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Stores take from fast-food industry

MAE ANDERSON
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK — This holiday season, Burger King won't be the only place where you can have it your way.

It used to be enough for stores to promise discounts of up to 70 percent off to lure shoppers during the busy holiday shopping season. But the ease of ordering online and the sluggish economy has created more demanding U.S. consumers who aren't impressed by discounts alone. They want their shopping just like their fast food: not only cheap, but convenient too.

That means they're no longer afraid to walk away from the cashmere sweater with the perfect fit if the store is crowded. They're also unwilling to buy those suede pumps that are just the right shade of blue if they have to pay to get them shipped. And they cringe at the prospect of carrying a bunch of paper coupons; they'd rather be able to pull them up electronically on their smartphones.

Retailers from Wal-Mart to Macy's are doing everything they can to make it easier for this new crop of finicky shoppers to spend their money during the busy holiday shopping season. Several are opening on Thanksgiving Day. Some are offering free layaways and shipping. Many are matching in-store prices with cheaper online deals. And others are allowing shoppers to buy online and pick up their merchandise in stores.

It's the latest effort by stores to court shoppers like Patty Edwards. Four years ago, Edwards, who lives in Bellevue, Wash., bought all of her holiday purchases at online retailer Amazon.com because she thought it was the easiest way to shop. But this year, she plans to shop elsewhere because there are stores are offering more shipping options.

"Now I'm not necessarily tied to Amazon," said Edwards, a retail analyst and principal at investment firm Trutina

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Courtesy photo

Big Spring State Hospital Chalet Resale Shop Co-director Ruth Nanny poses in the boutique section of the Chalet Resale Shop. The Chalet Resale Shop will celebrate its 25th anniversary, Nov. 29, at 10:30 a.m. with a ribbon cutting. Tours, refreshments and special shopping giveaways will be offered. The Chalet Resale Shop directs all its proceeds to the patients at Big Spring State Hospital and is operated by the Volunteer Services Council.

Chalet to celebrate its 25th anniversary

By VALERIE AVERY
Special to the Herald

The volunteer-driven Chalet Resale Shop will celebrate its Silver Anniversary on Thursday, Nov. 29, in a ribbon cutting and open house at its downtown location.

"We recently gave the front of The Chalet a facelift and we wanted to show everyone our new look and our ever-burgeoning stock of gently used clothing and small household goods," Chalet Co-Director Ruth Nanny said.

A ribbon cutting hosted by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce will begin at 10:30 a.m., followed by an open house with tours, refreshments and special offers on merchandise. The Chalet Resale Shop is located at 115 E. Second St.

"We wanted to celebrate The Chalet and honor our volunteers," said Jamey Stegall, Big Spring State Hospital director of community relations. "Without

our volunteers, we would not be able to operate. They work six days a week, many times arriving before the doors open and staying long after we close."

Money raised through the sale of Chalet items is used for the patients, Nanny said. "We are proud that every penny we raise goes toward the patients. The patients get 100 percent of what we put in our cash register."

The Chalet depends on donations from the public to stock its shelves and could not operate without the generous support of the community, Chalet Co-Director Jobeth Corwin said.

"Every day we receive bags and bags of items from the public, and just as soon as we get them sorted and put up for sale, they are gone," Corwin said. "It's exciting to see something come in the door that is no longer wanted by

See **CHALET**, Page 3
CHALET

Alive in Christ serving turkey

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

There's little or no reason for anyone to go hungry this Thanksgiving.

Aside from the Salvation Army, another local organization will offer free Thanksgiving meals Thursday — Alive in Christ Lutheran Church will hold its third annual holiday meal give-away.

Turkey with all the fixings will be available through the church at no charge from noon until 3 p.m. Thursday, said Jeanie Knocke, one of the

See **ALIVE**, Page 3



The Big Spring Herald offices at 710 Scurry will be closed all day Thursday. Offices will open again at 8 a.m. Friday but close at noon. The Herald will be delivered at normal times though some readers may receive Thursday's edition early.

Enjoy the Thanksgiving holidays but please, be careful on the road

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

While holiday travel is a must for many Crossroads residents and families, officials with the Texas Department of Transportation say these family outings can take a turn for the worse if motorists don't follow rules of the road.

According to John Barton, TxDOT deputy executive director, a recent survey conducted by Texas

Highways — the state's official travel magazine — shows that approximately 48 percent of Texans will be on the road this Thanksgiving holiday.

With so many Lone Star residents taking to the state's highways, Barton said it's essential for everyone's good to obey all traffic laws when getting behind the wheel.

"Historically, the busiest travel days are the day

before and the Sunday following Thanksgiving," Barton said. "Thanksgiving is a time to be spent with family and friends, so we want to make sure Texans get to where they need to be safely."

According to TxDOT statistics, there were 848 serious injuries and 26 deaths from traffic crashes that occurred during the Thanksgiving holiday reporting period in 2011.

TxDOT officials are asking motorists to pay careful attention while they travel, which includes putting away cell phones and other electronics that could distract the driver. State law requires everyone in the vehicle to buckle up, as well, and drivers should never drive if they have been drinking. Drivers are also being asked

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Obituaries

Oscar 'Ozzy' Cruz



Oscar "Ozzy" Cruz, 50, of Big Spring died Saturday, Nov. 17, 2012, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Vigil services will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2012, at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will follow in Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Oscar was born July 9, 1962, in O'Donnell, Texas, to Celia (Terrazas) and Guadalupe Cruz. He grew up in Stanton, Texas, and attended seventh grade in Big Spring, Texas. After dropping out of school in the 11th grade, he obtained his GED, followed by a degree in computer science from Howard College.

He played Santa Claus for the family, which everyone enjoyed. His first truck driving job was for Jack Cathy. He was last employed by Brantley Trucking. His very first job was at Long John Silvers.

He married Flora Ortega on May 19, 1987, and they recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. He was the head of his family and was like a second father to the family after their father passed away 20 years ago.

He is survived by his wife, Flora Cruz of Big Spring; one daughter, Ashley Torres of Big Spring; one son, Oscar Cruz Jr. and wife Brittany of Midland; three granddaughters, Ameris Torres and Autumn Torres, both of Big Spring and Estrella Cruz of Midland; three grandsons, Benito Torres and Zachariah Torres, both of Big Spring and Ethan Cruz of Midland; one brother, Jamie Cruz of Big Spring; two sisters, Maria Ornelas of San Antonio and Alice Banda of Eagle Pass; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Guadalupe and Celia Cruz; and a sister, Amparo Garcia.

Pallbearers will be Oscar Cruz Jr., Lupe Cruz, Joe Ortega Jr., Eutimio Ortega, Juan Banda, Stevie Banda, Luis Alcantar, Rigo Moran and Martin Moran.

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

Paid obituary

Willie Williams

Willie Williams, 79, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2012, at his residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

John J. Eckley

John J. Eckley, 81, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2012, at his residence. His services are pending with Weigel Funeral Home in Mandan, N.D. Local arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

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

- MATTHEW MENDOZA, 33, of 1104 Blackmon, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
- BENJAMIN EDWARD MOORE II, 32, of 1109 Johnston in Midland, Texas, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of no inspection certificate.
- JOHNN CARLOS LOPEZ, 25, of 706 S. Goliad, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.
- WILLIAM MACK ROBINSON, 23, of Winter Park, Fla., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- ROLANDO MATA, 34, of 2904 Sherman Rd., was arrested Tuesday on charges of disregarding a stop sign and failure to display driver's license.
- CHARLES BAYARD ADAMS, 50, of 5620 S. Service Rd., was arrested Tuesday on a warrant from another agency and a charge of public intoxication.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1100 block of Scurry.

- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 1600 block of E. FM 700.
- THEFT was reported:
In the 1600 block of E. Third Street.
In the 1000 block of S. Birdwell Lane.
In the 700 block of W. Interstate Highway 20.
In the 4100 block of S. Highway 87.
In the 300 block of S. Owens.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported:
In the 4200 block of Hamilton.
In the 2100 block of Alabama.
In the 4200 block of Hamilton.
In the 1200 block of Johnson.
- STOLEN VEHICLE was reported in the 700 block of Johnson.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 62 inmates at the time of this report.

• BENJAMIN EDWARD MOORE II, 32, was booked into the county detention center Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of no valid inspection certificate.

• ROLANDO MATA, 34, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of disregarding a stop sign and failure to display driver's license.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of E. 16th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the area of County Road 40. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of S. Main Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRASH FIRE was reported in the 1600 block of E. 11th Place.

Take Note

• Big Spring State Hospital patients are in need of warm clothing. Clean items should be taken to the Community Relations Office near the south entrance of the hospital, 1901 N. U.S. Highway 87. Clothing that cannot be used by the patients will be taken to the hospital's Chalet Resale Shop for sale to raise money for patient needs. Men's clothing and larger-sized clothing are always in need. For more information, call Melissa Adams at 432 268-7730.

• An account for Bill Griffen has been established at the Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union, 1110 Benton. Griffen, a Big Spring resident, recently passed away and the family is in need of funds for funeral arrangements.

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

• An account has been set up at Citizen's Credit Union for Emma Leos, who was recently diagnosed with colon cancer.

• Jo Anna Bailey, an aide for many years at Washington Elementary School, has been diagnosed with cancer. A medical donation account has been established for her at the Big Spring Education Credit Union, located at 1110 Benton.

• Compass Hospice is in need of your help. If you would be interested in offering your love and God's comfort to those who are suffering, or to their families, contact Michelle Coutermarsh at 263-5999 or come by 602 S. Main. You may give as much or as little time as you wish. Any amount of time is greatly appreciated.

