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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY

OCTOBER 12, 2010



VOLUME 105, NUMBER 264

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Courtesy photo

"Poltergeist" will be shown Saturday at Heart of the City Park in downtown Big Spring. The movie will begin at dark.

'Poltergeist' to be shown in downtown Big Spring

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

The Big Spring Film Society will help usher in the Halloween holiday Saturday, as the group prepares to screen one of the most famous horror films of all time in Heart of the City Park.

Film Society Chairman Brandon Johnson said the group had previously decided to wrap up their season of outdoor screenings with the showing of "Jurassic Park" in August, but jumped at the chance to screen "Poltergeist" so close to Halloween.



Johnson

"It is an opportunity we couldn't resist," Johnson said. "It also fits right in with the Steven Spielberg retrospective we've been doing. Anyone who has seen 'Poltergeist' will tell you the film has Spielberg's fingerprints all over it, even if you don't see his name in the credits. It was more of a Spielberg film than a Tobe Hooper movie."

"The film is rated PG, but the public is warned it contains some extremely scary situations, and your young children will sleep with you until they are about 13 years old if you decide to bring them along."

If Johnson seems excited about the "Poltergeist" screening, it's no wonder. "Poltergeist" is a film that

holds a very special place in my childhood memories," he said with a smile. "It's the film that caused me to bury my Ronald McDonald doll because I was afraid it was going get me. And it also caused me to sleep with my parents until I was 12 years old. It doesn't contain the type of over-the-top gore most recent horror movies feature, but it is certainly enough to scare the pants off most people."

The film society began its Spielberg retrospective more than a year ago, having held a screening of the Hollywood classic "Jaws" near the waters of Comanche Trail Lake and, most recently, "Raiders of the

See MOVIE, Page 3A

Oil field worker dies from injuries

Second individual said still in critical condition

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

An oil field worker burned in an explosion at an oil well near the Howard and Martin county line Aug. 19 died Thursday at University Medical Center in Lubbock.

Abel Garcia, 38, died from wounds sustained in the oil field accident after spending nearly two months in the burn unit at University Medical Center.

Also injured in the accident was Fernando Zamora. He remains in critical condition. The cities of residence for the two men have not been released by law enforcement officials.

According to emergency response officials, the incident occurred at approximately 8 a.m. at an oil well located near FM 3900 — approximately 15 miles north of Stanton — in Martin County while a Basic Energy crew was preparing to perform maintenance on the well's pulling unit.

Eric Finley, communications manager for University Medical Center in Lubbock, said the two men were brought in by air evacuation, where both were admitted to the burn unit and classified in critical condition.

Martin County Deputy Sheriff and Emergency Management Coordinator Ashley Borgstedte said the accident is being investigated by the Occupational Safety and Health Association (OSHA).

"They are still gathering information at the accident site," Borgstedte said.

According to Elizabeth Todd, public information officer for OSHA, the investigation into the accident is ongoing.

"All I can tell you at this time is the investigation is open and ongoing," Todd said. "It is OSHA's practice not to make comments until the investigation is completed, and the investigators have up to six months to finish, so it could be quite some time before we release any findings."

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

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Forsan ISD board rejects bids for methods to cover walkway

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer

FORSAN — School trustees here rejected two bids for providing a covered/enclosed walkway at Elbow Elementary during their monthly meeting Monday evening.

Currently, Elbow students must brave the elements as they walk between the school's main building and the library, which is housed in a portable building, said Randy Johnson, superintendent of Forsan Independent School District.

"When we added our pre-kindergarten and redid our special education programs a couple of years ago, that took

up the space we'd been using for our library, so we moved that to a portable building," Johnson said.

The only problem with that move, however, is that the space is open to the elements, so officials have been looking at ways to either cover the area or enclose it altogether, plus provide cover for students as they wait to board buses at the end of the school day.

The first two bids the district received, however, were rejected as too expensive or ineffective, Johnson said.

Providing an enclosed walkway between the two buildings, plus cover the bus stag-

ing area, would cost around \$150,000, Johnson said.

The other bid trustees considered — a partial covering comprised of synthetic material — was rejected as an ineffective solution to the problem, he added.

"The first option proved to be very expensive ... and the second option was rejected because the covering wouldn't have caught all the rainwater," Johnson said. "So, we're going back to the drawing board. We're going to go and try to draw up some bids to do something between those two options — something that would cover but not necessarily enclose the area."

Johnson said he hopes to have new bids to present to the school board at its November meeting.

In other business, trustees approved:

- A series of local policy updates.
- The annual "highly qualified teacher" list.
- Reports on the district's Adequate Yearly Progress rating, as well as revenue and expenditures and investments.

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

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Siggins leads way for Hawks' rodeo



Courtesy Photo

K.C. Fryar performs in the steer wrestling event at the Vernon Junior College rodeo. The Hawks continue to stay busy with their next competition at West Texas A&M University, which begins Thursday and ends Saturday.

BY CINDY SMITH

Special to the Herald

Although Howard Colleg calf roper Josh Siggins led the team with a fourth-place finish in the average, the weekend proved to be a tough one for the Hawk rodeo teams as they competed at Vernon College Oct. 7 through 9 in Vernon.

Sophomore returner Josh Siggins scored an 8.50 in the calf roping long round which was enough for second place in the round and came back in the short go with a fourth place 10.50 to secure his fourth-place finish in the average.

The Hawk steer wrestlers had a good showing in the long round but couldn't pull it together enough to take home the top prize in the average.

Clinton Teller split fourth with a 9.8 average while returner Ryan Viva ended in a three-

way tie for fifth with 18.3 in the average. Viva broke the barrier in the short round for a 13.5 or might have come home with the win. KC Fryar also found himself in the short go after a 4.8 in the long round and hit 11.10 in the average for sixth place.

"We're right on the verge of some good things," said Greg Kermick, Howard College Rodeo Coach. "But in this tough conference (Southwest), we have to push beyond that because close just doesn't count."

Other Hawk rodeo athletes in the news for the weekend were Cody Samora and Bailie Smith.

Samora found himself in a four-way split for fourth place for the weekend. He scored a 79

See HAWKS, Page 2B

Rangers, Rays aces ready to square off again

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Rays manager Joe Maddon spoke matter-of-factly, assessing Tampa Bay's chances of completing an improbable comeback against the Texas Rangers in the opening round of the AL playoffs.

Down 2-0 after losing the first two games of the series at home, the AL East champions rebounded to win the next two on the road and force a deciding Game 5 on Tuesday night at Tropicana Field.

Postseason ace-for-hire Cliff Lee will start for Texas, hoping to finish what he started with a dominating performance in Game 1.

The Rangers built on the 5-1 victory and were five outs from their first postseason series win before the sputtering Rays — in Maddon's words — got their "mojo" back.

"Getting ahead is really a big component in this series," said Maddon, who will send 19-game winner David Price to the mound in a rematch of the starting pitchers from the opener.

"The first three games we just did not show up. All of a sudden we showed up

"They proved they can beat us on our field, we proved we can beat them on their field. This is what it's about now."

Ron Washington,
Texas Rangers manager

for what, one and a half games now? Definitely there's a difference in the dugout and within the clubhouse. It's back to where it had been, and that's where we need to be. We play off our internal emotions pretty well, and we didn't have any."

The Rays, who had the AL's best record this season, are trying to become the sixth team in major league history to win a postseason series after losing the first two games at home. The 2001 New York Yankees were the last to do it (and the only ones to rally in a best-of-five playoff), bouncing back against Oakland.

Maddon likes Price's chances of completing the task, even though the 25-year-old was outpitched by Lee in Game 1.

"He was not satisfied in what he did that first game. I know him, he took a lot of that on himself," Maddon said.

"But I do believe any kind of mistakes he thought he made, he's not going to make them in Game 5. He's got the ability, both mentally and physically, to make the corrections, so that's what I see from David. I see a very, very good performance."

The Rangers are the only current major league franchise that has never won a playoff series. They outscored the Rays 11-1 in the first two games and led in the eighth inning of Game 3 before Tampa Bay fought back.

Since batting .123 (10 for 81) with one homer through the fifth inning of Game 3, the Rays have hit .362 (21 for 58) with four homers.

Texas manager Ron Washington is confident Lee can cool the bats again.

"They proved they can beat us on our field, we proved we can beat them on their field. This is what it's about now," Washington said when asked if

he has a message for his team.

"They have the right person they feel that's going to be throwing tomorrow, and we certainly feel the same way. So it's a matter of going out there, getting Cliff some runs. And if we get him some runs, he'll take it to the finish line. That's what it's all about."

Lee, obtained from Seattle in early July with this type of situation in mind, is 5-0 with a 1.52 ERA in six career postseason starts.

The 2008 AL Cy Young Award winner was 4-0 with a 1.56 ERA in the postseason for Philadelphia last October, including a pair of wins over the Yankees in the World Series.

Still, the Rays are confident. After all, they did beat him three times this season.

