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Haunted Heritage

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Heritage Museum Curator Tammy Schreengost adjusts one of the displays of the museum's Halloween exhibit. The event, which features vintage holiday costumes, runs through Oct. 31.

Museum hosts Halloween exhibit

By AMANDA DUFORAT
 Special to the Herald
 Heritage Museum is getting in the Halloween spirit. The Vintage Halloween Costume exhibit is open through Halloween and features costumes and masks from the 1950s through the 1970s. "Here at the museum, we are about reminiscing and we figured this was a great opportunity for parents to remember Halloween from when they were kids, while giving the children

an opportunity to see what their parents wore for Halloween at their age," Museum Curator Tammy Schreengost said. According to Schreengost, the exhibit has been in the works for the past year. Some costumes were donated last year to the museum, which sparked the idea in her mind. After researching and finding more costumes to display, the exhibit was constructed and features 15 costumes and masks. "In a way, things have changed in the past 30 or 40 years, but at

the same time they haven't really changed all that much," Schreengost said. "This exhibit is just a fun way to make some good memories with the family and bring the fun back into Halloween instead of the scare factor, which has kind of overshadowed the holiday in recent years." As a closing to the exhibit, the museum will host a Trunk or Treat on Halloween from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. To find out more information, contact the museum at 432-267-8255.

CRMWD: Rains give a boost to lake levels

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

Recent rains throughout the Crossroads area haven't just lent a green hue to lawns and trees, as officials with the Colorado River Municipal Water District say the rainfall has helped to replenish levels at its ailing reservoirs. Some areas in the Big Spring area and throughout the Permian Basin enjoyed rainfall totaling nearly 7 inches, bringing the lake level at O.H. Ivie Reservoir — located in Concho, Coleman and Runnels Counties — to 25.6 percent full, with 141,800 acre-feet of water in storage. According to CRMWD Manager John Grant, the much-needed rain brings the reservoir back to its estimated level in June 2011.



Grant

"The inflow received to the reservoirs has provide some much-needed relief for water supplies for the region," Grant said. "However, it's important to remind our customer cities and their residents, who are served by the district, the drought is not over. It is still very important to continue to be vigilant of their water use." According to Grant, the district will be evaluating the current inflow over the next few weeks and the operation of its raw water transmission system, to see if the limits the water district has set on water deliveries to its customers can be modified. "We need to inspect and repair some of the temporary facilities constructed in the lake basins to pump water back to the main pump stations and some of our major water transmission facilities," Grant said. "This includes the pipeline and pump stations on the Spence System, which have not been operated since August 2011. The District wants to make sure all of its facilities are operation before making any adjustments to water supply deliveries." According to CRMWD figures released Tuesday, O.H. Ivie Reservoir received more than 77,000 acre-feet of inflow, while the E.V. Spence Reservoir located in Coke County received more than 20,000 acre-feet of inflow. The district also reports water is still flowing into its three main reservoirs, which include Lake J.B. Thomas, Spence and Ivie Reservoirs, with waters expected to continue flowing for the

See CRMWD, Page 3

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Symphony strikes up season Saturday

By BILL McCLELLAN
 Managing Editor
 The symphony is coming! The symphony is coming! The Big Spring Symphony 2012-2013 season kicks off this weekend, but not before the kickoff is kicked off with a fundraiser and get-together Thursday. The fundraiser, slated for Big Spring Country Club, is open to the public and will feature "heavy" snacks and a

performance by the musical group Rhapsody. Rhapsody is made up of Big Spring High School students. Anna Gann, choral director at the high school, will also sing two solos. The event will be from 7 to 9 p.m. and will cost \$25 per person. Two nights later, Saturday, the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra will open the new season at 8 p.m. in the Municipal

Auditorium with "An Evening in Vienna," featuring the music of Strauss. Guest Conductor John Giordano of Corpus Christi will conduct. Soprano soloist Ava Pine will perform. Tickets for the symphony's 31st season are on sale at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Heritage Museum and Blum's Jewelers. They will also be available at Thursday's fundraiser and at

the auditorium door Saturday night. Other dates for the orchestra season are Dec 15, when the orchestra will present a symphonic Christmas program; Feb. 2, when pianist Charles Webb will be the featured artist; and March 30, when the symphony will play the music of ABBA. Dr. Keith Graumann is director and conductor of the symphony orchestra.

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Obituaries

Hershel E Fowler



Hershel E Fowler, 94, of Marble Falls, Texas, died Sept. 30, 2012, in his home following a long illness. Interment service will be 11 a.m. Friday Oct. 5, 2012, at the Texas State Veteran's Cemetery in Killeen, Texas.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Ernestine Fowler. They were married in Odessa, Texas.

They had one child, Johnny Ted (JT) Fowler of Austin, Texas. He

also has a daughter who lives in Aylesbery England. He is survived by one brother, Ted Fowler of Coahoma Texas, four grandchildren; five great-grand children; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Jessie Fowler; father, Rufus Fowler; a sister, Tuma Fowler; and two brothers, Wallace and Rufus.

Hershel was born in Townly, Ala., and moved in his childhood to Texas. He worked on the the Powell Ranch in Coahoma. Hershel also served in the Army Air Corps in the European theater processing photographs.

After he returned from the war in 1945, he returned to Coahoma and began working in the oil field as a driller. He retired from the oil field after working with Mobile Oil for more than 30 years.

Services are entrusted to Edgar Funeral Home of Marble Falls, Texas.

Joe Munoz

Joe Munoz, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2012, at his residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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.

• Circle of Hope, a Celebrate Recovery group, meets from 6:30-8 p.m. at Spring Creek Fellowship, located in the College Park Shopping Center. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery program dealing with life's hang-ups, hurts and habits, covering many areas. Circle of Hope group is a ministry of Spring Creek Fellowship, For further information, contact Dale at 432-270-8462.

• 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.

• Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-centered recovery program, is held at Cornerstone Covenant Church, 706 E. 12th St. at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call at 264-0015 or visit www.cccbigspring.org

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

SATURDAY

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

Evelyn Flynt Alsup



Evelyn Flynt Alsup, 87, of Big Spring died Sunday, Sept. 30, 2012, at her residence. Graveside funeral services will be held at 2 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 4, 2012, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with Rick Cunningham officiating.

She was born Jan. 2, 1925, in Dawson, Texas, and married Clyde Alsup Aug. 27, 1974, in Carlsbad, N.M. He preceded her in death

Aug. 8, 1999.

Evelyn graduated from Big Spring High School in 1943. She worked as a substance abuse counselor at Big Spring State Hospital, retiring in 1987. She loved working in her yard and decorating her house.

She was a member of 14th and Main Church of Christ.

Survivors include a son, A. Brinton Jopson of Sarasota, Fla.; a sister, Jacquelyn "Jackie" Conway of Stanton; a granddaughter, Avalon Jopson of Sarasota, Fla.; and numerous nieces and nephews, including Valynia Kirby of Stanton.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, Chester and Gladney Flynt; and three brothers, Darrell Flynt, Darwin Flynt and Ben Galyn Flynt.

The family suggests memorials be made to Compass Hospice, 602 S. Main St., Big Spring, Texas 79720.

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

Paid obituary

Take Note

• Spring of Siloam Christian Women's Job Corps, located at 1208 Frazier St., will host an inside/yard sale and open house Saturday from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Funds raised will benefit the United Way 2013 campaign.

• An account has been set up at Western Bank for Kristen Lasater and family, who lost their home to a house fire Monday afternoon. The account number, for those wanting to make a donation, is 1004597.

• Jo Anna Bailey, an aide for many years at Washington Elementary School, has been diagnosed with cancer. A medical donation account has been established for her at the Big Spring Education Credit Union, located at 1110 Benton. Your generosity will enable her to have much-needed tests and treatment.

• Big Spring High School cheerleaders will hold the third annual "Pink" pep rally in honor of breast cancer awareness month on Friday, Oct. 12 at 10:30 a.m. in the Steer Gym. They invite all breast cancer survivors, or those still battling this disease, to the pep rally. There will be a special section for them to sit in. All proceeds will be sent to the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

• Big Spring Health Department will be administering flu shots from 1:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Oct. 9-10 at 501 Birdwell Lane, Suite 28-B. Five dollar donations are welcomed, however, no one will be turned away for inability to play. Medicare patients, Medicare pays for flu shots and their administration so remember to bring your card. For information, call 432-263-9775.

• To honor the ideas of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Mary's the Virgin Episcopal Church parishioners are sponsoring a dog and cat food drive for the Howard County Humane Society through Friday. Donations can be taken to the Humane Society located at West I H-20 off the service road, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., or dropped off by the *Big Spring Herald*, 710 Scurry St. At 10:30 a.m. Friday, the Rev. Barbara Kirk-Norris, rector of St. Mary's, will hold a community-wide Blessing of the Animal service at the Humane Society shelter. The community is encouraged to bring their pets or stuffed animals, tour the shelter and consider bringing home a furry friend during this pet adoption drive event. Sunday, the church will hold a second community-wide Blessing of the Animals at 3 p.m. in the Parish's Bennett Garden, 1001 S. Goliad. Food donations for the Humane Society will be taken at this time.

