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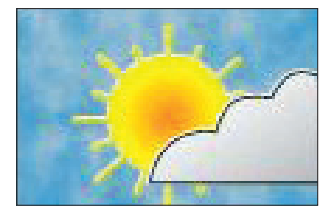
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BIG SPRING HERALD

MONDAY
 JANUARY 17, 2011



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Man, Woman of Year nomination deadline Tuesday

By **BILL McCLELLAN**
 News Editor

Nominations for Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce's Man and Woman of the Year come to a close Tuesday.

If you know someone who went out of their way to make Big Spring and Howard County a better place to be in 2010, the time to help them get some recognition is now. The application



ValVerde

process began earlier this month.

The actual banquet is set for Feb. 3.

"Criteria and application information for Man and Woman of the Year are available at the Chamber. We will be glad to e-mail or fax that information over if you need us to. Just give us a call," said Debbye ValVerde,

Chamber executive director.

There are only a couple of guidelines in the nominations process. Nominees do not have to be chamber members but nominators do. And, political figures are not eligible for the award.

Other than that, anyone is eligible. Organizers stress that nominees should be men and women who have volunteered their effort and time to various projects, if possible, and not

just one endeavor.

The theme for this year's banquet is People are the "Bling" of Big Spring. Tickets are \$25 each and will be available at the Chamber. The deadline to purchase tickets is Jan. 28.

Also recognized during the banquet will be outgoing Chamber president David Justice, with the GEO Group and incoming president Terri

See **DEADLINE**, Page 3

Hangar 25 meeting Thursday

Special to the Herald

The Hangar 25 Air Museum Association will hold its annual membership meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday. The meeting will be conducted on the second level mezzanine at the museum, located at 1911 Apron Drive.

According to Museum Administrator Joe Hays, the annual meeting is an opportunity to showcase the facility to membership and conduct the election for the governing board of directors. Ballots have been mailed to all active members of the museum and they must be marked and returned no later than 5 p.m. Thursday to be counted.

The traditional chili supper will be provided to the attendees by the museum association's board. The awards program will include the President's Award for Outstanding Service by outgoing Association President Skip Burcham. Hays will provide a presentation of the museum's plans for the coming year.

Special guest presenter Tai Kreidler, deputy director for internal operations at the Texas Tech Southwest Collection

See **HANGAR 25**, Page 3

Cookie time again!

Girl Scouts' annual sale set to begin Saturday

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

Have a sweet tooth? Want to help area youth? Want to satisfy both desires at the same time?

The Girl Scouts of America will start their annual cookie sale later this month, which means area residents will have ample opportunity to both indulge their appetite and support an organization that helps prepare girls to be leaders in society.

The annual sale begins in Big Spring on Saturday said Janice Hogan, membership manager for the Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest region.

Eight varieties of the popular snacks will be on sale this year — lemonade, shortbread, thin mints, peanut butter sandwich, peanut butter patties, caramel delight and "Shout Out," a new variety added this year which is described as a caramelized sugar cookie similar to a ginger snap.

The cookies will sell for \$3.50 a box and proceeds will go to fund Girl Scout projects for the coming year, Hogan said.

"The individual Girl Scout troops receive 55 cents for each box sold, and the local service units receive 3 cents per box," Hogan said. "That

See **COOKIES**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Shannon Duncan, left, and Janice Hogan, area Girl Scouts of America officials, are shown with samples of cookies scouts will be selling beginning Saturday.

West Texas Centers to host PTSD meetings

Special to the Herald

West Texas Centers will expand its care for people living with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. In addition to the weekly support group meetings held at the VA Hospital, West Texas Centers will host Peer to Peer meetings for men and women who have or believe they may have PTSD.

The meetings will also be open to family members, West Texas Centers CEO Shelley Smith said. West Texas Centers will continue its partnership with the West Texas VA Health System in its "Bring Everyone in



Smith

the Zone" or BEITZ program. BEITZ is a non-profit group that helps service members, veterans and their families get back "in the zone."

The group meets every Thursday night on the sixth floor of the VA Hospital. Wil Hoggard, West Texas Center's Veterans Liaison Officer, facilitates the meetings.

"This new program would be an extension of BEITZ," Smith said. "We have had a strong core of people who attend the weekly support group meetings at

the VA, and we believe that we can reach even more people with peer to peer meetings."

West Texas Centers has a group of specially trained peer counselors to work with service members, spouses and children of all ages.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder usually occurs within three months of experiencing a traumatic event, but it can occur years later. Flashbacks and upsetting dreams regarding the traumatic event are a few of the signs of PTSD,

See **PTSD**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Alton Richter



Funeral services for Alton Richter, 64, of Murchison will be held at 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 17, 2011, at the Grace Lutheran Church in Lamesa with Art Hill officiating. Burial will follow in Sparenburg Cemetery under the direction of Branon Funeral Home in Lamesa.

Alton passed away Friday Jan. 14, 2011, in Athens, Texas. He was born March 1, 1946, in Lamesa to Lydia (Kunkel) and Bill Richter. He married Sheryl Nichols in Ackerly in 1967. Alton graduated from Sands High School and he was a member of the Lutheran Church.

He was employed by J.R.J. Paving. Alton enjoyed carpentry, fishing, football and dancing. He loved his family and adored his dog, Woodroe. Those he worked with called him Al and his family called him Butch.

Alton is survived by his wife, Sheryl Richter of Murchison; children, Michael Richter and wife, Nicole, of Canton, and Courtney Richter and Ashley Richter, both of Murchison; grandchild, Michael Richter of Canton; sisters Delphine Barthel and husband, Bruce, of Amarillo, Virginia Bartlett and husband, Bill, of Midland and Cynthia Richter of Ackerly; and brothers, Donnie Richter of Ackerly and Lonnie Richter of Colorado City.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Lydia and Bill Richter.

The family suggests memorials to the American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 11454, Alexandria, Va 22312 www.diabetes.org

Paid obituary

Roberto Sotelo



Roberto Sotelo, 66, of Lubbock, formerly of Big Spring, died Friday, Jan. 14, 2011, at his home in Lubbock following an illness. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011, at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Big Spring. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

A vigil service will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2011, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

Roberto was born Sept. 16, 1944, in Big Spring to Pedro and Matilde Sotelo. He attended Big Spring schools and Howard College and received his bachelor's degree from Wayland College in Lubbock. Roberto had worked at the Big Spring State Hospital for a number of years before moving to Lubbock in the mid 1980's.

Mr. Sotelo served in the United States Army from 1964 to 1967 in the Vietnam War. He was a member of Christ the King Cathedral in Lubbock.

Survivors include his wife, Maria Sotelo of Lubbock; two stepsons, Avery Hinojos of Lubbock and Alfred Hinojos and wife Lisa of Houston; one stepdaughter, Jovanna Flores and husband Ray of Lubbock; five grandchildren; one great-grandchild; one brother, Willie and wife Leonor Sotelo of Big Spring; two sisters, Connie Balderas and husband Rudy and Anita Sotelo, all of Big Spring; one uncle and 21 nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one niece.

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

Ernie Justice

Ernie Justice, 58, of Big Spring died Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011, at his residence. Graveside funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with Charles Gillenwater Jr. officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 7:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2011, at the funeral home.

He was born April 24, 1952, in Illinois. Ernie worked for Kimrad Transport up until his death as a professional driver.

He is survived by his wife, Cheryl Justice; two daughters, Heather Templin and Amber Paredes and spouse Armando; and three grandchildren.

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

Allene K. Lawson

Allene K. Lawson, 85, of Garden City died Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011, in a Stanton nursing home. Graveside funeral services will be held at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2011, at the Garden City Cemetery Graveside with Chaplain Joe Torres officiating.

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

Virginia Shook

Funeral services for Virginia Shook, 79, of Lamesa will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011, at the First Assembly of God Church in Lamesa with Mike Matheny and Forrest Srader officiating. Burial will follow in Lamesa Memorial Park under the direction of Branon Funeral Home in Lamesa. Visitation will be held from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2011, at Branon Funeral Home.