• An account has been established at Big Spring Community Federal Credit Union in the name of Glenda Berger, who was recently diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer. Donations will be used to help defer medical costs and mounting bills. Call Big Spring Community Federal Credit Union at 800-299-6761.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Fri 11/23	Sat 11/24	Sun 11/25	Mon 11/26	Tue 11/27
77/47 Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the upper 40s.	62/42 More sun than clouds. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 40s.	66/45 Sunny. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the mid 40s.	74/48 Sunshine. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the upper 40s.	69/43 Mainly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 40s.
Sunrise: 7:22 AM Sunset: 5:43 PM	Sunrise: 7:23 AM Sunset: 5:42 PM	Sunrise: 7:24 AM Sunset: 5:42 PM	Sunrise: 7:24 AM Sunset: 5:42 PM	Sunrise: 7:25 AM Sunset: 5:42 PM



Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	78	50	pt sunny	Kingsville	83	62	pt sunny
Amarillo	72	35	pt sunny	Livingston	78	49	pt sunny
Austin	76	56	pt sunny	Longview	74	54	pt sunny
Beaumont	76	52	mst sunny	Lubbock	75	42	pt sunny
Brownsville	82	65	pt sunny	Lufkin	78	54	pt sunny
Brownwood	79	53	pt sunny	Midland	77	48	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	80	63	pt sunny	Raymondville	83	62	pt sunny
Corsicana	76	53	pt sunny	Rosenberg	79	54	pt sunny
Dallas	77	55	pt sunny	San Antonio	75	59	pt sunny
Del Rio	79	59	pt sunny	San Marcos	77	56	pt sunny
El Paso	72	46	sunny	Sulphur Springs	76	54	pt sunny
Fort Stockton	78	50	sunny	Sweetwater	76	50	pt sunny
Gainesville	75	50	mst sunny	Tyler	76	55	pt sunny
Greenville	75	51	pt sunny	Weatherford	76	50	pt sunny
Houston	78	54	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	78	47	pt sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	68	41	sunny	Minneapolis	53	23	mst sunny
Boston	50	34	pt sunny	New York	53	38	pt sunny
Chicago	61	37	pt sunny	Phoenix	79	53	sunny
Dallas	77	55	pt sunny	San Francisco	65	49	pt sunny
Denver	55	27	pt sunny	Seattle	49	44	cloudy
Houston	78	54	pt sunny	St. Louis	68	44	rain
Los Angeles	74	53	sunny	Washington, DC	57	40	sunny
Miami	75	55	sunny				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Fri 11/23	Sat 11/24	Sun 11/25	Mon 11/26	Tue 11/27
4	4	4	4	4
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

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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• Every Friday night from 7:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. is dance night at the Senior Citizen Center. The cost is \$8 per person.

• An account has been established at American State Bank to help defray medical expense for Brad "Ghost" Ugstad, a local resident who was severely injured in a motorcycle accident. All donations will be appreciated.

• Mobile Meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you can donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.

• Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St., has a brief, inspirational message before giving away food and clothing on Thursday mornings. It's a great way to work off community service and get

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ALIVE

Continued from Page 1

event's organizers. Meals will be offered at the church, located at 2805 Lynn, and free delivery is offered beginning at 12:30 p.m., Knocke said.

"We'll be cooking for 200 people and we've already received 100 delivery orders," she said.

Knocke said she and her husband, Richard, volunteered their services during the Salvation Army's Thanksgiving event for years before deciding to branch out, so to speak.

"We decided we wanted to do something a little different," she said. "We presented it to the church and they agreed to it."

Fuller Foods donated 12 turkeys for the event and other businesses and organizations have pitched in with supplies or services.

"Everyone has just been so giving," Knocke said. "We are very thankful for all the help we've received."

For more information, call 264-7818 or 213-0698.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at reporter@big-springherald.com

SHOPPING

Continued from Page 1

Financial. "I can go to Nordstrom, Saks or Target and have stuff available to pick up. It's a pretty simple process. That wasn't the case four or five years ago."

The have-it-your-way approach is partly a response by merchants to their fear that shoppers will spend less freely this season over worries about high unemployment and a package of tax increases and spending cuts known as the "fiscal cliff" that will take effect in January unless Congress passes a budget deal by then. It also comes as the growth of smartphones and tablet computers have made it easier for shoppers to browse and buy with the touch of their fingertips. No need to battle long lines at The Gap when you can just Google what you want.

That puts pressure on brick-and-mortar retailers, which count on the holiday shopping season for up to 40 percent of their annual revenue, to find ways to get shoppers into their physical stores. That's becoming an increasingly difficult feat: The National Retail Federation, an industry trade group, estimates that overall sales in November and December will rise 4.1 percent this year to \$586.1 billion, or about flat with last year's growth. Meanwhile, online sales are expected to rise 15 percent to \$68.4 billion, according to Forrester Research.

"Retailers have to do a little more to grow sales this year," said Frank Badillo, a senior economist at consultancy Kantar Retail.

This isn't the first time stores

have had to up the ante. Big sales and door busters like deeply discounted TVs used to be the hallmark of the winter holiday shopping rush. But stores noticed over the last several years that Americans were cutting back on spending during the economic downturn, so they ramped up their discounting even more.

Shoppers became addicted to the ever bigger sales. And they began fleeing to online retailers, which can offer much cheaper prices than brick-and-mortar stores because they don't have the overhead costs of operating physical locations. Shoppers also began to appreciate something else about online retailers: They offer them the convenience of being able to shop within the comfort of their homes or office cubicles.

To better compete, brick-and-mortar stores figured that they'd have to replicate their online rivals' formula. Shopping in stores needs to be cheap and easy, they figured. So stores began trying new ways to make shopping more convenient last year, such as free shipping and expanded hours. But this holiday season, they've expanded the scope and scale of those incentives to include:

— **EXPANDED HOURS FOR THE SHOPPER WHO CAN'T WAIT TO HIT THE MALL:** Stores typically open in the wee hours of the morning on the day after Thanksgiving Day known as "Black Friday." It's typically the biggest shopping day of the year. But the Black Friday openings have crept earlier and earlier over the past few years, with retailers such as Macy's Inc. opening its stores at midnight. This season, some stores have expanded their hours even more:

Sears, Toys R Us, Wal-Mart and others are opening on Thanksgiving to grab those who want to shop after their turkey dinner.

"We saw a shift in how customers are shopping last year," says Ron Boire, Sears chief merchandising officer. "Members told us some of them want to stay up late. Others like the idea of getting out early."

— **LAYAWAY PLANS FOR FINANCIALLY-STRAPPED SHOPPERS:** Programs that allow customers to pay over a period of weeks have long been used for some holiday shoppers. But typically, shoppers have to pay a fee for these so-called layaways. This year, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. lowered the fee it charges customers on its holiday layaway program from \$15 to \$5. And Kmart and Sears, both divisions of Sears Holdings Corp., ditched the fee they charge completely. The two stores previously had charged \$5 for an 8-week layaway and \$10 for 12 weeks.

— **MORE SHIPPING AND RETURN OPTIONS FOR SHOPPERS WHO COVET CONVENIENCE:** About 44 percent of retailers are offering free shipping this year, a big jump from 12.5 percent last year, said Vicki Cantrell, executive director of Shop.org, the National Retail Federation's digital retail division. And package delivery company UPS, which commissioned a customer service study with research firm comScore, said retailers also are working to make returns easier, by including return labels in packages or providing a link online that customers can use to print labels out. Additionally, some such as Best Buy, Toys R Us and Wal-Mart, also are offering customers the option of ordering online

and then picking up their merchandise in stores.

Danny de Gracia, 32, a political scientist in Honolulu, Hawaii, likes to use stores' "buy online, pick up in store" option to avoid the hassle and crowds in stores. He said it allows him to just run in and grab his purchases. Gracia, who said he plans to spend no more than \$1,000 this holiday season, last used the service to buy a Sony digital camera for his father at Best Buy.

"It's easier because when you're in the physical store sometimes you have to stop ask questions and get assistance," he said. "With stores that offer online shopping you can simply search the site, read up and compare options and then purchase, pick up and leave ... It's an outstanding service that I utilize whenever possible. I wish that it would be available for groceries."

— **PRICE MATCHING FOR SHOPPERS WHO ARE ADDICTED TO DEALS:** While small mom-and-pop stores long have offered to match the cheaper prices that customers find online, this year big merchants such as Target Corp. and Best Buy Co. have said they also will do that. The move is an attempt to combat the growth of so-called "showrooming," when customers look at merchandise in stores but buy it cheaper online.

Forrester Research analyst Sucharita Mulpuru says the online price matching programs are an attempt by brick-and-mortar stores fight to keep customers. "The increasing price transparency we're seeing online is something brick-and-mortar stores have to deal with and deal with it directly," she said.

CHALET

Continued from Page 1

one person and then purchased with great excitement by someone else.

"I grew up at a time when we repaired things when they broke. Today, we are in a throw-away society, so for me personally, this job brings me so much joy to see items get a second life."

Even though all the "employees" at The Chalet are volunteers, you wouldn't know it by the hours some of them log, Stegall said. "I work a full 40 hours a week and some of our volunteers put me to shame," he said with a laugh.

Some volunteers arrive early before the

10 a.m. opening time and stay long after they close at 1 p.m. (2 p.m. on Saturday's), but they set their own hours, Nanny said.

"We are fortunate that we have so many loyal volunteers who want to be here all the time," Nanny said. "We get most of our volunteers from friends who already volunteer. They may show up to visit and then start looking around and then they will start sorting and the next thing you know they show up the next day and the day after and the day after."

"I like to think that we have so many volunteers because we have so much fun down here."

While the volunteers are constantly seen

scurrying throughout the store, arranging and checking out customers and answering questions, they do take a minute here or there to grab a puffed cheese ball or some homemade cookies that are back in the workshop, Corwin said.

"We pride ourselves on being a really fun group," she said.

The Chalet Resale Shop is always in need of more volunteers. Those interested in donating a few hours a month or a week should stop by and visit with Nanny or Corwin.