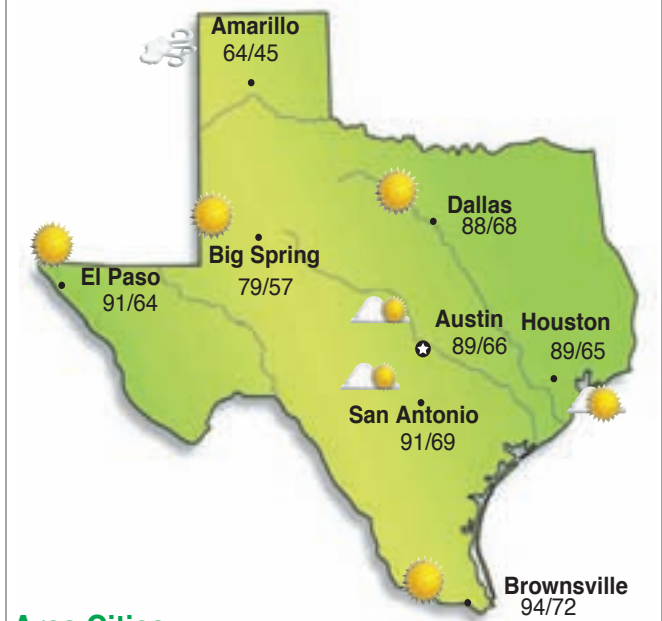
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Fri 10/5	Sat 10/6	Sun 10/7	Mon 10/8	Tue 10/9
79/57 Sunshine. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the upper 50s.	85/49 More sun than clouds. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the upper 40s.	53/45 More clouds than sun. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the mid 40s.	60/46 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 40s.	73/54 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 50s.
Sunrise: 7:42 AM Sunset: 7:26 PM	Sunrise: 7:43 AM Sunset: 7:25 PM	Sunrise: 7:44 AM Sunset: 7:24 PM	Sunrise: 7:44 AM Sunset: 7:22 PM	Sunrise: 7:45 AM Sunset: 7:21 PM



Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abiene	81	60	sunny	Kingsville	95	70	sunny
Amarillo	64	45	windy	Livingston	89	60	mst sunny
Austin	89	66	pt sunny	Longview	85	64	sunny
Beaumont	88	64	sunny	Lubbock	72	49	windy
Brownsville	94	72	sunny	Lufkin	89	63	sunny
Brownwood	89	64	sunny	Midland	82	60	sunny
Corpus Christi	91	73	sunny	Raymondville	97	69	sunny
Corsicana	87	66	sunny	Rosenberg	90	64	mst sunny
Dallas	88	68	sunny	San Antonio	91	69	pt sunny
Del Rio	94	69	sunny	San Marcos	90	66	pt sunny
El Paso	91	64	sunny	Sulphur Springs	87	66	sunny
Fort Stockton	90	59	sunny	Sweetwater	80	58	sunny
Gainesville	85	65	mst sunny	Tyler	86	65	sunny
Greenville	86	64	sunny	Weatherford	85	65	mst sunny
Houston	89	65	mst sunny	Wichita Falls	79	60	mst sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	83	56	mst sunny	Minneapolis	52	36	cloudy
Boston	71	56	rain	New York	76	61	rain
Chicago	76	39	rain	Phoenix	94	69	pt sunny
Dallas	88	68	sunny	San Francisco	65	55	mst sunny
Denver	53	35	pt sunny	Seattle	65	43	sunny
Houston	89	65	mst sunny	St. Louis	83	50	mst sunny
Los Angeles	78	61	mst sunny	Washington, DC	81	60	cloudy
Miami	88	77	t-storm				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Fri 10/5	Sat 10/6	Sun 10/7	Mon 10/8	Tue 10/9
8	8	8	7	8
Very High	Very High	Very High	High	Very High

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

To submit a news item, call 263-7331, ext. 235

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LOOKING AT SOME LABS



HERALD photo/Amanda Duforat

Former Big Spring High School students take part in a tour of the new science labs at the high school recently. Tours were given of the construction as well as one of the new elementary schools.



Study: Race-neutral admissions can work

By JUSTIN POPE
AP Education Writer

As the Supreme Court revisits the use of race in college admissions next week, critics of affirmative action are hopeful the justices will roll back the practice. A new report out Wednesday offers a big reason for their optimism: evidence from at least some of the nine states that don't use affirmative action that leading public universities can bring meaningful diversity to their campuses through race-neutral means.

That conclusion is vigorously disputed by supporters of race-based affirmative action, including universities in states like California which cannot under state law factor race into admissions decisions. The new report, by the Richard Kahlenberg, a senior fellow at the Century Foundation and prominent advocate of class-based affirmative action, calls those states' race-neutral policies largely successful. The University of California and others call them a failure that's left their campuses inadequately representative of the states they serve.

Kahlenberg also acknowledges that highly selective universities like UCLA and the Universities of California-Berkeley and Michigan haven't recovered from drop-offs in minority

enrollments after voters in those states outlawed racial preferences.

But in most places, the report argues, a combination of measures — aggressive outreach, de-emphasizing of standardized tests, affirmative action based on class instead of race, and even getting rid of legacy preferences that mostly benefit whites — has allowed minority representation on their campuses to recover to previous levels.

Seven states have banned racial preferences in admissions outright — Washington, Michigan, Nebraska, Arizona, New Hampshire, California and Florida. In Texas and Georgia leading public universities use a race-neutral system, though the University of Texas has maintained some use of affirmative action. It's that policy at UT that's now before the court in a case brought by Abigail Fisher, a rejected white applicant. Arguments are next Wednesday.

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Joe Munoz, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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Dr. Keith Graumann, Music Director and Conductor

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Guest Conductor

Ava Pine
Grammy Nominated
Soprano Soloist

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Big Spring Municipal Auditorium



CRMWD

Continued from Page 1

next day or two.

Lake Thomas has received 1,160 acre-feet of inflow and rose 3.1 feet, according to CRMWD calculations, bringing it to 0.98 percent full with 1,970 acre-feet of water in storage. The reservoir last saw figures similar to these in April 2012.

E.V. Spence Reservoir has received 20,496 acre-feet of inflow and rose 21.4 feet, bringing it up to 4.15 percent of capacity with 21,470 acre-feet of water in storage. The last time the lake was at this level was November 2010, according to CRMWD figures.

O.H. Ivie Reservoir — which has become the lone reservoir supplying Big Spring and many of the CRMWD customer cities — received 77,070 acre-feet of inflow and rose 15.1 feet, with cur-

rent conditions are 25.6 percent full with 141,800 acre-feet of water in storage.

Moss Creek Lake also enjoyed a boon from the recent rains, receiving 733 acre-feet of inflow and rose 6.5 feet, bringing it to 58.5 percent of capacity with 2,014 acre-feet of water in storage.

As CRMWD continues to evaluate the impact the risen lake levels will have on water deliveries, more good news — in the form of rainfall — could be on the way. According to several online weather information providers, including Accuweather and

the National Weather Service, forecasters are calling for a chance of rain during the weekend.

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

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
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- By e-mail Managing Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

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

Amen

Whitt case leaves me cold

As a columnist, sometimes inspiration is immediate.

For the most part, it's fairly simple. You see an injustice — whether real, imaginary or humorous in some dark, twisted sense — and you know you have to write about it. And, the majority of the time, the sooner you put pen to paper — seriously, how many people write without a keyboard these days — the more vivid the story is portrayed.

In rare instances, however, things simply don't go as planned. Either the words won't flow like they normally do or the product — real or perceived — isn't what you feel like it should be.

In those times, a wise writer learns to take a step back, breath and let the cool waters of time smooth the edges of the angst like a stone in a river. Wow, that was pretty visual.

Such is the case with the guilty plea and sentencing of Edgar Dale Whitt, the 54-year-old Big Spring man who pleaded guilty to a single count of prohibited sexual conduct after law enforcement discovered he had fathered a child with his daughter.

Normally, in a case where a man had victimized his daughter in such a horrific way, her identity would be left out of the ensuing news stories. However, because the daughter — 26-year-old Tamara Ruth Whitt — was also arrested and faced charges as a result of the investigation, the line between victim and accomplice became quickly blurred.

And, of course, there's Tamara Whitt's three children, including a 7-year-old boy who reported to police Tamara and Edgar Whitt had restrained him — such a kind euphemism — using a straight jacket. The children, who also include a 5-year-old and a 2-year-old, remain in the custody of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services at the time of Edgar Whitt's plea; however, it's anyone's guess how long their respite will last.

While local and state news played out the obvious dark implications of Whitt's plea — I suppose the promise of incest wasn't quite enough to get Nancy Grace's attention this time — there's another story, one that hasn't been told. One that will likely never be told.

That story surrounds the video-taped confession of Ed-

gar Whitt, where he laid out for investigators what he had done, not just to his daughter, but to the three children living in the house. While I have yet to see this tape, I have been given first-hand accounts by those who have and it's enough to turn your stomach.

While Whitt would eventually cop to the single charge of prohibited sexual conduct — that's a fancy way of saying incest — it's important to note he was charged with two counts of abandoning/endangering a child — criminal negligence when he was arrested. However, days later he was charged with continuous sexual abuse of a child.

According to law enforcement officials, Whitt openly confessed to sexually abusing at least one of the children living in the home, not once, but multiple instances over a course of time. Citing an open investigation, the age of the child and the overall length of the abuse were not released; however, a confession was given.

