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THURSDAY
 NOVEMBER 17, 2011



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VOLUME 107, NUMBER 27

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HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

Debbie Wegman, left, and Sandy Stewart set up at First Christian Church Wednesday for Empty Bowls — Five Golden Bowls. The annual event serves as an end of campaign fundraiser for United Way and aims to draw attention to world hunger.

SMMC earns service award

Special to the Herald

Scenic Mountain Medical Center has earned national recognition for the quality of healthcare it provides.

SMMC was named a 2011 Top Improver® Award winner by Press Ganey Associates Inc., hospital officials announced.

Press Ganey partners with more than 10,000 health care facilities — including 50 percent of all U.S. hospitals — to measure and improve the quality of care that providers deliver to patients and, ultimately, to improve the overall health care experience.

This award recognizes clients who have shown continuous improvement over two years. SMMC is one of 36 Press Ganey client facilities to receive this honor.

"I am extremely proud of our entire staff in receiving this national recognition," said Larry Rodgers, chief executive officer for SMMC. "It reflects our commitment to strengthening clinical results and our focus on meeting the needs of the community we serve."

Amy Miramontes, chief quality officer for SMMC, said the award represents important recognition from the industry of the facility's efforts.



Rodgers

See **SMMC**, Page 3

Gartman new Elbow principal

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

FORSAN — Garden City Elementary School Principal Randy Gartman has accepted a similar position with Forsan Independent School District.

FISD Superintendent Randy Johnson announced the hiring of Gartman to be principal at Elbow Elementary, effective in January.

Gartman will succeed Madge Patterson, who is retiring at the end of the fall semester, at Elbow.

"We're excited to have him, and we think he'll do a great job," Johnson said. "We'll believe he'll be a

good team member at Elbow and will contribute to the success we've had there the past several years."

Gartman spent the past five years as principal at Garden City Elementary. Before that, he was a high school science teacher and an assistant principal during his 12 years at Garden City.

He was chosen from among nine applicants for the position, Johnson said.

"First of all, we were looking for someone with administrative experience and elementary experience, so that helped us narrow the group somewhat," Johnson said. "What excited us about Mr. Gartman is

he not only had experience in those areas, but he had successful experience — Garden City has a very good school system."

In the end, trustees believed Gartman was the best choice to continue Elbow's tradition of strong academics, Johnson said.

"He appreciates that he doesn't need to fix something that's not broken," Johnson said. "At the same time, he does have some creative ideas that will help us approach the educational challenges we'll meet."

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235.

BSSH visitor's center becoming reality

By **VALERIE AVERY**
 Special to the Herald

For almost 10 years, Big Spring State Hospital's volunteers have worked toward one of the most ambitious construction projects on the hospital campus — a Family Visitation Center.

Friday, they can bury their collective shovels into the soil to mark the construction kick-off of the much-needed space for families and their loved ones.

Construction costs for the new center exceed \$300,000 and have been financed by numerous volunteer fundraisers and ongoing operations, such as The Chalet Resale Shop and Cars, Stars and Handlebars.

"This is an exciting time for Big Spring State Hospital," Superintendent Ed Moughan

said. "We have talked about building this since 2002. So many people have put in a tremendous number of hours to raise the funds to help the patients of this hospital. Everyone supporting the Chalet and Cars, Stars and Handlebars has a direct hand in making this happen."



Moughan

Volunteers, along with state hospital employees and patients, will kick off construction at 11:30 a.m. Friday at the construction site. Refreshments will follow the short ceremony.

"We are thrilled that this project we have worked on for so long is here," Volunteer Services Council Chair Stacy Barr said. "All our volunteers enjoy what they do and know

that whatever they contribute will help our patients. We are helping them, but in reality the patients help us when we see how we improve their lives. It keeps us going and makes us work harder."

"Our volunteers add so much to the daily lives of our customers," Assistant Superintendent Lorie Couch said. "It's no mistake we have one of the best volunteer organizations in the state of Texas. We are complimented time and time again from our sister facilities wanting to know the secret to our success here. We just have a great group of volunteers and a great community with big West Texas hearts."

During the past fiscal year, nearly 60 volunteers contributed more than 13,000 hours working at The Chalet, organizing the highly success-

ful Cars, Stars and Handlebars fund-raiser, working on Christmas parties, Patient Summer Fun Day and the Mother's Day Tea, among other activities.

"Our volunteers just don't raise money," Moughan said. "They get in there and work with our patients which helps each patient remember how important they are to others. You can't turn your head on

See **CENTER**, Page 3



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Obituaries

Jeanine Huskey



Jeanine Huskey, 75, of Big Spring died Monday, Nov. 14, 2011, at her residence. The family will receive friends from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 17, 2011, at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born Sept. 22, 1936, to Sarah and T.E. Osborne in McComb, Miss. She married Alvin Huskey III on Dec. 25, 1973, in Sand Springs. He preceded her in death April 2, 2011.

She was a medical officer for 21 years at Webb Air Force Base. She was chief of medical supply and medical disinfection for 19 years at the Veterans Administration Medical Center. She was a Baptist.

She is survived by three sons, Skipper Huskey and wife Ronda of Canyon, Lyndel Fletcher of Craig, Colo., and Kerry Fletcher of Pueblo, Colo.; two daughters, Kathy Chamblee of Gilbert, Ariz., and Dionne Fletcher of Big Spring; one sister, Jane Overman and husband D.W. of McKinney; one brother, Don Osborne and wife Sandie of Big Spring; 11 grandchildren, Kerry DeWayne, Sherrie Teresa, Joseph Caron, Sarah Elizabeth, Chanel Dionne, Patricia Jeanine, Kaley Mikena, Jessica LaDea, Jordan Orion, Crystal Dawn and Sydney Renee; and 10 great grandchildren, Pashai, Britney, Hunter, Jared, Kole, Kimberly, Kailey, Andrew, Laura and Dakota; and three more buns in the oven.

Pallbearers will be C.J. Osborn, Kerry DeWayne Fletcher, Jimmy Compton, Carson Fletcher, David Davis and Casey Pledger.

The family suggests memorials to Crossroads Hospice, 421 S. Main St., Big Spring, Texas 79720.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersand-smith.com

Paid obituary

Larry Mattingly



Larry Mattingly, 59, of Big Spring died Sunday, Nov. 13, 2011, in Spur, Texas. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

He was born May 25, 1952, in Breckinridge, Ky., to Mary Love and Gobel William Mattingly. He had been a resident of Big Spring for three-and-a-half years, coming from Lubbock. He was a superintendent for Price Construction. He lived most of his life in Waco. He was a Baptist.

He is survived by his wife, April Mattingly of Big Spring.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersand-smith.com

Dr. Bill T. Chrane

Dr. Bill T. Chrane, 82, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2011, at University Medical Center in Lubbock. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19, 2011, at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel.

He was born Aug. 7, 1929, to Ann and B.T. Chrane in Dudley, Taylor County, Texas. He grew up in Big Spring and graduated from Big Spring High School at the age of 16.

He returned to Big Spring in 1957 from San Antonio. In addition to being a chiropractor, he and his son, Steve, owned and operated Bill Chrane Auto, Boat, Marine and R.V. Center. Later, he owned and operated Downtown Car Wash until his death. He was a 50 year member of the Knights of Pythias. He was a Baptist.

He is survived by two sons, Tom Chrane and wife Rita of North Carolina and Steve Chrane of Big Spring; four daughters, Caren Clackum and husband Bill of Nevada, Sharon Wilkinson of Big Spring, Carla Ray and husband Steve of North Carolina and Cindy Chrane Casper of Big Spring; 10 grandchildren: eight great-grandchildren; and one brother, Bob Chrane of Spring, Texas.

He was preceded in death by Laverne Chrane; a son, Chuck Chrane; and a granddaughter.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersand-smith.com

Police blotter

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

- PHILLIP EUGENE BEBEE, 37, of 1604 Settles, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of disorderly conduct – language.
- MICHAEL SCOTT WATTS, 27, of 5700 Cedar Rd. Apt. 39, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction.
- JENNIFER PARRAS YANEZ, 23, of 1809 S. Runnels, was arrested Wednesday on charges of safety seat system – child and no driver's license – when unlicensed.
- CRAIG BENJAMEN REYNOLDS, 31, of 1303 Sycamore, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while intoxicated – second offense.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1300 block of Mobile Street.
- CREDIT/DEBIT CARD ABUSE was reported in the 500 block of N. Main Street.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1800 block of S. Gregg Street.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported: In the 400 block of N. Scurry Street.
- In the 1100 block of W. Interstate Highway 20.

Sheriff

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

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 71 inmates at the time of this report.

- ALANA DIANA ZAMORA, 34, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated.
- ANGELA D. SIMPSON, 32, was arrested

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Fri 11/18	Sat 11/19	Sun 11/20	Mon 11/21	Tue 11/22
74/55 Sunny skies. High 74F. Winds S at 20 to 30 mph.	81/55 Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the mid 50s.	78/53 More clouds than sun. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the low 50s.	67/55 Isolated thunder- storms. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the mid 50s.	68/47 Showers possible. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the upper 40s.
Sunrise: 7:18 AM Sunset: 5:44 PM	Sunrise: 7:18 AM Sunset: 5:44 PM	Sunrise: 7:19 AM Sunset: 5:44 PM	Sunrise: 7:20 AM Sunset: 5:43 PM	Sunrise: 7:21 AM Sunset: 5:43 PM

Wednesday by DPS on municipal warrants for driving while license invalid, failure to appear (three counts), expired motor vehicle inspection certificate, no driver's license and failure to display driver's license.

• ISAAC J. TARIN, 19, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of bail jumping – failure to appear and a municipal warrant for assault – family violence.

