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SEPTEMBER 23, 2011



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VOLUME 106, NUMBER 251

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Push to rename medical center zips past House

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Officials are one step closer in their quest to rename the local VA medical center after Big Spring's only Medal of Honor recipient.



Neugebauer

U.S. Rep. Randy Neugebauer (R-Lubbock), announced Wednesday his provision in the Veterans Health Care Facilities Capital Improvement Act of 2011 to rename the local VAMC after George H. O'Brien Jr. passed the House of Representatives overwhelmingly.

The vote, to rename the facility the George H. O'Brien Jr. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, was 412-3 in favor of the measure.

The bill is currently awaiting Senate action which is required before becoming law.

"The Veterans Health Care Facilities Capital Improvement Act honors Congress' commitment to veterans, will build and improve clinics and hospitals for veterans, and will improve veteran access to quality healthcare," Neugebauer said in a statement.

"I am proud the House passed this bill, which will also honor a great American who represented his community and nation with the utmost courage and valor."

O'Brien graduated from Big Spring High School and enlisted as a private in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in 1949. In 1951, he was ordered to active duty, completed officer training, and in 1952 was sent to Korea, where he joined the 1st Marine Division.

He received the Medal of Honor — the highest decoration bestowed in the U.S. military — for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity" in



A statue of George H. O'Brien Jr., Big Spring's only Medal of Honor recipient, stands in front of the local VA Medical Center. A measure to rename the facility after O'Brien was approved overwhelming by the U.S. House of Representatives Wednesday.

Korea on Oct. 27, 1952.

A portion of the citation that accompanied his Medal of Honor reads as follows:

"Although shot through the arm and thrown to the

See **O'BRIEN**, Page 3A

Child porn case

Local man gets 151-month term in federal prison

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

A 76-year-old Big Spring man indicted in November 2009 for possession of child pornography was sentenced to more than 12 years in prison this week in an Abilene federal court.

Harvey James Pelland — who was convicted in March of two counts of possessing child pornography and five counts of receiving a visual depiction of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct

See **PORN**, Page 3A



HERALD file photo

Splash Out will mark the end of the aquatic center season as well as raise goods for Isaiah 58.

Splash Out set Saturday

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Saturday will be area residents' last chance to check out the new Big Spring Aquatic Center this season, as the municipality looks to usher in the fall season with a Splash Out celebration of the facility's first year in operation.

Set for noon until 5 p.m. at the aquatic center — located in Comanche Trail Park — city officials say they hope to make the event an annual



Darden

one. "The purpose of the Splash Out is twofold," said Todd Darden, assistant city manager. "We not only want to celebrate the wonderful summer season we've had, but we also want to give area residents a chance to enjoy the facility and help

See **SPLASH**, Page 3A

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Hay rides planned this weekend at state park

By **AMANDA MORENO**
Staff Writer

It's time for a hayride ... on top of Scenic Mountain.

For the past 16 years, families have been able to enjoy a hayride on top of the mountain at Big Spring State Park. Saturday, all ages will be able to enjoy one of two — or both — hayrides. The first is set for 3 p.m. and the second is scheduled for 4:30 p.m.

"This is a fun, family-oriented event, plus we all need to get outside, something our society seems

to be doing less of, even in my own household," said Ronald Alton, state park manager.

Those taking part in the hayride should meet at the park headquarters area. The hayride will go around the upper scenic loop drive at the park and include information about some of the flora/fauna and history of the park and community.

"Families can get outdoors and breathe some fresh air while learning about plants and animals that live in this region," Alton said.

He said the event is open to all

ages and there is no charge, but donations are appreciated and will benefit the park.

"Going on trips to parks as a child influenced my career choice and led me down the path I have chosen," Alton said.

Those attending are encouraged to wear closed-toe shoes and pants. Shorts can be uncomfortable when riding on hay bales, Alton said.

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com

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Police blotter

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

- JOEY EUGENE MATA, 23, of 1 Courtney Place Apt. 402, was arrested Thursday on a charge of forging/altering prescription.
- BEN TORRES GONZALES, 41, of 1200 S. Nolan, was arrested Thursday on a warrant for criminal mischief.
- JON COLE MCLEOD, 21, of 618 Tulane, was arrested Thursday on warrants for Consumption of alcohol by a minor (two counts).
- JAMEY SCOTT JOHNSON, 48, transient, was arrested Friday on a charge of disorderly conduct – noise.
- ZACK MONROE TURMAN, 33, of 3509 E. Interstate Highway 20 Apt. 29, was arrested Friday on a charge of public intoxication.
- AUDREY DALE NEWELL, 43, of 1507 Sycamore, was arrested Friday on charges of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 1300 block of Park.
- FORGERY was reported in the 2000 block of S. Gregg Street.
- THEFT was reported in the 1000 block of S. Gregg Street.
- ASSAULT was reported in the 800 block of W. FM 700.

Sheriff

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 78 inmates at the time of this report.
- JOEY EUGENE MATA, 24, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of forge/increase prescription quantity/dangerous drug.
 - BEN TORRES GONZALES, 40, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief.
 - JON COLE MCLEOD, 21, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on *capias* warrants for minor consuming alcohol (two counts).
 - GEORGE ANTHONY ROBINSON JR., 44, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of failure to identify as a fugitive from justice – giving false information.
 - ZACK MONROE TURMAN, 33, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
 - JAMEY SCOTT JOHNSON, 48, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of disorderly conduct – noise.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

Visit the HERALD online at www.bigspringherald.com

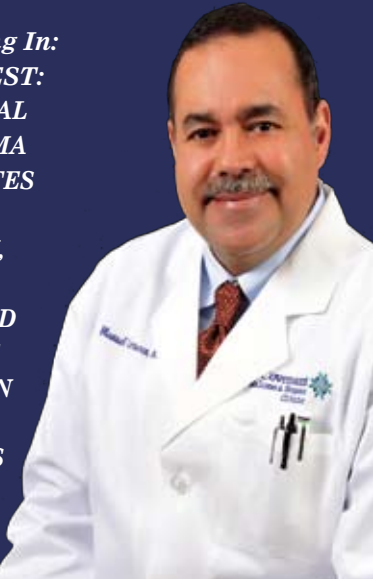


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Take Note

• Coahoma Big Red Band Boosters will have Bruiser Bag Specials tonight, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the concession stand. Six dollars for a hamburger, chips, canned drink and a treat. They will also have their regular menu, including brisket sandwiches (donated by Hog Heaven) and sausage wraps. Come have supper with us!

• Big Spring High School Student Council would like to invite the community of Big Spring to join us to show Steer spirit during homecoming, as well as throughout the entire school year. We encourage all the businesses to decorate their business fronts/windows for homecoming. The theme of the homecoming and the parade is "Catch The Tide...Lei Out The Ranger." If any business and/or organization would like to participate in the homecoming parade, they need to call the high school and inform us of their entry. They may contact our advisor, Mrs. Flores, Mrs. Hunt, or talk to the receptionist in the office. We must know by Wednesday, Sept. 21, in order to create a lineup for parade entries.

• Texas Department of State Health Services, located at 501 Birdwell Lane, Suite 28B, will no longer be giving immunizations on a walk-in basis. Call 432-263-9775 and leave a message regarding name, birthdate and call-back telephone number. A nurse will call you within 24 hours with the date and time of your appointment. It is imperative you bring your child's immunization record with you when you come for your appointment. Immunizations will be given Tuesdays and Wednesdays by appointment only.

• American Cancer Society will have their board meetings starting noon, Sept. 13 on the second Tuesday of the month through April. Lunch will be furnished. Meetings will take place at Home Hospice, located at 111 E. Seventh.

• Are you a 1971 BSHS graduate? Come to our 40th reunion Sept. 30-Oct. 1. For information, contact bshs71@yahoo.com or Susan Green McLellan at 432-267-5759.

• Home Hospice is seeking volunteers. Training will be provided and geared to your time frame. Volunteers are needed for in office duties as well as sitters, deliveries and crafts. To find out more information or to volunteer contact Sherry Hodnett at Home Hospice by calling 264-7599.

• Every 10 years, Texas requires that marks and brands be re-registered in the county or counties in which you operate. The next re-registration period begins Aug. 31 and runs through Feb. 29, 2012. At the conclusion date, all marks and brands that have not been re-registered are automatically available for registration by another party. For additional information, contact the Howard County Clerk's Office at 264-2214 or 264-2213.

• Hangar 25 Air Museum needs your help! We are in need of volunteers to fill a variety of positions such as tour guides, front desk, clerical, events, and many others. Set your hours and days of the week you are available. Meet new people and enjoy a rewarding experience. For more information, contact Emma Bogard at 432-267-2963.



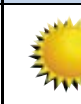


• Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union is raising money to benefit Maurine Pittman, who is undergoing cancer treatment in a Dallas-area hospital. For more information, call the credit union at 263-8393.

• A benefit fund has been established at Western Bank for Eric Kelly, a 24-year-old Big Spring resident with cystic fibrosis who is recovering from a double lung transplant in Dallas. All donations are appreciated. For more information, call 432-213-0795

• The Salvation Army is holding its annual fan drive and is in dire need of fans. Community members can donate new or used fans. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Donations can be made at the main office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

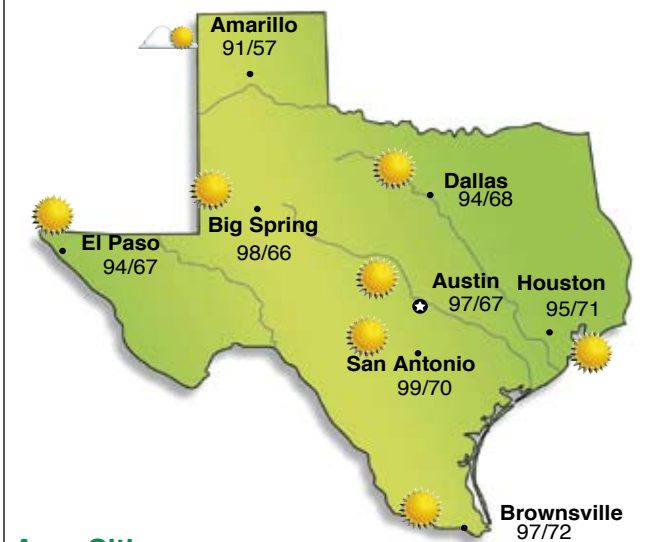
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Sat 9/24	Sun 9/25	Mon 9/26	Tue 9/27	Wed 9/28
 98/66 Mainly sunny. Near record high temperatures. High 98F.	 99/62 Mainly sunny. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the low 60s.	 94/64 Mainly sunny. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the mid 60s.	 93/66 A few clouds. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the mid 60s.	 91/65 Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the mid 60s.
Sunrise: 7:35 AM Sunset: 7:40 PM	Sunrise: 7:36 AM Sunset: 7:39 PM	Sunrise: 7:37 AM Sunset: 7:38 PM	Sunrise: 7:37 AM Sunset: 7:36 PM	Sunrise: 7:38 AM Sunset: 7:35 PM

American Profile We Celebrate Hometown Life
Stories for and about hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Ablene	96	68	sunny	Kingsville	99	69	sunny
Amarillo	91	57	pt sunny	Livingston	95	66	sunny
Austin	97	67	sunny	Longview	92	68	sunny
Beaumont	90	69	sunny	Lubbock	92	58	sunny
Brownsville	97	72	sunny	Lufkin	96	67	sunny
Brownwood	99	70	sunny	Midland	96	66	sunny
Corpus Christi	97	72	sunny	Raymondville	98	70	sunny
Corsicana	94	68	sunny	Rosenberg	96	70	sunny
Dallas	94	68	sunny	San Antonio	99	70	sunny
Del Rio	98	71	sunny	San Marcos	98	67	sunny
El Paso	94	67	sunny	Sulphur Springs	91	68	mst sunny
Fort Stockton	96	67	sunny	Sweetwater	96	67	sunny
Gainesville	92	62	sunny	Tyler	92	68	sunny
Greenville	92	65	sunny	Weatherford	94	64	sunny
Houston	95	71	sunny	Wichita Falls	93	62	sunny

• The Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) is an independent distressed national nonprofit dedicated to helping distressed homeowners navigate financial challenges and avoid mortgage foreclosure. If you want to stop foreclosure and are in need of foreclosure help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now. The Homeowner's HOPE hotline is a counseling service provided by HPF to work with you to find a solution to your problem. HPF can provide counseling free of charge, in English and 170 other languages, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Free free foreclosure help, call the hotline.