That confession was strong enough to convince a Howard County grand jury to indict Whitt on four counts of indecency with a child and two counts of prohibited sexual conduct, all second-degree felonies. A second-degree felony is punishable by a sentence of two to 20 years in prison and the obligatory \$10,000 fine.

Here's some food for thought. Indecency with a child is what the courts call a 3G — or aggravated — offense, which means two things. First, if the sentence is handed down by a judge, he or she cannot give the defendant probation. Second, the defendant has to serve half his or her sentence before they are even eligible for parole.

Now, we fast-forward several months to Edgar Whitt's plea agreement.

Whitt pleaded guilty to a single count of prohibited sexual conduct, a second-degree felony, accepting a sentence of 10 years. In return, the district attorney's office agreed to drop the other charges — four counts of indecency with a child and a second count of prohibited sexual conduct — and dismiss the pending charges of endangering a child against his daughter, Tamara Whitt.

Because the charge he pleaded to is not a 3G offense, Edgar Whitt is only required to serve one-quarter of his sentence, which, once you figure in the six months he spent in the county detention center awaiting trial, looks like approximately two

years. That means, in all practicality, Whitt will be eligible for parole in two years.

Bear in mind, that doesn't mean it will be granted, and as a citizen of Texas, I personally hope they never let him out. Edgar Whitt is, without a doubt, a predator and a monster. However, fiscal strains on the state budget, prison overcrowding and the burdens his medical care will surely place on the department of corrections would seem to point in a different direction.

Having sat down and spoke at length with Assistant District Attorney Robin Orr regarding the plea agreement, I can tell you this: neither he nor anyone else in his office arrived at it without a great deal of thought and heart. And, as Orr will quickly point out, a bird in the hand is still worth two in the bush.

And he's right. I've seen juries do some absolutely crazy things. Had Whitt gone to trial, there is a very real chance he could have walked out of the courtroom a free man, no conviction, no requirement to register as a sex offender. It was, without a doubt, a judgment call.

However, more than a week since the plea has passed and I can't help but think the agreement was wrong.

I think about Whitt, sitting in his jail cell — and I know it probably makes me a bad person, but I hope he's anything but comfortable — marking off two years worth of days on his calendar until he can put on his best smile and tell the parole board how he's given his life to the Lord and changed his heart.

I think about those three children — at last check, two were together in a foster home and the third was being cared for by a state facility — trying their best to live without looking over their shoulder, wondering if their abusive life is going to swallow them whole again.

No matter how hard I try, I can't seem to get those thoughts out of my head. Would things have turned out better — and by better, I mean 25-to-life, never-breathing-free-air-again better — if the case had gone to a jury? I don't know. No one knows. However, I can't stop wishing someone had tried.

Maybe that's just me being naïve. I'm a single father raising a daughter who will soon be 13 years old, so, if you don't mind, cut me a bit of slack.

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

Not 'Total Recall' for Schwarzenegger

Arnold Schwarzenegger comes across a lot better in his memoirs, "Total Recall: My Unbelievably True Life Story," than he did during a "60 Minutes" TV interview broadcast Sunday night.

His book chronicles all the amazing things he has done. The "60 Minutes" interview shone a light on what the bodybuilder-turned-actor-turned-politician should not have done. On camera, Schwarzenegger does not seem to regret how thoroughly he betrayed wife Maria Shriver.

There's a lesson for everyone in the book on how to get ahead. Growing up in an austere Austria, he dreamed big. He wanted to be Mr. Universe. He wanted to become an American actor. He wanted to be rich. Check. Check. Check. And more.

"Selling was one of my favorite things," the former Mr. Olympia explains. And selling is everything for him.

It helped that Schwarzenegger

didn't know what he had to do to get there. "Don't tell me any more of this information," he said about a business deal. "I like to always wander in like a puppy. I walk into a problem and then figure out what the problem really is."

Sounds like Schwarzenegger's run for governor of California, doesn't it?

Schwarzenegger admits that he sponsored Proposition 49, a 2002 ballot measure that funded after-school programs, to raise his political profile in case he wanted to run for governor later. He peddled budgeting by initiative, a brand that sells with voters and then plagues Sacramento ever after.

Once in office, thanks to the 2003 California recall, the newly minted Governorator crowed, "I don't want to move boxes around; I want to blow them up."

The boxes didn't get blown up. He did.

To his credit, Schwarzenegger, a Republican, worked all-out to court state lawmakers from both parties. When his efforts failed, he went over their heads to the people, with ballot initiatives.

When voters rejected four such measures in 2005, Schwarzenegger

wrote, "I had only myself to blame." He had asked too much of the voters.

His outside image and big talk had overinflated the public's expectations. But Sacramento's entrenched public employee unions also had outplayed him, outspent him and won.

After that blow, how could a man not inured to losing win re-election? His new political guru, Steve Schmidt, advised, "Be humble."

Schwarzenegger replied, "I can play that role perfectly."

Well, not on "60 Minutes." Schwarzenegger's 2005 mea culpa to the voters worked because he seemed remorseful for overreaching. When Lesley Stahl asked Schwarzenegger on "60 Minutes" about his marital infidelities, including the out-of-wedlock child with the family's housekeeper, he seemed, well, proud. "I'm not perfect," he purred.

Viewers got a hard look at a cruel streak. Schwarzenegger and the housekeeper brought their innocent child to spend time at the family home with his unwitting wife and their four unknowing children. This betrayal will last a lifetime.

"Total Recall" reminds readers about what they always liked about

Ah-nold. He's charming. He's funny. He has pluck. He tells a good story as he passes on some of the best advice thrown his way in the course of his unbelievable true life. He says he takes responsibility for his mistakes and then confidently shrugs them off. Part of you wishes you could be like that, if but for one minute.

But Schwarzenegger does not mention his most craven act in office — his out-the-door commutation of a prison sentence for a crony's son, who had pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter. Schwarzenegger cut the sentence to seven years from 16.

At the time, Fred Santos, the father of victim Luis Dos Santos, 22, told me the departing governor knew it was "a bad move." That's why he did it "in a very sneaky way," he said.

I see why Schwarzenegger left that stain out of the book. He could hardly confess to it with mock remorse but a glint in his eye.

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



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Why not check this out, at the library?

The Friends of the Library book sale continues in the basement until Oct. 13, then all books will be packed away. You only have about 10 more days to find some bargains. It has been consolidated in the children's room in the library basement — there are some tables set up in the upstairs lobby, too.

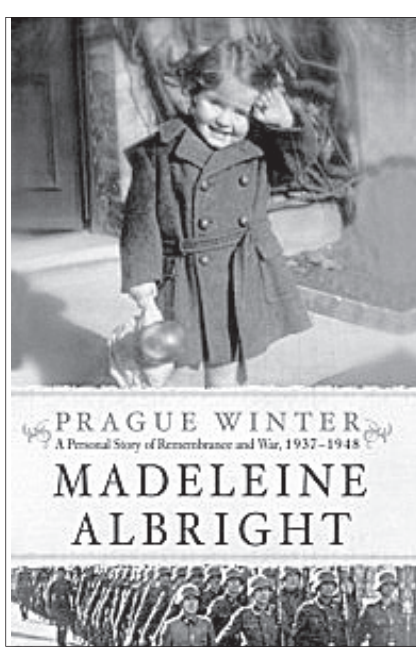
A new series from Deborah Harkness is in. We have the first two in her All Souls Trilogy for you to check out. The first volume is "A Discover of Witches" (F HAR D).

From a Publisher's Weekly review: "(In) Harkness' lively debut, witches, vampires and demons outnumber humans at Oxford's Bodleian Library, where witch and Yale historian Dana Bishop discovers an enchanted manuscript, attracting

the attention of a 1,500-year-old vampire, Matthew Clairmont.

"Harkness brings this world to vibrant life and makes the most of the growing popularity of gothic adventure with an ending that keeps the Old Lodge door wide open."

In Volume Two, "Shadow of Night" (F HAR D), "Harkness continues the adventures of the two and plunges Diana and Matthew into Elizabethan London, a world of spies, subterfuge and coterie of Matthew's old friends, who include Christopher Marlow and Sir Walter Raleigh. Here, Diana must find a witch to tutor her in magic, and Matthew is forced to confront a past he thought he had



put to rest long ago."

Here are some Books on CD available for checkout: Debbie Macomber's "The Inn at Rose Harbor" (AUCD F MAC D) is a story of love and renewal (as are all of her books). Jo Marie Rose is a young war widow who purchased a bed and breakfast in Cedar Cove as a way to start her life anew. But life will hold surprises in running the inn.

Madeleine Albright is a child of World War II. In "Prague Winter" (AUCD 943.712 ALB M), her life was shaken by the invasion of the Nazis in Czechoslovakia, her home country, before she turned 12. Albright's experience of life in Europe during

WW II, the Cold War and her family's experiences provide a lens to a time that is perhaps the most tumultuous modern history.

