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BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER 5, 2012



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VOLUME 107, NUMBER 276

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Herald file photo

Police are seeking information about vandalism to the helicopter at the Vietnam Memorial in Big Spring. A reward is being offered.

Search for vandals continues

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Local law enforcement officials say they are following up on several leads from the vandalism and theft at the Big Spring Vietnam Memori-

al believed to have taken place Aug. 25, however, no arrests have been made.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department, the investigation into the vandalism

and theft is ongoing.

"We have several leads we are following up on at this time," Everett said. "This is an ongoing investigation and I can't really say much

See **VANDALS**, Page 3

Triathlon set here Saturday

Volunteers accepted for fifth annual event

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**

Staff Writer

In just a few days, the Comanche Warrior Triathlon returns to Big Spring.

Triathletes will be swimming, biking and running up and down county roads and through Comanche Trail Park starting at 8 a.m. Saturday.

"We are looking forward to this year and can't wait for all the triathletes to get here," Debbie Wegman, event coordinator, said.

The competition, in its fifth year, will include a 500-meter swim in Comanche Trail Lake, transition to a 30K bike ride and will conclude with a 5K run.

The bike ride will take participants through Comanche Trail Park to Wasson Road, turning onto Rockhouse Road and on Lintner Road and back to the park. The run will have triathletes going through

See **RUN**, Page 3

Boy Scout signup slated Thursday

You want to be a Boy Scout? Well, get yourself to First Baptist Church Thursday. That's when local Boy Scouts of America officials will hold their final sign-up event of the year.

The event will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday in the church gymnasium, located at 705 W. FM 700.

Interested youth and parents can receive information about the variety of programs the Boy Scouts of America has to offer.

There will be volunteers from the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Fire Service Exploring and Venturing present to answer questions.

Everyone in attendance will be entered into a drawing to receive a Eureka Solitaire backpacking tent.

For more information, contact Brian Sweeney at 432-212-3577.

Don't put off voter registration, election administrator advises

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The clock leading up to the Nov. 6 election is ticking and area voters who aren't registered to vote or are unsure of their status have a little more than a month to get it done.

The deadline to register to vote in the election — which will cover a number of local races, as well as the much-anticipated presidential contest — is Oct. 9, according to Howard County Election Administrator Saundra Bloom.

"The registration deadline for any election is 30 days prior to the election day," said Bloom. "If they haven't received their card or aren't sure if they're registered, all they have to do is come by the office. They can fill out the voter registration application and their card should be mailed to them in time for the November election."

"Those who can't get out, can call us and we'll mail them the form. They can fill it out and mail it back to



ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

us. It's a very easy process." Bloom said her office is set to begin accepting requests for mail-in ballots Sept. 7, but warned against procrastinating.

"I would encourage everyone to get their applications in as soon as possible," said Bloom. "If you're 65 years old or older, disabled, confined to jail or you know you will be out of the county for the election, you can apply for a ballot by mail. They can write us a letter or send us a request by fax or e-mail."

Bloom said requests for a mail out ballot must include the voter's name, address of residence inside Howard County, the reason for their request and the address the ballot should be mailed to.

If the reason for requesting a mail out ballot is the voter will be out of the

See **REGISTER**, Page 3



1 54414 79720 9



A one-vehicle rollover on Interstate 20 Tuesday afternoon caused the east bound lane of traffic to be diverted to the access road while Texas Department of Transportation crew members cleaned up the site. Howard County sheriff's deputies and DPS troopers responded to the accident, which occurred around 2:30 p.m. around mile marker 169.



HERALD photo/Amanda Duforat

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Obituaries

Shirley Ann Nichols



Shirley Ann Nichols, 54, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2012, in a Midland hospital. Memorial services will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 9, 2012, at the First Church of the Nazarene with the Rev. Calvary Callender, pastor, officiating.

Shirley was born Oct. 25, 1957, in San Francisco, Calif., to Richard and Ann (Maske) Britz. She moved to Big Spring in 2002 from North Carolina. She was a member at First Church of the Nazarene.

Survivors include her mother, Ann Britz of Big Spring; sister, Diane Dyer of Big Spring; brother, Albert Britz of Odessa; and nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by one son, Adam Neal; and her father, Richard Britz.

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

Police blotter

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

- JEANNETTA RAMEY HERNANDEZ, 44, of 1106 S. Birdwell, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant from another agency and charges of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction and failure to appear.

- NOEL FIGURA NOYOLA, 51, of 7351 FM 1205 in Coahoma, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant from another agency.

- ROBERT RUBEN SANCHEZ, 48, of 1023 Stadium, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.

- LEROY MARTINEZ, 37, of 1209 Pickens, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant from another agency.

- RANDAL EBERT, 26, of 201 W. Fourth St. in Forsan, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant from another agency.

- THEFT was reported: In the 2300 block of Wasson. In the area near Highway 176 and County Road 21.

- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported: In the 1100 block of E. 16th Street. In the 2600 block of Larry Drive.

- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 1600 block of E. FM 700.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 79 inmates at the time of this report.

- AARON MICHAEL PRIETO, 24, was booked into the county detention center Tuesday by the Glasscock County Sheriff's Office on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

- JEANNETTA CAROL HERNANDEZ, 44, was booked into the county detention center Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of failure to maintain financial responsibility, driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension and a municipal capias warrant for violation of a promise to appear.

- LEROY MARTINEZ, 37, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for burglary of a building.

- RANDALL SCOTT EBERT, 26, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft of service — more than \$1,500 and less than \$20,000.

- ROBERT RUBIN SANCHEZ, 48, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- SHAWN MICHAEL OVERTON, 24, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for failure to identify — giving false information.

- NOEL FIGUEROA NOYOLA, 51, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the

BSPD on an Ector County warrant for failure to appear.

- CHRISTOPHER ANDREW YANEZ, 19, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on municipal capias warrants for public intoxication, minor consuming alcohol (two counts) and hindering a police officer.

- MARK MAXIMIANO GUTIERREZ, 21, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for minor consuming alcohol, minor driving under the influence of alcohol and failure to appear.

Fire/EMS

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

- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 100 block of Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.

- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the 170 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Bluebird. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1300 block of Wood. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

WEDNESDAY

- RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 & 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

- Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at the Gold Rush Tobacco Shop, 800 E. Third Street. Open meeting at 7 p.m.

THURSDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

- Spring Tabernacle Ministries has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m. until noon and again at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.. The classes take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.

- Visual Awareness Support Group (VASG) is open to the public but specifically aimed for people who suffer from vision problems and their caregivers. For more information, call 263-2501.

FRIDAY

- AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Fri 9/7	Sat 9/8	Sun 9/9	Mon 9/10	Tue 9/11
104/69 Mostly sunny. Highs 102 to 106F and lows in the upper 60s.	84/60 Considerable cloudiness. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the low 60s.	88/59 Mainly sunny. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the upper 50s.	93/66 Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the mid 60s.	96/69 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the upper 60s.
Sunrise: 7:25 AM Sunset: 8:02 PM	Sunrise: 7:26 AM Sunset: 8:00 PM	Sunrise: 7:26 AM Sunset: 7:59 PM	Sunrise: 7:27 AM Sunset: 7:58 PM	Sunrise: 7:28 AM Sunset: 7:57 PM



Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	104	68	mst sunny	Kingsville	102	74	sunny
Amarillo	91	60	pt sunny	Livingston	101	72	mst sunny
Austin	101	73	sunny	Longview	102	74	mst sunny
Beaumont	95	75	mst sunny	Lubbock	98	63	mst sunny
Brownsville	97	76	mst sunny	Lufkin	103	76	mst sunny
Brownwood	105	72	sunny	Midland	103	69	mst sunny
Corpus Christi	97	77	sunny	Raymondville	101	74	mst sunny
Corsicana	104	73	mst sunny	Rosenberg	99	74	mst sunny
Dallas	105	75	mst sunny	San Antonio	103	75	sunny
Del Rio	107	78	sunny	San Marcos	102	73	sunny
El Paso	97	71	mst sunny	Sulphur Springs	104	74	mst sunny
Fort Stockton	101	71	mst sunny	Sweetwater	103	67	mst sunny
Gainesville	104	71	mst sunny	Tyler	103	75	mst sunny
Greenville	103	72	mst sunny	Weatherford	104	71	mst sunny
Houston	97	75	mst sunny	Wichita Falls	107	67	windy

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	88	70	pt sunny	Minneapolis	67	50	rain
Boston	83	67	pt sunny	New York	85	74	pt sunny
Chicago	77	58	rain	Phoenix	97	81	pt sunny
Dallas	105	75	mst sunny	San Francisco	66	56	pt sunny
Denver	71	51	t-storm	Seattle	85	57	sunny
Houston	97	75	mst sunny	St. Louis	85	64	t-storm
Los Angeles	81	66	pt sunny	Washington, DC	92	75	pt sunny
Miami	88	76	t-storm				

Moon Phases



Take Note

- The Fall 2012 Boy Scouts of America sign-up night event will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday in the First Baptist Church Gymnasium. For information contact: Brian Sweeney at 432-212-3577

- The local Boy Scouts of America will host a Fire and Emergency Service signup meeting at 6 p.m. Monday at Big Spring Fire Department Station No. 4, Northeast Eight and North Main. Fire and Emergency Service Career Exploring is open to young men and women ages 14 (and have completed the eighth grade) through 20 years old with an interest in learning more about careers in the field of Fire and Emergency Services. For more information, call 432-212-3577.

- Compass Hospice is in need of your help. If you would be interested in offering your love and God's comfort to those who are suffering, or to their families, contact Michelle Coutermarsh at 263-5999 or come by 602 S. Main.

Volunteers are needed in many categories including patient care. You may give as much or as little time as you wish. Any amount of time is greatly appreciated. Training is offered free of charge.

- The Class of 2014 will be raising money for prom Saturday, Sept. 15 outside Walmart from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. There will be Krispy Kreme

donuts, roasted corn and brisket burritos. For more information, contact Julie Alvarez at 432-816-1278.

- Northside Community Center will be offering after school program starting Sept. 5 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Free ESL or SSL will be offered from 10 a.m. until noon Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Free basic computer sessions will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. until noon and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Call 263-2673.

- The Friends of the Library of Howard County request donations of books in good condition for the book sale to be held Sept. 14-16. If you have books to donate take them to the Howard County Library, Monday through Friday during regular library hours. Please no National Geographic magazines, other magazines or condensed books. Friends of the Library is a non-profit organization which provides supplemental support for our public library outside the budget furnished by Howard County. At the present time the Friends is financially supporting the library's summer reading program. Our assistance is not possible without the generosity and cooperation of the wonderful people of this county. Anyone who wishes to join the Friends of the Library, stop by the library for an application. Dues are \$5 a year.

