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Tension-filled EDC meeting ends amicably

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer

A meeting that started with high tension and hints of misappropriation of public funds ended with a handshake and promise of cooperation. Monday, the Big Spring Economic Development Corp.

board of directors expressed several concerns over whether Executive Director Terry Wegman was effectively managing the day-to-day affairs of the agency. Those concerns included pointed questions from Board Vice President Nati Saldivar over some of Wegman's expenses which

had been paid by the corporation. In front of an audience packed with Wegman supporters, Saldivar in particular questioned Wegman's past cell phone expenses, pointing out the corporation not only paid for Wegman's phone, but his wife's, as well.

"I have a problem with your wife's cell phone bill being paid by public money," Saldivar said. "To me, this seems excessive. At what point do you not only pay for your wife's phone, but your nieces and nephews as well?" In response, Wegman said the inclusion of his wife's

phone costs had been approved by past board members, as well as auditors. "At the time, I thought it would be cheaper for me if I signed up for a family plan," Wegman said. "I asked the board informally and

See **EDC**, Page 3

Christmas parade a 'go' for Saturday

Herald Staff Report

Yes, Virginia, there will be a Christmas parade. The Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade, postponed last Saturday because of adverse weather conditions, has been rescheduled for 5:30 p.m. this Saturday. An early weather forecast from the National Weather Service calls for temperatures in the low 50s during the day Saturday, indicating a much more suitable climate. Heritage Museum is working on damage from a burst waterline and will announce later in the week whether Breakfast with Santa and other activities will be held Saturday. Look for more information in Wednesday's edition of the Herald.



HERALD staff photo

Howard County is slowly recovering from two ice storms which caused power outages, school closures, the cancellation of sporting and other events and were blamed for numerous traffic accidents. Despite a warming trend expected this week, conditions were icy in areas this morning, something this mesquite tree was handling well.

Ice storms knock out com tower

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer

What we have here is a failure to communicate. The recent wave of ice storms have done more than just send temperatures plunging and turn roads into skating rinks — it has also done serious damage to Howard County's communication system. A tower that county agencies — including the sheriff's office — used was felled during the ice storm that hit this area the week of Thanksgiving, leaving communication with deputies and other emergency responders in certain areas of the county dicey at best. Sheriff Stan Parker told Howard County commissioners during their Monday meeting that the loss of the tower has particularly effected communication with deputies' portable radios.

See **COUNTY**, Page 3

U.S. Rep candidate says people must 'take their country back'

By LYNDEL MOODY
 Staff Writer

It's up to the American people to become involved in the political processes to turn the country around and it has to happen now. That was the message Dr. Donald May, a candidate in the Republican primary for the 19th District Congressional seat, gave here Monday night. "Remember, it's guys like you who are going to save this country, not the politicians in Washington," May said. "It's come to the point where the American people are going to have to take their country back. "It's not the 435 people in the House and the the 100 people in the Senate and the guy in the White House," May continued. "The guy in the White House, his main goal is to take this country apart and destroy it and leave it worse off than when he stepped in. Bill Clinton — he just hated the military and he liked messing around with women. It's the American people that are going to have to rise up and take this back. Jefferson said we put the whole trust and the whole government in the hands of the American people because we can't trust the government."



Dr. Donald May

is running against incumbent Randy Neugebauer, R-Lubbock, in the March primary. May is a farmer, surgeon, veteran, former Texas Tech University professor and associate dean, medical economist, small business owner and conservative. See **MAY**, Page 3

INDEX

Comics	12
Classified	8-11
Features	5
Obituaries	2
Opinion	4
Sports	7,13

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Opinion

“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.

ANOTHER VIEW

Put an end to human trafficking

Although it's the 21st century, the age-old problem of human trafficking still exists. In fact, it's a thriving billion-dollar business worldwide, bringing in \$87 million a day and \$32 billion a year. But what's most alarming is that it is occurring not just in Third World countries but in both rural and urban areas, including our own backyard. Modern-day slavery takes a much different form than its predecessor. The Internet is among the high-tech tools human traffickers use to entrap victims.

Michigan has human trafficking laws, but they need considerable updating and revision to address the complex issues of the crime today.

Attorney General Bill Schuette recently co-chaired with Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth, the first Michigan Commission on Human Trafficking.

Formed in March, the commission's detailed report to the governor in November includes more than 20 recommendations.

As a result, 19 state Senate and 15 House bills have been introduced.

Lawmakers expect the bipartisan legislation to begin moving to the governor in December.

The large number of bills illustrates how complicated the problem has become but, generally, the legislation strives to accomplish several specific goals.

They include decriminalizing the victim, who may be forced to do illegal acts, such as prostitution.

“Safe harbor” laws would automatically classify anyone under 17 as a victim and not an offender.

Some bills would eliminate the statute of limitations on human trafficking. Senate Bill 584 is known as the Theresa Flores bill and shows that the problem is local.

Flores, originally from Birmingham, was lured into captivity as a 15-year-old by a man who purported to be her boyfriend.

She was trapped for two years because she was afraid to tell her parents what was happening to her.

Often, experts note, victims are kept in a psychological bondage, afraid to reveal their plight because of blackmail and threats to themselves or family members.