• JUAN MIGUEL RODRIGUEZ, 22, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a judgement/sentence for possession of marijuana.

• CALEB LEE HALLFORD, 18, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for indecency with a child – sexual contact.

• SHELIA MARIE SCABBY, 32, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

• ROBERT RUBIN SANCHEZ, 47, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• PHILLIP EUGENE BEBEE, 37, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of disorderly conduct – language.

• MICHAEL SCOTT WATTS, 27, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

• MARISA OLIVAS, 29, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

• JENNIFER YANEZ, 23, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for unrestrained child under 5 years of age and no driver's license.

• ROBERT LEE EVANS, 19, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of making a false report to police.

• WILLIAM CLEVE WILSON, 48, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the Glasscock County Sheriff's Office on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

• CRAIG BENJAMIN REYNOLDS, 31, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated – second offense.

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Take note

• A benefit account for the Arguello family, who lost two family members and their home in a fire Sunday in Coahoma, has been established at Western Bank. Interested persons can contribute to the account at any of the bank's three locations (two in Big Spring; one in Coahoma). For more information, call 432-394-4256.

• Big Spring Area Retired Teachers Association will meet Monday. We will meet at the Cactus Room on Howard College's campus for a Dutch treat lunch and meeting. All retired school personnel are urged to attend.
 The program will be titled Small Town Cafes. It will be presented by Dr. Susan Blassingame, dean of liberal arts and humanities at Lubbock Christian University.

• An account has been established at Wells Fargo to help defray medical expenses for 4-year-old Zayde Stallings, who recently died of a rare heart condition. She was the daughter of Kenny and Renea Stallings of Big Spring. If you need more information, contact Four Seasons Insulation and Siding at 264-8610. The account number is 7938527277.

• The 18th Annual Lighting of the Star on Gail Mountain is set for Nov. 25 at the Borden County Museum, Courthouse and Courtyard in Gail. The courthouse and museum will open at 5:30 p.m. with refreshments. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available for visiting with the children. Christmas music will be provided by local musicians and more. For more information, email light-sforgail@yahoo.com.

• A fund has been set up at Myers & Smith Funeral Home for Mike Williams, 39, a lifetime resident of Big Spring who died Nov. 1. He leaves behind a wife and seven children. Any donations can be brought to the funeral home office at 301 E. 24th St. For more information, call 267-8288.

• Casa Blanca is the Dine-Out-Days United Way sponsor until Friday. A portion of the proceeds from this week will go towards benefitting the 2012 campaign and the 15 agencies the United Way supports.

• St. Mary's 10th Annual St. Andrew's Day Festival is set for

Sunday at 7 p.m. The festival will be open to the community with no admission fee. There will be choral and instrumental music of the British Isles. Guest musicians for this year's event include professional pipers E.J. Jones of Asheville, N.C., Doug Frobes of Dallas, Richard Kean of Houston and drummer Stephen Cameron of Georgetown. A reception will follow, featuring Scottish fare in the courtyard. For more information, call Linda Hill at 432-230-9897.

• American Cancer Society will have its board meetings at noon 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.

• 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 re-registration period began 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.

• 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 heater drive and is in dire need of heaters. Community members can donate new or used heaters. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Donations can be made at the main office, located at 811 W. Fifth St.

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MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Jeanine Huskey, 75, died Monday. The family will receive friends from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Petra "Pat" Arguello, 60, died Sunday. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Memorial services will be at 4 p.m. Friday at First Baptist Church of Big Spring.

Jacob Anthony Arguello, 9, died Sunday. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Memorial services will be at 4 p.m. Friday at First Baptist Church of Big Spring.

Larry Mattingly, 59, died Sunday. The family will receive friends from 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside services will be at 10:00 AM Friday at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Dr. Bill T. Chrane, 82, died Wednesday. The family receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel.

CENTER

Continued from Page 1

the BSSH campus without seeing some contribution to patient care provided by our volunteers."

The wheels were set in motion for the center in 2002 when it became increasingly difficult to accommodate the growing number of families visiting the hospital.

"The Don and Marilyn Newsom Family Lodge provides a place for out-of-town families to stay when they visit, but the hospital had only one small office room on each dorm for them to visit with their loved one," Couch said.

"It was pretty clear we had to have a place for many families to visit at one time if we were to meet the needs of our patients."

Big Spring State Hospital continues to attract a large number of visitors, said Linda Phillips, communications supervisor. During the last fiscal year,

there were 4,036 visits to hospital patients.

"Because so many patients are from other towns, many times three or four family members make the trip to visit and we needed a place to allow all of them to visit at the same time," Couch said.

"One of the first questions we receive from family members after a loved one is admitted to the hospital is "Can we visit?" Director of Social Work Services Robin Riha said.

Big Spring State Hospital has long believed that family support and involvement assists a patient's recovery, Riha said.

"We all need support from our family and friends and our customers are no different," Riha said. "Visits from family and friends shows continued support even when we are down and that is a big part of what helps us 'get well.'"

On the flip side, it's helpful for family members to see where their

loved ones are in the treatment process, Riha said.

The Family Visitation Center will provide an environment where patients and their family can sit and talk in a more private, comfortable environment, play games, share a meal and just spend time together.

"We believe having a space that is conducive to visitation will encourage family members to visit more frequently," Riha said. "It will be more inviting and such a better setting for everyone involved."

Big Spring State Hospital has always prided itself on opening its doors and making visitors feel welcome.

"We receive a great number of compliments from our visitors," Phillips said. "One woman told us she didn't know what to expect when

they got there and she was very surprised and pleased at how well her entire family was treated.

"She told us that 'Everyone went out of their

way to help us feel comfortable,' and that we were very respectful and friendly. She wrote us that 'We left feeling our son would have the best care possible.'"

SMMC

Continued from Page 1

"We seize every opportunity to educate the members of our team — administrators, physicians and staff," Miramontes said. "Our primary focus is to ensure that every individual at SMMC understands the basics of core measures and is working toward full compliance."

Award winners were announced today at the Press Ganey National Client Conference in Dallas. Plans to celebrate the recognition locally with both SMMC staff and the community at large will be announced soon.

"We are proud partners of SMMC," said Robert Draughon, CEO of Press Ganey. "Their dedication to continuous improvement serves as a model for all."

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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
 BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$8.85 monthly; \$95.58 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$14.58 monthly Howard; \$18.33 elsewhere.

AN ENCOURAGING WORD



By Eddy Pitchford

Holiday time is upon us! Families will gather to enjoy food and laughter. They will watch football and discuss school. They will eat too much and map out shopping strategies. They will share stories and argue about politics. They will speak about the need to visit more often and promise to stay in touch.

Some families will gather with the awareness that this may be the last holiday time shared together. Some will hurt as they long for loved ones who are separated by death, miles or attitudes. Some will spend more time and money than they should while spending less than they want.

Holiday time gives an opportunity to thank God for the blessing of family and friends. It also brings awareness of those who are friendless and need to be blessed by your family.

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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

OUR VIEWS

Blitz Day for the local United Way is finally here

After three months the campaign is wrapping up. Friday — Blitz Day — is the last chance to make a donation to the 2012 campaign.

The campaign ran from Sept. 1 through Nov. 18. The goal for this year was set at \$275,000, which was based off of last year's surpassed goal of \$250,000. Due to the generous donations by the community, the 15 agencies supported by the United Way were able to receive bonus checks on top of their allotted funds.

During the campaign, community members and local businesses have been able to show their support through individual contributions, fundraisers such as Dine-Out-Days and more.

The local United Way supports 15 agencies, including: American Red Cross of Southwest Texas, Buffalo Trail Council Boy Scouts of America, CASA of West Texas, Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest, Howard County Council on Aging Mobile Meals, Howard County Humane Society, Isaiah 58, Northside Community Center, Rape Crisis/Victim Services of Big Spring, The Salvation Army, Westside Community Day Care Center, YMCA of Big Spring and the two new agencies; Big Spring Chaplains Association and Spring of Siloam.

"Donating whatever you can will help. With all of us pulling together we are able to have a huge impact on the lives of so many." Stewart said.

For those wanting to contribute to this year's United Way campaign, donations can be made at the United Way office located inside Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce building, located at 215 W. Third. For more information or to volunteer, call Stewart at 267-5201 or email her at uway@bigspringtx.com.

If you still haven't donated and would like to, take the time Friday and swing by the United Way office, make your donation and let's have Big Spring live united.

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 editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Steve Reagan 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 editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Pure faith, Lord, is real love.

Amen

The card is getting played out

You can tell politicians are getting nervous. They're playing the "In God We Trust" card again.

You'd think that card's all but worn out — Congress did, after all, make the slogan the nation's official motto in 1956 — but no, something more seems to be required.

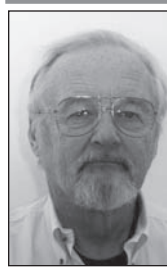
With unemployment topping 9 percent, the European economy sliding toward an abyss, and Lindsey Lohan posing nude for Playboy, our lawmakers took time out to "reaffirm" "In God We Trust" as our official national motto. The House of Representatives voted 396 to 9, with two Profiles in Courage voting "present."

This from a body that couldn't come to agreement on a matter as clear-cut as raising the debt ceiling — something Congress was legally obligated to do — without a torturous will-we-won't-we negotiation.

Well, we finally got bipartisan agreement on an issue. Politicians of both parties are bipartisanly terrified of the electorate.

One of my favorite writers has written more than once on the subject of "In God We Trust" as a national motto.

Here's what he had to say:



DONALD KAUL

"I have always had grave reservations about the concept of trusting in God. I've never understood just what it is people trust Him to do.

