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BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY

OCTOBER 4, 2012



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VOLUME 107, NUMBER 300

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HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

These guys definitely do windows ... high, out-of-reach windows, that is. Window washers braved the morning winds Wednesday to clean the south side of the historic Settles Hotel, which is currently undergoing extensive renovations. The downtown landmark is expected to re-open its doors to the public sometime next month.

Bench trial set Friday for Guthrie

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

A former Big Spring radio personality is expected to plead guilty to a charge of online solicitation of a minor in 118th District Court Friday morning, during a bench trial scheduled before District Judge Timothy Yeats.



Guthrie

Kyle Wade Guthrie, 27, formerly of 408 Hillside Dr., was indicted in early June on a charge of online solicitation of a minor, a third-degree felony.

Guthrie was arrested Feb. 7. Several electronic devices were seized after an investigation indicated he had made contact with a minor in an sexually explicit manor through electronic communication, according to Sheriff Stan Parker.

"A search warrant was obtained and executed on Guthrie's residence by the Howard County Sheriff's Office and the Department of Homeland Security," Parker said following the arrest. "Several electronic devices — cell phones and computers — were seized. The case involves solicitation of a 16-year-old, female victim."

At the time of his arrest, Guthrie was employed by local radio station KBST as director of news and weather. His employment with KBST was terminated months ago.

Guthrie's bond was set at \$20,000 and he bonded out Feb. 10, according to detention center records. Family members have said he has since moved out of the Crossroads area.

According to court officials, no plea

See **TRIAL**, Page 3

SWCID provost post vacated

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

The provost position at SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf will remain vacant, at least for the near future.

Mary Karol Matchett, who was selected by Howard College trustees to replace SWCID Provost Dr. Mark Myers in August, has informed college officials that, because of requirements that must be met for lifetime benefits in her current position at the Rochester Institute of Technology's National Institute for the Deaf, she will not be able to re-

locate to Texas until May 2014 at the earliest.

With that news — and faced with decreases in state funding for SWCID — college officials have decided that the provost position will remain vacant for the time being.

Danny Campbell and Nancy Bonura, who have served as co-executive deans for SWCID since Myers' departure earlier this year, will continue in that capacity, and HC Director of Information Cindy Smith said the college will effectively play things by ear for the time being.

"With this information and in

light of current revenue budget estimates being down for SWCID as well as the uncertainty of the upcoming spring legislative session relative to funding for the next two years, the provost position will not be posted at this time," Smith said. "When more certainty concerning the budget and upcoming session can be determined, the leadership position for SWCID will be considered and posted."

Matchett was to become SWCID's fourth provost in its 31-year history, succeeding Myers, who held the top spot at the institute for four years.

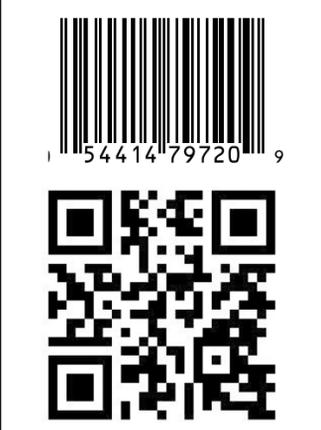
Weekend activities

- 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 at 10:30 a.m.
- Saturday**
- KoKo LoCo Arts and Crafts Ba-

- zaar will be held from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. at Kokopelli's, 4007 Chaparral Road.
- Old Sorehead Trade Days, downtown Stanton, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- "Reading and Spelling Pure and Simple," written by local author Deede Cauley, will be featured at the Heritage Museum during a book signing from 1 p.m. until 2:30 p.m.

- Big Spring Symphony will present "An Evening in Vienna," at 8 p.m. in the Memorial Auditorium, featuring the music of Strauss. Guest Conductor John Giordano of Corpus Christi will conduct. Soprano soloist Ava Pine will perform.
- Sunday**
- KoKo LoCo Arts and Crafts Bazaar will be held from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. at Kokopelli's, 4007 Chaparral Road.

- St. Lawrence Fall Festival at St. Lawrence Parish Hall and parish grounds near Garden City. All-day activities, barbecue lunch from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.
- Old Sorehead Trade Days, downtown Stanton, from noon to 5 p.m.
- A second community-wide Blessing of the Animals will be held at 3 p.m. in St. Mary's Parish Bennett Garden, 1001 S. Goliad.



Blessing of the Animals slated Friday, Sunday

Herald Staff Report

St. Mary the Virgin Episcopal Church will host two Blessing of the Animals services for the community this week in honor of St. Francis.

The first service begins at 10:30 a.m. Friday at the Howard County Humane Society, located on the West IH-20

service road past the airport. The ceremony will be led by the Rev. Barbara Kirk-Norris, rector of St. Mary's, and wraps up the parish's cat and dog food drive for the society. Donations of cat and dog food can be taken to the event or dropped off by 5 p.m. Friday at the Big Spring Herald office, 710 Scurry St.

Community members are encouraged to bring their pets, stuffed animals or pictures of their pets and also take time to tour the shelter and consider bringing home a family friend. Make sure all living animals are secured by a leash or carrier.

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 also be accepted at that time.

St. Francis, an Italian Catholic friar, was known for his works of charity and dedication to poverty and is also the patron saint of animals.



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Obituaries

Ellis Wayne Britton

Ellis Wayne Britton, 74, loving husband, father and grandfather, passed away at his home in Burnet, Texas, on Oct. 2, 2012.

Ellis was born Dec. 18, 1937, in Loraine, Texas, to Hoyt Britton and Rachel Price Britton. Ellis graduated from high school in Stanton, Texas. He married Janelle Jones in Stanton on June 28, 1958.

Ellis was preceded in death by his parents and his adored grandson, Jaison Dane Braulick.

Survivors include his wife, Janelle Britton, of Burnet, Texas; his son, James Hoyt Britton and wife Tracey, along with their children Dylan and Lauren of Aledo, Texas; his daughter, Juli Wehmeyer and husband Robert, along with their children Britton and Chandler of Austin, Texas; his sister, Judith Havins and husband William of Pleasanton, Texas; and several treasured nieces and nephews.

Ellis's life will be remembered for his amazing sense of humor, quick wit, elaborate storytelling abilities, passion for sports and most importantly, his unconditional love for his family.

A memorial service to honor Ellis will be held Thursday, Oct. 4, 2012, at 1:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, located at 301 E. Graves St., Burnet, Texas. Another service will be performed Friday, Oct. 5, 2012, at 3 p.m. at Evergreen Cemetery pavilion in Stanton, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, the family wishes for donations be made in Ellis' memory to the American Cancer Society, Friends of Hospice, 209 Fox Crossing, Burnet, Texas 78611; or First Methodist Church, 301 E. Graves St., Burnet, Texas 78611.

Arrangements are by Clements-Wilcox Funeral Home in Burnet, Texas.

Paid obituary

Joe 'Louis' Munoz

Joe "Louis" Munoz, 56, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2012, at his residence. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 4, 2012, at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Craig Wascom officiating. Burial will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Joe was born March 24, 1956, in Big Spring, Texas, to Ramona and Jimmy Munoz. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring. He had worked at Webb Air Force Base, Gibson's, Settles Hotel and Herman's Restaurant.

He is survived by two brothers, Esmael Munoz and wife Linda and Johnny Munoz, all of Big Spring; six sisters, Amelia Rodriguez and husband Rafael of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., Linda Galan and husband Frank, Cindy Lozano, Eva Foster and husband Daniel, Ramona Goff and husband Clifford and Rosita Martinez, all of Big Spring; and a number of nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother, Benjamin Munoz.

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

Jeremy Acuff

Jeremy Acuff, 36, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2012, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Arthur Dee Nanny

Arthur Dee Nanny, 53, of Big Spring died Thursday, Oct. 4, 2012, in Lubbock, Texas. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Police blotter

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

- OLIVIA ROSA RODRIGUEZ, 21, of 2609 Auburn, was arrested Tuesday on five warrants from other agencies.
- LYDIA MARIE HERNANDEZ, 18, of 1519 Wood, was arrested Tuesday on warrants for in park after dark (two counts).
- SERGIO DAVID ALVAREZ, 24, of 1002 N. Main St. Apt. 4, was arrested Tuesday on two warrants from other agencies.
- STEPHEN CORY WATERS, 30, of 2200 FM 820 in Coahoma, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction.
- ADAM ANTHONY STARR, 28, of 802 E. 14th St., was arrested Tuesday on warrants for resisting arrest, search or transportation and assault causing bodily injury.
- PATSY R. LUJAN, 54, of 621 Sgt. Paredez, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for failure to identify as a fugitive – giving false information.
- SKEETER JEWEL SMITH, 19, of 3405 E. Highway 350, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.
- NATHAN ROSS DEATHERAGE, 30, of 2512 Albrook, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant from another agency.
- ANGELA ANN MCGEE, 29, of 902 E. 12th St., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of failure to identify – giving false information.
- TREMAINE RASHAD FLOYD, 29, of 2301 Marshall, was arrested Wednesday on charges of public intoxication and theft of service – more than \$20 and less than \$500.
- LUIS ALEJANDRO RAMOS, 23, of 1606 Cardinal, was arrested Wednesday on charges of public intoxication and theft of service – more than \$20 and less than \$500.
- JUAN REYES JR., 53, of El Paso, Texas, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxica-

tion.

• VIRGINIA CASTILLO, 28, of 310 N.W. Third St., was arrested Wednesday on warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility and failure to use child safety seat.

• JESI ELAIN WILKEY, 26, of 1801 Settles, was arrested Wednesday on warrants for bail jumping – failure to appear (felony) and theft by check – more than \$20 and less than \$500.

• MICHAEL BRIAN BASS, 40, of 601 State, was arrested Wednesday on warrants for expired motor vehicle inspection certificate, expired registration, failure to maintain financial responsibility and failure to appear (three counts).