Another example of how the problem surfaces in Michigan is legislation named after Stephanie Brown, a southeast Michigan woman who was working at a nightclub when she was drugged and dragged into sex trafficking.

She died from a drug overdose as her captors tried to keep her sedated.

These bills would allow local communities to pass laws that control nightclub activities.

There is also legislation dealing with the “johns,” those who solicit sex from children.

All the bills are aimed at giving law enforcement agencies the tools to attack the problem and prosecute the human traffickers.

Public awareness is also a critical issue, notes Jane P. White, director of the Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force, based in East Lansing.

She says local communities, prosecutors and law enforcement agencies all must work together and coordinate efforts to fight the crime.

“It's imperative, based on the demographics of Michigan, we understand the crime of human trafficking is here, whether it's labor or sexual exploitation,” says White, who endorses the commission's recommendations.

There's obviously much work to be done in Michigan.

The efforts of the attorney general's commission and all of the other stakeholders, such as the Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force, should be commended and supported.

— *The Detroit News*

About that Biden ‘gaffe’ in Tokyo

We know that about 20,000 pseudo-, semi- and real journalists “cover” Washington.

We know that mid-December is slow-time in the nation's capital as the public turns its attention to the holidays. But big news or no, the scribes tending political websites must still, as they say, “feed the beast” and take it out for a walk three times a day.

Hence the to-do about Vice President Joe Biden's latest “gaffe,” an alleged sexist remark in Tokyo. Biden had asked women at an Internet company, “Do your husbands like you working full time?”

That was the length and breadth of it. I consider my sensitivity to patriarchal cuts fairly high-tuned, and honest, the comment would not have set off a bleep. After all, Japan remains a culture in which 60 percent of women leave their jobs when they have children. Presumably, their husbands are involved in the decision.

One imagines that husband-wife talks on whether a mother of young kids should work outside the house are held in Topeka, as well. The issue goes beyond concern about male dominance in decision-making. Rather, it centers on who will care for the little ones and create a civilized home life, which some people still care about.



FROMA HARROP

It doesn't have to be the woman. I was reading this weekend about female hotshots on Wall Street, flying out of the house before dawn and jetting off to every continent while their highly competent husbands stay at home, getting breakfast into the children and dropping them off at day care before they pick up the dry cleaning. There are about five of those.

Many more couples in this country perform a stressful balancing act for sharing the duties — both breadwinning and domestic. If the workplace offered more time flexibility and day care were easier to find, the quality of American family life would improve considerably.

The question Biden might ask women in Topeka is whether their husbands would mind their not working the job they do — in addition to handling most of the child care and homemaking.

And that's assuming there is a husband, which in America is more and more not the case for mothers of young children.

The chief reason for Biden's trip to Tokyo was security-related, to help ease tensions among Japan, South Korea and China. The side trip to the Internet firm was to show support for a Japanese government plan to draw more women into the workplace.

Japan is experiencing a sharp drop in population, and women could ease the resulting labor shortage. Hence, the Japanese government has launched a program to help families balance the demands of parenting and outside work.

Which brings us back to Washington, passionately engaged in dissecting a “gaffe” unnoticed by about 99.9 percent of the American public. On CNN, Newt Gingrich denounced Biden for launching a “war on women,” and Democratic National Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz punched back with counter-accusations against Republicans. Meanwhile, The Washington Post produced a fevered headline: “Out-of-context Biden comment to working women in Tokyo sparks firestorm back home.”

The quality of the umbrage was so flimsy that the political posters quickly employed the time-honored trick of finding significance in the fact that they were discussing something of no consequence. Fine, keeps them busy.

But the giant stresses of juggling home life with job life remain an enormous concern from Topeka to Tacoma, Tempe to Tampa. Highlighting a government plan for easing those strains was what brought Biden to meet female office workers in Tokyo.

Let's make note of that plan — if only to fill the time as our political media wait to hear what crazy thing Joe Biden will say next.

Follow Froma Harrop on Twitter @FromaHarrop. She can be reached at fharrop@gmail.com. To find out more about Froma Harrop and read features by other Creators writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Web page at www.creators.com.

Obama statecraft — what's that?

I have long contended that President Obama is in charge on his big-ticket agenda items but disengaged as to policy and implementation details. Recent news reports vindicate my position.

A Government Accountability Institute report found that Obama has not had a one-on-one meeting with Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius since the passage of Obamacare more than three years ago. Breitbart reports that veteran Washington adviser David Gergen, who is usually sympathetic to Obama, says the report is an indictment of the entire White House operation and shows that the administration has bordered on “malfeasance.”

Typically, White House press spokesman Jay Carney said the report is misleading and based on a ridiculously false premise. He said that Obama and Sebelius meet regularly but that their meetings have not been recorded on the visitor logs.

Seriously, Jay? Government Accountability Institute President Peter Schweizer said that White House visitor logs show that whenever Sebelius has gone to the White House, it has been for social functions with “dozens or hundreds of people.” And he mentioned on Sean Hannity's Fox News Channel show that if Obama truly has met with Sebelius privately and left the meetings off the books, Sebelius would be the only Cabinet secretary whose meetings with the White House have been concealed.