"Do we trust Him to make the righteous prosper and the unworthy suffer? Oh, a few old-fashioned Calvinists still believe that I suppose, but you'd have a hard time documenting the trend. One's personal experience is filled to the brim with examples of scoundrels who live richly in the full sunlight of society's admiration and of noble, honest folk for whom life is just one damn thing after another.

"Do we trust God to enforce some larger system of order on our miserable lives? Not if, by order, we mean something we can understand. If there is a hallmark to God's interventions in our lives it is capriciousness.

"The quintessential act of God is the tornado. It comes swooping down, destroying one man's home, leaving his neighbor's untouched. It tears off the wall of a house without disturbing the furniture.

"That's life. There may be a divine pattern to it, I suppose, but it's difficult to discern while reaping the whirlwind.

"Some would argue that it matters not only whether you trust in God, but in which God you trust. There are as many Gods as there are religions and most of them argue for an exclusive franchise. But look at yesterday's paper — people all over

the world were getting it in the neck, regardless of race, creed, or religion — and often because of race, creed, or religion. ...

"What makes God such an unlikely candidate for trust, it seems to me, is His sense of humor. He's always playing jokes.

"Typically he'll end a drought with a series of floods. He'll give people an earthquake, then follow it with a tsunami.

"Trustworthy is the last adjective I would apply to God. Awesome, yes. Majestic, certainly. Mysterious, mystifying, unknowable: all of those things.

"Trust is the gift we offer God in hopes that He will accept it and send the next tornado down the middle of the road instead of the middle of our kitchen. It seems to work for some people, not for others."

Who wrote that? Me.

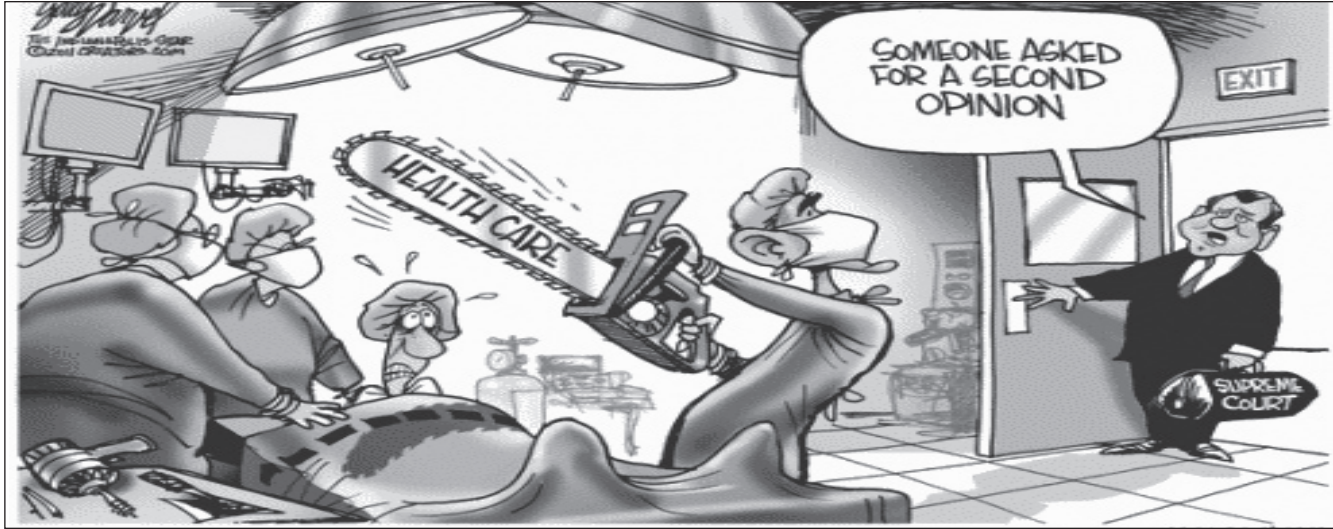
I wrote it 30 years ago and nothing that's happened since that has changed my opinion.

At rock bottom, this is my belief: We don't need politicians who trumpet their belief in God in an effort to convince us to vote for them. They lie a lot.

We need politicians who believe in arithmetic and the scientific method, people smart enough to figure out the answers to the problems all those believers that came before them have left us with.

Amen.

OtherWords columnist Donald Kaul lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan. otherwords.org



Being a parent is a full-time, year-round job, not part time

Oh the joys of parenthood and all the joy it brings.

Being a single mother, I can honestly and wholeheartedly say my son is the best blessing I have received in my lifetime.

At times he may be rambunctious and makes me feel as if I am a 50-year-old mother instead of a 25-year-old mother, but nonetheless he keeps me going.

His joyous, youthful spirit always shows up at just the right time a smile is needed. The warm, tender hugs and kisses always make the worries of the day fade away.

As a mother I have already had my fair share of trials and numerous times have questioned whether or not I am doing a good job in raising him, but each and every moment I have been blessed with I wouldn't trade for anything else.

These past five years my son has been by my side and I couldn't imagine him not being there. From day one I have been there to protect him and provide for him, no matter how hard it may get at times. There are moments when the stress of everyday can get to be too much and a moment of silence is what I need, but even then things are better because I know my son is there with me.

I never imagined, actually, I promised myself I would always make sure my children had a mother and a father in their

lives no matter what.

Having lost my father at the age of 9, I know what it is like to not have a dad around. It's not pleasant and it leaves a void that can't be filled. Knowing that feeling, I was determined to make sure my son never had to feel that void I continue to live with.

However, life doesn't always work according to our plans and changes have to be made to make it the best life possible with what we are given.

In my opinion the two-parent, 2.5 children households are a thing of the past, for the most part, and the "modern family" has taken over.

Nowadays there are more blended families and there is nothing wrong with that. A family — in my opinion — should be defined by the love shared not the biological bond.

In our society there are plenty of single parent households providing just as much love as a two parent household. Just because a biological mother and father live under the same roof does not by any means constitute more love for a child.

In some cases it is better for the child to not live in the same house as both parents, especially if the house is filled with constant arguing or resentment.

In the past five years, especially the last two years, I have become a firm believer in the saying, "being a parent does not simply mean creating a child, but by loving, nurturing and caring for a child."

Being a parent takes a lot of work, whether you are single or have a partner. It is a 24-hour, on-call position which sometimes requires splitting yourself between two places. It's not a

job calling for love and attention only on holidays, despite the living situations, but everyday of the year. Even for those parents who don't live with their children, it is still possible to show your child you love them and that they are a priority. Distance should never be an excuse for the love you show a child.

It is too easy nowadays to pick up a phone, send a card or even make a trip to see your child no matter the distance. When it comes to truly loving a child there is no excuse. It doesn't matter if we have one child or 10, whether we live under the same roof or a state away, each child deserves the best we have to offer.

The job doesn't stop with the creation of the child, but rather, that is where it begins.

In my opinion, a parent is defined by the time spent teaching the child, caring for the child and simply, playing with the child. In reality, it all comes down to making a child feel important, wanted and most of all loved.

Our children are smarter than we give them credit for. Our children, at least my son, knows who truly loves him, cares for him and who he can depend on and the sad truth is, one of those people who has already made an impact is not bonded to him by genetics.

It is easy to call yourself a mother or a father, but as parents — as adults — we should know our actions speak louder than words ... after all, our kids do.

Contact staff writer Amanda Moreno at life@bigspringherald.com or by phone at 432-263-7331

5 do-it-yourself holiday gifts

By **JENNIFER FORKER**
For The Associated Press

The holidays can pose a challenge for crafters: What to make for friends and relatives that is useful, attractive — and fast to churn out? Speed and simplicity are key this time of year.

These five projects capture the imagination and offer ample opportunity for improvising; put your creative twist on any of them for memorable gifts.

FELT SOAP

The first time Leah Adams of Seattle gave out felt soap for the holidays, one of her relatives cut the felt away, taking it for elaborate packaging. It wasn't. The colorful felting is slightly abrasive and holds suds well.

Five years later, Adams sells hundreds of felt soaps, including at her Etsy online shop, kneek, or SpiderFelt. But she always includes a tag that warns against cutting away the felt.

The whole family, including children as young as 4, can join in felting soap, she says.

Adams recommends viewing her Felt Soap Tutorial on YouTube for complete instructions, but it's basically wrapping a 2-ounce bar of soap in wool roving, adding water, and then gently agitating the wool until it shrinks tightly around the soap. Presto.

Not all wool will work; some is too coarse. Adams recommends sheep's wool, in particular Corriedale and Merino, which is finer but more costly.

E-READER COVER

Lisa Occhipinti of Venice, Calif., is a painter and sculptor who tears apart old books, incorporating pages into her fine art but also devising ingenious everyday sculptural uses, from mobiles and mirrors to

wreaths and the "Kindle Keeper."

"What's the point of living with (a book) if you're not going to live with it actively?" asks Occhipinti.

She finds old books at thrift stores and garage sales, preferring linen covers embossed or imprinted with an illustration. The Kindle Keeper can be fashioned for any electronic tablet, protecting the device while returning the feel of a good book to the e-reading experience.

"It's a beautiful combination of old and new," says Occhipinti.

She explains how to customize the project in her book "The Repurposed Library" (Stewart, Tabori & Chang, 2011): Start with an orphaned hardcover book whose title or cover art match the gift recipient's interests and is large enough to comfortably fit the device.

Tear out the inside pages, saving them for another project. Cut a piece of decorative paper to fit the spine's height and width, adding 1/2 inch to the width. Glue that in; allow it to dry.

Apply three small Velcro dots to the back of the electronic device — two at the top, one at the bottom. Attach the hook mates to each piece of Velcro, then remove the paper backing and center the device on the inside back cover of the old book, pressing to secure the Velcro to the back cover.