"Obviously, he's had good postseason success. But at the same time, we're in a good spot," third baseman Evan Longoria said. "We've been able to bring the series back home, and we have our horse on the mound, too."

See RANGERS, Page 2B

Cowboys have effort, playing 'stupid football'

JAIME ARON

AP Pro Football Writer

IRVING (AP) — Keith Brooking looked his Dallas Cowboys teammates before kickoff and could tell they were ready to play Tennessee, just like he expected following two weeks of "some of the best practices I've ever been a part of."

After watching the game film, he's convinced everyone was playing as hard as they could.

Yet Dallas lost. Again. By piling up penalties and other mistakes. Again.

And despite all the Cowboys did wrong, they were in it to the end. Again.

Dallas is near the top of the league in offensive

and defensive statistics, but is 1-3, last in the NFC East and off to its worst start since Troy Aikman retired and Quincy Carter took over in 2001.

All the offseason talk about the Cowboys playing the Super Bowl in their home stadium seems ridiculous now that they're 0-2 there, which also hadn't happened since '01.

Brooking, a defensive captain, said the problem — and solution — is simple: "You can't play stupid football."

The Cowboys committed 12 penalties for 133 yards, the second time this season they've drawn that many flags. On Monday, Dallas

See COWBOYS, Page 2B



HERALD Photo/Tony Claxton

The Big Spring Lady Steers' Clara Benavides digs a ball against Abilene Wylie. The Lady Steers are coming off a win in four sets against Brownwood and take on Snyder at 6:30 p.m. today in Steer Gym.

Sports in brief

Big Spring Quarterback Club

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

Over 80 2-man scramble

Gaines County Golf Course is hosting an over

80 2-man scramble 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.

Golf tournament

Big Spring Country Club is hosting a 6-6-6 tour-

namment (six holes scramble, six holes low ball and six holes modified alternate shot) at 1 p.m. Oct. 23 and 24. Entry fee is \$60 per player plus the golf cart. Private carts are welcome. Entry fee includes barbecue on the course Oct. 23. Field will be flighted by first round score. Number of flights determined by number of entries.

For more information or to enter, call the Pro Shop at (432) 267-5354.

Obituaries

Pauline White

Pauline White, 91, of Midland, formerly of Big Spring died Sunday, Oct. 10, 2010, at her residence. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2010, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Keith Weaver officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2010, at the funeral home.

She was born July 16, 1919, in Blair, Okla., and married Wilfred Lee White on Aug. 7, 1937, in Stanton. He preceded her in death

Dec. 8, 2000.

She was a long time resident of Big Spring and had worked at the Big Spring State Hospital for 16 years, retiring in 1986. She moved to Midland in 2006. She was a member of East Fourth Street Baptist Church.

Survivors include one daughter and son-in-law, Carolyn and Roy Cox of Midland; eight grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by one son, Perry L. White Sr.; three grandchildren; and two brothers, Rodie Matlock and Kenneth Matlock.

The family suggests memorials be made to Big Spring Senior Citizen Center, 310 Nolan, Big Spring 79720.

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

Take Note

• Crispy's Restaurant, 1904 Birdwell, is the United Way Dine Dine Out Restaurant of the Week. A portion of the proceeds received through Sunday at Crispy's will be donated to the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County.

• A fund has been established at Citizen's Credit Union for the Lupe Chavarría family, who lost all of their possessions in a recent house fire. For more information, contact the credit union at 267-6373.

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

• Do you have a minute? An hour? How about making a difference in someone's life? Become a hospice volunteer. One hour a month can make a difference. Whether it visiting a patient, or working in the office, or helping with a craft, you can make a difference. We can work around your schedule. If interested, please call Michelle Coutermarsh, at Compass Hospice, 263-5999 or apply in person at 1003 E. FM 700 in Big Spring.

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

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

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

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

Police blotter

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

- JOHNNY LEE RIOS, 25, of 710 Creighton, was arrested Monday on a charge of assault – family violence.
- FRANK HERNANDEZ, 40, of 311 N. Aylesford, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- JAMES WARREN TIPTON, 21, 1201 E. 17th St., was arrested Monday on warrants for speeding, failure to appear (three counts), failure to maintain financial responsibility and disregarding a stop sign.
- CHANCE PATRICK NEWTON, 20, of 1309 Virginia, was arrested Monday on warrants for no safety belt and failure to appear (three counts).
- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 900 block of E. Fourth Street.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported: In the 700 block of Johnson. In the 1900 block of Wasson Road.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported: In the 200 block of W. FM 700. In the 300 block of E. 20th Street.
- THEFT was reported: In the 400 block of E. Fourth Street. In the 3600 block of Dixon.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 700 block of S. Bell.

Sheriff

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

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 65 inmates at the time of this report.

- CHAD DANIEL DEAX, 37, was arrested Monday by DPS on a charge of no insurance.
- JAMES WARREN TIPTON III, 21, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for speeding, violation of a promise to appear (three counts), failure to maintain financial responsibility, failure to appear, running a stop sign, displaying an expired license plate and failure to display driver's license.
- CHANCELLA PARRISH, 26, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia and municipal warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility, driving while license invalid and failure to appear (two counts).

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of E. Midway Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported near the intersection of Starling and Mitchell. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of S. Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

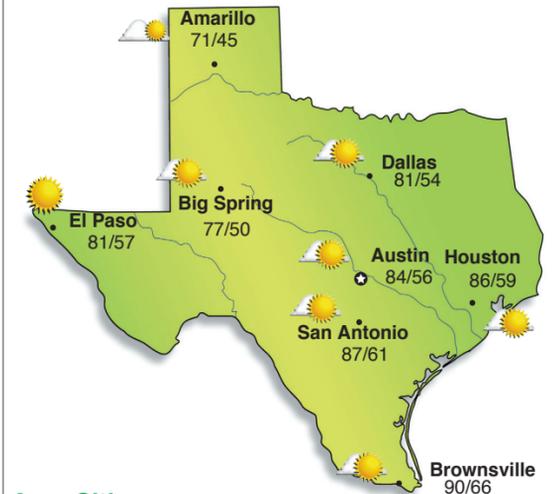
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. and closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 10/13	Thu 10/14	Fri 10/15	Sat 10/16	Sun 10/17
77/50 Except for a few afternoon clouds, mainly sunny. High 77F.	77/50 Sunshine. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the low 50s.	80/51 Plenty of sun. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the low 50s.	80/55 A few clouds. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the mid 50s.	82/57 Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 50s.
Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 7:16 PM	Sunrise: 7:49 AM Sunset: 7:15 PM	Sunrise: 7:50 AM Sunset: 7:13 PM	Sunrise: 7:50 AM Sunset: 7:12 PM	Sunrise: 7:51 AM Sunset: 7:11 PM

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Amarillo	71	45	pt sunny	Kingsville	91	60	mst sunny
Austin	84	56	mst sunny	Livingston	86	55	mst sunny
Beaumont	86	60	mst sunny	Longview	83	53	mst sunny
Brownsville	90	66	mst sunny	Lubbock	74	46	pt sunny
Brownwood	82	52	mst sunny	Lufkin	85	56	mst sunny
Corpus Christi	88	63	mst sunny	Midland	79	53	mst sunny
Corsicana	81	52	mst sunny	Raymondville	91	63	mst sunny
Dallas	81	54	mst sunny	Rosenberg	87	58	mst sunny
Del Rio	88	58	mst sunny	San Antonio	87	61	mst sunny
El Paso	81	57	sunny	San Marcos	85	57	mst sunny
Fort Stockton	79	53	mst sunny	Sulphur Springs	83	53	mst sunny
Gainesville	79	49	mst sunny	Sweetwater	78	52	mst sunny
Greenville	81	50	mst sunny	Tyler	83	52	mst sunny
Houston	86	59	mst sunny	Weatherford	79	50	mst sunny
				Wichita Falls	79	48	mst sunny

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Marjory Jennings, Flute
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Favre mum on allegations

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Brett Favre stepped up to the podium after a discouraging loss to the New York Jets and spent about 20 minutes evading questions the same way he tried to avoid tacklers.

The Minnesota Vikings quarterback was asked several times after Monday night's 29-20 loss to the New York Jets to discuss the NFL's investigation into allegations that he sent racy messages and lewd photos to a Jets game hostess in 2008.

Each time, the three-time MVP did not address the topic. He said he was disappointed his team lost the game and his only focus had been on trying to beat the Jets.

Asked if the allegations against him are true or false, a tight-lipped Favre said: "If you want to talk about what happened in the football game tonight, I'd love to."

Earlier Monday, he reportedly apologized to his teammates for the distraction caused by the allegations and NFL investigation.

Neither coach Brad Childress nor Favre would discuss what

the quarterback said to his teammates in that meeting, but both confirmed the 20-year veteran addressed the team.

"That's between me and my teammates, apparently not all of them," Favre said, a reference to a teammate who might have divulged what was said.

