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HERALD



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Remembering 9/11

Where have all the flags gone?

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
 Staff Writer

Gold Star father Robert Volker has a simple request to the community — fly the flag every day.

Volker spoke Sunday afternoon at a community ceremony for the 15th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States.

His son, U.S. Army SPC Robert J. Volker, is one of the nine men with Howard County connections who have died in the conflicts against terror since 9/11 honored with a photograph inside the Spring Town Plaza Mall.

Robert Volker paused for a few minutes as he tried to read a letter written recently by one of his son's commanding officers. He couldn't, but one of his son's good friends, Courtney Bryant, read the letter for him.

In it, the letter speaks of his son's courage, of the brotherhood of war, and why this officer continues the fight to serve and live.

See **FLAGS**, Page 3



In the above photo, Vietnam veteran Mike Tarpley plays "Taps" during Sunday's ceremony commemorating the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks and honoring area residents who have died in the War on Terror. At left, a giant U.S. flag flies outside Spring Town Plaza, where the ceremony was held.

HERALD photos/Lyndel Moody

Once a prayer, now a poem

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
 Staff Writer

Mamie Lee Dodds has read her original poem every year on the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

It is meant to spread hope, not despair, the 97-year-old said.

On the 15th anniversary of that day, Kris Poole read her poem during a community 9/11 ceremony held Sunday afternoon in the Spring Town Plaza Mall.

According to Poole during his introduction to the reading, Dodds wanted to create a lasting memorial at Comanche Trail Park near the amphitheater for the first anniversary.

"She wanted to say a prayer. Make some remarks about 9/11 and then plant seeds on that first anniversary," Poole said. "That's when she came to her, 'Remember 9/11'". She had been writing poems all her life. So when the first anniversary came, there was a small memorial built and

See **POEM**, Page 3

Council plans vote on FY '16 budget

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council will vote on the proposed municipal budget and tax rate for the new fiscal year when it meets at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in council chambers, located at 307 E. Fourth St.

When crafting the budget, officials had to deal with a notable loss in property values, as well as an anticipated million-dollar-plus decline in sales tax revenue.

Not only has total property valuations dropped by more than \$50 million, but sales tax receipts, which fell by about \$1 million in the past year, are estimated to decrease by another \$100,000 in the coming fiscal year, City Finance Director Donald Moore said.

Adding to the bad news was the loss of one of the city's biggest taxpayers, Western Container, which will close its doors in October.

In response, staff has slashed the tentative budget for the new fiscal year by more than \$1 million, but without additional revenue from a proposed 2-cent tax increase, the city would

See **CITY**, Page 3

YMCA: Fun, fitness for the family

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second in a series of articles detailing the agencies assisted by the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County.

By **AMANDA ELSTON**
 Managing Editor

If your children have ever played a sport, know how to swim, or just had one of the best summers of their lives, you probably have the Big Spring YMCA to thank.

The Y is known for its wide array of sports and activities available to all families, no matter their socioeconomic status. But how does this well-known non-profit continue to do good for families and communities? Through assistance by the Howard County United Way.

"Each year with the contributions we receive from United Way we are able to help our community through our scholarships and our programs," said Big Spring YMCA executive director Dathan Jones. "It directly effects our childcare by making it affordable to come and join our programs and our childcare if they can't afford to."

The scholarships — or financial aid — Jones refers to is something that makes the YMCA unique from other clubs or gyms. Families interested in joining as a member or participating in a Y activity, but are



unable to afford to at the normal prices, are given the opportunity to apply for financial aid in order to reduce the cost of the membership or activity. And the activities available are enough to keep any family busy.

"We have dodgeball, we have a fall festival we do in October," listed off Jones. "We also have other programs that we normally do throughout the year. After-school care, summer care, basketball, flag football, volleyball, swim lessons, Zumba, yoga..."

"You name it, it's here," Jones said. Although many of the advertised activities are for children, Jones says the Big Spring YMCA is a place for people of all ages.

"The thing we pride ourselves in at the YMCA is we are one of the few places that an entire family can be in one facility and all be doing something different, but all be here as a family," said Jones. "It doesn't matter if you're 3 or 99. There is something for you here."

If you're interested in do-

See **YMCA**, Page 3



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FLAGS

Continued from Page 1

"I am often asked why we fly a flag at our house daily. This is why," Robert Volker said. "It is symbol to us to pay our respects to our fallen soldiers, our veterans, our first responders.

"The day and years leading up to 9-11, our country was in trouble. We had issues with race, religion, and so forth as we do today," he continued. "But the hours and the days after 9/11, I saw flags. Everyone flew a flag everyday outside their house, outside their shops. Driving through town today, I didn't see so many flags. What I'd like to see is you folks fly a flag everyday for these folks. Let us not forget our fallen warriors, our first responders and everyone else who makes this country great."

The annual ceremony was sponsored this year by Disabled American Veterans Chapter No. 47 and the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department. It is held each year in front of the memorial wall at the Spring Town Plaza to honor the nine Howard County men who have died in the War on Terror. The wall was created by local resident Mike Tarpley, a U.S. Army and Vietnam veteran.

The men whose photos are displayed on the wall are: Steven Evard, civilian contractor who also served in the Big Spring Police Department (1971-2007); PFC Clayton Hensen, U.S. Army (1983-2004); PFC Kristian Menchaca, U.S. Army (1983-2006); PFC Chad Metcalf, U.S. Marine Corp, (1982-2003); SPC Robert J. Volker, U.S. Army (1985-2007); Staff Sgt. Clinton Newman, U.S. Army, (1979-2006); Cpt. Ellery "Ray" Wallace, U.S. Army (1977-2010); SPC Braden Long, U.S. Army (1987-2007); and Sgt. Conrad Alvarez, U.S. Army (1986-2008).

On Sept. 11, 2001, 19 al-Queda terrorists highjacked four planes. Two planes crashed into the World Trade Center World Trade Center in New York, one into the U.S. Pentagon, and the fourth plane was brought down in a field in Shanksville, Penn. Nearly 3,000 people lost their lives that day.

A part of those deaths were first responders who lost their lives attempting to evacuate people from the World Trade Center in New York before two towers collapsed. "People were asking first responders, 'Why are you going up there?' and they said, 'Because we have to get those people out,'" said Big Spring Police Officer Mike Campus, who spoke during the event. "This is a calling for first responders. We are here to help our community."