Add a bookplate or library pocket to the inside front cover to personalize the gift.

FELTED MITTENS

Scavenging for this craft is half the fun: Dig through unworn sweaters at home or at a local thrift store. They don't have to be wool, but wool is warmer, according to Stefanie Girard, the Burbank, Calif., author of "Sweater Surgery"

(Quarry Books, 2008).

A wool sweater needs to be washed in hot water (with a cold rinse) with laundry detergent and a clean towel, then dried flat to block it. This shrinks and tightens the wool fibers, making the sweater appear felted.

If the sweater has a ribbed bottom edge, this is where the wrist of the mitten goes to give it a nice edge.

Make a mitten pattern tracing your own hand, adding 1/2 inch all the way around, larger or smaller depending on a gift recipient's hand size. Repeat, and cut out both tracings. Embellish the top side of the mitten, if desired, then machine sew it to the other tracing, right sides together. Clip a small slit at the inside of each thumb point, without cutting the stitching, to alleviate bulk before turning the mittens right sides out.

SIMPLE JEWELRY

The 2011 "Martha Stewart Holiday Handbook" shares instructions for how to make delicate, beaded necklaces with minimal parts. Its simplicity is the beauty of this project, says Marci McGoldrick, editorial director of Holiday & Crafts for Martha Stewart Living.

A ribbon necklace is trendy.

"A lot of jewelry on the market now uses ribbon instead of chain, or there's fabric incorporated into it," says McGoldrick.

Using 20 inches of 5mm-wide ribbon and a beading needle, string assorted beads, from large to seed beads. Attach a clasp and a connector to the ribbon at each end, knotting them into place.

Another necklace: For a continuous strand of beads, use 20 inches of silk beading cord. Attach a connector to the end of the cord and thread

with beads. At the midpoint, thread two jingle bells, and then continue beading. Affix the clasp to the other end by knotting it.

EMBELLISHED T-SHIRTS, TOWELS, TOTES

Finally, there are many ways to embellish and personalize a T-shirt; hand or kitchen towels; or a tote.

McGoldrick suggests taking a profile photo of a beloved pet, enlarging it and cutting it out of a fabric that won't fray, such as ultrasuede. Attach the silhouette and a twill-tape collar and leash to a tote with craft glue; sew them to a T-shirt or towel.

H. Camille Smith, senior decorating and handmade editor at HGTV.com, says a towel or T-shirt also can be embellished with iron-on decals and transfers. Or cut letters or designs out of fabric and sew them on. Add bling with adhesive crystals to items that won't get washed.

Jodi Kahn of Larchmont, N.Y., scans and prints wrapping-paper patterns onto T-shirt transfer paper and irons it onto white hand towels for a favorite hostess gift.

She recommends using a pattern with a white background.

"It looks incredibly professional. It really looks like you got it printed," she says.

The same can be done with nearly anything: wallpaper, fabric, photos, maps, even items scavenged from a hardware store, says Kahn, who includes this project in her book "Simply Sublime Gifts" (Potter Craft, 2010). Once the supplies are collected, it's a half hour to complete a batch of gifts.

"It is a really great gift for the holidays, just to whip up a few of them to have on hand," says Kahn.

CASUAL WITH KRIS COOKING

Welcoming readers to my world, where I enjoy simple, sometimes quick, but always delicious meals.

This week's recipe is inspired by a meal my mom would occasionally cook.

It is cost-friendly, stick to your ribs and super easy. I wish all meals were like that.

This is a meal that is easily prepared with the bare bones stock of your pantry and most people have the items on hand as the end of the month when money becomes way stretched.

I haven't cooked this in a couple of years, but since it crossed my mind the other day, I am sure it will cross my plate in the next few days.

This recipe is first cousin to the meal called Biscuits and Gravy, which we have for dinner a couple times a year.

I don't recall my mom putting any sides with

this dish, so the choice is yours.

It never hurts to feed yourself a veggie. Enjoy!

Poor Man's Dinner

- 1-2 lbs of ground meat
- sliced bread
- milk
- flour
- butter
- salt and pepper
- garlic powder

In a large pot or deep skillet brown the ground meat, salt and pepper to taste and add a couple of dashes of garlic powder while it cooks. When meat is cooked, scoop out the meat and keep about 2 tablespoons of the drippings. In the same pan place drippings and 2 table spoons of butter and let butter melt.

When butter has melted add 2-4 tablespoons of flour and whisk with liquid in pan, add more flour if still too runny. You want a thick paste and let that cook for about a minute whisking often. Pour in 2-4 cups of milk, whisking the whole time till all flour is blended. Continue cooking on med heat till start to thicken and boil. You can add more milk if becomes too thick. For those who didn't know how, you have just made gravy. Add meat back into the gravy and toast some sliced of bread in the toaster. Plate the toast on a plated and spoon meat mixture over top.




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Aging boomers avoiding living wills

WASHINGTON (AP) — Many baby boomers don't have end-of-life legal documents such as a living will — and some say it's because they feel healthy and young in their middle-age years and don't need to dwell on death.

An Associated Press-LifeGoesStrong.com poll found that 64 percent of boomers — those born between 1946 and 1964 — say they don't have a health care proxy or living will. Those documents would guide medical decisions should a patient be unable to communicate with doctors.

"I'm very healthy for my age," said Mary Mc-

Gee, 53, of Archbald, Pa. "So, death and dying isn't on my mind a lot."

McGee, a computer programmer, exercises five to seven days a week, everything from aerobics to kickboxing, and her parents are alive and healthy.

The same goes for 57-year-old Sandy Morgan in Richmond, Va., a retired teacher who is working part time for an executive search firm.

"I don't think of myself in terms of my age group," said Morgan, who runs three miles a day twice a week, practices yoga twice a week and takes part in a rigorous fitness boot camp twice a week. Her par-

ents, in their early 80s, are healthy, too — so living wills aren't on her radar.

A living will spells out a patient's wishes for medical care if he or she is unable to communicate with doctors.

The health care proxy, also known as a health care power of attorney, allows an individual to select a person he or she trusts to make decisions about medical care should the patient become incapacitated.

Kathy Brandt says living wills and health care proxies are a good idea for everyone whether they are healthy and young or older and not so healthy.

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News in brief

Obama in Bali for summit of East Asian nations, as China looms large

BALI, Indonesia (AP) — Aiming to knit Asian allies ever closer as China's might rises, President Barack Obama is completing a nine-day Asia-Pacific trip with a visit to his boyhood home of Indonesia, where he'll become the first U.S. president to take part in a summit of East Asian nations.

Security issues and the U.S. vision for an increasingly robust American role in Asia are expected to be central themes for Obama's participation in the East Asia Summit in Bali, where the president arrived Thursday night after traveling from Australia. But concerns over China may shadow the president's meetings Friday and Saturday with leaders of smaller Asian nations increasingly alarmed over China's claims to maritime passage and rich oil reserves in the South China Sea.

Obama will also get a chance to meet on the summit sidelines with leaders such as Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, with whom the president has an especially close personal relationship, as the U.S. looks to bulk up regional alliances and encourage big roles for friends.

For Obama, the visit will mark a homecoming to the country where he lived for four years as a boy after his mother married an Indonesian man and moved them to Jakarta. Obama visited Jakarta last year and spent time during that visit reflecting on his personal ties to Indonesia, something he probably won't have as much time for on this trip. But Obama's background as a Hawaii native partly raised in Indonesia has shown throughout his trip, which began with an economic summit in Honolulu and ends when he departs Bali on Saturday.

While in Bali, Obama will be aiming to expand commercial ties and export opportunities with fast-growing Asia, looking for ways to underscore the connection between his foreign travels and U.S. jobs with an election year approaching. Nuclear nonproliferation, disaster relief and maritime security also are U.S. priorities.

GOP deficit reduction plan limits itemized tax deductions, health insurance tax breaks

WASHINGTON (AP) — A GOP plan to raise taxes by \$290 billion over the next decade would limit deductions for mortgage interest, charitable donations and state and local taxes as part of a deficit-reduction deal. Some workers could also see their employer-provided health benefits taxed for the first time, though aides cautioned that the plan is still fluid.

The plan by Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., who serves on the 12-member debt supercommittee, would raise revenue by limiting the tax breaks enjoyed by people who itemize their deductions, in exchange for lower overall tax rates for families at every income level. Taxpayers who already take the standard deduction instead of itemizing — about two-thirds of filers — could see tax cuts. The one-third of taxpayers who itemize their deductions might find themselves paying more.

The top income tax rate would fall from 35 percent to 28 percent, and the bottom rate would drop from 10 percent to 8 percent. The rates in between would be reduced as well.

A GOP congressional aide said the plan is designed to raise taxes on households in the top two tax brackets. That would affect individuals making more than \$174,400 and married couples making more than \$212,300. Some Republicans say the plan offers a potential breakthrough in deficit-reduction talks that have stalled over GOP opposition to tax hikes and Democrats' objection to cuts in benefit programs without significant revenue increases.

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, spoke of it favorably, but his party's majority leader, Rep. Eric Cantor of Virginia, has declined to endorse it. Several GOP presidential hopefuls also have criticized it for offering to increase taxes.

Lawyer: client will testify Sandusky sexually assaulted him; Pa. lawmakers plan study

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — A lawyer said Wednesday that his client will testify that he was sexually abused by former Penn State assistant coach Jerry Sandusky, and Pennsylvania state lawmakers are starting to plan for a special commission that will examine the legal issues raised by the child sex-abuse scandal.

Harrisburg attorney Ben Andreozzi said he represents a client who will testify against Sandusky, who is accused of abusing eight boys, some on campus, over 15 years.