Schweizer noted that “the lack of meetings reinforces the severity of what The New York Times describes as the ‘deeply dysfunctional relationship between the Department of Health and Human Services and its technology contractors, and tensions between the White House chief of staff and senior health department officials.’” Indeed.

But none of this should sur-

prise anyone who has been paying attention. Throughout his tenure in office, Obama has demonstrated a surprising apathy and an alarming level of disengagement on everything except for Obamacare and his other pet policy projects, including the stimulus bill, infrastructure, nefarious green projects of every imaginable description, gutting the coal industry, obstructing oil drilling, regulating banking, student loans, other educational issues, drones, taxes on the “rich,” private jet owners, class warfare, race warfare, gender warfare, abortion, homosexuality issues, recalibrating America's image with the Muslim world, managing America's military decline, unilateral nuclear disarmament and other matters about which he has some angst.

Whoa, you say. That is a large list of policy items, Limbaugh, that you are admitting yourself that Obama is profoundly interested and engaged in. To be sure, I am admitting that — but with a huge qualifier. Even on those issues close to his heart, Obama is only engaged at the superficial level. He's the agenda setter in chief; don't let anyone fool you into believing someone else is pulling his Manchurian strings in terms of the overall hard-left direction of his presidency.

He is also the head cheerleader — the captain of the squad that travels the country in virtually nonstop campaign mode to propagandize and con the American public into supporting his ideas.

But he is clearly not engaged at the level of policy details and even less in anything having to do with implementing these policies. Just think back to the development of the Obamacare legislation. Obama knew that he wanted to move toward nationalized health care and achieve it as soon as he could get away with it. His various speeches and actions leave little room for doubt on this point.

There is also no doubt that without Obama's initial political capital and his obsessive drive to achieve socialized health care, Obamacare would never have become a reality — a nightmarish reality but a reality nonetheless. But remember when

individuals at public health care forums and politicians would question him about the specifics of his plan? Because he was not conversant with any of the policy details, he could only answer in vague generalities.

The truth was he didn't have a plan, other than a large-scale blueprint. Instead, he delegated the task to Democrats in the Senate and, through the legislative process, tried to steer the bill a certain way; he had little hands-on involvement. Thus, when he said that his bill did not include federal funding for abortion, he was either lying or completely clueless. Why else would he have had to bribe recalcitrant Democratic Rep. Bart Stupak with a promise to issue an executive order countermanning the provision authorizing such funding?

We saw this same pattern of governance in Obama's abominable handling of the Gulf oil spill, as I've mentioned before. He was wholly disengaged and largely unconcerned with the damages from the spill, except those to his public relations image, as I documented in my latest book. He obviously didn't understand the complexity of the efforts to plug the leak when he uttered his disgraceful cry of frustration — “just plug the damn hole” — as if his regal tantrum would magically eradicate the problem.

I can't prove this, but I bet that in a few years, insiders will begin talking and confirm our suspicions that Obama was precisely this sort of bullying administrator. He orders everyone to accomplish his larger goals and is further willing to campaign and community organize throughout the country at a furious pace to push these items. But as to the details, he is unconcerned, out to lunch and on the golf course and doesn't want to be bothered.

On the bright side, we just have three more years.

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney. His latest book, “The Great Destroyer,” reached No. 2 on the New York Times best-seller list for nonfiction.



DAVID LIMBAUGH

Bird Poop: The crane who missed Christmas

Left behind, a soft gray feather on the floor of our vehicle was a reminder of the tussle we had just encountered with a large bird. To protest its predicament, it had used its six-foot wingspan, feet and beak in trying to elude capture.

Only five inches in length, the feather segued from a soft gray tip to its lighter tone.

Its outer part would readily be seen.

Known as an afterfeather, the last three inches were delicate and wispy and would remain hidden. Layered to keep the bird warm during frigid winters, it was one of thousands of feathers and a graceful gift of nature. Having acquired the feather in November, I had hastily placed it on a bookshelf. Forgotten until the Thanksgiving holidays, I went to retrieve it upon hearing the sound of cranes passing over the house. Their ancient bugling, or call, and now, the feather, prompted a memory of another holiday season.

Christmas Eve had dawned clear and cold. Our lunch had suddenly been interrupted by a phone call.

“Hate to bother you, especially today,” said a volunteer at the Humane Society. “There’s a sandhill crane walking around out here, and it won’t fly,” she continued.

Telling us the gate was closed, but not locked, she stressed that she did not want the bird to wander any further.

The possibility of its getting onto the Interstate frightened her.

Not until it was captured could any of us see there were no visible marks of any kind on the bird. Its wings were held equally. After extending the wings, we were convinced there had to be another reason for its being grounded.

Having alerted Midge Erskine at the Eos Wildlife Sanctuary, we drove our patient to Midland. After carrying it inside, she began to examine it.



Courtesy photo

Nearly four feet high, the sandhill crane is striking in its layered coat of gray feathers. The patch of red skin on its forehead is a sign of maturity. Easily flying forty miles or more in a day in search of food, it readily eats mice, frogs, lizards, and snakes. When crops are available, it dines on grain sorghum, wheat, peanuts, and corn.