"A Blaze of Glory" (AUCD F SHA J) by Jeff Shaara tells the story of the Battle at Shiloh. It is the spring of 1862. The Confederate Army in the West teeters on the brink of collapse after the loss of Fort Donelson. General Albert Sidney Johnson abandoned the critical city of Nashville to rally his troops in defense of Memphis and the Charleston Railroad. Grant and Buell are hot on his trail, but Johnson plans an audacious attack on Grant's encampment at a small settlement in southwestern Tennessee anchored by a humble church named Shiloh. Joe and I have visited the battlefield and the most poignant site is Bloody Pond, where during the Battle of Shiloh, soldiers of both sides came here to drink and bathe their wounds. Both men and horses died in the pond, their blood staining the water a dark red.

Here is another English blockbuster from Philippa Gregory: "The Kingmaker's Daughter" (LP F GRE P). Richard

Neville, the powerful Earl of Warwick, without a son and heir, uses his daughters Anne and Isabel as pawns in his political games. Anne grows from a delightful child to a fearful, desperate woman when her father makes war on former friends. Married at 14 and soon widowed, Anne manages her escape by marrying Richard, Duke of Gloucester. But has she jumped from the frying pan into the fire? This is a fictional account of history, but is fascinating to read how Gregory turns it around.

"Grudges, Guts & Glory" (796.097 KRA L), by Les Krantz from Sporting News Books, is a compilation of stories of fights or games that turn into a hot-blooded grudge match. There are 50 stories, each with photos and sidebars that supplement each narrative.

The match-ups are ranked according to a poll of sportswriters, broadcasters and sport executives and if you are a bona fide fan, you

will have an opinion on some that may have been left out. I have read bits and pieces of it, and while it is heavy on basketball, I found some interesting match-ups — Tonya Harding/Nancy Kerrigan, Jesse Owen/1932 Olympics, USC/Notre Dame in 2005 and the Sugar Ray Leonard/Roberto Duran fight in 1980 when Duran cries out, "No mas! no mas!"

The library is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m., with the Internet room closing about 5:30 in the evening. Saturday hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with the Internet/video room closing at 1:30 p.m. The library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260.

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News in brief

For Obama, Romney, debate offers moment of high-risk theater mixing choreography, spontaneity

DENVER (AP) — President Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney come face to face for the first time in this presidential campaign Wednesday night for a nationally televised debate that will give millions of Americans a chance to size up two fierce competitors in a moment of high-risk theater.

Romney, trailing in polls in a number of key states and running short on time to reverse his fortunes, is angling for a breakout performance in the three 90-minute presidential debates scheduled over the next three weeks.

Obama, well aware that the remaining five weeks of the race still offer enough time for tectonic shifts in his prospects, is determined to avoid any campaign-altering mistakes as he presses his case for a second term.

A pre-debate skirmish Tuesday over Vice President Joe Biden's passing reference to "a middle class that has been buried the last four years" demonstrated how just a few words can mushroom into something larger during a heated contest for the White House.

Wednesday's 9 p.m. EDT faceoff between Obama and Romney on domestic policy at the University of Denver is sure to offer a blend of choreography and spontaneity: Both men have spent hours rehearsing smart lines and pithy comebacks with proxy opponents — yet know to expect the unexpected.

Suicide bombings near officers' club in northern Syrian city kill at least 27, official says

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Three suicide bombers detonated their explosives-packed cars near an officers' club in Syria's northern city of Aleppo on Wednesday, killing at least 27 people and causing massive destruction that trapped scores under the rubble, a government official said.

The three blasts went off at a main square in a government-controlled district of the city, while a fourth explosion detonated a few hundred meters (yards) away near the Chamber of Commerce, the official said.

Aleppo, Syria's commercial hub and largest city, has seen intensified fighting between regime forces and rebels trying to oust President Bashar Assad, especially after the fighters launched a new offensive last week. But it has not been the target of frequent suicide attacks, and Wednesday's stunning wave of explosions caused panic and fear among residents.

Syrian TV said the triple bombings targeted Saadallah al-Jabri square, describing them as the work of "terrorists," and said there were "multiple" casualties. Authorities refer to rebels fighting to topple Assad as terrorists and armed gangs.

The TV did not provide further details but another state-run channel, Ikhbariya, showed footage of massive damage around the square, which also houses a famous hotel. One building appeared leveled to the ground. The facade on other buildings

was heavily damaged.

As post-9/11 program grew, info on Americans, not terrorists was collected; price tag huge

WASHINGTON (AP) — A multibillion-dollar information-sharing program created in the aftermath of 9/11 has improperly collected information about innocent Americans and produced little valuable intelligence on terrorism, a Senate report concludes. It portrays an effort that ballooned far beyond anyone's ability to control.

What began as an attempt to put local, state and federal officials in the same room analyzing the same intelligence has instead cost huge amounts of money for data-mining software, flat screen televisions and, in Arizona, two fully equipped Chevrolet Tahoes that are used for commuting, investigators found.

The lengthy, bipartisan report is a scathing evaluation of what the Department of Homeland Security has held up as a crown jewel of its security efforts. The report underscores a reality of post-9/11 Washington: National security programs tend to grow, never shrink, even when their money and manpower far surpass the actual subject of terrorism. Much of this money went for ordinary local crime-fighting.

Disagreeing with the critical conclusions of the report, Homeland Security says it is outdated, inaccurate and too focused on information produced by the program, ignoring benefits to local governments from their involvement with federal intelligence officials.

Because of a convoluted grants process set up by Congress, Homeland Security officials don't know how much they have spent in their decade-long effort to set up so-called fusion centers in every state. Government estimates range from less than \$300 million to \$1.4 billion in federal money, plus much more invested by state and local governments. Federal funding is pegged at about 20 percent.

Border Patrol agent shot and killed on duty in southern Arizona; another agent wounded

NACO, Ariz. (AP) — Investigators were scouring a rugged area near the U.S.-Mexico line looking for evidence in the fatal shooting of a Border Patrol agent.

Nicholas Ivie and a colleague were on patrol in the desert near Naco, about 100 miles from Tucson, when gunfire broke out shortly before 2 a.m. Tuesday, according to the Border Patrol.

Ivie, 30, was killed. The other agent, whose name hasn't been released, was hospitalized after being shot in the ankle and buttocks.

It was the first fatal shooting of an agent since a deadly 2010 firefight with Mexican bandits that spawned congressional probes of a botched government gun-smuggling investigation.

At a news conference Tuesday afternoon in Naco, an FBI official said the agency was still processing the crime scene and that it might take several days

to complete. The FBI and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office declined to say whether investigators have recovered guns or bullet casings.

Coke, Samsung pull ads from Vietnam site, citing concerns over music downloads

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — Coca-Cola and Samsung have pulled their advertising from a popular Vietnamese website notorious for providing unlicensed downloads of Western and local songs, in a rare victory against online piracy in a country where it has grown unchecked.

The companies abandoned Zing.vn after The Associated Press alerted them to local and international concerns about the website, which is the sixth-most visited in the nation of 87 million people.

Zing's audience of young, tech-savvy web users has made it attractive to companies wanting to promote their products in a fast-growing Asian market where some 30 million people are online. It was unclear if the companies were ignorant of the content of the site or chose to ignore it.

Besides Coca-Cola Co. and South Korea's Samsung, other multinationals that have advertised on Zing include Canon, Yamaha, Intel and Colgate Palmolive. Zing said in a statement it couldn't comment.

The presence of international advertising added to the legitimacy of Zing, causing particular anger among Vietnamese artists who felt the site was profiting from their work without compensating them. After being contacted by The AP, Samsung and Coca-Cola said in separate statements they had withdrawn their ads.

Rare century-old \$5 bill issued in Fairbanks, Alaska, expected to bring up to \$300,000

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — The \$5 bill displayed for decades on Charles Fairbanks IV's wall was long a treasured family heirloom from Alaska. Now, to the surprise of the grandson of a turn-of-a-century vice president, it's also become a likely treasure trove.

The rare find is expected to fetch as much as \$300,000 at auction this month when a Texas auctioneer plans to put it up for bids in Dallas and online as part of the American Numismatic Association National Money Show.



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No word feel right to describe older partners

By LAURA IOFRE

Associated Press

There is no good way to refer to an older person's live-in companion. And by older, I mean older than 30.

This came to my attention in reading the obituary for the man who, after 18 years of living with my mother in a serious, committed, loving relationship, died at age 95. That's no boyfriend. She's no girlfriend. But neither was she his wife. She was re-

ferred to in the obituary as his "domestic partner."

"Domestic Partner" is, in some state and local governments, a legal designation that clarifies benefits to unmarried couples.

In general usage, though, "partner" might simply mean either they were gay or in business together, neither of which was true. "Partner" may be the least romantic way to describe your signifi-

cant other — except for "significant other."

"Boyfriend," meanwhile, sounds juvenile and flippant. "Companion" calls to mind a golden retriever, or a paid position. "Gentleman friend" is old-fashioned and unserious. Swain? Beau? Lover? Plus One? With divorce rates high, and people surviving spouses for decades, older Americans are commonly dating and cohabiting without any practical terminology.

"Of course we are in new territory on relationships — this is an ever-evolving reality, and the over-50, not-married couple needs their own moniker," says Felice Shapiro, founder of the website Betterafter50.com. "The one I really like is 'life partner.' It's hopeful."

Bob Levey, a *Washington Post* columnist who used to run a monthly contest to create new words, once asked for suggestions on this

topic. The winner: "geramour." Runners up included "main geeze" and "slowthario."