• JAMES R. QUICK IV, 28, of Morton, Mo., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

• REBECCA JESSICA DELL WILLIAMS, 26, of 1802 Hamilton, was arrested Thursday on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

• JOSHUA SEARCY, 25, of Dodson, La., was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.

• JAMES DUSTIN LEAR, 25, of Midland, Texas, was arrested Thursday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• THEFT was reported:
In the 3200 block of Cornell.
In the 400 block of S. Gregg Street.

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 100 block of Moore Road.

• ASSAULT was reported:
In the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.
In the 1900 block of N. Highway 87.
In the 100 block of N.W. Third Street.

• BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1400 block of E. Sixth Street.

Sheriff

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

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 77 inmates at the time of this report.

• LYDIA MARIE HERNANDEZ, 18, was booked into the county detention center Tuesday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for in park after hours (two counts).

• OLIVIA ROSA RODRIGUEZ, 21, was booked into the county detention center Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of issuance of a bad check, failure to appear, bondsman off bond – issuance of a bad check (two counts) and bail jumping – failure to appear.

• SHARON ANNETTE JAMES, 53, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for possession of a controlled substance.

• ADAM ANTHONY STARR, 28, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on judgment/sentences for resisting arrest, search or transportation and assault causing bodily injury.

• STEPHEN CORY WATERS, 30, was booked into the county detention center Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

• SKEETER SMITH, 19, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

• SERGIO DAVID ALVAREZ, 24, was booked into the county detention center Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of bail jumping – failure to appear and warrants from other agencies for theft and violation of probation.

• PATSY LUJAN, 54, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for failure to identify as a fugitive from justice – giving false information.

• JESSE REY NUNEZ JR., 17, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on municipal warrants for defective tail lamp, violation of a promise to appear, no driver's license, failure to appear and Howard County warrants for no driver's license, failure to maintain financial responsibility and expired registration.

• NATHAN ROSS DEATHERAGE, 30, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation and suspend license from the attorney general.

• VIRGINIA IRMA CASTILLO, 28, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on municipal capias warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility and unrestrained child less than 4 years of age.

• JESI ELAIN WILKEY, 26, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of bail jumping – failure to appear and theft by check – more than \$20 and less than \$500.

• ATANASIO GUTIERREZ III, 23, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on municipal warrants for no driver's license and failure to appear.

• JOSEPH RAY BRIM JR., 42, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of bondsman off bond – assault causing bodily injury – family violence.

• MICHAEL BRIAN BASS, 40, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on municipal warrants for expired motor vehicle inspection, displaying expired registration, failure to maintain financial responsibility, violation of a promise to appear and failure to appear (two counts).

• ANGELA ANN MCGEE, 29, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to identify – giving false information.

• REBECCA DELL WILLIAMS, 27, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

• JOSHUA WADE SEARCY, 25, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

• JAMES ROBERT QUICK IV, 28, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler

Bently Grant was named the overall girls' winner during the Howard County Fair Kountry Kids Contest.

Correction

In Tuesday's edition of the *Herald*, a photo of Kountry Kids Contest contestant Adalys Jizzelle was misidentified as Bently Grant. Bently, who was the girls' overall winner, is pictured above.

marijuana – two ounces or less.

• JAMES DUSTIN LEAR, 25, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• JUAN REYES JR., 53, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• LUIS ALEJANDRO RAMOS, 23, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by the BSPD on charges of public intoxication and theft of service – more than \$20 and less than \$500.

Fire/EMS

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2200 block of Main Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1300 block of Lamar. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of Fourth Street and Birdwell Lane. Service refused.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 300 block of S. Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 700 block of E. 11th Place. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of S. Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 1300 block of S. Johnson. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRANSFORMER FIRE was reported in the 1000 block of Interstate Highway 20.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2700 block of Lynn. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of Gregg Street. Service refused.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of S. Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of E. Sixth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• GAS LEAK was reported in the 4200 block of Hamilton.

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

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

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811
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State Briefs

Lawsuit seeks to block mules from Lubbock exhibit

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — A San Antonio man is suing the president of a Lubbock museum which bought two old mules and euthanized them for a farm display.

Patrick Green's lawsuit against the president of the board of directors of the American Museum of Agriculture seeks to block the stuffed mules from an historical reaping machine exhibit.

The lawsuit filed Tuesday in state court claims the wild mules were property of the state and asks their bodies be given to an animal sanctuary for cremation and disposal.

Museum attorneys tell the Lubbock Avalanche Journal they haven't seen the lawsuit. They've said earlier the animals were at least 28 years old, not strong enough for work and would have been sent to Mexico for slaughter if they hadn't been euthanized for the exhibit.

El Paso man convicted in car crash that killed 2

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — A 23-year-old El Paso man has been convicted of multiple charges for a

crash that killed two people and hurt two others riding in his car last year.

The same jury that found Miguel Vargas guilty Wednesday of two counts of intoxicated manslaughter and two counts of intoxicated assault must now decide punishment. Each manslaughter count carry up to 20 years in prison. The assault counts carry 10 years each.

Vargas has been jailed since the December wreck.

Evidence showed Vargas had a blood alcohol level of 0.25, more than three times the legal limit.

The El Paso Times reports he testified at his trial Wednesday that he'd been racing another vehicle, lost control, crashed through a rock wall and into an office building. The car then caught fire.

Calpine buys Texas power plant for \$432 million

HOUSTON (AP) — Calpine Corp. said Thursday that it will buy a natural gas-fired power plant in Texas for about \$432 million to boost its presence in a state where the supply of surplus power is shrinking.

Calpine is buying the 800-megawatt plant near Laguna Park in central Texas from Bosque Power Co. LLC. Calpine said it will use cash on hand for the deal, which it expects to close in early November.

It said the price will also include unspecified adjustments, but did not provide an estimate of how that would affect the closing price.

CEO Jack Fusco said acquiring the plant is "consistent with our strategy to boost capacity in Texas as electric demand rises and reserve margins tighten."

The 280-acre facility includes a 250-megawatt unit with one natural-gas turbine that went into operation in 2001 and a 550-megawatt unit with two gas turbines that started running in 2000.

Calpine operates 91 plants that produce power for wholesale customers in 20 states and Canada and is building two more plants.

Calpine shares rose 6 cents to \$17.81 in morning trading Thursday. They have gained about 8 percent this year.

Georgia family ripped off

HOUSTON (AP) — A Georgia family in Houston for treatment of their daughter's cancer woke up to find the tires and wheels gone from their car parked at a motel near the Texas Medical Center.

Erick and Laura Smith, from McRae, Ga., now are using a motel shuttle service to visit their daughter, Grace. She's a patient at Houston's MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Laura Smith says she cried and was overwhelmed when she walked out of the motel Tuesday to find their car without wheels. Her husband had spent the night with their daughter at the hospital.

The Smiths tell Houston's KTRK-TV they've filed a police report, have insurance and help from their church but the damage is about \$5,000.

Their daughter turns 20 on Saturday while in chemotherapy.

Denton County site of dog dumping

DENTON, Texas (AP) — Two large packs of dogs have been dumped in Denton County in recent days and authorities believe it's the response of puppy mill operators getting rid of overstock in light of new regulations that tighten restrictions on dog breeders.

Police were summoned early Tuesday to an area of Flower Mound after residents reported dozens of mixed-breed Maltese dogs running loose. Within an hour, 51 of the dogs had been rounded up. They were in relatively good shape and will now be put up for adoption unless the owner shows up to claim them.

The Dallas Morning news reports that one night earlier, another herd of dogs, this time cocker spaniels, was found in similar circumstances about 20 miles to the north in a rural area near Sanger.

Man accused of being Russian agent set for court

HOUSTON (AP) — The allegations that a naturalized U.S. citizen obtained military technology for Russia through his Texas export firm have the makings of a 1980s spy film.

Prosecutors say Alexander Fishenko and others sold cutting-edge microelectronics that could be used in Russian weapons systems, exchanged communications with Russian intelligence and tried to hide documents when they suspected authorities were onto them.

"(If) you are making it up, make it up pretty, correctly, and make sure it looks good," Fishenko allegedly wrote in one message to someone falsifying information.

Fishenko and six others charged in the alleged scheme are expected to appear Thursday morning in Houston federal court.

An indictment unsealed Wednesday accuses Fishenko of scheming to purposely evade strict export controls for cutting-edge microelectronics. It also charges Fishenko with money laundering and operating inside the United States as an unregistered agent of the Russian government.

Fishenko was born in the former Soviet Union in what is now Kazakhstan and owns Houston-based Arc Electronics Inc. He and seven others were in custody following raids there by the FBI.

The name of Fishenko's attorney was not immediately available. His wife, Viktoria, who was identified as a co-owner of her husband's business but not charged, declined to comment Wednesday.

"I will speak when I know what's going on," she said.

Death penalty sought in 16-year-old girl's slaying

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins says he'll seek the death penalty in the capital murder case of a 30-year-old man charged with the rape-slaying of a 16-year-old suburban Dallas girl last month.

Authorities say Franklin Davis already was charged with four counts of sexual assault when he took Carrollton high school sophomore Shania Gray from her school. She had been expected to testify against him at his trial on those charges. The Dallas Morning News reports (<http://bit.ly/ReYc0d>) investigators say he posed as another person on Facebook to make contact with her.

Davis was indicted on the murder charge Wednesday. Gray's body was found along a fork of the Trinity River on Sept. 8. She'd been shot and strangled.

Pickup driver trying to flee police in fatal crash

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — A motorcyclist is dead after his bike was slammed from behind by a pickup truck driver fleeing from Fort Worth police.

A patrol officer began the pursuit after spotting the truck speeding and driving recklessly Wednesday evening. It ended when the driver lost control making a turn, spun out and struck the man on a motorcycle so hard debris from the wreck littered the crash site for about 100 yards.