A person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press that Favre spoke to his teammates Monday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk publicly about the conversation.

ESPN reported on Favre's apology.

Asked to characterize whether the allegations have been an embarrassment, Favre said "I am embarrassed about this football game. I thought we gave a great effort."

Asked to comment on the NFL investigation, he said: "I said what I had to say. I'm disappointed we lost this football game."

Favre praised the addition of Randy Moss and says despite the team's 1-3 record, he's optimistic the Vikings can turn it around.

The Vikings started slow, with Favre losing two fumbles and being sacked early. He came on strong in the second half with three touchdown passes before a late interception ended the comeback attempt.

"You know what, it's just no different than any other time," Favre said of whether the game was tough to get ready for with all that has been going on. "I concentrated on this game, gave it my all, it wasn't good enough."

Childress said he thought Favre was prepared.

"I thought, by and large, he knew what was going on," Childress said. "But I didn't think we were ready to play coming out of the locker room and that starts with me."

Earlier Monday, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said the league is looking to "find out all the facts" before determining "what the next step is from there, if any."

Goodell spoke in Chicago, where he is attending league meetings. There was no indication from the NFL when the investigation would be complete.

HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

in the long round but, like every other bull rider in the short go, couldn't hold on for the eight count and finished with a no time.

Smith, representing the lady Hawks, timed out with a 2.90 on her first effort in the breakaway roping but couldn't get a time in the short go and lost chances in the average.

"We just have to keep

going at it every week," added Kernick. "Each week brings us a new opportunity to improve and that's what we want to see."

The Hawk rodeo teams will continue working through their fall schedule by competing next at West Texas A&M University on October 14-16 in Canyon.

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

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

Lee said he doesn't feel extra pressure because of the Rangers' history of postseason futility.

"I have heard about that, but that really doesn't matter to me that much, to be honest with you. This is a different team," he said. "It's a whole different set of circumstances."

"What has happened in the past, they could have had 60 World Series rings and that's not going to change the way I am approaching this season and this postseason. ... We want to get a ring, period. Regardless of whether they've done it every season up until now or never done it before."

Lee allowed one run and five hits, walked none and matched his postseason best of 10 strikeouts in Game 1.

He doesn't plan to change much for Game 5.

"I am really a guy that goes out there and

makes pitches and sees how the hitter swings at them and makes adjustments on the fly," Lee said. "Obviously, I will have a game plan and what I did last time, a lot of that worked. So they will have to prove to me that they are making adjustments before I will make a big adjustment. That's how I have always pitched."

Price yielded homers to Nelson Cruz and Bengie Molina while giving up five runs and nine hits in the opener.

At 25, the young lefty is in his first full season in the majors. But he demonstrated two years that he's capable of thriving on a big stage, coming out of the bullpen to get the final four outs against Boston in Game 7 of the AL championship series.

He's eager to redeem himself and relishes the challenge of doing it against Lee.

"This is what you grow up as little kids seeing, growing up watching all the games, the postseason games and World Series games ..."

Giants send Cox into retirement with series win

ATLANTA (AP) — The San Francisco Giants couldn't wait to get to the champagne, to pop the cork on a celebration eight years in the making.

But first, they had to pay their respects to the guy in the other dugout.

Bobby Cox's career ended when the Atlanta Braves lost to the Giants 3-2 in the deciding game of the NL division series Monday night, giving San Francisco its first playoff victory since a run to the World Series in 2002.

The chants of "Bobby! Bobby! Bobby!" from the crowd at Turner Field were to be expected for a retiring manager who's sure to wind up in Cooperstown. The

more touching gesture was provided by the Giants, who quit jumping around long enough to clap for Cox and tip their caps in his direction.

"He's a legend in this sport," second baseman Freddy Sanchez said. "He's been a great mentor to so many people in the sport. We had to show our respect. First things first. Then we could go celebrate."

They certainly had reason.

Twenty-one-year-old rookie Madison Bumgarner pitched six strong innings. Late-season pickup Cody Ross homered and drove in the go-ahead run with a two-out single in the seventh. Finally, the San Francisco bullpen

closed out a series that was tight and tense to the very end.

The Braves coaxed two walks out of San Francisco closer Brian Wilson in the bottom of the ninth, but they couldn't get the hit that might've extended Cox's career for at least one more game. Omar Infante struck out on a checked swing, and Melky Cabrera hit a routine grounder to third.

Just like that, it was over.

The Giants were moving on to face two-time NL champion Philadelphia in the league championship series.

Cox was hanging up that familiar No. 6 uniform for the final time.

Texans' offense struggles against Giants' dominant D

HOUSTON (AP) — Arian Foster went nowhere. Matt Schaub was off-target. Andre Johnson was bottled up.

The Houston Texans' high-powered offense sputtered in every area in a 34-10 loss to the New York Giants on Sunday, producing only 195 yards.

Texans coach Gary Kubiak took the blame for the performance, but there was plenty to go around.

The offensive line

was dominated by New York's defensive front. Foster, the NFL's leading rusher through the four games, was held to 25 yards on 11 carries. Schaub was sacked three times, lost a fumble and threw an interception. Johnson caught five passes, but was targeted 13 times.

The Texans (3-2) were held to a franchise-low 24 yards rushing. Kubiak said late Monday afternoon that he hadn't even looked ahead to

Sunday's game against Kansas City (3-1), because he was still pouring over what went wrong against the Giants.

"They stopped pretty much everything we did," Kubiak said.

New York led 21-0 early in the second quarter, and the Texans had only run 13 plays for 28 yards by then. When Kubiak watched the replay, he picked out at least eight missed assignments by offensive linemen dur-

ing that stretch.

"That has not been us at all," Kubiak said. "We have been somewhat consistent from that standpoint."

The Giants had 10 sacks in a 17-3 win over Chicago the previous week, but the Texans' offensive linemen blamed the breakdowns against New York on their own fundamental mistakes.

"When four guys are doing it right, and one guy doesn't, the play is not going to work out."

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B

players dismissed flags for holding, pass interference and such as things that happen in a game. The stupid ones were pre- and post-snap stuff, like left tackle

Marc Colombo costing them 15 yards on a kickoff by slipping during a touchdown celebration and doing a somersault through the end zone.

But those weren't their only mistakes.

They threw three interceptions and didn't come up with any turnovers, not even on a pass that looked as if their cornerback was the intended target.

They allowed six sacks, two of them pushing back field-goal tries (one a narrow miss). The special teams also gave up a long kickoff return to set up the winning touchdown in the final minutes.

Great teams don't do those things, at least not in one game.

Good teams find a way to overcome it. Lousy teams just keep messing up.

What baffles the Cowboys is that they've made a lot of really good plays, just not enough to make up for all their flubs. For instance, they had a 400-yard passer, a 150-yard receiver and a 100-yard rusher against the Titans.

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ENTRY FORM IN WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY EDITION OF THE BIG SPRING HERALD



Courtesy photo

Local Republicans recently held a fund-raiser to support Jim Landtroop of Plainview, candidate for Texas State Representative for District 85. Pictured from left are Rob Haney, Dene Sheppard, Jim Landtroop, Larry Hollar and Craig Bailey, the Howard County Republican Party chairman.

Texas briefs

Texan put on face transplant list

FORT WORTH (AP) — A 25-year-old Texan who suffered devastating burns after coming in contact with a live electric power line says he has been put on a waiting list for a face transplant.

Dallas Wiens (weens) of Fort Worth lost his nose, lips and skin from forehead to chin in a 2008 construction accident.

More details on Wiens, who has been treated at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, are expected to be released Wednesday.

Wiens, who was left blind by the accident, says he was notified last Friday that he made the waiting list for face transplant surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

Wiens, whose health insurance had run out, is covered under a new federal law by a policy carried by his parents. The law extends family insurance coverage to adult children until age 26.

Parents sue Dallas utility over death

DALLAS (AP) — A utility has been sued over the 2008 death of a bicyclist who was struck and killed by a speeding Dallas police car in a videotaped accident.

WFAA-TV reports the lawsuit, filed Monday by the parents of Cole Berardi, alleges the absence of street lights contributed to the death.

Oncor spokeswoman Medan Wright says the company does not feel that the street lights caused or contributed to the accident. She declined further comment.

Sr. Cpl. Michael Vaughn was suspended for a day for violating department policy. Authorities say Vaughn was speeding without starting his lights and sirens while headed for a call on Oct. 17, 2008. Investigators say the boy was riding his bicycle on a poorly lit road when he was struck.

A patrol car dashboard camera captured the incident.

Study finds \$14M to save Asarco smokestack

EL PASO (AP) — A new study finds that preserving an iconic smokestack above a former smelter in El Paso would cost about \$14 million over the next half century.

Asarco LLC had operated the smelter. Asarco, which for decades had copper, lead and other heavy metal mines and smelters, sought bankruptcy protection in 2005 after being overwhelmed by cleanup costs.

