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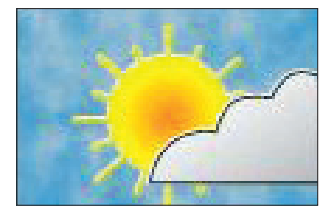
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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**TUESDAY**  
**OCTOBER 19, 2010**



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## Early voting going strong

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
 Staff Writer

With the first day of early voting in the books, officials with the Howard County Elections Administration said this year's election is moving along at a good pace, meeting or exceeding early expectations.

Saundra Bloom, county elections administrator, said the stream of voters looking to cast their ballots early was steady and strong Monday, a sign that bodes well going into the Nov. 2 general election.

"It's always hard to project with any accuracy how good

or bad the turnout will be so early in the process, but the first day of early voting certainly looked good to us," Bloom said. "We had a steady stream of voters coming in most of the day.

"However, we certainly don't want to count our chickens before they hatch.

The first day of early voting is usually pretty good because a lot of folks just want to get it out of the way so they don't have to worry about it later. I imagine numbers will tail off some as the week goes on."

Bloom said her and her staff was ready for the beginning of early voting with time

to spare, an occasion that doesn't happen very often in the electoral process.

"I had an intern working with me this year, so we were able to get started on a lot of this back during the summer," she said. "That helped

See **VOTE**, Page 3A



## BSHS speech team reaps high honors

**Special to the Herald**

Twelve members of the Big Spring High School speech and debate team took the long trip out west to the Loretto Academy Tournament in El Paso and were rewarded with a second place sweepstakes trophy for their troubles.

"We try to attend some tournaments in other regions of the state," Coach Jennifer Adams said. "It allows the students an opportunity to see some different competition."

Jessica Rubio, competing in Lincoln-Douglas debate for the first time, rolled up a perfect 6-0 record on her way to the first-place trophy. But, the LD debate trophy was not the only trophy Rubio brought home, placing first in domestic extemporaneous speaking, foreign extemporaneous speaking and original oratory. Rubio was named Outstanding LD Speaker and Top Speaker for the tournament.

Also doing well in LD debate was Shermila Kher, who made the quarterfinals. Kehr also placed first in impromptu

speaking and fifth in original oratory. Fellow junior classman Forrest McJunkin placed third in impromptu while placing fourth in original oratory.

The team of Kendra Cook and Shiloh Cresswell made the quarterfinals in public forum debate while Cook placed fifth in humorous interpretation. Kym Gonzalez placed third in prose interpretation and fourth in impromptu.

The team will travel to the Midland Lee tournament this weekend.

"This is our 'local' tournament," Adams said "There will be a lot of good local competition as well as schools from other parts of the state, which will be a good measuring stick to see where the team is."

The BSHS speech and debate team is also hosting its 10th Annual BSHS Speech & Debate Tournament on Oct. 29-30 at which volunteer judges are needed. If you would like to judge, contact Clint or Jennifer Adams at the high school.

Courtesy photo  
 The Big Spring High School Speech and Debate team won the second place sweepstakes trophy at the Loretto Academy Tournament in El Paso this past weekend.

## Candidates for governor trek across state

**By JAY ROOT**  
 Associated Press Writer

**CORPUS CHRISTI** — Swooping into traditionally Democratic territory in South Texas, Republican Gov. Rick Perry praised tea party activists and urged straight-ticket GOP voting as polls opened statewide.

His Democratic rival, Bill White, also took advantage of the first day of early voting in Texas by holding get-out-the-vote rallies Monday in Houston, San Antonio and Dallas.

Both candidates started the day by voting for themselves, then asked voters to do the

same.

Before a raucous crowd at a rustic barbecue restaurant in Corpus Christi, Perry showcased his endorsement by former Democratic gubernatorial candidate Farouk Shami and asked supporters to back Republican candidates.

"If you've got any questions, just vote straight Republican," Perry said. "Your chances of getting small government, fiscal conservatives into office is pretty good."

White, Houston's former mayor, and his wife, Andrea, voted at a Houston community center, and White later told

reporters he did not cast a straight Democratic ticket.

"I usually tend to go through office by office and position by position," he said. "We need to get away from this strident partisanship and the sound-bite politics."

Before Perry voted in Austin with his wife, Anita, the governor made a campaign stop with several Republican candidates for statewide offices, including U.S. Sen. John Cornyn and Attorney General Greg Abbott.

Perry's South Texas trip was similar to one he took shortly before his 2006 election victory over Democrat Chris

Bell. Cameron County gave 64 percent of the vote to President Barack Obama in 2008, but the heavily Hispanic county split between Perry and Bell in the 2006 governor's race, with sizable blocs of voters going for two independent

candidates.

Perry predicted he would win the county this year and noted that he had been spending time in the region.

"We don't give up any area

See **CAMPAIGN**, Page 3A

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## Siggins, Price lead Hawks rodeo

*Howard College prepares for rodeo at Texas Tech this week*

BY CINDY SMITH

Special to the Herald

Josh Siggins and Jenna Price led the Hawk rodeo teams as they each brought home a third and second place finish, respectively, from Canyon at the West Texas A&M University Rodeo Oct. 14-16.

Sophomore returner Josh Siggins clocked a 9.9 in the calf roping long round which positioned him in a tie for fourth place going into the short round. He came through in 9.3 for second place in the round which left him standing third in the average with at 19.2.

Siggins was joined by Hawk rodeo stand out Jason Schaffer as he placed fifth in the steer wrestling. Schaffer timed 5.6 in the long round, 4.0 in the short and finished the weekend at 9.6 in the average.

"We've had a couple of cowboys showing some consistency in the last couple of weeks," said Greg Kermick, Howard College rodeo head coach. "You can't find anything wrong with that, we just need to build on it now."

Jenna Price led the lady Hawks as she stood out for the weekend with a second-place goat tying finish. She timed out with 8.70 in the long round, 9.0 in the short and that was just enough to bring home

the second-place finish with 17.7 in the average.

"We've had a few disappointments but that just comes with the territory, especially in this conference," added Kernick. "Jenna did a nice job for us this weekend and now we re-focus and work harder next week to improve our performance as a group."

The Hawk rodeo teams will continue working through their fall schedule as they travel north to Texas Tech University on Oct. 21-23 in Lubbock.

For more on the HC Hawk Rodeo Team and updated schedule and results, visit [www.hchawk.com](http://www.hchawk.com).

## Lee fans 13, Rangers beat NY Yankees

NEW YORK (AP) — Pitching in the post-season is supposed to be stressful. Cliff Lee is making this all look so easy.

The ace of October overpowered the New York Yankees again, striking out 13 and sending the Texas Rangers to an 8-0 victory Monday night for a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven AL championship series.

Josh Hamilton hit an early two-run homer off Andy Pettitte and started a six-run outburst in the ninth with a lead-off double. Lee allowed only two singles in eight innings and became the first pitcher to reach double digits in strikeouts three times in one postseason.

"It's tough to be better than that," Yankees slugger Mark Teixeira said.

Mr. Automatic improved to 7-0 with a 1.26 ERA in eight postseason starts. Three of those wins have come against the power-packed Yankees, including two in last year's World Series for Philadelphia.

New York won the other four games against the Phillies to take home its 27th championship, but now faces a tall task to repeat. The Yankees must win three straight against the resilient Rangers to advance without facing Lee in a decisive Game 7 at Texas.

"I'm not satisfied," Lee said. "We still have some

work to do here. A lot of fun to come into New York and get this first one. Hopefully we can come out here tomorrow and pick up where we left off."

It'll be a tough act to follow after Lee and the Rangers handed the Yankees the most lopsided shutout loss in their storied postseason history. The left-hander also joined Orlando Hernandez (8-0) and Orel Hershiser (7-0) as the only pitchers to win their first seven postseason decisions.

About the only slip-up all night for Lee came when he stumbled as he stepped up to his seat at the postgame podium.

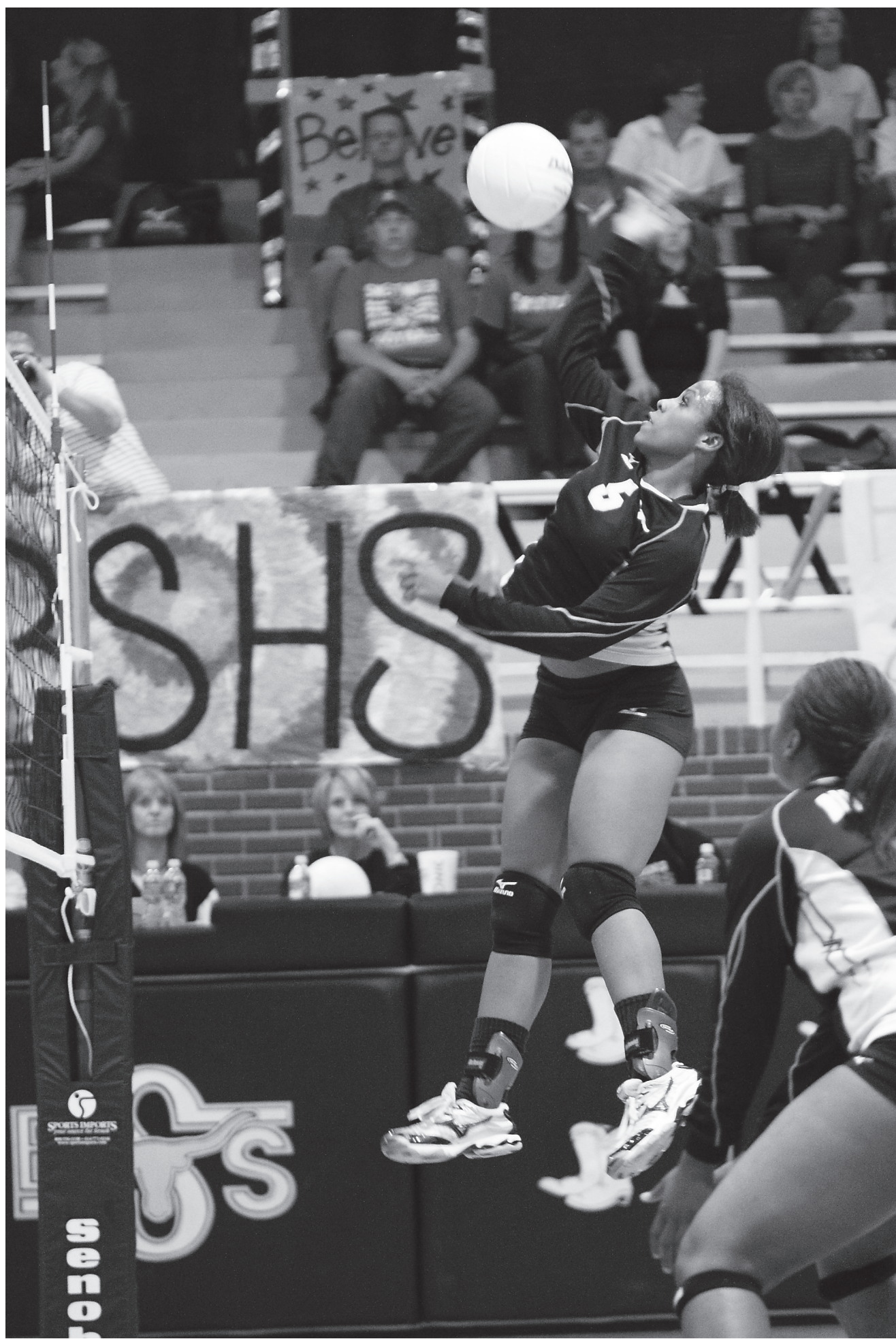
"Booby trap right here," he said with a grin.