Without warning, a gurgling sound emanated from the bird’s throat. Then it was still.

The look on her face told us

our efforts had been futile.

As soon as possible, she would take the sandhill to her veterinarian.

“Frankly, I don’t think

there was anything you could have done to change the outcome,” she added as we walked back to our vehicle. Our ride home was

somber.

Between Stanton and Big Spring, the first of massive flocks of cranes were gliding over the Interstate on their way to Natural Dam Lake for a night’s rest. Undulating lines of sandhills, resembling huge serpents slithering across the sky, headed toward One Mile Lake as we entered town.

When the phone rang the next morning, Midge said her vet had confirmed what she had suspected.

Causing the bird’s lungs to hemorrhage, flukes, worm-like parasites, had overcome our winter visitor. Licensed to provide specimens to educational facilities, Midge planned to donate the crane to Midland College for students to study.

Distinctive with its red skin, or patch, on its forehead, the bird had been two, maybe more, years old. Its overall gray plumage, long neck and legs, and stately presence had always been welcome at this time of the year.

No longer with neck extended, legs trailing behind, would the sandhill’s powerful, graceful flight join hundreds silhouetted by a winter’s sunset. Announcing fall and the coming winter, the welcome V formations and bugling calls would be left to other cranes to continue.

Twenty years later, this simple feather had prompted my recall of that exquisite bird. In the comings and goings of migratory birds in the future, the little plume will remind me that we must always keep trying.

Bebe McCasland is author of The Scoop from Bird Poop. She is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

CP doesn’t keep Cypert down Odds and ends

We all have the memory of a hero tucked away somewhere in our minds and that image changes from time to time.

My image of a hero has changed this past week as I interviewed one of our own Big Spring school employees. I would like to share my hero’s story and identify him for your consideration of a true hero.

Richard Cypert is the counselor of Goliad Elementary. His life has been totally different from most of us, since from a very young age he was diagnosed as having cerebral palsy. He remembers, even as a 2-year-old, going to the Dora Roberts Center for therapy and the pain he would endure just to try to get across the room.

Richard is a Big Spring native, even though many years of his childhood was spent in Garden City. Richard’s first memory of school was at Moss Elementary at the age of 3, in the physical handicapped class. Here he learned how to get around and cope with life’s challenges. He showed from that early age that he had an unconquerable spirit and that he would be successful even though life threw unnumbered challenges his way.

He had trouble walking but he discovered that he could ride

a bicycle with stamina much greater than his peers. This ability groomed him for success as his life progressed. Richard was very involved in Cub Scouts and later in Boy Scouts and his troop was involved in qualifying for the cycling merit badge. Richard was in his element; he could cycle where he couldn’t walk. He developed his cycling skills and won his merit badge but his efforts didn’t stop there. He became so involved in his scouting that he finally earned the badge of Eagle Scout and he was a leader in his pack.

His cycling engaged him in trips to Midland or San Angelo for a day’s ride and his muscles and endurance were constantly developing.

When he was 17, his mom discovered there was a particular surgery that had been developed especially for kids in Richard’s condition but she was told that Richard was too old to be considered.

She began calling the surgeons on a weekly basis until they finally told her to bring Richard in for an assessment. The surgeons were amazed that Richard was the perfect candidate and he would be scheduled for the delicate surgery if he would work hard and build his muscles in preparation since the surgery would require strong muscles for the recuperation process. Richard agreed and went through therapy and a strict workout schedule to prepare for the spinal invasion.

He contacted the major TV

networks, advising them of what was about to happen and ABC picked up the story and interviewed him while he was at a Scout camp in Fort Davis. With the national news handling the story, the local news jumped onboard and the story of Richard became known the talk of the town.

Richard’s surgery was successful and nerves throughout his spine were clipped and much of the cerebral palsy effects were corrected but he still had to relearn many skills such as sitting, standing, walking, crawling and any activity involving his legs.

He was in the hospital for 30 days and was restricted to a wheelchair or crutches for an additional six months and under constant therapy to retrain his nerve and muscular system.

In preparation for all of this, Richard had proven his determination to overcome the barriers of his condition and began his formidable task of preparing for adult life.

It was at this time that Richard was contacted by the Children’s Miracle Network that a special video featuring his story would be one of the highlights of the yearly Children’s Miracle Network Drive on national TV as well as a featured display at Disneyland. Richard had become a star!

Continued next week.

Darrell Ryan is director of school safety for the Big Spring Independent School District.



DARRELL RYAN

Officials seek sanctuary for Iowa alligator

WATERLOO, Iowa (AP) — Animal control officials in the Iowa city of Waterloo are seeking a new home for a baby alligator named Chompey.

A resident of the eastern Iowa city of about 68,000 people bought the alligator after spotting an online advertisement, but he later learned state law doesn’t allow people to keep alligators or other exotic animals, The Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier reported (<http://bit.ly/J7SVtu>) Monday.

The resident turned the gator in to animal control officials, who kept the creature in an aquarium while figuring out what to do with it. Then the gator started snapping and making noises.