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Bill McClellan Managing Editor... Ext. 230
Rick Nunez Advertising Manager... Ext. 229
Robert Smith Circulation Manager... Ext. 252
Tony Hernandez Production Manager... Ext. 256
Rachel Martinez Business Manager... Ext. 255

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Texas Briefs

Amarillo man gets probation for girlfriend's death

AMARILLO, Texas (AP) — A Texas Panhandle man who ran over and killed his girlfriend must serve probation and spend the next 10 anniversaries of her death in jail.

A judge in Amarillo on Tuesday sentenced 45-year-old Michael Paul Buse of Amarillo.

Buse pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the death of 26-year-old Dairy Strout. Investigators believe the couple argued before the woman was run over and died last Oct. 10.

Buse has been sentenced to 10 years' probation, plus must serve 120 days in jail. The jail time began Tuesday with a 111-day term. A judge also ordered Buse to spend a day in jail each Oct. 10 for the next nine years to mark the anniversary of Strout's death.

Nobody hurt in Texas school fire before classes

NORTH RICHLAND HILLS, Texas (AP) — School has been canceled at a North Texas campus following a small fire before classes began for the day.

Fire officials say nobody was injured in the blaze early Wednesday at Holiday Heights Elementary School in North Richland Hills.

A statement from the Birdville Independent School District says a small electrical fire caused school to be canceled Wednesday.

Further details were not immediately available.

Bedford man gets 80 years for 9th DWI conviction

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — A North Texas man has been sentenced to 80 years in prison for his ninth driving while intoxicated conviction.

A jury in Fort Worth sentenced 50-year-old Miguel

Medrano in the 2010 case.

Prosecutors say Medrano had been drinking at a restaurant while watching the Super Bowl. His blood alcohol level was three times the legal limit for driving when police witnessed his car driving over a curb in a parking lot.

Records show Medrano had six drunken driving convictions in Tarrant County, one in Tom Green County and one in Collin County. He was convicted last Thursday of a ninth DWI charge and sentenced the following day.

Autopsy: body found in Houston is missing woman

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston police have detained a man for questioning in the death of a woman whose body was found in an overgrown vacant lot.

Medical examiners on Tuesday identified the victim as 48-year-old Norma Jean Scott. Her nude body was discovered Monday night by volunteers with Texas EquuSearch. Further details on the cause of death were not immediately released.

The woman was reported missing after relatives raised concerns that a man last Thursday allegedly forced Scott from her home.

Police spokesman John Cannon says a man described as a person of interest in the case was being held on unrelated charges. His name and further details were not immediately available.

San Antonio woman gets 19 years in toddler death

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A San Antonio woman has been sentenced to 19 years in prison for the death of a toddler in her care while the child's mother was incarcerated.

A jury in San Antonio on Tuesday night sentenced Sarah Sifuentes. Prosecutors say 22-month-old Cy-leste Gonzales died in October 2008 after suffering

an internal abdominal injury.

Jurors on Friday convicted Sifuentes of injury to a child by omission causing serious bodily injury. Her husband, Mark Andrew Valdez, awaits trial on the same charge.

Authorities say Sifuentes had been caring for the girl while the child's mother was in prison in a drug case.

Texan accused in pipeline case faces mental exam

SHERMAN, Texas (AP) — A North Texas man described by his lawyers as "delusional" faces a mental examination amid allegations he tried to bomb a pipeline.

A federal judge in Sherman on Tuesday ordered the psychiatric evaluation of Anson Chi of Plano.

Documents filed by the defense describe Chi as having a "delusional mindset" that prevents him from understanding the legal proceedings. Prosecutors did not object to the psychiatric evaluation.

Chi has been charged with possession of an unregistered firearm or explosive device in a June 18 incident that left him burned. A bomb allegedly made by Chi exploded on a natural gas regulator in Plano.

Beaumont man gets prison in child pornography case

BEAUMONT, Texas (AP) — A Southeast Texas man has been sentenced to more than six years in prison in a child pornography case involving about 11,000 computer images.

A federal judge in Beaumont on Tuesday sentenced 37-year-old Shawn Suri. The Beaumont man pleaded guilty in May to possession of material involving the sexual exploitation of minors.

Officers searched Suri's home and seized a laptop computer.

RUN

Continued from Page 1

the park, finishing near the Dora Roberts Community Center.

"We have changed up the route a little bit this year, but we figured it will still be just as challenging while providing something new for those

who have taken part in the triathlon before," Wegman said.

Registration will begin Friday and take place from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Dora Roberts Community Center. Swim practice will be at 6 p.m. for those wanting to take advantage of it. Registration will also take place again from 6 a.m. until 7:15 a.m. Saturday.

A pre-race meeting will be held at 7:30 a.m. and the race will kick off at 8 a.m. At the end of the race, around 10:30 a.m., there will be a post race meal and award ceremony.

"We will once again have Great Western Dining providing our lunch and are expecting a fun award ceremony," Wegman said.

In addition to the triathletes registering, Chamber Executive Director Debbye ValVerde said volunteers for the race are still being sought. The goal is to have 100 volunteers this year. On average, there have been 80.

"The volunteers play a major role in the triathlon. We receive loads of compliments each year

on our volunteers and I look forward to continuing that tradition with even more volunteers," ValVerde said.

Those volunteering will be spaced throughout the course to cheer on participants and will be needed to help in the transition areas.

To volunteer, contact ValVerde at 263-7641.

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

VANDALS

Continued from Page 1

more than that."

Initial reports indicate the attack on the local memorial occurred sometime between Friday night and Sunday morning, the weekend of Aug. 25.

Damage was reported in two areas of the memorial, including the helicopter display. According to law enforcement officials, items were also taken from the display, including a World War II web belt

and canteen which were on display in the Fallen Soldier Memorial case.

Everett said damage to the memorial was limited mainly to the AH-1 "Apache" helicopter.

"Whoever did this actually climbed up onto the Apache helicopter and broke out the window on it," Everett said. "The damage to the window is valued at \$2,000. Once they got into the helicopter, they took the mannequin seated in the cockpit and a clock from inside the display. The mannequin is valued at \$2,000 and the clock is valued at \$5,000."

Beside the obvious damage to the military helicopter, Everett said the clock which was taken also poses a health risk.

"According to the member of the Big Spring Vietnam Memorial Committee who filed the report, the clock contains radioactive material," Everett said. "If it should somehow come open, it poses a serious health and safety risk."

Jerry Groves, a member of the Vietnam Memorial Committee, said the local organization is still waiting on an estimate to repair the dam-

aged areas.

Crimestoppers is offering a substantial reward for information leading to the arrest of those responsible for the attack on the memorial.

"Local Crimestoppers will pay up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest of these scumbags," Everett said. "You may remain anonymous and no caller ID is ever used."

Anyone having information regarding this crime is asked to contact Everett at 432-264-2558 or Crimestoppers at 263-TIPS (8477).

Also, a reward fund

for area residents who would like to contribute has been set up at State National Bank, according to Groves. The account is listed under the Big Spring Marines Association. For more information, contact Groves at 432-816-9682 or Charlie Lewis at 432-263-0278.

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

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REGISTER

Continued from Page 1

county during the election, Bloom said the ballot must be mailed to an address outside Howard County, as well as mailed back from outside the county.

"We're hoping this will help our college students, military and voters temporarily working out of the county," said Bloom.

The first day to apply for a ballot by mail is Friday, with the deadline to apply for a mail-in ballot slated for Oct.

30, according to information provided by the Texas Secretary of State's office. Early voting in the election will begin Oct. 22 and end Nov. 2.

For more information on voter registration in

Howard County, contact

Bloom at 264-2273.

Contact Thomas Jenkins at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

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Charles Myers
Attorney At Law
Family Law And
Criminal Law
Ward & Myers, L.L.P.
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EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Bill McClellan Managing Editor
Brian McCormack Sports Editor
Steve Reagan Staff Writer
Amanda Duforat Staff Writer
Thomas Jenkins Staff Writer

ADDRESSES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

• BARACK OBAMA

President
The White House
Washington, D.C.
20500

• KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

U.S. Senator
703 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C.
20510-4305
Phone: 202-224-5922

• JOHN CORNYN

U.S. Senator
517 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C.
20510-4305
Phone: 202-224-2934

• RANDY NEUGEBAUER

U.S. Representative
19th Cong. District
1510 Scurry
Big Spring
Phone: (432) 264-0722

STATE GOVERNMENT

• RICK PERRY

Governor
State Capitol, Room 2S.1
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, 78711
Phone: (512) 463-2000

• JIM LANDTROOP

State Representative

Texas 85th District
P.O. Box 1105
Big Spring, 79721
Phone: (432) 517-9894

• KEL SELIGER

State Senator
Texas 31st District
401 Austin, Suite 101
Big Spring, 79720
Phone: (432) 268-9909

BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL

TOMMY DUNCAN,
MAYOR — Home: 517-4070; Office: 264-2350.

MARVIN BOYD — 263-8800

CARMEN HARBOUR —
Work: 264-2401.

MARCUS FERNANDEZ —
Mobile: 816-3923

GLEN CARRIGAN —
Home: 263-3207.

BOBBY McDONALD —
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Football season is here

A season in time that will seem like an eternity to wives and girlfriends all over the country begins tonight. At approximately 7:30 p.m. a uniformed individual will slam the inside of his shoe into an odd-shaped object weighing about 14 to 15 oz., inflated to about 12.5 to 13.5 lbs. per square inch, propelling it high into the air above a stadium packed with enthusiastic cheering people. The object being booted is made up of four leather panels which have been carefully weighed, measured and inspected for blemishes before being sewn together. The top two panels are sewn together with white leather laces and inside the leather panels is a 3-ply VPU rubber bladder or interior lining that holds the air.

Another individual, clothed in a distinctively different uniform, will catch the spiral shaped object as it descends from the sky and the NFL season will officially be underway, bringing joy to the hearts of millions of fans and despair to millions more who will be football widows, or widowers, every Sunday afternoon and Monday night for the next few months.

Tonight's game should be a good one as the defending Super Bowl Champion New York Giants host my beloved Cowboys. Yes, I unapologetically confess to being a loyal and long-time Dallas Cowboy fan. I have never been a fair-weather fan either. I have faithfully stood with them through the good, the bad and the ugly (of which there has been plenty of each) and I am prepared to do it again if ever becomes necessary.