Game 4 is Tuesday night and the Yankees will start struggling right-hander A.J. Burnett, who hasn't pitched since Oct. 2. Tommy Hunter goes for Texas in his first start at Yankee Stadium.

In the previous best-of-seven league championship series that were tied 1-1, the Game 3 winner advanced to the World Series 19 of 27 times, according to STATS LLC.

"I don't think we're in trouble," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "We're down 2-1, we're not down 3-0. It's frustrating we've lost two games in a row, but we've lost two games in

See **RANGERS**, Page 2B



HERALD Photo/Tony Claxton  
Big Spring outside hitter Desiree Anderson spikes the ball during the Lady Steers' game against Sweetwater, which ended in a win. They head to Greenwood for a non-district game at 6:30 p.m. today to face the Lady Rangers.

## Panic mode: Time running out for 1-4 Dallas Cowboys

IRVING (AP) — Miles Austin couldn't stop berating himself Monday, calling his flag-drawing, celebratory leapfrog of teammate Roy Williams "dumb," then "stupid," then "crazy and unexplainable and unexcusable."

And, get this: It wasn't even his fault.

Carl Johnson, the NFL's vice president of officiating, told the Cowboys a little later Monday that even though

Austin was announced as being guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct and an official on the sideline told coach Wade Phillips the same thing, the penalty actually was against Sam Hurd for mimicking the "Hook 'em Horns" hand gesture that Williams flashed.

Truth is, any Dallas player celebrating during this quickly dissolving season is doing something wrong.

Penalties and turnovers once again

conspired to wipe out an otherwise victory-worthy performance on Sunday, this time against the equally struggling Minnesota Vikings.

The head-slapping part about the celebration penalty was that the Cowboys had one in the fourth quarter of the previous game and it directly contributed to that narrow loss.

This defeat dropped them to 1-4 and was followed by what's becoming their typical Monday routine: guys

talking about needing to clean up their mistakes, Phillips pointing out all the things they're doing right and everyone vowing to keep fighting to turn things around.

The only thing missing was the disclaimer there's still plenty of time left. Even ever-optimistic owner Jerry Jones realizes how long the comeback trail is getting.

See **COWBOYS**, Page 2B

## 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 Saturday and Sunday. The start-

ing 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 Saturday. For more information or to enter call (432) 758-3808.

### Golf tournament

Big Spring Country Club is hosting a 6-6-6 tournament at 1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Entry fee is \$60 per player plus the golf cart. Call 267-5354 for

more information.

### San Angelo Chaparrals tryouts

The San Angelo Chaparrals of the Texas Professional Basketball League are conducting tryouts from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 30. The fee is \$25 per player, be prepared to workout the entire time. For more information, contact coach Chris Cardenas at 325-374-2910.

## Obituaries

## Janet Louise Wynn Wilson

Janet Louise Wynn Wilson, 71, died Thursday, Oct. 14, 2010, at her home in Sumter, S.C. She was born March 4, 1939, in Englewood, N.J. Preceding her in death are her parents, James Franklin Wynn and Mary Lou Tindal Wynn of Sumter, S.C., and her husband, George Lewis Wilson of St. Petersburg, Fla.

Mrs. Wilson attended the public schools of New York City and Brookdale Community College of Brookdale N.J., where she received her BSN and became a registered nurse. She worked for Marlboro Psychiatric Hospital where she was a charge nurse. After working tirelessly for 38 years she retired and built a home and a new life in Sumter, S.C. Mrs. Wilson was an avid shopper and loved to read, garden and watch instructional programs on television with her children.

Mrs. Wilson leaves her four maternal aunts, two younger brothers, four children, five grandchildren and close friends and family to cherish her memory. Rebecca Tindal Davis, Lillie Mae Tindal Lane, Ida Tindal Hunter of Sumter, S.C., and Marie Tindal Mickens of Paxville, S.C.; James Robert Wynn and wife Kristein of Leesburg, Va., and Stanley Arnold Wynn and wife Wanda of Asbury Park, N.J.; Cynthia B. Allen of Apex, N.C., Wendy D. Allen and fiancé Charles Shealy of the home, Christopher Wilson and wife Lisa of Laurel, Md., and Elizabeth Case and husband Dock of Sumter; grandchildren, Kevin Coffman, Tara Roy, Ryan Roy, Chad Kron and Ira Smith; and friend of the family Thomas Jenkins, who always thought of Janet as his second mother.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2010, at Bethesda Church of God with Pastor Al Sims and her dear cousin Rev. J.C. Lane officiating.

The family will receive friends at Community Funeral Home, 353 Manning Avenue, Sumter S.C. 29150, Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2010, from 4:30 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Burial will take place at Hillside Memorial Park on Cane's Mill Road in Sumter, SC. Community Funeral Home of Sumter is in charge of the arrangements.

*Paid obituary*

## Eusebio (Chevo) Fierro

Eusebio (Chevo) Fierro, 60, of Big Spring died Thursday, Oct. 14, 2010, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Vigil services will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Deacon Johnny Arguello officiating. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

He was born July 11, 1950, in Big Spring to Consuelo and Eusebio Fierro Sr. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring. He worked for Dyer Plumbing for many years and had worked the last five years at Big Spring State Hospital. He was an avid bowler. He was a Catholic and a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

He is survived by one son, Robert Fierro of Big Spring; one daughter, Esiquia Kidd and husband Joseph of Hubert, N.C.; one granddaughter, Ayanna Marie Kidd of Hubert, N.C.; two brothers, Raymond Fierro and Johnny Fierro, both of Big Spring; and two sisters, Guadalupe Fierro and Rosalinda Garcia, both of Springdale, Ark.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Jessie (Chuy) Fierro and Edward (Bardy) Fierro.

Pallbearers will be Richard Dyer, Tony Vega, Roger Fierro, David Fierro, Joseph Kidd, Bodine Robles, Jesse Fierro, John DeLoSantos and Raymon Valdez.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersand-smith.com](http://www.myersand-smith.com)

*Paid obituary*

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## James (Red) Alexander

James (Red) Alexander, 86, went home to Jesus on Oct. 17, 2010, in Big Spring.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2010, at Stephenville Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will follow at Lower Greens Creek Cemetery in Erath County with military honors. Visitation will be held from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Tuesday at Stephenville Funeral Home.

James (Red) Alexander was born Dec. 14, 1923, in Hico to the late Jim and Bessie Stevens Alexander. He served in the Navy during World War II and was a member of the American Legion Post 0487 in Big Spring. Red was in the floor covering business in the Stephenville area all of his working life. He loved to hunt and fish. Red married his fishing buddy, Betty, in 1997.

He is survived by his wife, Betty Chadwell Alexander; daughters, Donna and Don Stark, Regina and Earl Gooch, and Karla Chadwell Woolf; one son, James and Cathy Chadwell; two brothers, Earl Alexander and Rusty Alexander; one sister, Marie Thompson; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Denna Alexander; parents, Bessie and Jim Alexander; and a sister, Mary H. Warren.

Online condolences may be made at [www.stephenvillefh.com](http://www.stephenvillefh.com).

*Paid obituary*

## Frances Renfro

Frances Renfro, 90, of Midland died Monday, Oct. 18, 2010, in a Midland nursing home. Graveside funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2010, at the Chapel at Evergreen Cemetery with the Rev. Monte Kreis, pastor of First United Methodist Church, officiating.

She was born Oct. 11, 1920, in Joshua to James D. and Lola Renfro. In 1938, she graduated as valedictorian of Stanton High School and in 1942 she graduated with a bachelor of science degree from Texas State College for Women, now known as Texas Women's University.

She is survived by two sisters, Dorothy Deavenport of Stanton and Betty Howard of Midland; 10 nieces and nephews; 13 grandnieces and grandnephews; and 11 great-grandnieces and great-grandnephews.

Frances was preceded in death by her parents and two sisters, Mary Ruth Renfro Hall and Helen Renfro Cervenka.

Arrangements are under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences can be made at: [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com)

## Police blotter

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

- JOANNE OLIVAS GARCIA, 36, of 3607 Dixon, was arrested Monday on a warrant for expired motor vehicle inspection certificate.
- TIFFINE MONIQUE VANDERBILT, 26, of 2534 Langley, was arrested Monday on warrants for manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance (two counts), possession of a controlled substance and prohibited substance in a correctional facility.
- JOHNNY CLIFFORD WILLIAMS JR., 22, of 4006 Dixon, was arrested Monday on warrants for failure to appear (two counts), failure to maintain financial responsibility and expired license plate.
- JAMES RYAN VILLANUEVA, 25, of 2613 Chanute, was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction.
- ANTHONY RENEY HILARIO, 27, of 1900 Martin Luther King Blvd. Apt. 313, was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- THEFT was reported in the 100 block of E. Third Street.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported: In the 1700 block of Young. In the 1000 block of Ridgeroad.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 200 block of FM 700.
- ASSAULT was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Blvd.

## Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail

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reported having 77 inmates at the time of this report.

• JESUS M. GANDARILLA, 26, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• HOWARD BRANDON JOHNSON, 26, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a warrant for contempt of court – possession of a controlled substance.

• JOANNE GONZALES OLIVAS, 36, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a municipal warrant for expired motor vehicle inspection.

• CARL WILLIAM WELLS, 28, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on municipal warrants for violation of a promise to appear and driving while license invalid.

• JOE LEDESMA, 48, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge for sex offenders duty to register life/annually.

• TERRELL DEVON HOUSTON, 18, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for no driver's license and failure to appear.

• HENRY DEWAIN MILLER, 18, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for no seat belt and failure to appear.

• JOHN WAYNE MYATT, 35, was arrested Monday by DPS on a charge of disregarding a stop sign.

• TIFFINIE VANDERBILT, 26, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance (two counts), possession of a controlled substance and prohibited substance in a correctional facility.

• JOHNNY CLIFFORD WILLIAMS, 22, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility, violation of a promise to appear (two counts) and displaying an expired registration.

• JAMES RYAN VILLANUEVA, 25, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

• ANTHONY HILARIO, 27, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• DENNY LEON ROBERTS, 34, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of terroristic threat and public intoxication.

• RUSS C. HESSON, 42, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of terroristic threat.

• GARY LEE MILLER, 42, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

• ERICA MORENO OCHOA, 30, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension and wrong/fictitious/ altered/obscured vehicle registration.

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# Ryans' injury adds to Texans' concerns

HOUSTON (AP) — Now, the Houston Texans really have some issues on defense. Luckily, they have a bye week to sort them out.