News in brief

Pneumonia diagnosis fuels questions about Clinton's health

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) — For weeks, Hillary Clinton dismissed questions about her health as little more than a conspiracy theory, part of a "wacky strategy" cooked up by rival Donald Trump as he embraced an "alternative reality." Those concerns are now unavoidable, made real by Clinton's abrupt departure Sunday from a 9/11 anniversary ceremony and a video showing the Democratic nominee staggering and eventually slumping forward before being held up by three people as she was helped into a van. The damage was compounded by the nearly eight hours of silence from Clinton and her team about the health scare, as well as the Sunday evening disclosure she had been diagnosed on Friday with

pneumonia. Clinton's doctor said the 68-year-old former secretary of state "became overheated and dehydrated" at the 9/11 ceremony at ground zero.

Russia-US-brokered Syria cease-fire to start at sunset

BEIRUT (AP) — A cease-fire brokered by the United States and Russia is set to begin at sunset on Monday in Syria amid mixed messages of commitment from various rebel factions but with verbal backing by President Bashar Assad's government. In a stark message to opponents, Assad made a rare public appearance Monday by attending prayers for the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha at a mosque in the Damascus suburb of Daraya. The suburb, previously held by the rebels, surrendered last month and reverted to Damascus' control after four years of government siege.

YMCA

Continued from Page 1

nating to the Howard County United Way to help assist the Big

Spring YMCA, along with the other agencies the United Way assists, visit the United Way office at 215 West Third St., or call Sandy Stewart, United Way execu-

tive director, at 267-5201.

Contact Managing Editor Amanda Elston at 432-263-7331, ext. 230, or email editor@bigspringherald.com

POEM

Continued from Page 1

Ms. Dodds, accompanied by approximately 75 people, said a prayer. She read her poem and then planted her seeds. Unfortunately the seeds were not indigenous to West Texas. None grew to survived. Mrs. Dodds has read her poem on every anniversary since the first anniversary for 14 years."

Remembering 9/11

By Mamie Lee Dodds

Oh! The noise! The blasts! The smoke!
Glass falling everywhere!
Steel and concrete disintegrating.
Falling! Falling! Falling!

People leaping from buildings.
Oh! The noise!

Screaming, sirens, voices.
Action! Action! Action!
People running, running.

Running from the sites.
Confusion everywhere!

But, what's this I see?
People running to the site!

Firefighters. Police.
Doctors.
Paramedics, Ministers.
Ordinary citizens.

Running to the rescue.
To comfort, give medical assistance.
Put out the fire!
Still crying, screaming, wailing!

Oh! The noise!
What's this I hear?

Softly spoken words:
"This is where you need to go";
"I'll help you";
"Lean on me";
"I'll take care of you".
A prayer softly spoken.
"Here's a drink of water".
"Stop and eat, here's food".
"How can I help"?

Look! There's Old Glory!
Our flag, raised above the rubble.
Great symbol of the United States.
Waving so proudly!
Letting us all know we can
Still be proud of this nation.
That in times of stress and danger.
We come together to give our best.

After all the shock and

the noise have abated.
Still they work on rescuing
Searching, praying, helping
Until all the rubble is gone
And all those who died
Could be found if possible.

Now, what should our memorial be?
A physical symbol of some kind?
That will be fitting
So generations to come will remember
Remember the sacrifice of both the dead and living.

The best memorial I can give is
To be the best citizen I can.
To love my neighbor and family;
Help when and where I can;

And be proud of my country.
Fulfill every obligation required of a good citizen;

Pray daily; thank God for our nation;
Prayer that those who govern
And given wisdom and courage
To lead our nation, state and communities.

May those who mourn be comforted;
Those who help know
We are proud for their unflinching devotion to duty
Both then, and every day.
Ah! The noise!
No longer loud and strident.
I love you. I appreciate you.
Spoken over and over,
Day after day.
Voices raised in prayer.

Music. I hear it everywhere.
"God bless America!"

"When I asked Ms. Dodds why she reads this poem on every anniversary ... she responded she wanted to spread hope not despair," Poole told the crowd. "She cites, 'It's is the spirit of hope that makes America so great and the hope people have that make Americans great'".

CITY

Continued from Page 1

be looking at a deficit in its budget, plus there would be no money for street improvement projects, Moore noted.

If the city goes with the effective tax rate — the figure that will raise the same amount of tax revenue as the previous year, that would result in an increase of approximately \$77,000 in revenue, which would

be inadequate to fund street projects, which city council members have already indicated they want continued in the future.

To provide the \$500,000 needed to fund street repairs, Moore said the tax rate will have be increased by 2 cents.

City Manager Todd Darden estimated the \$500,000 figure would fund sealcoating for between seven and nine miles of city streets.

In other business Tuesday, council will

consider:

- Renewal of tax exemptions and penalties.
- Setting the Big Spring Fire Department pay scale for the coming fiscal year.
- Extending a formal invitation to the U.S. Army Special Operations Command to conduct 2017 training exercises in this area from March 5-June 1.
- Additional traffic control signs at certain uncontrolled intersections.
- Adjusting water

rates.

- Approval of the main contractor for the Spring restoration project.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 432-263-7331, ext. 235, or email reporter@bigspringherald.com

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Joe "Prieto" Martinez, 86, died Thursday. Funeral Services were at 2:00 PM Monday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Billy Rose, 67, died Monday, at his residence. Funeral services were held Monday at 10:00 AM at Myers & Smith Chapel. Interment will follow at Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Abilene.



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Cruz TD leads Giants past Dallas



Dallas running back Ezekiel Elliott stretches to score a touchdown during the Cowboys' game vs. the New York Giants Sunday.

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — The salsa is back, and the New York Giants finally finished when the Dallas Cowboys failed to stop the clock in the final seconds.

Eli Manning threw for three touchdowns, including the go-ahead score to Victor Cruz in his first game in nearly two years, and the Giants beat the Cowboys 20-19 Sunday.

The Giants (1-0) won the debut of coach Ben McAdoo after 12 years and two Super Bowl titles under Tom Coughlin while spoiling the first game for Dallas' Dak Prescott and Ezekiel Elliott.

Cruz, who missed most of 2014 with a knee injury and all of last season with a bad calf, broke free in the end zone for a 3-yard TD with 6 minutes remaining,

prompting his trademark salsa dance.

"You couldn't even describe what was going through my body," said Cruz, who had four catches for 34 yards. "I've got that down pat."

"Everybody just pulled for me each and every day, each and every week as we got closer to Week 1. And to score a touchdown. You just couldn't make up a story any better than that."

Because of Tony Romo's back injury, Prescott and Elliott were the first rookie quarterback-running back combo to start an opener for the Cowboys since Roger Staubach and Calvin Hill in 1969.