Even though I would probably be considered a relatively casual fan of most all sports, down in the depth of my soul I have a sincere concern that God is probably horribly displeased that we humans have made sports such an idol in this country. The countless millions of dollars invested to produce an NFL season and all the other sports with nothing but entertainment as its defense is staggering and disgraceful when one considers the serious financial and social issues of our country.

Nonetheless, it just keeps happening year after year and I guess it will as long as people are willing to spend a week's salary and brave the wintery elements to sit in the stands and watch their favorite teams struggle for control of that aforementioned prolate spheroid called a football or sit in 100 degree sunshine hoping to see Josh hit one into the upper deck.

I suppose I am a strange study when it comes to my love for sports. My dad is one of the most wonderful and incredible human beings to ever grace this planet, but when I was growing up he couldn't have cared less about sports of any kind. Yet from the time I was a youngster in elementary school I passionately loved baseball, football, and basketball. I played multiple sports all through school and in my adult years continued to play and eventually officiate at the high school and college levels. Having three sons, who were all exceptional athletes, kept me involved for many years even after I slowed down my personal participation in sports. I have now reached that point where I prefer to watch it all in HD in my air conditioned den.

I am fiercely loyal to my favorite teams in spite of the fact that many years were spent in frustration as it seemed that my Texas teams were all funda-

mentally adverse to winning. In 1960 when the Cowboys came into existence I was young, but I remember that first season when the team went a miserable 0-11-1. Still, I passionately followed them through the painful years of becoming a respected and successful team.

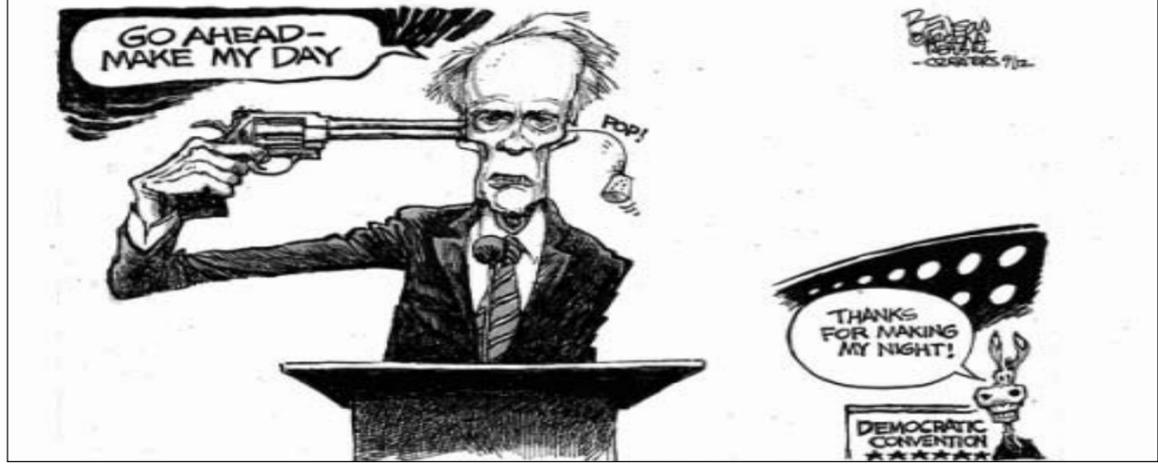
For the first 28 years they were led by a legend, the one and only Thomas Wade (Tom) Landry from Mission, Texas. His trademark suit and hat, his classy representation of the Cowboys organization on and off the field and his innovative mind established him as one of the greatest coaches and teachers of all time. He is credited with inventing the now popular 4-3 defense, the flex defense, the "man in motion," shuttling quarterbacks and the shotgun formation.

He led the Cowboys to five Super Bowl appearances and I will always remember the way he displayed character and class on the field and beyond. I still can't believe the despicable and disgraceful manner in which Coach Landry was fired by Jerry Jones, but that's another story for another day.

As I monitor my Rangers heading toward what I hope to be a charmed third consecutive trip to the World Series and anxiously await tipoff for my Spurs and Mavs in early November, I will meanwhile be perched in front of the big screen tonight after church to see if there's any magic in Romo's arm this year. Regardless, I will remain loyal to the blue and silver and I am expecting the fellows wearing the star on their helmets to play in New Orleans on Feb. 3, 2013.

You may not agree with anything I've said, but I column as I see 'em.

Eddy Prince is the senior pastor at Grace Fellowship Church in Big Spring. He can be reached by email at pastorprince@msn.com.



Democrats won't admit their side lies, it just wont happen

"They lie, and they don't care if people think they lie," California Democratic Party Chairman John Burton told reporter Joe Garofoli before a state delegation breakfast Monday. Burton even brought up that "as long as you lie, Joseph Goebbels, the big lie, you keep repeating it, you know."

First off, Nazi analogies are obnoxious; they trivialize Adolf Hitler's atrocities. For his part, Burton is not above spewing hate himself. In a radio interview, he told KCBS' Doug Sovern that Republicans are likely to take his remarks as a compliment. Later in the day, Burton issued a statement that stipulated he never said the word "Nazi" and included an apology "if" he offended anyone.

Secondly, there's something annoying about Democrats' apparent belief that Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan have been untruthful but that their side has not. Never their side.

Nonsense. Addressing the Faith Council at the Charlotte Convention Center, Rep. Debbie

Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla., told a whopper when she insisted that Romney and Ryan believe "we should give more tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires — more tax breaks to people who are already doing really well — and make sure that they can do even better and have the middle class and working families pay for those tax breaks."

Where does this silly charge originate? On Aug. 1, the Tax Policy Center came out with a report that said Romney's tax proposals "would provide large tax cuts to high-income households, and increase the tax burdens on middle- and/or lower-income taxpayers."

Here's the problem: The Tax Policy Center report starts with the caveat, "We do not score Governor Romney's plan directly, as certain components of his plan are not specified in sufficient detail." Analysts made a number of assumptions, also known as guesses.

They ignored the fact that Romney wants to cut everyone's taxes by 20 percent, not raise them.

The analysts purposefully and explicitly ignored Romney's pledge to cut federal spending. Then they jumped on the most impossible-to-imagine scenario of Romney's approving a tax increase on the majority of Ameri-

can workers — with the help of a spineless Congress, no less.

Now, I agree that Romney's blurry economic plan — which promises a tax rate reduction paid for by eliminating as yet unspecified tax deductions — has the dangerous potential to increase the deficit. That's my concern with the Romney tax package. Of course, I have much bigger concerns on that score with President Barack Obama.

Wasserman Schultz has cover for her charge: She can cite fact check groups such as the Tax Policy Center because it laid out its assumptions, and given its assumptions, its scenario works. But a politician of her acumen knows that a Romney White House would not pass a big tax increase on to middle-class voters. Romney doesn't want to do it. Likewise Congress, where polls of both stripes nurse an abiding fear of incurring the wrath of American voters.

Then again, as Burton said of the Republicans, operatives can be "very cynical." And: "They do not care about the truth."

Email Debra J. Saunders at dsanders@schronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit Creators Syndicate page at www.creators.com.

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- 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

May we remain diligent about reading
Your word, Lord, for our life.

Amen

Dr. David Ward's columns featured in dental publication

Herald Staff Report

You can find Big Spring dentist David Ward's columns on his website and in the *Big Spring Herald* — but those aren't the only places.

Two of his columns, "Is Your Mouth Making You Sick?" and "Continually Stuffy Noses Affect Face Development," appear in the most recent Texas Dental Association Journal patient supplement. The journal has with it the inaugural issue of "Smart Mouth," subtitled Texas Dental Association Patent Publication: Educate While You Wait. Simply speaking, it is a small glossy magazine for Texas dentists to put in their lobbies to educate and entertain patients while they are waiting for their appointment. Dr. Ward's articles dominated the magazine and were featured on the front cover.

Dr. Ward, who has practiced comprehensive family dentistry in Big Spring since 1988, said the whole idea is to provide helpful information to the public.

"As background info, the TDA has been wanting to get more into dental education for the public. I personally, as part of a statewide committee, was tasked with making the TDA website more helpful for people seeking dental information. Using my suggestions, www.TDA.org now has a great deal of easily accessible public education information, mainly from professionally produced American Dental Association sources. It is a great place for patients, parents and teachers to find useful information," Dr. Ward wrote.

"The TDA wanted to make available some other helpful information from Texas sources. A staff person at TDA headquarters, who was familiar with my work, suggested they might want to look at my website for ideas on articles that could be used in a magazine to be put in lobbies of Texas dentists," he added. "They liked what they saw and asked permission to use these two articles."

Dr. Ward's website is www.DavidWardDDS.com



Dr. Ward

Fresh tomato sauce makes the meal

Salads draw attention for easy summer eating, but I have another favorite go-to for making quick warm weather meals. As long as local tomatoes are available, I keep fresh homemade tomato sauce on hand.

Endlessly versatile, this chunky sauce tossed with pasta and a sprinkling of fresh basil makes the perfect meal. Alternately combine it with boiled shrimp or spoon it alongside grilled fish since. When feeling more ambitious, I overlap thick slices of roasted zucchini and grilled eggplant in a shallow heat-proof dish, spoon a layer of the sauce over them and place slabs of mozzarella on top of the sauce. Popped in the oven until the cheese melts, this makes a vibrant summer version of Parmigiana.

Two choices make this fresh tomato sauce stand out. First, to emphasize and complement the

tomatoes at a time when they have peak flavor, I use a lot of onions but a modest amount of garlic.

Second, I use the oval tomatoes called roma, plum or San Marzano. The meaty flesh of these varieties makes a sauce with substance.

Since this sauce keeps in the refrigerator for a week and it is good enough to eat repeatedly, making a double batch is useful.

Fresh Tomato Sauce
3 lbs. plum tomatoes
1 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
3/4 cup finely chopped onion
1 large garlic clove, finely chopped
1 Tbsp. chopped fresh oregano, or 1 tsp. dried
1/2 tsp. sugar, optional
1 Tbsp. chopped fresh basil, or 1 tsp. dried
Salt and freshly ground pepper

Cut thin slice off top of tomatoes. Peel tomatoes,

using either serrated swivel-blade vegetable peeler or hot water method. For this method, drop 2-3 tomatoes at a time into large pot of boiling water until their skins crack, 1-2 minutes. Immediately transfer tomatoes to bowl of ice water.

When tomatoes are cool enough to handle, use your fingers to pull off skin. Halve tomatoes lengthwise and use your thumb to push out seeds, then your fingers to remove pulpy ribs. Chop tomatoes and set aside; there will be 6-7 cups.