"I am appalled by the fact that Mr. Sandusky has elected to re-victimize these young men at a time when they should be healing," Andreozzi said, in a statement released by his office. "He fully intends to testify that he was severely sexually assaulted by Mr. Sandusky."

Sandusky's lawyer, Joe Amendola, appeared with him on NBC's "Rock Center" on Monday night and cast doubt on the evidence in the case.

"We anticipate we're going to have at least several of those kids come forward and say, 'This never happened. This is me. This is the allegation. It never occurred,'" Amendola said.

AP Impact: Citizen right-to-know laws worldwide spreading but often ignored, AP test finds

Satbir Sharma's wife is dead. His family lives in fear in rural India. His father's left leg is shattered, leaving him on crutches for life.

Sharma's only consolation lies in a new law that gives him the right to know what will happen to the local mayor charged with his wife's murder.

He talks quietly, under his breath, because his two young sons still think their mother is sick in the hospital and will come home.

He pats a tidy stack of government documents, under the watchful gaze of Hindu gods from pictures on the wall.

"At least," he says sadly, "we have the truth."

Democrats see political minefield in Occupy Wall Street protests

NEW YORK (AP) — The Republican Party and the tea party seemed to be a natural political pairing. But what may have seemed like another politically beneficial alliance — Democrats and Occupy Wall Street — hasn't happened.

Although both Democrats and the Occupy protesters have similar views on economic inequality and corporate responsibility, each holds the other at arm's length. There's little benefit to Democrats in opening their arms wide to a scruffy group that has erupted in violence, defied police and shown evidence of drug use while camping in public parks across the country — much as the prospect of such a pairing delights Republicans.

Many protesters, in turn, are contemptuous of Democrats, arguing that both political parties are equally beholden to corporate interests and responsible for enacting policies that have hurt the middle class.

Both sides may be missing an opportunity. Polling shows the public supports the message of the Occupy Wall Street movement even if people have reservations about the encampments themselves. And political observers say Democrats may be missing a chance to reinvigorate their base.

"It's injecting energy and life into progressive ideas and values, and it's showing some weak-kneed Democrats they should be more aggressive on those issues," Steve Rosenthal, a Democratic strategist and longtime labor leader, said. "I don't think it will translate into boots on the ground or a clear organization for the 2012 election, but it will definitely help shape the debate."

Europeans pressing resolution that would condemn Syrian rights violation and call for halt

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Germany, Britain and France are pressing for a U.N. resolution that would strongly condemn Syria's human rights violations and call for an immediate halt to all violence in the country.

The three European countries decided to move ahead with the General Assembly resolution after the Arab League confirmed its suspension of Syria Wednesday and gave Bashar Assad's government three days to halt the violence against civilians and accept an observer mission or face economic sanctions.

Germany's U.N. Ambassador Peter Wittig said the Europeans appreciate the strong support for the resolution.

"We hope it will show Assad just how isolated he is," Wittig said.

The Europeans had introduced the resolution in the General Assembly's human rights committee but held up pushing for its adoption to see if it would get Arab support.

Gingrich lugging loads of personal, political baggage as his campaign starts to take off

WASHINGTON (AP) — Newt Gingrich is schlepping some supersized luggage along as his Republican presidential campaign takes off: He's got trunkloads of personal and political baggage.

This week's disclosure that a sweetheart consulting deal with housing giant Freddie Mac earned Gingrich at least \$1.6 million over the past decade is only the latest potential liability to surface for the former House speaker.

Negatives that didn't get much attention when Gingrich was an asterisk in the polls are getting a fresh look now that he's risen to the top tier of GOP presidential candidates.

Among them: policy flip-flops, inopportune moments of candor, two failed marriages, admissions of adultery, fits of petulance and a tendency to suggest he's the smartest person in the room.

"Everybody will dig up everything they can dig up," Gingrich said Wednesday, resigned to what's ahead.

Businessman Donald Trump allowed of Gingrich on CNN, "Got some baggage, but everybody has some baggage."

Steal This Law: Tale of Yuppies, Panthers has central role as NYPD defends spying on Muslims

NEW YORK (AP) — Barbara Handschu had tried to remove her name from the agreement that is her legacy.

More than a quarter century ago, after New York's police were caught spying on Americans who were exercising their right to free speech, she and others filed suit to stop it. The outcome was an agreement to place limits on surveillance — the Handschu rules.

But then, in the wake of Sept. 11, 2001, police said they needed more flexibility to protect the city. When the judge agreed to weaken the rules, Barbara Handschu tried unsuccessfully to strip her name from the guidelines.

Now, she sees the fruit of the weakened Handschu rules: the New York Police Department's secret surveillance program targeting Muslims, detailed in a months-long Associated Press investigation. And she finds echoes of an earlier time in reports of police infiltrating student groups, of detectives inventing excuses to snoop in people's homes.

"It's not that different than what happened back in the '60s, except that somebody's being targeted because of ethnicity and before we were targeted because of political belief," Handschu says.

"I mean, this is worse. This is racial profiling," she added.

National Book Awards salute the 99 percent; Jesmyn Ward's 'Salvage the Bones' wins for fiction

NEW YORK (AP) — The National Book Awards ceremony, held just blocks from the Occupy Wall Street protests, was a gilded tribute to the 99 percent.

Stories of resilience in the face of poverty, displacement and disappearance were awarded Wednesday night as hundreds of writers, editors, publishers and other industry officials gathered under the 70-foot ceilings of the luxury venue Cipriani Wall Street.

"I thought I should point out, since nobody else has," said poet Ann Lauterbach, who introduced honorary winner John Ashbery, "that we are occupying Wall Street."

Jesmyn Ward's "Salvage the Bones," a bleak but determined novel about a black community in Mississippi devastated by Hurricane Katrina, won the fiction prize.

Ward's acceptance, the culmination of a night of emotional speeches and tributes to those who had been silenced, noted that the death of her younger brother had inspired her to become a writer. She realized that life was a "feeble, unpredictable thing," but that books were a testament of strength before a punishing world.

"I wanted to write about the experiences of the poor and the black and the rural people of the South," said Ward, whose brother was hit by a drunk driver the year she graduated from college. Earlier in the week, she told The Associated Press that writing was a way to "ease the looming fact of death."

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Brent Hill

Byron Hill

Questions arise amid disbanding of NBA players

NEW YORK (AP) — Now that the NBA players have disbanded their union and taken their labor fight with the owners to the courts, they have given up a considerable level of control in how the whole process plays out.

Two groups of players have filed antitrust lawsuits against the league — one in California and one in Minnesota — in hopes of turning up the heat on the owners after negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement broke down Monday.

So begins a seemingly endless series of court filings and back-and-forth responses written by lawyers in complex legalese that promises to go on for months, if not years, until the two sides are able to reach agreement on a new deal.

Case in point: the NBA wrote a letter to the judge overseeing its pre-emptive lawsuit in New York on Tuesday arguing that the players' decision to disband the union proves the league's point that the union planned to do this all along.

The players fired right back in their own letter, arguing that the decision should not stop U.S. District Judge Paul Gardephe from dismissing the league's lawsuit, saying the decision to disclaim interest was "uncertain until it was made."

"The hope is that the magnitude of the uncertainty and complexity will cause both sides to come back and put aside the legal arguments and get back to talking about BRI and system issues," said Gabe Feldman, director of the Sports Law program at Tulane. "The easiest way to get these lawsuits to go away is to agree on terms of a new collective bargaining agreement."

Meanwhile, impatient fans are making their voices heard. They have found a new definition of NBA — saying it now stands for "No Basketball Anymore," a phrase that was trending on Twitter on Wednesday afternoon.

With that in mind, here is a look at what's happening in the NBA labor fight and what could happen next.

Q: What is the difference between disclaiming interest in the union and decertifying?

A: Timing, more than anything else. Decertification is a more formal process that requires a petition being signed and a waiting period of 45-60 days for the National Labor Relations Board to conduct a full vote of the rank-and-file union members.

Disclaiming interest, on the

See **NBA**, Page 12



AP file photo

NOTHING BUT ...WAITING — Dallas Maverick Dirk Nowitzki, along with the rest of the world, is still waiting to see if there will be an NBA season this year.

Victim to testify in Penn State abuse case, according to lawyer

STATE COLLEGE (AP) — Penn State police and their counterparts in State College said they had no record of a former graduate assistant reporting a sexual assault by former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky on a 10-year-old boy in a campus shower, a detail that runs counter to claims made in an email to former teammates.

The police response to Mike McQueary's claim that he reported the alleged assault came shortly after a lawyer said Wednesday that he had a client who would testify that he was sexually abused by Sandusky, who is accused of abusing eight boys, some on campus, over 15 years.

"I am appalled by the fact that Mr. Sandusky has elected to re-victimize these young men at a time when they should be healing," Harrisburg attorney Ben Andreozzi said in a statement released by his office. "He

fully intends to testify that he was severely sexually assaulted by Mr. Sandusky."

The client is not the same boy McQueary told a grand jury he saw being sexually assaulted by Sandusky in a shower on university property in 2002.

McQueary, who is now an assistant coach but has been placed on administrative leave, wrote in the email given to The Associated Press that he had "discussions with police and with the official at the university in charge of police" about what he saw. In the email, McQueary did not specify whether he spoke to campus or State College police.

State College borough police Chief Tom King said McQueary didn't make a report to his department. Penn State spokeswoman Annemarie Mountz said campus police also didn't have any record of a report filed in 2002 by McQueary.

Mountz noted that the 23-page grand jury report was the state attorney general's summary of testimony, so it's unclear what McQueary's full testimony was. McQueary and a law firm representing him did not return phone calls Wednesday.

Pennsylvania lawmakers are starting to plan for a special commission that will examine the legal issues raised by the child sex-abuse scandal, which has raised questions both ethical and criminal about why allegations of abuse went unreported for so long.