“He was really kind of cute, but he was also kind of naughty,” said Maria Tiller, Waterloo’s code enforcement forewoman. “I didn’t want him in my office anymore.”

The alligator was moved to the Pawsitive Pet Care, a veterinary center, where staffed dubbed the animal “Chompey.” The alligator then was sent to a herpetologist in Des Moines, where the animal’s being held in quarantine while staff seek a sanctuary in a warmer climate for Chompey.

Pa. man, 109, cites unlisted number for longevity

JERMYN, Pa. (AP) — What’s the secret to a long life? Having an unlisted number.

That’s according to Leo Moskovitz, who just turned 109. The northeastern Pennsylvania resident jokes that God can’t find him because his name has never appeared in the phone book.

The Times-Tribune of Scranton reports Moskovitz celebrated his birthday with friends and family at a restaurant on Sunday.

People curious about his longevity often ask Moskovitz about his diet. He says he switches between oatmeal and eggs for breakfast — but isn’t sure if that’s why he’s lived so long.

He says, “If I knew what the secret was, I’d patent it.”

Moskovitz and his 87-year-old wife, Ann, have been married for 45 years. They live in Jermyn.

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Proof It!

Are you an eagle-eyed reader? Read the article below and circle the six errors you find. Then rewrite the article correctly on the lines below the article.

SHELTER PETS

It's a sad fact that every year, millions of unwanted pets wind up in animal shelters. Why are there so many unwanted animals? What can you do to help? Find out on today's Kid Scoop page.



Controlling the pet population in this country is a good place to start being truly kind to animals. Each year, thousands of dogs and cats are abandoned and then killed.

Sometimes people get a pet and find out, too late, that they can't care for it. All too often, the pet is then abandoned or left at a shelter.

But wait, it gets worse. Some people do not spay or neuter their pets, which means the animals keep producing unwanted young. Sadly, not enough good homes exist for all the puppies and kittens born into this world. So these unwanted pets also end up in shelters, where many of them must be put to death.

How can you help?

1. Don't get a pet unless you are really prepared to care for it. Read at the library about how to care for the pet you want, and then decide if you truly have the time it takes.
2. If you have a cat or dog, get it spayed or neutered so that it won't breed and produce young.

WORDS TO KNOW:

Spaying is the operation that prevents female cats and dogs from breeding. **Neutering** is the operation that prevents male cats and dogs from breeding.

For more information, visit the Humane Society of the United States at: www.hsus.org

Five puppies and five kittens are identical. Can you find both sets of five?

Standards Link: Visual discrimination: Observe similarities and differences in common objects.

How can one female cat stretch 25 miles?

One female cat that is not spayed can have eight to ten kittens a year. If each of her kittens has kittens, and all of those kittens have kittens, after five years, the one female cat you started with will have brought over 100,000 cats into the world. If you could get 100,000 cats in one line, it would be about 25 miles long!

That would be a CATastrophe!

Tail Talk

Cats and dogs communicate with their tails. What are these animals saying? To find out, add up the numbers next to each animal. Match the answer with the tail's message.

- 9 = "I've been a bad dog."
- 14 = "Watch out, I might attack!"
- 6 = "I'm so happy to see you!"
- 17 = "I'm a good dog!"
- 13 = "I'm a cool cat."

Standards Link: Number Sense: Calculate sums.

Pet Name Directory

Look through today's newspaper and find 10 names that would make good pet names. Put them in alphabetical order.

Standards Link: Spelling: Arrange words in alphabetical order.

Sad Numbers

8 to 12 million cats and dogs end up in shelters each year. 4 to 6 million of these cats and dogs are euthanized (killed) at shelters each year.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Use nouns, adjectives and verbs correctly.

What a Character!

Responsibility is ...



I want a pet, but do I have the time it takes to care for one?

... thinking about the consequences of your actions.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Replace the missing words in this story about a shelter pet.

The Adventurous Justin

by Kyra C.

Justin is an adventurous, cute 4-week-old kitten. He is a brown tabby with a white _____. He has black stripes on his head, and his feet look like socks.



I chose to write about Justin because he _____ my heart when I walked in. He has a _____ meow, and he bounces when he eats his food. He crawls around his cage, and it's like he's _____, "Let me out!"

A good home for Justin would be a big house so he could _____ around. You will have fun if you get him. He will win over a bunch of people.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

- SAYING
- BELLY
- CRAWL
- STOLE
- SHRILL

Double Double Word Search

- POPULATION
- SHELTER
- CLINIC
- SPAYED
- PUPPIES
- KITTENS
- KIND
- NEED
- NEUTER
- LOST
- COUNTRY
- CARE
- COOL
- CATS

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

S	T	A	C	S	D	E	E	N	S
N	C	B	S	B	P	R	E	H	K
E	I	A	N	E	E	A	E	D	K
T	C	B	R	T	I	L	Y	C	I
T	T	I	U	E	T	P	O	E	N
I	O	E	N	E	A	O	P	S	D
K	N	S	R	I	L	N	I	U	T
N	O	I	T	A	L	U	P	O	P
Y	R	T	N	U	O	C	M	A	L

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

www.kidscoop.com

Pet Seeks Owner

Imagine that animals could seek owners by running ads in the classified section of the newspaper. Pretend you are an animal. Write an ad for your ideal owner.