She died Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011, in Lamesa. She was born April 25, 1931, in Tulsa, Okla.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 9 a.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. today:

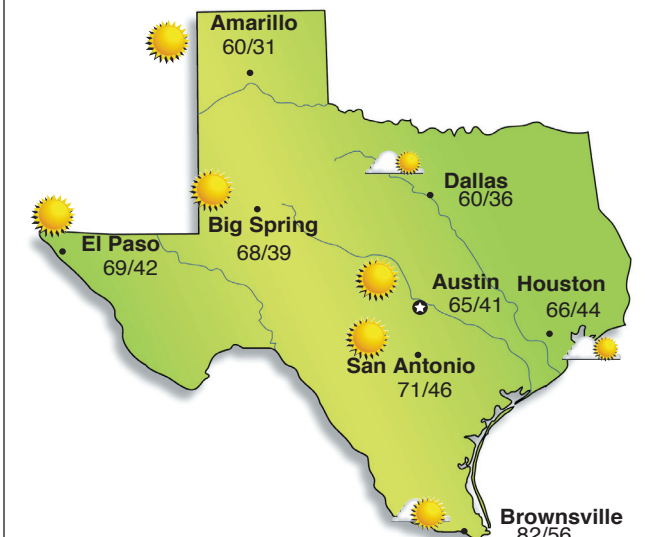
- ROXANA PAYAN, 21, of Odessa, was arrested Saturday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- RUBEN ANTHONY GONZALES, 27, of Midland, was arrested Saturday on warrants for driving while license invalid with a previous suspension or conviction and theft.
- ANTHONY ROBERT SANCHEZ JR., 24, of 2813 Coronado, was arrested Saturday on a warrant from another agency.
- TEKIA KIM WATERS, 28, of 300 Tulane, was arrested Saturday on warrants for possession of drug paraphernalia and failure to appear.
- JOSHUA ANTHONY YANEZ, 22, of 1503 Wood, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.
- HOLLEY DENISE JENNINGS, 25, of 1405 Tucson, was arrested Saturday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction.
- VICTORIA K. PEREZ, 37, of 2900 W. Highway 80, was arrested Saturday on charges of resisting arrest, search or transportation, failure to identify and public intoxication.
- AZERIA ANGELOQUE MONQUIE HERRERA, 17, of 3407 Old Colorado City Highway, was arrested Saturday on a charge of failure to identify – giving false information.
- ERNESTO OLIVAS, 33, of 502 S. Goliad, was arrested Saturday on charges of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction and a warrant from another agency.
- JOSE LUIS DELACRUZ, 49, of 601 Elgin, was arrested Saturday on a charge of disorderly conduct – language.
- MELISSA GONZALEZ, 26, of 1610 S. Owens, was arrested Saturday on a warrant from another agency.
- SAMANTHA MARIE PAYNE, 27, of 303 E. Ninth St., was arrested Saturday on a warrant for possession of a controlled substance.
- PHILLIP MENDOZA, 59, of 104 N.W. Eighth St., was arrested Saturday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- NOE SOLIZ, 49, of 100 Hooser Rd. Apt. A, was arrested Sunday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- JIMMY FRANCIS GARRARD, 36, of 303 E. Ninth St., was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- KATHY PENA, 29, of Stanford, was arrested Sunday on a warrant for possession of alcohol by a minor.
- HERMENEJILDO OROSCO III, 45, of 1011 N. Bell, was arrested Sunday on a charge of theft – shoplifting.
- OTIS JAMES PORTER, 28, of 2510 Hunter, was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction.
- JOHNATHON TRAVIS REYES, 26, of Midland, was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction.
- TAMMY KAY SILEN, 40, of 3224 Cornell, was arrested Sunday on warrants for dog or cat running

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Tue 1/18	Wed 1/19	Thu 1/20	Fri 1/21	Sat 1/22
68/39 Mainly sunny. High 68F. Winds NE at 5 to 10 mph.	73/37 More sun than clouds. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the upper 30s.	47/25 Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the mid 20s.	56/32 Sunshine. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 30s.	57/31 Mainly sunny. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the low 30s.
Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 6:06 PM	Sunrise: 7:46 AM Sunset: 6:07 PM	Sunrise: 7:46 AM Sunset: 6:08 PM	Sunrise: 7:46 AM Sunset: 6:09 PM	Sunrise: 7:45 AM Sunset: 6:10 PM

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	64	38	sunny	Kingsville	76	51	mst sunny
Amarillo	60	31	sunny	Livingstone	62	39	pt sunny
Austin	65	41	sunny	Longview	56	36	pt sunny
Beaumont	65	43	pt sunny	Lubbock	65	31	sunny
Brownsville	82	56	mst sunny	Lufkin	59	38	pt sunny
Brownwood	66	38	pt sunny	Midland	67	41	sunny
Corpus Christi	69	51	mst sunny	Raymondville	83	53	mst sunny
Corsicana	59	35	pt sunny	Rosenberg	65	43	pt sunny
Dallas	60	36	pt sunny	San Antonio	71	46	sunny
Del Rio	75	45	sunny	San Marcos	66	41	pt sunny
El Paso	69	42	sunny	Sulphur Springs	56	34	pt sunny
Fort Stockton	68	45	sunny	Sweetwater	66	39	sunny
Gainesville	54	29	pt sunny	Tyler	55	34	pt sunny
Greenville	55	31	pt sunny	Weatherford	59	31	pt sunny
Houston	66	44	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	59	30	sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	48	36	rain	Minneapolis	11	-16	cloudy
Boston	38	34	mixed	New York	41	36	mixed
Chicago	33	16	snow	Phoenix	76	50	sunny
Dallas	60	36	pt sunny	San Francisco	66	51	mst sunny
Denver	49	30	pt sunny	Seattle	45	37	rain
Houston	66	44	pt sunny	St. Louis	35	17	mixed
Los Angeles	75	52	sunny	Washington, DC	43	38	rain
Miami	81	59	pt sunny				

at large, failure to appear (four counts), assault – family violence and a warrant from another agency.

• CHRISTOPHER YANEZ, 33, of 1207 Mulberry, was arrested Sunday on a charge of criminal mischief.

• GINA YVETTE DELEON, 39, of Lubbock, was arrested Sunday on two warrants from another agency.

• ASSAULT was reported: In the 3200 block of Cornell. In the 1800 block of Hearn.

• BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported: In the 1400 block of E. Sixth Street. In the 400 block of S. Benton.

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 2400 block of Alabama.

• BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 1100 block of N. Aylesford.

• THEFT was reported: In the 2600 block of Fairchild. In the 200 block of W. FM 700. In the 100 block of E. FM 700.

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TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS:

Celebrations across state for MLK holiday

DALLAS (AP) — Parades, marches and other celebrations were scheduled across Texas in memory of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Monday was the 25th anniversary of the federal holiday named for the slain civil rights leader.

King would have been 82 on Jan. 15. He was assassinated in 1968.

Thousands were expected for the annual MLK march in San Antonio. Corpus Christi also planned a march.

A parade in Houston had the theme of "Bridging The Education Divide."

Abilene planned an afternoon parade, followed by an MLK dinner. An MLK lecture was scheduled Monday night in Dallas.

In El Paso, volunteers with the MLK food drive planned to spend Monday sorting and delivering donations.

El Paso considers fee for plastic bags

EL PASO (AP) — The El Paso city staff, in an effort to fight litter, is expected to propose a fee for consumers who prefer plastic bags over paper ones.

The El Paso Times reported Monday that the fee likely to be proposed by Marty Howell, who is the city's sustainability manager, will be 10 cents a bag.

Howell says you're "using a lot of energy and oil to make something that's just going to get thrown away."

The council has told City Manager Joyce Wilson to propose a way to reduce the number of bags on streets.

Brownsville this month became the first city in Texas to ban single-use plastic bags commonly

offered by grocery and retail stores. Brownsville shoppers must pay a \$1 surcharge if they want a store's single-use plastic bag.

Man rescued from garbage-filled truck

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas emergency personnel used ladders and ropes to rescue an apparent homeless man buried in garbage in the back of a trash-hauling vehicle.

The injured man was transported to a Dallas hospital early Monday. Further details on his condition were not immediately available.

Investigators believe the man was sleeping in a trash bin that was emptied into the garbage truck.

Temperatures in the Dallas area were in the mid-40s early Monday.

Texarkana soldier killed in Afghan action

WASHINGTON (AP) — A 28-year-old soldier from Texarkana, Texas, is dead of wounds suffered when Afghan insurgents attacked her unit with an improvised bomb.

A Defense Department statement says Sgt. Zainah C. Creamer died Wednesday in Kandahar province in southeastern Afghanistan.

She was assigned to the 212th Military Police Detachment, Headquarters Battalion, Fort Belvoir, Va.

