its bye every season under coach Wade Phillips.

"It's a little bit of a fresh start," tight end Jason Witten said. "That doesn't neglect what we've done in the past. I think we have to look at that with a critical eye, and we did. I think this team is moving forward."

The big theme around this team is quality practices.

They were deemed missing after their 0-2 start. So Phillips changed things up to get more work done in less time. The result was a strong all-around performance in a victory over Houston. That was followed by a week of practices that linebacker Keith Brooking called "better than any practice we had all year, and it was in our bye week, when we were game-planning a little bit for the Titans but obvi-

See **COWBOYS**, Page 13

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.

80 2-man scramble on Oct. 23 and 24. The starting times are at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. The entry fee cost \$80 per person plus the cart. The entry fee also includes lunch on Oct. 23. For more information or to enter call (432) 758-3808.

Washer tournament

There will be a washer tourney at 2 p.m. Saturday at Comanche Trail Park.

Over 80 2-man scramble

Gaines County Golf Course is hosting an over

Entry fee is \$50 per team and the deadline is at 1 p.m. Saturday. Prize money depends on the number of entries. For more information call Gilbert at (432) 816-3014.

Coahoma Girls Softball Association

The group is meeting at 7 p.m. today at the community center in Coahoma. Everyone is welcome.

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WOODEN PALLETS ONLY in back of Big Spring Herald Building (710 Scurry) **FREE** to anyone willing to take them.

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Experience Requirements: One year (2040) hours of experience in the armed forces or coast guard which involved significant performance of guard duty of detainees or prisoners; or the equivalent experience in a federal, state, or local government, or private organization which involved protecting/police duties, or college level training in courses such as corrections or police science may be substituted for experience at the ratio of two hours of instructions for one hour of experience.
Apply at Workforce Center (in the Post Office), KEYWORD: PARAGON. EOE.

Miscellaneous

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These bids will form a multi-vendor list for the maintenance, transportation, and the food service departments for securing supplies, equipment, outside labor, outside skilled trades and contracted services. Specifications and bid documents may be secured from the school district's Business Office, 708 East 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas 79720-4648, phone number (432)264-3620. The school district will begin opening bids on October 15, 2010, in the Business Office of the Big Spring Independent School District. The Business Office will continue to receive and open bids through 4:00 pm, November 5, 2010. All bids must be received by 4:00 pm, November 5, 2010. Bids will be presented for consideration to the Board of Trustees on November 11, 2010, at 5:15 p.m. at their regularly scheduled board meeting. Evaluation of all purchases from this multi-vendor bid shall take into account the following considerations before a purchase order will be issued: purchase price, reputation of the vendor and the vendor's goods and services, quality of the vendor's goods or services, extent to which the goods or services meet the DISTRICT's needs, vendor's past relationship with the DISTRICT, impact on the ability of the DISTRICT to comply with laws relating to historically underutilized business, total long-term cost to the DISTRICT to acquire the goods and services, any other relevant factor specially listed in the request for bid or quote documents. The Big Spring Independent School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. #6723 October 5 & 12, 2010

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Fall into good car care habits



(Family Features) — With the summer solstice in our rear-view mirror, the temperatures are getting cooler and another harsh winter may soon be upon us.

Your car may have handled the heat like a pro, but how will it do in the cold?

“Autumn is a great time for automotive maintenance and repair,” says Amy Mattinat, car care expert and owner of Auto Craftsmen, an independent auto sales and service facility located in Montpelier, VT.

“It gives us time to repair the wear and tear from all the extra miles put on in the summer, and allows us to prepare for those colder days ahead. Following a simple maintenance checklist will save drivers time and money by extending the life of their vehicle and ensuring safer operation.”

To ensure that your car keeps running at its peak performance, here are four big tips that Mattinat suggests you follow:

Tires: good pressure, little wear, and rotation

Proper tire pressure helps your car’s gas mileage. It’s even more important when the temperature drops because tires lose pressure each month. Monthly tire checks assure you that they are filled up to their recommended PSI rating

(which can be found on the driver’s side door paneling, in the owner’s manual, or sometimes on the tires themselves).

A regular check of the tread is the key to avoid driving on excessively worn out tires. Make sure to rotate your tires every 5,000 miles to avoid the risk of having one tire wear more than the others.

Lastly, if the temperature in your neck of the woods consistently rests around freezing during the winter months, now is a good time to start looking around for winter tires.

Oil: switch to synthetic

The lower temperatures increase the stress on your engine. Prevent engine wear by changing your oil and oil filter as specified in your manual. Think about switching to synthetic oil, if you’re not using it already.

For example, Mobil 1 Extended Performance is a synthetic product specifically designed to help protect your engine in wide-ranging temperatures for up to 15,000 miles. It flows rapidly to critical engine parts during cold start-ups and helps provides outstanding wear protection to keep engines clean and running smoothly.