"We are hoping we can attract some volunteers when we show off the store during our ribbon cutting," Nanny said. "We rarely take time to

take a step back and celebrate. We are always so busy running the shop. We can't wait to show off the new touches we put into the store. We are all so excited."

The Volunteer Services Council is one of the most active volunteer organizations in Big Spring and has a long history with the hospital — its origins date back to the 1950s. Money raised through The Chalet and fund-raisers, such as Cars, Stars and Handlebars has funded the construction of many buildings on campus, including the Natatorium, Animal Assisted Therapy building and the Family Visita-

tion Center.

"The volunteers are invaluable to this hospital," Big Spring State Hospital Superintendent Ed Moughon said. "We would not be able to do what we do on this campus without their help. We are so lucky that they have given so much of their time to help our patients."

Big Spring State Hospital is a 200-bed psychiatric hospital serving people with mental illness in West Texas. The Volunteer Services Council is an arm of the hospital leadership serving the patients by donating money, time and hosting activities for the patients.

If you would like to volunteer for Big Spring State Hospital, contact Stegall at 432-268-7535 or james.stegall@dshs.state.tx.us

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
 24th & Johnson 267-8288

Oscar "Ozzy" Cruz, 50, died Saturday. Funeral services were at 10 a.m. this morning at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will follow in Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Willie Williams, 79, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

TRAVEL

Continued from Page 1

to travel in the right lane, using the left lane for passing only.

"Hazardous weather can also cause problems for drivers," Barton said. "Motorists can reduce their risk by knowing some winter weather driving tips and practicing a few road safety habits, such as planning ahead and being aware of alerts and advisories in your area."

Barton said motorists should ensure their vehicle is properly maintained and stay tuned to local news for road closures, changing conditions and weather alerts. Motorists can also check conditions by visiting drivetexas.org

"Drivetexas.org is mobile friendly and a great tool that offers real-time road conditions, traffic and weather feeds," Barton said. "Travelers can also call TxDOT's highway conditions line at 800-452-9292 for routing and trip-planning infor-

mation."

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

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HIP IMPLANT RECALL

Johnson & Johnson has recalled the DePuy ASR XL Acetabular hip socket implant system due to an unacceptably high failure rate: 1 in 8 patients experience symptoms like infection, bone fracture, dislocation and pain. Other complications include increased metal ion levels in the blood, bone staining, necrosis, swelling, nerve damage, tissue damage and/or muscle damage. If you had hip replacement surgery during or after 2005, please talk to your doctor right away, then contact us toll-free for professional insight into your legal rights.

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EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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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.

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- 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

You, Lord, are our trusted counselor.

Amen

Committing the sin of gluttony

I have said something for years that is absolute nonsense, but I am, nevertheless, going to say it here once again; I want to believe that God widens the “river of grace” from Thanksgiving Day until January 2nd, making it possible for all of us to commit the sin of gluttony and still be spiritually safe.

Now, I know that's foolishness and certainly not even close to being theologically sound, but it sure would be nice if there was any way it could be true because many of us will probably cross the threshold of dietary sanity this week. Don't worry, God knows my heart and I am not committing blasphemy by suggesting such a nonsensical theory. It's just my attempted humorous reflection on one of the least publicized sins.

Leah is an extraordinary chef and when our family pulls up to the table tomorrow it will be tantamount to an official firing his starter's pistol to begin the race. She is an amazing cook and we, like most American families, have traditionally made Thanksgiving a time to reflect on our innumerable blessings and enjoy a true celebration of family, friends and food.

I have so much to be thankful for that this column could never begin to contain the whole. Years ago a young man in my church would always answer the proverbial, “How are you doing?” with the insightful answer, “Better than some, worse than others.” I am convinced that I am so blessed that I would have to say, “Better than most, and certainly better than I deserve.” But, back to the matter of gluttony, which interestingly has a brief four word definition; “excessive eating and drinking”. I was reading recently about some of the nutritional myths about the traditional Thanksgiving menu and I deemed it interesting enough to share with you.

For instance, we've all heard that the trigger for those post-feast naps we can't seem to resist is the tryptophan found in tur-

key. The theory goes that tryptophan, an amino acid, is converted in the body to serotonin and then converted into melatonin, which affects the body's sleep cycles. But the truth is, according to Dr. Robert Davis, Ph.D., other foods, such as cheese, eggs and other kinds of meat, contain just as much if not more of the amino acid. The most likely culprit for the sleepiness is the amount of carbs (and alcohol) consumed at Thanksgiving dinner, he says.

What about the nutritional advantage of eating sweet potatoes? In a straight-up nutritional face-off, sweet potatoes would win. With about the same number of calories, they have more fiber and vitamins A and C than their white counterparts. But preparation matters because two scoops of sugary, candied sweet potatoes are not the nutritional equal of a plain, baked white potato. And white potatoes, the ones that aren't slathered in butter, have their own health benefits.

People say that eating cranberry sauce with our turkey reduces the possibility of urinary tract infections. Studies have shown that cranberries may really be effective at preventing UTI for some people, Davis says. But he points out that's when you eat them regularly, not once a year with your turkey dinner. “Obviously just eating with your Thanksgiving meal is not going to do the trick,” he says. What's more, while whole cranberries are healthy, when they're jellied into sauce, they can be loaded with extra sugar and calories.

Then there's that idea that a multigrain roll is healthier than its white counterpart. Just because it's a brown roll doesn't mean it's healthy. Chalk this one up to a marketing tool. Davis explains that “multigrain” just means that there are multiple grains, which could potentially include a variety of refined grains and none of the heart-healthy whole grains. “Multigrain rolls might not be any better than white enriched rolls,” Davis says.

How to find a truly whole grain roll? Davis says the first word on the ingredient list should be “whole.” Look for labeling that says whole grain or whole wheat, but not “made with whole grain,” which could still leave

room for refined grains.

So what's the big deal about any of this anyway? I think a lot of what we read is supposedly healthy for us and what isn't may be substantially influenced by who is doing the research. And sometimes the stats don't tell the whole story.

Many years ago I seem to recall a big fuss over us humans consuming saccharin because it had caused cancer in some lab rats. Then it was revealed that, proportionately, for it to have the same effect on a human body, one would have to consume something equivalent to a tractor trailer full of it. I can't validate either viewpoint. It just fascinates me that one study says eggs or coffee will kill you and another says they're great for you.

I'm reminded of my parent's recent visit to their long-time family physician. My mom, bless her sweet heart, was concerned about my dad's love for ice cream. She asked the doctor to advise him against consuming so much and the Dr.'s reply was, “Betty, he's 86 years old and in good health. Let him eat what he wants to.”

The previously referenced Dr. Davis also addresses one more myth about our eating habits that I think bears inclusion in today's commentary. He says that doctors been called killjoys a time or two from people who say one unhealthy meal can't do any real damage. But the truth is that it can. Research has linked a single high-fat meal to impaired vascular function. His advice is that if you do overdo it at the dinner table, focus on getting back on track the next day because even one huge overdose of fatty foods can make a difference.

So, where does this leave me, you ask? It leaves me wondering one more time about that river of grace because within a few hours, I plan to need it.

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

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



EDDY PRINCE

America's war on drugs sputters to an end

EDITOR'S NOTE: Debra Saunders is not writing this week. The following is a column by Diane Dimond.

I'm going to make a bold prediction: America's War on Drugs is now officially over.

Oh, no one in Washington is going to make any sort of announcement to confirm this, but take it from me: Our four-decades-old drug war strategy is now formally kaput. To be entirely honest, it has been sputtering along for years now accomplishing little and costing us upward of a trillion dollars.

Citizens in two states — Washington and Colorado — sealed the deal. They voted that marijuana should be legalized, no prescription or medical excuse needed. And not only is recreational pot smoking by adults legal in those two places now, but medicinal use of marijuana is already the will of the people in 18 other states and the District of Columbia.

Sure looks like a trend to me. President Obama's Justice Department still considers marijuana to be an illegal substance, and in the past, Attorney General Eric Holder has moved to shut down legally mandated medicinal clinics and to penalize those who use marijuana for health care. But in advance of this November's pro-pot votes, Holder issued none of the usual dire warnings about enforcement. Hmmm, I wonder why not...

Perhaps Washington has quietly decided to join with a majority of Americans think: that marijuana should be legalized. The president is

clearly driving this bus.

An article this past July in GQ magazine reported that Obama had a plan for his second term to move away from military wars and to “pivot to the drug war” here at home. The magazine said ever since his days as a state senator in Illinois, “Obama has considered the Drug War to be a failure.” And during Obama's first run for the White House, he told an interviewer, “I think the basic concept of using medical marijuana for the same purposes and with the same controls as other drugs prescribed by doctors, I think that's entirely appropriate.”

As soon as the newly passed laws are certified, it will be legal in Colorado for an adult to grow up to six pot plants and smoke it in the comfort of his or her own home or any other private location. In Washington, consumers will be able to buy marijuana from state-licensed providers.

Most important? The new laws to legalize, regulate and tax the weed are expected to either save or generate multiple millions of dollars for these states.

Once that happens, how long do you think it will take other cash-strapped states to follow this lead? That's right, probably not long at all. Marijuana money will go a long way toward helping states pay the bills.

Washington and Colorado will soon see their police officers unburdened from making picayune pot possession arrests. Their costly jail and prison populations will begin to dwindle.

Their courts and prosecutors will finally get out from under the massive numbers of small-time drug-bust cases that clog the dockets and are so expensive. Everyone will be freed up to focus on much more serious mat-

ters of crime and justice.

The budget-balancing rewards of legalizing recreational pot will simply be too tempting for other states to ignore. If you doubt the new pot laws will have much of a financial impact, consider these facts:

—Every 42 seconds, police make a marijuana arrest somewhere in America. That's according to Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP), a group of police officers, judges, prosecutors and other criminal justice professionals who advocate the legalization of pot.