Farmers giving up on sweet potatoes

GRAND SALINE (AP) — Many East Texas farmers are giving up on sweet potatoes, saying it's become hard to find properties that are big enough and they must fend off wild hogs and weevils that can devastate their crop.

Texas used to be one of nation's top growers of sweet potatoes. The Texas Department of Agriculture says it ranked No. 3 in 1970 with 13,500 acres.

This year, it was No. 8 with only 1,300 acres.

Tony Phillips of Grand Saline tells the Houston Chronicle there were 70 or 80 growers when he joined his father's and uncle's sweet potato business in 1978. Now, he thinks there's about 15.

And, Phillips isn't earning a living growing sweet potatoes. He farms during the day and works at night at the Morton Salt Mine.

Dallas mayor not seeking second term

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert, who has been mentioned as a possible candidate to replace GOP U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, announced Monday he will not seek a second term leading the city of nearly 1.3 million.

Leppert did not specify his future political plans in a statement provided to the media, posted on social networking sites and e-mailed to thousands of his supporters. He has been Dallas mayor since 2007.

Hutchison announced last week that she would not run for re-election in 2012. She failed in her 2010 bid to unseat GOP Gov. Rick Perry.

"Over the next few weeks, with much thought and prayer, I will lay out how I can best serve the people of Dallas, North Texas, and indeed the entire state of Texas," Leppert said in the statement.

The mayor, a Republican, did not immediately return a message from The Associated Press.

Leppert added almost 600 officers to the Dallas police force, reduced crime, built a strong economy through development, improved education and created "a more civil and transparent government" at city hall, according to his statement.

The former construction company CEO also passed ethics, lobbying and campaign finance reforms during his mayoral term, the statement said.

Leppert, 56, in December drew attention after wrecking while riding his bicycle and breaking a couple of ribs. He was wearing a helmet.

COOKIES

Continued from Page 1

money will be used to fund activities such as camps, service projects, field trips or anything else they decide to do as a troop."

To guard against fraudulent sales, each Girl Scout will have a laminated "cookie card" on hand to assure would-be buyers of their identity.

The sale ends March 13.

Hogan and local service unit manager Shannon Duncan are using the sale to help kick off a membership drive in hopes of adding to the current total of 35 Girl Scouts in the Big Spring area.

"The number of Girl Scouts in this area have been slowly shrinking in the past few years," Hogan said. "But now we have a strong leadership team working and

we want to build those membership numbers back up."

Girl Scouts programs are available for girls in grades kindergarten through 12 and help teach girls valuable life lessons such as courage, confidence and character, as well as helping prepare them in areas such as community service, college and career preparation, friendship and sisterhood, Hogan said.

"Plus, it's a lot of fun,"

she quickly added. "It's fun because of all the activities they do through the year."

Duncan said local programs scouts will be involved in this year include food service projects, a summer day camp, refurbishing the Northside Community Center and helping to keep two Adopt-A-Spots free of trash.

"A new program this year is Camp CEO, which will be held at Mitre Peak (near Fort

Davis)," she said. The camp, open to all area tenth-grade girls (not just those in scouting), teams girls with mentors for the weekend, during which time they learn about leadership skills, goal setting and choosing a career.

"Best of all, it's free," Hogan said.

For more information on Girls Scouts or the annual cookie sale, contact Hogan at 432-550-2688, ext. 311, or Duncan at 517-4354.

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Mary "Neni" Doporto, 70, died Wednesday. Funeral Mass was at 10:30 a.m. Monday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

PTSD

Continued from Page 1

along with anger, irritability, self-destructive behavior and trouble sleeping.

Many of the people who need assistance now for PTSD are male and female veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, Smith

said.

Many people don't recognize that they are living with PTSD, she added.

Some of the leading indicators of PTSD are men and women who have returned from military duty or people who have experienced automobile accidents, victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault and other traumatic events.

"In Wil's 20-plus years

as a police officer, he has worked hundreds of sexual assault, as well as domestic violence cases with both male and female perpetrators," Smith said.

Siblings, spouses, children or anyone who has come in contact with veterans who live with PTSD are welcome to attend.

"We want those people and members of their family who would be

interested in attending to contact us so we can make a plan," Smith said.

Anyone interested in attending the meetings should call Hoggard at 432-213-5342 or e-mail him at william.hoggard@wtcmhmr.org.

West Texas Centers maintains a free 24-hour mental health hotline for all members, including veterans. That number is 1-800-375-4357 and

is manned by mental health specialists.

HANGAR 25

Continued from Page 1

in Lubbock, will give a program on WPA Architecture in Texas, based on his research.

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the Works Progress Administration undertook

projects across the nation that put people to work building roads, bridges and other structures.

BigSpring and Howard County were included in the places that benefited from the Roosevelt administration's building programs.

Kreidler will give museum members a look at

Big Spring's WPA projects in the greater context of those built across Texas prior to World War II.

Membership in the Hangar 25 Air Museum may be obtained at levels from \$30 per year up to \$1,000 per year for Founder level donors.

You may become a member of Hangar 25

Air Museum by visiting the museum or through the Internet at www.hangar25airmuseum.com and completing the application.

The museum was dedicated in 1999 following restoration of the World War II-era bombardier school hangar in which it is located.

DEADLINE

Continued from Page 1

Johansen with Johansen Nursery and Land-

scape.

Other banquet activities will include an auction jazz music performed by Anna O'Brien, Big Spring High School choir di-

rector, accompanied on piano by Eddie Vandewalker, music director at Howard College.

The Chamber is located at 215 W. Third and can be reached at 263-

7641.

Bill McClellan can be reached at 263-7331, ext. 235 or by e-mail at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com


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DePuy Orthopaedics, a division of Johnson & Johnson, has issued a worldwide recall of its ASR™ Acetabular System for Total Hip Replacement, after determining that these hip implants may fail at an alarming rate. The "metal-on-metal" composition of these implants can release particles into the patient, potentially causing serious and painful reactions — sometimes requiring complete revision surgery.

Reportedly, Johnson & Johnson has been seeking medical releases from recipients so that their claims adjustors can speak with you directly and possibly take down statements without your having counsel present — an unwise action for any recipient to do.

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must be very cautious with dealing with the manufacturer or its representative without proper legal representation.

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Ron Midkiff Publisher... Ext. 250
John A. Moseley Managing Editor... Ext. 230
Rick Nunez Advertising Manager... Ext. 229
Robert Smith Circulation Manager... Ext. 252
Tony Hernandez Production Manager... Ext. 256

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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News Editor

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Managing Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Big 3 are back

There couldn't have been a better curtain raiser for the North American International Auto Show than the news that Ford Motor Co. is adding 7,000 jobs in the United States to meet production and engineering needs.

It's the perfect tangible evidence of how far the domestic auto industry has come from two years ago, when coverage of the Detroit show read like an obituary.

Ford's need for more employees is fueled by surging demand for its products. The hometown automaker is now leading the industry in delivering quality, desirable vehicles across its entire line-up.

The news also was positive for Chrysler. Fiat, impressed by Chrysler's comeback and confident of its future, is upping its stake to 25 percent. Chrysler grabbed headlines Monday for a stunning array of new models, which are rolling out much sooner than expected.

General Motors has joined Ford and Chrysler in shoring up its vehicle menu, and along with Ford, is coming off a comeback year that turned surprisingly profitable. Chrysler also posted profits in 2010 on an operating basis.

It all adds up to a very positive outlook for 2011, especially for Michigan, where GM and Chrysler have promised \$4 billion in new investments.

There is the definite air of accomplishment at this year's auto show. Companies that were very near death are now thriving. Detroit feels like the Motor City again.

As always, though, there are potholes to dodge. The three automakers have to be smart about their growth. They can't afford to add unnecessary costs that will have to be cut later if there's another economic downturn.

And they have to keep an eye on what's happening with gasoline prices.

Automakers are particularly sensitive to sudden spikes in fuel costs.

That's one reason the Detroit 3 have to keep a keen eye on the foreign-based competition. Toyota is developing a more extensive Prius family of hybrids, while Volkswagen and Mercedes are working on improved diesel models, hoping to secure and hold an advantage in fuel economy.

Hopefully, the automakers pressed the message of the threat presented by soaring gasoline prices with the congressional delegation that toured the show Monday. Congress must urge the Obama administration to back away from policies and regulations that are contributing to the increase in oil prices.

So far though, nothing seems to be discouraging consumers.