Cooling system: flush and refill

Always check the cool-

ing system (radiator) for leaks and low levels. It should be flushed and refilled as recommended in the owner’s manual. When checking, remember never to remove the radiator cap until the engine has thoroughly cooled.

While coolant may mostly be associated

with warmer weather, a vehicle’s coolant (or antifreeze) is just as important in the colder months to make sure the vehicle can withstand the temperatures. Mattinat usually recommends mixing together a 50/50 ratio of antifreeze and distilled water.

Full engine tune-up: systems and fluid levels

Now is the perfect time to have your yearly recommended basic tune-up. The colder temperatures will only make any existing problems worse. A basic tune-up helps correct engine problems such

as diminished power and/or stalling. It also ensures fluid levels (for brakes, transmission, windshield washer, etc.) are topped off or replaced as necessary.

— Source: Exxon Mobil

“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: Recently, a good friend of mine sent this to me. I don’t know who the author is, but it made me smile. If you are smiling, too, maybe you’ll print it in your column. — Mr. X in Virginia



ANN LANDERS

Dear Mr. X: I am smiling, and here it is:

Only in America do people order double cheeseburgers, a large order of fries and a Diet Coke.

Only in America do drugstores make the sick customers walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions.

Only in America do banks leave both doors open and then chain the pens to the counters.

Only in America do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and keep useless junk in the garage.

Only in America do we buy hot dogs in packages of 10 and buns in packages of eight.

Only in America do we use answering machines to screen calls, and then have call waiting so we won’t miss a call from someone we didn’t want to talk to in the first place.

Dear Ann Landers: My husband is a control freak. He controls the money and the home and tries to control my life.

“Darren” has two grown children from a previous marriage. In the eight years we’ve been married, they have been to our home once.

He neither calls them nor invites them for holidays. He feels it is their duty to call him; the same with his grandchildren. We have only seen them twice in eight years.

Darren’s son is getting married soon to a lovely girl. Because I want to have a relationship with his children and grandchildren,

I called and offered our home for the rehearsal dinner. They want it to be simple, so I planned to have a catered meal in a tent set up on our lawn.

Here’s the real problem. Darren does not want 35 people in our home using the bathrooms, nor does he want the expense of feeding these people.

He also thinks 35 is too many people for a rehearsal dinner.

Ann, we have a lovely home and never have visitors because Darren doesn’t want to spend the money to have the carpets cleaned.

He has plenty of money, but he is extremely cheap. We haven’t had a vacation in the eight years we’ve been married because Darren won’t spend a dime for pleasure.

I would like to wash my hands of this rehearsal dinner and let Darren handle it any way he likes, but I don’t want to

disappoint the kids. A relationship with them is important to me. I am lonely — and angry. What should I do? — Ohio Blues

Dear Ohio: Fight for the rehearsal dinner, and tell Darren you will pay to have the carpets cleaned out of the grocery money. P.S.: What are you getting out of this marriage? Is it worth it?

What’s the truth about pot, cocaine, LSD, PCP, crack, speed and downers? “The Lowdown on Dope” has information on drugs. Send a self-addressed, long, business-sized envelope and a check or money order for \$5 (this includes postage and handling) to: Lowdown, c/o Ann Landers, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. To find out more about Ann Landers and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

ANN LANDERS (R)
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Tomorrow’s Horoscope

The waning Virgo moon is like a concerned mother urging us to clean our rooms. You might feel like you shouldn’t go out to play until your personal effects are in order, and indeed, you’ll have tons more fun once they are. Take the necessary steps to feel good about yourself and your environment. A vacuum will figure in to this equation.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You don’t have time to make extra work for yourself. Finding reasons to feel insecure or trying to get the attention of people who aren’t inclined to give it will only spin you off in a bad direction. Stick to the subject at hand.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The more you can do on your own today the better. Working with others could slow you down unnecessarily. However, when it’s time to play, you definitely have more fun with a group.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You’ll be so busy all day long that relaxation will seem like a luxury you can’t afford. Do it anyway. You need time to decompress. It’s important to your overall energy level.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You’ll do for others quite naturally. But remember that people like doing things for themselves, too. Be careful not to be so attentive that you accidentally prevent others from the joy of being involved in the action.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Today’s recipe for success includes: one part doing your own thing, three parts defying convention, half a cup of marching to a different drummer and a whole lot of dancing to music no one else can hear.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You are drawn to abstract ideas, art and music. In a weird way, you can see the reason and truth in it. It makes more sense to you than so-called conventional represen-