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Write expository descriptions; Write from a point of view.



How is a well-dressed man different from a warm dog?

ANSWER: A well-dressed man wears a complete suit. A warm dog just pants.

What is the best way to keep a pet rabbit?



ANSWER: Don't return it.

Write On!

Wanted: A New Home for a Pet

Pretend you are a pet — a cat or dog or even a fish. Write a classified ad as if you are looking for a new home. Read some classified ads in the newspaper to get ideas.

Bears down Cowboys on 'Ditka Day'

By **ANDREW SELIGMAN**

AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO — Neither the brutal cold nor the league's worst defense could stop Josh McCown and the Bears.

Instead, Chicago jumped right back into the playoff race.

McCown threw for a career-high four touchdowns, and the Bears scored on their first eight possessions to grab a share of the NFC North lead with a 45-28 victory over the Dallas Cowboys on a frigid Monday night.

The Bears (7-6) retired Hall of Famer Mike Ditka's number at halftime and pulled even with Detroit in the division race on a night when the game-time temperature was in single digits and the wind chill factor was below zero.

The loss left Dallas (7-6) a game behind Philadelphia in the NFC East and owner Jerry Jones calling for more aggressive play-calling on defense.

The bone-chilling conditions didn't stop McCown from throwing for 348 yards or keep the Bears from running

away with a lopsided victory.

It was one they desperately needed after consecutive losses, and although Detroit holds the head-to-head sweep, the Bears are back in the thick of the playoff race.

"All we could do is try to beat the Dallas Cowboys," coach Marc Trestman said. "We kept it as simple as that. We didn't get into all the hypotheticals and all the things that go into winning or losing a game."

Alshon Jeffery's leaping catch between two defenders in the corner of the end zone in the closing seconds of the second quarter gave the Bears a 24-14 lead, and they continued to pour it on in the second half after a gut-wrenching overtime loss at Minnesota last week.

McCown, making his fourth straight start with Jay Cutler sidelined by a high left ankle sprain, became the first Bears quarterback to throw for 300 or more yards in three straight games. And for that, DeMarcus Ware blamed Dallas' defense.

"If you were back



Chicago Bears cornerback Isaiah Frey tackles Dallas Cowboys' wide receiver Cole Beasley (11) during the first half of their NFL football game Monday in Chicago.

there quarterbacking and we played the way we played you probably would have five touchdowns," he said.

McCown, meanwhile, insisted he's still the backup. And Trestman said the plan with Cutler hasn't changed.

"We'll see where Jay is this week," he said. "He'll have to be released by the doctors and when Jay is ready to play, he'll be playing."

Brandon Marshall

caught six passes for 100 yards, and Jeffery added 84 yards receiving after breaking his own team record the previous week with 249.

Matt Forte chipped in with 102 yards rushing and 73 receiving, and the Bears racked up 490 yards in all.

"Basically, we will have to make some adjustments in what we are doing defensively," Jones said. "What that usually means is taking

more risks on defense. But if you're going to have the kind of match like we had tonight or certainly in New Orleans you have to take some risks. We have to double up and I'm sure that will be part of the plan on defense; more risks."

Tony Romo threw for three touchdowns but completed just 11 of 20 passes for 104 yards for Dallas. DeMarco Murray ran for 146 yards

against the league's worst run defense, but the Cowboys were overmatched after winning two straight.

They also lost linebacker Sean Lee to another injury — this time a neck issue after making a tackle in the third quarter. He missed the previous two games with a hamstring problem.

"Certainly, it was a See **BEARS**, Page 13

Torre, La Russa and Cox named to Hall of Fame

By **RONALD BLUM**

AP Sports Writer

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Joe Torre, Tony La Russa and Bobby Cox made the biggest news on the first day of the winter meetings, an indication of the timeout in the trade-and-signings market.

The trio of retired managers was elected to the Hall of Fame on Monday in a unanimous vote by the expansion era committee. The other big news was the retirement of two-time Cy Young Award winner Roy Halladay after 16 seasons at age 36.

But after all the deals last week, there were almost no new transactions.

David Price still was being

dangled on the trade market by the Tampa Bay Rays. Shin-Soo Choo and Nelson Cruz could be signed for a large pile of cash.

"Maybe there's a little bit of calm after the storm, and the next storm is a few days away," Boston Red Sox general manager Ben Cherington said. "We'll see. Something will happen while everyone's here, but maybe it's a little lower volume than some other years just because so much has already happened."

Two years from free agency, Price is the most high-profile player mentioned in trade talks this week. The 2012 AL Cy Young Award winner had a salary of \$10,112,500 this

year, nearly one-sixth the payroll of the attendance-challenged Rays.

"This is how we have to operate within our little world," Rays manager Joe Maddon said. "So if it were to happen, it's one of those that's almost the word 'devastating' in a sense, but we have to recover from those kind of moments, if it does actually occur."

Price would join James Shields, Matt Garza, Carl Crawford and B.J. Upton among players who left the Rays, whose average home attendance of 18,646 was the lowest in the major leagues.