The Detroit Three have to keep on their toes, however. For the first time, four foreign-based automakers have a 5 percent or larger share of the U.S. market and are competing across the full line of vehicles sizes, including SUVs. Judging by the floor traffic at the auto show preview, overseas-based manufacturers will give Detroit automakers a run for their money. Happily, dealers are reporting their showrooms are filling again. Credit is easing, and leases are making a return.

That's a great way for the auto industry to start a new year.

It shouldn't be lost on anyone touring this year's auto show that the explanation for the return of the Big Three rests largely with far better cars and trucks.

The automakers seem to get that they need a diversity of products, from small to large, and that every single one has to be built with quality and designed to please consumers.

Detroit can be proud that it has got there, and much sooner than anyone could have imagined two years ago.

THE NEWS
DETROIT

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Your Heavenly words, Lord, make the future smother.

Amen

Thinking about blood libel

Alan Dershowitz isn't offended. He says it's OK for Sarah Palin to invoke one of the most anti-Semitic images of our time in attacking those who have been critical of her putting crosshairs over the name of the congresswoman who was later shot.

"There is nothing improper and certainly nothing anti-Semitic in Sarah Palin using the term to characterize what she reasonably believes are false accusations that her words or images may have caused a mentally disturbed individual to kill and maim. The fact that two of the victims are Jewish is utterly irrelevant to the propriety of using this widely used term," he reportedly told BigGovernment.com.

I disagree.

The best thing that can be said for Palin is that she probably didn't even know that "blood libel" refers to the longstanding accusation that Jews killed Christian babies to use their blood to make Passover matzohs.

Generations of murdered Jews attest to the power of this true libel.

There is simply no comparison between this terrible term and Palin's complaint that talking heads are blaming her for contributing to an environment of hate. So quick was Palin to get herself into the very fray she purports to condemn, that she didn't check what she said.

And for this, she will hit the jackpot.

Her appearance next week on Sean Hannity's show is already being promoted and is sure to be a ratings winner. Condemn the state of the public discourse all you want: My money is on her outing on Fox News (for whom she and I are both contributors) beating everything in its time slot combined.

I don't blame Palin for the tragic shooting in Tucson.

The man who pulled the trigger is to blame. Culpability is individual.

I do blame her for not acting like a leader in the days since. Not knowing what "blood libel" means is bad enough. But it's far worse not knowing that in times of national crisis you don't respond to the cranks; you rise above them and bring the coun-

try together, as the president later did.

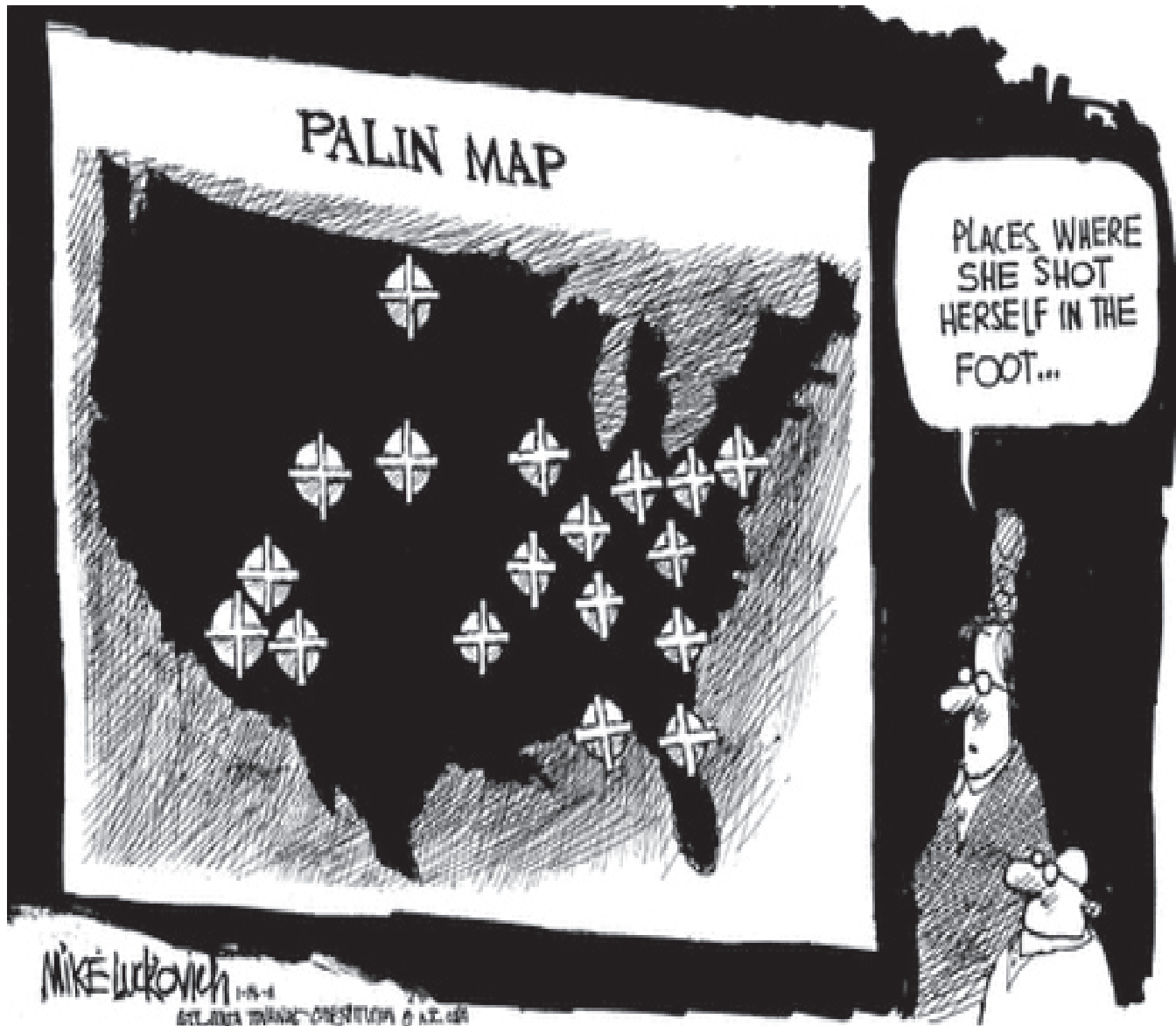
And I blame those who let her get away with it.

Palin keeps asking to be taken seriously as a future president, even if only to maintain the bright lights and big fees. But she behaves like every other striving talk-show host, eager to get in the good job, the good line, the zinger — even if the end result of an endless cycle of such zingers is a level of political discourse that is disgraceful if not also dangerous.

If this is, in retrospect, just another chapter in building the career of Sarah Palin, television talker, international toastmaster, seven-figure speaker for hire, there is no doubt that it will be counted as a success. Her comments have come to play a central role in the story: The liberal media have once again vilified her. She has once again stood up for herself, refusing to let them get away with it, holding her ground and hitting the ratings jackpot.

For some purposes, this is a very good story. Running for president is not one of them.

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No off button on Palin

This is a free country. If Sarah Palin wants to run for president in 2012, she is free to try.

But she will not win the GOP nomination because Republican voters are not going to choose a middle-aged version of Britney Spears — a figure whose most evident talent is to attract attention to herself — to challenge Barack Obama.

It's this simple: Republicans are too smart to nominate a candidate with a 50 percent unfavorable rating, according to the latest NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll, before she has declared for office.

Cue to Palin's latest video, in which she countered left-wing nuts who, with no proof whatsoever, tied her to the Tucson shootings.

"Journalists and pundits should not manufacture a blood libel that serves only to incite the very hatred and violence that they purport to condemn," she said.

For close to three days, Palin had handled the brouhaha tastefully. On Saturday, she issued a short statement offering her

condolences to Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, the other victims and their families; then she kept her mouth shut. By Tuesday, cooler heads prevailed. News coverage rightly focused away from the blame game and turned to reporting on Giffords' recovery, the other victims and information on the man — I won't name him; that's what he wants — charged in the crimes. Without saying a word, Palin had won that round.

That is, until Wednesday, when Palin released her video, which turned the spotlight back on her and added a new element. Now cable TV news can noodle over whether Palin was deliberately provocative or clueless in using the words "blood libel" — a term coined to describe the spurious and ancient charge that Jews murdered non-Jewish children and then drank their blood in rituals. (And yes, I know a Wall Street Journal opinion piece used the same term Monday.)