Police Lt. F.V. Gilbert tells the Fort Worth Star-Telegram the driver got out of his wrecked truck and tried to run away but was caught by police. He's under guard at a hospital.

His name and the name of the motorcyclist who was killed were not immediately available.

'Dead' voter flap before judge

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A state district judge is set to determine whether Texas counties must help purge a list of 81,000 potentially dead voters before the November election.

Voting registrars in Dallas and Houston have refused. State elections officials want a judge in Austin on Thursday to uphold a law they say requires counties to check voter rolls against the Social Security Administration's death index.

That index is known to have errors, and voters statewide have received letters instructing them to basically prove they're alive in order to remain on the voting rolls.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Joe "Louis" Munoz, 56, died Tuesday. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. tonight at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Joe Vera, 55, died Thursday, September 27, 2012. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Jeremy Acuff, 36, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Arthur Dee Nanny, 53, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

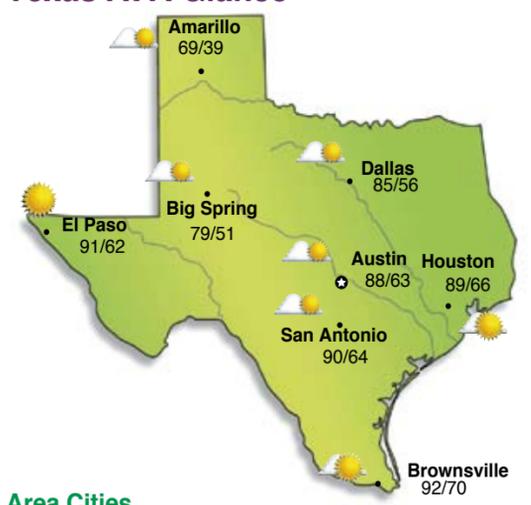
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Sat 10/6	Sun 10/7	Mon 10/8	Tue 10/9	Wed 10/10
79/51	53/43	54/45	70/55	80/60
Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the low 50s.	Windy with clouds. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the low 40s.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the mid 40s.	Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 50s.	Sunshine. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the low 60s.
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	Sunrise: 7:46 AM Sunset: 7:20 PM



Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	78	50	pt sunny	Kingsville	93	68	mst sunny
Amarillo	69	39	pt sunny	Livingston	89	61	sunny
Austin	88	63	pt sunny	Longview	85	61	mst sunny
Beaumont	88	65	sunny	Lubbock	73	43	pt sunny
Brownsville	92	70	mst sunny	Lufkin	88	64	sunny
Brownwood	87	59	mst sunny	Midland	84	55	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	90	71	pt sunny	Raymondville	94	67	pt sunny
Corsicana	85	57	pt sunny	Rosenberg	89	65	mst sunny
Dallas	85	56	pt sunny	San Antonio	90	64	pt sunny
Del Rio	93	67	pt sunny	San Marcos	89	63	pt sunny
El Paso	91	62	sunny	Sulphur Springs	85	55	pt sunny
Fort Stockton	92	64	sunny	Sweetwater	77	51	pt sunny
Gainesville	76	50	pt sunny	Tyler	86	63	sunny
Greenville	82	54	pt sunny	Weatherford	81	52	pt sunny
Houston	89	66	mst sunny	Wichita Falls	68	46	cloudy

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	83	56	sunny	Minneapolis	49	32	mst sunny
Boston	75	58	pt sunny	New York	79	63	sunny
Chicago	58	34	pt sunny	Phoenix	92	68	sunny
Dallas	85	56	pt sunny	San Francisco	64	55	pt sunny
Denver	55	30	mst sunny	Seattle	68	44	sunny
Houston	89	66	mst sunny	St. Louis	52	41	rain
Los Angeles	80	63	pt sunny	Washington, DC	83	60	sunny
Miami	87	77	mst sunny				

Moon Phases



UV Index

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

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

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TRIAL

Continued from Page 1

agreement has been reached between Guthrie and the Howard County District Attorney's Office.

In a bench trial, the judge — in this case,

Yeats — serves as the jury to determine guilt or innocence. The presiding judge is also tasked with deciding the sentence of the defendant if he is found guilty, according to state law.

The trial is expected to get under way at 8 a.m. in 118th District Court.

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50¢ Off Children
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EXP. 10/31/12

EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Bill McClellan
Managing Editor

Steve Reagan
Staff Writer

Brian McCormack
Sports Editor

Thomas Jenkins
Staff Writer

OUR VIEW

Weekend full of fun-filled area activities

Those who say there is nothing to do in Big Spring or the Big Spring area are just looking for something to complain about. Frankly, if you can't find a thing to do this weekend, you have no life.

Arts and crafts, music, animals, barbecue and homemade sausage — those are just a small part of what the Crossroads area has to offer Friday through Sunday.

Looking for some fall decorations or early Christmas gifts? Make your way to Kokopelli's Saturday or Sunday and check out all the handcrafted items for sale. Better yet, go to Kokopelli's (the event is the KoKo LoCo Arts and Crafts Bazaar) one day and to Stanton the other for the Old Sorehead Trade Days. If you can't find what you are looking for at Trade Days, it probably doesn't exist.

Here's a fun thing to do. Take your pet — dog, cat, hamster, possum, whatever — to the Humane Society on Friday morning or to St. Mary's on Sunday afternoon for the Blessing of the Animals. You can even have your stuffed animals blessed.

You'll be surprised at what some people call man's best friend. Leashes or carriers are required, please, except for those bean bag animals, which are less likely to bark or bite.

Saturday marks the opening of the season for the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra. The music of Richard Strauss will be featured for your listening pleasure.

Finally, consider a drive past Garden City to the St. Lawrence Parish for the St. Lawrence Fe3stival. It's one of the largest church festivals in the area, and features homemade sausage and a barbecue lunch.

There are also live and silent auctions, activities for the kids and plenty of arts and crafts booths

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we strive to have a warm and friendly attitude toward everyone, Lord.

Amen

World's most dynamic religion is ...

For at least the last hundred years, the world's most dynamic religion has been neither Christianity nor Islam.

It is leftism. Most people do not recognize what is probably the single most important fact of modern life. One reason is that leftism is overwhelmingly secular (more than merely secular: it is inherently opposed to all traditional religions), and therefore people do not regard it as a religion. Another is that leftism so convincingly portrays itself as solely the product of reason, intellect and science that it has not been seen as the dogma-based ideology that it is. Therefore, the vast majority of the people who affirm leftist beliefs think of their views as the only way to properly think about life.

That, in turn, explains why anyone who opposes leftism is labeled anti-intellectual, anti-progress, anti-science, anti-minority and anti-reason (among many other pejorative epithets): leftists truly believe that there is no other way to think.

How successful has leftism been?

It dominates the thinking of Europe, much of Latin America, Canada, and Asia, as well as the thinking of the political and intellectual elites of most of the world. Outside of the Muslim world, it is virtually the only way in which news is reported and virtually the only way in which young people are educated from elementary school through university.

Only the United States, of all Western countries, has resisted leftism. But that resistance is fading as increasing numbers of Americans abandon traditional Judeo-Christian religions, lead secular lives, are educated by teachers whose views are almost

uniformly left-wing and are exposed on a daily basis virtually exclusively to leftist views in their news and entertainment media.

And when there is resistance, the left declares it "extremist." Merely believing that marriage should remain defined as it has been throughout recorded history, as between a man and a woman, renders you an extremist. So, too, belief that government should be small — the Tea Party position — renders one an extremist. Last week, the managing editor of Time Magazine, Richard Stengel, said on MSNBC that the Salafis, the most radical Islamist sect, are "the Tea Party of Muslim democracy."

Even Christianity and Judaism, the pillars of Judeo-Christian values, the moral value system upon which America was founded and thanks to which it became the world's beacon of liberty, have been widely influenced by leftism.

Many priests, ministers, rabbis and many Jewish and Christian seminaries are leftist in content and Jewish or Christian only in form.

Years ago, I debated one of the most prominent rabbis in the Conservative movement of Judaism on the issue of whether morality must be God-based. The Ivy League Ph.D., yarmulke-wearing rabbi argued that God was not morally necessary. If you want to understand why so many Jews vote left while nearly all the Western world's opposition to — and frequently hatred of — Israel emanates from the left, one explanation is this: For most American Jews, their religion is leftism, while Judaism is their ethnicity and culture. The Reform, and increasingly the Conservative, movements have, to a large extent, become political movements that use Hebrew and Jewish rituals to equate Judaism with progressive politics.

Within mainstream Protestantism and Catholicism, the same dominance of leftist values exists. The United States Conference of

Catholic Bishops — not to mention the Notre Dame faculty — largely holds the same social and economic views as the Democratic Party and The New York Times editorial page. It differs with the left with regard to same-sex marriage, abortion and religious freedom issues such as those pertaining to Catholic hospitals and government-funded contraception. As for mainstream Protestant denominations, they, too, are largely indistinguishable from leftism. Proof? Ask a liberal Protestant minister to name one important area in which he and leftism differ. Ask a liberal Reform or Conservative rabbi the same question. Their silence will be telling.

The truth is that the left has been far more successful in converting in converting Jews and Christians to Leftism than Christianity and Judaism have been in influencing leftists to convert to Christianity or Judaism.

Finally, leftism has even attained considerable success at undoing the central American values of liberty, "In God We Trust," and "E Pluribus Unum," supplanting liberty with egalitarianism, a God-based society with secularism, and "E Pluribus Unum" with multiculturalism. (I make this case at length in "Still the Best Hope: Why the World Needs American Values to Triumph" [HarperCollins].)

This triumph of the twentieth century's most dynamic religion — leftism — is why, even in the midst of an ongoing recession, the leftist candidate may win. As I wrote in my last column, it's not just the economy, stupid.