The scandal has resulted in the ousting of school President Graham Spanier and longtime coach Joe Paterno, and has brought shame to one of college football's legendary programs. Athletic Director Tim Curley has been placed on administrative leave, and Vice President Gary Schultz, who was in charge of the university's police

department, has stepped down.

Schultz and Curley are charged with lying to the grand jury and failure to report to police, and Sandusky is charged with child sex abuse. All maintain their innocence.

The commission being set up by Pennsylvania lawmakers will consider changes to state law in the wake of the scandal. The plan was described as being in the planning stage, including meetings of leaders and their aides.

Topics are likely to include mandatory reporting of suspected abuse, and the legal definition of child abuse, said Senate Democratic spokeswoman Lisa Scullin.

Sandusky's lawyer, Joe Amendola, appeared with him on NBC's "Rock Center" on Monday night and cast doubt on the evidence in the case.

See **VICTIM**, Page 12

BOWL-A-RAMA Christmas tournament

Bowl-A-Rama of Big Spring will host their second annual Christmas tournament Thursday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m.

Bowlers must be checked in by 6 p.m. Entry fee is \$25 if paid by Dec. 13 and \$30 afterward. The tournament is open to all bowlers and the handicap is 100 percent of 230.

Eight places will be paid, including a \$150 first place prize and \$100 for second.

For more information, visit the website at: www.bowlarama.com

Top coaches named in MLB

NEW YORK (AP) — Moments after his team lost a day-night doubleheader at Yankee Stadium in late September, Joe Maddon wandered into the Tampa Bay clubhouse.

The twin defeats left the Rays in a precarious position with only a week remaining in the regular season. Rather than raise his voice, Maddon delivered a simple message.

"You guys are great," Maddon recalled telling them, "and I know you can still do this."

See **COACHES**, Page 12

Loss for Woods, win for U.S. at Presidents Cup in Melbourne

MELBOURNE (AP) — Tiger Woods made the first move, reaching out to shake hands with his ex-caddie, that went a long way toward dousing the endless chatter over their acrimonious breakup.

Twelve holes later, as short a Presidents Cup match that has ever been played, Steve Williams had the last laugh.

various formats that Woods has played in his professional career, he never had a loss like this one. Playing again with Steve Stricker, an American tandem that was unbeatable two years ago, they didn't win a hole and didn't make a birdie in tying the Presidents Cup record for the worst loss ever, 7 and 6.



Tiger Woods

Williams on his bag, kept his distance from Woods until they shook hands on the 12th green — and K.J. Choi rarely missed a shot in piling up pars and more than enough birdies. The foursomes match ended with Scott rolling in a 25-foot birdie putt on the 11th, and stuffing his approach into 10 feet for Choi's birdie on their final hole.

"We were just slightly off," Woods said. "On a golf course like this, it doesn't take much."

The caddie squabble meant nothing to Scott, who has tried to stay out of the fray, even after Williams disparaged Woods with a racial comment while getting roasted at a caddies award dinner two weeks ago in Shanghai.

Woods didn't make too

much of it, either.

"I put my hand out there to shake it, and life goes forward," he said. "There's some great things that Steve and I did, and that's how I look at it."

"I know he probably looks at it differently than I do, but hey — life goes forward, and I'm very happy with what we've done in our career together."

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Contract 0005-10-015 for PLANING, ACP, SIDEWALKS & PAVEMENT MARKINGS in Howard County will be opened on December 02, 2011 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.txdot.gov and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
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Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, American Self Storage which is located at 3314 E. FM 700 Big Spring, TX 79720 will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be at 11:00 o'clock A.M. on Saturday, December 3, 2011, at American Self Storage 3314 East F.M. 700 Big Spring, Texas. 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 may be sold item by item or in batches, or by the space. All sales are subject to Texas State Sales Tax. Sale is on the contents of:
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#7175 November 17, 2011

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The Leo moon brings a glow of inspiration and creativity. With the current trine of Mars and Jupiter, you can apply this wave of originality to the realm of finance and possessions to good effect. Also, it's an ideal time to come up with holiday gift-giving solutions that will make everyone smile.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You will send a silent blessing on the wind. The person you send it to will be favorably changed by this intention, though he or she will probably never know it came from you — or know about it at all, for that matter.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your imagination has healing power. Here's a way to bring it out: Instead of dreaming of the future, dream of an alternate past, one in which you got what you needed and felt overjoyed

Legals

INVITATION TO BID

The Colorado River Municipal Water District and Garney Companies are soliciting supplier participation including those that qualify as SWMBE's for the following: Bid Package 2 Valves for the Ward County Water Supply Expansion Project. Bid Deadline is December 1, 2011 at 3 p.m. Bids will be received at CRMWD 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, TX 79721-0869. For more information contact Marcus Grace at (816)536-6485 or email mgrace@garney.com Garney Companies, Inc. is an Equal Employment/Opportunity Employer.
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The Colorado River Municipal Water District and Garney Companies are soliciting supplier participation including those that qualify as SWMBE's for the following: Bid Package 3 Roads for a Ward County Water Supply Expansion Project. Bid Deadline is December 1, 2011 at 3:30pm. Bids will be received at CRMWD 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, TX 79721-0869 For more information contact Marcus Grace at (816)536-6485 or email mgrace@garney.com Garney Companies, Inc. is an Equal Employment/Opportunity Employer.
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about it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Put some fun on the day's agenda. If there's nothing exciting about your plans for the day, you won't be inspired to complete even the easiest task on your list.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). This is the kind of day you want to paint with bold strokes. Leave the detail work for later or for someone else. If you don't finish a project quickly, it won't get done.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). People in business may be guarded when they first meet you. It's nothing personal. They are mentally qualifying your potential as a customer. Once they get past that, they'll be charmed by you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll wake up with a fair idea of how things are likely to progress, and that idea will be wrong. You love a good surprise now and then. Today's twist in the plot will bring a thrill.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You've been putting so much of you into your work that it may feel like you don't know who you are outside of that context. That's why it's so important for you to relax and just be yourself tonight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're so creative now that you'll be turned off by any environment that seems restrictive or limiting. Your intellect will benefit from the places and people who draw you out mentally.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You accept responsibility, but not pressure. The one who is

pushy will get on your last nerve if you let her. Draw firm boundaries, and defend them in a courteous way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your sign is noted for having unusual longevity, be it in love, work or simply existence. This is partly because you are magnetized toward making healthy, sustainable choices like the ones you make today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Change isn't always easy, but sometimes it is. And today, you'll absolutely thrive on it, making adjustments with grace. There's no room for worry or doubt in your active mind.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll be an advocate for someone who does not speak the language you are so fluent in. This could be an actual language or a style of communication that is common to a particular group of people to which you belong.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 17). The circumstances you encounter over the next seven weeks will boost your emotional life, and you'll benefit from increased physical health and energy. Celebratory events decorate 2012, and the best of these will be impromptu happenings. You'll heed financial wisdom and enjoy greater ease through December. Pisces and Leo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 4, 14, 38 and 18.

HOLIDAY COPING STRATEGY: Why settle for getting to 2012 unscathed? Instead, resolve to have the best season ever! Here's how

Cancer and Leo can deal with holiday stress, from "Rock Your Stars, Your Astrological Guide to Getting It All"

CANCER: Taking on responsibility for the holidays is like a compulsion — you can't not do it. And since there's no getting around it, you may as well own it. Much of the cooking, entertaining, lodging, gifting and general managing falls on your shoulders. So get lots of sleep. Otherwise, you'll be irritable. Also, it helps to do what the malls and stores do: Start your holiday plans a little earlier each year.

LEO: The pressure to perform around the holidays can be overwhelming. To make matters worse, you feel you must put your personal style stamp on every gift, gesture and sentiment you extend. Consider that you might make life a lot easier if you simply conform. Buy the store cards, and sign them — you're done. If you simply cannot force yourself to conform, my follow-up advice is to go easy on yourself, especially if you have a big family.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Producer and director extraordinaire Martin Scorsese will soon bring a new accounting of Frank Sinatra to the big screen. This legendary Academy Award winner nearly followed his spiritual inclinations to the priesthood. Scorsese is a passionate Scorpio who was born when the moon was in faithful Pisces and the sun, Mercury, Venus and Mars were all in intense Scorpio.