Roberto Puga with Project Navigator, which is responsible for cleanup and sale of the site, says the group commissioned the \$20,000 study after some citizens said the stack should be made into a monument.

Puga told the El Paso Times that original plans did not call for preserving the stack, built in the

mid-1960s.

El Paso Mayor John Cook said Monday he will not ask city council to raise property taxes to pay for the project.

Transgender Dallas student fails in homecoming bid

DALLAS (AP) — A transgender senior at North Dallas High School who sought to be named homecoming queen has failed.

Students voted on nominees for the homecoming court. The list announced Monday did not include 18-year-old Andy Moreno.

Moreno was born male but identifies herself as female.

Principal Dinah Escanilla told Moreno to run for homecoming king, not queen, if the student wished to try for the homecoming court. Moreno then alleged discrimination.

A school district spokeswoman declined to release the vote totals.

The homecoming king and queen will be chosen, by students, at a dance on Saturday night.

Texas ballots have flag of Chile

AUSTIN (AP) — Election officials in Atascosa (a-tuhs-KOH'-suh) County are correcting a mistake on absentee ballots to remove the flag of Chile, which is similar to the Texas banner.

Voter Troy Knudson noticed the error. Knudson told the Austin American-Statesman that election officials congratulated him "for preventing future Atascosa voters from seeing the flag mistake."

The flags of Texas and Chile both have a white stripe on top and a red one on the bottom, plus a single star in the middle of a blue field.

In the Chilean flag the blue is only in the top left corner. The Texas flag displayed the blue all along the left side.

The election is Nov. 2.

El Paso man tells police he didn't kill his mother

EL PASO (AP) — An El Paso man accused of killing his mother declared his innocence and disputed phone records in a videotaped statement to police that was played at his trial.

The murder trial of 30-year-old David Marmolejo was scheduled to resume Tuesday.

The videotaped statement was played in court Monday by the prosecution in the trial over the July 2009 death of 54-year-old Gloria Huerta Marmolejo. An autopsy revealed she was strangled.

David Marmolejo was arrested two months later.

In the video, police are heard urging the son to confess. Marmolejo is also shown cell phone records indicating alleged discrepancies in the time frame of his earlier statement to police. He responded, "Cell phone records. That's all you've got on me?"

of volunteers — and donors — to help with the screenings.

"Trust me, there's plenty to do," Johnson said. "We can always use another set of hands, or even just some fresh ideas. If anyone out there is interested in helping, they can give me a call and I'll let them know when our next meeting is, and we can get some things done. We're also looking

for donors and sponsors to help cover the cost of the screening."

For more information on volunteering or the Big Spring Film Society, contact Johnson at (432) 213-0758 or by e-mail at cruiser1977@gmail.com. More information is also available at <http://www.big-springfilm.org>

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-

Angel Food menu

North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church will be taking October Angel Food orders from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the church, 2702 N. Birdwell Lane.

Cash, money orders or Lone Star Cards are accepted as payment at the time the order is placed.

Delivery will be from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 20, at the church.

For more information, contact Madeline Boadle at (432) 267-2203.

Bread of Life Box, \$31

4 lb. chicken drums and thigh combo; 4 6-oz. hamburger patties; 1.5 lb. fully cooked breaded party wings; 20 oz. steak fajitas; 1 lb. battered fish bites; 1 lb. lean ground beef; 7 oz. beef link sausage; 1 lb. fajita blend vegetables; 1 lb. peas and carrots; 1 lb. corn; 20 oz. shoe string fries; 1 lb. 16-bean soup mix; 1 lb. rice; 7.25 oz. mac and cheese; 7.5 oz. corn muffin mix; 32 oz. 2 percent shelf stable milk; dozen eggs; dessert.

Bit O Blessing Box, \$21

2 lb. fully cooked lasagna; country steak with gravy entree or chicken noodle casserole; 1.5 lb. breaded chicken nuggets; 12-inch supreme pizza; 1 lb. lean ground beef; 1 lb. broccoli florets; 1 lb. corn; 1 lb. rice; dessert.

Bountiful Blessing, \$41

4 lb. chicken drums and thighs combo; 2 lb. chicken stir fry meal; 4 6-oz. hamburger patties; 1.5 lb. fully cooked breaded party wings; 1 lb. NY beef wieners; 20 oz. steak fajitas; 1 lb. battered fish bites; 1 lb. lean ground beef; 28 oz. fettuccini chicken Alfredo with broccoli; 7 oz. beef link sausage; 1 lb. fajita blend vegetables; 1 lb. green beans; 1 lb. peas and carrots; 1 lb. corn; 20 oz. shoe string fries; 1 lb. 16-bean soup mix; 7.25 oz. corn muffin mix; 2 lb. fresh apples; 8 oz. breakfast cereal; 32 oz. 2 percent shelf stable milk; dozen eggs; dessert.

Convenience Meals, \$28

Boneless pork patty with hickory barbecue sauce; country herb chicken; fish fillet; macaroni and cheese; meat lasagna; breaded chicken parmigiana; spaghetti and meatballs; sween and

sout pulled pork; chicken penne with creamy tomato basil sauce; pot roast and vegetables.

After-School Box, \$24

1 lb. breaded chicken rings; 1 lb. mini corn dogs; 14 oz. stuffed breadsticks; 2 peanut butter and jelly jamwiches; 4-pk. stuffed sandwiches; 3 pigs in a blanket; 2 chairbroiled beef and cheese sandwiches; 4.5 oz. pancakes and sausage; 2 PBJ on graham wafers.

Allergen-Free Box, \$25

1 lb. breaded chicken breast nuggets; 1 lb. breaded chicken tenders; 1 lb. breaded breast fillet patties; 1 lb. breaded boneless chicken wings; 1 lb. breaded cubed steak.

Special No. 1, \$25

4 8-oz. ribeye steaks; 6 8-oz. sirloin strip steaks.

Special No. 2, \$35

16 oz. buffalo butter-fry shrimp, oven ready; 10 stuffed crab in natural shell, oven ready; 16 oz. battered fish, oven ready; 16 oz. talapia; 2 stuffed salmon portions; 4 crab cakes, oven ready.

Special No. 3, \$23

3 lb. red potatoes; 3 lb. sweet potatoes; 2 lb. yellow onions; 3 lb. tangerines; 1 lb. cello carrots; 1 head green cabbage; 1 head cello lettuce; 1 pineapple; 6 pack apple sauce cups; 2 green peppers; 4 navel oranges; 4 pears.

Thanksgiving or Christmas Box, \$36

(Thanksgiving box delivered in November; Christmas box in December. Both boxes contain the same items.)

7.5 perdue roasting hen; 3 lb. boneless netted ham roast; 2 6-oz. packages corn bread stuffing mix (serves 12); 1 lb. frozen cranberries; 12-count mini-corn cobbettes; 2 lb. green beans; 2 lb. diced sweet potatoes, 12-count whole wheat dinner rolls; 2 packages brown gravy mix; dessert; cooking instructions and recipies.

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MOVIE

Continued from Page 1

Lost Ark" at the Comanche Trail Amphitheater. "Jurassic Park" — which the group screened atop Scenic Mountain at Big Spring State Park — was originally going to be the last film in the effort, until the recent decision to squeeze in one more screening.

Johnson said Saturday's screening will be the group's first attempt at using the Heart of the City Park, located in

downtown Big Spring.

"Since we started doing these screenings, we've talked about different ways to incorporate downtown Big Spring into them," Johnson said. "We're planning to use that area for screenings next year, especially for the 'Ghostbusters' showing we're working on. So it just seemed to fit with the idea and feel of 'Poltergeist.' I'm really looking forward to seeing how it all turns out."

The movie will begin at dark.

Johnson said the film society is always in need

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The Spider

During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper.

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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.

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OUR VIEW

Just a few days left to register for Angel Trees

There are only a few days left for those needing assistance from the Salvation Army's annual Angel Tree program to register for this year's Christmas.

Friday is the final day Salvation Army officials will be taking applications from parents that need help making sure their children wake up with presents to open Christmas morning.

And while it may seem much too early in the year for thinking about Christmas gifts, for some, that's simply not the attitude the Salvation Army in Big Spring can do.

Cpts. Ed and Terrie Cheshire and their staff began the process last week and already have received about half the number of applications they processed a year ago.

And they say the task of providing presents for children and elderly citizens that might not otherwise have a merry Christmas is definitely and important one.

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 that are struggling just to make ends meet," said Terrie Cheshire. "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 will continue to take applications from parents needing the holiday assistance through Friday 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.

It's important to note that 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," Salvation Army Social Worker Paula Laffler 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.

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

And again, for those of us that are among the 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

If the shortest distance between two points is a straight line, Lord, then may we make a straight line right to You.

Amen

We've taught our kids to hate

It's fair to say that more than one gay teenager has committed suicide in recent weeks after being harassed and bullied by peers. Like Tyler Clementi, whose death has been well-publicized, they finally succumbed to a hopelessness most parents cannot imagine.