Dennis Prager's latest book, "Still the Best Hope: Why the World Needs American Values to Triumph," was published April 24 by HarperCollins. He is a nationally syndicated radio show host and creator of PragerUniversity.Com.

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Rapid judgement on debate

Big Bird is endangered. Jim Lehrer lost control. And Mitt Romney crushed President Barack Obama.

Those were the judgments rendered across Twitter and Facebook Wednesday during the first debate of the 2012 presidential contest. While millions turned on their televisions to watch the 90-minute showdown, a smaller but highly engaged subset took to social networks to discuss and score the debate as it unspooled in real time.

Until recently, debate watchers would have waited through the entire broadcast to hear analysis and reaction from a small cadre of television pundits. Social media has democratized the commentary, giving voice to a far wider range of participants who can shape the narrative long before the candidates reach their closing statements.

"People still use old media to watch the debates, but they use social networks and other new media to have influence, voice opinions and be involved," said Scott Talan, an assistant professor of communication at American University who studies social media and politics. "Old media is not dead; it's growing. But now we have more people involved and engaged because of digital means."

The political conversation plays out across a range of social platforms, especially on the industry giant Facebook and on Twitter, the social networking hub where opinions are shared through 140-character comments known as tweets. Reflecting the changing times, many television analysts now monitor Twitter and Facebook feeds and use information gleaned from those platforms to inform their punditry.

Twitter announced shortly after Wednesday's debate that it had been the most tweeted event in U.S. political history, topping this

year's Republican and Democratic National Conventions.

With 11.1 million comments, Wednesday's debate was the fourth most tweeted telecast of any kind, coming in just behind the most recent Grammy awards, MTV's Video Music Awards and the Super Bowl, according to William Powers, director of the Crowdwire, an election project of the social analytics firm Bluefin Labs. The project found 55 percent of the social comments about the debate were made by women, 45 percent by men.

Unlike the wider viewing audience, debate watchers who comment on social media "are politically engaged in the strongest possible way," Powers said. But, he added, "it's a bit of a hothouse population. It does skew younger, and I'm not sure how much middle America is represented."

Twitter scored Romney the debate's clear winner according to Peoplebrowsr, a web analytics firm. The group found 47,141 tweets mentioning Romney and "win or winner" compared to just 29,677 mentioning Obama and "win or winner."

Romney was also the top tweet in battleground states including Florida, Ohio, Nevada and Colorado, Peoplebrowsr found.

In Ohio, a key swing state where polls show Obama has emerged with a lead in recent weeks, the top two debate tweets were "Romney" with 15,115 and "Mitt" with 5,446. "Obama" placed third with 5,328.

Search engine Google announced the debate's four most searched terms: Simpson-Bowles (the bipartisan fiscal commission Obama appointed); Dodd-Frank (a democratic-backed financial reform law); Who is Winning the Debate; and Big Bird.

The debate, focused on domestic issues, was a numbers-heavy discussion of the economy, debt and entitlement reform. It produced strong reactions on Twitter from its earliest moments, from the candidates' attire and appearance — "Obama: solid blue tie with dimple. Romney: red tie with stripes, no dimple," tweeted publisher Arianna Huffington —

to Jenga, a stacking game Romney and his wife, Ann, were reportedly playing with their grandchildren before the debate began.

From there, the social chatter settled into a few major themes.

— Big Bird. Early in the debate, Romney said he would defund public broadcasting to bring down the deficit but added that he liked Big Bird, a popular character on PBS' "Sesame Street." Social networks immediately responded, with participants posting spoof photos of Big Bird and other "Sesame Street" characters on Facebook and setting up parody Big Bird Twitter accounts. During a lull in the debate, an ABC news executive tweeted, "avian life is outstripping human life in this debate."

— Jim Lehrer. The veteran PBS newsman was widely panned as the debate moderator on social media, with viewers complaining he asked weak questions and did a poor job of keeping command of the debate's time and tempo. Lehrer's name became a trending topic on Twitter, and his performance drew jeers from countless participants. "Jim Lehrer is like the grandpa at dinner table who falls asleep and wakes up randomly shouting," tweeted a woman with the Twitter handle of Bookgirl96.

— Romney's big win. Social media participants marveled at Romney's strong outing and pronounced Obama's debate performance flat, non-energetic and meandering — a dud. While Obama has been leading Romney in battleground state polls in recent days, the consensus on social networks was that Romney's debate performance had breathed new life into his campaign.

Obama supporters were some of his toughest critics. Andrew Sullivan, a pro-Obama writer for the Daily Beast whose Twitter feed, Sullydish, has a loyal following, declared, "This was a disaster for the president." Joe Mercurio, a New York media buyer, wrote on Facebook, "It could have been worse."

Follow Beth Fouhy on Twitter at www.twitter.com/bfouhy



DENNIS PRAGER



BETH FOUHY

Romney energized after debate

DENVER (AP) — Little more than a month from Election Day, Republican Mitt Romney is barreling out of the first presidential debate energized by a solid performance that telegraphed his determination to take it to President Barack Obama with gusto. The president, intent on keeping his momentum from stalling, is warning Americans that his GOP rival's policy prescriptions for a fragile economy are more fantasy than reality.

Standing toe-to-toe with the president for the first time in the campaign, Romney held his own and more at a time when there already were signs that the race is tightening in some of the battleground states where Obama has enjoyed an advantage. Obama kept his cool and signaled that he won't let up on his message that Romney's plans just don't add up.

"It's fun," Romney declared well into Wednesday night's 90-minute faceoff.

"It's arithmetic," said Obama, hammering at Romney's conspicuous lack of details with far

less enthusiasm.

After a few days of relative calm as the candidates prepared for the first of their three debates, the campaign now bursts out of Colorado in all directions, with an itinerary that touches down in some of the most hotly contested battleground states over the next few days: Obama campaigns in Colorado and Wisconsin, then on to Virginia and Ohio. Romney and running mate Paul Ryan are off to Virginia on Thursday, then Romney spends more time in Virginia before moving on to Florida. Vice President Joe Biden is bound for Iowa.

With a 13-day break before their next debate, Obama and Romney have time to hone their arguments while their campaigns continuing to bombard the most hotly contested states with negative ads that go far beyond the more restrained jibes the candidates leveled from their respective podiums. Obama made no mention, for example, of Romney's caught-on-tape remark that he's not worried about

the 47 percent of Americans who don't pay taxes. Democratic ads, though, have been making hay with the comment.

Asked why the president didn't raise the video, Obama senior political adviser David Axelrod suggested on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" that he didn't need to since it has been so widely seen and heard. "The president's belief is that's something that has been very much a part of the discussion," Axelrod said.

In next few weeks, Romney is expected to give a number of policy speeches filling in details as he tries to sharpen the contrast with Obama while answering criticism that he hasn't clearly outlined his plans. The Republican challenger begins with a foreign policy speech in Virginia on Monday. Subsequent speeches are expected to focus on his plans for job creation, debt and spending.

Romney has promised to balance the budget in eight years to 10 years, but hasn't explained just how he'll do it.

Battle brews over Travis' Alamo letter

DALLAS (AP) — It's a new Battle of the Alamo, with one Texas agency mounting pressure on another to loan out one of the state's most sacred texts for display at "the shrine of Texas independence."

The General Land Office is pressing the State Library and Archives Commission to loan the "Victory or Death" letter penned by Col. William Barret Travis, the commander of the Alamo garrison, from its "dark storage" for a 14-day exhibit at the Alamo in February.

"Our thinking is this is a Texas treasure and deserves to be seen by the people of Texas. We think this letter can be an inspiration to the people of Texas," Land Office spokesman Mark Loeffler said.

However, the commission voted down a motion to approve the request Tuesday after commission staff recommended against the document loan. The commission will meet again in Austin in three weeks to reconsider the matter, library spokesman Cesar Garza said. In the meantime, the staffs of the two agencies will try to negotiate a deal, Loeffler said.

Since 2011, the General Land Office has been the custodian of the Alamo, and it is planning an exhibit Feb. 23-March 7 there to mark the 177th anniversary of the siege and battle.

Although acknowledging that no one can promise complete security, "we want to provide the best security possible," Loeffler said. That would include a state trooper escort from the library in Austin to San Antonio and back.

It has been loaned for display rarely, never in San Antonio, and is kept by the state library in "dark storage" out

of public view, Loeffler said. Although many copies and facsimiles of the letter have been displayed, "people are more inspired to see the document that Travis, himself, touched," he said.

Travis was a South Carolina-born Alabama lawyer and militiaman who fled an unhappy marriage and possibly the killing of another man and moved to Mexican-held Texas as an illegal U.S. immigrant.

He resumed his law practice in the Texas port of Anahuac and became an ardent advocate of revolution against Mexico. He gathered reinforcements for a militia detachment occupying the Alamo, a former mission church in Bexar, the future San Antonio.

Fearing his force too sparse to resist the Mexican force vastly outnumbering his, Travis wrote a letter Feb. 24, 1836, addressed "To the People of Texas & all Americans in the world." He states that his men had been under Mexican bombardment for 24 hours. He said the Mexican commander, Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, had given an ultimatum that the Texas garrison surrender or "be put to the sword." "I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, & our flag still waves proudly from the walls — I shall never retreat or surrender."

He concludes: "If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible & die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor & that of his country — Victory or Death."

The volunteers came but not in time. Forces stormed the Alamo on March 6 and overwhelmed and killed its defenders.

News in brief

Turkish resumes artillery strikes at Syrian targets

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey fired on Syrian targets for a second day Thursday but said it has no intention of declaring war, despite tensions after deadly shelling from Syria killed five civilians in a Turkish border town.

Turkey's Parliament, meanwhile, began an emergency session to discuss a bill authorizing the military to launch cross border operations in Syria. If approved, the bill could more easily open the way to unilateral action by Turkey's armed forces inside Syria, without the involvement of its Western and Arab allies.