—A recent FBI report concluded that 750,000 Americans were arrested on marijuana laws last year, almost 90 percent of them for mere possession of pot. With that many arrests, can you imagine how many more Americans smoke pot and just haven't been arrested?

The National Geographic Channel reports that at least 15 million U.S. citizens use marijuana at least once a month.

Once the positive economic reality of regulating and taxing marijuana becomes evident, how long do you think it will be before we start hearing serious talk about legalizing all street drugs? That's right, not long at all.

It is so logical, and yet I can just hear the knee-jerk protests from those spouting tired laments.

But teen-agers will get their hands on marijuana!

People high on pot will get behind the wheel and drive!

Smoking marijuana kills brain cells and causes other health problems!

Let's not kid ourselves. Those things are already happening, and we've dealt with it. When pot is legalized, it doesn't mean existing laws

are tossed out. There will still be statutes against smoking in public, illegal underage sales and use and driving under the influence. As for the health issues marijuana might cause? Well, I don't think the government should be in the business of regulating personal choice about what someone puts in their body — not sugary drinks and certainly not some weed that so many citizens have voted should be legal to smoke.

I understand there is still the argument that smoking marijuana leads users to harder drugs like cocaine, meth or heroin. People prone to abuse their bodies with cigarettes and alcohol have been known to turn to other addictive substances. But the fact is, there are no conclusive scientific studies proving marijuana is a gateway drug.

One more point: If America — no, I'll say when America — legalizes marijuana, think of what that would do to the profit margin of the vicious drug cartels. The money made by criminal enterprises in foreign countries could stay right here in America if we just got our playbook straight.

What's lacking is definitive leadership from Washington. That's a shame, because this legalization train is moving down the tracks with or without the politicians.

Diane Dimond's new book, “Cirque Du Salahi — Be Careful Who You Trust,” can be pre-ordered at Amazon.com. Visit Diane Dimond's official website at www.dianedimond.com for investigative reporting, polls and more. To find out more about Diane Dimond and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.



DIANE DIMOND

News in brief

Army veteran drove float in parade crash

MIDLAND, Texas (AP) — The driver of a parade float filled with wounded veterans and their spouses that was struck by a freight train in West Texas is an Army veteran himself who is “in shock” over the accident that killed four people, an attorney said Tuesday.

Dale Andrew Hayden was driving a flatbed truck that investigators say edged across a railroad crossing despite warning signals of a fast approaching train, Hayden’s attorney, Hal Brockett said.

“Words can’t express the sorrow and remorse for the people who got hurt and killed,” Brockett said in an interview.

The revelation of who the driver was came as the National Transportation Safety Board conducted a sight distance test at the crash site. A train and a truck similar to those involved in the accident were driven across the site at various intervals, and the railroad crossing was activated.

Four veterans were killed in the collision in Midland on Thursday. Sixteen people were injured.

Investigators say the float began crossing the train tracks even though warning bells were sounding and the crossing lights were flashing. A Union Pacific train travelling at more than 60 mph ran into the truck as the occupants scrambled to jump to safety.

Hayden, who has a military career spanning more than three decades, now works as a truck driver for Smith Industries, an oilfield services company. Brockett said the company placed Hayden on medical leave.

Hayden is “kind of catatonic” and not ready to be interviewed, Brockett said. “He’s just very much in shock.”

Perry condemns ‘outrageous’ attacks on Israel

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry has written to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu saying he’s “deeply saddened” to see his country “once again under siege by Hamas forces firing rockets and mortars.”

In a letter Tuesday, Perry said the latest round of attacks is contributing to “mounting bloodshed on both sides.”

More than 1,000 rockets have been fired at Israel this week, killing five people. Israel has responded with nearly 1,500 air strikes, killing 133 Palestinians.

Perry said he stands with Israel “as you rightfully defend yourselves from these outrageous terrorist attacks.”

The governor called on the U.S. government “to rally the international community in defense of Israel.” He also said he was praying “that all Palestinians in Gaza who truly desire peace will reject the malignant forces bombarding your people.”

Woman gets 80 years for deadly day care fire

HOUSTON (AP) — It had been Jessica Tata’s dream to run a day care.

She was soon in over her head, caring for too many kids and taking chances by leaving them alone to run errands. The young woman’s actions ultimately proved fatal: Four children died and three others were injured when a fire broke out at her home day care after she had left them alone to go shopping at a nearby Target.

On Tuesday, jurors sentenced the 24-year-old woman to 80 years in prison for the death of one of the children, 16-month-old Elias Castillo. She still faces charges related to the rest of the children.

“Nobody wins in this situation,” Elias’ great-grandmother, Patty Sparks, said after the sentence was announced. “My heart goes out to the Tata family and those precious mothers and fathers who lost their babies.”

Tata, who was only a few years removed from her teens when she started her day care, worked alone most of the time. Investigators said the February 2011 blaze happened when a pan of oil she had left cooking on the stove ignited while she was out shopping.

The same jury that decided her sentence had convicted Tata last week of one count of felony

murder. The jury could have sentenced her to anywhere from five years to life in prison. Prosecutors had sought a life sentence, while defense attorneys asked only that jurors not give her an excessive sentence.

She will have to serve 30 years of her sentence before she is eligible for parole. Tata also was ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine.

Contractor cited in fatal UT-Dallas crane collapse

DALLAS (AP) — Federal officials have cited a Dallas-area contractor with six serious safety violations after a tower crane collapse on the University of Texas at Dallas campus killed two workers.

The collapse happened July 7 as the crane was being dismantled on a windy day.

In a statement Tuesday, the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration said Harrison Hoist Inc. of Grand Prairie failed to address hazards associated with the wind and weather and those inherent in dismantling the 150-foot crane.

OSHA proposed penalties totaling \$29,400 and gave Harrison Hoist 15 days to comply, contest the findings or ask for a conference with OSHA officials.

Texan pleads guilty in multistate drug ring

MIDLAND, Texas (AP) — A long-haul trucker from West Texas has pleaded guilty in a 2011 multistate drug-transporting ring with ties to Mexico.

Federal prosecutors in Midland say 37-year-old Rigoberto Marquez of Odessa pleaded guilty Tuesday afternoon to conspiracy to distribute cocaine. No sentencing date was immediately set for Marquez, who faces up to 10 years in prison.

Marquez in mid-2011 tried to recruit another Texas driver to transport cocaine from Arizona to Ohio, then return money from the sales to Arizona.

Prosecutors say the other trucker became an FBI informant.

Prosecutors say on Nov. 18, 2011, Kentucky State Police near Elizabethtown confiscated about \$307,000 in drug money hidden in the truck Marquez was driving from Columbus, Ohio.

The cash has been forfeited.

San Antonio lawyer gets probation in estate fight

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A South Texas attorney has been sentenced to 10 years of probation and must give up her law license in an estate fight over her grandmother’s fortune.

A judge in San Antonio on Tuesday sentenced 54-year-old Michelle Lorenz Valicek, who pleaded no contest to misapplication of fiduciary property. She was administrator of the estate of 97-year-old Margaret Lorenz, who died last year.

Prosecutors say about \$500,000 remains unaccounted for from the \$2.3 million fortune left to the elderly woman’s son, who is Valicek’s father. He sought probation for his daughter.

Valicek had faced 16 felony counts of misapplication of fiduciary property and theft prior to her plea agreement. Prosecutors say she wrongly spent the money on extravagant items for herself such as a new home and a luxury car.

Alamo caretakers dispute negative state report

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The caretakers of the Alamo have rejected as inaccurate a state report critical of how they manage the shrine in San Antonio.

The Texas attorney general’s office on Tuesday released the 38-page report which alleges misuse of state funds and failure to preserve and maintain the Alamo. The report goes to the 2013 Legislature.

The president of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas on Tuesday night noted the report does not require any changes to comply with state law. Karen Thompson says issues identified nearly three years ago have been resolved, including leadership changes, continued external auditing and cooperation with preservation programs.

Allegations of mismanagement and financial incompetence led lawmakers to put the Alamo under the General Land Office. The Daughters remain the

primary caretakers but face stricter oversight.

Teen gets 40 years in killing of Texas woman, 88

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — Prosecutors say a 15-year-old boy has been sentenced to 40 years in prison for the fatal stabbing of an elderly South Texas woman.

A judge in Corpus Christi accepted the juvenile capital murder plea agreement and then sentenced the youth in the death of 88-year-old Christina Parades Naranjo.

The Corpus Christi Caller-Times reports another 15-year-old faces trial over the January slaying at the victim’s home. The first teen pleaded guilty Monday and has agreed to testify against the second boy.

The first boy must serve his sentence in the juvenile system until age 19. A hearing will then be held before he’s moved to the adult prison system. The teen must serve at least half his sentence before being eligible for parole.

Search for missing oil platform worker ends

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Black Elk Energy has halted the search for a worker missing since Friday’s fire aboard the company’s oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico.

The missing crewman, Jerome Malagapo of the Philippines, was employed by Grand Isle Shipyard Inc., which had a contract with Black Elk to refurbish the platform.

The company said in a statement released Tuesday night that they would focus on the victims and their families, including those injured in the incident.

The body of 42-year-old Elroy Corporal was found over the weekend. Four workers who suffered burns during the platform fire are being treated at the Baton Rouge Medical Center.

2 apprehended at border for military desertion

DONNA, Texas (AP) — U.S. customs officials say two North Carolina men await extradition on military desertion charges after they were detained at the U.S.-Mexico border.

In a statement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said 23-year-olds Daniel Gene Vermette and David Conrad Reynolds entered the country Tuesday at the Donna International Bridge in South Texas. They were turned over to the FBI after customs officers confirmed the pair had active warrants for their arrest.

It wasn’t immediately known what they were doing in Mexico or how long they were there.

Both men are from Jacksonville, N.C.