Already the league's worst at stopping the pass, the Texans lost All-Pro middle linebacker DeMeco Ryans to a season-ending injury in Sunday's 35-31 win over Kansas City. Houston was already missing Xavier Adibi (hamstring), Kevin Bentley (knee) and Darryl Sharpton (ankle), and was down to three healthy linebackers in the second half.

Coach Gary Kubiak said Monday that he hopes Adibi, Bentley or Sharpton can recover and learn Ryans' position in time for the Texans' next game, at Indianapolis on Nov. 1. Kubiak and general manager Rick

Smith will also consider signing a free-agent linebacker or trade for one leading up to Tuesday's deadline.

"We have to look at everything," Kubiak said. "We have to look at any possible availability out there we think can make us better and help our team throughout the next 10 weeks. It's an ongoing process."

Ryans ruptured his left Achilles' tendon against the Chiefs and will have surgery this week. He had started 70 consecutive games and is the franchise's leader in solo tackles (435).

Zac Diles moved to Ryans' spot on Sunday, and David Nixon, a second-year linebacker from BYU moved into Diles' spot on the weak side. Brian Cushing handled the strong side in his second game back from a four-

game suspension.

Kubiak said the trio was shaky without Ryans' leadership.

"I don't think we played well at the linebacker position," Kubiak said. "We didn't play well in the first half, and then when we lost DeMeco, we end up with Zac trying to run the defense and a new face (Nixon) trying to go on the field who hasn't been with us long. We just kind of got in disarray."

The Texans (4-2) still rallied from 10 points down in the fourth quarter to secure the best 6-game start in franchise history.

The offense hasn't been a problem in Houston's victories, scoring at least 30 points in each.

But the defense could not generate

a turnover and didn't have a sack until the final play against the Chiefs. Dwayne Bowe became the fifth player to reach 100 yards receiving against Houston, and Kansas City nearly had two 100-yard rushers.

The Texans rank last in pass defense (306 yards per game), second-to-last in scoring defense (27.8 points per game) and 21st in sacks (10) and interceptions (4).

"We need to get better across the board on the defensive side of the ball," Kubiak said.

"Right now, we're in an evaluation process of ourselves, over the course of the next few days, trying to see what positives we can draw from what we've been doing and build off those."

## COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B

"We're running out of the opportunity to make this season what we want it to be," said Jones, whose \$1.2 billion stadium will host the Super Bowl. "Everybody is aware of that."

Since the NFL went to a six-team postseason in 1990, only five of the 97 teams started 1-4 made the playoffs. None fell to 1-5, which makes the upcoming Monday game against the New York Giants "as important as it can get," Phillips said.

"Every game is important and all that stuff, but playing in the division and winning division games can help you get out of a hole," he said.

Only the 2002 New York Jets continued stumbling; they were 2-5 and got into the playoffs at 9-7. The other clubs all bottomed out at 1-4, winning at least their next three. The 1993 Houston Oilers won all 11 remaining games.

Dallas has more than blind faith to support hopes of joining the turnaround list, and not the pile of 92

teams that didn't.

The Cowboys have outgained their opponent every game, and their losses have been by six, seven, seven and three points. Take away a penalty here, an interception there, or maybe come up with a turnover here and stop a kickoff return there, and things could be drastically different.

"If we stop beating ourselves," defensive end Marcus Spears said, "we're 5-0."

Just look at what happened Sunday.

Dallas limited Randy Moss to 55 yards receiving, Adrian Peterson to 73 yards rushing and the Vikings to only 188 total yards, yet Minnesota still won.

The Cowboys blew it by allowing Percy Harvin to return a kickoff 95 yards for a touchdown at the start of the second half. By Tony Romo throwing two interceptions that led 10 points, including the winning field goal with 4:03 left. Romo might've had another chance for a tying or winning score, but Mike Jenkins yanked on a receiver's jersey on a third-down incompleteness for a pass-interference penalty that kept alive a clock-draining drive.

## Hook 'em Horns drew flag for Cowboys, not leapfrog

IRVING (AP) — The touchdown-celebration penalty the Dallas Cowboys received Sunday wasn't for Miles Austin leapfrogging Roy Williams in the end zone,

It was against receiver Sam Hurd for flashing a University of Texas "Hook 'em Horns" hand gesture along with Williams. That's what Carl Johnson, the league's vice president of officiating, told Cowboys coach Wade Phillips on Monday.

Austin was announced as being guilty during Dallas' 24-21 loss to Minnesota. Phillips said an official on the sideline also told him it was Austin's fault.

The bigger issue for the Cowboys is that this was the second straight week they've been flagged for an excessive celebration. Phillips said players were told Monday not to do anything except head for the sideline.

# Giants, Phils gear up for another pitching duel

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Phillies manager Charlie Manuel has sized up Cody Ross pretty well. Particularly when the San Francisco outfielder visits Citizens Bank Park.

"Cody's about like anybody else," Manuel joked Monday. "They

walk in that ballpark and he wants to come up and talk to me or talk to guys around the cage. Actually he's looking at the fences and how far, how close they look. He's thinking to himself, 'Man, I hope I'm in the lineup today.' ... He enjoys to play against

us and that helps him to relax. And he gets up for us."

Now, the Giants' recent slugging star and his teammates get to swing into action at AT&T Park, facing the Phillies in Game 3 of the NL championship series on Tuesday after-

noon. Ross has already homered three times in the best-of-seven series, tied at 1-all.

Once again, the pitching matchup drew most of the pregame attention: Cole Hamels vs. Matt Cain.

"When we go 1-1 right now and you're sit-

ting there and you've got Cain and Hamels going tomorrow in a swing game, you won't see that three days in a row with six pitchers that start the game that good," Manuel said. "It's rare and it's going to be a heck of a game. The Giants are here be-

cause of their pitching and I think we're here basically because of our pitching. Our offense kind of sputtered this year."

Hamels, the 2008 World Series MVP, follows Philadelphia's two star Roys — Halladay and Oswalt.

## Favre facing NFL meeting over messages

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — The Minnesota Vikings have played only five games, yet the season has already seemed like a long one for Brett Favre.

The 41-year-old quarterback has been nursing his right throwing elbow through tendinitis and he's taken some big hits, too. His team is 2-3 in a year the Vikings pulled out all the stops to reach the Super Bowl after falling one game short last season.

And Tuesday, he was scheduled to meet behind closed doors with the NFL over allegations that he sent lewd photos and inviting text messages and voicemails to a female employee of the New York Jets two years

ago, back when both were with the franchise. The woman, Jenn Sterger, has not commented about the allegations posted on the Deadspin website.

The exact timing and location of the meeting were not publicly disclosed. The NFL declined comment, while the NFL Network reported it would take place Tuesday with a member of the league's security team.

Coach Brad Childress said the Vikings won't have a role in the meeting, to his knowledge, and said Monday: "That's not our responsibility."

Whatever happens, Favre has not looked like the same spry, con-

fident quarterback he was last year when the Vikings were undefeated and scoring plenty of points. The addition of Randy Moss was a big boost, but Favre has clearly missed Sidney Rice while the Pro Bowl pick from last season recovers following hip surgery.

Favre's elbow was bothering him before a cortisone shot last week calmed it down. He's said all along the mental drain of playing is harder to fight than physical pain, but he can't go on this way forever. The slow recovery from off-season ankle surgery was one of many reasons why he waited until mid-August to decide to come back.

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



## RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

a row a lot of times before and come back."

Pettitte, the ol' pro seeking his 20th postseason win, did his best to match Lee. But the long-time New York lefty hung a first-inning cutter that Hamilton yanked over the short porch in right for his second homer of the series.

"It was just a bad pitch," Pettitte said. "At the time, you don't think that's going to win the ballgame."

Lee matched a career high for strikeouts and Texas broke it open in the ninth against an ineffective David Robertson, getting RBI singles from Nelson Cruz and Bengie Molina.

# Bomb plot suspect may take stand at hearing

By **JEFF CARLTON**

Associated Press Writer  
DALLAS — A 20-year-old Jordanian man who tried to bomb a downtown Dallas skyscraper could take the stand Tuesday as a federal judge considers his sentence.

Attorneys for Hosam Smadi said their client may testify during the second day of his sentencing hearing. On Monday, his father testified that Smadi became deeply depressed after his mother's death four years ago, even sleeping by her grave, and doctors provided dueling conclusions of whether Smadi suffered from mental illness.

The hearing at the federal courthouse in Dallas is just blocks away from the 60-story office tower where Smadi parked and tried to detonate what he believed was a truck bomb in September 2009. It was decoy provided by undercover FBI agents.

Smadi pleaded guilty in May to attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction, and acknowledged in plea documents that he tried to carry out the attack. He could face life in prison, but if U.S. District Judge Barbara Lynn accepts the plea deal, Smadi would likely receive a 30-year sentence and then face depor-

tation.

In arguing for a lighter sentence Monday, his public defenders portrayed Smadi as troubled and depressed. They said he exhibited signs of depression and mental illness when his parents separated and suffered a breakdown after his mother died of cancer in 2006.

FBI officials, however, told a different story. After monitoring Smadi for nine months, agents believed he was a committed would-be terrorist determined to connect with al-Qaida or Hamas.

Doctors also offered opposing views. A psychologist testifying for the defense, Xavier Amador, pointed to interviews in which Smadi said he saw a devil in his home who tied his hands and grabbed his mouth. Smadi also told the doctor that he felt certain he helped his dying mother survive a year longer, thoughts Amador said were "delusional and grandiose."

But prosecutors' psychiatrist, Raymond Patterson, said Smadi "makes up psychiatric symptoms" and seemed to weather the divorce of his parents and death of his mother.

Smadi's relationship with his father was difficult and

abusive. His father, Maher Smadi, testified that he often beat his son with his fists and a chain, and once tried to run him down with a car.

**Smadi pleaded guilty in May to attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction, and acknowledged in plea documents that he tried to carry out the attack.**

The father said he sent Hosam Smadi to the U.S. in March 2007, because their relationship was strained and he wanted the teenager to get an education and "start a new life." Maher Smadi said he visited his son near San Jose, Calif., less than a year later and was upset to find him smoking, drinking and cursing Islam. His son moved to the Dallas area a short time later.

Smadi's father and 12-year-old sister broke into loud

sobs when he was led into the courtroom at the start of Monday's hearing wearing an orange prison jumpsuit with his ankles chained together. Smadi was polite, occasionally speaking to the judge.

Mohammad al Zughoul, a former neighbor of the Smadis in Jordan, said in tearful testimony that his neighbors were a happy family until a rumor began circulating that the elder Smadi's wife was involved in an affair with another neighbor. The rumor infuriated Maher Smadi, who acknowledged he began beating his wife and four children.

"Hosam had a lot of suffering," al Zughoul said. "He was taking the responsibility of fighting his father. It destroyed Hosam — this rumor — and I know he is still suffering from that."

According to the plea documents, the younger Smadi acknowledged leaving what he thought was a truck bomb in a garage beneath the Fountain Place building in Dallas. Smadi said he parked the truck, started a timer connected to the decoy provided by undercover FBI agents, then rode away to watch the explosion.