See **DALLAS**, Page 10

Volleyball:

Coahoma defeats Sterling

By **DREW WILLIAMS**

Sports Editor

COAHOMA — The Coahoma Bulldogettes went over .500 for the season Saturday as they beat Sterling City in straight sets to improve to 7-6.

"They played hard. We have to learn to finish some ballgames. There's a lot of games we're in and we just can't quite finish, but we're working on that, and we're working on the mental part of our game," Coahoma head volleyball coach Christina Cox said.

After a close first set that finished 25-21 in favor of the Bulldogettes, they pulled away easily in the second to win 25-12. They finished the sweep with a 25-16 score in the third set to take the win.

"They are working extremely hard, they're extremely motivated and positive, they're getting some wins, they're wanting to win, and they're hungry," Cox said.

Cox, in her first year as head coach at Coahoma, said that the team chemistry is at a high level as a lot of her players have played on other teams together.

"A lot of them play softball together, so they know each other well, they want to work hard, and they want to play hard for each other," she said. "We have several girls that are really playing hard in Ashley Ferguson, Annie Chandler, Makayla Overton. We just have a solid group and they're all playing really, really tough, and really hard."

The Bulldogettes will look to move to 8-6 on the year when they take on Snyder at home tomorrow at 6:30 p.m.



Texas' Colby Lewis delivers a pitch during the Rangers vs. the Los Angeles Angels game Sunday afternoon.

Simmons homers lead Angels past Texas

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — There were days, plenty of them, when Jered Weaver would light up radar guns and blow fastballs past hitters.

Now the years and the innings have taken their toll, forcing Weaver to reinvent himself as a control pitcher. It has not always been a smooth or successful process.

Sunday, though, in the Angels' 3-2 victory over the AL West-leading Texas Rangers, Weaver gave evidence of a starting pitcher who may yet have figured out a way to extend his career.

"Weave has a way of getting it done," manager Mike Scioscia said. "He really knows his way

around situations and knows his way around hitters."

On a day when all the runs came via the solo homer, Weaver (11-11) might have come up with his best outing of the season. He gave up two solo home runs to Adrian Beltre, but otherwise kept the Rangers in check.

Andrelton Simmons matched Beltre with two solo home runs — he began the day with one homer this season.

Yunel Escobar led off first for the Angels with the other solo shot off Colby Lewis (6-2).

The rest was left to Weaver, who struck out a season-high eight in 6 2/3 innings. He allowed four

hits and walked two.

"I'm just glad I finally got this thing figured out," Weaver said. "Every start it seems to be getting better."

Weaver led the American League in strikeouts with 233 in 2010. He won 20 games two years later and 18 as recently as 2014.

But the last two years have seen a noticeable drop in velocity. His fastball now hovers in the mid-80s mph. He struck out Texas second baseman Rougned Odor in the first with a 68 mph curveball.

"It's tough when your expectations are so high," Weaver said.

Weaver has spent his entire career with the

Angels and will become a free agent at the end of the season. He turns 34 next month, and no one is certain what awaits Weaver, or even if he wants to continue pitching.

"We'll talk about that the last week of the season," he said.

Neither is the team saying much about Weaver's future.

"We're going to take this one step at a time, hopefully finish strong here in the next couple of weeks and then start to evaluate things and see what's going on," Scioscia said.

After Escobar gave Weaver the early lead, Beltre homered in the second.

Wawrinka wears down Djokovic for 1st US Open title

NEW YORK (AP) — Stan Wawrinka is the first to acknowledge he hasn't always been the most consistent player — or the strongest mentally. That's why, when he shows his mettle during a match, he likes to point his right index finger to his temple.

That signature gesture got a lot of use in the U.S. Open final Sunday, when Wawrinka surprisingly managed to wear down Novak Djokovic and beat the defending champion 6-7 (1), 6-4, 7-5, 6-3 for his first U.S. Open title and third Grand Slam trophy overall.

"He was the better player. He was tougher mentally," said Djokovic, offering two of the highest compliments a tennis player can receive

from the talented and sturdy Serb ranked No. 1. "He knew what to do. And I was just unlucky in some moments. And that's it."

The 31-year-old Wawrinka is the oldest U.S. Open men's champion since Ken Rosewall was 35 in 1970, and entered Sunday having spent almost exactly twice as much time on court as Djokovic during the course of the tournament: about 18 hours vs. about 9 hours.

"I played quite a lot of tennis these two weeks. I am completely empty," said No. 3 Wawrinka, who noted during the trophy ceremony that Sunday was the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

By breaking in the final

game of the second and third sets, and by saving 14 of 17 break points he faced, Wawrinka already had gained the upper hand by the time Djokovic clutched at his left leg and grimaced after missing a forehand while getting broken early in the fourth.

Djokovic was granted the unusual chance to have a medical timeout at a time other than a changeover. He removed both shoes and socks so a trainer could help with toe blisters. Wawrinka complained about the 6-minute break, and Djokovic looked over and apologized. Later, Djokovic started limping and received more treatment.

"We played almost four hours," said Djokovic, "and I think I can speak in the name

of Stan, as well: We both felt it."

Wawrinka has won only five of his 24 career meetings against Djokovic, but has now beaten the 12-time major champion on the way to each of his own Grand Slam titles, including in the 2014 Australian Open quarterfinals and 2015 French Open final.

Before this matchup, Djokovic praised Wawrinka as "a big-match player," and, boy, is he ever. Wasn't always, though: Playing in the shadow of his far-more-accomplished Swiss countryman and good pal, Roger Federer, Wawrinka needed until his 35th appearance at a major, at age 28, just to get to the semifinals for the first time.

But look at Wawrinka now. He has now won 11 tournament finals in a row.

He is 3-0 in Grand Slam finals, beating the No. 1-ranked player each time. Take that trio of highest-stakes matches out of the equation, and Wawrinka is 0-19 in all other matches against the top man.

And he did it Sunday by coming back against Djokovic, whose French Open title in June completed a career Grand Slam and made him only the third man — and first in nearly a half-century — to win four consecutive major tournaments.