How can despair claim so young a life, we wonder. And how can some kids be so cruel?

Clementi's death has been widely publicized because, in part, the circumstances terrify parents who want to believe their own children are incapable of the cruelty visited on this young man's life by two of his fellow students.

Eighteen-year-old Clementi was a shy kid and a talented violinist. He was into only the third week of his freshman year at Rutgers University when his roommate and another student decided that Clementi's homosexuality would make for entertaining video.

Prosecutors say the pair, both also 18, secretly planted a webcam in Clementi's dorm and transmitted live video of his sexual encounter with a man.

Three days later, Clementi posted a final update on Facebook: "Jumping off the gw bridge sorry."

Then he walked onto the George Washington Bridge and jumped. His body was found a week later.

The two students who made the video face invasion of pri-

vacuity charges. The New Jersey attorney general is weighing whether to add hate crime charges.

And so we ask: Where do kids ever get the idea that it's all right to harass and bully homosexuals?

Let us count the ways.

The U.S. government continues to enforce a "don't ask, don't tell" policy against gay and lesbian members of our military. They must keep quiet about their sexual orientation or risk being discharged — no matter how nobly or bravely they have served our country.

One state after another passes laws to codify second-class citizenship for gay and lesbian Americans by preventing them from marrying or entering into civil unions. Recently, Florida tried to prevent gay couples from adopting, too.

Religious leaders and conservative columnists preach the gospel of hate, declaring homosexuality a perversion in God's eyes and a danger to innocent children.

Newsrooms across the country cover one twisted minister from Kansas who, with his merry band of hatemongers, shows up at military funerals with signs reading "God Hates Fags" and "Thank God for AIDS."

So no, we cannot be shocked. We are, however, in deep denial.

America continues to sanctify the bigotry that empowers the bullies. And when the bullies go too far, children die.

Just as they always have, says Caitlin Ryan, director of San Francisco State University's Family Acceptance Project.



CONNIE SCHULTZ



Tyler Clementi died here

Poverty on the march

The standard of living in the United States is unfortunately going down. Not so much for top earners. The harshest blows, as usual, fall farther down the ladder.

Now that the financial industry has finally grasped the levers of government power, most citizens are watching their income, assets and net worth dribble down the drain of corporate profit and economic mismanagement.

You'll recall, for example, that Congress has lately made it very difficult for an average family to declare bankruptcy and start life afresh. Now those folks are more likely instead to remain forever poor.

Congress has also greased the skids for American jobs to skitter overseas, and for employers here to import both high- and low-skilled workers to siphon off jobs from domestic payrolls.

In the name of thrift, it has chiseled as well on unemployment, food stamps, housing, child care, and most other social services. Only military expenditures have spiraled upward

unimpeded.

Even the courts haven't been spared. Spending on legal services programs for the poor has been slashed, making it easier for lenders, employers, hospitals, landlords and other creditors to run roughshod over their legal rights.

There is a whole new industry assisting employers in legally challenging the validity of unemployment claims by fired workers. That helps the boss hold down his unemployment tax rate.

One result of such conniving is that countless families have been forced to double up, much as they did at this point in the last century. While this painful social condition supplies a wealth of delicious material for TV sitcoms, it's a crummy way to live.

But what else can you do when a beloved part of your clan is foreclosed or evicted for inability to pay the rent?

At the very foot of the ladder, life is worse yet. Families simply break up. Junior and Sis are sent off to live with Grandma or Aunt Dolly, often separately, while Mom bunks in with more distant kin any place she can find a job. For Dad, if there is a dad, jobs are often either unavailable or unremunerative.

Health deteriorates too. Quick-

"It's not an epidemic of suicides; it's an epidemic of neglect," Ryan says. "Gay teens have been killing themselves for years in silence, and nobody knew their names. Now we know who they are."

There are many ways to address the problem of suicide among gay teens, and I am interviewing advocates across the country for future columns.

This week, I implore the parents of LGBT teens to pull them close. The onslaught of suicide coverage has left many of them scared and uncertain, Ryan says.

No matter what your comfort level is with their sexual orientation, no matter what you've said to them in the past, they need you now.

"When families go from never discussing this to saying 'I love you and want to understand,' they are opening the door to hope," Ryan says. "One conversation can change how they feel about themselves, because they'll know they're not alone."

She recalled the story of one father who struggled mightily with his teenage son's homosexuality — until his boy nearly died from alcohol poisoning.

"He was carrying his son into the emergency room. His son was sobbing and said, 'Papa, I'm so sorry to disappoint you. I just want to be normal. I want to be like the other kids.'"

"His father's heart split open that night," she said.

And that changed his son's life.

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

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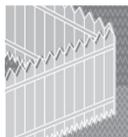
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- 1970: FIJI BECOMES INDEPENDENT.
- 1973: U.S. VICE PRESIDENT SPIRO RESIGNS AFTER BEING CHARGED WITH INCOME TAX EVASION.



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ANSWER: BAKING SODA



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How they SAY that in...

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- SPANISH:** Torta
- ITALIAN:** Torta
- FRENCH:** Gâteau
- GERMAN:** Kuchen

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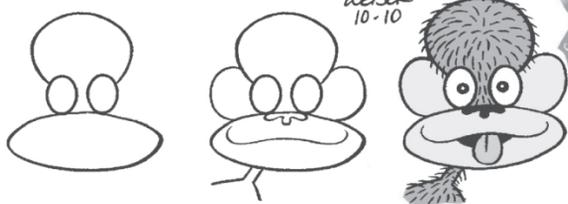


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YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is **Carla Steinman**, age 15, of Burbank, CA. Submit your drawings at www.kidcartoonists.com



Beavers and rabbits are rodents. True or False
Answer -- False. Beavers are rodents, but rabbits are lagomorphs.

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Legals

NOTIFICATION
October 12, 2010
The Big Spring Independent School District, in compliance with Environmental Protection Agencies Law 40 CFR Part 763.93, is notifying all interested persons that the Big Spring Independent School District has completed the inspection of all of its facilities in order to locate and identify any and all asbestos containing materials. The Big Spring Independent School District has developed a management plan for each of its facilities where asbestos containing materials were found. This management plan is located in the principal's office or administrator's office at each facility and is available for public inspection. #6744 October 12, 2010

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Maybe there's nothing really missing in our lives, but we want to go searching anyway, as the adventurous Sagittarius moon ignites a wanderlust in our souls. And since we don't know what we're looking for, we're not going to find it — but that's beside the point. Seeing what it's like "over there" will help us appreciate what we have.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Hard work is certainly a virtue, but it's smart work that will get you the desired results. Any time you spend training or interviewing others in the know will save you from sweating needlessly.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Fate can be a bully if you let it run wild with your life. That's why every so often you need to take the reins with full force and show fate who is boss. Now would be good.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When you love someone, you share in that person's pleasures and pains. This you do for your loved one's sake and for no other reason. Today brings another occasion to show your empathy.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You speak about what you will do, and your friend believes you. You may find this humorous, because you're less sure of your abilities than you seem. But your friend's belief makes you stronger.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You do things when you are ready to do them. That's the way it's always worked best for you. So don't jump just because someone else is telling you to. Go at your own pace.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You work like a dog because that's exactly what it takes to get the important jobs finished. At the day's end, you'll enjoy attention from a warm and faithful companion who may or

may not be human. **LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll be "fishing" for a lucrative deal. The fish are not going to fly out of the water and land in your hand. You're lucky, but not that lucky. In order to catch a fish, you have to cast your net.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You need allies to help you push a project along. Doing it yourself will take too long and will eventually turn into a joyless process. Make friends now and your way will be light.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You cry when you're happy and smile when you want to scream. The best part about this is that a special someone understands your quirky emotional language and loves you all the more for it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have a special friend. When you are with this person, it feels like a sacred bubble protects you. Fear dissolves; laughter ensues. The world is suddenly how you want it to be.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're part of a tight team. What you don't realize is that the team is tight because of you — you're the glue. That's why your participation will be of utmost importance.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). In your interactions with people today, keep in mind that it takes time to understand others. You have to sit and let things develop. Most people don't want to open up and talk to someone who is always in a hurry.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 12). A fanciful mood takes hold of you this year. You will entertain possibilities that never occurred to you before. Over the next six weeks, a relationship enters an emotional level untouched in prior times. November brings big business. January showcases your talent. You'll make an impressive sale in March. Sagittarius and Capricorn people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 14, 31, 9 and 18.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a 23-

year-old Cancer male. I want to make a change, but I'm afraid my family will disapprove. My parents have a definite vision for my future, and if I don't continue to work the job they want me to have and be in the relationship they prefer for me, then I feel like I am letting them down. I don't think I could live without my family's support. And yet, I am not living my own life. If I choose the partner I really want, my family would not agree. Maybe they wouldn't even talk to me again. What should I do?"