tations of the world.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When your inner life is in order, your surroundings are in order, and vice versa. It will take a great deal more effort than usual to attain a state of organization, but it will be worth the extra work.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You are interested in subjects that others find difficult to get into. That’s why you’ll be promoted or given a particular job. No one else could do it as well as you will.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Today, a certain zany courage takes hold of you once again. You’ll reject the standard proceedings and opt for a truly unconventional approach to work, love and life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If you want people to buy what you are selling, you have to make your product more visible. This is true even if what you are “selling” is your own great personality and your friendship. In that case, get out and mingle!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You’re getting good vibes from a distant member of your team — maybe from your adoring grandmother or a kindly teacher who remembers how sharp you were in class. Their happy thoughts bring you good luck.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Raise your profile. People like you once they get to know you. And if people don’t know about you, they don’t know to invite you to the party. Make it a goal to meet at least one new person.

TODAY’S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 5). You will guide the lives of others, as a result, wind up in your own beautiful spot. Your loved ones treat you right, and the rest of the world follows suit. In November, there’s an exciting career breakthrough. Your love life sizzles in May and then hits a comfortable groove in June. Daring travel happens in August. Libra and Sagittarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 14, 33, 23 and 17.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: “Wow, am I

ever sick and tired of people telling me that if I think positive thoughts I’ll have more money. I’m flat broke. What’s so positive about that? What advice do you have for a Pisces who is feeling less and less spiritual by the minute?”

Yes, it’s difficult to think in spiritual terms when your stomach is rumbling. And positive thinking alone is not going to fill your piggy bank. But isn’t it better than thinking negatively and being broke? You do have resources. List them. You have things to be grateful for — relationships, people who care about you, somewhere to sleep, places to go for food and, apparently, good communication skills and a talent for reaching out and speaking your mind! Continue this list on your own. This exercise isn’t going to fill your bank account, either. Not directly. But it will get you in the mindset to approach your problem more creatively. Bottom line: What good or service can you provide to others that they will pay you for? And/Or: How can you reduce your expenses? Also note: Pisces are highly impressionable and can pick up good and bad luck through osmosis. Hang out with people of means.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Lovely Libran Kate Winslet may be the youngest actress to have received six Academy Award nominations, but this Oscar winner doesn’t let such things go to her head. Known for her down-to-earth qualities, Winslet was born when Venus was in hardworking, fastidious Virgo. She’s even had a few laughs at her own expense, as she showed playing a version of herself in the comedy holiday “Extras.”

If you would like to write to *Ann Landers*, 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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HOLIDAY MATHIS

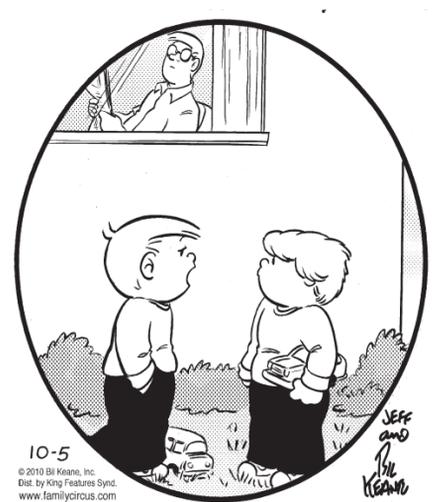
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM	News ABC	Vida Notic.	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	Office	Scrivner	BBC	Lyrics!	Cash Cab	marsoen	CSI: Crime Scene	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good Jonas	Nation Pardon	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Llena de Amor (SS)	Two Men Two Men	News	Caso Cerado	News	Seinfeld	Dr. Young	Business	70s Show	American Loggers	Ways Die	Bones			Phineas	SportsCenter	E:60
7:PM	No Ordinary Family	Hasta que el Dinero	Glee	NCIS	El Clon (SS)	The Biggest Loser	Office	Upd	Office	Nova (DVS)	One Tree Hill	Swords: Life	Ways Die	Bones	Movie: Love & Basketball, Allre W-odard	Phineas	College Football: Troy at Middle Tennessee State.	30 for 30
8:PM	Dancing With Stars	Soy Tu Dueña (SS)	Raising Wilde	NCIS: Los Angeles	El Fantasma de	Office	Office	Light of the Southwest	Office	POV	Life Unexpected	Swords: Life	Ways Die	Law & Order		Deck		2010 Poker
9:PM	(:01) Detroit 1-8-7	Aquí y Ahora (SS)	Simpsons How I Met	The Good Wife	Alguien te Mira (SS)	Parenthood	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Married		Dirty Jobs: Egg	Movie: Life, Obba Babatundé	Ways Die	Law & Order	106 & Park	Sonny		2010 Poker
10:PM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Lopez	Mark	Charlie Rose	King	Swords: Life	Blue	CSI: NY	The Mo'Nique	Good	30 for 30	SportsCenter	
11:PM	Nightline	Noticiero	Raymond	Letterman	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Jay Leno	Cortes	BBC	South Pk	Swords: Life	Blue	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Hannah	2010 Poker	Baseball Tonight	
12:AM	Extra	Tontas Cielo	Paid	Insider	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Lopez	Upd	T. Smiley (Off Air)	South Pk	Dirty Jobs: Egg	Movie: Death Wish 4: The Crackdown	Star Trek: Voyager	CSI: NY	Wizards	2010 Poker	SportsCenter	
1:AM	Paid	Mujer... Cero	King-Hill	Insider	Pagado	News	Poker After Dark	Church	Light of the Southwest	Cornerstone	Overhaul	Amazing Video	Southland	Wizards	College Football	SportsCenter		