"There is simply no good term," says Julie Rosen, 46, who lives in Philadelphia with Ira Fingles, their 7-year-old daughter and her 18-year-old son from a previous relationship. "Significant other" is just too much of a mouthful, too p.c. serious," she says. Rosen generally uses the term "partner," but "it feels misleading or just incorrect given that (it) implies gay."

Fingles calls her his "faux wife." It started as a joke, but, as she says, "if there was another better word, 'faux wife' may have been a shorter-lived joke."

When will we get a workable term that is not a joke? Are all the terms uncomfortable because we are still uncomfortable with people living this way?

Wendy Kline, a history professor at the University of Cincinnati who looks at women's history and social movements, thinks so. The label issue "stems from the larger historical discomfort with crediting a woman with any sort of status outside of marriage," she says.

Without a useful and comfortable expression, introductions are awkward, explanations to family members embarrassing. Partners need terms to communicate their own expectations, as well as convey the nature of their relationship to the world.

Marriage "is a convenient social shorthand," says Nick King, 42, unmarried to Jennifer Fishman, his live-in partner, with whom he has a daughter. "If you strip away all the

religious and legal trappings of marriage, it continues to be a way to efficiently signal one's commitment and seriousness to others."

There is less tension surrounding the issue in Montreal, where Nick and Jennifer, both American, are university professors. They prefer the term "partner," but note that in Quebec, where such arrangements are common, "spouse" signifies the same thing. It is possible, in Montreal, anyway, to live together with your "spouse" and raise a family without a marriage contract or even comment.

In France, Valerie Trierweiler is not married to her partner, President Francois Hollande. She is widely reported to prefer the term "compagne" (companion), which is common usage in France. (In French, words have handy gender endings, so it's clear whether your "companion" is male or female.)

There is evidence that Americans are warming to the idea.

Back in the late 1970s, the U.S. Census Bureau coined the phrase "Persons of Opposite Sex Sharing Living Quarters," or POSSLQ (pronounced pah-sil-cue), perhaps the most unwieldy of all the terms. Census Bureau staff reported in 1999 that in the two decades since 1977, POSSLQ households increased from 1.5 percent to 4.8 percent of U.S. households.

Statistics vary since then, but the continuing trend is unmistakable. The Pew Research Center reported in 2010 that marriage rates are at a record low, with barely half of adults hitched, and that cohabitation is more prevalent.

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File photo
Texas Rangers' pitcher Matt Harrison took the loss as the Rangers dropped a 3-1 decision to Oakland Tuesday night.

Wild, wild West

A's victory sets up 1-game showdown for division title

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — After erasing what once appeared to be an insurmountable deficit, it has come down to this for the Oakland Athletics — one game against the Texas Rangers to decide the AL West title.

Travis Blackley allowed one run over six innings in a strong bounce-back performance that helped the A's move into a first-place tie with Texas by beating the Rangers 3-1 Tuesday night.

"As long as we believe inside this clubhouse and we know we can get it down, we're going to do it. I honestly believe we're going to win tomorrow," closer Grant Balfour said. "Nothing is guaranteed, but it's about as good as. I believe we can go out and get it done."

And who would doubt these ragtag A's after the remarkable run they have had to get to this point?

A night after holding a raucous celebration after clinching their first playoff berth since 2006, the A's erased the last piece of what had been a 13-game deficit in the division race on June 30 to take a share of first place for the first time since March 29.

Blackley (6-4) gave up three hits and struck out five a week after the Rangers knocked him out with a five-run first inning in the shortest start of his career. He allowed only an RBI double to Josh Hamilton in his longest outing since July 24, just the latest surprising performance in an improbable season for the low-budget A's.

"I just went out there like I had nothing to lose and it worked out," Blackley said.

Derek Norris gave Oakland the lead in the fifth with an RBI single that scored a second run when right fielder Nelson Cruz bobbled the ball in right field for an error. Jonny Gomes added a solo homer in the sixth and the bullpen did the rest in Oakland's fifth straight win.

Sean Doolittle and Ryan Cook each pitched a scoreless inning and Balfour worked a perfect ninth for his 24th save in 26 chances. Balfour has three saves and a win in the last four days.

The A's will try to cap the comeback Wednesday in game No. 162 when A.J. Griffin (7-1) takes the mound against Ryan Dempster (7-3). Only four teams have won a division or pennant after trailing by at least 13 games.

"No one said it was going to be easy," Texas manager Ron Washington said. "We started out to play 162 games and now — tomorrow — it's 162. And we'll see what happens. We take it no different than we have been approaching it. We just haven't put our game together yet. Tomorrow we have to put it together. If we don't put it together, we still go to the playoffs."

The loser will go the postseason as one of the two AL wild-card teams, needing to win a one-game playoff with Baltimore or the New

See **WEST**, Page 16

Cardinals final team to punch post-season ticket

By **R.B. FALLSTROM**

AP Sports Writer

ST. LOUIS — Rather than spraying champagne in every direction, the defending World Series champions talked about holding a subdued party if they squeezed into the postseason.

When it finally happened, the St. Louis Cardinals just couldn't help themselves.

First-year manager Mike Matheny, wearing a uniform that was soaked and aromatic from the bubbly that flowed, addressed the media outside the clubhouse around 1 a.m. local time after the Cardinals clinched the second NL wild card when Los Angeles lost to San Francisco.

The Dodgers' elimination set up a final hectic day to the regular season in which the AL West and AL East crowns are up for grabs, and Miguel Cabrera can become baseball's first Triple Crown winner since Carl Yastrzemski in 1967.

Just before Matheny emerged, raucous cheering could be heard.

"I think they realized how special this is," Matheny said.

"You can't take these for granted. We were talking about it being kind of subdued and it was, but they're still proud. And had every right to be."

Nobody seemed to mind too much that they backed in, earning a one-game playoff

Friday against the Braves in Atlanta.

"We were the last one in, but we have an opportunity to do something special," said pitcher Chris Carpenter, the loser in a 3-1 setback to the Cincinnati Reds Tuesday night.

"I think the way the ballclub's playing right now we have a chance to move on.

"Hopefully, we can come out and do the things we've been doing for the last two or three weeks."

While all 10 playoff spots in the majors are taken, the Cardinals-Braves game is the only pairing that's set.

For the second season in a row, a hectic scramble is shaping up with first place and home-field advantage at

stake.

Oakland, Texas, Baltimore and the New York Yankees can all take division titles. Each club is already assured a postseason slot.

In the East, the Yankees can win it at home if they beat Boston or if second-place Baltimore loses at Tampa Bay. If the Orioles overcome their one-game deficit Wednesday night, they'll host the Yankees in a tiebreaker Thursday.

"We have the chance to have the best record, and that's the bottom line and that's a good feeling that you can control that," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said.

Washington, Cincinnati and San Francisco won their NL divisions. Detroit has

wrapped up the AL Central, and Cabrera is in position to win the Triple Crown.

Cabrera has 44 home runs, one more than Texas' Josh Hamilton.

The Tigers star is hitting .331, seven points ahead of Angels rookie Mike Trout, and his 139 RBIs are 11 more than Hamilton's total.

Cabrera has deflected attention of his achievement to his team's success. There will be time to celebrate — in the meantime, there are still two divisions to be decided.

Shades of last year, sort of, when the Cardinals and Tampa Bay claimed wild-card spots on a thrilling final day, chasing the Braves and Boston from the postseason picture.

Bitter bye: Cowboys limping into off week with 2-2 record

IRVING, Texas (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys certainly picked a bad time for an awful game, one that will stick with them for an extended period.

This is going to be a long brutal stretch in a season that is already having an all-too-familiar feeling.

And that's not good. Dallas (2-2) goes into its bye week after Tony Romo's five interceptions in a 34-18 loss to Chicago.

Then comes a challenging stretch with four of five games on the road, including three current division leaders.

"When you have a game like last night you want to be playing right now, but that's not how it works in this league," coach Jason Garrett said Tuesday.

Even without a game this week, there won't be a lot of times to make a lot of corrections.

Cowboys players had their normal day off Tuesday, a day before their only practice of the week precedes their four-day break mandated by the collective bargaining agreement.

Their next game is Oct. 14 at Baltimore, and their only home game before the second half of November is Oct. 28 against the New York Giants.

The defending Super Bowl champions are 3-0 at Cowboys Stadium and will be looking to avenge a season-opening home loss to Dallas.

When the team landed in California for training camp in late July, one of the first things seven-time Pro Bowl tight end Jason Witten said was that 2012 "can't be the same old story."

But one-fourth through the regular season, things don't really seem to have changed for a team that has been distinctly average for so long.

The Cowboys were 8-8 last season.

See **DALLAS**, Page 16



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton
Big Spring's Carson Reibe passes the ball during Tuesday's match against Monahans. The 22-12 Lady Steers posted a victory over the Lady Loboes after taking three-out-of-five sets by scores of 22-25, 25-20, 24-26, 27-25 and 15-12, improving to 3-1 in district play. Volleyball action continues Friday at 5 p.m. as Big Spring hosts Snyder.

Pigskin Picks Football Contest

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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. _____ 	<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Phone Number: _____</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Tie Breaker - Circle the winner and note total points scored</p> <p>New York Giants vs. Cleveland</p> <p>Score: _____ + _____ = _____</p>
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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I'm writing on behalf of those of us in the "trapped" generation. We are the ones who grew up thinking Doris Day was the ideal woman. We were college-educated, but still expected to marry and have a family. Many of us limited our careers to part-time efforts.