Smadi dialed a cell phone

number from the roof of a nearby parking garage, where he had planned to watch the explosion.

The number was supposed to set off the bomb, but it instead alerted tactical agents hiding in a stairwell, who swarmed the rooftop and arrested Smadi.

Posing as members of an al-Qaida sleeper cell, three undercover FBI employees had monitored Smadi since January 2009. After he shared his plans to blow up the office tower, they helped him secure a truck and fake bomb used to carry out the mission, according to court documents.

FBI agents said they were fortunate to find Smadi — spewing hatred for America on an extremist website — before he made contact with a terrorist group.

"Smadi was asked what he would do if he had never met the al-Qaida 'sleeper' cell," said Tom Petrowski, a supervisory special agent with the FBI in Dallas, in an affidavit. "Smadi replied that he would keep looking for such an entity to be a part of, even if it meant him having to leave the United States and go to Palestine and join Hamas or go back to Pakistan and join the Taliban."

## VOTE

Continued from Page 1A

a lot. In fact, we were actually ready for early voting a week in advance. That's probably the best head start we've had on early voting in this office, so I'm really pleased.

"We haven't identified any problems with the ballots, but that's something you have to sort of knock on wood for. However, none of the voters have mentioned anything, which is a really good sign. Things are moving along smoothly, and we haven't run into any problems with the software or the electronic voting booths. It's hard not to be pleased with that."

Bloom said the deadline for area voters to return applications for mail-in ballots is Oct. 26, but warned against waiting until the last minute to apply.

"I would encourage everyone to get their applications in as soon as possible," said 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. They can write us a letter or send us a request by fax or e-mail. The deadline to receive an application for a ballot by mail is Oct. 26."

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.

Howard County voters have several local races to weigh in on, including the battle for the Precinct 4 seat on the commissioners court, as incumbent Dem 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 faces Democratic nominee Jim Sinclair. Incumbent Jerry Kilgore lost the contest for the Republican party's nod in March.

In the race for Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 Place 2 incumbent candidate Kathryn Wiseman represents the Republican party, while Dem nominee Ricky Hughes is trying to unseat her. Hughes was unopposed in the March party primaries.

The State Representative District 85 seat will also be decided, as incumbent Democrat Joe Heflin faces Republican nominee Jim Landtroop.

The District 19 seat on the U.S. House of Representatives is also be up for grabs, as Republican incumbent Randy Neugebauer faces Democratic nominee Andy Wilson and Libertarian Richard "Chip" Peterson.

Early voting in this year's contest is set to run through Oct. 29, according to Bloom, and is being held in the elections office located on the third floor of the county courthouse.

For more information on the election or mail-in ballot requests, contact Bloom at 264-2273.

Also, copies of the 2010 Big Spring Herald voter's guide — which includes in-depth questions and answers with all of the local candidates — is available by

dropping by the Herald office, located at 710 Scurry or by calling 263-7331.

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

## CAMPAIGN

Continued from Page 1A

of the state. We go compete everywhere," he said.

Shami, a Houston hair care magnate, got only 13 percent of the vote in the Democratic primary in March. He endorsed Perry, saying his conservative credentials made Perry the best pro-business candidate.

White, stressing his own business credentials, called the endorsement "a bit odd."

"Mr. Shami gathered his supporters after the primary and expressed unequivocal support for my candidacy, and was harsh in his criticisms of Mr. Perry during the primary," White said. Shami said he's known

for months that he would support Perry. Shami said he didn't like his dealings with White and the Democratic Party, and he called Perry "a man that keeps his word, a man that is a proud Texan." Shami also joked that Perry had "good hair because he uses Chi," referring to his business.

Recent polls have shown Perry leading White, but in a surprisingly tight race in conservative Texas.

Monday was the first opportunity to cast a ballot. The early voting period ends Oct. 29, and Election Day is Nov. 2.

Like Perry, White is venturing into his opponent's strongholds, with trips planned to conservative East and West Texas this week. But the Democrat,

swimming against a tea party-fueled tide of anger, kicked off the early voting period with a focus on turning out his base — with rallies and events in predominantly black and Latino areas.

"Viva White!" yelled state Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio, at an event that drew more than 200 mostly Latino voters to the Arizona Cafe on San Antonio's west side. As patrons lunched inside on fideo soup, chips and salsa and tortillas, White stressed his support for

Hispanic causes in an interview with Spanish language television outside.

"I've always fought for the rights of Latinos in Texas," White said in relatively fluent Spanish. "It's important to have a governor who understands the Latino experience in Texas."

Perry didn't mention White by name on Monday, but did make references to President Barack Obama, to whom Perry has tried to link White. Perry also took aim at the federal government, saying it

does a good job with the military but doesn't do so well in delivering the mail and protecting America's borders.

"Mr. President, until you get those things right, don't come down here to Texas and tell us how to run this state," Perry said.

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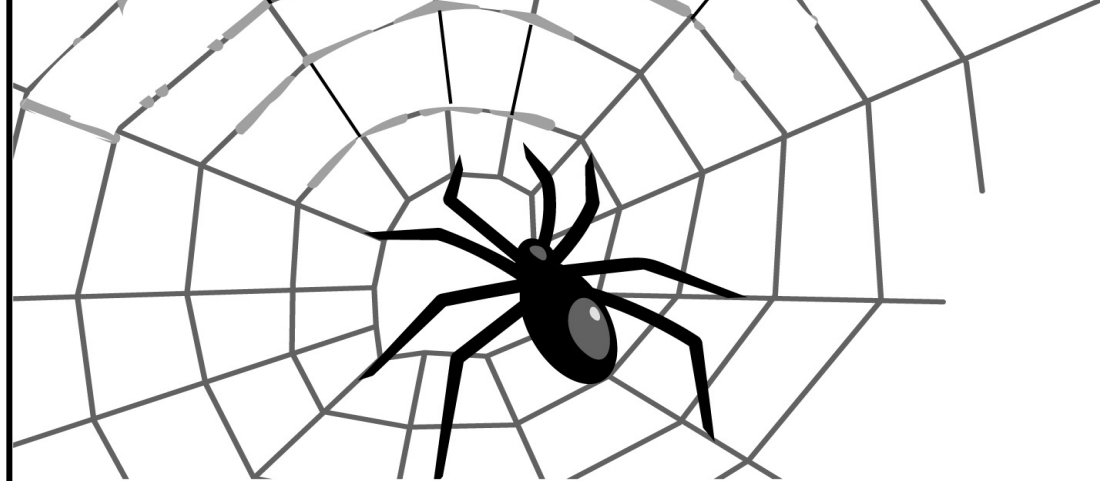
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# EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

**Ron Midkiff**  
Publisher

**Bill McClellan**  
News Editor

**John A. Moseley**  
Managing Editor

## OUR VIEW

# Bible Class Fund needs donations for this semester

Another good cause ... a very good cause ... is in need of help from the citizens of our community. We never seem to be short of good causes needing help in our area, but there's no question that the Howard County Bible Class Fund is one of them.

That's because this is an effort to not only promote education, but to provide our children an opportunity to study the Bible at the same time.

But fund coordinators always need our help, because this is a program that cannot be supported by governmental or tax funds.

The Big Spring High School Bible Class is probably the oldest consistently held Bible program held in any of Texas' schools. References to it have been found as far back as 1939. At present, the fund provides for Bible classes not only at Big Spring High School, but at Coahoma High School and Forsan High School as well.

The class is taught as a humanitarian course, but because it is a Bible class, the school cannot pay teachers' salaries or any of the other expenses such as the purchase of Bibles for each student.

The program is managed by a not-for-profit incorporated board and is made up of local pastors and private citizens.

The board is now kind of quietly in the midst its campaign to raise funds for the program and hopes to have the same type of community support as it has enjoyed in the past.

Funds generated will support three classes at BSBS, two classes at Forsan High School and two classes at Coahoma High School.

Donations are tax deductible and can be made to The Howard County Bible Class Fund, P.O. Box 2609, Big Spring 79721-2609.

There is no question in our collective mind that this is one of our community's most worthy causes. And that's why we are asking that if you can, please contribute to the Bible Class Fund.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

When we have You, Lord, we have heavenly benefits.

Amen

# Preserving U.S. space leadership

For more than 40 years, the United States has led the world in human space flight and the critical research and technology development that supports exploration, scientific study and the medical breakthroughs that have fueled our economy and created thousands of private sector jobs.

NASA's highly skilled employees have worked tirelessly to maintain this leadership. And Texas has played a central role in that work throughout NASA's remarkable history.

Earlier this year, however, the outlook for NASA was grim as we confronted a budget environment that would not support the continued human space flight activities of the agency without some significant changes.

At the same time, the Obama administration's proposal canceled many key NASA manned space flight systems and would have led to the rapid and catastrophic loss of personnel and skills needed to develop a new launch system capable of taking us to new destinations beyond lower earth orbit and the moon.

The administration's proposal would have effectively ended the era of U.S. dominance in space exploration while threatening our utilization of and \$100 billion investment in the International Space Station.

The president's original proposal endangered the missions that are the lifeblood of the Johnson Space Center in Houston and crippling job losses seemed inevitable. In other states with key NASA missions, workforces were also jeopardized.

On Sept. 29, Congress passed an authorization bill for NASA that made significant changes in the president's stated plan and now we are in a much better position to preserve the future of human spaceflight in America. The president signed this measure into law Oct. 11.

I believe the new law provides a robust mission for NASA with significant support for important scientific research and technology development and an enduring commitment to exploration.

The crux of the new approach is simple.

We will use as many as possible of the skills, parts and resources we already have on hand to lower development costs without compromising capability or performance. We will build one launch vehicle and one crew exploration vehicle at a time rather than multiple ones.

Ensuring there is a launch system and exploration vehicle under development preserves the key missions of the Johnson Space Center.

There will be an ongoing need for Mission Control and astronaut training done in Houston and the Bay Area.

There will be an additional shuttle flight, which will allow for the delivery of additional supplies to ensure the viability, extension and use of the space station, another key function of the Johnson Space Center.

This extra flight will also preserve critical skills and workforce, much of which can be transitioned to the new program.

I fought for this legislation because it was the right solution to the extraordinary challenge we were presented.

But this is not the end of the struggle for NASA and communities, like Houston, whose economic well-being are intertwined with the agency's.

Rather, the new law is a founda-

tion upon which to build as we move forward toward a sustainable American space program with a robust mission for the Johnson Space Center and a bright future for its brain trust.

As a state, we should brace ourselves for challenges as the workforces of Johnson Space Center and NASA contractors are calibrated to the new mission. There are some who have already lost their jobs and others may follow; but the core of NASA's mission and the vast majority of its talented scientists, engineers and technicians will remain.

Undoubtedly, in the months ahead, more questions will be raised about NASA funding and the feasibility of the approach laid out in the new law.

I know the enormity of this task and I promise that my work to advance the future of human space flight and to preserve the critical role of the Johnson Space Center and Texas' NASA workforce will continue.

I want to personally thank the Texas communities that have stepped in and offered assistance and support to displaced NASA employees and contractors.