DENNIS THE MENACE



"THIS 'TIME-OUT' CHAIR BRINGS BACK SOME COOL MEMORIES OF THINGS I SHOULDN'T DO."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I can't come over today. It's my dad's birthday and I have to stay home and play with him."

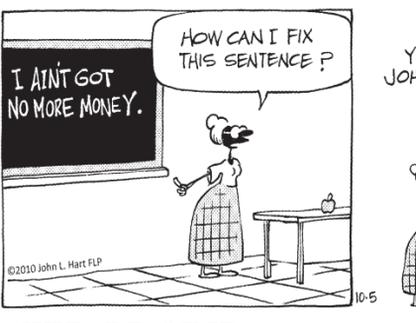
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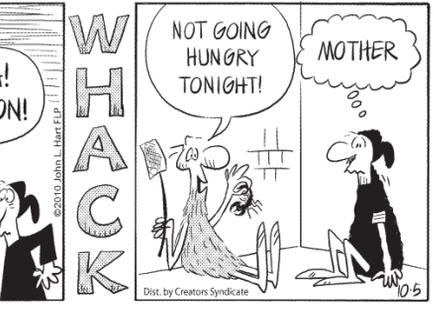
WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILLY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 5, the 278th day of 2010. There are 87 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 5, 1910, Portugal was proclaimed a republic following the abdication of King Manuel II in the face of a coup d'etat.

On this date:

In 1829, the 21st president of the United States, Chester Alan Arthur, was born in Fairfield, Vt. (Some sources list 1830.)

In 1892, the Dalton Gang, notorious for its train robberies, was practically wiped out while attempting to rob a pair of banks in Coffeyville, Kan.

In 1921, the World Series was covered live on radio for the first time as Newark, N.J. station WJZ relayed reports from the Polo Grounds, where the New York Giants were facing the New York Yankees. (Although the Yankees won the opener, 3-0, the Giants won the series, 5 games to 3.)

In 1931, Clyde Pangborn and Hugh Herndon completed the first non-stop flight across the Pacific Ocean, arriving in Washington state some 41 hours after leaving Japan.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman delivered the first televised White House address as he spoke on the world food crisis.

In 1953, Earl Warren was sworn in as the 14th chief justice of the United States, succeeding Fred M. Vinson.

In 1962, the Beatles' first hit recording, "Love Me Do," was originally released in the United Kingdom.

In 1970, British trade commissioner James Richard Cross was kidnapped in Canada by militant Quebec separatists; he was released the following December.

In 1988, Democrat Lloyd Bentsen lambasted Republican Dan Quayle during their vice-presidential debate, telling Quayle, "Senator, you're no Jack Kennedy."

In 1990, a jury in Cincinnati acquitted an art gallery and its director of obscenity charges stemming from an exhibit of sexually graphic photographs

Answer to previous puzzle

B	O	R	E	P	A	B	O	S	H	O	T			
A	P	E	S	E	R	R	O	R	H	I	K	E		
R	E	N	T	T	E	A	S	E	O	G	R	E		
B	R	O	A	D	C	A	S	T	H	A	H	A		
T	R	A	S	H	P	O	L	L						
M	O	D	E	S	T	R	U	N	S	I	N			
I	R	I	S		C	A	I	R	O	G	O	T		
T	E	N	S	L	I	P	P	E	R	H	O	E		
T	O	E	L	A	T	T	E		E	T	N	A		
S	T	P	E	T	E		G	E	I	S	E	R		
T	R	E	E		C	A	U	S	E					
S	T	E	E	P		L	A	S	T	S	T	A	G	E
E	A	S	E		H	A	B	I	T		E	T	A	L
E	D	E	N		E	V	A	D	E		S	I	L	K
R	A	T	S		P	A	L	E	R		T	E	A	S