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

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8			3				9	
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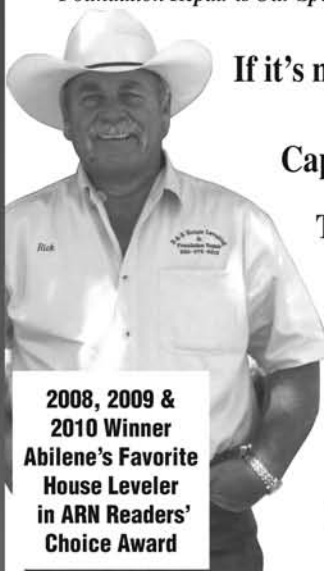
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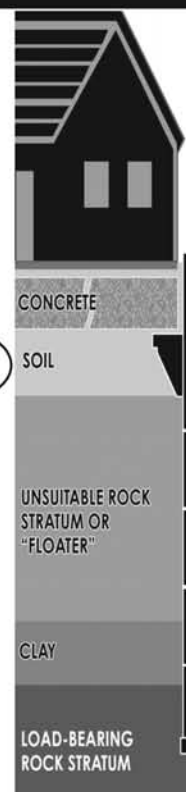
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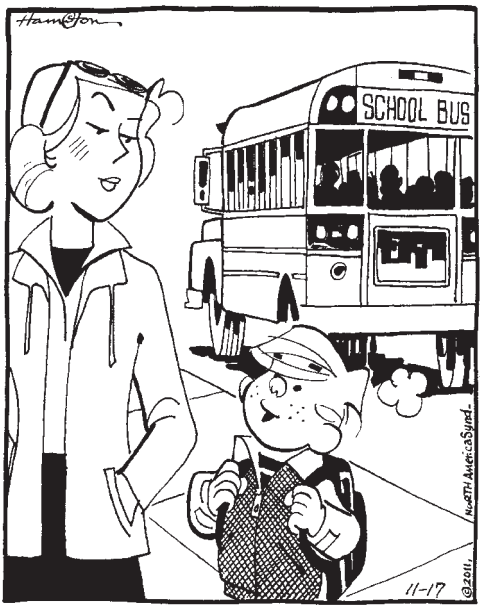
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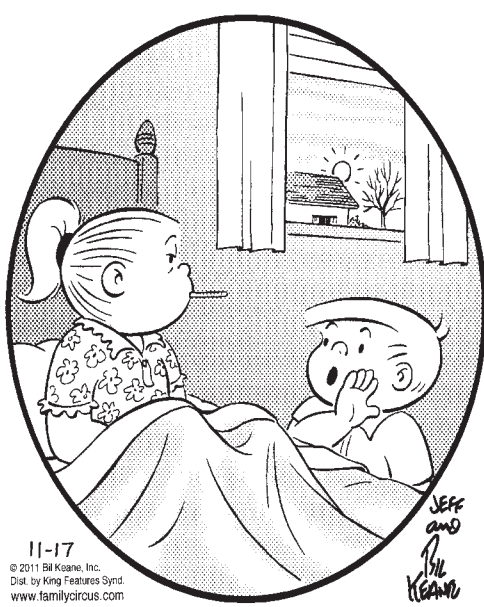
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5 :PM	News ABC	Alma Notic.	Big Bang	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News News	King King	Schwarz Yohanan	News Business	'Til Death King	American Chopper	Movie: Lake Placid, Oliver Platt	Ways Die	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Jessie Good	NFL32	SportsCenter
6 :PM	Jeopardy!	Quando Me Wheel	Two Men	News Ent	Caso Cer-rado	News Millionaire	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Van Impe McGee	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld Seinfeld	American Chopper	Ways Die	Law & Order	Wizards	SportsCenter	Monday Night Count-down		
7 :PM	Dancing With the Stars	Familia-Suerte	Terra Nova	How I Met Broke Girl	Mi Corazón Insiste	The Sing-Off	Fam. Guy Upd	Antiques Roadshow	Gossip Girl	American Chopper	Movie: Jurassic Park, Jeff Goldblum	Ways Die	Law & Order	Movie: Phat Girlz, Godfrey	Jessie	Pardon		
8 :PM		Fuerza-Des-tino	House	Two Men Mike	Flor Salvaje (SS)		Fam. Guy	Light of the Southwest	Hart of Dixie	American Chopper	Ways Die	Law & Order	Ways Die	Beverly Hills Chihuahua 2	Football Coach K	NFL Football: Minnesota Vikings at Green Bay Packers.		
9 :PM	(01) 20/20	Don Francisco	Simpsons	Hawaii Five-0	La Casa de al Lado	Rock Center	Fam. Guy	Looking for Lincoln	Cops	American Guns	Ways Die	The Closer	Movie: Mo' Money, Stacey Dash	Jessie Shake It	College Basketball Live			
10 :PM	News Nightline	Impacto	How I Met Raymond	News Letterman	Noticias Sin Senos no	News Jay Leno	Conan	House Uri Harel	Charlie Rose	King American Chopper	Movie: Jurassic Park III, Tea Leoni	Ways Die	Southland	Good				
11 :PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Hasta que el Dinero	Law Order: CI	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Conan	Office Office	World T. Smiley	South Pk	American Guns	Ways Die	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Wizards	SportsCenter	College Basketball	
12 :AM	Extra Paid	Destilando Amor	Raymond Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	News	Conan	Upd	Dr. Denis	Roseanne Focus 4	American Chopper	Ways Die	CSI: NY	Movie: Mo' Money, Stacey Dash	Good	NFL Prime-Time		
1 :AM	Paid	La Jaula Par Ases	American TMZ	Paid	Pagado	(06) Today	Seinfeld	Light of the Southwest	AllWorld Munroe	American Chopper	Ways Die	Leverage	Ways Die	Random ANT Farm		SportsCenter	College Basketball	

DENNIS THE MENACE



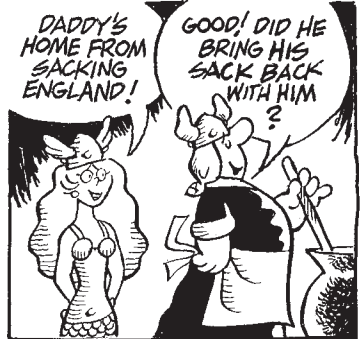
"THE BUS DRIVER SAID MEMORIES OF ME WILL MAKE HER RETIREMENT EVEN MORE SPECIAL."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"FYI, if you're too sick to go to school, you're too sick to watch TV, too."

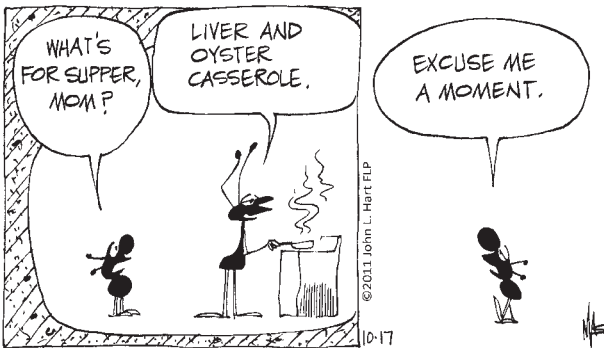
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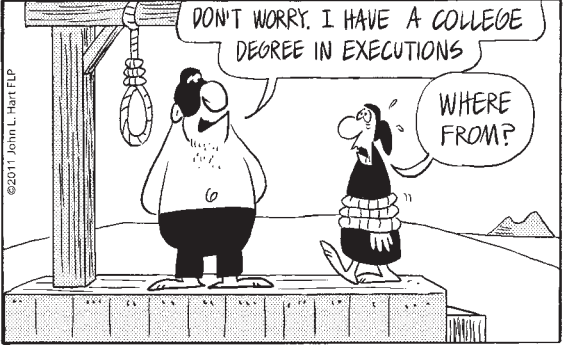
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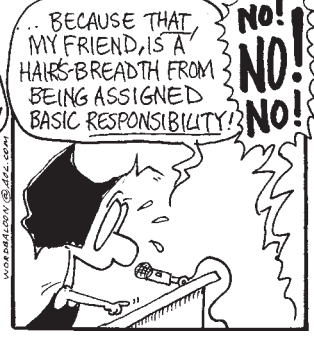
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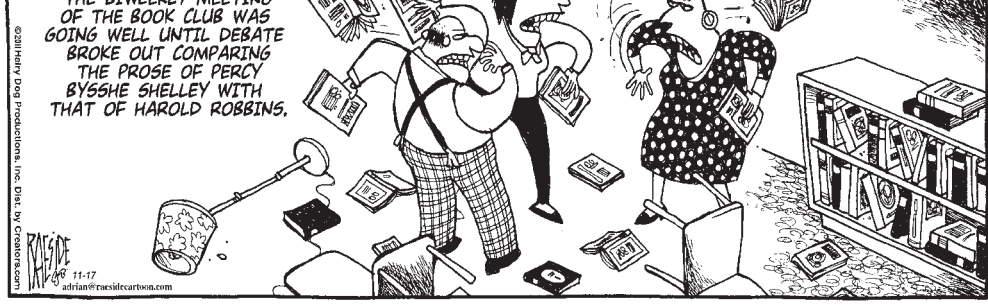
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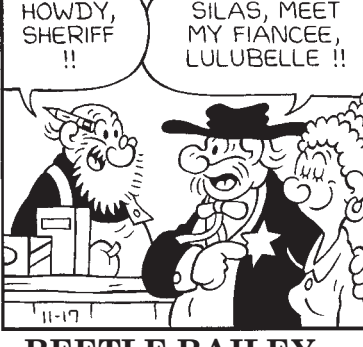
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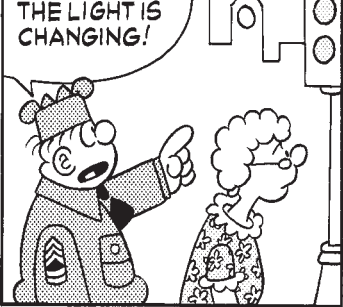
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Nov. 17, the 321st day of 2011. There are 44 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 17, 1911, the African-American fraternity Omega Psi Phi was founded at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

On this date:

In 1558, Elizabeth I acceded to the English throne upon the death of Queen Mary.

In 1800, Congress held its first session in Washington in the partially completed Capitol building.

In 1869, the Suez Canal opened in Egypt.

In 1917, French sculptor Auguste Rodin (roh-DAN) died in Meudon at age 77.

In 1934, Lyndon Baines Johnson married Claudia Alta Taylor, better known as Lady Bird, in San Antonio, Texas.

In 1969, the first round of Strategic Arms Limitation Talks between the United States and the Soviet Union opened in Helsinki, Finland.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon told Associated Press managing editors in Orlando, Fla.: "People have got to know whether or not their president is a crook. Well, I'm not a crook."

In 1979, Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini ordered the release of 13 black and/or female American hostages being held at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

In 1987, a federal jury in Denver convicted two neo-Nazis and acquitted two others of civil rights violations in the 1984 slaying of radio talk show host Alan Berg.