I hope businesses within the aerospace industry will take advantage of the world-class skills these workers possess and will work together with community leaders to identify further opportunities.

I will continue my efforts to ensure full and faithful implementation of the new law.

While producing a budget that is more sustainable and providing efficiencies for the wisest use of taxpayers' dollars, we are preserving the research and exploration that will add to the economic security and future of America.

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



KAY  
BAILEY  
HUTCHISON



# Meaningless alert means nothing

The federal government has issued an official terrorism alert regarding Americans travelling to Europe.

This, of course, has everything to do with information gathered by intelligence sources and absolutely nothing to do with distracting the public from the failing economy.

The State Department — which, you have to assume, would have no interest in diverting attention from the president's plummeting approval ratings and the complete failure to deliver any sort of meaningful economic recovery issued the alert.

In it, they don't recommend canceling your travel plans (as our European allies would get pretty mad about that).

Instead the alert calls on Americans to be vigilant when travelling.

Before the State Department issued this alert, most Americans were, of course, ignoring any signs of potential terrorists. That group of suspicious looking people abandoning luggage all over Heathrow Airport? They

must just be especially forgetful. That swarthy guy with a bulky coat on a warm day with wires poking out? He's probably a wire salesman with a naturally low body temperature.

Now that the State Department has issued an alert, I'm sure average American tourists in Europe will begin immediately increasing their vigilance which should result in all sorts of foiled terrorist plots.

Evildoers beware, a guy with a camera trying to find the Eiffel Tower after a few glasses of red wine is now on the case.

The alert was issued, so the State Department says, because our intelligence sources have picked up increased activity.

We don't actually know anything, but we hear more people who may or may not be actual bad guys talking about stuff.

When this happens, of course, the correct response is to panic the public when there is absolutely nothing they can do. Like telling someone they have a better than average chance of contracting Alzheimer's disease but that nothing they can do will increase or decrease their odds of getting it, the terror alert is panic for panic's sake.

Essentially the alert tells us that something might happen.

Of course, something always might happen.

Terrorists might blow up a public building.

An Englishman might start shooting Americans over our lack of respect for Benny Hill and the French might stop being subtly snooty towards us and start poisoning our croissants.

The federal government should not issue alerts based on theoretical threats because telling us they think something might happen somewhere on a pretty large continent full of tourist destinations accomplishes nothing.

If we have credible information that Al Qaeda plans to take out the British Museum or that place that first started frying Mars bars, then by all means tell us.

Until you have credible evidence of an actual threat — not theoretical evidence of a possible threat — keep it to yourselves. Issuing warnings that tell people to be vigilant does absolutely nothing.

At worst, it's a government trying to distract us from the more pressing problems at home.

At best, it's a sad reminder of just how useless government can be and how out of touch with reality our leaders have become.

*Daniel B. Kline's work appears in more 100 papers weekly. He can be reached by e-mail at dan@notastep.com*



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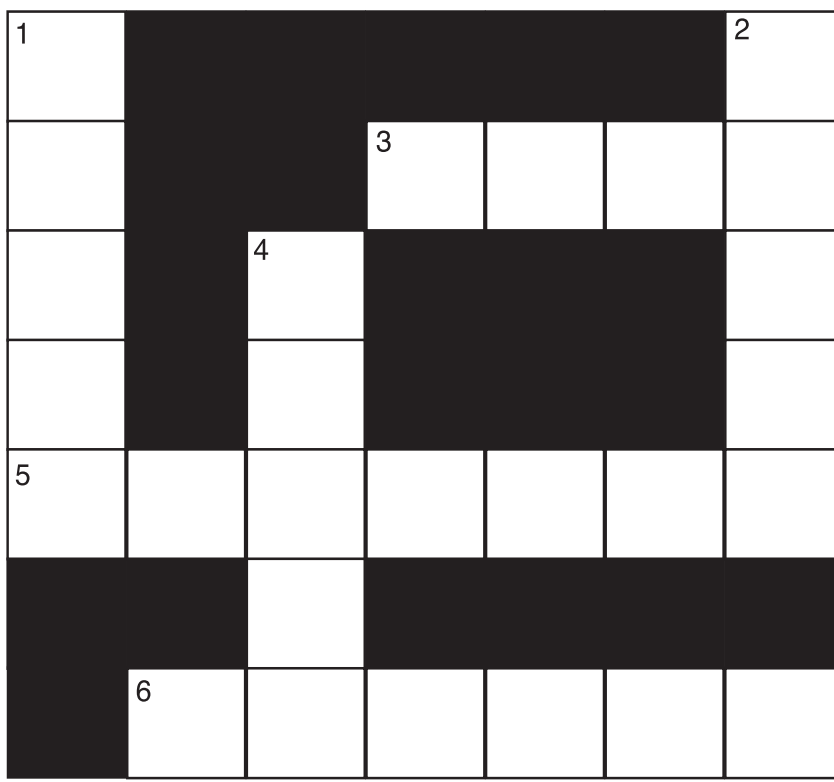
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**Crossword Puzzle**



**THIS DAY IN...**



**HISTORY**

- **1767:** THE MASON-DIXON LINE, A BOUNDARY BETWEEN MARYLAND AND PENNSYLVANIA, IS COMPLETED.
- **1867:** THE UNITED STATES PURCHASES ALASKA FROM RUSSIA.
- **1925:** THE GRAND OLE OPRY OPENS IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.

**ACROSS**

- 3. Cooking tool
- 5. Fish pizza topping
- 6. Vegetable pizza topping

**DOWN**

- 1. Flat bread with sauce
- 2. To like
- 4. Male relative



IF YOU USE EXTRA SAUCE AND CUT DOWN ON THE CHEESE, THIS POPULAR FOOD CAN BE MADE MORE HEALTHY.

ANSWER: PIZZA



**crust**

the tough, outer part of bread

Answers:  
Across  
1. pizza 2. enjoy 4. uncle  
Down  
3. oven 5. anchovy 6. pepper

*How they SAY that in...*

**ENGLISH:** Oven

**SPANISH:** Horno

**ITALIAN:** Forno

**FRENCH:** Four

**GERMAN:** Ofen

**Did You Know?**

MANY PEOPLE THINK THAT PIZZA ORIGINATED IN ITALY. HOWEVER, MANY MIDDLE EASTERN CULTURES HAVE BEEN EATING FLAT BREAD FOR CENTURIES.



**GET THE PICTURE?**



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: PIZZA CUTTER

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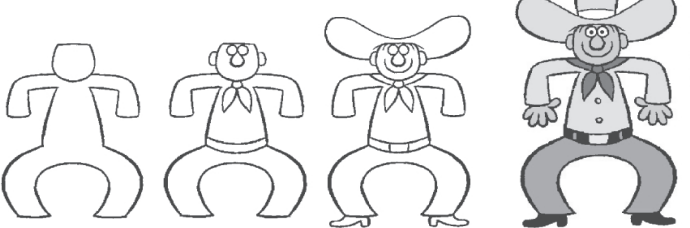


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**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

Mercury, the minister of communication, enters the mysterious realm of Scorpio. As passions soar and interactions grow intense, words spill in the heat of the moment that may or may not be true, but they have power either way. Another thing to keep in mind during this transit: What is not said is usually far more telling than what is said.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Yes, there is an obstacle in your way. Once you get over this first hurdle, though, you'll be off and running at an exciting pace. Everyone will marvel, and you'll love the feeling of the wind in your hair.

**TAURUS** HOLIDAY (April 20-May 20). Sometimes

the prospect of change makes you feel uncomfortable and fearful. That's what makes today so interesting — you know things will change, and you're excited about it. In fact, you can't wait!

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You are moving forward with several projects at once. It's a slow process. Add new members to your team to help with this endeavor. Seek power players who play well with others.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Creatively, you're on fire with ideas! The only frustrating part is that the people around you are not quite as enthusiastic. Well, this will change after they spend a little more time with you!

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Everyone seems to have a solution for your problem. Put serious consideration into their proposals before you sign up. You have to make a solid commitment to a program for it to really work for you.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). On the bright side, your need for constant excitement speaks to your high intelligence. However, you will not be able to make headway toward your goal until you eliminate some of the distractions around you.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll hit a wave of enthusiasm and will focus on the positive results that are likely to come from your actions. You'll have a few wins by the end of the day. The momentum carries through tomorrow, too.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your group will have a success. Everyone will want to take credit for it. Be aware of precisely what you did to contribute to the success of your group. This will help you to re-create the winning strategy later.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll be leading others again. Before you start, make sure your group is on board for the journey. Double check that they would actually like to go to the destination you're headed for.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If given too much time to complete a task, the task becomes harder because you'll consider unnecessary options and spin off on tangents. Keep it simple, and finish it fast.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Approach someone you respect. It's not the easiest thing for you to do, and the idea may even embarrass you. Just remember that you are willing to be supportive in return and you have much to offer.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Identify your talents again. You left some of them out last time you checked. And besides, so much has happened along the way that you've discovered new things you can do. Account for them.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Oct. 19). You approach things with order, common sense and the full intention of following through. This nonsense approach will attract employers and clients. Use a December bonus to invest in yourself, especially your mind. Education opens doors in February. March features exciting relationships and one that's particularly spicy. Aries and Leo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 1, 22, 29 and 50.

**ASTROLOGICAL INSIGHTS:** Why and How To Bring Pisces Energy into Your Life: Last week, a reader's spiritual crisis prompted this exploration into attracting astral energies into your life. Pisces energy has healing qualities and is especially helpful when a person is experiencing ailments of the soul. You can attract the healing balm of Piscean energy through faith. "Faith" is defined in Merriam Webster's Dictionary as "Something that is believed, especially with strong conviction." The good thing about a spiritual crisis is that it can cause you to examine your beliefs, let go of the ones that don't help you and decide to believe in things that make you feel better. And though you may be highly influenced by the beliefs of those around you, you do not have to adopt them. Regardless of the rules in your family, community and country, in the sanctity of your own mind, you are free to create your own system of beliefs. To construct a healthful belief system, begin by asking yourself probing questions and answering them in a journal. Don't be afraid to tackle the big ones, such as: the nature of life and death, the responsibilities of man, and how you think people should treat one another.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Ty Pennington transforms lives as he makes over homes to the extreme. Millions of viewers are inspired to make improvements of their own and to prove Pennington's claim that "good design can change your life." Of course, he's an aesthetically gifted, artistic Libran people-person. His moon in Leo promises that Pennington enjoys the spotlight and sharing it with well-deserving folks.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com) and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail.

**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.

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

[www.sudoku-puzzles.net](http://www.sudoku-puzzles.net)

**Contract Bridge**

By Steve Becker

**Four Losers, but 10 Winners**

North dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♠ K Q  
♥ J 9 7 3  
♦ A 8 7 5  
♣ A K 6  
**WEST**  
♠ 5  
♥ K Q 10 6  
♦ K 10 4 2  
♣ Q 10 8 2  
**EAST**  
♠ J 10 6 3  
♥ 8 5 4 2  
♦ Q 9 6  
♣ J 7  
**SOUTH**  
♠ A 9 8 7 4 2  
♥ A  
♦ J 3  
♣ 9 5 4 3

cashes the K-Q of trumps. When West shows out, South learns that he must lose a trump trick to East. Since he may also lose a diamond and two clubs, he appears to be headed for down one.