Newsday Crossword

VOWELIZATION by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS**
- Go to the other side of the street
 - Air pollution
 - Doily fabric
 - "Shut up!"
 - Honolulu's island
 - Egg shape
 - In an appropriate way
 - Render unusable
 - Champagne stopper
 - New Year's self-promise
 - Is obligated to
 - Tee preceder
 - Source of shade
 - Opposed (to)
 - Misery ones
 - Relinquish legally
 - Computer input
 - Back of a ship
 - Ensnarers
 - Law enforcer
 - Genesis mountain
 - Not fulfilled, as responsibilities
 - Farm implements
 - Unseal
 - Annoyed persistently
 - Parts of eyeglasses
 - __ Jima
 - Big __, CA
 - "Get lost!"
 - Good judgment
 - Car for hire
 - Resound
 - Apartment that's owned
- DOWN**
- Norway's capital
 - Store-window sign
 - Carryall bags
 - A question of timing
 - Source of shade
 - Play in a puddle
 - Artillery specialist
 - Movement from place to place
 - Declare openly
 - Give a hoot
 - "Benevolent" lodge brothers
 - No longer new
 - Profit's opposite
 - Misbehave
 - Sci-fi author Jules
 - Dutch cheeses
 - Rote learning method
 - Got to one's feet
 - Part of a Dracula costume
 - Where Cincinnati is
 - Angry moods
 - Sore spot
 - Meat-and-vegetables dish
 - Speak unclearly
 - Mouse or squirrel
 - Puts up, as a building
 - Teacake
 - Store away
 - Money
 - Car-wheel connector
 - Cake decorator
 - Loafer or moccasin
 - Hammer or saw
 - Take __ account (consider)
 - Poems of praise
 - Snack

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15				16				
17					18				19				
20					21				22				
				23				24	25				
26	27	28	29				30	31			32	33	34
35					36	37			38				
39				40		41			42				
43					44			45		46			
47					48				49	50			
				51				52					
53	54	55			56	57	58			59	60	61	62
63					64					65			
66					67					68			
69					70					71			

Special teams leads Pats past Miami Dolphins 41-14

MIAMI (AP) — The New England Patriots had another big night, and this time the NFL's highest-scoring team totaled most of its points with Tom Brady and the rest of the offense cheering from the sideline.

Patrick Chung blocked two kicks and returned an interception for a touchdown, and New England scored twice on special teams to beat the hapless Miami Dolphins 41-14 on Monday night.

Brady threw for only 153 yards, and Randy Moss was held without a catch for the first time since 2006, but the Patriots still registered their biggest point total yet. They're averaging 33 points per game.

New England trailed 7-6 at halftime, but when Brandon Tate returned the second half kickoff 103 yards for a score, the deluge was on before a stunned crowd. In the fourth quarter, the stadium quickly emptied.

"Where's everyone going? 'The party' is just getting started at Sun Life Stadium," the Patriots posted on their Twitter feed.

"We had a tidal wave hit us," Dolphins coach Tony Sparano said. "It was a mess. Embarrassing. These fans deserve better than this."

New England (3-1) moved into a tie with the New York Jets for first place in the AFC East, while the Dolphins (2-2) dropped

to third place with their second divisional loss at home in eight days.

Chung blocked a punt to set up a touchdown, then blocked a field goal that Kyle Arrington returned 35 yards for a score.

"We practiced everything that happened — all of those blocks, and people doing their job allowed me to make a play," Chung said.

He returned an interception 51 yards for New England's final score.

Another unexpected contribution came from linebacker Rob Ninkovich, who had the first two interceptions of his five-year career. Chung and Arrington scored their first career TDs, and Patriots reserve fullback Danny Woodhead scored on an 11-yard reception.

The Patriots totaled 17 points in a span of 2:16 bridging halftime to take command.

Miami's Chad Henne was 29 of 39 for 302 yards and two scores, but he was yanked with 6½ minutes left after tying a career high with his third interception.

Henne blamed his first turnover on a forced pass, the second on inaccuracy and the last on a miscommunication.

"Overall it's my fault," he said. "I'll take that one as a quarterback. I'll put that on my shoulders."

The pass picked off by Chung was especially ugly.

"It shocked me," he said. "I was like, 'He threw it? Thanks.'"

Tyler Thigpen finished up and threw the Dolphins' fourth interception.

The Dolphins lost even though they netted 400 yards and had 23 first downs. Ninkovich's picks set up two field goals, and New England held Ronnie Brown to 27 yards rushing.

The Dolphins had a punt blocked for the second week in a row.

Tate took the second-half kickoff in the end zone, cut toward the right sideline and scored untouched, giving the Patriots their first lead. Miami went three and out, and Chung blocked Brandon Fields' punt.

"It's not the guy who blocks it, it's the other guys that hit the gaps and take the blockers and open it up for the guy that they missed," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. "It was a nice job by the whole team. ... We've been close on a couple and haven't gotten them, so it was great to get them."