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News in brief

From West Bank, Clinton returns to Jerusalem for more truce talks on Israel-Hamas fighting

JERUSALEM (AP) — An official says the U.S. secretary of state has returned to Jerusalem for another round of meetings with Israeli leaders as she tries to wring an elusive truce deal over the Israel-Hamas fighting.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release details of the meeting.

He says U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton went back to Jerusalem after holding talks in the West Bank with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Wednesday.

She'll be meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Ehud Barak and Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman in her attempts to help piece together a deal that would satisfy the two foes after eight days of fighting.

Clinton is due to travel later to Cairo, which is mediating in the crisis.

Russian farmer strikes back at corruption by publishing his own newspaper

YARABAIKASY, Russia (AP) — When Eduard Mochalov tried to have the people who stole his cat-

tle and pig farm brought to justice, he spent eight months in jail on charges he says were cooked up. He appealed to Vladimir Putin and even set himself on fire outside the Kremlin in protest, but still couldn't draw attention to his cause as his farm slowly fell into disrepair.

Now, Mochalov has found a new life as a crusading journalist investigating corruption in his native region, fueled by tips from disgruntled businessmen and government workers. Undeterred by a system where the law is selectively used to protect the powerful and crack down on critics, Mochalov has quickly earned cult status — not to mention the ire of countless local officials — throughout the small province of Chuvashia.

Roughly once a month, he publishes a free newspaper called Vzyatka, or The Bribe, which rails against what it calls "Chuvash kingpins" who steal from the province's budget. Headlines include "The Governor of Chuvashia's Family Business" and "If Nobody's Been Found Guilty, That Means They're Already In Power." The paper has proved so popular that with a print run of 20,000 he has trouble meeting demand.

Frustration with corrupt officials has skyrocketed under President Putin's rule. Twenty-nine percent of Russians believe that civil servants only care about using public funds to enrich themselves, a more than nine-fold increase since Putin took power in 2000, according to the Levada Center,

an independent polling agency.

India hangs lone surviving gunman from 2008 terror attack on Mumbai

MUMBAI, India (AP) — India executed the lone surviving Pakistani gunman from the 2008 terror attack on Mumbai early Wednesday, providing Indians much-needed closure over the three-day rampage that shook the nation's core and deepened enmity with neighbor Pakistan.

India blames a Pakistan-based militant organization for the attacks carried out by Mohammed Ajmal Kasab and his comrades that killed 166 people at a train station, a Jewish center and two luxury hotels in its financial capital. India accuses Pakistan's intelligence agency of training, arming and sponsoring the attackers, allegations Pakistan denies.

Kasab, a Pakistani citizen, was hanged in secrecy at 7.30 a.m. at a jail in Pune, a city near Mumbai, after Indian President Pranab Mukherjee rejected his plea for mercy.

Indian authorities faced public pressure to quickly execute Kasab, and the government fast-tracked the appeal and execution process, which often can take years, or in some cases, decades.

Taliban suicide bombers strike near U.S. base in Kabul, killing 2 Afghan guards, police say

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Two Taliban suicide bombers struck near a U.S. base in Kabul early Wednesday, killing two Afghan guards in the heart of a neighborhood filled with foreign forces and embassies. The attack came despite increased security ahead of a Muslim holy day that last year saw one of the capital's deadliest attacks.

The bombers apparently meant to target the American base but were spotted by security guards as they approached on foot. The guards fired on the assailants, killing them, but not before one of the vests exploded, said Gen. Mohammad Daoud Amin, the deputy provincial police chief.

Two Afghan security guards were killed and five civilians were wounded in the morning explosion, he said.

The blast reverberated around Kabul's Wazir Akbar Khan neighborhood. An alarm started going off at the nearby U.S. Embassy, warning staff to take cover. The neighborhood also is home to many high-ranking Afghan officials, international organizations and the headquarters of the international military coalition.

Obama trip yields quiet breakthrough that could shed light on whether Myanmar sought nukes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Little noticed in the warm glow of President Barack Obama's landmark visit to Myanmar was a significant concession that could shed light on whether that nation's powerful military pursued a clandestine nuclear weapons program, possibly with North Korea's help.

Myanmar announced it would sign an international agreement that would require it to declare all nuclear facilities and materials. Although it would be up to Myanmar to decide what to declare, it could provide some answers concerning its acquisition of dual-use machinery and its military cooperation with Pyongyang that the U.S. and other nations regard as suspect.

President Thein Sein's agreement to allow more scrutiny by U.N. nuclear inspectors suggests a willingness to go beyond democratic reforms that have improved relations with Washington and culminated in Obama's visit this week, the first by a U.S. president to the country also known as Burma.

David Albright and Andrea Stricker of the Institute for Science and International Security, a Washington-based nonproliferation group, said in an analysis it was a "remarkable decision."

Mom who turned in son fearing he was planning movie theater attack says he was 'born different'

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The mother who reported her son to police after he amassed what she feared were weapons to attack a southwest Missouri movie theater during a "Twilight" showing said he had recently asked her if he was a failure.

Tricia Lammers made her first public statements Tuesday since the arrest last week of her 20-year-old son, Blaec. Authorities said he admitted planning to attack the theater in Bolivar and then a nearby Wal-Mart store, where he'd been arrested in 2009 after following around a clerk while armed with a knife.

Investigators determined he recently purchased two assault rifles and 400 rounds of ammunition.

During a news conference at the National Alliance for Mental Illness in Springfield, Tricia Lammers said her son had undergone inpatient treatment. She said her son has shown signs of Asperger's syndrome, borderline personality disorder and other conditions.

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Big Spring b-ball teams win at home

By **BRIAN MCCORMACK**
Sports Editor

Both Big Spring varsity basketball squads won last night at home.

The Lady Steers defeated Andrews 49-31 to improve to 3-2. Yaneira Tuitt led BSHS with 18 points and five rebounds. Dyrshae Vanderbilt and sophomore Julianna Rodriguez each accounted for eight points as the Lady Steers got back on the right side of the win column after back-to-back losses against Odessa High and Lamesa.

"It was a good non-district game," Head Coach Mike Warren said. "It was good to get a win after losing the last two games."

Containing Tuitt has been a priority for opposing teams.

"Teams are running 2-3 zone on us," Warren explained. "They're packing the defense in on Tuitt. Our guards

are shooting better from the outside and we put more points on the board. That's good, our past games have been in the 30s."

The boys team notched a 64-58 win over Lubbock High. The 2-1 Steers jumped out to an early lead and LHS couldn't overcome the deficit.

Tavaris Walker was the Steers' leading scorer with 17 points, including three 3-point shots. Ty Sealy contributed 14 points and Tyler Wington added nine.

Big Spring hoops will resume the Monday after Thanksgiving break. The Steers will be traveling to San Angelo Central while the girls will host Seminole.

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



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Yaneira Tuitt goes for two during Tuesday's 49-31 win over Andrews. The Lady Steers hold a 3-2 pre-district record.

Boxer 'Macho' Camacho critical in Puerto Rico after being shot in face

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Hector "Macho" Camacho was in worsening condition Wednesday after being shot in a car, with doctors and his family expected to decide whether to remove the former boxing champion from life support.

Doctors had said Camacho was in critical, but stable condition and expected to survive after he was shot Tuesday night in his hometown of Bayamon. But his condition worsened overnight and his heart stopped at one point, said Dr. Ernesto Torres, director of the Centro Medico trauma center in San Juan.

"He's battling minute to minute. This is the most important fight of his life," Torres told The Associated Press outside the hospital in the Puerto Rican capital.

Torres said that two specialists will exam-

ine the boxer to determine his level of brain activity.

The specialists will then consult with other doctors and Camacho's mother, who was expected to arrive from New York, to discuss whether he should be removed from life support, said Ismael Leandry, a longtime friend and former manager who was also at the hospital.

"We just have to wait to see if 'Macho' gets better. It's a hard battle," Leandry told AP.

The 50-year-old Camacho was outside a bar in a parked Ford Mustang with a friend when he was shot in the face. The friend, identified as 49-year-old Adrian Mojica Moreno, was killed. Police said two assailants fled in an SUV but no arrests have been made and no motive has been disclosed.

Camacho was rushed to Centro Medico, where doctors initially

ly said he was fortunate in that the bullet passed through his head and lodged in his shoulder. Torres did warn, however, that the boxer, who was trailed by drug and alcohol problems during a career that included some high-profile bouts, could be paralyzed from the shooting.

Steve Tannenbaum, who has also represented Camacho in the past, said he was told by friends at the hospital that the boxer would make it.

"This guy is a cat with nine lives. He's been through so much," he said. "If anybody can pull through it will be him."

Camacho has been considered one of the more controversial figures in boxing.

The fighter's last title bout came against then-welterweight champion Oscar De La

See **MACHO**, Page 14

Mavs' Nowitzki still unsure when he will be able to play

DALLAS (AP) — Dirk Nowitzki was hoping to be back on the court sooner, even when the Dallas Mavericks were saying after his surgery that it could be at least six weeks before any basketball activity.

The perennial All-Star forward instead is finding out just how difficult and frustrating it can be recovering from surgery.

Nowitzki said Tuesday that he's still about two weeks away from getting back on the court to start running and shooting. That would put him at just more than six weeks since arthroscopic surgery on his right knee Oct. 19 — and he still isn't sure when he will start playing again after that.

"Unfortunately, I tried, but I couldn't cut the time down," Nowitzki said. "I was obviously hoping to cut that time a lot shorter. It's been a frustrating time for me, especially watching and nothing I can really do. So there have been some hard days, some frustrating

days. ... But I think now it's gotten better this last week or so and now I guess I'm seeing the end of the tunnel."

Nowitzki, who never had surgery in his first 14 NBA seasons, said the goal has always been for the swelling to be gone and he has to be 100 percent strength-wise before he will play again. There are still good days and bad days with the swelling.

"Once that goal is reached, then I can obviously think about playing again," he said. "But I think we're still far away from that."