Consider this: Djokovic had been 51-0 in U.S. Open matches, and 53-2 in all finals, when

See **OPEN**, Page 10

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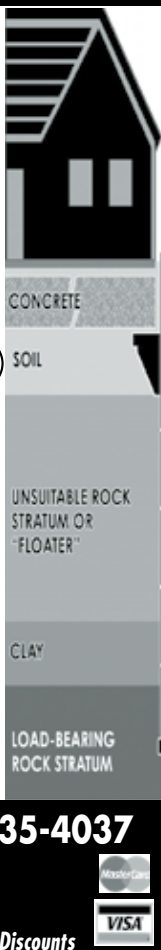
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HOLIDAY MATHIS

Mercury Inferior Conjunction

Being too honest and unfiltered in certain situations practically guarantees exclusion. After all, a healthy group dynamic often depends on people's willingness to place the interests of the group above personal preference and opinion. This Mercury conjunction, some will be compelled to extreme "realness," impervious to consequences.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Since you really believe in something, all you have to do is talk about it and you'll sell it a million times and much more convincingly than someone who doesn't believe but is employing every sales method known to man.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll prove your worth through discretion while others try to prove it by spilling all they know. Just guess who will win the trust of others? The spoils go to the one with the cool factor -- so you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Solitude will appeal to you now, as you're not in the mood to lead and neither do you feel like following. If you have any social inclination at all it is to walk beside one who can do either and has no preference.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll experience a change that seems trivial, but the way you handle this little surprise will be indicative of how you'll handle the big boom of an action the "triviality" will set off. Stay on your toes.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When you have no idea what they're talking about, just say so. Take the quick shot of embarrassment in stride and quickly get yourself up to speed. The know-it-alls live for these moments, after all.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Some say that true love needs

Tomorrow's Horoscope

no words to explain it, and yet without those words how will the other person know? And won't those words help to solidify the feeling and the connection in this bond? Don't let it go unsaid.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). In a professional setting, the priority is how well you fit the job, not how well you "do you." First you'll strip away any factors that might distract others from seeing you in the role. Then you'll advance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The ones you helped want to show you some gratitude and may go overboard or just in a wrong direction to this end. You get the intention, and the effort will make you smile if the result doesn't.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). While it might be exhausting to spend your hours in the grip of some emotion, it's also what makes this day a great motivational source for you and the springboard for some astounding creativity.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). People have to sort through the informa-

tion they are given, and this can be an awful lot of work. That's why in today's important moments, giving less information will be better than giving too much.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The project you've been building is at a frustrating point. Part of you wants to chuck the whole deal and start from scratch. Hold that impulse at bay. A change will soon happen to make you understand the big picture.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). At this point, plan B would make you just as happy as plan A, if not more so. Plan C is not so bad, either. Brainstorm to your heart's content: You have everything to win and nothing to lose.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 12). You are cultivating a certain power this year and it centers around your habit of being friendly, polite and charming while gently insisting that others hold up their end of the deal. You'll find a kind of treasure in November. January is your chance at healing your heart. You'll be

well-loved! Taurus and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 50, 16, 20 and 31.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION: "My sister is a Gemini, and she definitely has two sides to her personality -- one that's so mischievous you might even call her evil. She says that I have two sides to my personality, too. Maybe. I'm a stable Virgo, though. What do you think?"

Each sign of the zodiac is prone to identity shifts and reversals at one time or another. Thus begins the tale of two Virgos. Of the fastidious first, a neat, orderly person who wears freshly pressed clothes and rarely appears wrinkled, even in a jam. This Virgo's life choices are governed by careful composure. This Virgo is competent, but not perfect -- and finds self-acceptance anyway, usually. If the drive toward perfection gets too intense, though, another Virgo shows up. Virgo two has all but given up. Procrastination looms large. A tangled mess of laundry piles up, as do stacks of bills. Virgo two frowns

at the mirror's reflection. Where is this Virgo headed? Hard to say. Like a house with no central heating, there's no centralizing, coordinating unit at home. Virgo two has lost the homing device: meaningful participation in life, the key to personal excellence. The remedy? Ease up. Forget about perfect. Give what you've got in whatever form that takes. Doing so will return you to your preferred typical Virgo state.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Oscar and Grammy winner Jennifer Hudson has stated that losing weight is one of the greatest victories of her life. Hudson was born under a health-oriented Virgo sun and has five luminaries in aesthetic Libra as well. Mars in Leo, the sign of entertainers, and a moon in soulful Pisces is a common and favorable combination of influences among accomplished actors.

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Annie's Mailbox

list of invitees.

Oh, He's Going to Be There?

Dear Annie: My fiancée and I are planning our wedding, which is next spring. We're so excited to share the day with our loved ones, and we've both been pleasantly surprised by how stress-free the planning process has been so far. But we've run into a conundrum while working on our

Two of our friends, "Alex" and "Mary," split up about a year and a half ago. They had been together for seven years, and it was an unhealthy, codependent relationship, so when the breakup finally happened, it was a mess. Mary was devastated. Alex was, admittedly, pretty insensitive about it, but no one is at his best during a breakup.

Alex has moved on and been dating

someone else for about a year. Mary hasn't dated anyone since the breakup and still holds a lot of bitterness against Alex. We were at a friend's dinner party a few months ago, and Mary stormed out when Alex showed up with the new girlfriend. If she hears that any of us have been in contact with him, she goes on a rant about how much of a "scumbag" he is. She stops short of actually asking us not to talk to him, though.

My fiancée and I really don't want to deal with any drama on our wedding day, but we want to invite Alex. How should we handle this? Do you think it would be inconsiderate to Mary

to have him there? Do you think we'd be setting ourselves up for a big unpleasant scene? -- Cold Feet About Hothead

Dear Cold: This drama queen needs to know that on your wedding day, her curtain goes down. Have a talk with Mary well in advance to let her know you're inviting Alex and his girlfriend. She'll have plenty of time to steel herself for the encounter. Managing expectations keeps emotionally volatile people in check.

If she's unwilling to give you her word that she'll be cordial, then she can skip the wedding. But if she really is a true friend, she will understand, put her anger aside

and help make your big day a joyous occasion. And in that case, you should sit her next to a cute single groomsman.

Dear Annie: I have a close friend whom I have known for many years. She and I do a lot of activities together, such as going to the movies, the gym or an occasional lunch. As two women will do, we discuss our lives, which can lead to some complaining about a variety of situations.

I have recently noticed a change in her behavior when she reacts to something I have told her, and I am not sure what to do about it.

When I confide to her that I am worried about a certain situation or if I am just venting about something that happened to me that day, she is very quick to either try to solve the problem for me or say something that minimizes my concern about the problem.

What I am looking for in these conversations is an empathetic friend with whom I can share frustrations or concerns. I am not looking for a solution. I am just looking for a sympathetic ear.

I have seen her react to others this way, too, and it can be off-putting and insulting.

Am I being too sensitive? Should I

gently let her know how this type of reaction makes the other person feel, or should I let it go?