Two plays later, BenJarvus Green-Ellis scored on a 12-yard run.

When the Dolphins lined up for a 53-yard field goal attempt that would have cut the deficit to 10 points,

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net



By Steve Becker

Precision Defense

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH		
♠	5	
♥	K Q 10 9 8 6	
♦	7 4 2	
♣	Q 9 7	
WEST		
♠	4	
♥	A 7 5 2	
♦	Q J 8 5 3	
♣	K 3 2	
EAST		
♠	9 7 6 2	
♥	4	
♦	K 10 9	
♣	A J 10 8 6	
SOUTH		
♠	A K Q J 10 8 3	
♥	J 3	
♦	A 6	
♣	5 4	

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

Opening lead — queen of diamonds.

Defense is generally acknowledged to be the most difficult part of the game, but through the years many useful signals have been developed to help the defenders overcome declarer's natural advantage.

Take this case from a national team event. Both Souths reached four spades after North had opened a weak two-bid. Both Wests led the queen of diamonds, East signaling with the ten. After taking the ace, both declarers drew trumps and then led the jack of hearts.

At the table where the winning defense was found, West had discarded the diamond five on the sec-

ond round of spades, and the seven and two of hearts on the next two spades. When the jack of hearts was led, West took the ace and returned the diamond three to East's king.

East was now at the crossroads. If he continued with a third diamond or cashed the ace of clubs and then reverted to diamonds after seeing West's apparently discouraging three of clubs, declarer would have made the contract, discarding his remaining loser(s) on dummy's hearts.

But East had taken careful note of his partner's three discards and the diamond three return at trick seven. It all added up to the following: West had discarded the five of diamond — his original fourth-best diamond — and then led the three, so he started with five diamonds and declarer with two. West had also played high-low in hearts to show an even number in that suit, which had to be four. (There would be no reason in this deal for West to signal that he had the ace of hearts, so the high-low had to be a count signal.)

South's pattern was therefore known to be 7-2-2-2. If he had the club king, four spades could not be defeated, so after taking the diamond king, East played the ace and another club to set the contract.

At the other table, where the signaling was not as precise, East tried to cash another diamond after winning the king, and declarer finished with an overtrick.

Tomorrow: Every card played tells a story.
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Ryder Cup can make or break careers

NEWPORT, Wales (AP) — This was the sort of Ryder Cup that can define a career.

There's Graeme McDowell, coming off his first major championship just four months earlier in the U.S. Open, feeling the sort of gut-wrenching pressure he's never known before — not even at Pebble Beach. He overcame it with the putt of a lifetime.

There's Rickie Fowler, the bushy-haired 21-year-old, making birdies on the last four holes to halve a match the Americans had to have for any chance of pulling off an improbable comeback against Europe.

Not bad for a rookie just a year removed from Q school.

And, of course, there's Hunter Mahan, who hopes this won't be the lasting impression of his career, a mano-a-mano for the ages with McDowell in the very last match of a Ryder Cup that went to extra time at Celtic Manor.

Mahan knew a tie would be good enough to bring the gold chalice back to America.

But he flubbed the chip shot and watched it slip away.

"It's going to sting," said Davis Love III, an assistant captain of the U.S. team. "It's going to sting for a while."

For McDowell and the Europeans, there was nothing but joy — and a big whew! They regained the cup by the narrowest of margins, 14½-13½, and it really

felt even closer than that.

"I've never felt nerves like that in my life," McDowell said. "I was really nervous over every shot."

The Americans started the day with a daunting three-point deficit, having been blown away in the final team session by the Europeans. But the U.S. always thrives at singles and, after a sluggish start, red started popping up all over the scoreboard.

Phil Mickelson and Dustin Johnson won for the first time all week. Tiger Woods romped to victory with the sort of inspired play that's been missing since the extramarital escapades were exposed and his marriage fell apart. Steve Stricker knocked

off Europe's best player, Lee Westwood.

Still, the comeback appeared to run out of steam when Fowler barely escaped elimination at No. 15 but still trailed Edoardo Molinari by three holes. The young American had to win them all to pull out a half-point, and that's just what he did with one of the greatest clutch performances in Ryder Cup history.

A conceded birdie at 16 was the easy part. Fowler rolled in a make-or-break 15-footer at the 17th to take the match to the final hole. That's where he pulled off his last bit of magic, pitching over the water to 18 feet and making the sort of nery putt that most guys won't face in their lifetimes.

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 8

ously we were still a week and half away from playing them."

Players were off from Thursday afternoon until showing up Monday morning. However, they seem to have picked up where they left off because Phillips said it was a "spirited" session.

"It's like starting the season over, almost, as far as their mental feeling," he said.