Few fans means tight cash flow.

"Just think if you could

have kept all those guys for several years and keep them together for maybe 15 years like the Yankees did starting in 1995, '96 to present time," said Maddon, who's been touring the United States in an RV.

"I do commit myself to that thought on occasion, but the reality is that's not the way it is. So I don't lament that. I'm really happy for the guys that once they've done well here, they go somewhere else and do well and make good money for themselves and their family," he said.

Baseball's high rollers have made many of their moves already.

The Yankees, stung by

missing the playoffs for only the second time in 19 years, spent \$307 million to add Jacoby Ellsbury, Brian McCann, Johnny Damon and Melvin Mora, and to retain Hiroki Kuroda and Brendan Ryan. They didn't seem very concerned that Robinson Cano left for a still-unfinished deal with Seattle said to be worth \$240 million over 10 years.

After winning its third World Series title in 10 seasons, Boston watched Ellsbury head to its Bronx rival. The Red Sox allowed catcher Jarrod Saltamacchia to leave for a \$21 million contract with Miami and replaced him

See **HALL**, Page 13

Cousins powers Kings to win over Mavericks

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Rudy Gay watched from a sky box seat as his new Sacramento teammates easily handled the Dallas Mavericks on Monday night.

The short-handed Kings looked formidable against the Mavericks.

DeMarcus Cousins had 32 points and 19 rebounds, and Derrick Williams scored a career-high 31 to pace the Kings to a 112-97 victory over Dallas.

Earlier in the day, the Kings completed a seven-player deal with Toronto that brought them Gay, Aaron Gray and Quincy Acy. Greivis Vasquez, Patrick Patterson, John Salmons and Chuck Hayes went to the Raptors.

"I guess I came on a good day because the team was playing great," said Gay, a veteran forward who is expected to make

his Kings debut Wednesday at home against Utah. "Obviously DeMarcus and Derrick played well."

"So this is a good start and I can't wait to get out there with the guys."

A proven scorer, Gay will no doubt add more punch to a Kings lineup that has been unproductive at times this season. He was Toronto's second-leading scorer and has averaged 18 points and 5.9 rebounds in his eight-year career.

On this night, the Kings showed plenty of offense without Gay.

Sacramento shot 47 percent, had 23 assists, and outscored the sluggish Mavericks 24-3 on fast-break points. Using just 10 players, the Kings led by 19 points after three quarters and by as many as 24 in the fourth in winning their second straight.

6 finalists named for Heisman

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**

AP College Football Writer

NEW YORK — Jameis Winston will have plenty of company at the Heisman Trophy ceremony — though he's not expected to have much competition.

The Florida State quarterback was among a record-tying six Heisman finalists revealed Monday, along with Northern Illinois' Jordan Lynch, Texas A&M's Johnny Manziel, Alabama's AJ McCarron, Auburn's Tre Mason and Boston College's Andre Williams.

Six finalists invited to New York for the presentation are the most since 1994. The winner will be announced Saturday night.

Winston is the overwhelming favorite to win the award now that a sexual assault complaint against him in Tallahassee, Fla.,

has been closed without charges being filed.

He could also become the second freshman to win the award. Manziel was the first just last year. Famous Jameis, like Johnny Football last season, is a red-shirt freshman.

While Winston was a lock to be invited, the rest of the field was muddled. Some contenders had late stumbles (Manziel and Lynch), others (Mason and Williams) made late runs.

Manziel will try to join another exclusive Heisman club by becoming the second player to win the award twice. Ohio State's Archie Griffin won the award in 1974 and '75. The Aggies' quarterback is third in the nation in total offense with 368 yards per game.

Lynch led No. 24 Northern Illinois (12-1) to within a victory of a BCS bid and

has set the major college record for yards rushing for a quarterback this season with 1,815. He also tweeted that he was a finalist about five minutes before the official announcement was made on ESPN by 1996 winner Danny Wuerffel.

"NYC here I come!! Thanks to the coaches teammates and media relation couldn't of did it wt out them!" the record-setting senior posted.

McCarron completed 67 percent of his passes for 2,676 yards and 26 touchdowns for the fourth-ranked Crimson Tide (11-1).

"This will be my first trip to New York City, and I can't put into words how much it means to me," McCarron said in a statement released by the school. "I am truly privileged to have

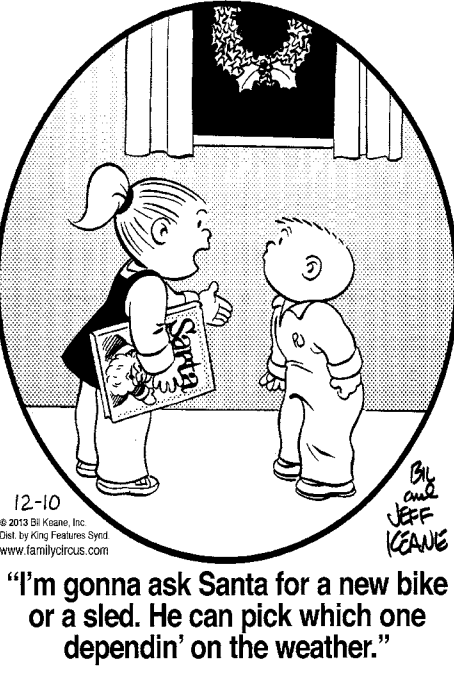
See **SIX**, Page 13

Table with 20 columns (KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, KWWT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN) and 24 rows of TV listings with channel, time, and program names.