The sorry episode confirmed the suspicion that Palin is addicted to getting attention, while her boosters are addicted to defending every thoughtless utterance she releases. And even her boosters know what most Republicans know: Palin is not a serious thinker.

It always makes me sad to think about what Palin might

have been. What if, knowing she might be chosen, she had done a better job of preparing to be a presidential running mate? What if John McCain had not asked her to join the GOP ticket? What if she had entered the spotlight without having her personal life smeared on the Internet?

I think back on her as the Alaska governor, with a 90 percent approval rating and a maverick's commitment to taking on the corrupt elements inside her own party. I think of the pragmatic Wasilla mayor who championed a sales tax to pay for law enforcement. If McCain had chosen someone else, in a couple of years, Palin might have become a seasoned politician, a smaller target and more surgical debater.

Instead — as pundits dissected Palin's performance as a mother and feasted on her daughter's teen pregnancy — an ugly trial-by-fire brought out the worst in Palin.

With her tweets and Facebook pronouncements, she's become a virtuoso at pressing liberal buttons.

It's too bad that, like the people who live to hate her, she doesn't know how to stop.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com.

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Green Bay routs Falcons, 41-28

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — As Aaron Rodgers trotted off the field, savoring another playoff win, he was serenaded with chants of “Go, Pack, Go!”

This wasn't Lambeau Field, but it sure sounded like it.

Looking very much at home, Rodgers threw three touchdown passes, ran for another score and led the Green Bay Packers to their second straight postseason road victory with a stunning 48-21 rout of the top-seeded Atlanta Falcons on Saturday night.

“This just feels so good right now,” said Rodgers, who threw for 366 yards and led Green Bay to the highest-scoring playoff game in its storied history.

The Packers (12-6) will have to win one more on the road to complete their improbable run from sixth seed to

the Super Bowl, but nothing looks out of the question the way Rodgers is playing. He'll lead Green Bay into the NFC championship game at Chicago next weekend.

“This probably was my best performance — the stage we were on, the importance of this game,” Rodgers said. “It was a good night.”

He completed 31 of 36 passes and put up more yards than Brett Favre — the guy he replaced in Green Bay — ever threw for in a playoff game. After knocking off Michael Vick and the Eagles in Philadelphia, then dominating Matt Ryan and the Falcons in Atlanta, Rodgers is creating his own legacy in Tittletown USA.

Brett who?

Green Bay scored 35 consecutive points, including Tramon Williams' 70-yard in-

terception return on the final play of the first half that left the Falcons (13-4) and a crowd of more than 69,000 in a state of shock as the teams headed to the locker room.

The Packers could've left punter Tim Masthay at home. He was never needed.

“I felt like I was in the zone,” Rodgers said.

Ryan, who beat out Rodgers for a spot in the Pro Bowl, had a miserable night. He also was picked off in the end zone, costing Atlanta another scoring chance early on that might've changed the complexion of the game, and lost a fumble attempting a simple sneak. In two career playoff games, Matty Ice is 0-2 with six turnovers and a safety.

“Anytime you're in the playoffs, you have an opportunity to win it all,” Ryan said. “When that doesn't hap-

pen, it's frustrating.”

The Falcons went into the playoffs as the NFC's top-seeded team for only the second time in franchise history. The result was the same as it was during the 1980 season: one and done.

In the locker room afterward, coach Mike Smith tried to make sense of it for his players.

“We will learn from it. That's the important thing,” he said. “I also told ‘em, as bad as they feel right now, remember the whole body of work we put out there this year. We can't forget that either.”

This game was pretty much over when Rodgers guided the Packers on an 80-yard drive to open the second half, running the last 7 yards for the TD that made it 35-14.

When Rodgers drove the

Packers on yet another scoring drive, capped off with a 7-yard pass to John Kuhn late in the third quarter, thousands of red-clad fans headed for the exits, not even bothering to hang around for the final period of a magical season that turned into a green nightmare in the playoffs.

The Falcons simply couldn't stop Rodgers, who carved up the Atlanta defense on four drive of at least 80 yards.

Time after time, Rodgers ducked a shoulder or pulled off a nifty spin move to get away from a rusher, leaving him grasping at air. Inevitably, he's find the open man in what became an increasingly tortured night for the Falcons.

“I had eyes in the back of

See **PACKERS**, Page 10



HERALD Photo/Tony Claxton

Logan Yarbar hands a loose ball off to Mackenzie Stone in one of the Big Spring Lady Steers' games earlier this season. Big Spring is 0-2 in District 5-3A play, but the Lady Steers have a chance to get their first win when Sweetwater visits Steer Gym at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

Steelers rally against Baltimore Ravens 31-24

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — A most fitting comeback for Ben Roethlisberger.

With the kind of playmaking that put two Super Bowl rings on his fingers, the Steelers quarterback connected on a 58-yard pass to rookie Antonio Brown with less than two minutes to go. The go-to-broke toss set up the winning touchdown in a rough-and-tumble 31-24 victory Saturday over the archrival Baltimore Ravens.

“Let's just chuck it deep,” Roethlisberger told offensive coordinator Bruce Arians just before he threw his biggest pass of the season. “If they pick it, it will be a pick way down there, just as good as a punt. ... I just threw it as far as I can.”

He did.

“It was kind of amazing,” Brown said. “It kind of stuck to my shoulder.”

As a result, the Steelers (13-4) are a win away from their third Super Bowl in six seasons. The Steelers will play the winner of Sunday's game between the New York Jets and New England Patriots.

Rashard Mendenhall scored the winning TD from 2 yards with 1:33 left. That ended any ideas the Ravens had of finally winning a playoff game against their division rivals.

Roethlisberger took his shots early from the Ravens' defense, but threw for 226 yards and two touchdowns before his big pass on third-and-19.

“He may not be (Tom) Brady or all those other guys, but when I see him in the huddle I know we've got a chance to win,” said Hines Ward, who caught a TD pass. “He's a proven winner. And history shows he's a proven

winner against Baltimore.”

The third meeting this season between these AFC North rivals had the usual skirmishes, but also was filled with penalties and turnovers.

It's been a rugged season for the Steelers' quarterback. His life and reputation were in tatters 10 months ago following sexual assault allegations that weren't prosecuted. He was suspended for the first four games of the season, and helped his team finish with 12 victories and a first-round bye.

“It's Ben. You give this guy an opportunity to snap it; he's capable of producing plays,” Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said. “It's not always how you draw it up, but he has a no-blink mentality. He is a competitor and a winner. And those guys follow him.”

While the Steelers trailed by two TDs at the half, it was the Ravens who fell apart in the in the second half as the team they love to beat most came back to knock them out of the postseason. The Steelers are 9-0 against division teams in the postseason.

The Steelers were trailing 21-7 after turnovers created two Ravens touchdowns. But they came back with the help of three Baltimore turnovers in the third quarter. It was so bad, the Ravens' minus-4 yards in offense wasn't the worst of it; they ended with 28 yards in the second half.

“We knew we had to play great. We knew if we didn't play great we were going to lose this game,” defensive end Brett Keisel said.

Baltimore was outgained 263-126 and Joe Flacco was 16 of 30 for 125 yards.

See **STEELERS**, Page 10

Cards' Albert Pujols sheds no light on contract talks

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Albert Pujols repeatedly has said he wants to spend his entire career with the St. Louis Cardinals. Staring at a spring training deadline for contract negotiations, the team chairman remains hopeful the three-time NL MVP will get his wish.

Pujols declined Sunday to provide any kind of update on negotiations. His agent has said he will cut off talks at the start of spring training if an agreement is not in place, and general manager John Mozeliak confirmed the deadline on Saturday.

A representative of Pujols' agent stood to

the slugger's left and deflected questions on the topic at Sunday's news conference before the first baseman held a two-hour, sold-out autograph session at the team's Winter Warmup.

“Do you want to bring all that into the clubhouse all year, like you guys have been doing the last couple

of years?” Pujols said. “No. I respect my teammates more than this contract.”

“That's why you have to set some deadline on this, and that's it.”

Neither side would offer a sense of how the talks are going. At one point, Cardinals media relations director Brian Bartow stepped in and

said Pujols' agent had set ground rules for the news conference.

Chairman Bill DeWitt said the Cardinals' payroll for next season projects to “well above \$100 million,” which is the highest ever for the franchise and includes \$16 million for Pujols' option year. DeWitt said Pujols was irre-

placeable, both as a talent and as the face of the franchise.