As I said, we have been friends for years, and I want to keep the friendship. I fear that if I said something, I'd risk losing her as my friend. -- Not Heard in Nebraska

Dear Not Heard: We humans are hard-wired to be problem-solvers. And some people -- often those who fear a lack of control in their own lives -- have an especially hard time letting anything just be, thinking every problem might be fixed with the tap of their hammer.

It probably hasn't even occurred to your friend that she could simply listen without giving advice. So do point it out to her. When you just want to vent about something, begin with a disclaimer: "I'm not looking for advice. I just want to vent about this." If your setting that boundary would cause you to lose her as a friend, then she wasn't much of a friend to begin with.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. To find out more about Annie Lane and read features by other Creators Syndicate columnists and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.
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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ J 10 3 2
♥ Q 10 9
♦ A Q J
♣ 5 4 3

WEST
♠ Q 9 6 5
♥ 4
♦ 10 9 8 7
♣ A 9 8 6

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

SOUTH
♠ A K
♥ A K J 8 7 6
♦ 4 2
♣ K 7 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Pass 2♥ Pass
4♥

would have won and returned a club to settle the issue then and there. But Vanderbilt recognized the danger of attempting a diamond finesse and instead adopted a series of plays designed to keep East off lead.

He started by winning the diamond with the ace and next cashed the A-K of spades. A low trump to dummy's nine was followed by the jack of spades. When East played low, Vanderbilt discarded his diamond loser. West won with the queen and made the best return of a spade to kill dummy's ten.

East ruffed, and South overruffed with the king. Now declarer reentered dummy with a trump and led the queen of diamonds. East covered with the king, and Vanderbilt ruffed. (Had East ducked the queen, declarer would have discarded a club to assure the contract.)

Vanderbilt's 10th trick thus became established without his ever running the risk that East would gain the lead for a club return through the king. Dummy's last trump provided the entry to cash the jack of diamonds and dispose of a club. Eventually declarer lost two club tricks but made four hearts.

Vanderbilt's sequence of plays was highly resourceful. He was practically sure to succeed, regardless of where the queen of spades, king of diamonds and ace of clubs were actually located.

Tomorrow: The worst-case scenario.

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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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

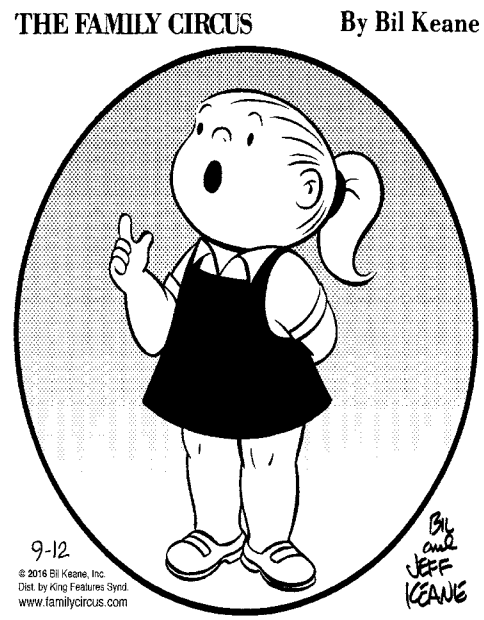
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	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Odessa	Odessa	Odessa	Midland	Atlanta	Atlanta	Sports	Sports	Sports	New York	New York	Discovery
5 :30	Local 2 ABC	Hotel Notic.	Broke Girl Cleveland	News CBS	Tele Noticias	News	Uri Harel D Stringer	Over Business	Mama's	American American	American American	Castle (DVS)	down	SportsCenter	World Poker Tour	NCIS (DVS)	The First 48	Fast N' Loud
6 :30	Jeopardy!	Rosa de Guadalupe	Big Bang ET	News CBS Fall	Caso Cer-rado	News	McDonald R. Booker	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Castle (DVS)	(5:55) NFL Football: Pittsburgh Steelers at Washington Redskins.	Sports Shorts	Sportsday Pregame	Mod Fam	The First 48	Fast N' Loud
7 :30	Dancing With the Stars	Despertar Cortijo	So You Think You Can Dance	Big Bang CBS Fall	Silvana Sin Lana	American Ninja Warrior (DVS)	Upd Discovery	Antiques Roadshow	Griffith	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Rizzoli & Isles	World/Poker	MLB Baseball: Texas Rangers at Houston Astros.	WWE Monday Night RAW	The First 48	To Be Announced	
8 :30	\$100,000 Pyramid	El color de la pasion	News TMZ	Scorpion	Señora Acero 3	Running Wild	POV	Heroes Seinfeld	Heroes Seinfeld	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Major Crimes	(15) NFL Football: Los Angeles Rams at San Francisco 49ers.	SportsCenter	Postgame Cowboys	Queen of the South	(:03) The First 48	(:01) Fast N' Loud
9 :30	Local 2 ABC	Impacto	Mod Fam	News	Tele Noticias	News	House	Mani David	Cougar	Conan	Conan	Major Crimes	SportsCenter	Texasday Sportsday	CSI: Crime Scene	(:03) The First 48	Sacred Steel Bikes	
10 :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Contacto Deportivo	How I Met	James Corden	Señora Acero 3	Insider	News	1st Fruits	King	Cougar	Cougar	Law & Order	College Football: Teams TBA.	MLB Baseball: Texas Rangers at Houston Astros.	CSI: Crime Scene	60 Days First 48	(12:02) Fast N' Loud	
11 :30	Nightline	Extra	Corazon indomable	Middle	Insider	ET	Pagado	Light of the Southwest	King	Cougar	Cougar	Law & Order	Movie: The	CSI: Crime Scene	(:03) The First 48	Fast N' Loud		

DENNIS THE MENACE



"When I grow up, I want to be just like you, Mr. Wilson... only a lot younger."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

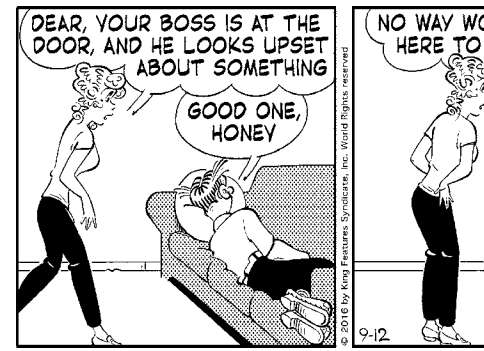


"When will I be old enough to have a phone I can stare at all day?"