However, looking at the situation from an entirely different perspective, South observes that if he can score six trump tricks to go with his four high-card winners in the side suits, he can still finish with 10 tricks.

He therefore sets about ruffing dummy's hearts. He trumps a heart at trick four, leads a club to the king, trumps another heart, leads a club to the ace and trumps dummy's last heart. The ace of diamonds and ace of spades then account for tricks nine and 10.

It is true that after South wins the first 10 tricks, East has a trump trick coming, and West has two clubs and a diamond trick coming. But these four losers are telescoped into three after the first 10 tricks are played.

The principle that emerges is that when an unlucky trump break saddles declarer with one or more unexpected trump losers, it does not necessarily follow that declarer's number of winners is correspondingly reduced.

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass  
3 NT Pass 4 ♣  
Opening lead — king of hearts.  
In most suit contracts, declarer makes a preliminary estimate of his chances by counting his losers. Prior experience has taught him that it is easier to assess his prospects if he thinks in terms of losers rather than winners.  
But there are some situations where declarer appears to have too many losers and yet can still score enough tricks to make his contract.  
Consider this deal where South wins the heart lead with the ace and

Tomorrow: Keep your eye on the ball.

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**sudoku ANSWERS**

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



Courtesy photo

Unable to carry road kill because of its weak feet, the turkey vulture, a scavenger, is often seen at the side of a highway. Even hesitant to fly with carrion in its mouth, the bird has enough of a chore just lifting its own weight into flight.

## Bird Poop:

# Something it ate bit turkey vulture

Even though the first day of autumn was nearly two weeks away, they came. After the evening news, we watched them glide toward the VA water tower and the city park. This annual event would continue into October until the migratory flocks had reached their winter haven.

Silently, they sometimes circled over the house before roosting in the old growth trees in our neighborhood or those near the tennis courts. In other parts of town, they preferred a stand of cottonwoods or the elms along Beals Creek.

Low in the sky, the sun often highlighted them from below. Suddenly their flight feathers would appear to be silvery against the blackish-brown of their wings. Too soon the light faded as the birds coasted to the treetops and a night's rest.

When the phone rang on a Saturday morning, the caller described a turkey vulture he had found in the easement behind his home. Worried that the large raptor might be hurt or killed by a dog or night critter, such as coyote or fox, he wondered if we would like to have it.

Asking the homeowner to keep an eye on the bird until we could come, I anticipated the worse. Mangled wings from high lines and guy-wires for communication towers were not uncommon.

Parked near the west gate of the city park, we chose to walk the easement since large cedars had encroached into the pathway. Ahead was the caller who motioned us to

follow. After he disappeared around a curve, we arrived at that area. We could see the dedicated land for utility use was contoured to fit the arrangement of houses in the neighborhood.

Standing near his wife, the caller pointed toward the downed bird. Huddled against the base of a telephone pole was the vulture. Once again, I anticipated the worst that could happen.

Fortunately, we could approach the bird from its rear. After Art placed a net over it, I rushed to pin its wings against its body. While removing the netting, we were careful to keep the bird's head pointed away from us. Defensively, vultures will relieve themselves of the contents of their last meal toward any perceived enemy. It didn't vomit.

With my left hand holding the bird securely by the legs, I started to raise it. Not receptive to being handled, the vulture started flapping its broad wings. Trying to lift its body and take flight, it was demonstrating to us that its muscle control was excellent. The air displaced by its movements was encouraging.

"It kept trying to get to the top of the telephone pole. It just couldn't make it," said the woman in her description of its efforts to find a safer place to perch. "We sit out every evening and watch them come to roost," she continued.

After another series of strong wing beats that tested my ability to hold it, the vulture settled down for a moment. Recalling the Greek myth of the Trojan boy, Ganymede, who was carried away by Zeus, I began to wonder if this four-pound bird with its six-foot wingspan had something

See **VULTURE**, Page 8A



BEBE  
MCCASLAND

## Parent's Corner:

# Looking at where all the fireflies have gone

I've had a lot of comments about my columns of the horned toad and mud dauber and several have asked about the follow-up I mentioned concerning lightening bugs.

So, here goes: Where have all the lightening bugs gone?

I remember when I was a kid the night sky was full of these insects, and we would gather a bottle full of them to use as a light

on the path.

Well, nobody knows for sure where they have disappeared, but most researchers blame two main factors: development and light pollution.

Most species of fireflies thrive as larvae in rotting wood and forest litter at the margins of ponds and streams.

And as they grow, they more or less stay where they were born.

Some species are more aquatic than others, and a few are found in more arid areas but most are found in fields, forests and marshes.

Their environment of choice is warm, humid and near standing water of some kind

— ponds, streams and rivers or even shallow depressions that retain water longer than the surrounding ground.

The problem is that our open fields and forests are being paved over, and our waterways are seeing more development and noisy boat traffic.

As their habitat disappears, firefly numbers dwindle.

Pollution and increased use of pesticides may also contribute to destroying firefly habitat and natural prey. Human traffic is believed to disrupt firefly habitat as well.

While scientific studies have only been done for the past few

years, there's plenty of evidence in areas that were once full of fireflies; but since human traffic has increased, firefly populations have gone down.

They are disappearing all over the world, and it's believed to be because of human encroachment on habitat and increased light pollution from development and traffic.

But there are a few things we can do to help fireflies make a comeback in our area.

Fireflies use their flashing lights to signal each other, attract mates and warn of danger.

While the science is still preliminary, it's

likely that human light pollution can disrupt their flashes making it harder for fireflies to find mates and reproduce.

We can make our yard a haven for fireflies by turning off exterior and garden lights, and drawing our blinds at night so that interior light doesn't brighten our yard too much.

Some species of firefly larvae grow up in rotten logs and the litter that accumulates beneath trees. To encourage their growth, plant some trees on your property. If you have trees in your yard, consider leaving some natural litter around them to give firefly larvae a place to grow.

Most species of fireflies have one thing in common: they thrive around standing water and marshy areas.

We don't have a lot of this in our area but some ponds, streams and lakes can all provide good habitats for fireflies, and even a

small depression full of water can cause them to congregate.

Fireflies are believed to eat the smaller insects, grubs and snails that thrive in natural ponds, streams and water areas.

Fireflies are beneficial insects; they don't bite, they have no pincers, they don't attack, they don't carry disease, they are not poisonous and they don't even fly very fast.

The larvae of most species are specialized predators and feed on other insect larvae, snails and slugs.

Adults of some species are also predatory, but adults of some species are reported as not feeding.

It appears that our firefly population needs our help, so let's do our share and maybe we can "bottle up" a few again someday.

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



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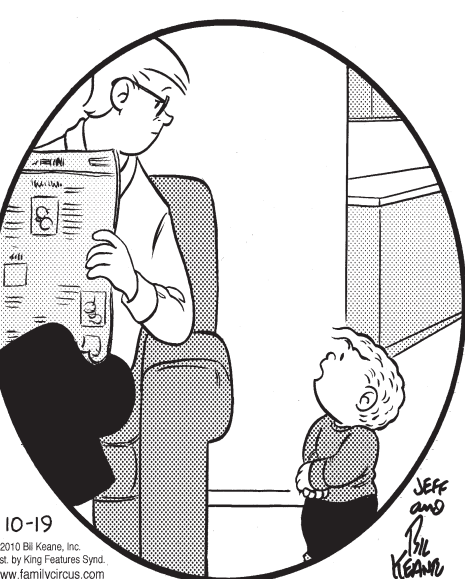
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports		
5:PM	News ABC	Alma Notic.		News	Noticias	News	Office	Scrivner	BBC	Lyrics!	Cash Cab	Movie: Friday the 13th, Part 2	Ways Die				106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good	Nation	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Lena de Amor (SS)	Two Men	News	Caso Cerro	News	Office	Dr. Young	PBS News-Hour	70s Show	Dirty Jobs		Ways Die	Bones			Phineas	Baseball	E:60	
7:PM	No Ordinary Family	Hasta que el Dinero	Glee	NCIS	El Clon (SS)	The Biggest Loser	MLB Baseball	Upd	NOVA (DVS)	One Tree Hill	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Friday the 13th Part 3	Ways Die	Bones			Movie: The Replacements, Orlando Jones	Movie: Under Wraps	NFL's Greatest Games	30 for 30
8:PM	Dancing With Stars	Soy Tu Dueña (SS)	Raising Wilde	NCIS: Los Angeles	El Fantasma de			Light of the Southwest	Frontline (DVS)	Life Unexpected	Dirty Jobs		Scream 2010	Law & Order			Fish	NFL's Greatest Games	2010 Poker	
9:PM	(:01) Detroit	Aquí y Ahora (SS)	Simpsons	The Good Wife	Alguien te Mira (SS)	Parenthood			Independent Lens	Married	Ghost Lab	(:15) Friday the 13th: The Final Chapter		Law & Order	Kennedy		Good	Good	2010 Poker	
10:PM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News			Mark	King	Dirty Jobs		Scream 2010	CSI: NY	The Mo'Nique		Jonas	Jonas	30 for 30	SportsCenter
11:PM	Nightline	Noticiero	Raymond	Letterman	Decisiones (SS)		MLB Post		Lopez	South Pk	Dirty Jobs	(:15) Movie: Friday the 13th Part 3		CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Hannah	Nation	Baseball		
12:AM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Verdad Oculta	Law & Order: SVU	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Earl		Earl	Church			Scream 2010	CSI: NY	Movie: The Replacements, Orlando Jones	Wizards	Wizards	2010 Poker	SportsCenter	
1:AM	Extra	Tontas Cielo	Paid	Raymond	Insider	Pagado	News		Lopez	Poker After Dark				Southland		Suite Life	Suite Life	Baseball		

DENNIS THE MENACE



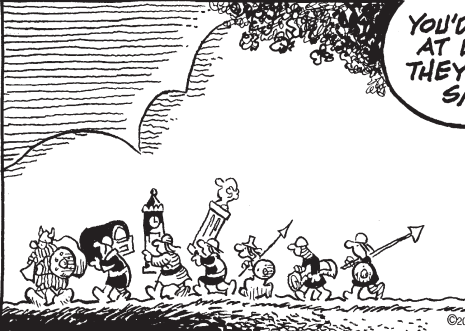
"DID YOU KNOW THAT RAISINS ARE REALLY DRIED GRAPES?"  
"WHY DON'T THEY CALL 'EM THAT ON THE BOX?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



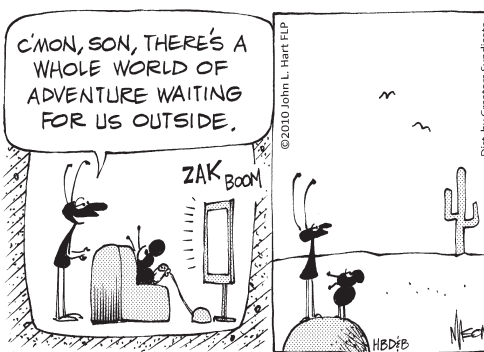
"Just so you know — if you're not doin' anything, I'm not doin' anything either."