He was able this week to increase his off-court workload, including leg presses and getting back on an elliptical machine.

The 34-year-old, 7-foot German decided to have surgery after problems with swelling early in training camp. Nowitzki had issues with the same knee two seasons ago when he missed time

See **NOWITZKI**, Page 14



HERALD file photo

The Lady Steers volleyball team poses with the Class AAA area playoff trophy. Big Spring reached the regional semifinals after a 26-14 season.

BSHS volleyball players named to All-District squad

By **BRIAN MCCORMACK**
Sports Editor

The 2012 Lady Steers volleyball team had a successful year. BSHS wrapped up the season with a 26-14 overall record, went 7-3 in a competitive district and made it to the regional semifinal round of the playoffs before losing a five-set match against Lubbock Cooper.

Several Lady Steers were recognized this week with District 4-3A honors.

Senior Carson Reibe was named Defensive Specialist of the Year. Erin Pollard claimed the Newcomer of the Year award.

Seniors Clara Benavides and Haley Dimidjian and Juniors Morgana Seaton all received First Team All-District nods.

Named to the Second Team were junior Kelsie Guinn and Ebony Zavala as well as sophomore Julianna Rodriguez.

Junior Juliette Alvarez received an honorable mention.

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

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

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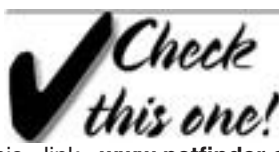
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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: While waiting in a line at a deli, a young girl ahead of me was dressed in today's typical tight, skimpy shorts. She was leaning against the deli case, and I noticed she had a sizable tattoo just above her very clearly exposed rear cleavage. Naturally, I glanced at it briefly and read what it said. I did not gawk or ogle. It was simply normal curiosity. I was cautioned by a friend who warned me that doing so could be considered sexual harassment. My argument is that when someone essentially has a billboard on their butt, it's an invitation for others to peruse it. To me, people who have multiple exposed tattoos should expect others to look them over. What's your take on this? — *A Guy in Virginia*

Dear Guy: In most instances, body art is intended to be noticed. Discreet glancing is fine. Ogling is not. Staring, making comments, whistling, smacking your lips or touching the other person are definite nos-nos. You can look, but do so respectfully.

Dear Annie: "New Sibling" discovered that he had a half-brother and wanted to know whether it was too late to form a relationship over his

father's objections. After my mother died, I found out at age 42 that I was a child from a first marriage. My stepdad adopted me and changed my name to his. I went on a search and found half-brothers from my biological father's other marriages. One half-brother thought it was terrible that I was searching, but another of my half-brothers, only five months younger, was thrilled to have a new sister. We have a wonderful relationship. So, it's never too late. And I agree with your advice that this is not Dad's decision. Yes, I'm angry that my birth information was hidden from me and that I never had the opportunity to meet my biological father. My new half-brother and I have often wondered whether any of the wives knew about the others. I have one more brother we haven't found, and I'm guessing he was also adopted and had his name changed. — *California Sister*

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2012 CREATORS.COM

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PET TALK: Benefits of exercising with your dog

As the semester rolls on and tests pile up many students begin changing their daily routine to one that is more study friendly and, unfortunately, usually more desk-bound. What most students do not realize is that while your dog lies next to you on the couch day after day, it is being robbed of physical activity that is vital to their health.

Multiple studies have shown that dogs that exercise have improved bone health and organ and lung function. It makes them look better, feel better, and they are less nervous when left alone.

"Exercise is good for maintaining general health, and it helps keep your heart, muscles, and joints strong. It also helps with maintaining weight and their coordination," said Dr. Jacqueline Davidson, clinical track professor at Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

Studies also show that dogs lacking exercise usually have poor muscle tone and are more prone to injury, brain ailments, and bone disorders. They are also more susceptible to developing emotional problems and behavior quirks.

"Dogs that don't exercise are usually overweight, have less dexterity, and their heart and joints aren't as vigorous," Davidson said.

"A lack of exercise can affect you and your pet in similar ways, like becoming chubby," Davidson said. "Obesity is a big concern for most animals."

Getting you and your dog off the couch does not mean



having to do a tedious and dreary daily exercise, there are a lot of fun ways to keep your pet and you active.

"For dogs the choices are easy, they enjoy almost anything you enjoy doing," Davidson said. This can include "walking, running, playing with a ball or Frisbee, agility training, and even such sports as canicross and bikejoring (i.e. running or biking with your dog attached

by an elastic line)."

Sports such as bikejoring, while fun, can potentially be a safety issue, warns Davidson. "If you are doing anything like a t t a c h i n g yourself to your dog, make sure the dog has decent obedience training and responds well to voice commands."

The best way to exercise with your dog is to set a "date" between the two of you. While generally playing in any way with your pet is good, dogs benefit most from a prearranged occasion.

"Running around the yard is okay, but it's better to have a structured activity where your pet is constantly moving," Davidson said.

"This structure can also help with your dog's behavioral problems such as chewing and barking because you are giving them an outlet to expend surplus energy and spend time with you."

It is also important to be patient with your pet. When starting a new activity or sport gradually build the time spent doing these activities.

"If the dog is sedentary and you expect it to run for several miles, or play vigorously for 30 minutes, injury may result if the dog is not physically conditioned for the sport or activity," Davidson said.

ABOUT PET TALK Pet Talk is a service of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University. Stories can be viewed on the Web at <http://vetmed.tamu.edu/pet-talk>. Suggestions for future topics may be directed to cvmtoday@cvm.tamu.edu.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

A Change of Celestial Scenery

The sun bursts into Sagittarius, the realm of expansive vision and grand adventure. Soon after, Venus, the queen of romance and beauty, enters mysterious Scorpio. The final twist: Neptune forms a terse angle to the sun. Good luck goes masquerading as bad and vice versa. Temper ambitions. Instead of rushing forth, wait and see.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Before you delegate a task, you have to be sure you can trust a person's judgment. If it goes badly, you'll be the one to blame. Ask questions. If someone doesn't want to answer, it's not a good sign.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Discussions among loved ones go to dicey places, but you may be surprised at how well this turns out. You'll finally see eye-to-eye on an issue. That doesn't mean you'll agree, but there's a mutual respect, and you'll feel heard.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If you could take everyone you know to lunch, you would do it today. You're in a mood to connect with people, especially those you haven't contacted in a long while.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Not everyone wears a smile that's backed by a joyful heart. Some smiles are bankrupt. You have compassion for the spirit-poor and do something to spread cheer to those who could use it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You won't be expected to know all of the answers, but you will be expected to know some of them. Since you hate to be put on the spot, think about what you might be asked, and craft a response.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Social anxiety touches even the most seasoned movers and shakers from time to time. But staying home won't help

this one bit. Push yourself out the door, and join the group.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have a few surprises up your sleeve. In the interest of living fully, you'll risk going too far. And why not? You've already experienced what it's like not to go far enough.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You may start to wonder whether the job you took on is really within your ability. No one is successful alone. Reach out and let others help you. By doing this, you are also helping them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Whatever you do, resist doing it the way your loved ones expect you to. Follow your whims, because you have an instinct for where the interesting action is.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Sometimes you have to make up reasons to feel good before those feel-good feelings start flowing. Optimism, even of the irrational variety, is serotonin producing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Little tasks don't take up much time, but they take up equal brain space as bigger tasks. That's why if a task can be handled in a matter of a few minutes, you should do it as soon as you think of it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The novelty you have pursued in the past is now making you a very interesting conversationalist. So don't hesitate to chase a bit of frivolous fun. It can only help your future social life.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 21). Confidence is gained from trying something new. And for you, Aries, there are so many new things to try and people to meet while trying them. Focus on mastering a skill in January. Take a temp job at a company you lust over. Channel your passion for conquering things into action, as no Aries has ever gotten ahead by just sitting there. On that note, regarding romance, if you're feeling loser-ish about your career prospects, your love targets will scatter like frat boys at last call. Aries and Taurus people

adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 26, 5, 19 and 30

HOLIDAY COPING STRATEGIES BY SIGN, PART THREE: Families are complicated -- but not your family, of course. You're family is awesome. But just in case: **LIBRA:** Give up trying to make sure everyone is taken care of, and revel in the part of the holiday that makes your heart soar. Officially, that's the spiritual part that is focused on gratitude and sharing. Unofficially, it's the decorating and partying. **SCORPIO:** Remember that the most important criterion for determining the success or failure of any family gathering is how well you connect with others. Nothing else really matters. As long as you're bringing your most sincere self to the party, it will be a win. For all of your resistance to the hoopla, deep down you only want to love and be loved. And that's what these special days are all about. **SAGITTARIUS:** Serious equals boring, and yet some family members can't seem to shake their overly dower experience of reality. That is, until you come along. Instead of bringing the dinner rolls, accept that it is your role to bring the spontaneity and risk. Push your luck and laugh. You make everyone feel safe enough to be themselves. —"Rock Your Stars, Your Astrological Guide to Getting it All"

CELEBRITY PROFILES: "Call Me Maybe," the breakaway hit of 2012, introduced

pop fans all over the world to Scorpio singer Carly Rae Jepsen. Born on the cusp of Scorpio and Sagittarius, Jepsen has equal part each sign in her natal chart, indicating magnetic juxtapositions. She can be at once outgoing and reserved, public and cloaked in mystery, improvement oriented and content with who she is.