In large, heavy pot, heat oil over medium-high heat. Add onion and cook for 3 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add garlic and cook, stirring often, until onion starts to color, 3-4 minutes. Add tomatoes and oregano and stir well. Cook, uncovered, for 15 minutes. Taste sauce, adding sugar if it is too acidic. Mix in basil and cook until

tomatoes have broken down to your taste, 10-15 minutes for chunky sauce, 12-15 minutes for pulpier one.

Note: Using ripe tomatoes is important. Supermarket ones usually require sitting at room temperature for 5 to 10 days to turn really red. They make a more chunky and drier sauce than local tomatoes in season because they are less juicy.

Make 6 servings. Per serving: 1/2 cup.

Per serving: 75 calories, 3 g total fat (<1 g saturated fat), 12 g carbohydrate, 2 g protein, 3 g dietary fiber, 19 mg sodium.

Something Different is written by Dana Jacobi, author of 12 Best Foods Cookbook and contributor to AICR's cookbook, Recipes for a Healthy Weight and a Healthy Life.

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HealthTalk

Q: I know that I need to get more exercise, but I'm worried that it may make my mid-life hot flashes worse. What can I expect?

A: You are correct that regular physical activity is important. Evidence is stronger than ever that exercise is key for heart and bone health and lower risk of diabetes and cancer. But moderate or vigorous activity can make us feel warmer, so your concern about affecting hot flashes is understandable.

An overall analysis of research found no conclusive evidence from controlled trials on whether exercise could help reduce hot flashes and night sweats in menopausal women. The researchers did report that exercise seemed to offer some potential help, but noted the need for more high-quality studies.

A small recent study of women who were near or at menopause found that in the hours following moderate activity, hot flashes actually decreased about 25 percent compared to before the exercise session. On the other hand, women did tend to report more hot flashes than usual overall on days that included more activity than usual.

Researchers suggest physically fit women may have fewer hot flashes because of the many changes in heart rate, blood pressure and nervous system associated with regular physical activity. Keep notes as you try different approaches to physical activity, and see if some types, intensities or times of day allow you to stay more comfortable.



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Why not check out Friends of the Library sale?

The Friends of the Library have been busily collecting and sorting books in the basement. The book sale will begin at 9 a.m.

Friday, Sept. 14 continue Saturday the 15th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.

Remember, as the sale goes on, the prices get lower and lower! But the book you want may not be there on the last day of the sale, so get it when you see it. The sale will continue until Oct. 6.

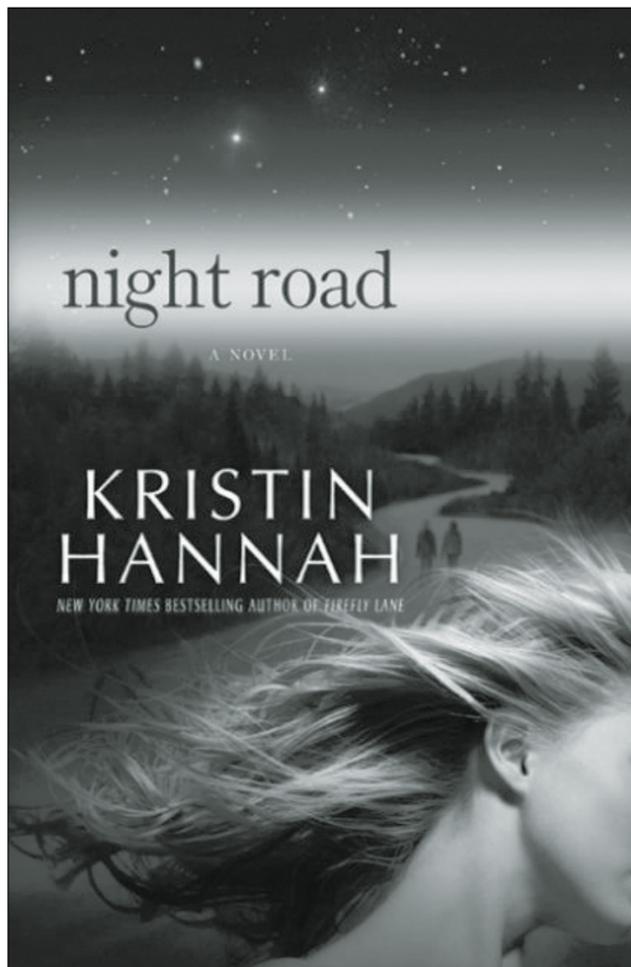
There is lots to be found here at your library. Come and explore new worlds. Story time will begin Sept. 5 (a very special day) at 10:15 a.m. upstairs in the children's area and we always like to have people enjoy the cool of the library, reading newspapers or books in the reading area. Come on down to the library. We are located just across from the post office, at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260.

In Jeff Abbott's newest thriller "The Last Minute" (M ABB J), Sam Capra has

one reason to live: to rescue his baby son from the people who abducted him. An ex-CIA agent, Sam now owns bars around the world as cover for his real mission—working undercover for a secret network as mysterious as it is powerful, while using his skills to find his child. Now, the kidnapers have offered a deadly deal: they'll surrender Sam's child ... if Sam finds and murders the one man who can expose them. Teaming up with a desperate young mother whose daughter is also missing, Sam tracks his prey—and his son—across the country in a dangerous race against time, and must unravel a deadly conspiracy if he's to rescue the only person in the world that matters to him.

Susan Elizabeth Phillips writes love stories with a twist and "The Great Escape" (F P H I S) is no different. Lucy Jorik is a champ at never embarrassing the family she adores, but now Lucy has done just that and on her wedding day. Instead of saying "I do" to Mr. Irresistible, Lucy flees the church in an ill-fitting blue choir robe and hitches a ride on the back of a beat-up motorcycle plastered with offensive bumper stickers.

While the world searches for her, Lucy



must search for herself, and she quickly realizes her customary good manners are no defense against a man who's raised rudeness to an art form. Lucy needs to toughen up—and fast. Her great escape takes her to his rambling beach house on Great Lakes island. Here, she hopes to find a new direction ... and unlock the secrets of this man who knows so much about her, but reveals nothing about him-

self. As the hot summer days unfold amid scented breezes and sudden storms, she'll also encounter a beautiful, troubled beekeeper, a frightened young boy, a modern-day evil queen and a passion that could change her life forever.

Kristin Hannah writes complex novels and "Night Road" (F H A N K) is certainly that. The book description reads: For 18 years, Jude Farraday

has put her children's needs above her own, and it shows in her twins. Mia and Zach are both bright and happy teenagers. When Lexi Baill moves into their small, close-knit community, no one is more welcoming than Jude. Lexi, a former foster child with a dark past, quickly becomes Mia's best friend.

Then Zach falls in love with Lexi and the three become inseparable. Jude does everything to keep her kids on track for college and out of harm's way. It has always been easy — until senior year of high school. Suddenly she is at a loss. Nothing feels safe anymore; every time her kids leave the house, she worries about them. On a hot summer's night, her worst fears come true. One decision will change the course of their lives. In the blink of an eye, the Farraday family will be torn apart and Lexi will lose everything. In the years that follow, each must face the consequences of that single night and find a way to forget or find the courage to for-

give.

More fiction to check out: "The Red House" (F H A D M) by Mark Haddon and Jennifer Weiner's "The Next Best Thing" (F W E I J);. Here is a perfect one for us out in the wasteland called Texas — "Tumbleweed" (F M E A L) by Leila Meacham. It is the story of poor Cathy Benson, who is dropped into a cultural and intellectual wasteland when she is forced to move from her academically privileged life in California to the small town of Kersey in the Texas Panhandle where the sport of football reigns supreme. She is taken under the shoulder-padded arms of the up-and-coming gridiron stars and classmates of John Caldwell and Trey Don Hall. They soon forge a friendship and an eventual love triangle (oh, give me a break!) and tragedy ensues and uproots them and breaks them apart. Forty years pass and it is high school reunion time. OK, is that enough to tempt you to come to the library and check it out?

Remember, the library is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and the Friends of the Library Book Sale is Friday, Sept. 14.

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.

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News in brief

Michelle Obama tells nation her husband knows about everyday struggles because he lived them

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Democrats are using one of Barack Obama's strong suits, that voters believe he understands the problems of ordinary people, to trump his weakest suit, the economy.

Michelle Obama played those cards with force in a speech declaring that after four years as president, her husband is still the man who drove a rust-bucket on early dates, rescued a coffee table from the trash and knows the struggles of everyday Americans because he lived them in full.

"I have seen firsthand that being president doesn't change who you are, it reveals who you are," the first lady said to lusty cheers Tuesday night in a deeply personal, yet unmistakably political testimonial highlighting the Democratic National Convention's opening night.

Bill Clinton, the last president to preside over sustained economic growth and a balanced budget, gets the star turn Wednesday night in a speech placing Obama's name into nomination — a high point in a checkered relationship between two men who sparred, sometimes sharply, in the 2008 primaries, when Clinton was supporting wife Hillary's campaign for the nomination.

Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, the career venture capitalist, appeared nowhere in Mrs. Obama's remarks. But there was no mistaking the contrast she was drawing when she laid out certain values, "that how hard you work matters more than how much you make, that helping others means more than just getting ahead yourself."

Jurors to begin deliberations at Drew Peterson murder trial

JOLIET, Ill. (AP) — Now, it's jurors' turn.

After years of speculation, national media attention and more than a month of testimony, allegations that Drew Peterson murdered his third wife are finally expected to go to a jury Wednesday.

The 12 jurors — seven men and five women — are scheduled to receive instructions from the judge in the morning, then withdraw to a Joliet courthouse room to begin deliberating over five weeks of circumstantial and hearsay evidence.

Peterson, 58, has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder in Kathleen Savio's 2004 death. The former Bolingbrook police sergeant fell under scrutiny in Savio's death only after his fourth wife, Stacy Peterson, disappeared in 2007.

Peterson's attorneys said their client has braced himself for jurors' decision.

GOP spotlights Cuban-Americans while Democrats highlight Mexican-Americans at conventions

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Hispanics with the highest profiles in this year's political conventions, Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida and Mayor Julian Castro of San Antonio, stand as opposites in a cultural and political split that has divided millions of U.S. Latinos for decades.

Republicans chose Rubio, who is Cuban-American, to introduce Mitt Romney at the party's convention last week. Democrats, meeting this week in Charlotte, N.C., picked Castro, who is Mexican-American, as keynote speaker, the role that launched a young Barack Obama to national political prominence.

Although they often are lumped together as Hispanics, Rubio and Castro are emblematic of acute political distinctions between Mexican-Americans, who are the largest Latino group in the U.S., and Cuban-Americans, who are the most politically active. Despite their shared language, these two constituencies have different histories in the United States and are subjected to distinctions in immigration policy that go easier on Cuban immigrants.