Physically, the Cowboys are doing well, too.

Witten and his backup, Martellus Bennett, were the only players who didn't practice

Monday. Phillips said he expects everyone to suit up Wednesday.

When Phillips spoke to the team Monday morning, he pointed out that everyone in the division has two losses. When he spoke to reporters, Phillips downplayed the division and conference races.

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

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Roethlisberger, Cushing, Holmes return

(AP) — Ben Roethlisberger and Antonio Holmes have something else in common aside from their touchdown that won the 2009 Super Bowl. Both came off four-game NFL suspensions Monday.

Roethlisberger returned to the Pittsburgh Steelers, while Holmes is back with the New York Jets. They are among seven players whose bans ended, including last season's top defensive rookie, Brian Cushing of the Houston Texans.

"I couldn't wait to get here," Roethlisberger said on his first day back with the team he led to titles after the 2005 and 2008 seasons.

Cushing was one of three linebackers suspended for performance-enhancing drugs, along with Gerald McRath of the Tennessee Titans and Robert James of the Atlanta Falcons.

Wide receiver Holmes, traded by Pittsburgh to the Jets in the offseason, Bills tight end Shawn Nelson and Broncos running back LenDale White were sidelined for substance abuse. White is on injured reserve and out for the season.

Roethlisberger was accused of, but

not charged with, sexually assaulting a Georgia college student following a night of drinking in a college bar March 5. Despite not being charged, he was suspended under the NFL's personal conduct policy.

He spent his Sundays watching the Steelers on TV and feeling like, well, a helpless fan.

"I have no fingernails left," he said. "It was hard, it really was, to watch them at home. I was on the edge of my chair, trying to keep busy. It was tough, but it was fun watching them win."

The Steelers have started 3-1 and are tied atop the AFC North with Baltimore, which won at Pittsburgh 17-14 on Sunday.

Also at 3-1 are the Texans without Cushing, the Jets minus Holmes, and the Falcons without James.

Cushing was not available for comment Monday, but will practice Wednesday and play on Sunday against the Giants, coach Gary Kubiak said. Cushing will go through an individual workout Tuesday.

Cushing was suspended in May for testing positive for HCG, a fertility

drug that's on the NFL's banned substances list. HCG can be used to mask steroid use.

He started every game at outside linebacker last season, making 133 tackles.

"First off, I don't worry about him working," Kubiak said. "I know he's a worker and been putting himself through everything he can possibly put himself through without playing a game. You know, there is a level of sharpness, just from not playing, not taking all the snaps. Everybody on the team is about 250 snaps ahead of him right now in an NFL season. But he's proven that he can play missing practice; he did that last year."

Holmes, whose spectacular catch in the back of the end zone against Arizona won the Super Bowl for Pittsburgh in February 2009, was projected as the Jets' top deep threat when he was acquired. Coach Rex Ryan isn't worried if Holmes will be ready to contribute Monday night against Minnesota.

"Like I say, I don't think he's ready to play," Ryan said with a smile. "I don't think you can even consider defending him. Maybe that's the best

way to do it. Then, let him light you up for 200 yards."

Nelson might become an injury exemption on the Buffalo roster after he revealed Monday that he underwent groin surgery four weeks ago.

"I'm excited to back with my brothers on the football field," he said, adding the down time was tormenting. "It's no fun being at home. I was able to be here and be in the meetings, and I could do everything but be at practice and go to the games. It's not fun being at home on Sunday watching those guys compete and I can't be there with them."

McRath worked out Monday and will work again Tuesday with Titans strength coach Steve Watterson. Coach Jeff Fisher plans to work McRath back into practice on special teams and defense. McRath worked with the first-team defense at outside linebacker most of the offseason and much of training camp at that spot before his snaps tapered off before his suspension took effect.

"How much he'll play, I don't know. Understand he may be a little rusty," Fisher said.

Titans coordinator fined \$40,000

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The NFL fined Tennessee Titans defensive coordinator Chuck Cecil \$40,000 Monday for his obscene gesture at game officials.

The league said Cecil violated a rule that prohibits use of abusive, threatening or insulting language or gestures to game officials.

Television cameras caught Cecil using his right hand to make the gesture when officials flagged his defense for a neutral zone infraction during the second quarter Sunday. The penalty gave Denver first-and-goal, and Kyle

Orton threw a 2-yard touchdown pass on the next play for a 7-0 lead.

Titans coach Jeff Fisher confirmed the fine in his Monday news conference. He called the league's punishment swift and appropriate.

"Clearly, I'm speaking on behalf of the organization that kind of conduct on the sideline, any place for that matter, is inappropriate. The league has already dealt with the issue," Fisher said.