• Fridays are live band dance nights at Big Spring Senior Center, 1901 Simler. Senior adults are invited to an evening of fellowship (and good exercise) from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. each Friday. Cost is \$8 per person. For more information or to find out what band is playing, call the Senior Center at 432-267-1628.

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For more info contact **Michael Duthover** at 432-213-5337 or **Jaime DeLo Santos** at 432-816-6037

Sept. 17
Big Spring Model Aircraft Association
"18th Annual Don McKinney Memorial Float Fly"
Comanche Trail Park
For more info visit www.bmma.com

Sept. 17
2011 Battle of the Cheerleaders
Dorothy Garrett Coliseum
Competition begins at 6pm
For more info contact **Hollie Allred** at hallred@howardcollege.edu or 432-264-8538

Sept. 17
Big Spring Symphony presents
"Latin Celebration"
Featuring **John Giordano**, Guest conductor and **Curt Thompson**, violin
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WTC urges residents to improve health

Special to the HERALD

West Texas Centers — the state-designated mental health authority for 23 counties in rural West Texas — is encouraging residents to improve their health during National Wellness Week.

National Wellness Week is celebrated the week of Sept. 19 during National Recovery Month — a month set aside to recognize the benefits of treatment for substance abuse and mental disorders.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, or SAMHSA, sponsors the month-long recognition by inspiring individuals to improve their health by searching out new ways to live healthy.

“Treatment for substance abuse and mental disorders works,” said West Texas Centers CEO Shelley Smith, LMSW. “It’s proven that prevention works, treatment is effective and people do recover.”

People who live with mental and substance use disorders typically have shorter life expectancies, Smith said. Many die of preventable diseases, such as diabetes, cardiovascular, respiratory or infectious diseases.

“Many of the risk factors that lead to early death are behaviors that can be modified and done away with,” Smith said. “Smoking, substance abuse, obesity are some of the behaviors that lead to premature death.”

“Our main mission at West Texas Centers is to treat our consumer’s mental disorder. But so many other health issues come into play during treatment. We believe in treating the whole person. You can’t make one area of their lives well and ignore another part.”

SAMHSA incorporates eight dimensions of wellness or overall well-being in their month-long push promoting wellness. The eight dimensions are:

- Emotional — Coping effectively with life and creating satisfying relationships
 - Environmental — Good health by occupying pleasant, stimulating environments that support well-being
 - Financial — Satisfaction with current and future financial situations
 - Intellectual — Recognizing creative abilities and finding ways to expand knowledge and skills
 - Occupational — Personal satisfaction and enrichment from one’s work
 - Physical — Recognizing the need for physical activity, healthy foods and sleep
 - Social — Developing a sense of connection, belonging, and a well-developed support system
 - Spiritual — Expanding our sense of purpose and meaning in life
- “We follow the same dimensions in our day-to-day treatment,” Smith said. “We believe one aspect of wellness is dependent on the next. It’s a constantly evolving process.”

West Texas Centers provides care for people with mental illness and offers a 24-hour crisis hotline for individuals and families in crisis. More information on services WTC provides can be found on the West Texas Centers website at www.wtcmhmr.org

Contact the Herald at
newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

O'BRIEN

Continued from Page 1A

ground by hostile automatic-weapons fire as he neared the well-entrenched enemy position, he bravely regained his feet, waved his men onward and continued to spearhead the assault, pausing only long enough to go to the aid of a wounded Marine.

“Encountering the enemy at close range, he proceeded to hurl hand grenades into the bunkers and, utilizing his carbine to best advantage in savage hand-to-hand combat, succeeded in killing at least three of the enemy

Struck down by the concussion of grenades on three occasions during the subsequent action, he

steadfastly refused to be evacuated for medical treatment and continued to lead his platoon in the assault for a period of nearly four hours, repeatedly encouraging his men and maintaining superb direction of the unit.”

The citation concluded that O'Brien's “indomitable determination and valiant fighting spirit” reflected the highest spirit upon both himself and the Marine Corps.

After leaving the military, he returned to West Texas, where he was an active volunteer at the Big Spring VAMC.

O'Brien died in Midland on March 11, 2005.

A statue of O'Brien, commissioned by his long-time friend Jerry Worthy, stands in front of

the medical center.

“I am honored to have represented this great American,” Neugebauer said in his statement. “Renaming the Veterans Affairs medical center in Big Spring after Mr. O'Brien will keep his memory alive in Big Spring and the United States. It will also help us to remember the courageous acts he achieved in service of his country and his brothers in the Corps.”

Iva Jo Hanslik, public information director of the local VAMC, said officials there were happy with the news of the resolution's passage. Assuming prompt passage of the measure by the Senate, she said a formal renaming ceremony will “more than likely” be held Nov. 11.

PORN

Continued from Page 1A

— was sentenced to serve 151 months in prison to be followed by 10 years of probation.

The sentence was handed down by U.S. District Judge Jorge A. Solis.

According to U.S. Attorney James T. Jacks of the Northern District of Texas, Pelland both possessed and received digital images of child pornography in March and April of 2009.

“At trial, the (prosecution) presented evidence that in late March and early April 2009, while he was living in Big Spring, Pelland possessed images of child pornography and received images of child pornography from the Internet,” Jacks said following sentencing. “He has been in custody since his arrest in April 2009 on a state charge of failure to register as a sex offender; he pleaded guilty to that offense in July 2009.”

The case was inves-

tigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the Big Spring Police Department and the Howard County District Attorney's Office, according to Jacks.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven M. Sucsy and Deputy Criminal Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney Denise Williams, of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Lubbock, prosecuted the case.

The case was brought before the court as part

of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse, said Jacks.

Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, said Roper, as well as identify and rescue victims.

For more information about Project Safe Childhood, visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

SPLASH

Continued from Page 1A

a good cause.”

That good cause, according to Darden, is Isaiah 58, a local outreach program that helps provide food and other sundries to low-income families.

“The staff came up with the idea to pair the Splash Out up with a food drive to benefit Isaiah 58,” Darden said. “The individual admission fee will be just \$1 if you bring in a canned or dry food. Without a donation to the food drive, the admission will be \$3 per person.

“It’s no secret times are tough, and there are a lot of families who are in need. That need is only going to grow, however, as we move into the holiday season, so we’re hoping this effort will help stock their shelves for the next few months.”

The aquatic center

— which features a number of attractions, from water slides to a play center for young children — opened earlier this summer as a replacement for the previous municipal swimming pool, which was closed because it failed to meet state and federal requirements.

And while the facility certainly opened to its fair share of fanfare in the Big Spring area, the project endured more than a year of political naysaying and opposition before the first spade of dirt was turned.

However, the project — which cost approximately \$3.7 million — has proven to not be the drain on the city budget many of its detractors believed it would be, according to Darden.

“There were plenty of people who were against the construction of the aquatic center,” Darden said. “A lot of attention was focused on the op-

eration of the center and how the city would be able to pay for it. However, we’ve managed to keep the facility revenue neutral through this summer season, which was always our goal from day one.”

In addition to operating in the fiscal black, Darden said the aquatic center has also attracted an impressive number of families to Big Spring from nearby cities and counties.

“The attendance has been more than we expected. Also, the concessions has been able to bring in more funds than we had originally

hoped,” Darden said. “We’ve been able to attract families and groups from everywhere in a 100-mile radius from Big Spring, and while I’m sure a few of those may never come back, I feel like a lot of them will.”

For more information on the Splash Out or the Big Spring Aquatic Center, call 432-264-2401.

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The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.

Published afternoons Mon. thru Fri. and Sunday mornings, except July 4, Memorial Day, Labor Day and Christmas Day, except if Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. All materials copyrighted.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811
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The Mission of **CASA of West Texas** is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing, **permanent** home.

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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.

Bill McClellan Managing Editor	Ron Midkiff Publisher	Steve Reagan Staff Writer
Amanda Moreno Staff Writer	Thomas Jenkins Staff Writer	

We salute:

Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play

This week we salute:

- Coahoma girl's basketball team for joining together and gathering donations for Bastrop fire victims.
- All community members who dropped off donations to help Bastrop fire victims and who supported the garage sale for the fire victims.
- All who donated to Isaiah 58 Food Drive and helped restock the food pantry's shelves.
- Walk to End Alzheimer's participants who supported this year's event and helped bring awareness to the sixth leading causes of death in the nation.
- Big Spring Model Aircraft Association for bringing the 18th annual show to area residents and providing an outdoor, family event.
- General Major Eddy Spurgin of the Texas Army National Guard for his service to his country and his wife Nancy for her sacrifice. Welcome home Eddy Spurgin.
- Papa Chon's and Herman's for being the first two to participate in United Way Dine-Out-Days these past couple of weeks and to all board members and community members who supported these restaurants during their designated week.

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

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 Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
 - By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

- 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 newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Everyday offers us the opportunity to walk with You, Lord, thank you.

Amen

It is time for a real change

Believe me, I know. I hear it every day. You had such high hopes for Barack Obama. For once, maybe the first time in years, you cared. You dared to believe. You really thought he could do it.

And now you are so disappointed. You feel betrayed. Were you such a fool? Was he really so lacking in ways you didn't know — in experience or resolve or humanity? How can this man who moved so many now seem so distant and aloof, so arrogant and unconnected, so lacking in resolve?

Hold that thought. Or let it perish, at least for now.

On Sept. 20, 2011, something historic happened in this country, and it is thanks to Obama.

Thousands of men and women who are risking their lives for this country no longer have to lie and hide to do so. They no longer have to put up pictures of their supposed "girlfriends" or "boyfriends" so that others won't think they are gay.

They can be gay. They can be

lesbians. They can serve their country with pride and not worry about the day they might be shamed and discharged.

Sept. 20, 2011, is the beginning of a new era in the military. Just as discrimination on the basis of race was finally eliminated decades ago, so, too, now, thanks in large part to this president, discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is history.

It should have happened years ago. The policy was shameful. We owe countless men and women — not only those who were discharged, but also those who gave their lives in secret or have risked their lives in hiding — an apology.

We owe them our thanks. We were wrong.

The policy has changed.

Military leaders — who fought the idea of such a change when President Clinton, soon after taking office, suggested it — have changed.

Attitudes in this country have changed.

But the most important change of all is the one in the White House. President George W. Bush never would have done it. I don't believe that a President McCain — much less a Vice President Palin — would have done it.