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HOLIDAY MATHIS

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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker
A Futile Gesture

South is declarer. The bidding is: South: 1NT, North: 2NT, South: 3NT, North: 4NT, South: 5NT. The hand is:

♠	A J 7 6	♥	A 8 7 6 5	♦	A 8 7 6 5	♣	A 8 7 6 5
♠	K 10 9 8	♥	K 10 9 8	♦	K 10 9 8	♣	K 10 9 8
♠	Q 5 4 3	♥	Q 5 4 3	♦	Q 5 4 3	♣	Q 5 4 3
♠	2	♥	2	♦	2	♣	2

South is declarer. The bidding is: South: 1NT, North: 2NT, South: 3NT, North: 4NT, South: 5NT. The hand is:

♠	A J 7 6	♥	A 8 7 6 5	♦	A 8 7 6 5	♣	A 8 7 6 5
♠	K 10 9 8	♥	K 10 9 8	♦	K 10 9 8	♣	K 10 9 8
♠	Q 5 4 3	♥	Q 5 4 3	♦	Q 5 4 3	♣	Q 5 4 3
♠	2	♥	2	♦	2	♣	2

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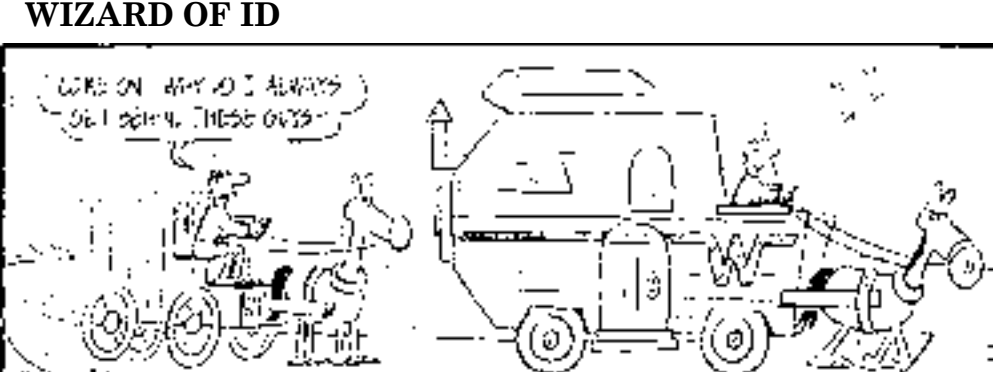
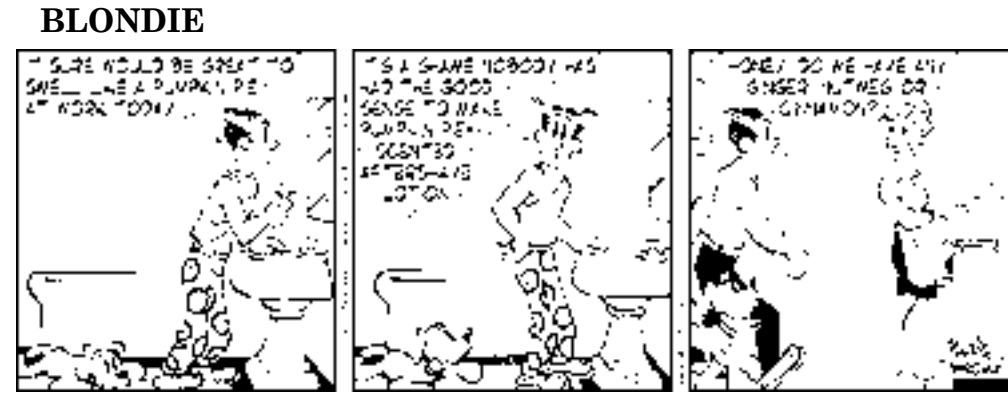
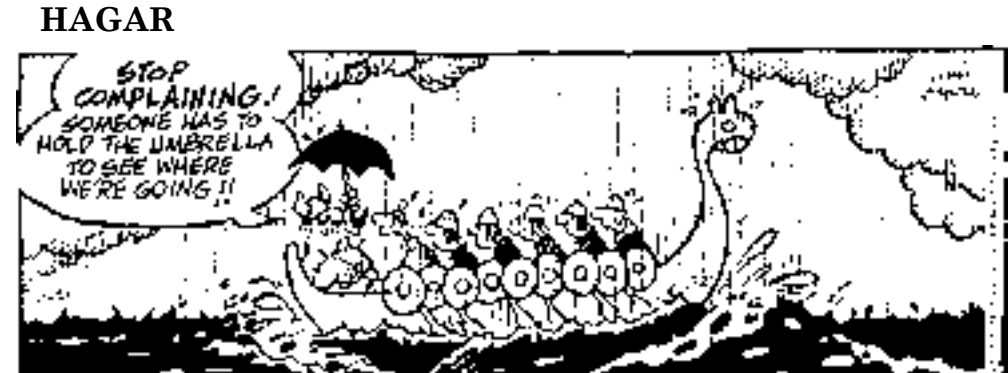
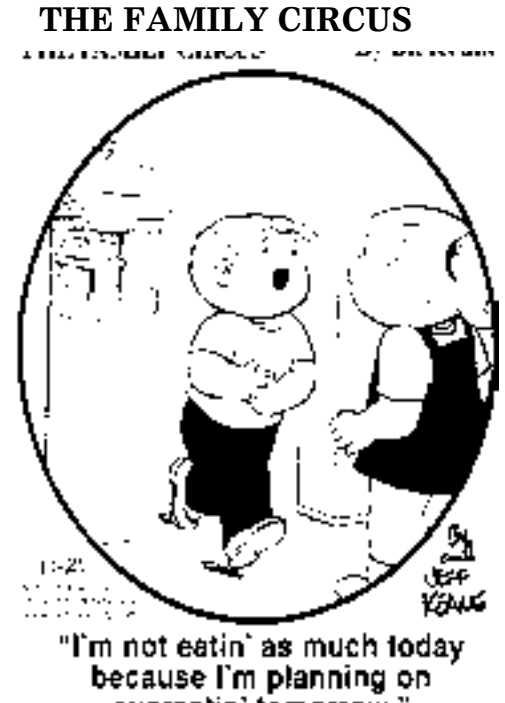
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Table with 20 columns representing different TV channels and their programming schedules for the day.

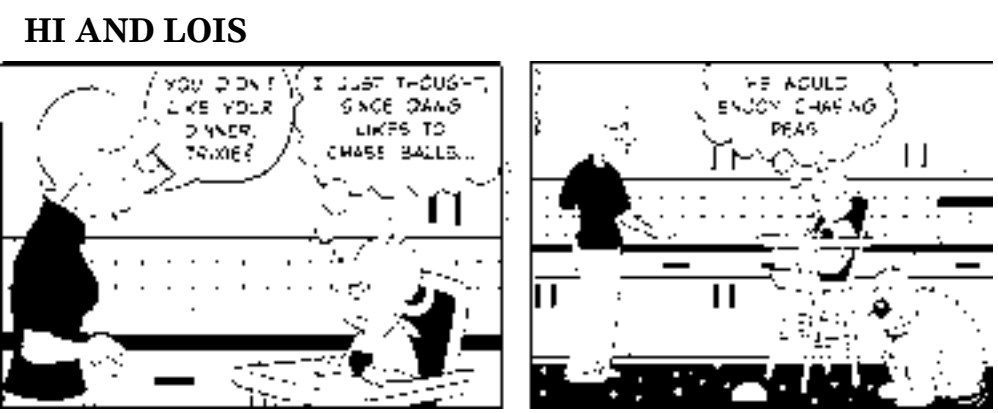


This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 21, the 326th day of 2012. There are 40 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 21, 1942, the Alaska Highway...

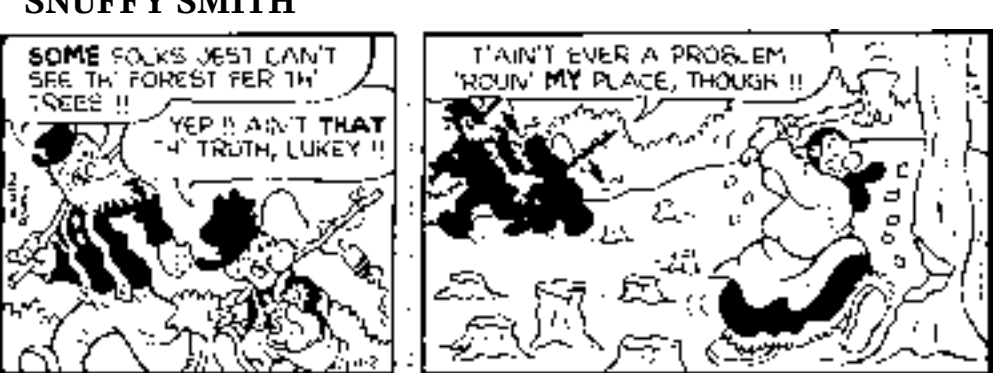
Georgia was sworn in as the first woman to serve in the U.S. Senate. In 1931, the Universal horror film 'Frankenstein'...

Ghali of Egypt to be Secretary-General. One year ago: Author Ann McCaffrey, 85, whose vision of an interstellar alliance...



Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS: 1 Ph Beta, 5 Court statement, 10 Aficionado, 14 Midnight in Paris director, 15 Shakespearean monarch, 16 Bibliography listender, 17 Wasp-waisted shape, 20 Battery prefix, 21 Like dryer traps, 22 Compete, 23 Fender law, 24 Oklahoman, 25 Next to, 28 Place for a witness, 30 Party toots, 31 Dinner accident, 32 Testing site, 35 Sport with two-player teams, 39 Psychic's claim, 40 Spooky, 41 Not fooled by, 42 French painter, 43 Yowie, for example, 45 20s auto, 48 Teachers' favorite, 49 Overdid it onstage, 50 Make into mush, 52 Jungle crusher, 55 Gulf War participants, 58 Disney CEO, 59 Skewed view.



Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-61 and a list of clues for each number.





HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Tyler Wigington takes a shot during Tuesday's game against Lubbock High. The Steers won 64-58, improving to 2-1 on the season.

Cowboys WR Bryant could finally be arriving

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Great one game. Hard to find the next. A scene at the mall one year. Trouble with the law the next.

Wide receiver Dez Bryant is the riddle many had feared when character issues allowed the Cowboys to take one of the best players in the 2010 draft late in the first round.