HAGAR



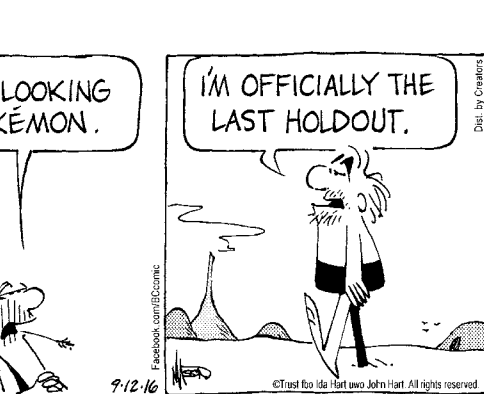
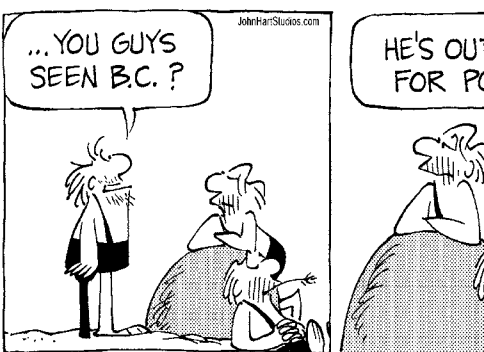
BLONDIE



"SLIPPERY WHEN WET"



BC



This Date In History

Today is Monday, Sept. 12, the 256th day of 2016. There are 110 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 12, 1960, Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kennedy addressed questions about his Roman Catholic faith, telling the Greater Houston Ministerial Association, "I do not speak for my church on public matters, and the church does not speak for me."

On this date: In 1814, the Battle of North Point took place in Maryland during the War of 1812 as American forces slowed British troops advancing on Baltimore.

In 1846, Elizabeth Barrett secretly married Robert Browning at St. Marylebone Church in London.

In 1914, during World War I, the First Battle of the Marne ended in an Allied victory against Germany.

In 1938, Adolf Hitler demanded the right of self-determination for the Sudeten (soo-DAYT'-un) Germans in Czechoslovakia.

In 1944, the Second Quebec Conference opened with President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in attendance.

In 1953, Massachusetts Sen. John F. Kennedy married Jacqueline Lee Bouvier (boovee-AY) in Newport, Rhode Island.

In 1966, "The Monkees" debuted on NBC-TV; "Family Affair" premiered on CBS.

In 1974, Emperor Haile Selassie (HY'-lee sehl-AH'-see) was deposed by Ethiopia's military after ruling for 58 years.

In 1977, South African black student leader Steve Biko (BEE'-koh) died while in police custody, triggering an international outcry.

In 1986, Joseph Cicippio (sih-SIHP'-ee-oh), the acting comptroller at the American University in Beirut, was kidnapped (he was released in December 1991).

In 1995, the Belarusian military shot down a hydrogen balloon during an international race, killing its two American pilots, John Stuart-Jervis and Alan Franckel.

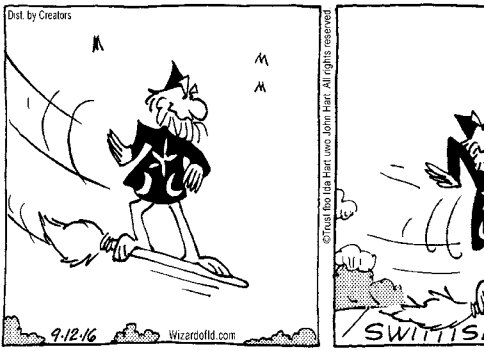
In 2000, Hillary Rodham Clinton became the first first lady to win an election as she claimed victory in the New York Democratic Senate primary, defeating little-known opponent Dr. Mark McMahon.

Ten years ago: In a speech in his native Germany, Pope Benedict XVI said Islamic holy war was against God's nature and quoted a 14th-century

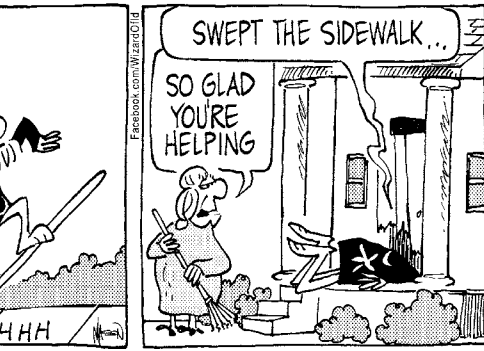
Byzantine emperor, Manuel II Paleologos, as characterizing some teachings of Islam's founder as "evil and inhuman"; the pope's comments unleashed a torrent of rage across the Islamic world, prompting him to say he sincerely regretted that Muslims were offended. Syrian guards foiled an attempt by suspected al-Qaida-linked militants to blow up the U.S. Embassy in Damascus.

Five years ago: Texana Hollis, a 101-year-old woman, was evicted from the southwest Detroit home where she had lived for nearly six decades after her son failed to pay the mortgage. (Hollis was allowed to move back into the house in April 2012 through the efforts of Detroit Free Press columnist Mitch Albom and his charity; Hollis died on Dec. 31, 2013 at the age of 103.)