In 1991, the first national TV commercial for condoms (Trojan) aired during an episode of the Fox situation comedy "Herman's Head."

Today's Birthdays: Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., is 77. Rock musician Gerry McGee (The Ventures) is 74. Singer Gordon Lightfoot is 73. Singer-songwriter Bob Gaudio is 70. Movie director Martin Scorsese (skor-SEH'-see) is 69. Actress Lauren Hutton is 68. Actor-director Danny DeVito is 67. "Saturday Night Live" producer Lorne Michaels is 67. Baseball

Hall-of-famer Tom Seaver is 67. Movie director Roland Joffe is 66. Former Democratic National Chairman Howard Dean is 63. House Speaker John Boehner (BAY-nur) is 62. Actor Stephen Root is 60. Rock musician Jim Babjak (The Smithereens) is 54. Actress Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio is 53. Actor William Moses is 52. Entertainer RuPaul is 51. Actor Dylan Walsh is 48. U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice is 47. Actress Sophie Marceau is 45. Actress-model Daisy Fuentes is 45. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ronnie DeVoe (New Edition; Bell Biv DeVoe) is 44. Rock musician Ben Wilson (Blues Traveler) is 44.

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Answer to previous puzzle

DECKS	LOAM	TABS
LIQUIT	ARIA	UHOH
SUEDE	MIDI	LAZY
HIDDEN	AGENDA	
	PAR	MENTOR
TBAR	PRIVATE	EYE
ARCADE	VINE	NSC
TORCE	LAP	CHUTE
AGO	LEAN	STARED
MASKED	BALL	HERE
INSITU	EAR	
	SECRET	BALLOT
UZIS	AIRS	PIANO
PARE	TOGO	INSET
CPAS	ETON	DESKS

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Get lost!"
 - 6 Criticize, so to speak
 - 10 Put in the hold
 - 14 Quite similar
 - 15 Sewing machine inventor
 - 16 Pencil puzzle
 - 17 Illusionary entertainment
 - 18 Personality clasher
 - 19 Digital music player
 - 20 Pilot's emergency maneuver
 - 23 Brewery product
 - 24 See eye to eye
 - 25 Eroded
 - 29 Nerver surpassed
 - 33 Saint Teresa's city
 - 35 Symphony instrument
 - 36 Mischief maker
 - 39 Have trouble deciding
 - 43 Keyboard key
 - 44 Wild bunch
 - 45 Oklahoma city
 - 46 Pampers too much
 - 49 Far from fearless
 - 50 Abacus user
 - 53 Non-sharer
 - 55 Crinkle-bottom footwear
 - 62 Talk well of
 - 63 Informed of
 - 64 Cry of dread
 - 66 Rainfall measure
- DOWN**
- 1 Houston of Texas
 - 2 Thunder sound
 - 3 Latvian capital
 - 4 Quite similar
 - 5 Tourist draw
 - 6 Israeli money
 - 7 Theater level
 - 8 Military truant
 - 9 Tableland
 - 10 Teensy bit
 - 11 Long-snouted beast
 - 12 Form of oxygen
 - 13 Cheese hunk
 - 21 In the style of
 - 22 "Anything you want!"
 - 25 Toddler's glassful
 - 26 Miler's path
 - 27 Falling-out
 - 28 Pixie
 - 30 Has a yen
 - 31 Awaiting scheduling: Abbr.
 - 32 Charged atom
 - 34 '90s veep
 - 36 Castaway's place
 - 37 Literary inspiration
 - 38 Reach a high
 - 40 Wolf down
 - 41 Lunch hour for some
 - 42 Bottom line
 - 46 Bottommost area
 - 47 Short-story pen name
 - 48 PINs, for instance
 - 50 Penultimate part of Hamlet
 - 51 Bagpipe sound
 - 52 Poker card
 - 54 Halloween costume
 - 56 Guaranteed to happen
 - 57 Pundit's page
 - 58 Fill up
 - 59 Oberlin College's state
 - 60 Custardlike
 - 61 A few
 - 65 Family man

BATTER UP by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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COACHES

From Page 7

Eternally optimistic, Maddon won the AL Manager of the Year award Wednesday. He certainly clinched the honor in the last month, when Tampa Bay overcame a nine-game deficit and trumped Boston for the wild-card spot.

Kirk Gibson, meanwhile, took a more stern approach starting in spring training. He even brought three Navy SEALs to camp.

The SEALs wrote D, W and I on a board. The letters stood for a sense of purpose, not a traffic offense: "Deal With It."

"They bought into it," said Gibson, voted the NL Manager of the Year after the guiding the Arizona Diamondbacks to a worst-to-first finish.

Gibson was a clear choice for guiding the Diamondbacks to a runaway NL West title. A former MVP as a rough-and-tumble outfielder, he was honored in his first full season as a big league manager.

"I certainly had a vision," Gibson said during a conference call while on vacation in northern Michigan, adding, "It's certainly not all because of me."

Maddon was an easy pick in winning the AL award for the second time. The Rays made the biggest September rally in baseball history for a team that claimed a playoff berth, sealing it on the final day of the regular season.

"I like to think of it as a validation of the Rays' way of doing things," Maddon said.

VICTIM

From Page 7

"We anticipate we're going to have at least several of those kids come forward and say, 'This never happened. This is me. This is the allegation. It never occurred,'" Amendola said.

Sandusky, 67, appeared on the show by phone and said he had showered with boys but never molested them.

It remains unclear how many accusers have surfaced more than a week after state police and the attorney general's office said at a news conference they were seeking additional potential victims and witnesses.

Andreozzi said he has his "finger on the pulse" of the case and knows of no accusers changing

their stories or refusing to testify.

"To the contrary, others are actually coming forward, and I will have more information for you later this week," Andreozzi said.

State police spokeswoman Maria Finn said investigators have told her that published accounts reporting how many people have come forward are inaccurate and they are not disclosing their internal figures.

Some plaintiffs' lawyers are starting to advertise on their websites for potential Sandusky victims, vowing to get justice. Jeff Anderson, a St. Paul, Minn., attorney, has long represented clergy abuse victims and told The Associated Press that he has been retained by several people he described as Sandusky victims.

"There's a great deal of fury and confusion," particularly because Sandusky is free on bail, Anderson said.

NBA

From Page 7

other hand, is a much quicker means to a similar end — filing an antitrust lawsuit. It is also easier to reform to a union, Feldman said, should the players need to band together again to approve a new collective bargaining agreement, as the NFL players did in their labor fight with the owners this summer.

Q: So what is the difference between the labor cases of the NFL and the NBA?

A: The biggest difference is the timing of the unions' dissolution. The NFL's union disbanded in March, almost six months before the 2011 regular season was scheduled to start. The reason is the previous collective bargaining agreement stated that if the players remained a union through the deal's expiration, they could not disband for six months. That prompted the NFL players to disband the union the day the agreement expired, which also gave both sides months to fight out the battle in court before games were jeopardized.

There was no such clause in the NBA's deal. The players continued negotiating with the owners through the summer and even after the first month of regular season games were canceled. The problem with waiting to disclaim interest, however, is that checks and games already are being lost while the fight enters the slow and deliberate legal system.

"The NFL owners and players had time to let the legal battle play out. The NBA owners and players don't," Feldman said. "This has to be a quick legal strike, and unfortunately in our litigation system, there aren't many opportunities to get a quick legal strike."

Q: Why have two antitrust lawsuits been filed?

A: There are a couple of reasons. First, because the players are no longer governed by a union, they are free to do as they please on an individual basis. One group, including star players Carmelo Anthony and Kevin Durant, has filed a lawsuit in Northern California in conjunction with the players' association. Another group, including rookie Derrick Williams and Timberwolves forward Anthony Tolliver, have filed in Minnesota.

It's no coincidence that those two district courts were chosen. The federal court in San Francisco is under the jurisdiction of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, considered the most liberal, and therefore labor-friendly, of the 13 circuit courts. The federal court in Minnesota was the venue for more than two decades of legal fights between NFL owners and players, who enjoyed a healthy share of victories in that venue.

The owners filed a pre-emptive lawsuit in the Southern District of New York, which has sided with the NBA several times before. It is likely they will push to get any labor-related cases transferred to Manhattan.

"That could be the threshold battle: where is the case heard," Feldman said.

Q: Can negotiations still take place while litigation is pending?

A: Yes and no. Union leaders Derek Fisher and Billy Hunter no longer have the power to negotiate and agree to terms for the players. No longer a union, the NBPA is now a trade association. It can't fight fines or suspensions or file grievances for players. It also cannot regulate player behavior or agent behavior, which has led to some concern about agent poaching.

What can happen, and what did happen this summer with the NFL, is lawyers and representatives for both sides can hold discussions under the guise of antitrust settlement talks.

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November 19th**

9:00 a.m.

Scenic Mountain

1. Entry fee must accompany completed signed application form. Make checks payable to HCRK.
2. Complete all information.
3. Entrants under 18 years of age must have parent or guardian sign waiver.

Waiver (Entry invalid if NOT signed below)

In consideration of the acceptance of this entry, I assume full responsibility for any injury or accident that may occur during participation in this event or while on the premises. I release and hold harmless any person, or entities associated with this event from all injury and damage, whether it be caused by negligence of the sponsors or promoters, or other persons or entities associated with this event or their agents or employees or otherwise.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

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Street Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ email _____ @ _____

Male / Female Age _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Registration Fee -- \$20 Register @ Race site only starting @ 8:00 a.m.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department maintains the information collected through this form. With few exceptions, you are entitled to be informed about the information we collect. Under Sections 552.021 and 552.023 of the Texas Government Code, you are also entitled to receive and review the information. Under Section 559.004, you are also entitled to have this information corrected.

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