"Historically, many Cuban-Americans for the last few decades have tended to be a little more conservative. So it's not surprising that you would see Sen. Rubio and the Republican nominee for Senate in Texas, Ted Cruz, running as Republicans," Castro told The Associated Press. "And I don't begrudge them for that. I think the policies they espouse are wrong, are not the best ones. But, you

know, they're doing what they believe. And I applaud them for that."

Rubio, 41, was born in Miami. His parents left their native Cuba for the U.S. 2½ years before Fidel Castro overthrew the Cuban government. Fifty-nine percent of Cubans in the U.S. in 2010 were foreign-born, according to the Pew Hispanic Center, and three-quarters were American citizens.

Clinton, China leaders talk but get no closer to agreement on Syria or S. China Sea disputes

BEIJING (AP) — Talks between U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Chinese leaders Wednesday failed to narrow gaps on how to end the crisis in Syria and how to resolve Beijing's territorial disputes with its smaller neighbors in the South China Sea.

Clinton, who met President Hu Jintao, Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi and other top officials but not leader-in-waiting Xi Jinping, wants China to stop backing the regime of Syrian President Bashar Assad, and has been pushing for it to be more flexible in lowering tensions over the potentially oil-rich South China Seas.

But comments from Clinton and Yang showed that the countries remain deeply divided on those issues, although both maintained they are committed to working together despite their differences.

The United States and other countries are upset that China and Russia have repeatedly used their veto powers in the U.N. Security Council to block actions that could have led to sanctions against Assad's regime. China says Syria's civil war needs to be resolved through negotiations and not outside pressure.

"I think history will judge that China's position on the Syria question is a promotion of the appropriate handling of the situation," Yang told a news conference with Clinton. "For what we have in mind is the interests of the people of Syria and the region and the interests of peace, stability and development in the region and throughout the world."

Colombia peace talks complicated by lack of cease-fire, drug-trafficking rebels

BOGOTA (AP) — The image is seared in Colombian minds: The country's president sits on a big stage looking glum, hands folded in his lap, next to an empty chair.

It is January 1999. At the inauguration of peace talks, the founding leader of the Western Hemisphere's biggest leftist rebel army has snubbed President Andres Pastrana.

Cursed, the peace talks drag on for three years in a safe haven the size of Switzerland that the government has ceded to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, which wages war elsewhere, kidnaps and extorts unabated and expands its cocaine business.

Ten years later, in a wealthier, far more stable Colombia, a different president is giving peace yet another chance.

"Any responsible leader knows he can't let pass up a possibility like this to end the conflict," President Juan Manuel Santos told the nation Tuesday in announcing an accord with the peasant-based FARC to seek "a definitive peace."

Goodbye asteroid Vesta: NASA Dawn spacecraft to journey to dwarf planet Ceres

LOS ANGELES (AP) — One asteroid down, one to go.

After spending a year gazing at Vesta, NASA's Dawn spacecraft was set to cruise toward the most massive space rock in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter — a voyage that will take nearly three years.

Firing its ion propulsion thrusters, Dawn had been slowly spiraling away from Vesta for more than a month until it was to pop free from its gravitational grip. Since its antenna was pointed away from Earth during this last maneuver, engineers would not know until Wednesday how it went.

The departure was considered ho-hum compared with other recent missions — think Curiosity's white-knuckle "seven minutes of terror" dive into Mars' atmosphere.

"It's not a sudden event. There's no whiplash-inducing maneuver. There's no tension, no anxiety," said chief engineer Marc Rayman of the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

TS Leslie moving slowly with Bermuda in its sights

MIAMI (AP) — Tropical Storm Leslie is moving slowly in the Atlantic with Bermuda in its sights.

Leslie's maximum sustained winds early Wednesday are near 65 mph (100 kph). The U.S. National Hurricane Center says gradual strengthening is expected and the storm could become a hurricane in the next day or two.

Leslie is centered about 490 miles (790 kilometers) south-southeast of Bermuda and is moving north-northwest near 2 mph (4 kph).

Swells generated by Leslie will continue affecting Bermuda, the U.S. East Coast, the northern Leeward Islands, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The swells could cause life-threatening surf and rip currents.

Farther out, Tropical Storm Michael is moving slowly north in the Atlantic but poses no threat to land. Michael's maximum sustained winds are near 50 mph (85 kph).

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Sports Calendar

THURSDAY

Football
• Forsan at Plains, 7:30 p.m.
• Sands at Hermleigh, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

Football
• Midland Christian at Big Spring, 7:30 p.m.
• Coahoma at Coleman, 7:30 p.m.
• Ira at Grady, 7:30 p.m.
• Borden County at Garden City, 7:30 p.m.
• Stanton at Morton, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

Volleyball
• Lubbock Cooper at Big Spring (varsity only), 10 a.m.

To submit a calendar item, please call 263-7331, ext. 237, or e-mail sports@bigspringherald.com



Lady Steers go 1-1 at Frenship

By BRIAN MCCORMACK

Sports Editor

FRENSHIP — Big Spring Head Volleyball Coach Lynn Osborne warned fans that with a tough prennish schedule, the Lady Steers may be scarce for a while. Now, the Lady Steers are 26 games into the season and hold a 16-10 record — with most losses coming to larger school.

After a road trip to Frenship on Tuesday, BSMS came away with the split after defeating Frenship (20-25, 25-23, 25-18, 25-20), then losing to Amarillo High (20-25, 7-25, 12-25).

The Lady Steers have a handful of matches left before district play begins Sept. 22 against Greenwood.

Individual statistics:

Vs. Frenship

Setters: Morgan Seaton: 23 assists, 14 kills, 2 aces, 7 digs, 2 blocks; Julianna Rodriguez: 19 assists, 2 kills, 11 digs; Kinsey Wash: 8 assists, 1 dig.

Offense: Erin Pollard: 14 kills, 2 digs, 1 block; Clara Benevides: 10 kills, 1 assist, 2 digs.

Defense: Caron Reibe: 23 digs, 3 kills, 1 assist, 1 ace; Ebony Zavala: 23 digs, 2 blocks, 8 kills, 1 assist, 2 aces.

Vs. Amarillo High

Setters: M. Seaton: 12 assists, 3 kills, 1 dig; J. Rodriguez: 3 assists, 1 ace, 2 digs.

Offense: E. Pollard: 6 kills, 1 ace; Clara Benevides: 4 kills, 5 digs, 1 block

Defense: C. Reibe: 16 digs, E. Zavala: 6 digs, 1 block, 2 kills.

Contact Sports Editor Brian McCormack at 263-7331 ext. 237 or by e-mail at sports@bigspringherald.com

Bumbling Astros fall to slumping Pirates

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The ball looked as if it was a harmless pop-up.

Problem is, there's no such thing for the Houston Astros these days.

When the ball hit shortstop Tyler Greene's glove, one of Greene's teammates hit him. The ball fell to the ground, giving the Pittsburgh Pirates a pair of insurance runs and the Astros another dose of embarrassment in a 6-2 loss.

"That's a fly ball I should have," Greene said. "I just think we had just maybe a, you know, maybe some miscommunication, but that's my responsibility being the shortstop out there. I've got to take charge, take control of what's going on."

Jordan Lyles (3-11) gave up five runs — four earned — in 4 2-3 innings for Houston, which failed to win consecutive games for just

the second time since the All-Star break.

"The whole night, the curveball wasn't there for me," Lyles said. "I think it comes down to delivery. I've got to work on being better out of the stretch, and tonight it wasn't there."

Andrew McCutchen had his major league-leading sixth four-hit game for Pittsburgh and rookie second baseman Brock Holt added four hits to help former Houston pitcher Wandy Rodriguez (10-13) win for the third time in his past four starts.

"Beating this team is very special for me because I played for the Astros for a long time," Rodriguez said. "When the game started, I don't have any friends."

Rodriguez is making some in Pittsburgh, which came in losses, 10 of its previous 13, including a 5-1 setback to the Astros on Monday.

With rookie Tannehill at QB, Marino recalls first NFL start

STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer

MIRAMAR, Fla. (AP) — Dan Marino remembers all sorts of details about his first start as an NFL rookie — the opposing quarterback, the disappointing outcome, even the novel pep talk he received from a veteran teammate shortly before kickoff.

"After the national anthem," Marino recalled, "Lyle Blackwood comes over to me and he says, 'You know, Dan, it's your first start. I don't want you to feel any pressure at all. But if you play bad, we're going to lose.'"

Marino laughed as he related the anecdote Tuesday for the Miami Dolphins Touchdown Club. The Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback was an appropriate choice as guest speaker, because the Dolphins are turning to a rookie passer again this season.

In April, Big Spring native Ryan Tannehill became the first quarterback drafted in the first round by the Dolphins since Don Shula took Marino in 1983. On Sunday at Houston, Tannehill will become the first Miami QB to start a season opener as a rookie.

Marino didn't become the starter until the sixth game of

his rookie season. He joined a team that had reached the Super Bowl the year before and had David Woodley returning at quarterback.

"Coach Shula told me right from the beginning, 'I want you to come in here and work as if you're going to be the starting quarterback,'" Marino recalled. "He said, 'Now, that could be Week 1. It could be Week 10. It could be maybe next year.' So my expectations were to come in and start right away. I didn't, but I wanted to be the starter."

Marino twice came off the bench and played well, and by early October the job was his. He made his first start against the Buffalo Bills and had his first pass intercepted, but bounced back to throw for 322 yards and three touchdowns.

The Dolphins lost 38-35 in overtime because Joe Ferguson threw five touchdown passes for Buffalo. But afterward Shula couldn't suppress a smile: The Dolphins had found their quarterback for the next 16 years.

That sort of stability is now a fading memory. Marino retired after the 1999 season, and Tannehill will be the Dolphins' 17th starting quarterback since, the most of any NFL team during

that span.

"It's a tough position to play, and it's hard to find really good players," Marino said. "There's always pressure at that position. That's why it's probably the hardest thing to do in all of team sports — play quarterback."

Marino hasn't seen Tannehill play in person but said the athletic, strong-armed rookie appears to have what it takes to succeed in the NFL. With the Dolphins in transition after three consecutive losing seasons, Marino endorsed new coach Joe Philbin's decision to give Tannehill the No. 1 job.

"They're in a rebuilding phase right now, and I like the idea of starting a young quarterback right away," Marino said. "There's going to be a lot more pressure on Tannehill because of that, but the coaches are with him every day and know whether he's going to be able to handle it."