“That's all wrapped into one. He's an iconic player because he's such a great player,” DeWitt said. “He's proven year in and year out that he's one of the greatest players to play the game.”

See **CARDS**, Page 10

Sports in brief

Coahoma Girls Softball Association

The Coahoma Girls Softball Association will conduct a board meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the community center in Coahoma. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting.

Men's city bowling tournament

This tournament takes place Sunday and Monday

at Bowl-A-Rama in Big Spring. The entry forms are to be turned in today.

Entry forms can be picked up at the Bowl-A-Rama.

The local USBC Chapter is donating \$150 to the prize fund. For more information on the men's city bowling tournament, contact Diana Ewing at 432-816-7631, Claud Fryar at 432-517-0475, or Sheila Armstrong at 432-270-7596.

2011 MAYB River City Shootout

Registration is ongoing for the 2011 MAYB River City Shootout Basketball Tournament to take place on Feb. 19-20.

The tournament is for boys and girls, grades 3 through 8. Please e-mail wardca@yahoo.com or call (979) 417-3721 for additional information. Online registration is available at www.otcybc.com.

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Announcements

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I am moving to Colorado to be close to family. I will miss all my friends and business associates here. Thank you for all your support, prayers and encouragement. New address is Donna Lasater c/o Debbie Benson, 2349 Dogwood Circle, Erie, CO. 80516. Having back surgery in Lubbock 1/4 & will be in CO. around 2/15.
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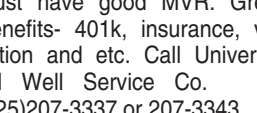
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"CLASSIC" ANN LANDERS

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

Dear Ann Landers:
My mother has been a widow for several years and is now in her late 70s. She lives alone and has always been fiercely independent. She appears to be in very good health. In fact, there are days when I think she may outlive me. In recent conversations, Mom has made it plain that under no circumstances will she ever go into a retirement home. She says, "When the time comes that I cannot manage on my own, I will live with you." Ann, the thought of us living together is very upsetting. In fact, it's my worst nightmare. I love my mother dearly, but I must take time away from her every three days, or else we end up fighting. Please ask your readers who are living in retirement centers to write about their experiences. You have taught me that there can be no better teacher than someone who has been there. Perhaps your readers can help my mother see things differently. Thanks, Ann. - T.M. in Orlando, Fla.



ANN LANDERS

Dear T.M.: Here's your letter, and I'll let you know of my readers' responses.

Dear Ann Landers: After several years of failed fertility procedures, my husband and I decided to adopt a child. We were thrilled when, soon after, a baby became available through a private adoption agency. At the birth mother's request, the baby was handed over to us while the legal documents were being drawn up. Four weeks after becoming settled into motherhood, my friends gave me a wonderful baby shower. As my mother so diligently taught me, I quickly wrote each and every one a thank-you note for the beautiful gifts. Three days after my notes were mailed, I received a call informing me that the birth mother had changed her mind and decided not to sign the adoption papers. She wanted her baby back. Of course, we had to give up that precious child. My husband and I are devastated beyond words. I am at a loss as to what to do about the lovely gifts I received at the shower. Should I send them back? What is the proper procedure? I need your advice. - Empty Arms in Arkansas

Dear Empty Arms: What a sad letter. My heart goes out to you. Yes, dear, you must return the gifts with a brief note explaining the circumstances. I'm sure your friends will rally around and help you get through this painful time. *Drugs are everywhere. They're easy to get, easy to use and even easier to get hooked on. If you have questions about drugs, you need Ann Landers' booklet, "The Lowdown on Dope." Send a self-addressed, long, business-sized envelope and a check or money order for \$5 (this includes postage and handling) to: Lowdown, c/o Ann Landers, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.*

To find out more about Ann Landers and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. ANN LANDERS (R) © 2011 CREATORS.COM

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TAMI L. DAVIS
ASSISTANT CITY SECRETARY
#6855 January 16 & 17, 2011

Drugs are everywhere. They're easy to get, easy to use and even easier to get hooked on. If you have questions about drugs, you need Ann Landers' booklet, "The Lowdown on Dope." Send a self-addressed, long, business-sized envelope and a check or money order for \$5 (this includes postage and handling) to: Lowdown, c/o Ann Landers, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

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7	1	3	9	8	4	2	5	6
2	5	8	7	6	1	9	4	3
9	4	6	2	5	3	7	1	8
3	9	5	8	4	2	6	7	1
6	2	1	5	9	7	8	3	4
4	8	7	1	3	6	5	9	2
1	7	4	6	2	9	3	8	5
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The moon enters her home of Cancer, breathing fresh air into our domestic realm. There's lots of cleaning, polishing, decorating, cooking (and let's not forget shopping!) to do. And though this kind of work can sometimes be joyless and often goes unappreciated, today is different. It's actually fun, and the effort will be praised.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There is no waiting around in your world today. You are always doing something — mostly working, sometimes watching to see what happens, but never just waiting around.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You are not boring, and therefore, you are not bored. You can always find some interesting way to turn around a static situation or to ask an exciting question to stir unpredictable answers from a rather predictable source.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your kindness disarms people and puts them in a warm and fuzzy frame of mind. Bottom line: Relaxed people take out their wallets. That's why you'll succeed in sales!

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Try not to be so easily irritated. Being socially successful requires that you let a few minor mistakes and annoyances go by without giving them too much of your attention. Ease up on the rules a bit today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're after a goal that a lot of others are after, as well. Hold your ground as everyone jockeys for position. You'll settle into your rightful place by the end of the day.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You are in such a fanciful mood lately that you may have to adjust your expectations to keep them in the realm of reality. Once you do this, you are happy with all you experience.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Sometimes you get tired of having to put so much thought and energy into presenting yourself socially. Does it really matter what you're wearing? And how! It matters particularly today, so keep up the effort.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll be exchanging gifts. If a gift is extremely appropriate, it will be well received. A gift of much greater value that is not appropriate will be regarded with suspicion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Whenever you mix it up with a certain someone, strange discord starts to happen around you. It's too consistent to properly fall into the realm of "coincidence," don't you think?

22-Jan. 19). Someone slipped up, and it wasn't you. You don't want to go on a righteous crusade over the issue — that would take a lot of your energy and attract undesirable attention from others. You'll be discreet and classy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You will have to fight to stay focused, especially when you interact with someone as creative and diverse as you are. One topic will lead to another, and soon you are so far off that you can't even remember where it started.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There are times to stretch, learn and grow, and there are times when it's more appropriate to stay comfortable and contained — like today. Avoid those people who give you a strange feeling.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 17). Your success secret is simple this year. You plan, take action and complete the mission. Your determination is unparalleled, and when you reach the top of one mountain, you immediately set your sites on the next one. Admirers and fans flock to you in February. Family ties fortify you, especially in March. Taurus and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 2, 11, 24 and 19.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm going to start a babysitting business this year. What do you think I should do first? I'm a Cancer, and my friend is a Gemini. We're in this together. Do you think we'll succeed? We are both 13. Also, what's the best way for us to go into business and make money? I have plenty of experience babysitting my

brother, who is 3 and a Taurus." Cancer is the sign of mothers. Your sign is nurturing and loyal and has a strong instinct about what mothers expect of their children and their children's caretakers. Build your business around the idea that you are there to care for, protect and entertain your young friends, but also to make their parents' lives easier. That will involve attention to detail. You would do well to follow a manual or take a community class to ensure that you are completely ready for the very important responsibility of looking after young children. As for your friend, she'll be very helpful in the sales department. Gemini people are communicative, likeable and great at putting others at ease. Cancer and Gemini are next-door neighbors on the zodiac wheel, and you have a close and special relationship with your Gemini friend. Best of luck!

CELEBRITY PROFILES: First lady Michelle Obama is an Ivy League scholar, an advocate for healthy eating and poverty awareness, a fashion icon and a role model for women around the world. She describes herself first and foremost as Sasha and Malia's mom. Obama was born when the sun and Mercury were in organized and traditional Capricorn. Her moon and Venus in Pisces suggests a highly developed intuition.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2011 CREATORS.COM

Contract Bridge
By Steve Becker
Eternal Vigilance
North dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: A Q 8 6 3, K J 10, A K 4, Q 9. WEST: 5, 9 7 6 4 3, Q 6 2, A 7 6 4. EAST: K J 10 9, Q 5 2, J 10 8 5, 5 2. SOUTH: 7 4 2, A 8, 9 7 3, K J 10 8 3. The bidding: North 1, East Pass, South 1NT, West 3NT. Opening lead — four of hearts. It is human to err, but some bridge players appear to be more human than others! Consider this deal where it is very easy for declarer to make a mistake. West leads a heart against three notrump, declarer playing the ten from dummy and winning East's queen with the ace. South then leads a spade to dummy's queen, losing the finesse to East's king, and back comes a heart to dummy's jack. Declarer then cashes the ace of spades, on which Tomorrow: Famous Hand. ©2011 King Features Syndicate Inc.