Then came our husbands' midlife crises and no-fault divorces. For many of us who had "dumbed down" our careers to care for our husbands, we weren't able to make ends meet once the child support payments stopped. For some of us, we had sacrificed further education or job advances for our husbands' careers. According to the Social Security Administration, I never earned more than \$10,000 per year until I was 45 years old.

The divorce decree stated that I was to split the children's college costs equally with my ex, who was making three times my salary. I've run up a lot of personal debt

paying for my kids' education, and now, at age 60, I'm making what my husband made 30 years ago. I work hard, but can't seem to get ahead.

Women like me are tired of struggling financially and raising kids while their fathers find new trophy wives.

If your male readers are wondering where the faithful women are, we are sitting home, living with the remnants of the stresses from one-sided divorces. I continue to hope that real companionship is still a possibility. — *Thwarted*

Dear Thwarted: We are sure you speak for many women. But please don't give up. Your children are grown now. If you want to meet men (or anyone), devote some time to yourself. Look into activities and organizations that are free, low-cost or volunteer, and see if you can break out of the cycle you are in.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@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. © 2012 CREATORS.COM

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Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

Howard College will be holding a one (1) day silent, public auction. The auction will be held at the Howard College campus, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720. Bidders may pick up their bid forms from the parking lot located between the Horace Garrett and Don McKinney Center buildings. The public may bid on items between 8:00 AM and 11:00 AM on Friday, October 5, 2012. Bids shall be evaluated between 11:00 AM and 12:30 PM. Winning bidders shall pick up items between 12:30 PM and 3:00 PM. Any items unclaimed by winning bidders remaining at 3:00 PM on Friday, October 5, 2012 will not be sold and may be returned to Howard College surplus unless other arrangements have been made.

Items include: Vehicles, Commercial Washers & Dryers, Wooden Fence Panels, Miscellaneous Furniture and Equipment, Miscellaneous Classroom Equipment and Miscellaneous Electronic Equipment.

All items are sold "as is", no warranty or guarantees. Items should be inspected before bid upon. Howard College makes no warranty expressed or implied as to condition, suitability for any purpose, or serviceability of any item. The District assumes no liability to the user or purchaser of any items offered for sale. Individuals are not allowed to move or substitute components on any unit. No refunds will be given. There will be no reserves or minimum bids. All merchandise must be paid for and picked up no later than 3:00 PM on the day of the auction, Friday, October 5, 2012. Payment will be accepted in the form of cash, check, or money order.

All questions should be directed to Jason Mims, Director of Business Services, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, e-mail jmims@howardcollege.edu (432)264-5167.
#7527 October 1 & 3, 2012

Legals

Notice of Application for Commercial Oil & Gas Waste Disposal Well Permit

BLACK MOUNTAIN SWD LP, 500 MAIN STREET, SUITE 1000, FORT WORTH, TX 76102 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to dispose of produced salt water or other oil and gas waste by well injection into a porous formation not productive of oil or gas.

The applicant proposes to dispose of oil and gas waste into the Clearfork formation, Glasscock 477 SWD Lease, Well #1. The proposed disposal well is located 3 miles south of Forsan, in the Howard-Glasscock (Glorieta) field, in Glasscock County. The waste water will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 3400 to 4400 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792).
#7528 October 3, 2012

Legals

Notice of Application for Commercial Fluid Injection Well Permit

CORONADO MINERALS, LLC, 6860 N DALLAS PARKWAY STE 200 PLANO TX 75024 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil or gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the San Andres Formation, Strata SWD Lease, Well Number 1. The proposed injection well is located 13 miles north of Garden City in the Howard Glasscock Field, in Glasscock County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2050 to 2300 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792).
#7529 October 3, 2012

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As pets, runts can be the star of the litter

SUE MANNING

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — For puppies and kittens, size really does matter.

Shelters say smaller animals get adopted faster, and animal experts say the runt of a litter tends to be better protected by the mother. Pet owners-to-be tend to heap attention on them, since they're attracted to big heads on little bodies.

"Humans are drawn to animals or beings of any kind whose proportion of eyes to head is large," said Dr. Julie Meadows, a faculty veterinarian at the William R. Pritchard Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital at the University of California, Davis. "It's why we all coo when we look" at babies, whether they're human or animal.

For runts destined to become family pets, their size is their greatest risk before birth but also their greatest appeal after birth.

"It's the underdog, undercat thing," said Gayle Guthrie, founder-director of Stray Love Foundation in Magnolia Springs, Ala.

At Stray Love, smaller rescue dogs are adopted five times faster than the larger ones. Meadows said that could be a result of the growing popularity of so-called pocket puppies — teacup dogs bred to be small and stay small.

"Pet owners are looking for that really cute runt equivalent, almost like we are selecting for runted creatures because we like those little things that can ride around in our purses and strollers and never weigh more than 5 pounds," Meadows said.

A litter has only one true runt, but not every litter will have a runt. Litter-bearing mothers have Y-shaped uteruses. Those at the center of the Y get the least amount of food and have the greatest chance of being runts, while those closest to the mother's blood supply get the most nourishment and have the highest birth weights, Meadows said.

When runts are born, "they have to fight harder because they are small, weak, and others often pick on them or push them

away from their food source. All of these things tend to press on the mother in many of us to protect them," Guthrie said.

In most cases, if the runt of a litter makes it to six to eight weeks, it will probably survive and



likely grow close to full size, experts said.

Cheddar, the runted kitten of an abandoned litter that Kristin Ramsdell fostered for the Black and Orange Cat Foundation, now weighs more than 7 pounds. He weighed less than half a pound when he was found in June 2011 with the rest of his 8-week-old littermates.

At 8 weeks, a kitten should weigh between 1.5 and 2 pounds, Ramsdell said.

"I stayed up for three straight days with him, giving him fluids and antibiotics, warming him with IV bags heated in the microwave, using a humidifier and watching him round-the-clock. I didn't think he would make it," she said. Cheddar and one of his siblings, Colby, have been adopted by a Philadelphia family and are thriving, Ramsdell said.

That special attention required to bring some runts to health can create a special

bond. Cat owner Melissa Hadaway took the runt of a litter and its sister to her home in Winder, Ga. She recalled how six years ago, Annie, the runt, "was the littlest and bravest. She fought very hard to get her share."

Kathy Covey of the Cat Adoption Team in Sherwood, Ore., said a kitten runt weighed 11 ounces when he arrived in August at 6 weeks old.

"His eyes and ears were too big for his face, he had a kidney infection. He was on fluids, syringe feeding, pain meds and antibiotics. When you picked him up, you could feel each of his ribs. But he was a lover, snuggling in to you whenever you showed any affection and purring the whole time," she said.

Little Big Burger worked hard and gained a pound in two weeks, Covey said. He has to stay on antibiotics for his kidneys but his prognosis is improving.

"He's not giving up, so I'm not," she said.

Runts aren't welcomed everywhere, though. Wilbur, the classic runted pig in the children's book "Charlotte's Web," was saved from slaughter with the help of a spider, but animal agriculture and food producers in real life aren't as forgiving.

A pig farmer thinking about Easter hams will probably cull runts from his pens because they will never reach the body size needed for meat production, Meadows explained.

Meadows also noted that in the wild, only the strong survive. And runts likely won't win sporting awards, since they won't have the muscles or build needed for agility or show ring competition.

Even some animal welfare groups won't champion all runts to families. The Cat Adoption Team in Oregon wants to place as many kittens as possible, but it will draw the line with some runts, said operations manager Kristi Brooks.

"If there are a lot of rambunctious kids, we suggest that a bigger kitten might fare better," she said.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Venus and Neptune in opposition offers this insight: When it comes to pleasing others, sometimes it requires that you bend, and other times you have to stretch. You shouldn't have to do both, though. Pick one. Of course, it's always best when the other person is happy with you just the way you are.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Staying purposeful will be a challenge, but it's one you can conquer with a simple household item: a pen. When you take the time to write out a plan before you leave the house, you won't get bogged down with useless tasks.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You think differently than others now — or rather you don't think, and that's what's different. It would be easy to mentally obsess about an event and talk yourself out of it in the process, but you're too daring for that.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When you follow through with a commitment even though you had no idea how hard it would be, this is an experience. When you do know it will be hard, and you do it anyway, this is an act of love.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You undertake a big job that is also quite physical in its demands. It's as though you have a wagon that you'll load and unload. This work allows your mind to rest.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You are not interested in pleasing the one person who can appreciate how wonderfully talented you are. You want your work to be accessible to all — or at least to many — and you'll act accordingly.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's pretty easy to ignore a person who

doesn't bring anything memorable to the table. But you're too kindhearted to let that happen. You'll create a safe environment and draw someone out of his shell.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're always happiest when your relationships are in good standing, which is why you'll make an unnecessary gesture this afternoon. You'd rather err on the side of caution than risk hurting someone.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Just as it furthers the interests of humans to visit outer space, your interests will be furthered by embarking on a difficult and gargantuan task. In the days to come, you'll feel more and more up to the task.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Take advantage of the easy luck that befalls you today. Your guiding planet reverses tomorrow, and you'll

have to work a little harder for your good fortune.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). No one likes to have to repeat the same words over and over to someone who refuses to listen. You'll be inspired to take a different tactic with the stubborn and selectively deaf person in your life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The thing you do to cheer yourself up doesn't need to be reserved for gloomy occasions. You'll be in a decent mood as it is, so why not take it up a notch by treating yourself for no reason in particular?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's a difference in the dynamic between you and a loved one, and it's something you could get used to. Even when you grow, you don't grow apart. You find a way to connect along the way.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 3). People adapt to your style and celebrate your individuality this

year. New adventures on the career front await. You could even decide that you're better off working for yourself. You may be temporarily inconvenienced in order to make room for big improvements in January. March events feature the exotic and unusual. Cancer and Pisces people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 14, 39, 1 and 20.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a hurried mom, and I never have any time for myself. Do you have any tips for a Libra who seems to spend every waking minute either taking care of my real family or my work family? Sometimes I think my boss, a Cancer, is more of a baby than my baby!"