As a rookie, Marino joined a team with veteran leadership, a stout defense and two talented young receivers in Mark Duper and Mark Clayton. They made the playoffs in 1983 and went 14-2 the following year, with one of

See **ROOKIE**, Page 15

Cowboys ready to kick off season vs. Giants

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — A good start is what is on the line this time when the New York Giants host the Dallas Cowboys in the NFL season opener.

The stakes were much greater the last time the NFC East foes faced off to close the last regular season. New York won to claim the division title en route to the Super Bowl title. Dallas was left out of the postseason.

On Wednesday night at MetLife Stadium, the winner will take the early upper hand in the divisional race.

For Eli Manning and the Super Bowl champion Giants, this will be a chance to silence the critics and detractors who have sounded off repeatedly after they beat the New England Patriots in February to claim their second title in five seasons.

The Giants heard it all. They were lucky to get into the playoffs with a 9-7 record. They really didn't beat the Packers or 49ers, they were just handed the games. There is a lot more, but that is the gist.

That is just over.

The goal for Tom Coughlin's players is to show they have constructed that bridge the 65-year-old coach urged them to build to link their late-season 6-0 run to the title to the 2012 campaign.

"The leadership we have on this football team, that's going to be the spine of the bridge, if you will," defensive captain Justin Tucker said. "I think

See **COWBOYS**, Page 15

Royals rough up Harrison, Rangers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — This was one rough night for Ian Kinsler and Matt Harrison.

Kinsler was picked off third base and committed an error that led to two unearned runs during the Texas Rangers' 6-3 loss to the Kansas City Royals on Tuesday night. Harrison was knocked out in the fifth inning of his second consecutive loss.

With one out in the third and Josh Hamilton at the plate, Kinsler strayed too far off third and Royals catcher Salvador Perez caught him.

"Normally with Josh up the third baseman is pretty far off the bag," Kinsler said. "I didn't check him and they got me."

Lorenzo Cain hit a leadoff grounder to

Kinsler in the third, and the All-Star second baseman failed to make the play. Cain scored on Alcides Escobar's double, which snapped an 0-for-21 skid. Escobar went to third on Alex Gordon's ground-out and scored on Billy Butler's sacrifice fly.

"I don't know if it's an error or not," Kinsler said. "I would have liked to have held that ball."

Harrison, who has pitched at least eight innings in eight starts this season, yielded Alex Gordon's two-run homer and Perez's RBI double before he was replaced by Roy Oswalt with two down in the fifth.

"I had a quick fourth and then I just couldn't get out of the fifth," Harrison said. "I made

See **RANGERS**, Page 15

Pigskin Picks Football Contest

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4. Forsan
5. Stanton
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7. Texas Tech
8. TX Longhorns
9. Greenbay
10. Pittsburgh



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Enter To Win \$50 At These Participating Merchants

Rules: Find this week's games between the merchants' ads on this page. Choose the teams you think will win. Clip and fill in the official entry blank on this page with your team choices. The entry with the most correct picks will win \$50. You must be 18 to enter. *No Photo Copies Accepted.* In the event of a tie, the tie breaker will determine the winner. For the tie breaker, the entry with the correct team will win. If both entries have guessed the same team, the second tie breaker will be the one closest to the total points. Decisions of the judges are final. Employees and family of *The Big Spring Herald* are ineligible. All entries must be received at one of the participating merchants by 1 p.m. Friday of the week played. Winners will be announced in the *Big Spring Herald* the Wednesday following the games.

Pigskin Picks Entry Form

Team

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____ 9. _____ 10. _____ 	Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone Number: _____ Tie Breaker - Circle the winner and note total points scored Miami vs. Houston Score: _____ + _____ = _____
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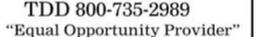
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5	4	7	3	9	6	2	1	8
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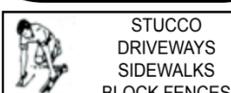
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Why does it matter so much to have a clean car or a certain pair of shoes? Because the symbols of our lives are important. They say something about who we are and why we do what we do. The aesthetic Taurus moon finds it immensely bothersome if our symbols don't accurately reflect our identities — and mighty satisfying when they do.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your extra energy will kick in midmorning, and you'll keep moving quickly through the day. There are things you shouldn't do fast, though. Talking is one of them. You'll get more respect using your calm, slow voice.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll choose upbeat partners. They may have the wrong answers from time to time, but because they have the right attitude, they will be quick to make corrections.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The deep part of your brain that contains a storytelling instinct will be activated now.

You'll be driven to share, and in this sharing, you'll hone the finer details of your narrative.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Resist checking in with others to see whether you're on the right path. Try instead to think it through and feel it out. When you're sure within yourself, it's the right path. Certainty will open doors.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Someone will try to form an alliance with you. You're not about to join a cause you don't believe in. Also, you just don't like it when people try to pick a fight for you. If you want to fight, you'll pick your own.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your status is on the line today. How you come across will be more important than what you say. Speak as though you're making complete sense even when you're not sure it's really the case.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Everything aligns to remind you that people are important — more important than things, position, power or money. When you make the choice that supports people, you choose your own soul.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You've done your homework, but you wouldn't mind a second opinion. Be careful to

ask for insight in a way that lets the other person know that you don't want to be micromanaged, but you value an objective viewpoint.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You want to give. But if you don't take care of yourself first, you'll get into trouble. You'll be as generous as you can possibly be while still maintaining enough of your own time and resources to get your work done.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have a way of making people feel safe. New people will be attracted to you as you demonstrate your strength. It comes in many forms: intellectual, physical and emotional.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Enforce clear lines between your work and your personal life. Increased structure will be good for all. By your example, others will understand that the workplace is for work — and not for personal sharing.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). If you want to be a leader, assume leadership. It won't be necessary to ask for it, and doing so will only cause hesitation and doubt. Swoop in and start taking care of business.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept.

5). You are more convicted in your beliefs than ever and determined to make a difference. The next seven weeks clear the obstacles to deeper love. You'll pick up a new skill in October. You'll have plenty to show off in November, but you'll refrain from doing so. You'll volunteer for an important mission in December. Leo and Sagittarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 25, 49, 14 and 18.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I helped her get the job, and then she was promoted before me. Months later, she was promoted again, and when there were cutbacks at the company, I was let go. My friend is doing better than ever, and now I'm looking for a job. I think about her every day, how well she's doing, and I seethe. How can a Pisces let go of the damage done by a Scorpio?"

Spiritual Pisces, the best way to let go is to create and execute a private anti-seething ritual. Here's one called Release and Succeed:

On one piece of paper, make a list of words and images associated with your anger at your friend. For instance, the time you heard of her

promotion: What picture does it bring up in your mind? How did you feel? On a second page, list the qualities, approaches and methods your friend used to move up. Rip up your angry page into bits and burn them in a fire pit. Place the other list under your pillow to read before you go to sleep and when you wake up in the morning. You will use these same methods to extract the best revenge: your own success.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Gorgeous Raquel Welch is a symbol of the unchanging nature of Virgoan beauty. This sign is known for being driven to improve, perfect and enliven through health and clean living. In her seventh decade, Welch is still an international sex symbol. In recent years, Welch has helped women around the globe improve their appearance with her glamorous designer hairpieces.

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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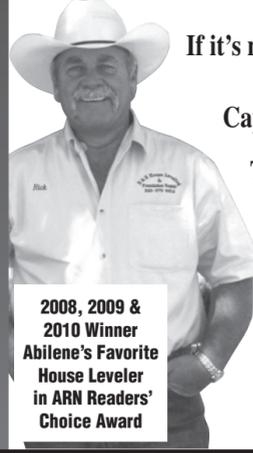
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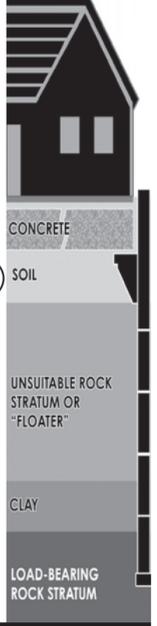
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PET TALK

Staph infections and Methicillin resistance in companion animals

Staphylococcus (staph) bacteria are all around us in an intimate way since it normally lives on the skin and mucous membranes of both people and animals alike.

It usually is not of a concern to the individual if the skin is functioning normally and there is not a risk for infection (e.g., systemic illness and immune compromise).

When infection is present, usually of the skin, most staph bacteria are susceptible to commonly prescribed antibiotics. Although many individuals walk around every day with staph bacteria, not all staph are alike. Indeed, Staphylococcus aureus prefers people (as well as pigs and some horses) over dogs and cats, Staphylococcus pseudintermedius likes the skin of companion animals over man.

“Methicillin-resistant staph” refers to Staphylococcus bacteria that have developed a resistance to commonly prescribed penicillin and penicillin-like antibiotics, making infections difficult to treat. Again, most staph bacteria are susceptible to a wide array of antibiotics, but these particular staph have developed resistance to typical antibiotics, hence they are more challenging to eliminate.

Dr. Adam Patterson, clinical assistant professor and chief of dermatology at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences Small Animal Hospital, explained staph skin infections (pyoderma) in animals present as skin sores recognized as redness, pimples, scabs, dander, and hair loss. Many times these infections itch and result from uncontrolled allergic skin disease. When this type of infection occurs, it usually responds to correctly prescribed and administered topical and/or systemic antibacterial treatments.

If the infection is not easily treated by an appropriate course of antibiotics, then the chance for a “resistant” infection is heightened. Although subject to debate, as this is an area of ongoing research, Patterson said risk factors for methicillin-resistant staph infections in both people and animals seem to include repeated courses of antibiotics, chronic skin disease, immune compromise, recurring hospital visits, and indwelling medical implants such as those used for orthopedic surgery. When these risk factors are present in animals with pyoderma, veterinarians perform a culture of the skin sore to determine if the bacteria are indeed methicillin-resistant.

“A resistant infection doesn’t look different than susceptible infections, the only way to know is to culture the skin,” Patterson said.

Once it is confirmed the pet is infected with methicillin-resistant staph, the veterinarian can determine the best course of action. Patterson said the most common treatments are topical such as antiseptic shampoos and culture-based systemic antibiotics.

“When we can, we try to treat them topically,” Patterson said. “Methicillin resistance doesn’t mean that the bacteria are more pathogenic, they just are not killed by common antibiotics anymore.”

People with methicillin-resistant staph are said to have MRSA (methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus). Since dogs and cats tend to have a different species of staph on their skin, resistant bacteria are most often called methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Pseudintermedius (MRSPi or MRSP). People are normally not infected with MRSPi; likewise, dogs and cats are normally not infected with MRSA. Common transfer of MRSPi from pets to people has been fairly rare and isolated to date, while transfer of MRSA from people to pets is somewhat more likely. Again, MRSPi is predominantly found in companion pets, while MRSA is primarily found in people.