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7 5 1 8
9 8 2 1
4 1 6 9
1 7 2
8 5
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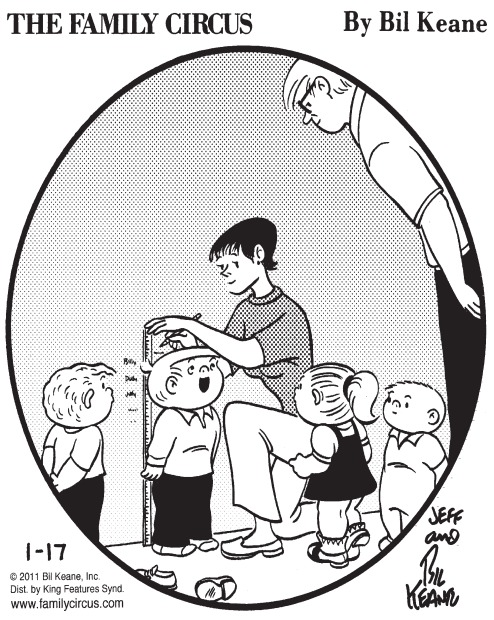
TV schedule table with columns for channel, time, and program name.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"BUT, MOM. THIS WAY YOU'LL NEVER HAVTA WORRY ABOUT ME GETTIN' HOLES IN MY SOCKS."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

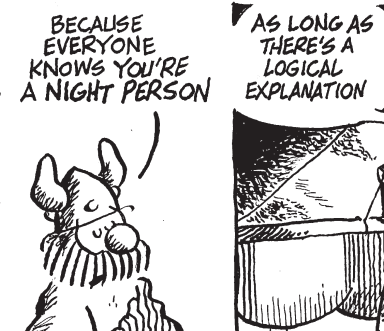


"Watch out, Daddy! I'm gainin' on you!"

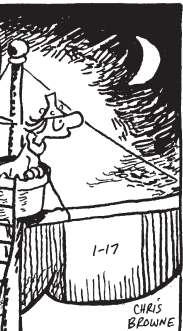
HAGAR



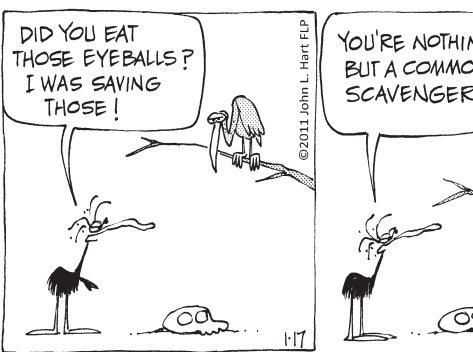
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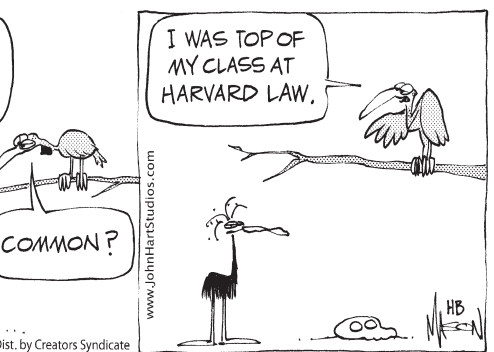
WIZARD OF ID



BC



AGNES



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

Today is Monday, Jan. 17, the 17th day of 2011. There are 348 days left in the year. This is the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

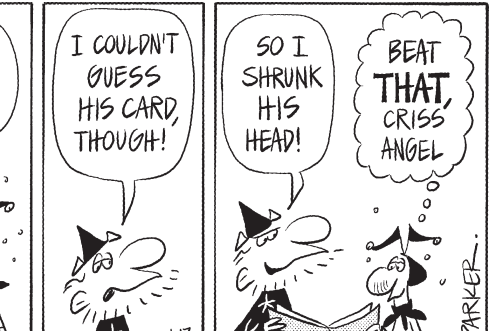
HI AND LOIS



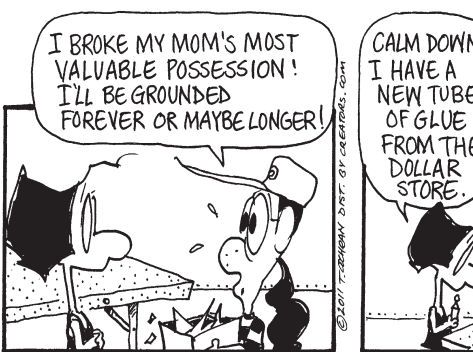
THE OTHER COAST



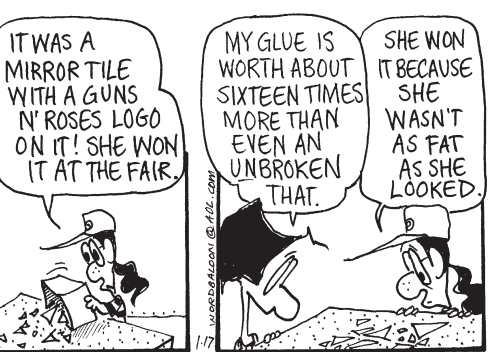
SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



AGNES (continued)

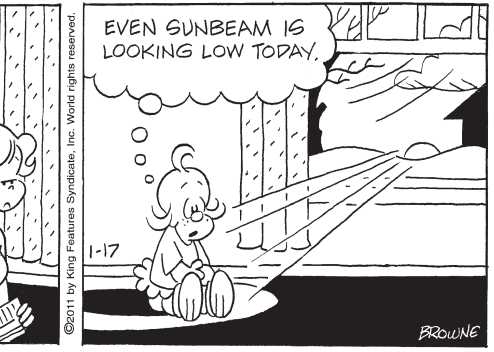


Answer to previous puzzle crossword grid.

THE OTHER COAST (continued)



SNUFFY SMITH (continued)



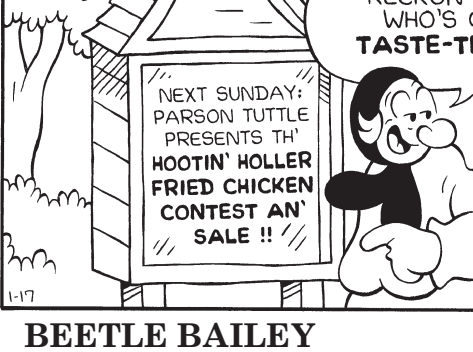
BEEBLE BAILEY (continued)



AGNES (continued)



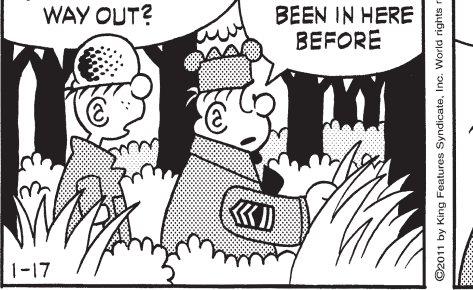
BEEBLE BAILEY (continued)



AGNES (continued)



BEEBLE BAILEY (continued)



AGNES (continued)



Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-71.

Seahawks sputter in one-sided loss

The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A week after knocking off the defending Super Bowl champs, Matt Hasselbeck and the Seattle Seahawks played more like a team with a losing record than a division winner.

Little went right for the Seahawks on a wintry day at Soldier Field. The Chicago Bears took control early and sent first-year coach Pete Carroll and the NFC West champs — the only team in the playoffs with a losing record — home by a 35-24 score.

Hasselbeck, who'd engineered the upset of the New Orleans Saints in the first round with four touchdown passes, was 26 of 46 for 258 yards, much of that coming after the game was out of reach. He threw all three TD passes in the fourth quarter.

Marshawn Lynch's rambling, tackle-breaking 67-yard TD run last week in a 41-36 upset of the Saints was the talk of the NFL. This time, he was bottled up and Seattle had only 34 yards rushing.