Video of Cecil's gesture was on YouTube by halftime. Ce-

cil declined comment after the game, a 26-20 loss in which the Titans were flagged 10 times for a season-high 111 yards in penalties. He apologized in a statement Monday night.

"I want to apologize to the NFL, organization, fans and my family for my gesture yesterday. It was inappropriate, and there is no excuse for that type of behavior under any circumstance," Cecil said.

This isn't Cecil's first fine as a coordinator.

The NFL fined him \$20,000 last December.

VOLLEYBALL

Continued from Page 8

of told them how Snyder scored some points on them. We're going to try to take advantage of that."

Osborne said tonight is a good opportunity for the Lady Steers, and the players' increased confidence with the recent wins could play a factor in how they play against Wylie.

Anderson said the Lady Steers are beginning to peak and a win against a team like Wylie would be one of the biggest of the year.

Ross believes her teammates are prepared for the challenge.

"I think we're finally all getting together as a team," she said. "We're ready for this game."

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

AP source: Contador samples show plastic residues

A urine sample taken from three-time Tour de France winner Alberto Contador showed abnormally high levels of plastic residues that could indicate he received a transfusion of his own blood during this year's race, a person with knowledge of the test results told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Contador, who has previously denied receiving a transfusion, was provisionally suspended by the international cycling federation last week after a small amount of the banned drug clenbuterol was discovered in one of his samples by a laboratory in Cologne, Germany. The Spanish rider blamed contaminated beef for the result.

The Cologne lab also found plastic traces that might turn up after a transfusion of blood from a plastic bag, according to the person, who spoke to the AP on condition of ano-

nymity because Contador's investigation by the UCI is ongoing.

Contador's abnormal sample showed eight times the normal amount of the plasticizer, the person said.

Contador has denied he underwent a blood transfusion before a grueling mountain stage on July 22.

His spokesman, Jacinto Vidarte, on Tuesday denied any plastic residues were found in the tests.

"We are not aware of any findings of this plastic substance in any of the tests," Vidarte said. "We — officially and unofficially — have no information on anything to do with this. There were no traces of plastic in any of the tests."

The plasticizer test result was also reported last week by French sports daily L'Equipe and German television network ARD. The New

York Times reported on the finding Tuesday.

The person who spoke to the AP would not confirm whether the plasticizer was detected in a test on July 20 or July 21.

The UCI said the clenbuterol was detected on July 21, the Tour's final rest day. The Times quoted an anonymous source as saying the plastic residues were detected in a separate test on the previous day.

UCI spokesman Enrico Carpani told the AP on Tuesday that the cycling body was working with the World Anti-Doping Agency to analyze the elements of Contador's case. He said the UCI would not comment further, citing confidentiality rules.

Contador has been provisionally suspended by the UCI and will lose his Tour de France title if he is convicted of doping. He also risks a two-

year suspension.

A detection method for self-blood transfusion has yet to be fully validated, but WADA director general David Howman told the AP last week that "its use for anti-doping purposes is partially validated and evidence from it, among others, can be used before tribunals."

Cycling and WADA officials also have the possibility of storing Contador's samples for years and retesting them once the detection method is validated.

Contador has challenged cycling authorities to freeze his urine and blood samples until technology can show he rode clean in this year's race.

Experts in blood doping say people who undergo intravenous blood transfusions for medical reasons or blood doping to increase performance are potentially exposed to the plasticizer di-(2-ethylhexyl)

phthalate (DEHP) found in intravenous bags.

Experts say professional riders who cheat with blood transfusions generally receive them before big mountain stages. A French expert working for the French anti-doping agency, professor Michel Rieu, said last month that the combined use of self-blood transfusion and microdoses of the latest generation of blood-booster EPO is common in cycling.

A scientific study recently published by Spanish experts evaluated the exposure to DEHP by measuring the plasticizer metabolites in selected groups of subjects. It found that concentrations in urine of all three metabolites are significantly higher in people receiving blood transfusions.

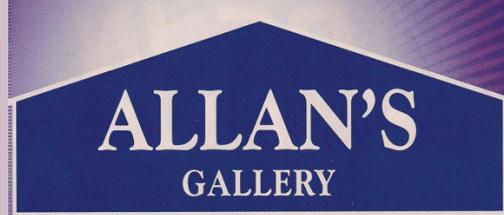
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Pistons to sell team to Mike Ilitch

DETROIT (AP) — The Detroit Pistons have decided to sell the team to Tigers and Red Wings owner Mike Ilitch, a person involved with the process said Tuesday.

The person, who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because of a confidentiality agreement, said both sides were negotiating financial terms.

If the sale goes through, Ilitch would control of three of the city's four major professional sports teams.

Ilitch, the Little Caesars pizza mogul, said in August he wanted to buy the Pistons to keep them in town.

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