SUSAN
ESTRICH



Cost of Texas' severe drought

Devastating wildfires across Texas in recent weeks have been the most visible evidence of a year-long drought that Texas officials have declared to be the worst on record. Behind the highly visible carnage caused by the fires, the drought also has inflicted a toll on the Texas economy that will have long-term ramifications across the state.

The dry, hot conditions have placed severe strains on the ranching and farming industry, as well as threatening our recreational hunting and fishing sector. Experts with the Texas AgriLife Extension at Texas A&M University estimate that the drought has cost Texas \$5.2 billion in crops and livestock. In fact many Texas ranchers may be forced to go out of business as a result of the devastating weather conditions in our state. The drought has killed much of the grass used for grazing, and ranchers are faced with a choice. They sell off their starving cattle before they've fully matured, pay unusually high prices for hay in order to keep their herd alive, or move their herd out of state where conditions are better. Almost all the hay for Texas ranchers is coming from out of state, and officials with the Texas Farm Bureau say that the cost to transport a bale of hay is now more expensive than the bale itself. Meanwhile, some out-of-state hay producers are using the shortage to charge exorbitant prices.

Understandably, many Texas ranchers have opted to sell their cattle under these circumstances. One survey by the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) found that

ranchers have sold off 40 percent of their cattle this year compared to an annual average of 5 percent to 10 percent. Officials with the Texas Farm Bureau believe that percentage has gone up even higher in the last month. The Farm Bureau also reports that they are hearing from many ranchers who plan to leave the business for good after they sell off their herd. TSCRA's survey confirms that 1 in 10 ranchers have left the industry this year.

Farmers also have suffered. Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples reports that cotton farmers have lost \$1.8 billion due to the lack of rain; lost revenue from hay is \$750 million; and corn losses are \$327 million. Officials with the Lower Colorado River Authority recently announced that they may be requesting permission to cut off water to farmers downstream of Austin because water reserves are so depleted. If that happens, rice farmers in Matagorda, Wharton and Colorado counties could see losses of \$75 million and the elimination of 1,000 farm labor jobs, according to a report in the Austin American-Statesman.

Even hunting and fishing, one of Texas' most beloved pastimes, could take a hit. Wild turkeys and deer are struggling to find water to drink and moist foliage to eat according to Kirby Brown of the Texas Wildlife Association, who reports that fawn production will likely be down. Before discounting this as just an inconvenience, consider that hunting and fishing is a nearly \$9 billion industry in Texas according to a 2006 study.

The economically harmful effects of the drought are compounded by the fact that it is taking place as we face the most serious recession since the Great Depression. The stagnant national economy is driving up unemployment across the coun-

try, including Texas. Making matters even worse is that some of the regions of Texas with the highest unemployment — the south Texas counties near the Rio Grande — are regions where farming and ranching play a large role in the local economy.

The economic damage done by this drought will be long lasting even if rain comes soon. Ranchers forced to sell off cattle before reaching their peak value can never recover that loss and replenishing their lost inventory will take major capital investments. The farmers and hunting-related businesses who lose income can't make it back when the rain returns.

The \$5.2 billion of losses in crops and livestock that the drought is said to have cost is a conservative estimate. It doesn't include fruits, vegetables, or peanuts. Nor does it include the indirect impact of the drought which has been especially pronounced in regions where agriculture is the largest sector of the economy. Businesses that sell feed, fertilizer, seed, heavy machinery, and other agricultural supplies are adversely affected by these negative conditions.

Texas has fared better than any other state during the current economic challenges and has led the way in private sector job creation over the past decade. That is due in part to our strong agriculture sector which has always played a vital role in our state. One out of every seven jobs in Texas is tied to that sector. But this devastating drought has imparted serious and real damage. Texans must be prepared to deal with the long term economic and human costs of this drought for years to come.

To find out more about Susan Estrich, visit Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

Tom Pauken is Chairman of the Texas Workforce Commission and author of Bringing America Home.

Church News

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Worship is Sunday morning at 9 a.m. in our sanctuary at 810 Scurry. Sunday school, led by Pastor Don Rosentreter, is in the parish hall after worship.

Wednesday noon Bible study covers "Held in High Esteem." Bring a brown bag lunch.

We continue to collect supplies for the Candelaria Medical Mission and a complete list is available at the church.

North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church

North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church is located at 2702 N. Birdwell Lane. Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. Morning worship is at 10:30 a.m. and evening worship is at 5 p.m. Bible study follows evening worship. We are studying Act 11-13 this week. Jacque Mauch leads Bible study.

Madeline Boadle will lead Sunday school and the lesson "Wisdom and Discernment."

Saturday, a group of 10 members from NBLUMC will be heading to the theater in Post.

The annual charge conference is set for Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. NBLUMC officers will present a budget for 2012 and make plans for the upcoming year. Big Spring District Superintendent Darrell Patterson will preside at the conference.

First Church of the Nazarene

Sunday services are at 10 a.m. and Wednesday evening group meetings are at 6:30 p.m. We have small groups throughout the week for all different interests with new groups starting every week.

Church prayer time is Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. and come and go prayer time is Saturday at 6:30 p.m. No Angel Food Ministry orders will be taken this month.

First Church of the Nazarene is located at 1400 Lancaster. For more information, contact the church office at 432-267-7015. Visit us on the web at www.nazfamily.org where you can view a live service. We are also on Facebook and Twitter.

First Baptist Church

First Baptist Church is honored to have among

its members Major General Eddy Spurgin who returned to Big Spring last Sunday from Iraq having served as the commander of Company B, 36th Infantry Division. We thank God for his safe return. Welcome home, Eddy.

Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. Morning worship is at 10:50. Our pastor, the Rev. Mark Lindsey, has begun a series of sermons centered on the names of Christ. Lunch will be served in the Family Life Center following the morning worship hosted by the youth. This is their first fundraiser to raise money for their mission trip to Canada next summer. Sunday evening, Awana begins at 5:30 p.m. followed by evening worship and youth Bible study at 6 p.m.

The Howard County Fair begins next Thursday. Members of our church will be sharing during the gospel music time that evening at 7.

The Singing Women of West Texas will be in concert in our sanctuary at 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22.

The Fall Festival is right around the corner. There will be booths, games and activities of all kinds.

Upward Basketball plans are underway.

First Christian Church

Fellowship is at 9:30 a.m. Sunday school is at 9:45 a.m. Church services are at 10:50 a.m.

Sunday, the Rev. Ken McIntosh will bring the message from Matthew 21:23-32 "Battling the Tiger in Each of Us?"

Isaiah 59 Food Pantry will be open Monday at 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday morning at 9:30 and 4:30 p.m. for food delivery. Isaiah 58 would like to thank the community for the great food drive that was done for assistance of the needy families in Big Spring. We have received a total of more than 3,800 pounds of food from the community.

Wednesday at 6 p.m. choir practice will have their practice in the choir room. Youth will meet at the church at 6 p.m. for their weekly meeting.

Sept. 25 a special Bible Beth Moore Bible study with Mary Beth Johnson at 1:30 p.m.

All committee chairpersons need to get in to Nell any committee meeting for October dates and times that your meeting will meet on for the October Caller.

For further information, call the church office at 432-517-4821 or view our website at www.fcbs125@yahoo.com

Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32.

First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring

The Lectionary Bible study, led by Tom Koger, meets Wednesday at 5:17 p.m. in the church library. Choir practice is at 6 p.m. The children's choir meets at 4:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall at Seventh Street entrance and adjourns at 5:45 p.m. Call Susan Dawes at 263-4570 or the church office at 263-4211 for more information.

We appreciated Dr. David Scott, head of art and music department of Angelo State University, serving as our guest preacher last Sunday and enjoyed having him join our choir for the service.

Paula Farquhar is in charge of this week's "Take Ten." Liturgist was James Little. Ushers for September are Allan and Ethel Guthrie, Sue Carter and Louise Hitch

The Presbyterian Women's Bible study will meet Tuesday at 2 p.m. in the church library. Helen Glass will lead the Bible study and a business meeting will follow.

The lectionary is Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32. The choir will offer "God Be in My Head" by John Rutter and "The First Song of Isaiah" by J.N.White for the offertory. Mike Robinson, elder, will deliver the sermon. The Noisy Offering will be collected during worship.

Listen on KBST 1490 AM at 11 a.m. To have a printed bulletin for Sunday services, call the church office at 263-4211. Visit our website www.fpchs.org.

First Methodist Church

Tonight for after-the-game entertainment area youth are invited to "The 5th Quarter" sponsored by "EPIC," the youth at First Methodist, at Fourth and Scurry. There will be food, fun and fellowship in a safe, supervised setting until 12:30 a.m. Rides home will be provided, if needed. For more information call Beau at 806-316-0969.

Sunday, Pastor Bill Ivins will bring the message at the 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. services of worship. His sermon topic will be "The Coward's Way or the King's Way?" with scripture readings from Philippians 2:5-11 and Matthew 21:23-32. Special guests this weekend will be Dustin and Mallory Covington and Joyce Chellis, all missionaries to Northern India. There will be a special meet, greet and get acquainted with the mission at 6 p.m. Sunday in Garrett Hall. Desserts will be served by members of the Missions and Outreach Committee.

In an effort to help Isaiah 58, First Methodist will be collecting pasta, beans, rice and cereal. They are also in special need of men's work clothes, coats and blankets. We will be collecting these items through Oct. 16, beginning this Sunday. A donation box will be located in the foyer of the sanctuary.

Wednesday's noon Bible study and luncheon will be catered by Just Peachy this week with serving at 11:50 a.m. in Garrett Hall. Pastor Bill will be continuing the study, "Revelation for Dummies."

The Missions and Outreach Committee has announced the date of the next working mission to Nicaragua, Feb. 25—March 12. The first week will be a See **CHURCH**, Page 6A

Take time to thank God for failure

Thank God for failure! Without it, success would be greatly diminished.

As much as we dislike failure, it is often the springboard to success. It may be the driving force behind creativity, ingenuity, determination and perseverance. When properly acknowledged, failure becomes the perfect teacher. Its knowledge and benefits are immeasurable. While no one likes to admit failure, many have noted its value. Song writer and recording artist Johnny Cash, who was inducted into three halls of fame for his county, rock and gospel music, had a life story mingled with failure and success. He once said, "You build on failure. You use it as a stepping stone. Close the door on the past. You don't try to forget the mistakes, but you don't dwell on it. You don't let it have any of your energy, or any of your time, or any of your space."

Another great achiever of worldwide fame, Sir Winston Churchill, who won a Nobel Prize in Literature in 1953, also saw a positive connection between success and failure. He defined success as the "ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm."

One of my favorite American

inventors, Thomas Edison, claimed to have known hundreds of ways not to make a light bulb. Yet he kept on trying until he produced a light bulb that worked. History records his words: "Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up."

One of America's most successful businessmen, car manufacturer Henry Ford, also recognized the value of failure. He is quoted as having said, "Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently."

In the book of Ephesians in the Bible, the apostle Paul has some instructions for those who would be followers or imitators of God. He writes, "... giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:20 ESV).

This verse coupled with Paul's admonition in Romans 8:28 that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love the Lord assures us that failure doesn't have to be final. When we think of failure as a valuable asset in the hand of a miracle-working God, we can be assured that God can make something good from our mistakes. Thank God for failure.

Bonnie Wheat is an author and a minister's wife. She can be contacted at brwheat@suddenlink.net.



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First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma

We meet at 11 a.m. Sunday led by Commissioned Lay Pastor Tom Koger.