Just as financial advisers often suggest that you pay yourself first by setting some savings aside before you make other payments and investments, "you time" is something that will probably not happen

unless you put it first. The best way, and maybe the only way, is to wake up one or two hours earlier. Fitting in a workout, reading time, or just time to think, meditate or pray will likely only occur while the rest of your family is in bed. Libras find it relatively easy to be selfless, and as long as there are people around you, you'll wind up serving their needs in some way, making it nearly impossible for you to concentrate on your own needs.

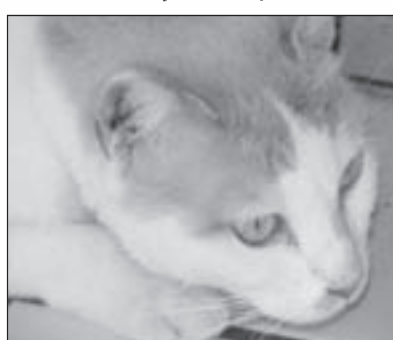
As for your Cancer boss, this sign's intuitive style requires them to lead with their feelings. The emotional approach may come across as immature, but it often comes with a stroke of brilliance.

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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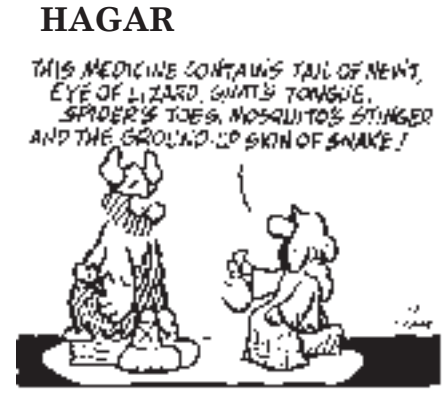
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (28) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (25) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM :30	News ABC	Casa Notic.	Two Men CBS	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News CBS	King King	Shepherd's Heart	Charlie Rose	King King	American Guns	CSI: Miami	Auction	The Mentalist	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Shake It Good	NFL32	SportsCenter
6:PM :30	Jeopardy!	Un Refugio	Big Bang	News Ent	Caso Carrado	News Millionaire	Seinfeld	Mani	PBS News-Hour	Rules Rules	American Guns	CSI: Miami	Auction	The Mentalist	ANT Farm Shake It	NFL Live	MLB Baseball: Teams TBA.	
7:PM :30	Middle Neighbors	Por Ella Soy Eva	The X Factor	Survivor: Philippines	Rosa Diamante (SS)	Practice Guys-	Fam. Guy Upd	Andrew Chevalme	Nature (DVS)	Oh Still	American Guns	Movie: Apollo 13, Kevin Bacon	Auction	Castle	Game	Jessie	MLB Baseball: Teams TBA.	
8:PM :30	Presidential Debate	Primer Debate Presidencial (SS)	Presidential Debate	Presidential Debate	Corazon Valiente	Presidential Debate	Fam. Guy	Light of the Southwest	Presidential Debate	Supernatural	American Guns	Auction	Castle	Movie: Meet the Browns, David Mann	My Babysitter's Vampire			
9:PM :30			How I Met		Escobar Rostro de		Big Bang			Seinfeld	Sons of Guns	Auction	Castle		ANT Farm Shake It		Baseball Tonight	
10:PM :30	News Nightline	Impacto	How I Met	News Letterman	Noticias Decisiones (SS)	News Jay Leno	Conan	McGee McDonald	Charlie Rose	Til Death	American Guns	Movie: Mission to Mars, Don Cheadle	Auction	Perception	Sleep! Game	Jessie	World/Poker	SportsCenter
11:PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	AI Diablo	Law Order: CI	Ferguson	Decisiones (SS)	Jimmy Fallon	Office	R. Shap	World	Til Death	Sons of Guns	Auction	Southland	Wendy Williams	Wizards	Baseball Tonight	SportsCenter	
12:AM :30	Extra Paid	Mar de Amor (SS)	Raymond Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	News	Conan	Light.	(Off Air)	Browns	American Guns	Movie: Crocodile Dundee, Mark Blum	Auction	Cold Case	Movie: Lockdown, Melissa De Sousa	Good	World/Poker	SportsCenter
1:AM :30	Paid	La Jaula	American	Ent	Pagado	(05) Today	Earl	Light of the Southwest		Cops	American Guns	Auction	The Great Escape		Random	World/Poker	SportsCenter	



DENNIS. I DON'T WANT YOU TO CHALLENGE YOUR GRAMPA TO ANY MORE RACES.



Seven-year-old Billy continues with his look at the family.



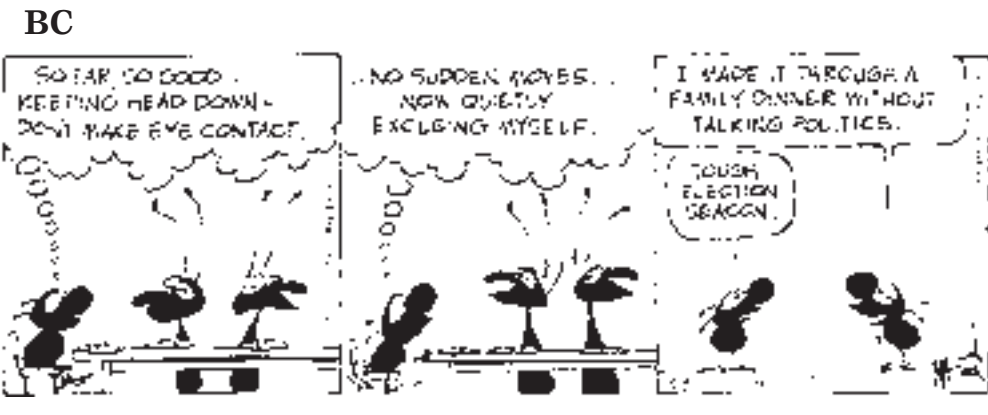
THIS MEDICINE CONTAINS TAIL OF NEWT, EYE OF LIZARD, SWARTY TONGUE, SPIDER'S TOES, MOSQUITO'S STINGER AND THE GROUND UP SKIN OF SNAKE!



IS IT SAFE OF COURSE?



UNLESS YOU'RE ALLERGIC TO ANY OF THOSE THINGS!



SO FAR SO GOOD. KEEPING HEAD DOWN - DON'T MAKE EYE CONTACT.

NO SUDEN MOVES. NOW QUIETLY EXCLUDING MYSELF.

I MADE IT THROUGH A FAMILY DINNER WITHOUT TALKING POLITICS.

TOUGH ELECTION SEASON.

WIZARD OF ID



HENRY JUST TURNED TEN YEARS OLD

ADAPTING TO THIS DICK ME'S 4 TEENAGER IN SEASON YEARS

I'S ALL MAKING SENSE NOW!

AGNES



AS THE NEXT POWER LIFTING CHAMPION OF THE WORLD, I WILL ASTOUND EVERYONE!

YOU ASTOUND ME EVERY DAY

I DON'T MEAN THAT WAY I MEAN BY LIFTING HUNDREDS OF POUNDS OVER MY HEAD WITH HARDY ANY GRATING OR WEIN DISTENTION

IT WILL ALSO BE A VALID REASON TO WEAR THESE COOL FINGERLESS GLOVES

BUY A FERRARI

HI AND LOIS



MOM CUTS UP MY STAGHORN: SO I CAN EAT IT

BUT SHE ALWAYS LEAVES A FEW PIECES I CAN PLAY WITH.

THE OTHER COAST



THE BEAR GOT HIM FIRST, BUT AS HE'S ALREADY PAID FOR THE TOUR, HE MUST FIGURE OUT WHAT THE HEN

SNUFFY SMITH



TA-DA !! WHATTAYA THINK, PAW COULD THAT STOVE LOOK ENNY BETTER ?!

YES !!

IT COULD HAVE SUPPER A-COOKIN' ON IT !!

BEEETLE BAILEY



GENERAL HAL FRACK HAD A TOOTH PULLED THIS MORNING

OH!

THAT EXPLAINS HIM WHISTLING AT ME

MRS. BUTLEY!

This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Oct. 3, the 277th day of 2012. There are 89 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 3, 1962, astronaut Wally Schirra became the fifth American to fly in space as he blasted off from Cape Canaveral aboard the Sigma 7 on a 9-hour flight.