HAGAR

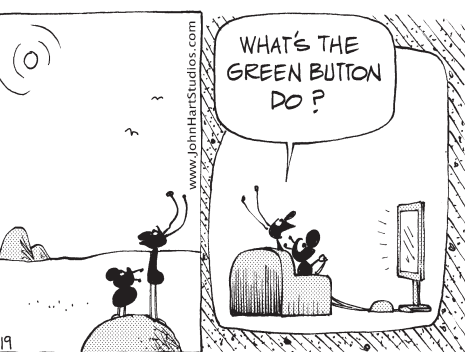


"YOU'D THINK AT LEAST THEY COULD SAY..."  
"GOODBYE, AND HAVE A NICE DAY!"

BC

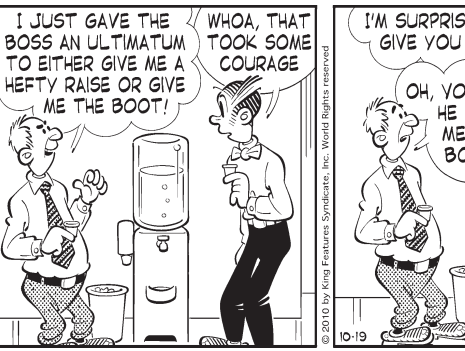


"C'MON, SON, THERE'S A WHOLE WORLD OF ADVENTURE WAITING FOR US OUTSIDE."



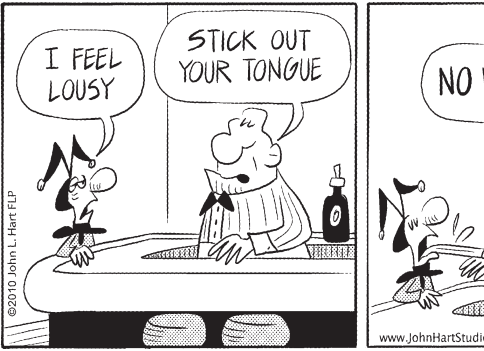
"WHAT'S THE GREEN BUTTON DO?"

BLONDIE

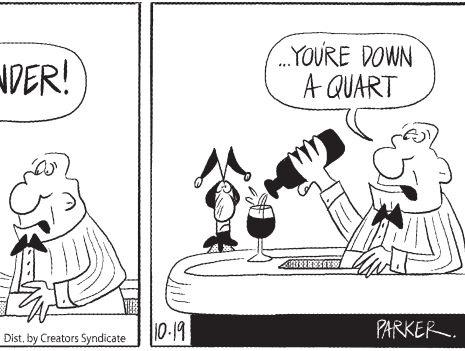


"I JUST GAVE THE BOSS AN ULTIMATUM TO EITHER GIVE ME A HEFTY RAISE OR GIVE ME THE BOOT!"  
"WHOA, THAT TOOK SOME COURAGE"  
"I'M SURPRISED HE DIDN'T GIVE YOU THE BOOT"  
"OH, YOU BET HE GAVE ME THE BOOT!"  
"I'M JUST KILLING TIME UNTIL MY WIFE PICKS ME UP"

WIZARD OF ID

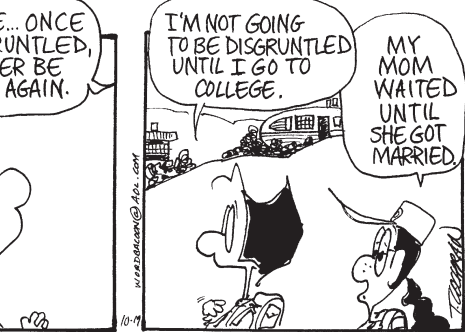
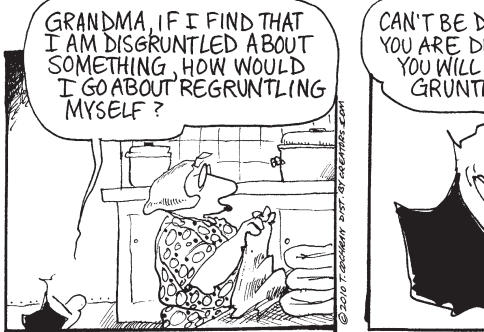


"I FEEL LOUSY"  
"STICK OUT YOUR TONGUE"  
"NO WONDER!"  
"...YOU'RE DOWN A QUART"

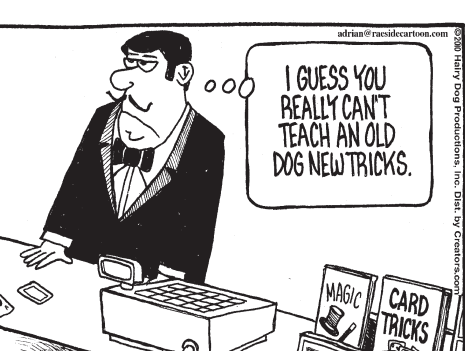


"GRANDMA, IF I FIND THAT I AM DISGRUNTLED ABOUT SOMETHING, HOW WOULD I GO ABOUT REGRUNTLED MYSELF?"  
"CAN'T BE DONE... ONCE YOU ARE DISGRUNTLED, YOU WILL NEVER BE GRUNTLED AGAIN."  
"I'M NOT GOING TO BE DISGRUNTLED UNTIL I GO TO COLLEGE."  
"MY MOM WAITED UNTIL SHE GOT MARRIED"

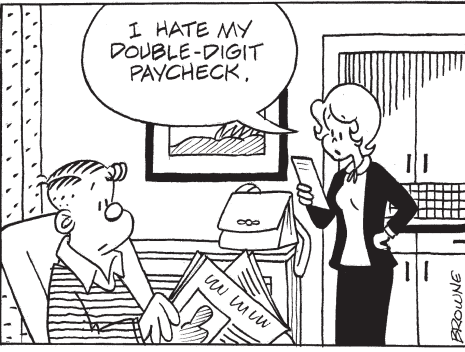
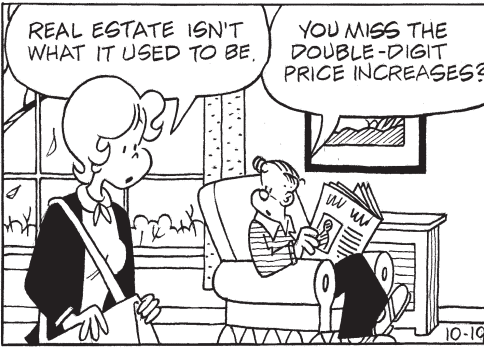
AGNES



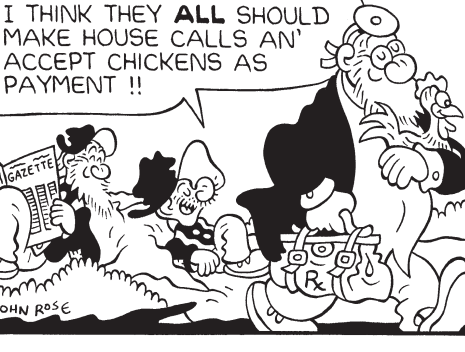
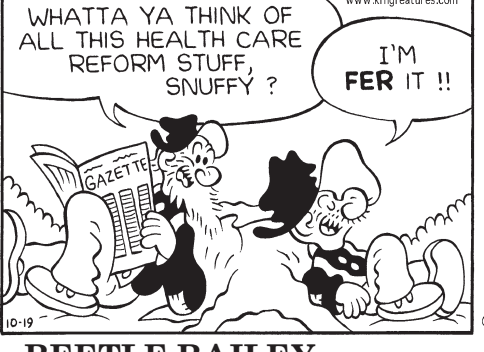
HI AND LOIS



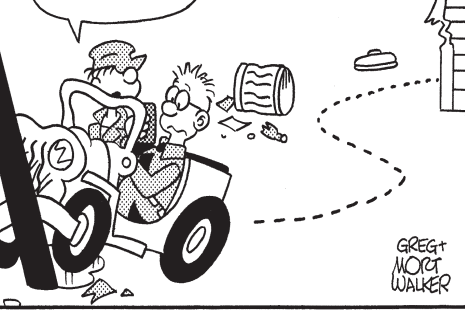
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 19, the 292nd day of 2010. There are 73 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 19, 1960, the United States began a limited embargo against Cuba as President Dwight D. Eisenhower banned exports to the communist-ruled nation covering all commodities except medical supplies and certain food products.

In 1765, the Stamp Act Congress, meeting in New York, drew up a declaration of rights and liberties.

In 1781, British troops under Gen. Lord Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, Va., as the American Revolution neared its end.

In 1812, French forces under Napoleon Bonaparte began their retreat from Moscow.

In 1864, Confederate Gen. Jubal A. Early attacked Union forces at Cedar Creek, Va.; the Union troops were able to rally

and defeat the Confederates.

In 1951, President Harry S. Truman signed an act formally ending the state of war with Germany.

In 1960, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was arrested during a sit-down protest at a lunch counter in Atlanta. (Sent to prison for a parole violation over a traffic offense, King was released after three days following an appeal by Robert F. Kennedy.)

In 1967, the U.S. space probe Mariner 5 flew past Venus.

In 1977, the supersonic Concorde made its first landing in New York City.

In 1987, the stock market crashed as the Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged 508 points, or 22.6 percent in value.

In 1994, 22 people were killed as a terrorist bomb shattered a bus in the heart of Tel Aviv's shopping district. Entertainer Martha Raye died in Los Angeles at age 78.

Today's Birthdays: Former U.S. ambassador to Russia Robert S. Strauss is 92. Author John le Carre (luh kah-RAY) is 79. Artist Peter Max is 73. Author and critic Renata Adler is 72. Actor Michael Gambon is

70. Actor John Lithgow (LIHTH-goh) is 65. Feminist activist Patricia Ireland is 65. Singer Jeannie C. Riley is 65. Rock singer-musician Patrick Simmons (The Doobie Brothers) is 62. Talk show host Charlie Chase is 58. Rock singer-musician Karl Wallinger (World Party) is 53. Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele is 52. Singer Jennifer Holliday is 50. Boxer Evander Holyfield is 48. TV host Ty Pennington ("Extreme Makeover: Home Edition") is 46. Rock singer-musician Todd Park Mohr (Big Head Todd and the Monsters) is 45. Actor Jon Favreau is 44. Amy Carter is 43. "South Park" co-creator Trey Parker is 41.