WIZARD OF ID



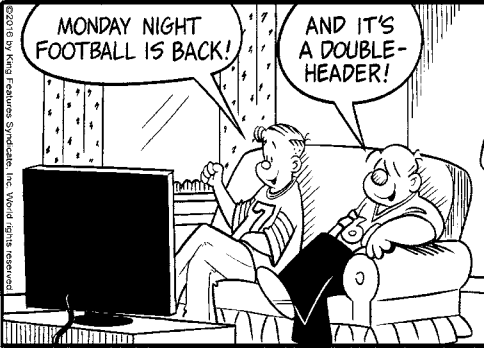
AGNES



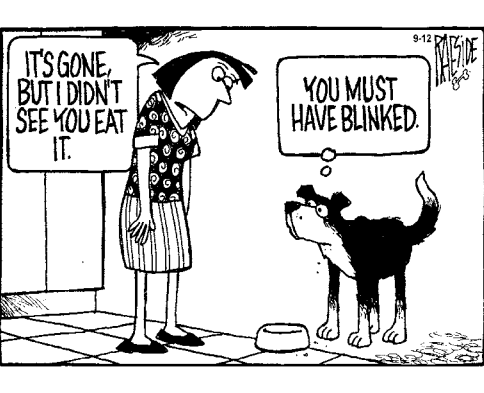
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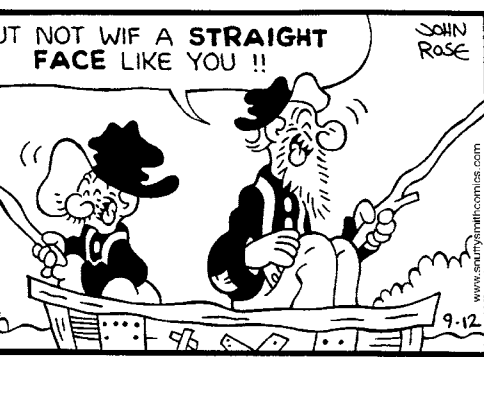
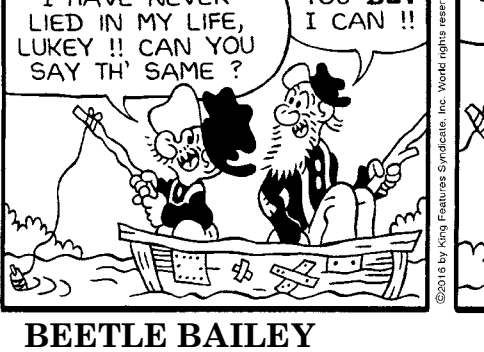
HI AND LOIS



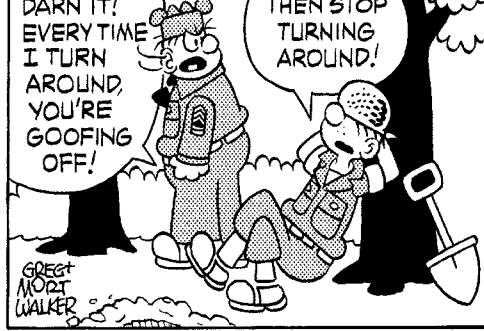
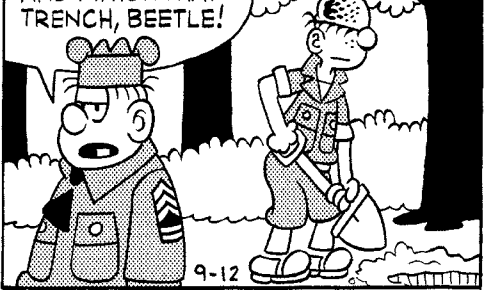
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Actors who overdo it
 - Low-quality
 - Break sharply
 - Pal, slangily
 - Freeway division
 - Sharpen, as a knife
 - Sports complex
 - ___ spumante wine
 - Beetle Bailey dog
 - It's rubbed into palms and fingers
 - Nickname for Ireland
 - Pub beverages
 - Architectural details, for short
 - Divulged a secret
 - Italian "So long!"
 - India's continent
 - Aircraft in battle
 - Apparel
 - Has to have
 - "A likely story!"
 - Don't go out for the evening
 - Wooden strip
 - Performer's role
 - Invitation plea
 - Corporate symbols
 - Serb or Bulgarian
 - All over again
 - It's rubbed in following razor use
 - Topped with frosting
 - Tilt to one side
 - Spooky
 - Deceptive plan
- DOWN**
- Joyful circle dance
 - Prayer ending
 - Get offended by
 - Underwater research site
 - Covered, as with gold
 - Desert haven
 - Not fooled by
 - Harness strap
 - It's rubbed into wingtips
 - Take care of, with "to"
 - Courtroom event
 - Fortune teller
 - Racetrack postings
 - Close tightly, as an envelope
 - Future attorney's exam: Abbr.
 - ___ grievance (complain)
 - It's rubbed in for infants
 - Unmannerly guy
 - Tax-collecting agcy.
 - Very small
 - Competent
 - Close by
 - Suffix for luncheon
 - Neither here ___ there
 - CPR expert
 - Possesses
 - Mixes thoroughly
 - Cob of corn
 - Family room appliances
 - Animal dens
 - With perfect timing
 - Birds that honk
 - Get to one's feet
 - Female choir voice
 - Serve supper to
 - Roll-call response
 - Opera solo
 - Perfume bottle
 - Snakelike fish

RUB IT IN by Gail Grabowski

Edited by Stanley Newman
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Texans rally past Chicago

HOUSTON (AP) — The huge offseason investment the Houston Texans made in Brock Osweiler paid immediate dividends in the season opener.

Osweiler threw for 231 yards and two touchdowns in his debut with Houston to lead the Texans and their revamped offense to a 23-14 win over the Chicago Bears on Sunday.

"I think he's everything that we thought he would be," Texans owner Bob McNair said.

Osweiler, who signed to a \$72 million contract from Denver in the offseason, was helped by an offense filled with playmakers.

"There was nothing about the game that was perfect but we just kept playing ... and we made the big plays when we needed to," Osweiler said.

He completed passes to eight different receivers, led by rookie first-round pick Will Fuller, who became the first player in franchise history to have 100 yards receiving in a debut with 107 and a touchdown. DeAndre Hopkins added 54 yards and a score and running back Lamar Miller had 106 yards rushing in his first game with the Texans.

Osweiler's day started with a hiccup when he threw an interception on the first drive, but soon got going and looked comfortable after that.

Houston trailed by 1 point entering the fourth quarter before Osweiler found Fuller on a short pass and he scampered 18 yards for a touchdown to make it 20-14.

The Texans added a 38-yard field goal later in the quarter to make it 23-14.

Chicago's Jay Cutler threw for 216 yards with a touchdown and an interception, but was also sacked five times and hurried several others on a day when linebackers Whitney Mercilus and 2014 top overall pick Jadeveon Clowney led the pass rush.

"Those struggles occurred a little bit more in the second half when we had to play backyard football where we had to throw it to catch up," Chicago coach John Fox said.

J.J. Watt didn't seem to be limited in his return after sitting out all of the preseason after back surgery. But last year's Defensive Player of the Year wasn't as effective as he normally is.

Wilson tops Tannehill in Seahawks' win

SEATTLE (AP) — Fair or not, quarterbacks Ryan Tannehill and Russell Wilson will always be linked, the result of being selected in the same NFL draft and the positions they play. Tannehill was selected eighth overall by Miami, while Wilson went 67 selections later to Seattle and the opposite corner of the country.

For a period on Sunday, it appeared Big Spring native Tannehill was going to get the better of Wilson. In a career where Wilson has garnered the most success, Tannehill was on the cusp of winning on Seattle's home field.

Just as quick, that opportunity for the Dolphins to pull off a stunning upset to open the season was gone at the hands of Wilson as Seattle rallied in the closing seconds for a 12-10 win

over Miami.

Playing through an ankle injury suffered in the third quarter, Wilson took Seattle 75 yards the final time the ball was in his hands. The Seahawks converted a pair of fourth downs on the drive and capped the winning march with a 2-yard touchdown pass to Doug Baldwin with 31 seconds left.