Tom continues to lead a lectionary Bible study Wednesdays at 5:17 p.m. at First Presbyterian in Big Spring.

Saturday at 7 p.m. in the church social hall we will have a "Family Frolic." A light supper will be served.

The lectionary is Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16;

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Please join us as we help raise money for a great cause!

Call **719-568-2341** for more info

This Event is non-smoking due to the fragile lungs of Cystic Fibrosis individuals.

CHURCH

Continued from Page 5A

a medical mission, the second construction and education while the third will be open to high school youth. If you are interested in serving one of these three weeks, contact Murray Murphy.

Our Charge Conference will be Thursday Sept. 29 at 6 p.m. in Garrett Hall. Saturday, Oct. 1, Women's Fall Extravaganza and Brunch will be at First United Methodist Church in Midland. October 5, we will launch our "Real Life Wednesdays."

The meal will be served from 5 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. At 6:30 p.m., there will be age level opportunities including children's choir, EPIC for youth and an adult Bible study. October 30, we are planning a huge "Trunk or Treat" complete with a return of the concert group, FADE.

Coming Home for the Holidays will be at noon Nov. 20, followed by The Living Christmas Tree on the weekend of Dec. 3 and 4.

First United Methodist Church is located in the heart of downtown Big Spring.

Alive in Christ

Lutheran Church LCMS

We are located at 2805 Lynn Drive. Our church phone number is 432-264-7818. Our website is <http://www.m2c-texas.org/chweb/aliveinchrist/>.

Sunday service is at 9 a.m. Sunday school is at 10:15 a.m.

Pastor Carroll Kohl's sermon topic is "Grace Free and Boundless," based on Galatians 3:26-29. Readings for this week are Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32, Psalm 25:1-10, Philippians 2:1-4, (5-13), 14-18 and Matthew 21:23-27 (28-32).

The flowers this week are given in celebration of Ruth Oppegar's 90th birthday by Kathy Laning.

Midweek Family night is every Wednesday evening at 5:30 p.m. followed by a meal at 6 p.m., with a Bible study opportunities for all ages at 6:30pm. Jr & Sr Youth will be "Exploring how to use the Bible", elementary age are learning about "Our Amazing

God" with the adult class studying the "Odyssey of St. Paul". Please join us each Wednesday.

The LWML and Board of Trustees will be having a garage sale Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 at the church. For more information, contact Jaunell Roever.

Tuesday, Oct. 4 at 11:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Thrivent and Grace Lutheran Church of Midland will be hosting a workshop conducted by Brad Wiewel from Wiewel Law Firm and Patrick Combs, CFP®. This free workshop will be located in the fellowship hall.

Keynote speaker Brad Wiewel is a Board Certified Texas Estate and Probate Attorney with a statewide practice.

This educational workshop is open to the public and admission is free.

October 8 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Grace Lutheran Church in Midland will host a benefit for Nancy Weinkauff Johnson. Nancy is the mother of Gerenda Johnson Sawyer and sister of Kitta Weinkauff Dory and is facing a liver transplant due to a debilitating disease, Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis. The menu includes chili and dessert. There will also be a silent auction. Albert Weinkauff and his band will be performing country and western music during the evening. Add Nancy and her family to your prayer list.

Visit The Lutheran Hour Ministries website, www.jcplayzone.com.

Spring Creek Fellowship

We welcome Derrick Looney as our new pastor. We also welcome his wife, Donna Sue, and their sons, Hale and Nate to our church family. Derrick will be in the pulpit Sunday.

A weekly Men's Prayer Breakfast and Fellowship is scheduled at 7:30 a.m. Saturday at the church.

Our Women's Ministry will meet Oct. 21. Contact the church office for location.

Our Second Annual "Harvest Event" scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 30, from 6-8 p.m.

Sunday school classes meet from 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Spring Creek Fellowship meets at the College Park Shopping Center at 501 Birdwell Lane. Contact us at 432-714-4584 or visit our website at www.springcreekfellowship.org

St. Lawrence fall festival coming

Fall is coming and so are the festivals.

St. Lawrence Church — St. Thomas Mission and Diocese of San Angelo are gearing up for their 55th annual fall festival, set for Oct. 2.

The festival will take place in the parish hall and on the parish grounds. Mass will begin the day of festivities and will be at 9 a.m. in the church.

A barbecue brisket will be served from 10:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. The meal will also include homemade German sausage and all of the trimmings and homemade desserts, tea, coffee and water. Tickets will be \$9 for adults and \$6 for children under 12. Plates to go will be available from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. After 3 p.m. there will be sausage sandwiches and other food concessions available.

On top of the cooked meals, there will be uncooked, homemade and authentic German sausage for sale at \$4.50 per pound and can be purchased starting at 10:30 a.m. in the Sausage Haus.

There will be various booths, in-

cluding the dunking booth, spinning wheel, plinko, grab bag, coke ring toss, petting zoo, duck pond, kountry kitchen, bounce houses and religious booth. All booths will open at 11 a.m. and close at 3 p.m. Harlin Rhoades will also be on hand with his balloon creations. Tickets for the booths will be 50 cents each. T-shirts from the event are also available.

As with any festival, there are giveaways to be given, including a trip to Las Vegas or \$500 cash. A local, handmade king-sized quilt, handmade quilted throw and a large television set and a Blu-Ray Disc player will also be given away.

Bingo will begin at noon and conclude at 4 p.m. A silent auction will take place from 11 a.m. until 2:30 on the patio and a live auction will take place at 2 p.m. in the parish hall. A reprint of the 50th anniversary cookbook will be available for \$20 as will table centerpieces and décor.

For more information regarding the festival, contact Martha Schwartz, publicity chairman, at 432-397-2268.

Central Baptist Elbow to merge with Berea Baptist Church

September 25, Berea Baptist Church and Central Baptist Church of Elbow will merge under the name of Berea Baptist Church.

The location for the body will be at Berea's current location of 4204 Wasson Road. This first joint service will be followed by a potluck lunch at noon. The churches have been exploring this possibility for the past year. Bro. Dwayne Wheat, Berea's current pastor, will retire at the end of September.

Bro. John McCullough, pastor of Central Baptist, will assume the responsibilities of pastor at the newly merged Berea Baptist. Beginning Sept. 25, there will be no service at the Central Baptist site.

The service times at Berea continue to be as follows: Sunday morning Bible Study is at 9:45; Sunday morning wor-

ship at 11 a.m. Sunday evening worship will be at 6 p.m. and Wednesday prayer and Bible study at 6:30 p.m. For information or transportation, call the Berea office at 267-8438. If no one answers, leave a message on the answering machine and your call will be returned.

Reflections

Rain: A gift from God

I usually start my morning on the patio behind our house before sunrise.

Last week, Orion greeted me, shining brightly in the southern sky, still on the hunt. A full moon hung low on the western horizon, flooding the land with soft shadows.

But the stars and the moon soon faded as the sky grew gray and the sun approached from the east. One morning, neither stars nor moon appeared.

The black sky was draped with clouds. I thought I caught a glimpse of lightning out of the corner of my eye, but dismissed it as a flash from the TV screen through a window. And then, I thought I felt a drop of moisture on my forehead. But, again, I dismissed it as my imagination. We had not seen rain in over two months. As the day dawned, I heard the rumble of thunder and felt the sprinkle of rain. I did not run for cover. I sat there, letting the rain fall and smelling, for the first time in months, the fragrance of wet earth. It soon stopped.

We have been locked in a devastating drought in Texas. We set an all-time record for heat, most days over 100 degrees in our history. Texas was declared the hottest and driest state in the United States. Wildfires have blackened hundreds of square miles and thousands of homes have burned to the ground. It has been a devastating summer. The drought is still not over, and will not be until a foot or more of rain falls on the land.

In August, we drove across the Texas panhandle. The landscape looked like scorched earth. We passed through one small West Texas town where a liquor store posted a message on its marquee: "Pray for rain." A few miles down the road, we ran into rain, torrential showers that

were moving around the west Texas prairies like a gigantic irrigation system in the sky.

When we entered the downpour we could barely see to drive. When we exited, we could see other dark streaks of rain slanted across the open horizon. Of course, they didn't last and they did not end the drought, and they were local to the region around Dumas. But at least the liquor store had its prayers temporarily answered.

Sometimes we are able to live in our insulated world of air-conditioned houses, buildings, automobiles and planes so that we forget that we are part of creation. Nature has a way of putting our human egos into their rightful place. In spite of our technological advancements, we cannot control the weather.

The drought has reminded us of our dependence upon the earth. If the rain stopped we would dry up and die. We have been reminded that life on this planet is a gift and that we live by the grace and goodness of God.

The Bible says, "it is the Lord who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone." (Zechariah 10:1). "He will also send you rain for the seed you sow in the ground, and the food that comes from the land will be rich and plentiful.

In that day your cattle will graze in broad meadows." (Isaiah 30:23). "You heavens above, rain down my righteousness; let the clouds shower it down.

Let the earth open wide, let salvation spring up, let righteousness flourish with it; I, the Lord, have created it." (Isaiah 45:8).

Bill Tinsley reflects on life experience and current events from a faith perspective. He lives in Rockwall. For more information visit www.tinsleycenter.com.

Email bill@tinsleycenter.com.



BILL TINSLEY

Tabernacle Experience returns to area

Odessa New Life Church will host this year's experience

In case you missed it when it was in Big Spring last year or if you want to experience it again, The Tabernacle experience is returning to this area.

New Life Church, located at 7184 Club Drive in Odessa, will host the experience Friday, Sept. 30 through Oct. 9 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

School and group tours will be available from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Oct. 3 and Oct. 4. Regular hours are 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tours will last approximately 50 minutes. The suggested contribution is \$5 per individual and maximum of \$20 per family.

The Tabernacle Experience is a full replica of the Tabernacle of Moses with seven stations leading visitors through an Old Testament journey.

The replica of the portable sanctuary remains

true to the precise size and layout of the original Tabernacle constructed by Moses. On each self-guided tour visitors will have the opportunity to learn about the tent that housed the Ark of the Covenant over 3,000 years ago, as described by Exodus.

To find out more about this event, contact Anne Conder at 432-664-1044. Also visit, www.tabernacleexperience.com.

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Courtesy photo

Howard College recently installed the Student Government Association officers for the 2011-2012 school year. They are, from left: Vice President Michael Martinez; President Cindy Pinch; Parliamentarian Chelsey Hunt; and Secretary-Treasurer Kayla Lincoln.

News in brief

Texas prisons end special last meals in executions

HOUSTON (AP) — It's a tradition with roots that can be traced far back in history: Before being put to death, a condemned prisoner can choose his last meal.

Not so anymore in Texas.

Officials who oversee the country's busiest death chamber stopped the practice on Thursday after a prominent state senator complained about a hefty request from a man executed for his role in a notorious dragging death. Now, inmates get to eat only what the kitchen serves.

The controversy began after Lawrence Russell Brewer, who was executed on Wednesday for the hate crime slaying of James Byrd Jr. more than a decade ago, asked for two chicken fried steaks, a triple-meat bacon cheeseburger, fried okra, a pound of barbecue, three fajitas, a meat lover's pizza, a pint of ice cream and a slab of peanut butter fudge with crushed peanuts. Prison officials said Brewer didn't eat any of it.

No charge against Austin officer in fatal shooting

AUSTIN (AP) — A grand jury has declined to indict a Central Texas police officer in the fatal shooting of a suspect who had stabbed the lawman.