Right now you think your family is your protection, but you would be surprised at how well you can protect yourself on your own. Cancer is a highly sensitive sign, but like the crab, you have a tough shell of protection around you. Ask yourself honestly whether you are developing this affection just because you know your parents wouldn't like it. Or is there really something of value in this rebellious relationship? Your parents want the best for you, but they cannot live their lives through you any more than they can live your life for you.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Celebrated star of stage and screen, Hugh Jackman is a Libra, born when Mercury and Uranus were also in this harmonious sign. Music and literary talents are associated with these placements. Jackman continues to wow audiences with his acting and singing performances. Perhaps his literary talent will emerge in the near future, in the form of a philosophical book.

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

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BIG SPRING HERALD

Bird Poop:

Filthy hawk gets new lease on life

Her voice was familiar. Over the years she had called about everything from common poorwills to eagles. After telling us a game warden had gone to get it, the receptionist at Texas Parks & Wildlife promised to call as soon as the officer returned with the bird.



BEBE McCASLAND

After some time, the phone rang again. "It's here," she said excitedly. Relating that it had been in a pipe yard, she added, "It could run, but it couldn't fly."

Inside a large carrier stood a Swainson's hawk. Knowing it had chosen not to fly made us suspect a possible hairline fracture or soft tissue injury to a wing. Not exactly eager to be handled, the bird moved to the back of the container.

To avoid any further injury to its wings and to make it easier for me to handle, Art slowly upended the carrier so as to cause the large raptor to be isolated at the bottom. Coming from above, rather than reaching inside face-to-face and being "footed," allowed me to press its wings against its body.

Lifting it up and out of the carrier, I noticed

a dried, almost beige or ecru colored coating on its matted feathers. Hoping there was no serious injury caused me to extend each wing and feel its bone structure inch by inch. By doing this, the answer as to the cause of its being earthbound was evident.

Gaps between its primary and secondary flight feathers had been caused by whatever substance the hawk had encountered. There was no way its wings could catch the air and gain lift.

The location of the bird in a pipe yard had already indicated to us the possibility of an oil field incident. After turning the hawk so as to see both topside and underneath, I thought, "Looks like drilling mud."

The bird's condition could have been caused by a leak or rupture of a line as the mud was being pumped under pressure. Once sprayed, the hawk's feathers had dried after the force of the product separated and matted its feathery coat.

Emaciated and disheveled, the Swainson's was in need of feeding and a bath. Having felt the length of its breastbone, I knew it was depleted of body fat. The frayed ends of its tail feathers indicated it must have been down for some time. Unable to hunt, the bird had been searching for enough to eat. The



Courtesy photo

Obvious gaps in its wings and matted feathers worsened by dried mud severely limited the Swainson's hawk's ability to fly. While being handled, it defensively spread its wings.

stress of bathing could be delayed.

Since the raptor refused to eat on its own, it was force-fed a platter of minced mice. The next day the bird was again given a choice of eating on its own or the same routine. Two hours later no remnants remained on its dish. Being more receptive to handling its dining regimen was encouraging.

After two days of giving it all the food it could eat, I noticed a remarkable difference. No longer passive, the raptor was alert and feisty.

Feeling it was im-

portant for others to see the effects of the hawk's being sprayed with a muddy slurry, I arranged for Ray Nitzschke, a volunteer from the wildlife center in Lubbock, to meet us half-way for a transfer. Not long after we came home, the phone rang.

"This hawk needs a bath! It's filthy," said Gail Barnes, volunteer. Telling her we could have bathed the bird, we felt it was more important for them to see another consequence of what can go wrong.

When she called the next day, her voice was encouraging. "It's flying!" Once its feathers

had dried after its bath, it started preening until every feather was in place.

Having been placed in her converted stable at NightWings, the raptor then flew from room to room. To that news I responded, "The real test will be in your flight cage."

Placed with other Swainson's hawks, the immaculate newcomer did not hesitate to use the length of the facility for exercise. Five days later, Gail called again.

"It just needed some R&R and a bath." Knowing it was ready to return to the skies, she had called Tom

McLaughlin, who feeds and works with "Toenails" every day. Experienced in handling numerous raptor releases, he readily agreed to drive the once "dirty bird" to the Canyon Lakes area east of Lubbock.

Returning and giving his euphoric description of its departure, Tom told of the broad-winged hawk's flight toward a distant horizon. "Best release I've ever seen!"

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

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5:PM	News ABC	Alma Notic.	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	King	Scrivner	BBC	Lyrics!	Cash Cab	Charles S. Dutton	Star Trek: Voyager	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good Fish	Nation Pardon	SportsCenter E:60
6:PM	Jeopardy! Wheel	Liena de Amor (SS)	Two Men Two Men	News	Caso Cer-rado	News	Seinfeld	Dr. Young	PBS News-Hour	70s Show	Swords: Life		Ways Die	Bones		Phineas	SportsCenter	
7:PM	No Ordinary Family	Soy Tu Dueña (SS)	Glee	NCIS	El Clon (SS)	The Biggest Loser	MLB Baseball: American League Division Series: Teams TBA.	Upd	NOVA (DVS)	One Tree Hill	Swords: Life	Movie: Inside Man, Jodie Foster	Ways Die	Bones	2010 BET Hip Hop Awards	Movie: Casper Meets Fish	Soccer: United States vs. Colombia.	30 for 30
8:PM	Dancing With Stars	Ahora Fútbol: México vs. Venezuela. (SS)	Raising Wilde	NCIS: Los Angeles	El Fantasma de	Parenthood	Light of the Southwest	God in America (DVS)	Life Unexpected	Swords: Life	Married	Ways Die	Law & Order					2010 Poker
9:PM	(:01) Detroit 1-8-7	Impacto	Law & Order: SVU	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Office	Upd	Charlie Rose	King	Swords: Life	Committed	Ways Die	CSI: NY	The Mo'Nique	Hannah	SportsCtr	
10:PM	Nightline	Raymond	Letterman	Persiguiendo In	Jay Leno	MLB Post	Cortes	Ministerio-Vida	BBC	South Pk	Swords: Life	Movie: Unbreakable, Robin Wright Penn	Police Shootout	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Hannah	Baseball	
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Impacto	Noticiero	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Office	Upd	Charlie Rose	King	Swords: Life	Committed	Ways Die	CSI: NY	The Mo'Nique	Hannah	SportsCtr	
12:AM	Extra	Tontas Cielo	Paid	Insider	Pagado	News	Office	Church	Charlie Rose	King	Swords: Life	Committed	Ways Die	CSI: NY	The Mo'Nique	Hannah	SportsCtr	
1:AM	Paid	Mujer...	Raymond	Insider	Pagado	News	Office	Church	Charlie Rose	King	Swords: Life	Committed	Ways Die	CSI: NY	The Mo'Nique	Hannah	SportsCtr	
1:30	Paid	Cero	King-Hill	Insider	Pagado	News	Office	Church	Charlie Rose	King	Swords: Life	Committed	Ways Die	CSI: NY	The Mo'Nique	Hannah	SportsCtr	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"DENNIS IS THE 'TEACHER'S PET' ONLY BECAUSE HE NEEDS TO BE ON A SHORT LEASH."

BC



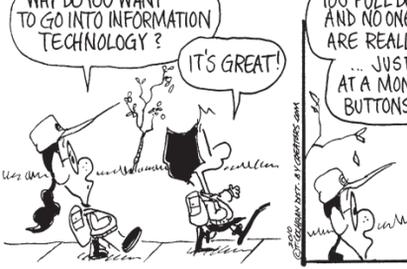
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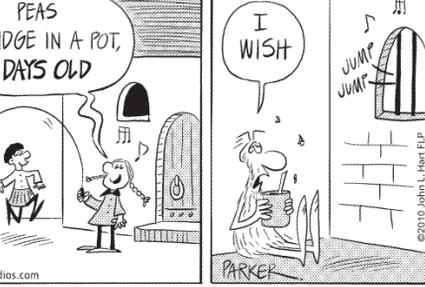
10-12

HAGAR



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BLONDIE



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This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 12, the 285th day of 2010. There are 80 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 12, 1492 (according to the Old Style calendar), Christopher Columbus arrived with his expedition in the present-day Bahamas.

On this date:

In 1810, the German festival Oktoberfest was first held in Munich to celebrate the wedding of Bavarian Crown Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese of Saxe-Hildburghausen.

In 1870, General Robert E. Lee died in Lexington, Va., at age 63.

In 1915, English nurse Edith Cavell was executed by the Germans in occupied Belgium during World War I.

In 1918, the Cloquet Fire erupted in Minnesota, claiming some 450 lives.