The cross-border tensions escalated on Wednesday after a shell fired from inside Syria landed on a home in the Turkish village of Akcakale, killing a woman, her three daughters and another woman, and wounding at least 10 others, according to Turkish media.

Turkish response was prompt. It fired salvos of artillery rounds deep inside Syria. The NATO military alliance, of which Turkey is a member, met at an emergency session in Brussels, condemned the attack on Turkey and demanded "the immediate cessation of such aggressive acts against an ally." It also urged the Syrian regime to "put an end to flagrant violations of international law."

Syrian Information Minister Omran al-Zoubi, meanwhile, offered his "sincerest condolences on behalf of the Syrian government to the family of the deceased and the Turkish people."

A phone away from home: Some NYC students

NEW YORK (AP) — Thousands of teenagers who can't take their cellphones to school have another option, courtesy of a burgeoning industry of sorts in always-enterprising New York City: paying a dollar a day to leave it in a truck that's parked nearby.

Students might resent an expense that adds up to as much as \$180 a year, but even so, leaving a phone at one of the trucks in the morning and then picking it up at the end of the day has become as routine for city teenagers as getting dressed and riding the morning-rush subway.

"Sometimes it's a hassle because not everyone can afford it," said Kelice Charles, a freshman at Gramercy Arts High School in Manhattan. "But then again, it's a living."

Cellphones and other devices, such as iPods and iPads, are banned in all New York City public schools, but the rule is widely ignored except in the 88 buildings that have metal detectors. Administrators at schools without detectors tell students, "If we don't see it, we don't know about it."

S. Korean software mogul seeks presidency, hoping to make his lack of experience an asset

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — As a bookish entrepreneur who made his fortune in software before turning to philanthropy, Ahn Cheol-soo has been called South Korea's Bill Gates. Now he's looking for a new title: Mr. President.

The political novice announced his candidacy last month, shaking up a campaign dominated by South Korea's two major political parties with a message of change that appeals to the nation's young and hopeful. The parties have rarely seen credible challengers from outside their ranks, but Ahn argues that having no experience may be better than "bad experience" at a time when South Korea is in need

of new direction.

"Our lives can change only after our politics change," Ahn said as he announced his campaign at a nationally televised news conference. "I hope the people's wishes for new changes will be united by this election."

Ahn, 50, is the founder of South Korea's largest antiviral maker, AhnLab. He holds a medical Ph.D., boosted his profile with lectures and this summer became a bestselling author with a book detailing his thoughts on national issues.

Many surveys in recent years have found him to be one of the most respected living South Koreans, but many people are skeptical about his ability to govern a country of 50 million people that faces the ever-present threat of nuclear-armed North Korea on its doorstep.

Devout Israeli Jews adopt settler ethos, move to Arab-Jewish cities to cement Jewish presence

ACRE, Israel (AP) — Orthodox Jewish Israelis, the driving force of the West Bank settlement movement, have begun to turn their attention inward to Israel itself, moving into Arab areas of mixed cities in an attempt to cement the Jewish presence there.

Activists say that in recent years, several thousand devout Jews have pushed into rundown Arab areas of Jaffa, Lod, Ramle and Acre, hardscrabble cities divided between Jewish and Arab neighborhoods.

Their arrival has threatened to disrupt fragile ethnic relations with construction of religious seminaries and housing developments marketed exclusively to Jews.

"Israel has to act as the state of its citizens," said Mohammad Darawshe, co-executive director of The Abraham Fund Initiatives, a nonprofit group that promotes co-existence between Jews and Arabs in Israel. "Ethnic preference is clearly inappropriate, violating the principles of democracy."

About 20 percent of Israel's citizens are Arabs. Most live in Arab towns and villages, with some notable exceptions, especially Haifa, the port city that is Israel's third-largest.

Before Israel's establishment in 1948, these mixed cities were populated by Arabs. Many fled or were expelled during the two-year war that followed Israel's creation. Arabs commemorate that as a "catastrophe."

sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Precision Bidding

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 3
♥ A 7 4 3
♦ K 10 3 2
♣ A 8 7 5

WEST
♠ A J 9 6 2
♥ 10 9 8
♦ 9 7 5
♣ 10 3

EAST
♠ K Q 5 4
♥ J 6 5 2
♦ J 8
♣ 6 4 2

SOUTH
♠ 10 8 7
♥ K Q
♦ A Q 6 4
♣ K Q J 9

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass

3 ♦ Pass 3 NT Pass

6 ♣

Opening lead — ten of hearts.

This deal is from the 1989 North American Men's Swiss Team Championship. The bidding shown occurred when Eric Rodwell and Jeff Meckstroth of the winning team held the North-South cards.

Meckstroth-Rodwell use the Precision Club system, which has found favor with a number of world-class pairs. The sequence that led to six clubs, combined with what transpired at the other table, demonstrates how a forcing club system can sometimes prove far superior to standard bidding methods.

Meckstroth's one-club opening promised 16 or more points, and Rodwell's two-spade response showed a three-suited hand with eight or more high-card points. The two-notrump rebid asked North to clarify his shape, and the three-club response showed precisely 4-4-4-1 distribution with the singleton in spades.

South's three-diamond bid asked North for his point count, and the three-notrump response showed an 11- or 12-point hand containing two aces and a king. With his partner's hand virtually an open book, Meckstroth had no trouble bidding the club slam. When both minor suits divided normally, there proved to be nothing to the play.

When the opposing team, using standard bidding methods, held the North-South cards at the other table, the bidding went:

South West North East

1 NT Pass 2 ♣ Pass

2 ♦ Pass 3 NT

West led a spade, and the defense quickly collected the first five tricks for down one, giving Meckstroth-Rodwell's team a 970-point gain (14 IMPs) on the deal.

Tomorrow: Test your play.

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HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Chris Lindem, Drake Worthan and Max Pappajohn swarm a Seminole runner during last week's 29-19 win over the Indians. The Steers now hold a 5-0 record and have a bye week before beginning district play against No. 2 ranked Abilene Wylie Oct. 12 at Memorial Stadium.

Sports Calendar

FRIDAY

Football

- Sterling City (3-2) at Grady (3-2), 7:30 p.m.
- Sands (3-2) at Buena Vista (1-1), 7:30 p.m.
- Robert Lee (4-1) at Garden City (1-4), 7:30 p.m.

Volleyball

- Snyder at Big Spring, Freshmen, J.V. 5 p.m., Varsity 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

Cross Country

- Big Spring at Odessa, UTPB campus, TBA.

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

Cabrera wins first Triple Crown in 45 years

DAVE SKRETTA

AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Miguel Cabrera had just achieved baseball immortality, and everyone around him knew it.

Tigers manager Jim Leyland had tears welling in his eyes. General manager Dave Dombrowski kept trying to remind people to stop and enjoy the moment. Prince Fielder simply shook his head in disbelief at the history that had unfolded.

Less than an hour earlier, in the midst of Detroit's otherwise meaningless 1-0 victory over Kansas City, it had finally become official: Cabrera had won the Triple Crown.

"Everybody said to me it was unbelievable. They were all excited to see this, enjoy this, be a part of something big," he said, taking the rare feat in

stride better than anyone.

Cabrera finished the regular-season hitting .330 with 44 homers and 139 RBIs, leading the American League in all three statistical categories, making him just the 15th player to achieve the Triple Crown and the first Boston's Carl Yastrzemski in 1967.

"I've managed a lot of players, managed some great ones, but I've never seen anything like this," Leyland said. "When you're sitting back and it's over with, people are talking about Miguel Cabrera, the rest of the world will have no idea who his manager was, but I will."

Among those in one of baseball's most exclusive clubs are Lou Gehrig, Ted Williams, Mickey Mantle and Frank Robinson, who called it "an incredible

See **CROWN**, Page 12



AP photo

Detroit's Miguel Cabrera batted .330, belted 44 home runs and recorded 139 RBI, leading the AL in all categories to win baseball's coveted Triple Crown — just the 15th player to do and the first player to win the title in 45 years.

Local Briefs

Disc Golf tourney slated for Sunday

The 20th Ever DiscOver Big Spring Disc Golf Tournament is set for Sunday at Birdwell Park.

Registration will be held from 8-9:30 a.m. and is limited to the first 90 entries. All ages and skill levels are welcome to participate, with entries fees varying from \$30-\$60.

There is a 100 percent payout along with other prizes including disc golf jewelry. For more information, contact Greg Brooks at 432 528-5076.

Coahoma-Stanton game to feature 'Pink Out' theme

The district opener between the Coahoma Bulldogs and the Stanton Bulldogs on Friday, Oct. 12 at Bulldog Stadium will feature a 'Pink Out' theme as part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The pink T-shirts have mostly sold out, but a few unsold shirts will be for sale at the Spirit Trailer during the game.

There aren't many left so it is first come, first serve. All proceeds benefit the Susan G. Komen For the Cure Foundation.

A's take AL West from Rangers, Yanks take East

BEN WALKER

AP Baseball Writer

Coco Crisp settled under the final fly ball, and the Oakland Athletics started charging onto the field like a bunch of Little Leaguers chasing an ice cream truck after a big win.

Within seconds, the infield at the Coliseum was a sea of green and gold. These young A's had done it, sweeping Texas to win a most improbable AL West title on the last day of the regular season.

A few hours later, baseball's playoff pairings were set. All of that fretting over potential tiebreakers, cross-country trips and a chaotic postseason schedule was for naught.

"Now the real season starts," New York Yankees star Derek Jeter said Wednesday night.

The playoffs begin Friday with a pair of winner-take-all wild-card matchups. The defending World Series champion St. Louis Cardinals visit Chipper Jones and the Atlanta Braves in the NL, then Baltimore plays at Texas.

Plus, consider this: After so much talk about the new, expanded postseason format that added two teams, the AL came out exactly how it would've last year. The Rangers and Orioles finished with the same record, so they're playing one game to decide it.