A Travis County grand jury on Thursday no-billed Austin police Officer Frank Wilson, who was stabbed in the neck during a struggle following a Dec. 23 traffic stop.

Investigators say Wilson fired one shot, killing Maurice Pierce. Investigators later determined Pierce had a blood alcohol level of nearly twice the legal limit for driving.

Pierce, after his death, was identified as a former suspect in the 1991 killing of four girls at an Austin yogurt store. Murder charges against Pierce had been dropped due to lack of evidence.

Police say Wilson was not aware of Pierce's history in the yogurt shop case when the shooting happened.

State seeks to block enforcement of EPA rules

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas has asked an appeals court to halt implementation of new federal air pollution rules.

It's the second court motion filed this week by Texas, which has sued the Environmental Protection Agency claiming the rules rely on flawed science and could lead to power outages.

Attorney General Greg Abbott initially asked the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington to review regulations, announced in July, for coal-fired power plants. The state on Thursday filed another petition to block enforcement.

Support Groups

SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 7 p.m. until 8 p.m.

MONDAY

• Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, noon-1 p.m., 615 Settles.

• Parents Empowering Parents, first and third Mondays, 6-7:30 p.m. Northside Community Center. Support group for parents, grandparents raising grandchildren, adoptive-foster parents or stepparents. Professional facilitator, parent-led discussions on variety of topics.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

TUESDAY

• Special Parents for Special Children support group meets the first Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at Elbow Elementary. Contact Kerri Rosenbaum at 432-816-3320 or kerriroosenbaum9488@msn.com

26th Annual Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade

5:30 pm, Saturday, December 3rd

Parade Theme

"A Wild West Christmas"

ENTRY DEADLINE - FRIDAY, NOV. 11TH

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(Best Use Of Lighting)

\$50 Grand Marshal's Award

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2. Floats not to exceed 52' in length, 8' in width, 14' in height.
3. Parade entries not in line by start of parade will be ineligible for awards.
4. Do not throw candy from float, you may walk beside your float if you wish to throw candy.

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Area 6-man football games

This is a correction to the games posted in yesterday's *Herald*.

Sands vs. Water Valley

7:30 p.m. Friday at Water Valley

The Sands Mustangs will put their 4-0 record on the line Friday night in a battle of the unbeaten. The 'Stangs are coming off of a 91-47 pounding of Sterling City, while the 4-0 Wildcats of Water Valley are coming off of a 60-14 handling of Santa Anna.

Both of these two teams have scored at least 56 points in all of their games.

Grady vs. Ropes

7:30 p.m. Friday in Grady

Coming off of a 73-58 rebound win against Trinity in Midland, the Grady Wildcats hope to improve on their 2-2 record when they face the Ropes Eagles Friday night. The 3-1 Eagles are coming off of a resounding 70-22 win against Whitharral.

Garden City vs. Faith Christian

7:30 p.m. Friday in Garden City

Coming off of a 64-14 win against an undefeated O'Donnell team, the Bearkats hope to continue the upswing and further improve their 2-2 start this week when they face the 1-3 Faith Christian Lions.

Rangers fall 4-3

OAKLAND (AP) — The Texas Rangers are testing their own patience with six games to go.

They gave up a chance Thursday to inch closer to a second straight AL West crown.

Coco Crisp hit a go-ahead single in the eighth inning, and the Oakland Athletics beat the first-place Rangers 4-3 to avoid a series sweep.

The reigning AL champion Rangers had their magic number reduced to two when the Angels lost to Toronto later Thursday night.

"We just have to keep winning series. If we do that we'll be fine," manager Ron Washington said. "The sooner we win games to wrap it up, you want to do it. At the same time we don't look too far ahead. It is the way it is. ... If we keep playing like this, pretty soon it will happen."

Texas, which held a five-game lead over Los Angeles entering Thursday, headed home for three games with the Mariners before ending the regular season at Anaheim.

"We'd love to do it as soon as pos-

sible," second baseman Ian Kinsler said. "Whether it's the first game, second game or third game at home, it would be a lot of fun if we're able to do it in front of our home crowd."

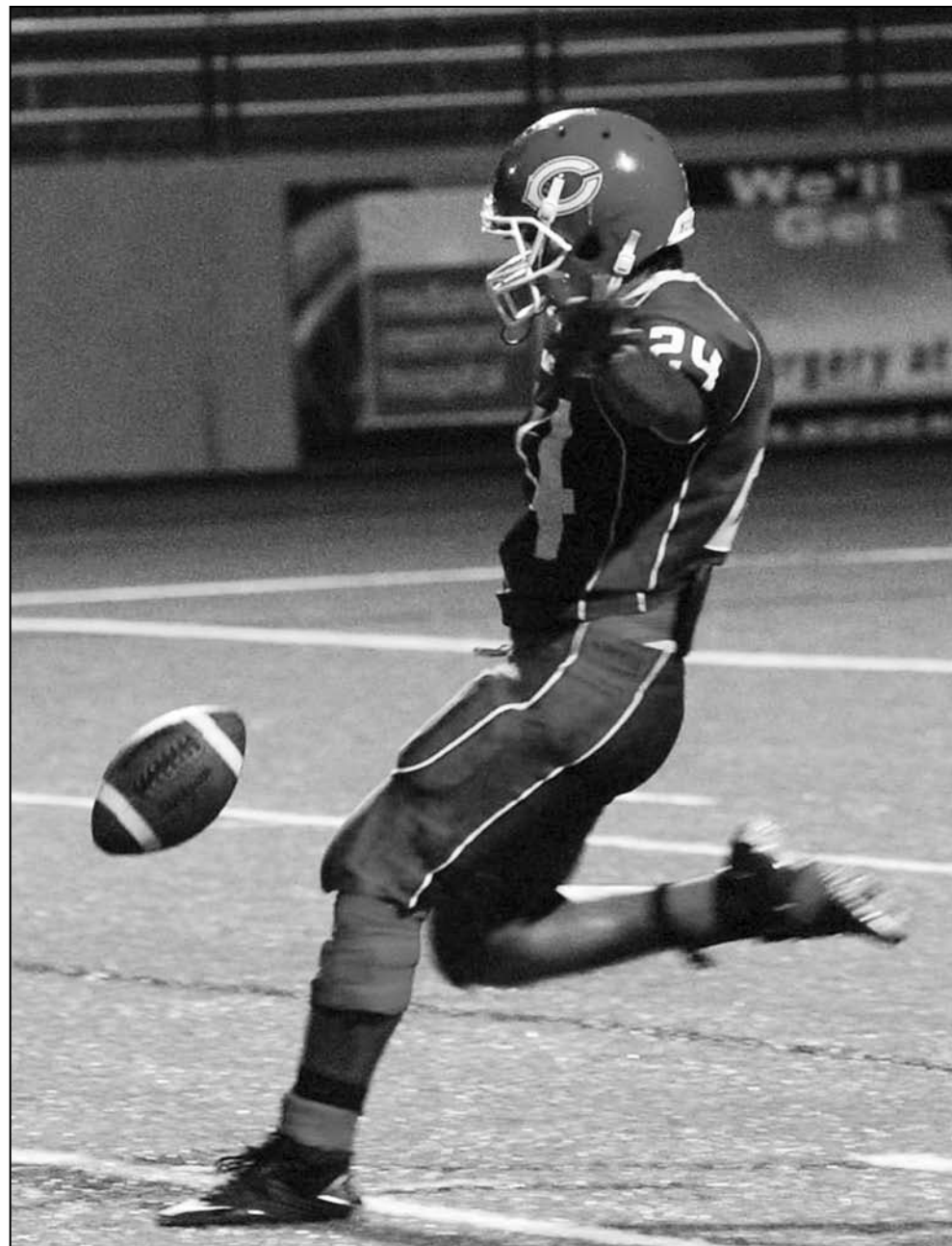
Grant Balfour (5-2) pitched a 1-2-3 eighth for the win, then Andrew Bailey finished for his 21st save in 23 chances as the A's snapped Texas' four-game winning streak and handed the Rangers just their second loss in 10 games.

Pinch-hitter Scott Sizemore hit a tying RBI groundout in the seventh against Darren Oliver. Crisp's hit came against Mike Adams (1-3) and helped stop a three-game skid.

Rangers catcher Yorvit Torrealba left in the eighth after taking a foul tip on the head and experiencing nausea. The team said he was seen by a doctor and doesn't have a concussion.

Adrian Beltre hit an RBI double, Nelson Cruz added a sacrifice fly and David Murphy also drove in a run for the Rangers, who couldn't hold a

See **RANGERS**, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Robert Griffin

Coahoma senior Marco Molina punts in recent Bulldog action. Molina and the Coahoma Bulldogs will begin their district schedule tonight when they play host to the Stanton Buffaloes. The game is scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m.

Astros top Rockies

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Astros manager Brad Mills wasn't happy with his team's hitting in a shutout in Cincinnati on Wednesday.

He was much more pleased with the Astros' work at the plate on Thursday night.

Carlos Lee doubled and drove in a season-high-tying four runs, pinch-hitter Matt Downs knocked in three more and the Astros beat Colorado 9-6, extending the Rockies' losing streak to a season-high eight games.

Lee has heated up since the All-Star break and to reach 90 RBIs this season after having just 48 in the 88 games before the break.

"That's a lot of runs

compared to what I was three months ago," Lee said. "That's something I take a lot of pride in in my career is driving in runs."

Mills has been impressed with Lee's improvement in the second half.

"You can always look back and last year he was off to a slow start as well," Mills said. "And what he's been able to do and the four RBIs tonight were huge to get to 90. What he's done the last two, three months has been pretty good."

Houston starter Henry Sosa (3-5) yielded a season-high nine hits but allowed just three runs in 6 1-3 innings to end a three-game losing streak.

Wilin Rosario doubled and hit a three-run homer in the eighth to cut Houston's lead to 8-6 and Kevin Kouzmanoff had a solo shot in the seventh. Rosario has three homers and seven RBIs in the first 12 games of his career.

Rockies starter Alex White (2-3), acquired in the Ubaldo Jimenez trade with Cleveland, allowed six hits and five runs with six strikeouts in 4 2-3 innings. He hit two batters and threw two wild pitches.

"The additional base runners we gave them tonight having to go up and hit the ball, that kind of stuff is going to get you

See **ASTROS**, Page 2B

Rodeo Hall of Fame inductee claims ties to Big Spring

By **ROBERT GRIFFIN**

Sports Editor

OKLAHOMA CITY — Shawn Davis, a man recognized as one of the greats in the rodeo world, is being inducted into the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum Rodeo Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City Saturday.

Davis, responsible for the National Finals Rodeo being moved from Oklahoma City to Las Vegas, is the son in law of Big Spring resident Geneva Roberts.

Davis is a three-time world champion saddle bronc rider. He was injured in 1969 when a horse fell on him during a competition and has devoted his life to the sport of rodeo ever since. He has been the general manager of the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo since it moved to Las Vegas in

1986. He, along with his wife — former Big Spring resident Jean — currently reside in Arizona.

"Induction into the Rodeo Hall of Fame is one of the top honors to be bestowed upon a rodeo cowboy or performer," said Pam Minick, president of the Rodeo Historical Society.

"Chosen annually by a vote of the Society membership, the inductees in the class of 2011 include Shawn Davis, Martha Josey, Sonny Linger and Lyle Sankey. Being honored posthumously are Albert "Bobbie" Christensen, Don Happy, Roy Lewis and Col. W.T. Johnson."

Davis was world champion in 1965, 1967 and 1968. A board member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, he has been working in and around rodeos for over 50 years.