In 1933, bank robber John Dillinger escaped from a jail in Allen County, Ohio, with the

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 African snakes
 - 5 Throw out a fishing line
 - 9 Squirrel snack
 - 14 Tra- (singing syllables)
 - 15 One with regrets
 - 16 AM/FM appliance
 - 17 Prayer ender
 - 18 General vicinity
 - 19 Quantity of 12 dozen
 - 20 Highway
 - 21 Genealogical chart
 - 23 Good-luck animal
 - 25 List-ending abbr.
 - 26 In addition
 - 28 Annoy
 - 33 Not as good
 - 36 Shaving mishap
 - 39 Vocal
 - 40 All the time
 - 41 Wander off
 - 42 Small bites
 - 43 Actual
 - 44 Chinese frypans
 - 45 "Light-emitting" electronic device
 - 46 To a greater extent
 - 48 Long heroic tale
 - 50 Give a nudge to
 - 53 Foolish
 - 57 Early manuscript stage
 - 62 Strong as
 - 63 Orchard fruit
 - 64 Pesky insect

- DOWN**
- 1 Car's security device
 - 2 Pago Pago's locale
 - 3 Courtroom statements
 - 4 Beach builder's creation
 - 5 Arts and
 - 6 Mystical glow
 - 7 Teacher's request
 - 8 Inherited characteristic
 - 9 Sock's diamond pattern
 - 10 Grocery-store hauler
 - 11 Aroma
 - 12 Stand up
 - 13 Aroma detector
 - 22 Very skinny
 - 24 Bullfight cheer
 - 27 Not fooled by
 - 29 Club-soda alternative
 - 30 Threesome
 - 31 Southern Cal. cop force
 - 32 Alternatively
 - 33 Reheat in the oven
 - 34 Butter substitute
 - 35 Lion sound
 - 37 Pester
 - 38 Legal job
 - 41 Fencing weapon
 - 45 Annoying noise
 - 47 Globe's shape
 - 49 Short-stroke golf club
 - 51 Church music maker
 - 52 Do the tango
 - 54 Very impressed
 - 55 Boot bottoms
 - 56 Bring to bear
 - 57 Lambs' dads
 - 58 Oil-cartel letters
 - 59 no good (scheming)
 - 60 Small valley
 - 61 Starlet's goal

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Answer to previous puzzle

SASS	ATRAP	EAST
ALOE	MAUNA	SLAW
STUN	ENTER	SOLE
HOLDING	INGSWAY	HOE
	CDS	DEMAND
OLDAS	HAITI	
BRIER	SICS	NCAA
LEAVE	IN THE	LURCH
TORO	NICE	YEARS
	TEETH	HITME
SHIELD	TIN	
EON	FISHING	REEL
TUNA	BLEND	ABLE
USER	LARGE	CAST
PERK	EMBER	EYES

Annie's Mailbox [®]

Dear Annie: My wonderful boyfriend of two years recently told me he has rape fantasies — both of being the rapist and of being raped.

He said that, for obvious reasons, it's not something he talks about.

But things are getting really serious between us, and he doesn't want to keep any secrets hidden from me.

I am fairly open-minded, but this seems strange, and I'm not comfortable discussing it with my friends or family.

I am part of several Internet communities, however, and asked my chat buddies what they thought.

Many of them said it was a perfectly normal "kink," and that fantasy isn't the same as reality. It doesn't mean he would ever do it. Is that true?

My boyfriend is a wonderful guy, and I love him, but I'd be lying if I said this revelation didn't set me on edge a bit.

When he first told me, I actually checked the

national sex offender registry, but he wasn't on it.

Annie, I just need some reassurance. Should I be worried about this, or has my life been more sheltered than I thought? — *Can't Help Being Concerned*

Dear Can't Help: Try not to overreact. Rape fantasies are fairly common, even among men, and they are actually about dominance and submission.

Your boyfriend doesn't want to hurt you. He may simply get turned on by being totally in charge or being completely overtaken.

He should not force you into anything, but if you are willing to role-play with him, it could add excitement to your love life. The choice is yours.

Dear Annie: I have a situation that has me up a tree. Whenever my wife and I have a family get-together, one of our grown sons will show up with extra kids.

I have begged him to

call first, but he just shows up. When they do ask if their child can bring a friend, we usually say OK. We have a large family, and it's a lot of cooking. The last time we had the family over, our oldest son came with one of his kid's friends, and when I said he should have asked, he got angry and took his family and walked out.

Now he says I need to apologize. I think I have the right to have only family over if that is what my wife and I want. It's still our home.

I have tried to talk to him, but he won't return my calls. If you say I need to apologize, I will.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

— *Lost for Words*

Dear Lost: You don't need to apologize. This is your home, and your son should ask before bringing extra people over, even children.

Now decide how important it is to you, because your son sounds too stubborn and selfish to admit he's wrong.

Sometimes, it helps maintain a good relationship to say you are sorry even when you are not at fault.

We recommend doing that and explaining to your son how much you would appreciate it if he would let you know in advance when he is planning to bring a guest. And ask your wife to back you up.

Dear Annie: I did not agree with your answer to "Choking in S.W. Washington," whose

neighbors smoke on their porch and it blows into their home.

Why does she have the right to tell someone where they can smoke on their own property?

I cannot believe anyone would have the nerve to approach a neighbor about this. If the smoke is so bad, they should stop letting their children play with the neighbors' kids. — *Upset in Florida*

Dear Florida: Although people are entitled to smoke on their own property, when it starts infiltrating their neighbors' homes, it becomes secondhand smoke, which is linked to allergies, asthma and cancer. It is not unreasonable to

request that they blow in another direction. But we also recommend fans.

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 Century Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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'Classic' Ann Landers [®]

Editor's Note: Hundreds of Ann Landers' loyal readers have requested that newspapers continue to publish her columns. These letters originally appeared in 1999.

Dear Ann Landers: Eighteen months ago, I allowed my mother-in-law and sister-in-law to move in with my husband and me on a temporary basis. We have a small three-bedroom apartment. My



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

sister-in-law wanted to find a part-time job and go back to college.

My mother-in-law wanted to save money to buy some good furniture. She said she would be happy to pay us room and board once she found a decent job.

We refused to accept any payment until she was on her feet.

Since then, they have made no attempts to get jobs, and my sister-in-law has dropped out of school.

Our generosity has produced two leeches who lay around the house all day. One is glued to the TV, and the other is shackled to a beer can and the Internet. They are both healthy and

capable of obtaining quality jobs.

I told my husband that I expect his family to carry their own weight, and I have given him an ultimatum.

He refuses to throw them out or to even discuss the matter, and he says I am creating conflict in his loving and close-knit family.

I am becoming tremendously angry toward all of them. This situation is also affecting our son and daughter.

They are too old to be sharing a room and are very resentful.

Discipline, dinners together, chores and playtime were never a problem until now. Any suggestions? — *Exasperated*

in Arizona

Dear Arizona: Enlist the assistance of a family counselor or your physician — or both. Get a letter stating that your living conditions are creating anxiety, which is threatening your health and upsetting your children.

Inform the leeches that they must be out within 30 days. Offer to help them find another place to live. Unless you move aggressively, these two free-loaders will be with you until you are ready for an old folks home.

ANN LANDERS (R)

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Parent's Corner:

Persistence key; not intelligence

When I began my educational career one of the requirements was to attend a county-wide first day orientation. I can't remember who the speaker was but I'll never forget one of his statements: It's not the IQ of a person that counts; it's the "I will"!



DARRELL
RYAN

I have found that statement to be very true through the years. I have taught students and adults that they may not have had the most brilliant IQ, but the demonstration of

their "I will" has taken them to a very high degree of success.

It is amazing what can be accomplished with determination!

Frank Sinatra recorded a song in the '60s that had that same theme. It was called "High Hopes" and the lyrics went like this:

"Next time you're found with your chin on the ground there's a lot to be learned, so look around. Just what makes that little ole ant think he'll move that rubber tree plant?"

"Anyone knows an ant can't move a rubber tree plant, but he's got high hopes, he's got high hopes."

"So, any time you're getting low, 'stead of letting go, just remember that ant! Oops, there

goes another rubber tree plant.

"When troubles call and your back's to the wall there a lot to be learned that wall could fall. Once there was a silly old ram, thought he'd punch a hole in a dam. No one could make that ram scam. He kept butting that dam, 'cause he had high hopes, he had high hopes; he had high hopes in the sky hopes."

"So, any time your feeling bad, 'stead of feeling sad, just remember that ram! Oops, there goes a billion kilowatt dam!"

"A problem's just a toy balloon, they'll be bursting soon; they're just bound to go pop. Oops there goes another problem kerplow!"

I think the theme of this song, as well as the

life of many people, is keep trying, keep sight of your goals, keep believing and never give up.

"I will" can be the difference between success and failure. As the old saying goes: keep on keeping on.

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

sudoku
ANSWERS

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

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sudoku

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

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

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A Necessary Extravagance

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A 7 2
♥ K 10 9 8 7 3
♦ K 7 4
♣ A
WEST
♠ Q 10 9 4
♥ 5 2
♦ J 10
♣ Q J 8 6 2
EAST
♠ 8 5
♥ A J 6 4
♦ Q 9 3 2
♣ 7 5 3
SOUTH
♠ K J 6 3
♥ Q
♦ A 8 6 5
♣ K 10 9 4
The bidding:
South West North East
1♦ Pass 1♥ Pass
1♠ Pass 3♥ Pass
3NT
Opening lead — six of clubs.