On this date:

In 1789, President George Washington declared Nov. 26, 1789, a day of Thanksgiving to express gratitude for the creation of the United States of America.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November Thanksgiving Day.

In 1932, Iraq became independent of British administration.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Office of Economic Stabilization.

In 1951, the New York Giants captured the National League

pennant by a score of 5-4 as Bobby Thomson hit a three-run homer off the Brooklyn Dodgers' Ralph Branca in the "shot heard 'round the world."

In 1952, Britain conducted its first atomic test as it detonated a 25-kiloton device in the Monte Bello Islands off Australia. The situation comedy "Our Miss Brooks," formerly a radio show, premiered on CBS-TV with Eve Arden again in the title role.

In 1962, the British musical "Stop the World - I Want to Get Off" opened on Broadway with Anthony Newley and Anna Quayle reprising their West End roles.

In 1967, folk singer-songwriter Woody Guthrie died in New York at age 55.

In 1970, the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) was established under the Department of Commerce.

In 1992, Barack Obama married Michelle Robinson at the Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago.

In 1995, the jury in the O.J. Simpson murder trial found the former football star not guilty of the 1994 slayings of his former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and Ronald Goldman

(however, Simpson was later found liable in a civil trial).

In 2008, O.J. Simpson was found guilty of robbing two sports-memorabilia dealers at gunpoint in a Las Vegas hotel room. (Simpson was later sentenced to nine to 33 years in prison.)

Today's Birthdays: Basketball Hall of Famer Marques O. Haynes is 86. Composer Steve Reich is 76. Singer Alan O'Day is 72. Rock and roll star Chubby Checker is 71. Actor Alan Rachins is 70. Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., is 69. Magician Roy Horn is 68. Singer Lindsey Buckingham is 63. Jazz musician Ronnie Laws is 62. Blues singer Keb' Mo' is 61. Former astronaut Kathryn Sullivan is 61.

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Newsday Crossword

WHAT'S THAT SOUND? by Bruce R. Sijghin Edited by Stanley Newman www.slarxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 iPhone "personal ass start"
- 5 AOL and MSN
- 9 Bob who directed Cabaret
- 14 Baker's appliance
- 15 Tidy
- 16 Home products company
- 17 Lure on a line
- 18 Greek cheese
- 19 Silly
- 20 Symbol of impending marriage
- 23 Animosity
- 24 Lawn dampener
- 25 Wimbledon implemnet
- 32 24-hour period
- 35 Before you know it
- 36 "You saved me!"
- 37 Pub servings
- 39 lbs and ozs.
- 41 "What's the harm?"
- 42 Beach near Los Angeles
- 45 Turns bad
- 48 Small tail
- 49 Coffee bar order
- 52 Dangerous snake
- 53 Mental pictures
- 57 Employee's update
- 62 South Korean capital
- 63 Chips (off)
- 64 Muscle quality
- 65 Stood up
- 66 Steppingstone for a future JD
- 67 Where 62 Across is
- 68 Grassy clumps
- 69 Samsung rival
- 70 Quick gimpse
- DOWN
- 1 Clearheaded
- 2 One of Trump's exes
- 3 Friend in power
- 4 Not altered
- 5 Driving Comedy port on
- 6 Appear to be
- 7 Top of the head
- 8 Soons spectators' place
- 9 Much of a girl's home
- 10 Prefix meaning "all"
- 11 Graceful bird
- 12 Crooned
- 13 Hurricane center
- 21 Moves on
- 22 Time in office
- 26 Immediate y
- 27 Opening remarks
- 28 X-I like Greek letter
- 29 Casino game
- 30 Oscar role for Julia
- 31 Big bag
- 32 Title lon
- 33 Word of regret
- 34 Sharp cry
- 38 Title for Elton John
- 40 Call for help
- 43 Popular pouches
- 44 WWII ally
- 46 Leading water
- 47 A few of
- 50 Witch's work
- 51 Typing sound
- 54 17 Down cousin
- 55 Sesame Street regular
- 56 Surf-and-turf component
- 57 Jim's local place
- 58 Weather vane
- 59 Depose
- 60 Not too good
- 61 Heach across
- 62 Bided one's time



WEST

Continued from Page 9

York Yankees on Friday to advance to the division series.

"This isn't Game 7 of the World Series. It's not win or go home," Gomes said. "We're going to play loose. We're going to have fun and just continue to pass the torch. Hopefully tomorrow we get our pitching, defense and homers. That's been it for us."

The Rangers, who had held sole possession of the AL West lead since April 9, never expected to be in that position. But now they need one more victory to win their third straight division title.

They had been counting on Matt Harrison (18-11) to wrap up the title but now need to survive one more storm Wednesday to do it.

Harrison had been cruising along, retiring 10 straight batters before running into

trouble in the fifth. Josh Donaldson led off with a single and advanced to third on Brandon Moss' double.

Norris then lined a single to right field that scored Donaldson with the tying run. Third base coach Mike Gallego initially held up Moss, but Cruz bobbled the ball for an error that allowed Moss to score.

Oakland tacked on an insurance run when Gomes hit his 18th homer with two outs in the sixth to make it 3-1, delighting the crowd of 30,660.

"He got two pitches up where he probably didn't want them," Washington said. "The one to Donaldson and the other to Moss. They were able to put something together in that inning and put some runs on the board. He fell behind on Gomes and he had to come in with a fastball strike and Gomes didn't miss it. There's the score right there. We put just one run on the board tonight."

4-0 Texans prepare for struggling Jets

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Texans have answered all their skeptics so far with the first 4-0 start in franchise history.

Now the task is staying focused as the stakes get higher each week and they prepare for a nationally televised game against the Jets on Monday night.

Coach Gary Kubiak isn't worried about his Texans getting caught up in the hype.

"I just think they're very mature and I've told you all that," he said. "It's a good group of guys. They're really hard on each other."

Although Houston has become a popular pick to challenge for its first Super Bowl this season, Kubiak doesn't want anything to do with questions related to the big game this early.

On Monday when a reporter asked him what the most important quality a team needs to get to the Super Bowl, Kubiak laughed and said: "Don't get so far ahead of yourself."

Houston wrapped up the first quarter of the

season with a 38-14 win over AFC South rival Tennessee with the help of 14 points scored by the defense. It forced three turnovers by backup quarterback Matt Hasselbeck after Jake Locker was injured on a sack in the first quarter.

This season, the nine turnovers Houston has forced have led to 41 points.

"They're feeding off each other," Kubiak said. "They're playing very hard. The best thing we've done as a team is we've protected the ball and taken it away. Those two things together win games in this league."

Kubiak has been particularly impressed with his defense through the first four games. The Wade Phillips-led group is allowing the fewest points in the NFL with 14, and the 273 yards a game the group has yielded are the second fewest in the NFL.

"You score 14 points on defense, four sacks total, three turnovers, when you're doing that type of stuff, it's special," Kubiak said.

DALLAS

Continued from Page 9

After alternating wins and losses so far this season, they are 122-122 in regular-season games since the start of 1997 with only one playoff victory.

After Monday night's loss, Witten said it "has to be a wakeup call" with another up-and-down start.

"We have regroup, get healthy, evaluate it and stick together," Witten said. "There's no finger-pointing. We have great guys that are working hard. Ultimately, it comes down to results."

They were also 2-2 going into their bye last year after a home loss when two interceptions thrown by Romo were returned by Detroit for touchdowns, similar to what the Bears did.

The Lions wiped out a 24-point

deficit in the second half last year. Lance Briggs' 74-yard return in the third quarter Monday night, on a ball that was poked out of Romo's hands and could have easily been ruled a fumble, put Chicago up 24-7.

On its 11 possessions against the Bears, Dallas scored two touchdowns — one in the game's final minute with backup quarterback Kyle Orton — and a field goal.

There were the five picks after punting the first three times they had the ball.

Even with a season-low two penalties, correcting something that had been a big problem, there was no way to overcome five turnovers.

The Cowboys had only one takeaway, a fumble by Jay Cutler on DeMarcus Ware's fifth sack of the season. But Briggs' interception came on the very next play.

Jacksonville is the only NFL team that has played four games and scored fewer than the 65 points by Dallas. The Cowboys are averaging 364 total yards per game, 296 passing and only 68 rushing.


"What you have to do is keep banging away at it," Garrett said.

Even though Romo has completed two-thirds of his passes (101 of 151) and is on pace for a career-high 4,592 yards passing, he has five touchdowns with eight interceptions — only two fewer picks that he had in 522 attempts last season. He has been sacked eight times after being taken down a career-high 36 times last season.

Running back DeMarco Murray, who ran 20 times for 131 yards in the victory at the Giants, has 41 carries for 106 yards in the three games since with two 11-yard runs.

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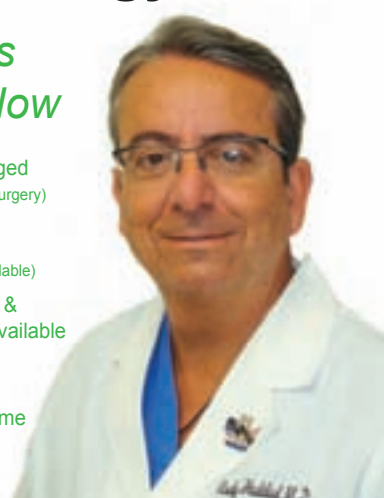
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