Friday night football games

Garden City Bearkats vs. Faith Christian
7:30 p.m. in Garden City

Stanton Buffaloes @ Coahoma Bulldogs (District opener)
7:30 p.m. in Coahoma

Forsan Buffaloes vs. Post (district opener)
7:30 p.m. in Forsan

Grady Wildcats vs. Ropes
7:30 p.m. in Grady

Sands Mustangs @ Water Valley
7:30 p.m. in Water Valley

Saturday night football games

Big Spring Steers vs. Midland Christian
7:00 p.m. in Midland

ASTROS

Continued from page 1B

beat," Rockies manager Jim Tracy said.

Sosa doubled to start the Astros' third before White plunked Jose Altuve with one out. Both players advanced a base on a wild pitch by White before he hit J.D. Martinez with a pitch to load the bases.

Lee's bases-clearing double, which landed on the top of Tal's Hill in center field, gave Houston a 4-2 lead.

Jordan Schafer and Altuve hit consecutive singles in the fifth inning and Schafer advanced to third on a wild pitch by White with one out. Schafer scored on a sacrifice fly by Lee to push the lead to 5-2.

"I felt good tonight (but) I put myself in some bad spots and paid for it," White said.

Houston closer Mark Melan-

con pitched a perfect ninth for his 20th save.

Kouzmanoff had a solo homer that landed in the Crawford Boxes in left field and got Colorado within 5-3 with no outs in the seventh inning. Rosario followed with a double before Sosa was replaced by Fernando Rodriguez with one out.

Eric Young singled before stealing second base. Dexter Fowler reached on a fielder's choice when Chris Johnson threw home to get Rosario out. Rodriguez walked Jordan Pacheco to load the bases, but escaped the jam by retiring Tulowitzki to end the inning.

Houston tacked on three more runs with a second bases-clearing double by Downs in the seventh inning. The hit gave Downs 15 pinch-hit RBIs this season, which leads the majors and is the second most in a season in franchise history.

Downs said the key to his

pinch-hitting success is simply keeping his head in the game when he's on the bench.

"It's just one of those things where you have to pay attention during the game, stay in the game and stay focused," Downs said. "You can't be underneath watching TV and joking around and stuff. You have to stay in the game the whole time and watch how they're pitching guys and watch what they're doing."

Tracy was disappointed that his team allowed the hit to Downs.

"The pinch-hit double off the bench completely changed the complexion of the game," Tracy said.

Tulowitzki and Seth Smith hit consecutive singles to start the second inning. Tulowitzki scored when Kouzmanoff grounded into a force out to make it 1-0.

Brian Bogusevic singled with one out in the second

and stole second base. He scored when Clint Barmes hit a double that bounced off the left field wall to make it 1-all.

The Rockies got back to back one-out singles by Young and Fowler in the third inning and Young reached third on Fowler's hit. Young put Colorado back on top when he scored on a wild pitch by Sosa. Fowler went to third on the play on an error by catcher J.R. Towles, but Sosa retired the next two batters to limit the damage.

Houston added a run on a sacrifice fly by Schafer in the eighth inning. By that point only a few fans, from a crowd that was thin to begin with, remained to cheer the worst team in baseball.

NOTES: Houston RHP Bud Norris, who left his last start in the fourth inning because of shoulder soreness, was diagnosed with right biceps tendinitis on Thursday and won't his scheduled start on

Sunday. He will be replaced by RHP Lucas Harrell. ... Rockies manager Jim Tracy said he doesn't plan to play Todd Helton again this season because of his sore back. Tracy said that Helton is OK, but that they don't want to do anything to jeopardize his health for next season. ... The Astros announced plans to celebrate the 50th season of the franchise in 2012 on Thursday. The Astros will wear a 50th anniversary patch on their uniforms and will don throwback jerseys from different eras during each Friday home game. ... RHP Brett Myers will pitch for Houston against Colorado lefty Drew Pomeranz in the second game of the four-game series on Friday. Myers is 3-0 with a 1.19 ERA in his last four starts. Pomeranz, a rookie who also came to Colorado in the Jimenez trade, will make his first career road start after a bad showing in his last outing.

Boxing at 2012 Olympics

already being investigated

Gold medals possibly already decided

BEIJING (AP) — IOC President Jacques Rogge on Friday welcomed an investigation by amateur boxing's governing body into allegations that millions of dollars have been paid to guarantee Azerbaijan two gold medals in the ring at next year's London Olympics.

The International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA) said it will look into the allegations made by BBC TV's Newsnight on Thursday that \$9 million from Azerbaijan was paid to World Series Boxing, a franchised league supported by AIBA.

"We welcome the inquiry by the AIBA and we have asked the BBC

to provide evidence ... we take every allegation very seriously," Rogge told a news conference after a sports seminar in Beijing.

Since the allegations surfaced, AIBA President Wu Ching-kuo has denounced the BBC claims saying they are "totally untrue and ludicrous," but added he would investigate them.

According to the BBC report, an Azeri national paid the money to a WSB competition.

After the program was broadcast, the AIBA issued a statement saying a loan to WSB had been made by "an Azerbaijani investor ... made on a commercial basis and

with a view to a commercial return for the investor."

AIBA said it believed the allegations were made by individuals with an ax to grind and added that the claims "demonstrate a complete misunderstanding of the procedures which lead to the award of Olympic boxing medals and the impossibility of influencing these."

The statement added: "Any suggestion that the loan was made in return for promises of gold medals at the 2012 Olympics is preposterous and utterly untrue."

The BBC report cited unnamed "whistleblowers" and "insiders" as

having told its reporters they had been informed about a deal by WSB's chief operating officer Ivan Khodabakhsh. The program also said the money was needed by the WSB because it had run into financial difficulties in the United States.

Khodabakhsh called the allegations "an absolute lie."

The BBC's report comes just days before the world amateur boxing championships get under way on Sept. 26 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan's only boxing medal at the last Olympics in Beijing was a bronze.

Rogge did not give details as to what role the IOC would play in the investigations.

IOC spokesman Mark Adams earlier highlighted moves by the IOC to ensure fairness in its competitions.

"We would also note that the judging process in boxing as in other sports at the games are transparent and open to public scrutiny — and a number of sports including boxing have made significant changes to their procedures in recent years to deal with any potential issues," he said.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

3-1 lead.

Texas had its five-game winning streak at the Coliseum snapped and finished 13-6 in the season series — matching its most wins against an opponent in one year.

"A team that beats up on you, you better have a little extra hate for them," A's manager Bob Melvin said.

Colby Lewis went 4-0 in six starts against his former A's team this year but missed a chance to join Ferguson Jenkins in becoming the only Rangers pitchers to win five games against Oakland in a season. Jenkins had been the lone pitcher in Texas history to beat an opponent five times in one year — against the A's and Minnesota in 1974.

Lewis struck out the side in order in the fourth and finished with seven Ks and two walks. He allowed three runs and four hits in 6 1-3 innings.

Jemile Weeks hit his first major league home run in the sixth, a rare show of power for the speedy 5-foot-9, 160-pound leadoff man. His drive to right came in his 379th career at-bat.

"It feels like a weight has been lifted from my chest," Weeks said. "I had pretty much thought if it didn't happen by now it wasn't going to happen. Today is one of the best days to get it done."

Weeks snapped a 90-game homeless streak, the second-longest to start a career in Oakland history behind Mike Bordick's 132 games without a longball before connecting on May 10, 1992. Weeks reached base in all four of his platoon appearances Thursday with two other hits.

Lewis allowed his AL-leading 35th home run.

"If I'm leading the league in home runs, it might as well be me

who gives it up, his first one," Lewis said.

Oakland avoided falling a season-worst 18 games below .500, which would have been its lowest since finishing the 1997 season 32 games below.

The A's completed their home schedule a day after Melvin received a new three-year contract to be the permanent manager. Oakland went 43-38 at the Coliseum for its second straight winning season at home. The A's finish with three games in Anaheim, then three in Seattle.

Crisp crashed his left side hard into the center-field wall trying to make a play on Beltre's second-inning double. He went down briefly but stayed in the game."

NOTES: Sizemore didn't start as he nurses shoulder tendinitis. ... Rangers RHP reliever Mark Lowe's playoff status is in doubt after he returned to Arlington to have his injured left hamstring examined by team physician Dr. Keith Meister. Lowe has a Grade 2 strain, GM Jon Daniels said. The pitcher was hurt running sprints during warmups before Wednesday night's game. Righty reliever Michael Gonzalez also flew home Thursday because of an illness. The team didn't consider his bug to be anything serious. Gonzalez is 2-2 with one save and a 4.38 ERA in 54 outings. ... Actor Danny Glover threw out the ceremonial first pitch. ... A's LHP starter Gio Gonzalez received this year's "Good Guy" award from the local chapter of the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Gonzalez (14-12) starts Friday night against the Angels trying to become Oakland's first back-to-back 15-game winner since Mark Mulder in 2003-04. Gonzalez is 5-1 with a 3.20 ERA over his last six starts. ... LHP Matt Harrison (13-9) pitches for the Rangers on Friday.



Saturday, September 24th

- 8:00 a.m. 5K Run Walk (register at 7)
- Mitchell Co. Reunion
- 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Wild West Frontier Fest Trade Show
- 10:00 a.m. Masonic Lodge - County Historical Marker Dedication
- 11:00 a.m. Tumbleweed Parade
- 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Heart of West Texas Museum Open
- 3:00 p.m. Junk to Jewels Auction - Baker Hotel
- 7:00 p.m. - Baker Hotel Concert featuring

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- 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Wild West Frontier Fest Trade Show
- 2:30 p.m. Wiener Dog Races (register at 1:30)
- 3:00 p.m. Ice Cream Freeze-Off
- PETTING ZOO**
- COUNTY FAIR EXHIBITS**

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7	5	8	2	6	3	1	4	9
4	3	2	5	1	9	7	6	8
1	2	9	4	8	7	6	5	3
6	8	7	3	9	5	4	1	2
3	4	5	1	2	6	9	8	7
8	9	4	6	3	2	5	7	1
5	1	3	7	4	8	2	9	6
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Injured Romo could play Monday night

IRVING (AP) — With his arms crossed, ball cap on — forward — and an electronic stimulation device working to heal his broken rib, Tony Romo could only watch as the other Dallas Cowboys quarterbacks threw warm-up passes at the start of practice Thursday.

Still, just being on the field was an indication Romo could start Monday night against the Redskins.

Romo wore a jersey and shorts and moved gingerly. When everyone stretched, he was slow to join them, then didn't do anything that required bending or moving his arms. At the start of team drills, he stood with the backups, watching with his arms clasped behind his back.

Jon Kitna worked with the first team and would start if Romo can't.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones watched briefly from a far sideline, then left without stopping to comment.

This was Dallas' first practice since Romo overcame the broken rib and a tear in his lung to pull out a comeback victory in overtime against San Francisco on Sunday.

He's been praised for his toughness and leadership just a week after being scorned for bad plays and poor decisions that led to a loss in the opener, and he also earned the NFC offensive player of the week award.

The Cowboys (1-1) came out of the 49ers game with so many injuries to key players that coach Jason Garrett gave them an extra day off Wednesday.

They could afford it because they have an extra day before the next game, which also is at home.

The status of many other key players remains in flux.

Receivers Dez Bryant (thigh) and Miles Austin (hamstring) were not on the field.