Another game-winning drive for Wilson to add to his resume, but one that wasn't expected against the Dolphins.

Tannehill did his part in the fourth quarter, leading the Dolphins 86 yards and bulling in from the 2 to take a 10-6 lead with 4:08 remaining.

What is yet to be decided is how well Tannehill and the rest of Miami's offense will function under new head coach Adam Gase.

Was the three quarters of struggles on Sunday the result of the opponent or issues adapting to Gase's system? The surge in the fourth quarter clearly provided optimism that Tannehill has a chance to thrive.

"Every time he came off a series he just said 'What do we got to do now?'" Gase said. "What was really big for us as far as this being our first go as a group was, let's not be the group that pointing fingers and complaining about something that happened.

Let's be the group that's finding solutions on the sidelines and I felt like that's what that group was doing," Gase added.

Here's what else to know from Seattle's late rally to knock off the Dolphins:

ANKLE WATCH : Plenty of attention will

now be placed on Wilson's right ankle. He was injured being sacked by Ndamukong Suh in the third quarter, appearing to get accidentally stepped on and twisting the ankle awkwardly. Wilson said he has no doubts he'll be able to play next week against Los Angeles, but it may be an issue that lingers into Seattle's bye in Week 5.

AREA OF CONCERN: Seattle felt good about the progress of its offensive line through training camp.

Then it was thrown into flux this week when rookie guard Germain Ifedi went down with an ankle injury. Veteran J'Marcus Webb stepped in on Sunday for Ifedi and the results were mixed facing one of the best defensive lines in the NFL. Wilson was sacked three times.

DALLAS

Continued from Page 4

The game ended with Dallas in position for a roughly 57-yard field goal, but Terrance Williams didn't get out of bounds after a catch and the clock ran out before Prescott could spike the ball.

Dan Bailey had four field goals, matched his career long at 56 yards and had another one from 54.

"The guy was trying to make a play," Prescott said of Williams. "You never want to knock a guy trying to make a play."

Randy Bullock, kicking because of Josh Brown's one-game sus-

pension, made the extra point for the lead after an earlier missed PAT.

New York beat Dallas in an opener for the first time in nine tries.

The Giants' defense, fortified in free agency, held Dallas after the go-ahead score. Then the Giants emphasized the run to use most of the clock, quite a contrast to last season when questionable clock management contributed to six losses late in regulation or in overtime in a 6-10 season.

Elliott was held to a 2.5-yard average (51 yards on 21 carries), although he had his first touchdown, and the only one for Dallas. Prescott was 25 of 45 for 227 yards.

Manning was 19 of 28

for 207 yards, including a 45-yarder to Odell Beckham Jr. set up the first TD.

ANOTHER ROOKIE FIRST

New York receiver Sterling Shepard, the son of late former NFL receiver Derrick Shepard, scored his first touchdown against one of his dad's former teams. The second-round pick made a leaping catch over Dallas rookie Anthony Brown for a 9-yard score.

LOSING WITHOUT ROMO AGAIN

The Cowboys fell to 1-12 without Romo since the first of two broken collarbones last season in Week 2. Dallas lost the first seven without its four-time Pro Bowler on

the way to a 4-12 finish. Romo broke a bone in his back in a preseason game at Seattle. He probably won't be back until mid-October at the earliest.

DEZ DIDN'T CATCH IT

Cowboys receiver Dez Bryant had an apparent 24-yard touchdown catch from Prescott overturned on review in the first half when the replay showed the ball coming loose as he landed and slid out of bounds in the end zone. Of course, the sequence sparked an immediate "Dez caught it/Dez didn't catch it" reaction on Twitter. The catch that wasn't in Green Bay in the playoffs two seasons ago will apparently live forever.

OPEN

Continued from Page 4

taking the first set. This time, though, while the thick-chested Wawrinka recovered from an edgy start to begin his typical bullying from the baseline — not only with his best-in-the-game one-handed backhand but off both wings — Djokovic seemed to lose his way.

As Wawrinka placed one stinging shot after another right on a line, Djokovic looked up at coach Boris Becker and the rest of his entourage while gesticulating

with his hands and muttering. He went from appearing locked-in at the outset to completely drained in every way.

On one point, Wawrinka delivered a shot so hard it knocked the racket from Djokovic's grasp and against a wall behind the baseline.

Then, after smacking a forehand winner to end a 20-stroke exchange, Wawrinka pointed to his temple. Two points later, the second set was his. After a forehand passing shot drew an errant volley for a break early in the third set, Wawrinka pointed to his temple.

And so on.

Think about this: Wawrinka nearly was gone before the end of the U.S. Open's first week. He was one point from losing in the third round against 64th-ranked Dan Evans, but eventually won in five sets. So Sunday's victory made Wawrinka the first man to win the U.S. Open after saving a match point since — yes, that's right — Djokovic in 2011.

"You're a great champion, a great person. Because of you, I am where I am today," Wawrinka said. "We know each other (for) many, many years, and I had the chance to practice many times with him and to play him on a big stage."

With that Djokovic threw his left arm around Wawrinka's shoulders, knowing which was more up to the task on this day.

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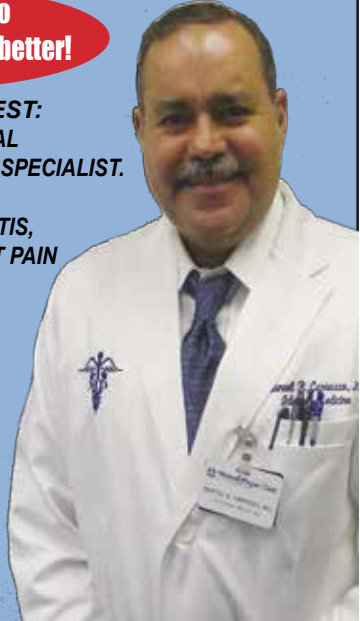
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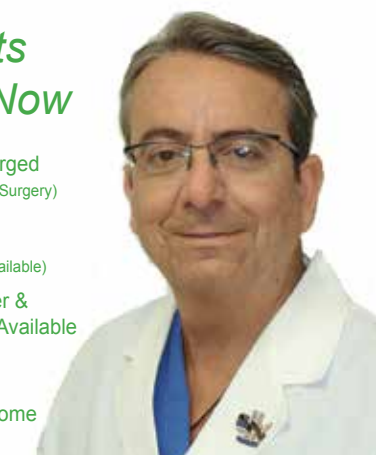
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