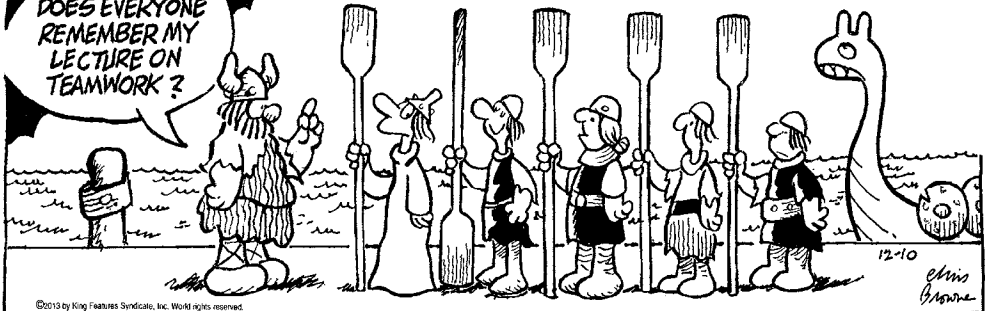
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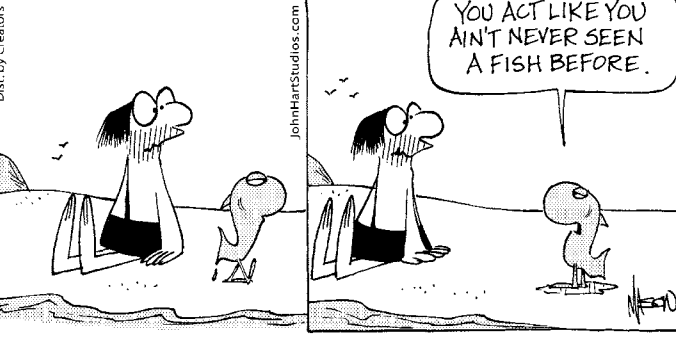
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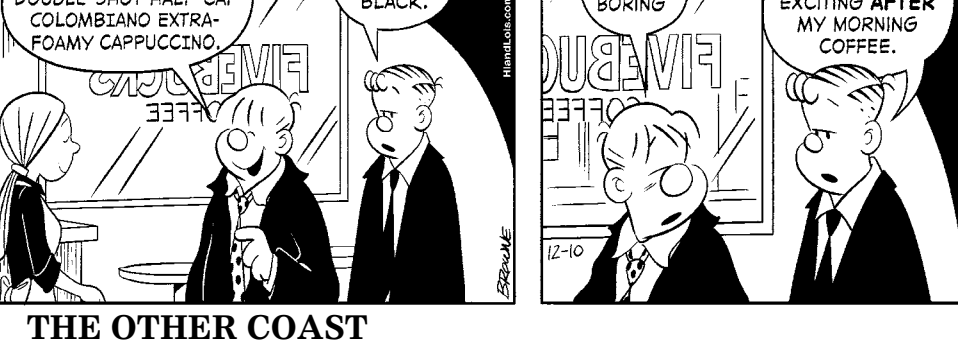
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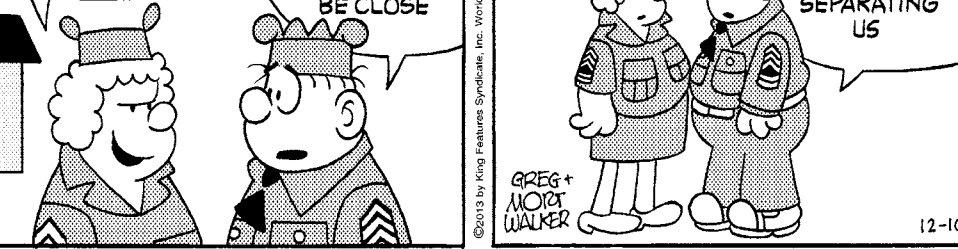
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 10, the 344th day of 2013. Theodore Roosevelt became the first American to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize...

Theodore Roosevelt became the first American to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, for helping mediate an end to the Russo-Japanese War...

In 1967, singer Otis Redding, 26, and six others were killed when their plane crashed into Wisconsin's Lake Monona...

Crossword puzzle grid with letters and numbers.

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS: 1 Singer who won an Oscar for Moonstruck. 68 Former Italian coin. 12 Actress Catherine Jones.

Newsday crossword puzzle grid with numbers and some letters filled in.

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This entry form must be received by Monday, December 16 at 5 p.m. Drop off your form at the Big Spring Herald at 710 Scurry St. The winner will be the one who correctly matches the most Santas to his business/workshop. There will be 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners. Gift certificates will be given away to use at the participating businesses. Winners will be announced in the Friday, December 20th Edition of the Big Spring Herald!

All decisions are final at the discretion of the Big Spring Herald

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