Dallas Stars undefeated as Mike Modano returns, retires

DALLAS (AP) — Rookie Colton Sceviour had two goals, rookie Jordie Benn scored the tiebreaker in the first minute of the third period, and the Dallas Stars beat the Colorado Avalanche 5-2 on Thursday night in a pre-season game.

Benn, older brother of Stars forward Jamie Benn, beat goaltender Trevor Cann from the slot 22 seconds into the third period to snap a 2-all tie.

Loui Eriksson and Steve Ott added third-period goals for the Stars (2-0) in their preseason home opener and coach Glen Gulutzan's home debut.

Gulutzan was promoted from the Stars' top minor league affiliate to replace Marc Crawford, who was fired at the end of last season.

Rookies Tyson Barrie and Brad Malone scored for Colorado (0-1) in its preseason opener.

The Avalanche left most of their veterans in Denver so their top prospects could get extra ice time. The Stars used more veterans, but their lineup also included seven prospects.

Dallas took four penalties in the game's first five minutes — three on Jamie Benn — and Barrie capitalized off a

5 on 3 at 6:41.

Sceviour tied it at 1 for Dallas at 10:11 of the opening period, and Sceviour poked a loose puck past goaltender Calvin Pickard at 9:18 of the second period to put the Stars in front.

Stars No. 1 goaltender Kari Lehtonen stopped 16 of 17 shots and he was replaced by rookie Jack Campbell midway through the second period.

Malone drew Colorado even at 2 at 12:09 of the second, beating Campbell from the left circle on the power play.

DETROIT (AP) — Mike Modano will retire as a member of the Dallas Stars.

During a news conference Friday in Dallas to formally announce his retirement, Modano will sign a one-day contract that will list an honorary amount of \$999,999 for the No. 9 he wore during his franchise-record 1,459 games over 20 seasons with the Stars.

The 41-year-old Modano will then send his retirement paperwork to the NHL.

"Mike Modano will always be the face of this franchise. He means so much to our organization and all of our fans," said general manager Joe Nieuwendyk, also a former teammate. "We wanted to give him the opportunity to

retire as a Dallas Star. Mike has given his heart and soul to this game for over 30 years. On behalf of the entire organization and the National Hockey League, we would like to thank him for his dedication."

Modano said Wednesday that he is retiring after 21 seasons in the NHL, a career that includes a Stanley Cup championship with the Stars in 1999.

His 561 goals and 1,374 points are both records for U.S.-born players.

He played his final season for his hometown Detroit Red Wings, but was limited to 40 games and four goals after a skate sliced a tendon in his right wrist.

The first overall pick by the Minnesota North Stars in 1988, Modano became the face of the franchise after it moved to Dallas in 1993. The Stars also advanced to the Stanley Cup finals in 2000.

Along with his 1,459 games, Modano holds Stars franchise records for goals (557), assists (802), points (1,359), power play goals (156), shorthanded goals (29), game-winning goals (92).

He is also the Stars' playoff leader for games played (174), goals (58), assists (87) and points (145).

Kobe Bryant offered \$9.7 million to play just one season in Italy

ROME (AP) — Kobe Bryant has been offered a \$6.7 million, one-season contract to play for the Italian team Virtus Bologna, appealing to his childhood memories of growing up in the country.

The Los Angeles Lakers superstar spent part of his youth in Italy while his father played there. He speaks Italian, prompting Bologna to hope he might return if there's an NBA lockout.

Virtus Bologna general manager Massimo Faraoni tells The Associated Press he's been on conference calls between Bryant's agent, Rob Pelinka, Bologna president Claudio Sabatini and main sponsor Canadian Solar, which would provide the cash for such a deal.

"I think the fact that he's lived in Italy makes this appealing to him," Faraoni said.

Virtus has given Bryant four different contract options, stretching from the one-year deal to two-month and one-month options, and a per-game deal that would come out to \$739,640 per home game.

All of the offers are pretax and would allow Bryant to return to the Lakers immediately if the lockout ends.

Turkish club Besiktas and at

least one team in China have expressed interest in the 33-year-old Bryant, who has won five NBA championships and been an All-Star 13 times.

Faraoni watched Bryant when he played in Pistoia's youth system in the late 1980s.

"I saw him when he was a kid, and he already had a lot of passion for the game then," Faraoni said.

Bryant's father, Joe "Jellybean" Bryant, played in Italy with Rieti, Reggio Calabria, Pistoia and Reggiana from 1984-1991. The elder Bryant now coaches the Los Angeles Sparks in the WNBA.

Virtus also reached out to Manu Ginobili, who played with Bologna before joining the San Antonio Spurs in 2002. Denver Nuggets forward Danilo Gallinari rejoined his former Italian club Olimpia Milano on Tuesday.

Other NBA players are committing to play in leagues outside the United States.

Nuggets free agents Wilson Chandler and J.R. Smith plan to play in China, Denver's Ty Lawson will play in Lithuania and New Jersey Nets All-Star Deron Williams signed with Turkish club Besiktas.

Virtus has won 15 Italian league titles but none since 2001, when it also won the Euroleague for the second time.

Virtus has asked fans to send messages supporting the recruitment of Bryant to a "Bologna for Bryant" email address, which will be published on the team's website.

Bologna opens the Italian league against Roma on Oct. 9. It did not qualify for this season's Euroleague, although the team has big ambitions after signing former Clemson point guard Terrell McIntyre, who led Siena to four consecutive Italian titles before transferring to Malaga in Spain last season.

"I think we already have a competitive squad for Serie A, but Kobe is obviously a great champion and he would make a great addition to the team," Faraoni said.

"I would put us just behind Milano and Siena."

The NBA season usually begins in late October but owners and players have failed to agree on a new labor deal.

The two sides are at odds over how to divide the league's revenue, a salary cap structure and the length of guaranteed contracts.

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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net



By Steve Becker

Bidding Quiz

Partner bids One Notrump. What would you respond with each of the following four hands?
 1. ♠ Q963 ♥ KQ752 ♦ A6 ♣ 74
 2. ♠ KQ5 ♥ AQ6 ♦ K1082 ♣ Q93
 3. ♠ 762 ♥ 109 ♦ AK9874 ♣ 85
 4. ♠ J9862 ♥ 3 ♦ 10875 ♣ 954

1. Two clubs. With 11 high-card points facing 15 to 17, there is no question about getting to game. The only problem is whether the proper contract is three notrump, four hearts or four spades.

The best way to resolve the issue is to consult partner by bidding two clubs (Stayman). If partner responds with either major, you raise that suit to game. If partner responds two diamonds, denying a four-card major, you next jump to three hearts, indicating a game-forcing hand with five hearts. Partner then either raises to four hearts if he has three-card support, or retreats to three notrump with a doubleton heart.

2. Four notrump. This is not Blackwood, but simply an invitational raise in notrump asking partner to bid six notrump if he has maximum values (17 points), or to pass with a minimum (15 points). Opener

uses his judgment (or can bid five notrump) with 16 points. The magic number for slam with two balanced hands is a combined holding of 33 points.

3. Three notrump. There are no guarantees with this bid, as you might have as little as 22 high-card points in the combined hands instead of the 26 usually needed for game. However, you can't afford to bid only two notrump and risk getting left at the post with a hand that will probably yield six diamond tricks. There is also no point in attempting to show your diamond suit at some level. By far the best action is to take the bull by the horns and leap to game in notrump.

4. Two spades (or two hearts if you play Jacoby Transfers). Although you have a terrible hand, it figures to play better at spades than at notrump. In notrump, partner is likely to go down two or three tricks opposite this hand. But with spades as trump, your hand should produce anywhere from two to four trump tricks, depending on partner's spade holding. In addition, the spades will provide entries to take whatever finesse may be needed.

Tomorrow: The battle for trump control.

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Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Lee's Rental & Storage, which is located at 1606 FM 700, Big Spring, TX 79720 will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be on September 30, 2011, 10 A.M. Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property in each space will be sold by each space. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of following tenants. Inocencio Enriquez Jr. #153 Xavian Young #120 & #169 Stephanie Rawls #108 Luis Lopez #59 Cynthia Galvan #47 James McMillan #25 Sara Crowley #183 Clarrisa Dean #124 Rudy Hewtty #181 #7124 September 23 & 29, 2011

Marked by the sun's entrance into Libra, the sign of the scales, the autumnal equinox balances day and night. Libra is also the sign of partnership, couples and teams. Bond with your teammates, and make a wish on the changing seasons. This is also the anniversary of the discovery of Neptune, the planet of wishes and dreams.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll apply yourself in all sorts of unusual ways to please the powers that be. It works especially well when the one who happens to be in power is you. And you are certainly worthy of a pleasing effort.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You will see a relationship from the other person's point of view, which makes you a kind of emotional genius. The ability to leave yourself and see things as another person might is a rare gift.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You probably won't feel like taking a direct

route. Wandering around requires a great deal of time, but it's worthwhile. You'll have different thoughts along this meandering path.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Cupid's arrow hits. You're likely to fall in love and stay in love. You may not be falling for another person, though — it will probably be a project or an area of interest that captures your heart.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll enjoy a day of clear-headedness and ordered thinking. You will be decisive, partly because you feel there's no time to waste and partly because the right answers seem so obvious to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When you're not sure what to do, you will make the effort to appear knowledgeable. You will be convincing in this endeavor, making others feel at ease. People will believe what you say.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll feel empowered to take on the world, and yet you'll wisely realize the world doesn't always need to be "taken on." Things are already leaning in your direction, so all you have to do is go with the flow.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov.

21). You always try to leave things better than they were when you found them. This is difficult when others around you are messy and thoughtless. You may be the only responsible one, but keep up the high standards.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Learning to think differently can be the most difficult habit to change. But it doesn't have to be so hard. Mostly, you will dwell on the lovely thoughts you prefer, and the shift happens quite naturally.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll create an emotional climate around you. It will be as though you have your own personal weather system following you around wherever you go. It's quite sunny and fair where you are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The chatter in your head is as distracting as a television blaring when you're trying to read or converse. You can quiet the mental noise by telling someone trustworthy what's on your mind, or by writing in a diary.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Meetings are often unnecessary, and today is no exception. However,

unnecessary things can still be quite helpful. And today it will benefit everyone to get together and make sure you're all on the same page.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 23). You approach many areas of your life with a strong sense of professionalism. Because you accept the trials and hard work, you will also accept the rewards. In October, you'll connect with someone in a fleeting moment and turn this connection into a bond that lasts years. There's a move in March. You'll learn a new skill. Leo and Gemini people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 13, 6, 4, 2 and 19.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: ARIES: You'll be direct in your dealings. If you have a problem with someone, you'll tell that person instead of discussing it with a third party. TAURUS: You may now come across as likeable and subservient in a relationship, but you'll soon turn the tables. GEMINI: You seem impressed with another person, and this makes the person feel special. CANCER: You'll make someone understand, through subtle and not so subtle gestures, that you

feel good about knowing him or her. LEO: You sincerely want another person to feel good and have a terrific time. That's such an attractive quality that people will gravitate to you. VIRGO: You are loyal, so you'll resist the urge to complain behind your loved one's back. LIBRA: You'll enjoy a lively debate — perhaps this is all designed to impress you. SCORPIO: You will be too busy creating a happy life to agonize over recent relationship slights. You'll officially "move on." SAGITTARIUS: You'll realize just how lovable you are and relax. CAPRICORN: You cannot fix a partner's messed-up childhood, but you can find healthy, mature and adult ways of relating to each other now. AQUARIUS: You'll accept and comply because it's easier that way. PISCES: When another person seems to feel your emotional pain, you'll suddenly have less of it.