“We don’t know much about dog-to-dog spread, but it is a large component of research on the epidemiology of methicillin resistance as we move forward,” Patterson said.

A few simple recommendations to help reduce the chance of transfer of staph bacteria between household people and pets once an animal has confirmed MRSPi infection include: administering the veterinary-prescribed treatment as directed, wearing gloves when treating the affected pet with topical therapy, keeping young children and immunocompromised people (cancer, HIV/AIDS, etc.) away from the affected pet, keeping personal skin wounds covered and protected, discouraging the pet from licking the face of people, and not letting the affected pet share the bed or linens with household persons. Above all, Patterson emphasized the need to wash all surfaces of the hands after handling the affected pet. Additionally, a search into why the pet has a resistant infection should be undertaken and corrected once identified.

If you develop skin sores or have concerns about your personal health once a methicillin-resistant staph infection has been confirmed in your pet, then consult your physician.

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Annie's Mailbox®

Dear Annie: Six months ago, I married a lovely young woman. While we were engaged, “Nina” and I had several candid discussions about finances, figuring that once we married, she would look for a job and we would split the household expenses evenly. Her parents were very generous and gave us a nice amount of money at the wedding in order to help smooth the transition until she found a job.

Well, a few months after we married, Nina stopped looking for work. She suffers from chronic depression, and it got so bad that she refused to apply for a job, convinced that no one would hire her. She also refused to get counseling, saying she couldn’t afford it, even though both her father and I offered to pay for it.

I have worked my best to keep a roof over our heads and have even taken out loans in order to pay our bills, but I’m now \$1,000 in debt. Recently, Nina’s father gave her a large sum of money. I asked if she would use a small amount to pay one of our outstanding bills. She refused, saying that this was her money and she could spend it on whatever she wanted. Over the next week, that turned out to be fast food and cigarettes.

Annie, was I unreasonable to ask for her financial help? — *New York*

Dear New York: Of course not. Nina apparently does not consider herself to be in a partnership. She thinks you should support her. And it’s possible that Nina combats her depression by spending money, eating and smoking. Nonetheless, this is not a tenable solution. She should not use her depression as an excuse to refuse help. We urge you to get counseling on your own and also contact NAMI (nami.org).

Dear Annie: I am pregnant with my third child. Prior experience compels me to send my list of things you should never do or say to a pregnant woman:

1. Do not ask whether the pregnancy was planned. It is absolutely no one’s business.
2. Hands off the belly. This is her personal space and should be respected. If you feel compelled to touch that elusive kick, always ask first — and don’t be insulted



**KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR**

when she says no.

3. Please don’t make comments that could be interpreted as “you’re fat.” My boss asked whether I was having twins because I was so big. Another person asked if I was due before Christmas when my due date was mid-March.

4. Please don’t share unsolicited horror stories of labor and delivery. Expectant moms don’t need more to worry about. Also, while I feel genuine sympathy for those who have experienced a miscarriage, hearing these stories only induces anxiety in the mom-to-be, which isn’t good for her health or the baby’s.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to vent. — *Sharing the News in Pa.*

Dear Sharing: You’re very welcome. And congratulations on your upcoming blessed event.

Dear Annie: This is in reply to “Over-Seventy-Attitude,” who prefers handwritten notes and not emails.

Years ago, when postage was cheap, none of us thought anything of sending out lots of cards and greetings.

These days, with postage being so high, people have to understand that if you’re living on a fixed income, those costs add up, especially during holidays when there are lots of cards to send.

I feel that the message contained within is what’s important, not whether the card is a physical object or an email.

Making sure that your friends and family receive your warm thoughts is what counts.

Instead of chastising your friend for sending an email greet-

ing, thank her for thinking of you and holding a place in her heart for you. — *Florida Greetings*

Dear Annie: My wife’s uncle had a laryngectomy a few years ago. He now breathes through the stoma in his throat and also discharges phlegm through it. He doesn’t cover the opening with mesh.

I hate to sound uncaring, but he constantly coughs into a tissue that he then lays on our countertop, dining room table or wherever else. This is not only unsanitary, but gross. When he leaves, we have to use antibacterial wipes on everything he touched.

If we were to say anything to him about this, he would be upset and probably not speak to us again. We are running out of excuses to avoid his visits and hope he reads your column and makes the connection. — *Germ Concerned*

Dear Germ: Someone who uses a tissue to expel anything should not leave it around, especially on a surface where food is served or where others have to dispose of it. This is simple courtesy. The next time your uncle visits, discreetly place a small wastebasket near him “for his convenience.”

Dear Annie: This is in response to “Disappointed in Ohio,” whose girls’ group was resentful when one of the women began to bring along her new husband.

I once belonged to such a group of retired women, which we named the “Silver Belles.” The time came when the husbands also retired, and sometimes, one of us would ask to bring our husband along. Instead of resenting it, we welcomed them and began to call our group the “Silver Belles and Beaus.” — *Chatsworth, Calif.*

Annie’s Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to annies-mailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie’s Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. To find out more about Annie’s Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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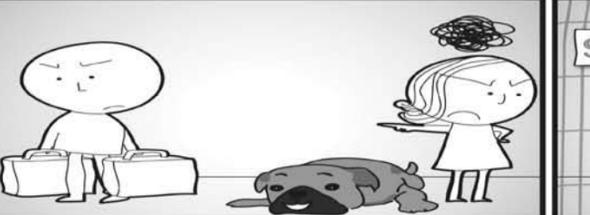


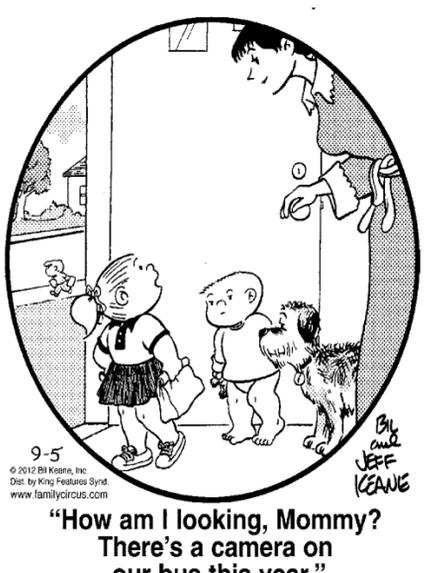
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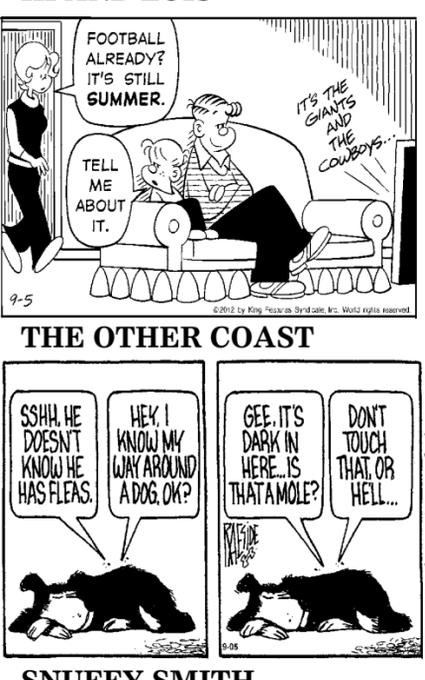
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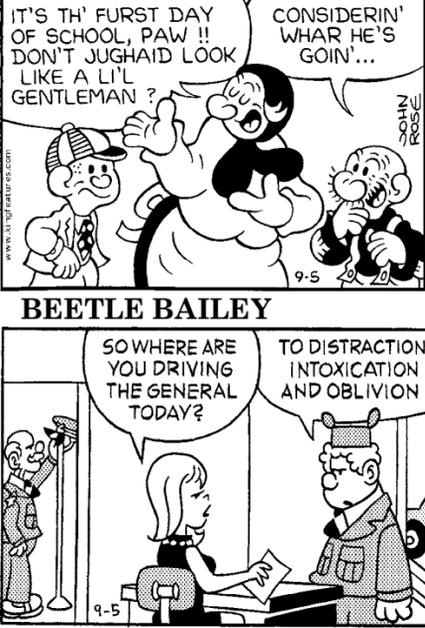
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This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 5, the 249th day of 2012. There are 117 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 5, 1972, terrorism struck the Munich Olympics as members of the Palestinian group Black September attacked the Israeli delegation; 11 Israelis, five guerrillas and a police officer were killed in the resulting siege. On this date: In 1774, the first Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia. In 1793, the Reign of Terror began during the French Revolution as the National Convention instituted harsh measures to repress counter-revolutionary activities. In 1836, Sam Houston was elected president of the Republic of Texas. In 1912, American avant-garde composer John Cage was born in Los Angeles. In 1914, the First Battle of the

Marne, resulting in a French-British victory over Germany, began during World War I. In 1939, four days after war had broken out in Europe, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued a proclamation declaring U.S. neutrality in the conflict. In 1945, Japanese-American Iva Toguri D'Aquino, suspected of being wartime broadcaster "Tokyo Rose," was arrested in Yokohama. (D'Aquino was later convicted of treason and served six years in prison; she was pardoned in 1977 by President Gerald R. Ford.) In 1957, the novel "On the Road," by Jack Kerouac, was first published by Viking Press. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed legislation making aircraft hijackings a federal crime. In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford escaped an attempt on his life by Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, a disciple of Charles Manson, in Sacramento, Calif. In 1986, four hijackers who had seized a Pan Am jumbo jet on the ground in Karachi, Pakistan, opened fire when the lights inside the plane failed; a total of 22 people were killed in

the hijacking. In 1997, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II broke the royal reticence over Princess Diana's death, delivering a televised address in which she called her former daughter-in-law "a remarkable person." Mother Teresa died in Calcutta, India, at age 87; conductor Sir Georg Solti (johrj SHOL'-tee) died in France at age 84. Today's Birthdays: Former Federal Reserve Board chairman Paul A. Volcker is 85. Comedian-actor Bob Newhart is 83. Actress-singer Carol Lawrence is 80. Actor William Devane is 73. Actor George Lazenby is 73. Actress Raquel Welch is 72. Movie director Werner Herzog is 70. © 2012 The Associated Press.