The Athletics' 12-5 win, helped when All-Star center fielder Josh Hamilton dropped a fly, brought them a curious reward: a trip to Detroit to face Triple Crown slugger Miguel Cabrera, reigning

AL MVP and Cy Young winner Justin Verlander and the Tigers in Game 1 of the division series.

"They have a very powerful lineup that can certainly score some runs. They also have great starting pitching. We will have our work cut out for us," Oakland manager Bob Melvin said.

No matter, it was time for celebrating. The A's took a victory lap around their ballpark, slapping hands with their fans and spraying them with bubbly.

The Yankees later claimed the AL East championship. They began celebrating in the dugout during the seventh inning when the scoreboard showed second-place Baltimore had lost 4-1 to Tampa

See **PAIRINGS**, Page 12

Washington picks Darvish as first playoff starter

JANIE MCCAULEY

AP Baseball Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. — Yu Darvish will start the Texas Rangers' first playoff game — and he finally knows all the details about who and when.

Manager Ron Washington announced Darvish as his pick before the Rangers lost their regular-season finale at Oakland 12-5 on Wednesday to wind up as an AL wild card.

"Of course I'm ready," Darvish said through an interpreter. "If I'm not ready I probably wouldn't be picked. I'm going to approach it like any other start. I'll try to pitch well and give my team a

chance to win."

The two-time reigning AL champion Rangers will play in the new one-game, wild-card playoff on Friday at home against the Baltimore Orioles.

"He's finally Yu Darvish," Washington said of the club's prized offseason pickup. "I don't know the date, but it was Boston. He found Yu Darvish then, and he's been Yu Darvish since. He was searching to find what he was capable of doing over here. And I think he realizes now that competing in a relaxed, trusting and believing, that there was something he was searching for all year

and he finally found it. Which is what he is when he's at his best, which is what all pitchers are when they're at their best. It's not just those adjectives I've described as Yu Darvish. That's pitchers, period, when they're at their best."

The 26-year-old is 16-9 with a 3.90 ERA in 29 starts and 191 1-3 innings in his first major league season after a stellar career in Japan. The 6-foot-5 right-hander has 221 strikeouts to just 89 walks and was an All-Star.

He won his final four decisions and hasn't lost in six starts since Aug. 17.

Washington met with

Darvish after his Aug. 6 start at Boston, a 9-2 loss in which he was tagged for six earned runs and 11 hits in 6 2-3 innings with nine strikeouts and four walks. Darvish has lost only once since, at Toronto on Aug. 17.

"Mainly, it's mental. I'm pitching with more of a strong mind and with confidence," Darvish said. "We had a conversation (in Boston). But we didn't talk in depth about pitching."

Darvish won his first four decisions under the huge hype of his first season in the big

See **DARVISH**, Page 12

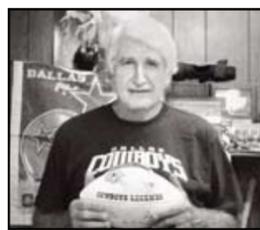
Pigskin Picks Football Contest

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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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone Number: _____

Tie Breaker - Circle the winner and note total points scored
New York Giants vs. Cleveland
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2 FAMILY Garage Sale!! 601 Edwards Circle. Saturday 7:30-12:30 and Sunday 9:00-12:00. Lots of misc. items.

2504 BROADWAY, Friday 8-? Mens & womens large clothing, girls 6x, books, futon, foosball table, tile and misc. items....

3 FAMILY Garage Sale: Saturday 8:30-?, 710 E. 15th. Lots of furniture, babies furniture, clothing all sizes (winter) and lots of misc. stuff.

4039 VICKY Street, Friday & Saturday 8:00-? Tons of name brand girl/teen clothing, winter jackets, work boots, basketball goal, treadmill and etc....

408 NORTH East 11th St. Saturday, 8:30am-4:00pm. Lots of clothes and lots of misc.

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GARAGE SALE: 110 Swinney, Take Salem Road Exit and take North Service Road East toward Coahoma. Friday, Saturday and Sunday 8:00-? Cleaning out multiple sheds Everything must go....

GARAGE SALE: 2602 East 16th (across from Carlton Apt. on FM 700), Saturday 8a-2p. Household items, jewelry, men items and much more.

GARAGE SALE: 5003 Sterling Road, Saturday & Sunday 8-? Lots of girls & boys clothing, shoes, Halloween costumes, rooster kitchen stuff, couches, washer & dryer, deep freezer, toys and lots more.

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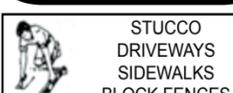
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No. P-14,110 ESTATE OF NATHANIEL WILLIAM MEYER, DECEASED IN THE COUNTY COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS NOTICE TO STEPHEN GRAIG MEYER AND THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF NATHANIEL WILLIAM MEYER, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that the Application for Independent Administration, Issuance of Letters of Administration, and Declaration of Heirship was filed in the Estate of Nathaniel William Meyer, Deceased, on the 27th day of September, 2012 in Cause No. P-14,110, by Laura Ruth Long, Stephen Craig Meyer and all persons who are heirs in the said estate are hereby requested to contact the Attorney Ad Litem appointed in this case: ATTORNEY AD LITEM INFORMATION C.E. (Mike) Thomas, III 501 South Gregg P.O. Box 2117 (79720) Big Spring, TX 79721-2410 432-263-4142 #7530 October 4, 2012

Good luck and excellent communication go hand in hand while Jupiter, the prosperity planet, explores the bright, trendy and communicative realm of Gemini. The tide of information will seem to change direction now as Jupiter goes retrograde. He'll continue traveling in this way toward the early degrees of Gemini until Jan. 30, 2013.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Being the best doesn't automatically guarantee success, but there is a certain power in it. Unfortunately, it can be a lonely power unless you combine your expertise with stellar people skills.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Though the moon is only in your sign for a few hours, yesterday's daring mood still holds. You deliberately do things you wouldn't normally do, because you want the story.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your mood only gets groovier as the moon progresses through your sign. You'll surprise your friends by acting on your fun impulses. They await your arrival, but do not expect you to come singing.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Even though you have the sense that the world is changing in big ways, you also realize that often these changes are the result of small, determined steps taken by individuals just like you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're not a category. What you do is specific to you and cannot be lumped in with anyone else. Knowing this, you'll begin to understand why your self-expression is essential to the evolution of the planet.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Automatic actions have a way of blinding most people to the subtle differences between today and yesterday. And yet, you'll be made aware of the unexpected beauty that's tucked inside the routine of your day.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You are more attracted to the beauty inside a person than to the outside image the person is trying to project. This may be the cause of a funny dilemma or a strange happening.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If you feel that you just don't have the words to say what's in your heart, try again tomorrow. Mercury is headed toward your part of the sky, and communication will improve in the weeks ahead.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Strength training would be impossible without some kind of resistance. Your obstacles are what make you great. As your guiding planet changes direction, you'll start to see recent events in a different light.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Anyone who tries to control you is likely to experience an instantaneous rebellion. The truth is that you would rather be in control. This could cause a quiet struggle for power.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Since you are unlikely to change your mind once it's set, it will be important to make sure the information you base your decisions on is relevant and accurate.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You want to be awakened so you can strive to greater heights. The trouble is that once awake, you have to confront the fact that you were, in some sense, asleep.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 4). You'll be empowered by the new

rules you create for yourself. People want to be closer to you. This month gives you a free pass to a private world. November's luck centers on family connections. You'll make the future better as you endeavor to understand history. You'll discover a goldmine of sorts in June. Aries and Taurus people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 1, 24, 39 and 18.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "My best friend, a Libra, has a tendency to blow me off every time she meets a guy she likes. Last year, she called me only once in six months because she was busy with a boyfriend she was head over heels in love with. He happened to be extremely controlling, too. When they broke up, she called me every day. Now she's dating someone new, and the pattern is repeating. How can I tell her that it hurts me when she shelves our relationship whenever it's convenient for her? I'm a Scorpio."

Actually, the way you just put it is perfect. And given that you're a truthful, cut-to-the-chase Scorpio, there's probably no better way than to just come out with it. You have nothing to lose, since you already lose your Libra friend whenever she gets busy with a beau.

Yes, it's natural for relationships to change as circumstances change. Also, Libra, which is strongly associated with partnership, tends to give everything in love. But Libra is also the sign of balance. You might remind your friend that spending a little time with her girlfriends will keep her love life balanced and real. It also gives her beau an opportunity to miss her and realize that she has a life outside of him.