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.

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Dear Margo: Family favoritism

Dear Margo: I am the middle sister of three daughters. We're all grown and have gone our separate ways, but our family keeps in touch via Facebook and a yearly family reunion.

Year after year, something has been troubling me, and I don't know how to address it. The youngest of us is outgoing and dominates all conversations.

Though she can be the life of the party, her comments are most often ill-informed and, frankly, a lot of hot air. My older sister, however, is precisely the opposite. She is shy and contributes little to the conversation, preferring to listen, but when she does speak, it is always to offer correct and useful information.

I love both my lively sister and the shy one, but I've noticed that our father shows a preference for my younger sister while belittling my older one — telling her (no matter what she says) that she's wrong, which is seldom the case.

My sister takes this personally and then says nothing for the rest of the conversation, but later she will look up the information she mentioned and show it to Dad to prove she was right. He never apologizes and instead spends all his time praising the outgoing one.

He might favor my little sister because he, too, was the youngest child in his family. But it seems childish of him to act like that, and it hurts to see my older sister diminished. Recently, she has stopped participating in the online connections, and I'm afraid she may become estranged as the years go on. I try to make peace, but I'm not sure how to broach the subject. — Dealing with a Cordelia, in Connecticut

Dear Deal: Wow, wisdom doesn't necessarily come with age, does it? I actually think you need to have a talk with everyone involved. I would tell the lively sister that you think it would be in her interest to tone down her entertainer quotient and raise her accuracy level. (That can only be a plus in the outside world, as well.) You might mention that her hot air, I mean "opinions," restrain the eldest sister and you fear the family will be splintered. I would tell your father his obvious favoritism is painful and punitive, in addition to not being fact-based. You might tell him, too, that you fear an estrangement if changes are not made. And I would tell your older, smart sister that you share her discomfort and hope she will not disconnect, if only for your sake. — Margo, interventionally

Too Cute by Half

Dear Margo: Several months ago, I hired a painter who convinced me to pay in full and then never finished the job.

Initially, he gave all kinds of excuses (weather, injury, etc.), but now he doesn't even return my calls.

Yesterday I posted an item for sale on Craigslist and heard from a guy who will send me a cashier's check. Would it be wrong to give him my painter's name and address? It would cause trouble for the painter if he were dishonest enough to deposit the check. — Sometimes Karma Needs a Little Help

Dear Some: My, that's an elaborate get-even plan. I had to read it twice to figure out what you had in mind. I would suggest you call the Better Business Bureau instead. Should you go through with what I consider a harebrained scheme, you could well be guilty of entrapment, not to mention using the U.S. mail system to commit a fraudulent act (a felony).

If you want to cause the painter a little indigestion, leave a message that unless he finishes your job or returns your money, he can expect to see you in small-claims court. Sometimes angry people need a little time out. — Margo, rationally

Dear Margo is written by Margo Howard, Ann Landers' daughter. All letters must be sent via e-mail to dearmargo@creators.com. Due to a high volume of e-mail, not all letters will be answered.

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HOUSE LEVELING/MOVING

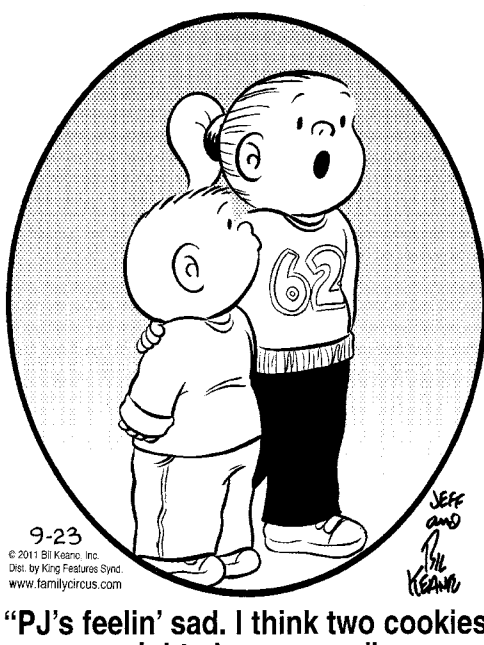
B&B House Leveling & Foundation Repair. LOCALLY OWNED & FAMILY OPERATED FOR 67 Years. Foundation Repair is Our Specialty & Only Work Our Company Does!

TV schedule table with columns for channel (KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, KWWT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN) and time slots (5:30 PM, 6:30 PM, 7:30 PM, 8:30 PM, 9:30 PM, 10:30 PM, 11:30 PM, 12:30 AM, 1:30 AM).

DENNIS THE MENACE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

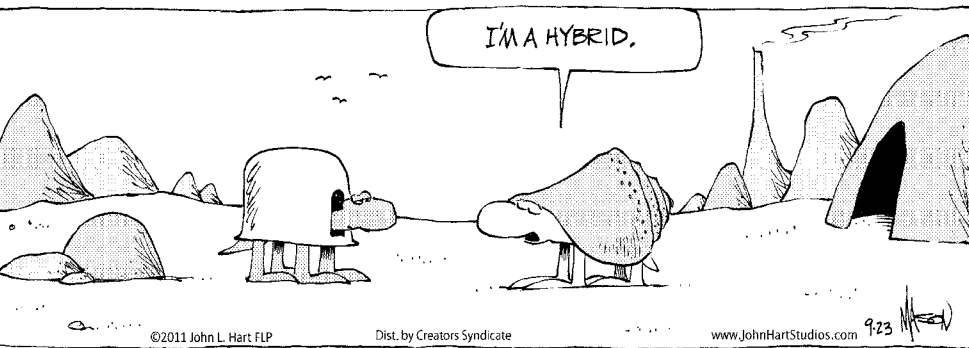
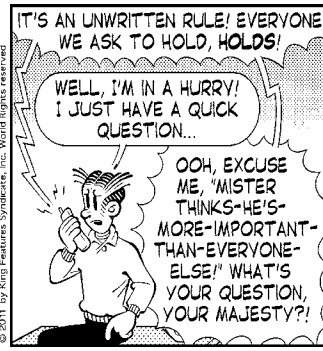
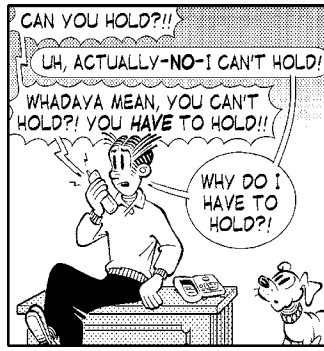
HAGAR



"SOUNDS LIKE I'M BEIN' RECALLED."

"PJ's feelin' sad. I think two cookies might cheer us up."

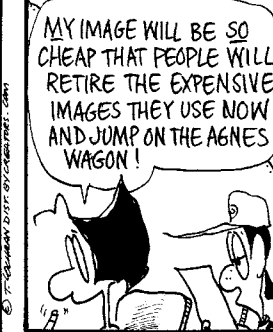
BLONDIE



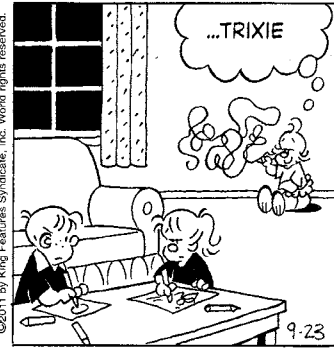
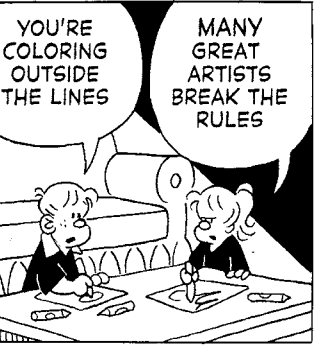
WIZARD OF ID



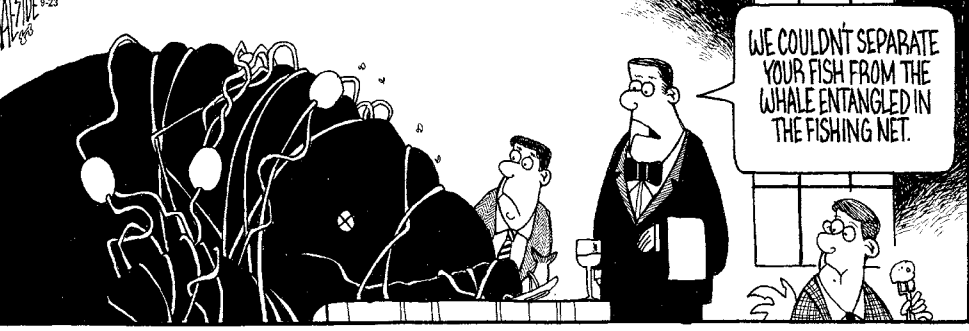
AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Friday, Sept. 23, the 266th day of 2011. There are 99 days left in the year. Autumn arrives at 5:04 a.m. Eastern time.

ting out for the Pacific Northwest. In 1846, Neptune was identified as a planet by German astronomer Johann Gottfried Galle (GAH-luh).

In 1981, the Reagan administration announced plans for what became known as "Radio Marti."

Answer to previous puzzle: CAPES OMAN IBET ARENA IOTA CODA TILESUPLOOSEENDS SALUTE LAX DIES RENTAL POSER WANES HISSIED ACE PER ORINGS TRACKSOFMYTEARS TEPEES AAA PIT DETERS CASTIS APEEP LETOUR SUR OUT OTTAWA TRAINSOFTHOUGH REST ERIE FRUIT ORES DOTE FOAMY

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS: 1 Bad kid, 5 For one, 9 Belittle, 14 Handed-down tales, 15 Pro (donated), 16 Oliver Twist meal, 17 Astronomical turning point, 18 Reveal indiscreetly, 19 All-out, 20 Start of a Mark Twain quote, 23 Informal farewell, 24 Certain skirt, 25 Gunk, 27 Actress Russell, 30 Have the job of, 31 Overstuff, 35 Rock group, 36 Popular houseplants, 38 Part 2 of quote, 40 Part 3 of quote, 41 Ivy League school, for short, 42 Yard-sale spoiler, 45 Victimize, with "on", 46 Be mistaken, 47 Like devoted fans, 50 Day-care participants, 52 Not fully dry, 53 Boxers' attire, 58 End of quote, 61 Rebound, 62 Little bit, 63 Playwright Ayckbourn, 64 Really liked, 65 Territory, 66 Steal from, 67 Vexations, 68 Long-lasting do, 69 Hole punchers, 7 Parts of many bus. addresses, 9 IRS personnel, 10 Rodeo regular, 11 Indy entrant, 12 Jellyfish eater, 13 Angular shape, 21 Meal source, 22 Frozen Wasser, 26 Exalt extremely, 28 Peppery, 29 False show, 31 Dining-room bottle, 32 Scoundrel, 33 Optical openings, 34 Playing pieces, 37 Cleopatra animal, 39 Suffix meaning "assemblage", 40 Place to stay, 42 Bygone gas-station freebie, 43 Clothes holder, 44 One of the Epistles, 48 Banned spray, 49 Boxer's warning, 51 Dauntless, 54 Vivien Leigh Oscar role, 55 Club rule, 56 How opt-ins are often confirmed, 57 Conveys, 59 Bad kids, 60 Tailor's concern, 61 Upper limit

Crossword grid with numbers 1-69 indicating starting positions for words.