Answer to previous puzzle: LEGIT TRAP BASK OBAMA EACH OMNI NAVAL EMMY ZEUS EYEGLASSESTONGS EEL SEA SCISSORS DREAMS TAN THANK PEDAL ARTS AMONG KAYO BARED PROUD GOT STOWIT TWEEZERS SOS SEE BINOCULARSPANTS OVEN CAVE ELIOT NARY ATOP NOTME KNOX NEWS STEEP

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS 1 Not up yet bird 6 Computer screen symbol 10 Coffee, informally 14 Actress Mary Tyler 15 Bubbly buy 16 Secondhand 17 Prove helpful 18 Yankee star's nickname 19 Cast off 20 "Got it?" 23 Novelist Fleming 24 Caesar's subjects 28 Annoys 32 Takes care of 35 Second TV showing 36 "Relax, soldier!" 38 Winter Games sled 40 _ tai (cocktail) 41 "Got it?" 44 Spy's "covert" activities 45 Letter letters 46 Without delay 47 Pasture 49 Dull as dishwater 51 Fishing spot 52 Hippie's "Wow!" 54 Use the microwave on 56 "Got it?" 63 Initial stake 66 Get exactly right 67 Unusual trinket

GOT IT? by Billie Truitt Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

Word search grid with clues: 9 Low point 10 Modest answer to "Who's there?" 11 Hardwood tree 12 Flying formation 13 Throw in 21 Imaginary 22 Robin Hood's hangout 25 Gucci competitor 26 Subtle difference 27 Baseball great Duke 28 In trouble 29 Ideal place 30 Yellowstone spouter 31 _ Paulo 33 Tribal leader 34 Seek damages 37 Tame 39 Reach for rudely 42 Drop off 43 High point 48 Fly into a rage 50 Flowering shrub 53 Close to the hour 55 Chooses 57 Carry on 58 Dagger handle 59 Backless shoe 60 Emerald Isle 61 Aspirations 62 Quick letter 63 Alias introducer 64 Zero 65 Seesaw quorum

NFLPA asks for restraining order in bounty case

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The NFL Players Association has asked a federal judge for a temporary restraining order that would allow players suspended in connection with the NFL's bounty investigation to rejoin their teams in time to play regular season openers.

The union, which filed the motion Tuesday on behalf of New Orleans defensive end Will Smith, Cleveland linebacker Scott Fujita, and free agent defensive lineman Anthony Hargrove, argues the players will suffer irreparable harm if they are forced to miss games while their case against the league proceeds.

Suspended Saints linebacker Jonathan Vilma had already filed a similar motion when his full-season suspension began earlier. The other three players' suspensions began this week.

The players ultimately want their suspensions thrown out because they argue the

disciplinary process was fundamentally flawed and unfair.

U.S. District Judge Ginger Berrigan, who is hearing the case, has said she found the league's handling of the bounty matter to be unfair to the players and their punishments excessive, but she has also said she is not yet comfortable that federal courts have jurisdiction to rule on a process that was collectively bargained between the union and the league.

She has already indicated, in response to Vilma's earlier request for a temporary restraining order, that she was inclined to wait until players had exhausted their remedies under the league's collective bargaining agreement before she ruled.

The union had argued that because actions alleged in the bounty matter happened on the field, the league's labor agreement calls for someone other than the commissioner to hear players' appeals.

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 8

we're in a good place as far as where we want to be coming into the game."

The Giants are confident, and they don't care what outsiders are saying about them.

"We've already showed people who we are," safety Antrel Rolle said. "We can care less about that. We leave that up to spectators. We're just going out there and playing ball. And that is what it is all about. We can care less about what kind of recognition we are getting or who is crowning us and who is not crowning us. None of that matters coming into the 2012 season."

Jerry Jones' Cowboys face a much different task after an 8-8 campaign that ended with an embarrassing 31-14 loss to the Giants on New Year's Day.

The outspoken owner, who boasted to fans that his team would kick the Giants' posteriors in Dallas when the clubs meet a second time this season on Oct. 28, knows the window for the aging Cowboys to return to the franchise's glory years is fading fast.

"It's a great opportunity for us is how I look at it," Jones said of the season opener. "So very meaningful. Everybody has all the appreciation in the world for what we're up against here, the quality of the team, so to have success up there would be very meaningful."

"As in any game in the NFL, it's certainly not how you ultimately will wind up one way or the other, but it is a big game in front of really the entire world of sports, high visible game against the world champions."

Romo will again be under the

spotlight. He has yet to lead the 'Boys to a title, and many wonder whether he will after a late-season meltdown in which Dallas lost four of its final five games, including two to the Giants.

"I think they always stick with you," Romo said of the last game. "That's what fuels you in the offseason and makes you ... you want to remember those moments so you can improve from them. As a football team, we've taken an approach that we need to get better. I think we've done that with the personnel and our approach and the way the guys have been committed. It's been great to see. Now it's time to take it to the field."

There are a couple of key matchups to watch.

Manning and receivers Victor Cruz and Hakeem Nicks combined for 14 receptions for 237 yards in New York's 37-34 win in Dallas on Dec. 11, and they had 11 more catches for 254 yards and two touchdowns in the division-deciding game.

In the offseason, the Cowboys signed former Chiefs cornerback Brandon Carr as a free agent and moved up eight spots in the first round of the draft to take another cornerback, Morris Claiborne of LSU.

The key to the Giants' success in the postseason was the ability of the defensive line to pressure quarterbacks. The assault will again be led by All Pro Jason Pierre-Paul, Tuck and fellow two-time Pro Bowler Osi Umenyiora.

Dallas has revamped its offensive line, signing veteran guards Mackenzy Bernadeau and Nate Livings, and having tackles Tyron Smith and Doug Free switch sides. Center Phil Costa returns in the middle.

Both running games should improve this season. The Cowboys'

DeMarco Murray is healthy after hurting his ankle in the first Giants' game. New York, which finished last in the league in rushing, should be better with speedy first-round draft pick David Wilson backing up Ahmad Bradshaw.

The Giants have some weaknesses the Cowboys can exploit.

Michael Coe is the surprise starter for New York at cornerback after injuries ended Terrell Thomas' season and have Prince Amukamara out the opener. Rookie Jayron Hosley, the third-round draft pick, is battling a pain issue with turf toe.

The other area of concern for the Giants is tight end. Jake Ballard and Travis Beckum both sustained major knee injuries in the Super Bowl. Ballard is no longer with the team, and Beckum will start the season on the physically-unable-to-perform list.

Former Cowboy Martellus Bennett, who signed with the Giants as a free agent, will be Manning's main target at tight end.

"I'm excited about the opportunity for this game, playing at home as the defending Super Bowl champs," veteran offensive tackle David Diehl said. "This is a huge game. This is a game the minute that schedule came out we had circled as a team, but also we know the minute that we beat them in the division to take over last season, this was a game they had circled right from the get-go."

Diehl believes this will be a heavyweight fight in which both teams won't be thinking about last year.

"When you play in the NFL, this is a short-memory league," he said. "People do think about that, but what people are talking about now is: 'Who is going to win it this year?'"

ROOKIE

Continued from Page 8

the losses in the Super Bowl.

Tannehill joins a team with question marks at

receiver, in the offensive line and in the secondary. The Dolphins haven't won a playoff game since 2000.

"I was very fortunate when I first came into the league to have some

great talent around me," Marino said. "As a rookie it really helped. Ryan Tannehill is going to have to grow with the people around him and learn as much as he can on the run. ... I would just tell him to go out there and turn it loose."

Marino offered one other suggestion, drawing from his own experi-

ence in his first start.

"The first two series, I threw two picks," Marino said. "You've got to have a short memory."

Actually, that's not quite accurate — Marino didn't throw interceptions on back-to-back series. When it came to turnovers, he always had the hazy memory of an All-Pro passer.

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Young quarterbacks taking over most important position

CINCINNATI (AP) — Youth and inexperience have taken over the most important position in the NFL.

Ten starting quarterbacks this season have been in the league one year or less, with five teams letting rookies run the show. It's an unprecedented move in the NFL, where experience is a favored trait for those who handle the ball most.

No more. "One of the most as-

tounding statistics that I've seen in football in the last 25 years is the amount of young quarterbacks that are now playing early, but playing well," said Jon Gruden, a former coach and current television analyst.

Never have so many teams taken chances with so little experience at quarterback.

The starting 10 quarterbacks with one year or less in the NFL is the most since 1950, ac-

ording to STATS LLC. That's the year that the league absorbed three teams from the All-America Football Conference, including the Cleveland Browns with Otto Graham.

This year's group of up-and-comers includes rookies Robert Griffin III in Washington, Andrew Luck in Indianapolis, Ryan Tannehill in Miami, Brandon Weeden in Cleveland and Russell Wilson in Seattle. They join second-year

starters Andy Dalton in Cincinnati, Blaine Gabbert in Jacksonville, Jake Locker in Tennessee, Cam Newton in Carolina and Christian Ponder in Minnesota.

The previous high mark was eight in 2000, a young quarterback group that included Donovan McNabb, Jeff Garcia, Daunte Culpepper, Cade McNown, Shaun King, Tim Couch, Ryan Leaf and Akili Smith.

Before that, there

were no more than six such QBs starting their teams' season openers, a measure of how much things have changed. Instead of drafting a quarterback and letting him sit and watch for a season, teams are throwing them right in there.

"They're committing to them, they're going right off the bat," Rams coach Jeff Fisher said. There's nothing more valuable, as far as a young player's con-

cerned, than playing experience. There's that old saying that the difference between an average player and a good player is about 1,000 to 2,000 snaps, so how do you get it?"

By playing them. Right away.

Seahawks coach Pete Carroll learned at Southern California that sometimes it's better to play a talented younger player than sitting them.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 8

some mistakes and left some pitches up. The home run was right down the middle. I was trying to go in with a two-seamer and it cut back in the middle of the plate. The double, he stayed back on it and drove it to the gap."

Harrison (15-9) fell to 10-5 away from home, tied with Tampa Bay ace David Price for the most road victories in the American League. The left-hander allowed five runs, three earned, and eight hits.

Jeremy Guthrie gave up five hits to the first 10 batters he faced, but nothing after Kinsler's double in the third. Guthrie (3-3) limited the Rangers to two runs over seven innings to pick up the victory.

Johnny Giavotella connected against Oswald for his first home run since Sept. 3, 2011.

After Hamilton and Adrian Beltre started the ninth with singles off Kelvin Herrera, Greg Holland came on to earn his 11th save in 13 opportunities. Hamilton scored on Michael Young's sacrifice fly.

Guthrie surrendered a home run to Elvis Andrus in the first inning. Mitch Moreland's double in the second scored Geovany Soto.

"The first inning we had the homer then the double by Moreland and the baserunning mistake," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "After Kinsler got picked off at third base, we didn't do much else after that. One play didn't change this game. We just didn't score any runs. We had Hamilton up there with less than two outs. I figured we were going to get that run in."



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