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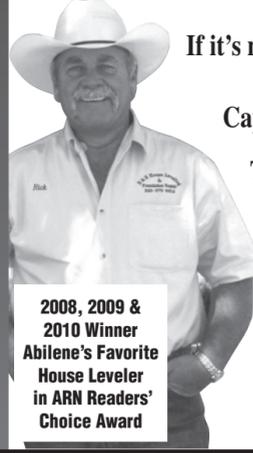
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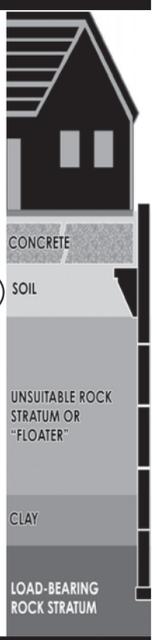
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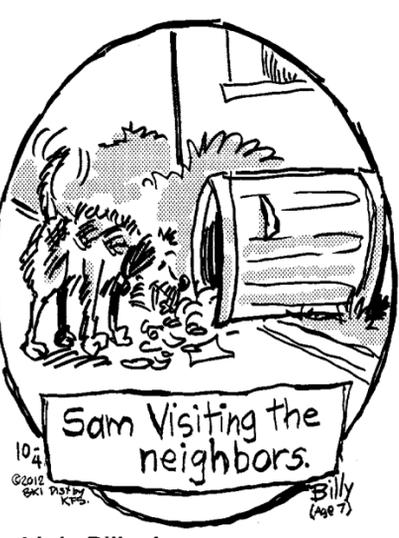
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWTT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM	News ABC	Casa Notic.	Two Men Big Bang	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News News	King King	Yohanan House	Charlie Rose	King Auction	Auction Auction	CSI: Miami	Jail Jail	The Mentalist	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Shake It Good	NFL32	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Un Refugio	Big Bang	News Ent	Especial	News	Seinfeld	Swallow R. Shap	PBS News-Hour	Rules Rules	Property Wars	CSI: Miami	Jail Jail	The Mentalist	Random Shake It	Baseball Tonight	Audibles	
7:PM	Last Resort	Por Ella Soy Eva	The X Factor	Big Bang Two Men	Rosa Diamante (SS)	30 Rock All Night	Fam. Guy	Upd Mark Blitz	Finding Your Roots	The Next	Property Wars	Movie: Fargo, William H. Macy	iMPACT Wrestling	The Mentalist	Game Good	Numbers Live	Coll. Football	
8:PM	Grey's Anatomy	Abismo de Pasión	Glee (DVS)	Person of Interest	Corazón Valiente	Office Parks	Big Bang	Light of the Southwest	Lords of the Gourd		Auction			The Mentalist	Movie: Coming to America, John Amos	WNBA Basketball	College Football: USC at Utah.	
9:PM	(:02) Scandal	Amor Bravo! (SS)	Simpsons How I Met	(:01) Elementary	Escobar Rostro de	Rock Center	Big Bang		POV	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Texas Car Wars	Movie: Fargo, William H. Macy	MMA Uncensored	The Mentalist	Random Shake It			
10:PM	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	How I Met Raymond	News Letterman	Noticias Titulares	News Jay Leno	Conan	Dr. Diana Justice	Ribbon	'Til Death	Auction		Ways Die	Leverage	Sleep! Game	Good Vampire	SportsCenter	
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Al Diablo	Law Order: CI	Ferguson	Decisiones (SS)	Jimmy Fallon	Conan	Dr. Scriver	World (Off Air)	'70s '70s	Texas Car Wars	Movie: Sahara, Penelope Cruz	Ways Die	Leverage	Wendy Williams	Wizards	NFL Live	
12:AM	Extra	Mar de Amor (SS)	Raymond Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	News	Earl	Light of the Southwest		Browns Browns	Property Wars		Ways Die	Leverage	Movie: Of Boys and Men	Good	Baseball Tonight	
1:AM	Paid	La Jaula Par Ases	American TMZ	Ent	Paid	(:05) Today	Earl			Cops Cornerstone	Property Wars		MMA Uncensored	The Great Escape	Random ANT Farm	Numbers	SportsCenter	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"MOM, COULDN'T I TAKE MY CHAIR OUTSIDE AN' SIT IN THE CORNER OF THE YARD?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



Little Billy draws up one more of his family observations.

HAGAR



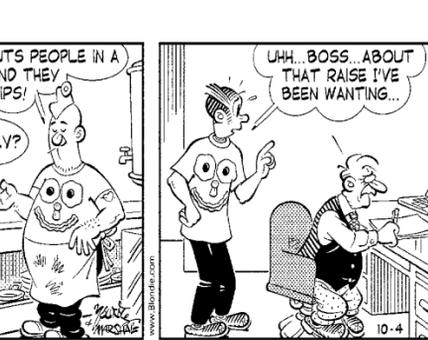
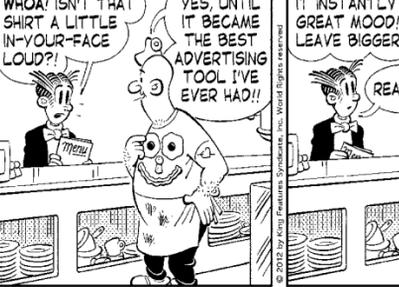
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This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Oct. 4, the 278th day of 2012. There are 88 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Oct. 4, 1957, the Space Age began as the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite, into orbit.

In 1940, Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini conferred at Brenner Pass in the Alps.

In 1959, the Soviet Union launched Luna 3, a space probe which transmitted images of the far side of the moon.

In 1960, an Eastern Air Lines Lockheed L-188A Electra crashed on takeoff from Boston's Logan International Airport, killing all but 10 of the 72 people on board.

In 1970, rock singer Janis Joplin, 27, was found dead in her Hollywood hotel room.

In 1976, agriculture secretary Earl Butz resigned in the wake of a controversy over a joke he'd made about blacks.

In 1822, the 19th president of the United States, Rutherford B. Hayes, was born in Delaware, Ohio.

In 1861, during the Civil War, the United States Navy authorized construction of the first ironclad ship, the USS Monitor.

In 1887, the International

Herald Tribune had its beginnings as the Paris Herald, a European edition of the New York Herald.

In 1931, the comic strip "Dick Tracy," created by Chester Gould, made its debut.

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In 1980, fire broke out aboard the Dutch cruise vessel Prinsendam in the Gulf of Alaska, forcing the 520 people aboard to abandon ship; no deaths or serious injury resulted. (The ship capsized and sank a week later.)

In 1991, 26 nations, including the United States, signed the

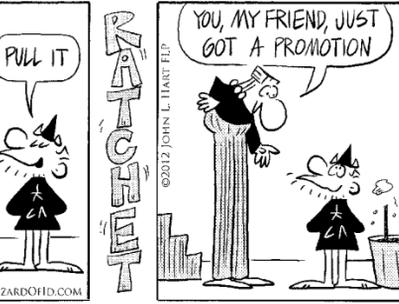
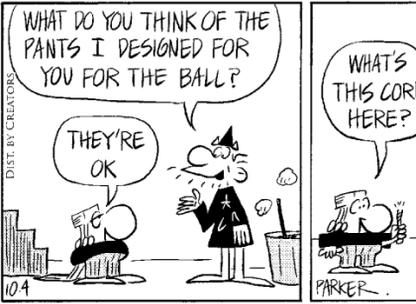
Madrid Protocol, which imposed a 50-year ban on oil exploration and mining in Antarctica.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Leroy Van Dyke is 83. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Sam Huff is 78. Actor Eddie Applegate is 77. Actress Felicia Farr is 77. Author Jackie Collins is 75. Author Roy Blount Jr. is 71. Author Anne Rice is 71. Actress Lori Saunders ("Petticoat Junction") is 71. Baseball manager Tony La Russa is 68. Actor Clifton Davis is 67. The former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, is 66. Actress Susan Sarandon is 66. Blues musician Duke Robillard is 64.

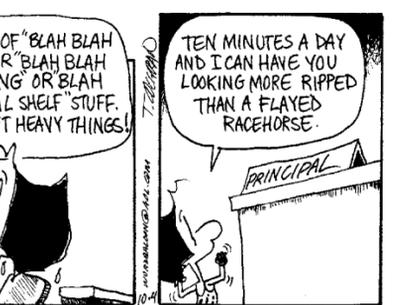
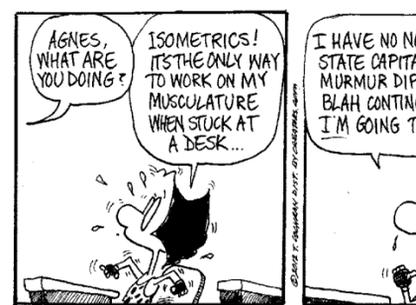
Answer to previous puzzle

SIRI	ISPS	FOSSIE
OVEN	NEAT	AMWAY
BAIT	FETA	INANE
ENGAGEMENT	TRINE	
RANCOR	DEW	
	TENNIS	RACKET
DAY	SOON	MYHERO
ALES	WTS	INIT
MALIBU	ROTS	ONIE
ESPRESSO	SHOT	
	ASP	IMAGES
PROGRESS	REPORT	
SEOUL	LOPS	TONE
AROSE	LSAT	ASIA
TUFTS	SONY	PEEK

WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



Newsday Crossword

AT THE TABLE by Bruce Venzke
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Gallic word of gratitude
 - 6 "Ornery" guy
 - 10 Dolphin family member
 - 14 Mythical hunter
 - 15 Aware of
 - 16 When shadows are shortest
 - 17 Missile holders
 - 18 Bank guarantor
 - 19 Get tired
 - 20 Telltale sign
 - 21 Warehouse machines
 - 23 Except for
 - 25 Most distressed
 - 26 Bobby Darin tune
 - 31 Banks (on)
 - 32 Possible babysitter
 - 33 Seek clarification
 - 36 OPEC member
 - 37 Some auction offerings
 - 38 Pay-stub acronym
 - 39 Soak
 - 40 Wind-powered toy
 - 42 Applied, as flattery
 - 44 Radar gun target
 - 46 Ambulatory
 - 49 Big brute
 - 50 Long-beaked wading bird
 - 53 Released for home viewing
 - 57 Subsequent
 - 58 Encircled by
 - 59 Draft depositor

- 60 Author Harte
 - 61 Long look
 - 62 Last Greek letter
 - 63 "Mi __ es su ..."
 - 64 *Lion King* villain
 - 65 Auto type
- DOWN**
- 1 Forest growth
 - 2 Google exec Schmidt
 - 3 Churn up
 - 4 Crockett's cap material
 - 5 Ordain
 - 6 Brazilian export
 - 7 Cancel
 - 8 Move slightly
 - 9 Closes due to fog
 - 10 Doing amazingly well
 - 11 Pocahontas' hubby
 - 12 Covers thickly
 - 13 Extreme unease
 - 22 Converted attic space
 - 24 TiVo precursor
 - 26 MD's orders
 - 27 Prefix in aviation
 - 28 Reward the cast
 - 29 Dinesen's real first name
 - 30 Aficionado
 - 33 Verdi masterpiece
 - 34 Person from Paisley
 - 35 Batman creator
 - 37 Eroded
 - 38 Data identifier
 - 40 Ceramist's equipment
 - 41 Swelling reducers
 - 42 Relay race segment
 - 43 Well-chosen
 - 44 Joe Jackson in *Field of Dreams*
 - 45 Welder's adhesive
 - 46 *Hardball* network
 - 47 33 Down, for instance
 - 48 Movers' supply computer
 - 52 Entertainer Minnelli
 - 54 Turned blue, perhaps
 - 55 Star in Lyra
 - 56 Senior member

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

Continued from Page 12

Bay, thanks to three home runs by Evan Longoria.