The Seahawks couldn't muster the same relentless pressure they'd put on

Jay Cutler when they sacked him six times in a 23-20 victory in Chicago three months ago. Their receivers had problems hanging onto Hasselbeck's passes. And they had two players carted off the field with head injuries — tight end John Carlson in the first quarter and defensive back Marcus Trufant in the third.

Carlson caught a pair of TDs in that win over the Saints. But after he grabbed a short pass from Hasselbeck and went 14 yards early in Sunday's game, he was upended on the sideline by Danieal Manning and came down on his head.

The Associated Press
The game was delayed for about five minutes as Carlson was attended to on the sideline and he was able to move his legs before he was carted off, not to return. It was a chilling circumstance for a team that had hoped to keep it close.

Trufant made a tackle on Bears' tight end Kellen Davis with about seven minutes to go in the third quarter and couldn't get up. The game was delayed again before he was carted off.

Bulls beat Heat behind Rose with James sitting out

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Derrick Rose scored 34 points and Kyle Korver hit a crucial 3-pointer with 25 seconds left Saturday night as the Chicago Bulls withstood a stellar performance by Dwyane Wade to beat the Miami Heat 99-96.

Miami, playing without injured LeBron James for a second straight game, lost its third straight despite a 33-point performance from Chicago native Wade, who had 12 in the fourth quarter, including three straight 3-pointers to give the Heat the lead. The Heat's Chris Bosh added 17,

11 in the third quarter, but hurt his ankle in the closing second of the period when he went to the floor during a scramble for the ball.

He returned to the game in the fourth but played only briefly before leaving the game as Miami forged through the final period without two

of its stars. Rose had 11 in the final quarter as he and Wade matched shots in a wild finish that resembled a playoff game. Carlos Boozer had 12 points and 10 rebounds for Chicago. Eddie House scored 13 for the Heat, who had to rely on its bench.

STEELERS

Continued from Page 5

The Ravens' last chance to beat the Steelers — they haven't in three post-season tries — ended when T.J. Houshmandzadeh dropped Flacco's fourth-down pass at the Steelers' 38 with 1:03 remaining.

"We knew it would be a close game," Houshmandzadeh said. "I didn't think it needed to be, but it was."

Failing to protect the ball cost the Ravens — even after they scored two touchdowns in less than 30 seconds in the first half. Defensive end Cory Redding returned a Roethlisberger fumble for a touchdown that both teams thought was an incompleteness, but that wasn't nearly enough on a day when the Ravens' offense did so little.

"What better way to put the Ravens out of the tournament," Ward said. "They keep asking for us and we keep putting them out of the

tournament. They're going to be ticked about this for a long time."

With Baltimore up 21-7, Ryan Clark forced a rare fumble by Ray Rice on a screen pass, and LaMarr Woodley recovered at the 23. The play re-energized the crowd of 64,879 that had grown silent as Baltimore opened its two-TD lead.

"You know what, our offense went in there (at half-time) and said, 'We played terrible. We gave them the ball in prime position too many times,' " Roethlisberger said. "We had to do something about it."

Mendenhall ran for 14 yards before Roethlisberger's 9-yard scoring pass to Heath Miller, who missed two games after sustaining a concussion on a hit by Jameel McClain during the Steelers' 13-10 win in Baltimore last month.

Later in the quarter, Flacco overthrew tight end Todd Heap, and Clark returned the interception 17 yards to the 25. Three plays later, Roethlisberger found ol' reliable

Ward, absent in the offense most of the day, for an 8-yard touchdown pass and it was tied at 21.

Along the sideline, the Ravens had the look of a team that couldn't believe it had squandered the lead — and couldn't figure out how to get it back. They never did.

"We felt good at the half," Rice said. "Our defense had them stopped and I thought we were going to come out and handle our business. But then the situation happened: fumble, turnover, another turnover."

Roethlisberger went 19 of 32 in beating the Ravens for the seventh successive time in a rivalry in which both teams had won twice by 3-point margins during the last two seasons. The asterisk: Roethlisberger didn't play in either Steelers loss.

Baltimore turned it over for the third time in 9 minutes as center Matt Birk snapped the ball early to Flacco, who never got his hands on it, and Keisel recovered at the 23.

The drive stalled, but Shaun

Suisham, who had missed earlier from the 43, converted a 35-yard field goal with 12:15 remaining to give Pittsburgh its first lead, 24-21, since its opening drive.

An apparent punt return touchdown by Lardarius Webb was negated by a holding penalty on Marcus Smith, but the Ravens — with only 36 yards of offense in the half to that point — tied it at 24 on Billy Cundiff's 24-yard field goal with 3:54 remaining. That was too much time for Roethlisberger, who excels in fourth-quarter comebacks.

Each team took advantage of a long pass interference penalty to score during a penalty-filled first quarter. Josh Wilson's 37-yard penalty for yanking on Mike Wallace led to Mendenhall's 1-yard touchdown run on the Steelers' first possession.

On a third-and-15 play, Steelers backup Anthony Madison's 33-yard pass interference penalty set up Rice's 14-yard TD run up the middle.

Then it really got interest-

ing.

Terrell Suggs knocked the ball loose from the quarterback as he tried to get off a pass. Roethlisberger pumped-faked, but before he could bring his right arm forward, the ball came out.

As Suggs celebrated the apparent incompleteness, the ball lay on the turf for one, two, three full seconds. Haloti Ngata was closest to it but no one touched it until an alert Redding — realizing the whistle hadn't blown — picked it up and ran it into the end zone from the 13.

Mendenhall fumbled on the Steelers' subsequent possession, Ed Reed recovered and Flacco threw a 4-yard TD pass to Heap.

Notes: Mendenhall was the game's leading rusher with only 46 yards on 20 carries. ... Pittsburgh lost to New England 39-26 and to New York 21-16 during the season. ... There were 11 sacks in the game, six by Baltimore, including three by Suggs. Pittsburgh LB James Harrison also has three sacks.

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CARDS

Continued from Page 5

"He's never had a bad year and has lifetime totals that are incredible. You can't go out and find an Albert Pujols."

DeWitt said the best word to characterize the Cardinals' stance was hopeful.

"We want him to be with us," DeWitt said. "Until something happens one way or another, there's not a lot to say beyond that."

Signing free agent Lance Berkman to a \$8 million contract signaled a willingness to spend after the Cardinals missed the post-season three of the last four years.

"Sometimes you have

to seize the moment, and we did," DeWitt said. "You go for it."

Pujols led the National League with 42 homers last season and won his first league RBIs title with 118. He also tied Matt Holliday for the team batting lead at .312.

"If the Cardinals want to say something in the paper and talk about our business, then they can say something," Pujols said. "Myself I think I'm more professional than that."

"If we want to get something done, we'll get it done and everybody's going to know when we get it done."

No deal by the start of spring training would not necessarily mean Pujols will be moving on.

The Cardinals could sign him after next season and DeWitt expressed confidence that Pujols would not let it affect him on the field.

PACKERS

Continued from Page 5

my head," Rodgers quipped.

Atlanta's only defensive stop came on Green Bay's opening possession, when Stephen Nicholas chased down Greg Jennings from behind and forced a fumble that was recovered by Brett Grimes.

The Falcons quickly drove for the opening score, a 12-yard run by Michael Turner. Unfortunately for the home team, it had to give the ball back to Rodgers. And, as everyone soon discovered, there was no stopping No. 12. A 13-play, 81-yard drive evened the score, Rodgers finishing it off with a 7-yard touchdown pass to Jordy Nelson.

The Falcons last gasp, as it turned out, was Eric Weems' 102-yard return on the ensuing kickoff, the longest scor-

ing play in NFL playoff history.

Rodgers went right back to work, even after the Packers bobbled the next kickoff out of bounds at the 8-yard line. With nearly the entire field in front of him, he guided the Packers 92 yards in 10 plays for Kuhn's 1-yard plunge that made it 14-all.

Ryan was the first to crack in this quarterback duel. He had the Falcons in scoring position again, but Michael Jenkins slipped on a pass in the end zone, allowing Williams to make an easy interception.

Back to Rodgers, who needed only seven plays to torch the Falcons on an 80-yard drive. The touchdown was a perfectly thrown pass to James Jones along the side of the end zone, allowing the receiver to leap over shorter cornerback Brent Grimes for a 20-yard score with 48 seconds left in the first half.

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