Assume you're in three notrump and West leads a club. There seem to be many chances for the contract, but if you relax your vigil for even a moment, you will wind up taking second money at the end.
Let's say you win the club with

the ace and play a low heart to the queen, which wins the trick. You then lead a low spade to the ace, but what you do next doesn't really matter, because as the cards lie, you must eventually go down at least one.

If you try to establish the hearts, you'll find yourself short one entry to dummy to cash them. And if you go after spades instead, you'll find you can't score more than two tricks in that suit. Yet the fact is that the contract is ice-cold from the start — regardless of how the opposing cards are divided.

All you have to do is to lead the king of hearts from dummy at trick two! It may seem unduly extravagant to waste the king and queen of hearts on the same trick, but this is a luxury you can easily afford because it guarantees at least 10 tricks. So, regardless of how much that play may run against the grain, it is the only way to ensure the contract.

In the actual deal, East wins either the first heart or the next one and returns a club. You play the nine, losing to West's jack, but whatever West does next, the only other trick you lose is a second heart.

Tomorrow: This is Sylvia.
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News in brief

Dramatic endgame nears for 33 trapped Chile miners after successful test of rescue capsule

SAN JOSE MINE, Chile (AP) — They'll come up one by one in green overalls bearing their names on their chests — first the fittest, then the weakest, twisting in a steel cage that proved itself with four flawless test runs deep into the earth.

The dramatic endgame hastened Monday for the 33 Chilean miners who have braved two months underground, with rescuers reinforcing the escape shaft and the 13-foot-tall rescue chamber sliding, as planned, nearly all the way to the trapped men.

"It didn't even raise any dust," Mining Minister Laurence Golborne said.

If all goes well, everything will be in place late Tuesday to begin pulling the men out, officials said. The lead psychologist for the rescue team recommended the extractions begin at dawn Wednesday. No official decision was announced, but Andre Sougarret, the rescue team coordinator, tweeted Monday evening that "today the miners sleep their last night together!"

On Monday, the Phoenix I capsule — the biggest of three built by Chilean navy engineers, named for the mythic bird that rose from ashes — made its first test run after the top 180 feet of the shaft was encased in tubing, the rescue leader said.

38 killed, 11 injured in bus, train collision in eastern Ukraine

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — A crowded passenger bus collided with a train in eastern Ukraine Tuesday, killing 38 people and leaving 11 in critical condition, police said.

The Interior Ministry said that the collision occurred outside the town of Marhanets in the Dnipropetrovsk region after the bus attempted to cross the track, ignoring a siren that indicated an oncoming train.

Thirty-seven people from the bus died on the spot and another person died later in the hospital. There were no injuries reported on the train.

Rescuers, medics and investigators were working at the scene of the crash.

Road and railway accidents are common in Ukraine where the roads are in poor condition, vehicles are poorly maintained and drivers and passengers routinely disregard safety and traffic rules.

Amid acrimony over unemployment benefits, Nobel Prize may not help MIT economist win Fed seat

WASHINGTON (AP) — You'd think that having a Nobel Prize under your belt would be a clincher for getting a promotion or a job change. But it may not help economist Peter Diamond win a coveted seat on the Federal Reserve.

Diamond, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, won a Nobel Prize in economics with two other economists on Monday.

Only trouble is, Senate Republicans have so far blocked his nomination. Why? They suggest he lacks the experience to serve on the Fed's board of governors.

Given the partisan rancor that permeates U.S. politics these days, and GOP disdain for some recent Nobel awards, the news from Stockholm won't necessarily lead to a confirmation nod for Diamond.

"While the Nobel Prize for economics is a significant recognition, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences does not determine who is qualified to serve on the Board of Governors," said Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama, the senior Republican on the Senate Banking Committee.

Full investigation begun in captive U.K. aid worker's death in U.S. rescue attempt in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — U.S. and U.K. military officials began probing Tuesday the tragic death of a captive British aid worker, possibly killed by a grenade thrown by American special forces during a failed rescue mission.

In other violence, two people were killed and 10 others wounded in an explosion aboard a coalition helicopter just after it landed in eastern Afghanistan on Tuesday. The coalition said it's unclear what caused the blast.

Ten civilians were killed in an insurgent rocket attack and a roadside bombing on Monday in the south and east, Afghan officials said.

The death of Linda Norgrove, 36, has reverberated through the corridors of power from Kabul, to London, to Washington — where President Barack Obama expressed condolences and pledged "to get to the bottom" of what happened during the deadly raid.

Norgrove and six insurgents were killed Friday night after U.S. special forces stormed a compound in eastern Kunar province. Norgrove was held for two weeks after she and three Afghan colleagues were ambushed and kidnapped Sept. 26. Her colleagues were quickly freed.

N.C. police cast doubt on when parents say they last saw missing disabled 10-year-old girl

HICKORY, N.C. (AP) — Neighbors in a North Carolina city feared the worst in the case of a missing 10-year-old girl with the bright smile who stayed upbeat even as she battled bone cancer that left her with a prosthetic leg and hearing aids.

A search warrant revealed that police dogs detected the smell of human remains on cars belonging to the father and stepmother of Zahra Clare Baker. Hours earlier Monday, the police chief said investigators were having trouble finding anyone outside the household who had seen the girl alive in the last few weeks and cast doubt on what the couple had told them. A police news conference was scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Tuesday

"There were warning signs along the way, but you never want to think the worst," said former neighbor Kayla Rotenberry, who said Zahra's stepmother, Elisa Baker, had a short temper.

The couple had told police they discovered the girl was missing Saturday. The stepmother said she last saw Zahra sleeping in her room hours earlier. Yet Hickory Police Chief Tom Adkins said investigators don't know the last time anyone saw her. "We're having a difficult time establishing a true timeline," he said.

When the search warrant was filed hours later, police declined to comment further.

France's Sarkozy faces showdown with unions over retirement reform plan

PARIS (AP) — It's showdown time for President Nicolas Sarkozy and France's labor unions as they try to stop his government from raising the retirement age by two years to save money.

Train drivers launched an open-ended strike Monday night. They will be joined by workers from throughout the French economy on Tuesday. Both groups are angry at a pension reform the Senate is expected to pass by week's end.

Street protests also are being planned by labor unions on Tuesday and Saturday. Last month such action brought 1 million people to the streets of France.

After months of battle over the retirement age, this could be the decisive week, and some unions upped the stakes by declaring open-ended strikes this time, meaning they could last for days. Past walkouts lasted only one day.

For Sarkozy, this contest is about principle. His conservative allies say: Faced with huge budget deficits and sluggish growth, France must get its finances in better order. Even with the two-year change France would still have among the lowest retirement ages in the developed world.

With Guantanamo detainee's civilian trial set to open in N.Y., experts divided on its importance

NEW YORK (AP) — Complaints about security and its high costs forced the Obama administration to reconsider a decision to try the professed Sept. 11 mastermind in Manhattan, but the first civilian trial of a Guantanamo Bay detainee is moving ahead there anyway.

Opening statements are likely to begin Tuesday with experts divided over whether the terrorism trial of Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani should open the door to a civilian trial for Khalid Sheik Mohammed and others held at Guantanamo Bay or slam it shut. Attorney General Eric Holder announced last November that Mohammed would be tried in Manhattan, only to later withdraw the plans after critics said trying him there would tax the city emotionally and come at great security cost.

Ghailani, 36, is charged with conspiring with others including Osama bin Laden to blow up two U.S. embassies in Africa in August 1998. The attacks killed 224 people, including 12 Americans. If convicted, Ghailani could face life in prison.

Prosecutors will proceed without their top witness after U.S. District Judge Lewis A. Kaplan ruled last week that the man's testimony that he sold explosives to Ghailani must be excluded because the government only learned about him after Ghailani was interrogated at a secret overseas CIA camp after his 2004 arrest where harsh interrogations occurred.

Ghailani, a Tanzanian, was arrested in Pakistan. The government has chosen not to use statements he made after his arrest at trial, unless Ghailani testifies. Ghailani has been accused by the government of being a bomb maker, document forger and aide to bin Laden. He has denied knowing that TNT and oxygen tanks he delivered would be used to make a bomb.

Nobel winner's wife hopes to collect his award

BEIJING (AP) — The wife of the imprisoned Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo said Tuesday she hopes to travel to Norway to collect the Nobel Peace Prize on his behalf, though for now she can only leave her Beijing home under police escort.

China, meanwhile, claimed the award was an attack on the country and an attempt to change its political system, and retaliated by canceling another set of meetings with the Norwegian government.

In brief interviews by phone, Liu Xia said her husband has started receiving better food since the Oslo-based Nobel committee announced the award last Friday — honoring his more than two decades of advocacy of human rights and peaceful democratic change that started with the demonstrations at Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989.



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