Jeter, a five-time World Series champion, and the Yankees put an emphatic end on their finish, routing rival Boston 14-2.

The Yankees hold home-field advantage throughout the AL playoffs, and will open Sunday at either Baltimore or Texas in a best-of-five series. In a one-year arrangement made necessary by the new wild-card format, the division series begin with two games at the lower-seeded team.

On Saturday night, Johnny Cueto starts for Cincinnati against Matt Cain and host San Francisco in Game 1 of the NL division series.

Ryan Zimmerman and the Washington Nationals got sized for hats with postseason patches, then beat Philadelphia 5-1 to earn home-field advantage all the way through November, if necessary.

There was another winner at Nationals Park, too. The Teddy Roosevelt mascot took the in-game Presidents Race for the first time. Ol' Teddy had lost more than

500 dashes to the 10-foot foam representations of Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson and George Washington.

"I am so glad Teddy won, so we can stop talking about Teddy. People get more excited for a mascot race than a game," Zimmerman said.

Washington and well-rested 21-game winner Gio Gonzalez will play Sunday at the NL wild-card winner.

Nationals manager Davey Johnson is expected to be all right for the opener. He left the dugout in the seventh inning Wednesday because of numbness in his left leg, the result of pinched nerves in his back.

"I'm OK. Nothing wrong with me," he said.

Atlanta's Kris Medlen will throw the first pitch of this year's playoffs. The Braves have won a record 23 straight games when he's started. Kyle Lohse starts for St. Louis.

For Jones, it could be his last appearance in the majors. The Braves star is retiring at age 40.

"Now we've got to get over this one-game playoff thing to give ourselves a legitimate shot at what we were all shooting for out of spring training," he said.

Astros finish 55-107 with loss to Cubs

CHICAGO (AP) — The Houston Astros ended their National League tenure with a result that's become familiar: a loss.

The Astros set a franchise record for losses in a season, finishing 2012 with a 5-4 defeat to the Chicago Cubs on Wednesday as Bryan LaHair homered and hit a game-winning single in the ninth inning.

Houston went 55-107, one more loss than last year. The Astros split the final 30 games of their sorry season, winning five of their final seven.

"That's the goal of a season where we didn't win as much as we wanted to," shortstop Jed Lowrie said. "To finish strong gives everybody a good feeling going home."

In the first series between 100-game losers in the major

leagues since 1962, LaHair homered in the second and broke a 4-all tie against Hector Ambriz (1-1).

The Astros became the first team with 106 or more losses in consecutive seasons since the 1964-65 New York Mets.

Houston finished its NL tenure with 3,999 regular-season wins and 4,134 losses with five ties. The Astros are moving to the AL West next season, creating three divisions of five teams in each league.

"There's going to be some stiff competition, but it'll be good for everybody," Lowrie said. "We'll prepare and see how it goes."

The Astros were 16-25 under interim manager Tony DeFrancesco, who took over after Brad Mills was fired on

Aug. 18. Washington third base coach Bo Porter already has been hired as Houston's manager for next season.

"I just went around to everybody and thanked them for everything they did," DeFrancesco said. "I appreciate it. They're ready to go home. It's been a long season."

DeFrancesco, previously Houston's Triple-A manager, hopes to remain on the Astros' major league staff.

"I was comfortable in the clubhouse talking to the players and dealing with Jeff in the front office," DeFrancesco said, referring to general manager Jeff Luhnow. "Everybody's been very warm to me. I'm really proud to be a part of this."

DARVISH

Continued from Page 6

leagues. Before being selected an All-Star, the diplomatic pitcher insisted his numbers needed to be on par with the best in the game to earn consideration.

Darvish — with his rock star status from Japan still ever present at spring training — arrived at the team's Surprise, Ariz., spring site with his shaggy hair tinted orange and a dark goatee. His every move was monitored for

months, and still is.

Darvish signed a \$56 million, six-year contract, and the Rangers paid his Japanese club \$51.7 million just to acquire him.

"I keep saying it, the guy was under tremendous pressure coming over here, learning everything, making adjustments," Washington said. "It took that point for him to find the adjustments he had to make to become what he always knew he was and we knew he was, and he found it. And that would be no different if it was any other pitcher who's a pretty good pitcher making adjustments."

CROWN

Continued from Page 6

accomplishment for a gifted young man, and Miguel should be proud of his all-around excellence and consistency throughout the season."

Cabrera's achievement wasn't assured until the Yankees pinch-hit for Curtis Granderson in their 14-2 rout of the Boston Red Sox. Granderson had homered twice to reach 43 for the year, tied with the Rangers' Josh Hamilton and one shy of the Tigers' third baseman.

The closest competition in the race for the batting title was Angels rookie Mike Trout, who remains Cabrera's toughest competition for the AL MVP. Cabrera was the runaway leader in RBIs.

"When he's over the plate, he can do anything. He's the best hitter in the game," Trout said. "I think his approach, the way he battles with two strikes

— you leave one pitch over the plate that at-bat and he's going to hit it. He had an unbelievable year."

Perhaps befitting one of the game's reluctant superstars, Cabrera had retired to the visiting clubhouse after he was removed from Wednesday night's game in the fourth inning.

He watch his milestone become official on the television screens perched in the middle of the room, surrounded by Fielder, reigning AL MVP Justin Verlander and a few other teammates.

"He's the best right-handed hitter in the game, the best teammate, the most humble person I know," Fielder said. "Anyone who wins the Triple Crown, he's awesome, man. He's the best."

Commissioner Bud Selig offered his congratulations, calling the Triple Crown "a remarkable achievement that places him amongst an elite few in all of baseball history."

The crowd at Kauffman Stadium gave Cabrera a standing ovation before he flied out in the first inning. He struck out in the fourth but remained in the game, allowing Leyland to remove him with two outs in the bottom half of the inning to another standing ovation from thousands of appreciative fans.

Cabrera high-fived his teammates as he entered the Detroit dugout, and then walked back to the top step and waved his helmet, almost sheepishly acknowledging the crowd.

"It was like playing at home, having all the fans cheer for you," Cabrera said. "It was an unbelievable feeling, and I was very thankful for the fans in Kansas City."

Cabrera's pursuit of history has occurred largely in the dark, overshadowed by thrilling playoff races, the sheer enormity of the NFL — even the presidential election.

An event that in other years might dominate headlines has been mostly cast aside.

"The entire baseball world should be here right now," Verlander said.

Perhaps part of the void has to do with Cabrera's very nature.

He's not the boisterous sort, never one to crave attention. He

would rather hang out with a couple of buddies than stand in front of a pack of TV cameras, answering the unending stream of questions about what makes him one of the game's most complete hitters.

"That's one of the main reasons we're still playing, because of how good he is and what he does for the ball club," Dombrowski said. "He doesn't like to talk about himself, as anyone who knows him is aware. I think our success helped him in that regard."

To put his feat in perspective, consider horse racing's Triple Crown.

The last thoroughbred to win the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes in the same year was Affirmed in 1978, more than a full decade after Yastrzemski's magical summer in Boston.

Whether it's on par with Johnny Vander Meer's consecutive no-hitters, Jack Nicklaus' 18 major championships in golf, Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak or Brett Favre's consecutive games streak at quarterback is open to interpretation, and perhaps some bar-room debate.

Those who have witnessed it firsthand certainly have their opinions.

"It's pretty amazing," said the Royals' Alex

Gordon, who watched the drama unfold from his spot in left field. "Honestly, his numbers are like that every year. He has a great average, great home runs, great RBIs. He's a guy who can pull this off, and it's great for the game."

Giants infielder Pablo Sandoval said he was particularly proud that the Triple Crown would be accomplished by a fellow Venezuelan. Cabrera is from Maracay, along the Caribbean coast.

"I'm excited for the country and for the fans that support us every single day. It's a big deal in Venezuela right now," Sandoval said. "It's exciting, especially because of all the things that have happened in his career."

Yes, it seems that every fairytale these days carries a troublesome footnote.

In Cabrera's case, it stems from spring training last year, when he was involved in a drunken-driving incident. According to authorities in St. Lucie County, Fla., Cabrera refused to cooperate, directed an obscene gesture at police and even dared them to shoot him.

The Tigers have been careful to keep him from having to discuss his personal life, but by all accounts, Cabrera has been a model player ever since. This year,

he's the Tigers' nominee for the Roberto Clemente Award, given to the player "who best represents the game of baseball through positive contributions on and off the field, including sportsmanship and community involvement."

"This clubhouse wouldn't be quite as good without him," Leyland said.

While the Triple Crown belongs to Cabrera, the MVP award is still up for grabs.

On one hand, Cabrera dominated the statistical categories favored by traditionalists, the ones that count toward the Triple Crown.

On the other hand, Trout was a cut above for champions of new-school baseball thought, those who use more obscure measures such as WAR (Wins Above Replacement) that are designed to judge a player's overall contribution to a team.

Tigers Hall of Famer Al Kaline said it would be "a shame" if Cabrera didn't win the league's most coveted award. Royals manager Ned Yost earlier offered a similar sentiment.

"I think they're both fantastic players, tremendous players, both of them," Yost said, "but if Cabrera wins the Triple Crown, he has to be the MVP, absolutely."

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