Don't look now, but Bryant has multiple 100-yard receiving games for the first time as a pro, and is coming off a career-high 145 yards and a critical fourth-quarter touchdown against Cleveland. Barring injury or another twist to the story, he'll probably have his first 1,000-yard season.

Now is as good a time as any to ask whether Bryant is finally arriving in his third season, though not even the ultimate Cowboys optimist is ready to give a definitive answer.

"The risk here is that he's in the glaring spotlight of being on the field and off the field for the Cowboys," owner Jerry Jones said. "So I'm reluctant that, we all are, to say that he's doing good. Dez is doing better."

Forget the numbers for a moment. The day after a potential resolution was announced in a domestic dispute with his

mother, Bryant all but invited reporters to his locker so he could declare himself ready to put the "focus on football" — a phrase he repeated so often it made him laugh. Laughter of the right sort has been in short supply around Bryant most of his young pro career.

Three days later, he was there when Tony Romo needed him late in the game, matching the steady and reliable Jason Witten with three catches in the fourth quarter, including a 28-yard score that put Dallas ahead, and adding two more in overtime in the 23-20 Dallas win. Romo ended up throwing his way 15 times, and Bryant had 12 catches.

Afterward, Bryant was already talking about trying to do it again in Thursday's Thanksgiving game against Washington.

"With a win, it feels good," Bryant said. "Just got to put it behind me and get ready for Washington."

The previous two games at Cowboys Stadium, Bryant cost Romo an interception each time by not doing what his quarterback thought he would. Not that this time.

"Herangood routes, he was at his right depth and you see the kind of player he can be when he plays football at the level that he can," Romo said. "That's exciting to see his work ethic

paying off." Few have questioned how hard Bryant works in practice, but there have always been questions about how much time he spent with the playbook. The issue of judgment was even larger, mostly because the Cowboys knew it could be.

He lost most of his final college season at Oklahoma State when the NCAA suspended him after he lied about having dinner with former NFL cornerback Deion Sanders. He was criticized for missing team meetings and failing to bring the right shoes to his pro timing day.

Draft day was rough, too, because his name kept falling after he was projected as a top 10 pick. Despair turned to delight when the kid from East Texas was taken by the Cowboys at No. 24.

His first season in Dallas was uneventful — on the field, too. He missed four games and finished with just 561 yards even though he had a 100-yard game.

Then the trouble started. He was kicked out of an upscale Dallas mall in early 2011 for wearing his pants too low, and a week later, lawsuits surfaced alleging that he had nearly \$1 million in unpaid bills from jewelry and game tickets, mostly racked up before he signed a five-year contract

See **BRYANT**, Page 14

Local Sports Calendar

FRIDAY

Football

• Grady (8-3) vs. Petersburg (10-1) at Hermleigh, 6 p.m. (Area playoff)

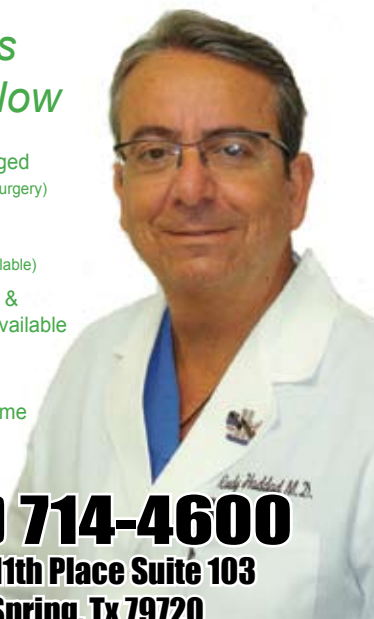
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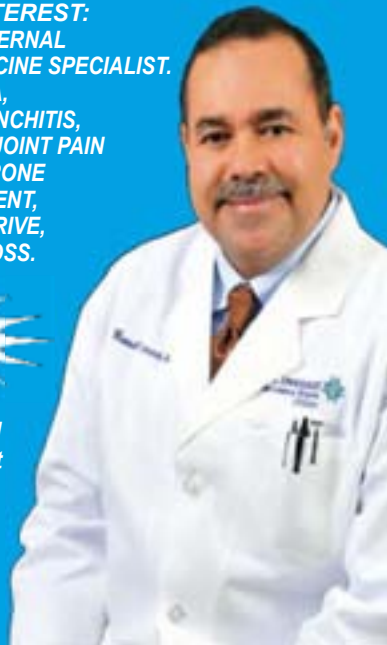
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BRYANT

Continued from Page 13

with \$8.3 million in guaranteed money. Another spotty season on the field in 2011 was followed by the most serious incident, this one involving his arrest last summer. According to an affidavit filed by police in the Dallas suburb of DeSoto, Bryant struck his mother, Angela Bryant, in the face with a ball cap and grabbed her

T-shirt. Bryant's mom didn't want to press charges, and prosecutors announced a deal last week that could lead to the dismissal of a misdemeanor family violence charge if Bryant isn't arrested and regularly attends anger management counseling for the next year. Witten isn't sure a resolution of the case is the reason Bryant seems ready to be the Cowboys' No. 1 receiver. He just knows it's looking that way.

D'antoni is hobbled but makes smooth Lakers debut

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ever since Mike D'Antoni got a new knee and a new job in rapid succession earlier this month, his life has been a jumble of unfamiliar faces, grueling rehabilitation sessions and anonymous hotel rooms. For a few hours Tuesday night, the veteran coach finally got back into his natural environment. And even if he's not quite ready to roam an NBA sideline with his usual vigor, the Los Angeles Lakers are moving smoothly under his command. D'Antoni made his debut on the Lakers' bench Tuesday night in a 95-90 victory over the Brooklyn Nets. Nine days after he was hired and five days after he flew to Los Angeles to start work, D'Antoni finally coached a game on the sideline with no stumbles — either literal or metaphorical

— during Los Angeles' fifth win in six games. "I've felt different for about two weeks now, so this feels good," D'Antoni said. "Everybody is kidding you — and yes, the pressure is there — but you know what? This feels great. I wouldn't change it for the world. I don't know if (the knee) was any better today than yesterday, but it's going to be the same tomorrow, too, so it's good." "It's the same as it's always been," Bryant said. "He's always very calm, but he still has an undertone edge to him. He's the same D'Antoni. ... We're just getting more in sync with each other." D'Antoni clearly isn't at full strength just yet: He hobbled slowly on the sideline on the rare occasions he left his chair during play in the first half. But

he moved around with more vigor after halftime, protesting foul calls with a good measure of his usual theatrical vehemence. When asked if he wanted to jump up more aggressively to protest occasional officiating calls, D'Antoni laughed: "I'm not that stupid. I'm good. Jumping is in the past. It's gone." Eight months after leaving the New York Knicks late in his fourth disappointing season, D'Antoni is grateful to be back at work in such a prized position. He would have rested his knee for probably another month if the Lakers hadn't hired him solely on the basis of phone interviews to replace the fired Mike Brown, skipping over Phil Jackson in favor of the offensive mastermind of the Phoenix Suns' wildly entertaining teams of recent years.

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NOWITZKI

Continued from Page 7

before the Mavs won their only NBA title, then skipped a week last January to strengthen and condition that knee. The Mavericks (6-6) are trying to get by with eight new players. They could go 20 games or more before getting

a chance to play with Nowitzki. "Dirk will get there. And we know he'll be back at some point. But nobody knows exactly when that's going to be," coach Rick Carlisle said. "For right now, we've got to press forward with the guys we have and we've got to take up the slack in some of these areas where we're having some slippage and where we're losing ground." Nowitzki said it's been tough to sit and watch knowing there are ways he could help if he was playing. But he has no plans to rush himself back, like

he had to do after the NBA lockout following the championship season. "I need to make sure everything's right before I come back. I can't rush. I'm hoping maybe after these two years to play a couple more years," he said. "So it would be the wrong thing now to push it and come back too early and maybe make something worse for the long term. So it's been learning to be patient the last couple weeks. It's not my favorite thing to do." When asked if there had been any setbacks in his rehabilitation, Nowitzki said it's just

been a slow process that he didn't expect since he had never had surgery before. Nowitzki said doctors didn't find anything "that was crazy or anything unexpected" during the surgery. He figures 14 NBA seasons, and playing on the German national team during the summers, just took its toll on his knee. "I'm always a fast healer, so when I heard I'm doing this rehab, in my head I'm thinking I'm playing in 2, 3 weeks. But it just didn't work out that way," he said. "It's a piece of work, but it's getting better from here."

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MACHO

Continued from Page 7

Hoya in 1997, a loss by unanimous decision. He last fought in May 2010, losing to Saul Duran. Tannenbaum said they were looking at a possible bout in 2013. "We were talking comeback even though he is 50," he said. "I felt he was capable of it." Camacho was born in Bayamon, one of the cities that make up the San Juan metropolitan area. He left Puerto Rico as a child and grew up mostly in New York's Harlem neighborhood, one of the reasons he later earned the nickname "the Harlem Heckler." He went on to win super lightweight, lightweight and junior welterweight world titles in the 1980s. Camacho has fought other high-profile bouts in his career against Felix Trinidad, Julio Cesar Chavez

and Sugar Ray Leonard. Camacho knocked out Leonard in 1997, ending what was that former champ's final comeback attempt. Camacho has a career record of 79-6-3. In recent years, he has divided his time between Puerto Rico and Florida, appearing regularly on Spanish-language television. Drug, alcohol and other problems have trailed Camacho since the prime of his boxing career. He was sentenced in 2007 to seven years in prison for the burglary of a computer store in Mississippi. While arresting him on the burglary charge in January 2005, police also found the drug ecstasy. A judge eventually suspended all but one year of the sentence and gave Camacho probation. He wound up serving two weeks in jail, though, after violating that probation. Twice his wife filed domestic abuse complaints against him, and she filed for divorce several years ago.

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