Answer to previous puzzle

VETO	GFLAT	IOTA
EARN	ALONE	NORM
STAR	ROADS	OHIO
TIDY	PROFIT	REAR
SNEERERS	ADDLE	
	ITS	SAGE
TWANG	MEMORIES	
AONE	SHEET	TREK
NOTATION	HOKEY	
	TOE	BOA
BITTY	PORTABLE	
ODOR	CLEANSWEEP	
TAXI	PASTE	FATE
CHIC	ASTER	URGE
HONK	STORY	LAOS

Newsday Crossword

AIR SUPPLY by Gail Grabowski  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**  
1 Prince of India  
6 Service charges  
10 "Sidewalk" eatery  
14 Avoid a big wedding  
15 Four-star review  
16 Throw with force  
17 Show enthusiasm  
19 General vicinity  
20 Mornings: Abbr.  
21 Befuddled state  
22 Jerusalem's locale  
24 Misplace  
25 Words of denial  
26 Calm  
29 Was significant  
32 Notion  
33 Sports fan's numbers  
35 Knitting material  
37 Nickname for Dallas  
38 Before, poetically  
39 French cheese  
40 Wild guess  
41 Storage structures  
43 All over again  
44 At a tilt  
46 Like a final batter  
48 Traditional folk tales  
49 Pickle flavoring  
50 Do a librarian's job  
53 Small taste  
54 Writing tablet

- 57 Angel's topper  
58 Lack stamina  
61 Approximately  
62 Parka, for example  
63 Book's name  
64 Adolescent  
65 Crude dwellings  
66 Hangs around  
**DOWN**  
1 Country singer McEntire  
2 Grad  
3 Personnel Department slots  
4 Police alert: Abbr.  
5 Waited patiently  
6 Turned to ice  
7 Roof overhang  
8 Eden dweller

- 9 Solemn  
10 Fancy fund-raising event  
11 Mystical glow  
12 At no cost  
13 Airline to  
22 Across  
18 Makes less burdensome  
23 RR stop: Abbr.  
24 Bad idea, so to speak  
25 Well-known  
26 Brothers and sisters  
27 Fixes up, as prose  
28 Fit for a monarch  
29 Was concerned  
30 \_\_\_ living (be employed)  
31 Towels off

- 34 Giggling sound  
36 Small salamander  
41 Rubber-band asset  
42 Fancy hotel accommodation  
45 Election Day mo.  
47 Fabric folds  
49 Food plans  
50 Photographed  
51 Rabbit relative  
52 "So what \_\_\_ is new?"  
53 "Spoiled" tot  
54 Bread with a pocket  
55 Comrade  
56 Changes the color of  
59 Debtor's letters  
60 Get off one's feet

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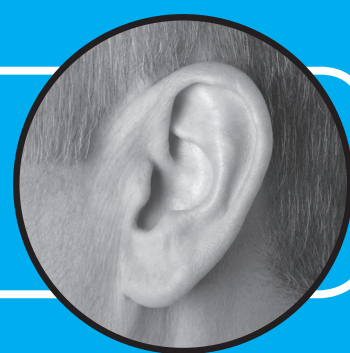
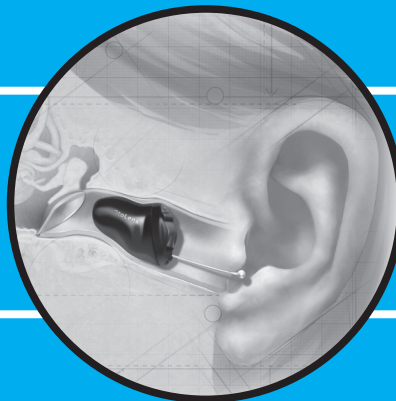
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## Texas news in brief

### Survey finds wealthy districts get best teachers

AUSTIN (AP) — A survey that measures teacher quality in Texas has found that students in under-achieving poor and minority districts are more likely to have under-qualified teachers than those in better-performing, wealthier white districts.

"In other words," David de la Garza, president of the group, tells the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, "the students who are most in need of the most-qualified teachers are the least likely to be taught by them."

The Association of Texas Professional Educators presented the report Monday, citing "substantial" differences in teacher quality at more than 5,700 schools surveyed.

The study measured data from the 2008-2009 school year. It took into account teacher certification test scores, years of experience and length of time in the same teaching position.

Association officials said that because of the findings, they'll ask the Legislature to give incentive pay increases to attract better qualified teachers to poorer, low-performing districts — maybe in the range of an additional \$7,500 to \$10,000 a year.

The association also expects to ask for teacher mentoring programs and measures to encourage more collaboration between principals and teachers in districts with problems.

The survey found that in poorer districts with a high percentage of minority students, teachers were more likely to be less experienced. They also left the school after a relatively short period. More affluent districts had more experienced teachers who stayed longer.

"Schools with greater percentages of economically disadvantaged students have more novice teachers, more teachers who are assigned out-of-field and higher rates of teacher turnover than the more affluent schools in most districts," he said.

The poorer districts were typically low-performing and exhibited more discipline problems, creating a working environment that discouraged teacher retention, said de la Garza.

### South Texas lawmaker's perjury trial to open

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Opening arguments are scheduled to begin Tuesday in the trial of a South Texas state lawmaker accused of perjury and ethics violations.

Rep. Kino Flores, 52, will go on trial in Travis County state district court in Austin.

A July 2009 indictment alleged that Flores, a Democrat from Palmview, failed to declare \$115,000 to \$185,000 in income each year from 2004 to 2009. Flores also was accused of not reporting property sales and gifts of air transportation. He has pleaded not guilty.

If convicted, Flores could face up to two years behind bars. Flores decided to not seek an eighth term in the Legislature after he was indicted.

Flores' attorney, Roy Minton, told the *Austin*

*American-Statesman* that he expected his client to testify in his own defense. Minton said he and his client don't fear cross-examination because Flores has "been accused of something that he is not guilty of."

Earlier this month, prosecutors filed a list of alleged "extraneous offenses" that they intend to raise during the trial. The filing alleged that Flores "was known by many as Mr. Ten Percent because of his insistence of being paid that percentage by people and companies awarded contracts for construction or other services" in Hidalgo County, on the Texas-Mexico border.

"Anyone that failed to pay him lost their contract," prosecutors alleged in the filing.

Flores "insisted upon being paid in cash and, if paid by check, cashed the check rather than deposit it to avoid a paper trail and to facilitate his evasion of income tax on those amounts."

### Indicted North Texas judge suspended

DALLAS (AP) — A state panel has suspended a North Texas state district judge with pay after her indictment on bribery charges.

*The Dallas Morning News* reports the State Commission on Judicial Conduct notified Collin County state District Judge Suzanne Wooten of her suspension Monday. Texas Supreme Court rules allow the commission to suspend an indicted judge.

A Collin County grand jury indicted Wooten, her campaign manager and two others last week on six bribery counts each and single counts of engaging in organized criminal activity.

The charges allege Wooten's 2008 Republican primary campaign received money in exchange for a favorable court ruling.

Wooten's attorney, Peter Schulte, said the suspension was not surprising and called the fact that it's a paid suspension significant.

### Border Patrol arrests fall 17 percent in 2010

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said Monday a 17 percent drop in Border Patrol arrests this year shows heightened enforcement is slowing illegal immigration.

The Border Patrol made about 463,000 arrests during the federal government's fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, down from 556,032 the previous 12 months. It marks the fifth straight year of declines.

Border Patrol arrests are down 72 percent from nearly 1.7 million in 2000. The agency typically makes about 97 percent of its arrests along the 1,952-mile border with Mexico, with nearly all the rest coming along the Canadian border.

Napolitano said the weak economy helps explain why fewer people are getting caught crossing the border illegally, and she also credited enforcement against employers. But she said a big reason is enforcement under President Barack Obama — including bringing the Border Patrol to an all-time

high of 20,500 agents and dispatching 1,200 National Guard troops.

"The manpower, the technology, the infrastructure all has enabled us to be able to really slow that flow of illegal immigrant traffic," she said at a news conference at the San Ysidro border crossing with Tijuana, Mexico.

Napolitano also said more drugs, weapons and illicit cash were being seized along the Mexican border.

"We now have a border more secure than ever before, and these efforts are only going to continue in the weeks, months and years ahead," she said.

### Berman drops speaker challenge

TYLER (AP) — There's one less conservative challenger to Texas House Speaker Joe Straus' leadership.

State Rep. Leo Berman had declared his candidacy for challenging the San Antonio Republican. Instead, the Tyler Republican told the *Tyler Morning Telegraph* on Monday that he's withdrawing from the race and endorsing state Rep. Warren Chisum's candidacy.

Chisum entered the race last Wednesday, saying his experience is needed as lawmakers confront the mounting budget shortfall and contentious re-districting. The Pampa Republican says he wants to make sure experienced leaders are in place to tackle the budget shortfall in 2011, estimated to be \$18 billion or more.

Straus cobbled together support as speaker last year from Democrats and Republicans, but a bloc of conservative Republicans never fell in line behind him.

### Re-sentencing starts in Texas husband stabbing case

HOUSTON (AP) — A woman who tied her husband to the bed, stabbed him 193 times and buried his body in the backyard is lying when she claims she did so after years of abuse, prosecutors told jurors Monday during her sentencing hearing.

Susan Wright, 34, is being re-sentenced for the 2003 murder of her 34-year-old husband, Jeffrey. She was initially sentenced to 25 years in prison, but the Texas Court of Appeals last year tossed the sentence, agreeing with Wright that her trial lawyers were deficient because they failed to present testimony from witnesses that would have bolstered the abuse claims.

During her opening statement Monday, Harris County prosecutor Connie Spence told jurors Wright lied about being physically abused by her husband to try to justify the killing.

She said it was only after Wright killed her husband that she began telling family and friends that she had been abused. Wright even went to police and took out a restraining order against Jeffrey Wright after stabbing him to promote her false story of abuse, Spence said.



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## VULTURE

Continued from Page 6A

similar in mind.

As the Franklins admired the blackish-brown visitor, I told them it was the cleanest vulture I had ever handled. With no

feathers on its red head and neck, nature had endowed it with the ability to stay clean in spite of its head sometimes being buried inside a cow.

From above and below, we all could see that not a feather was out of place. Feeling of its breastbone told me

it had ample body fat. Its feet and legs bore no residue of its last meal. "How is that?" was answered by sharing the fact that the bird's liquid waste has the ability to cleanse its feet when necessary.

Even though we could find nothing amiss with the turkey vulture, we transferred it to Night-Wings in Lubbock. Later that evening, Gail Barnes called. "We can't find anything wrong with this bird. When we placed it in a mew, it readily flew to a perch."

"That's not the point," I challenged. "It couldn't reach the top of a telephone pole.

Let's see what it can do in the flight cage." Then I asked my final question, "No one has been able to find out why the bird was down. Any ideas?"

"Upset stomach. Something it ate could have caused this," she added.

Another phone call a few days later was encouraging. From end to end and the highest perches, the turkey vulture had been flying with ease.

Nine days after having met us in Lamesa for the transfer of the raptor, Ray Nitzschke, a volunteer, took it to the Canyon Lakes area for release. From a cliff overlooking the lake, Ray knew the updrafts would help the large creature elevate more easily.

Typically, the vulture was awkward as it left the large carrier. Leaning forward and taking several steps, the bird used its strong legs to boost its body upward as its wings began to flap.

Under way, the vulture was soon able to extend its wings to use a rising thermal. With few wing beats, it continued its upward spiral. Later, its ability to soar and glide would allow it to travel long distances without a single stroke. Soon, it was just a dark spot in the sky.

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

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