

BIG SPRING

HERALD



INSIDE
Lady Hawks softballers scheduled to play in all-star game. Page 1B

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2006

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

College names new arts center for Hall family

By **CINDY SMITH**
Special to the Herald

Howard College trustees named the new Visual and Performing Arts Center after a prominent Howard County family during their regular meeting Monday. The Hall Center for the Arts' three performance spaces also received official names: Dr. Granville T. Hall Auditorium, Florence T. Hall Studio



Marie Hall Sparks.

Theatre and F. Marie Hall Amphitheater. "The Hall family has made many contributions to Howard College and this community and this is one way for us to show our gratitude and appreciation," said College President Dr. Cheryl

The \$3.8 million facility was funded solely through the support of donors, with the Hall family making the most significant donation. The building has been in development for the past nine years. "We began this journey in 1997," said Sparks, "and it is the product of great teamwork and visionary thinking." The center will be home to all visual and performing arts as well as special

events such as lectures, presentations and conferences. Sparks said extensive research was completed in order to assure the facility would meet the needs of students. An official dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony are scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday at the north entrance of the center, located at the college's Birdwell

See **COLLEGE**, Page 3A



Deanna Foresyth displays a number of the items she plans to enter in this year's Howard County Fair. Foresyth says her family has always been involved in the fair.

For Foresyth's family, fair has been tradition

By **NANCY KOGER**
Special to the Herald

Deanna Foresyth is a member of the Howard County Fair board, but she's never bored with the fair. "We've always been a 'Fair family,'" she states. "Before I had time to work at the fair, all of my family entered things." Even though they had boys, she insisted that her children make things and enter them in the fair. One of her sons won a grand champion ribbon in baked goods. Her husband, Jimmy, makes gnarled

walking canes from careless weed stalks, which he has entered in the Crafts area. Now chairman of Baked Goods in the Women's Division, Deanna can no longer enter any baked goods; but she still enters as many other categories as she can find time for. She has scrapbooks that contain pictures and ribbons from previous fairs to prevent duplicating her entries. When there was a professional cake decorating category, she entered wedding and birthday cakes. She also does crafts such as petit point, cross-stitch embroi-

dery, and egguary (painting on eggshells). In addition to being in charge of Baked Goods, this busy lady has responsibility for getting judges for baked goods, canned goods, and antiques. The special type of antiques being requested at this year's fair is antique toys. "For our local fair purposes, anything over 25 years is considered an antique," Foresyth explained. "We would like for people to bring any kind of old toys out to dis-

See **FAIR**, Page 3A

Ag Expo

Today is last chance to get tickets for Ag Appreciation Luncheon

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Area residents planning to participate in the annual Ag Expo Luncheon Thursday will have to move quickly if they don't already have their tickets.

Today will be the last day for non-producers — residents that want to attend the luncheon but are not a local farmer or rancher — to get their tickets, according to Debbye ValVerde, executive director for the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. "Non-producers can attend, they just have to purchase a ticket for \$10," said ValVerde. "We'll have those tickets available here at the chamber until Tuesday. We won't have any tickets available at the door, so we're asking anyone that wants to attend to please get their tickets soon."

"We ask the chamber members to be sponsors for the luncheon. So it's paid for by our membership. It's free to all area farmers and ranchers. Al's and Sons Barbecue will be catering the event."

Area farmers and ranchers can pick up

their free tickets at State National Bank, Big Spring Farm Supply and Porter-Henderson Implement, according to ValVerde.

The annual luncheon will get a new twist this year, having been coupled with the Howard County Fair, a move ValVerde said is working out nicely.

"The committee feels like this is a good move for the expo to be going on alongside the Howard County Fair," said ValVerde. "The fair association has worked great with us and helped us logistically with having room for all the farmers... and the extension office has been helping as well, getting the farm tour together. We feel like it's been a really good move for us, and we hope the fair association feels the same way."

"It's going to be different this year. Instead of offering the morning classes like we have in the past, we're going to have a tour of the area farms. We're providing the transportation, which is being donated by Howard College, and seating is limited. We're really hoping the area producers will sign up for the tour. Bonnie Franklin is going to be handling

See **EXPO**, Page 3A

Commissioners give 48.7-cent tax rate approval

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Taxpayers that saw no increase in their property values in 2006 can expect to pay less county taxes this year, as the Howard County Commissioners Court voted unanimously to adopt a 48.7-cent tax rate Monday morning. The 2006-2007 rate of 48.787 cents per \$100 valuation represents a 5.7-cent drop compared to last



KILGORE



SIMER

year's rate, and according to Commissioner Jerry Kilgore, compares to rates adopted by the court more than a decade ago. "I was just checking

back, and we're within 3 cents of where we were 12 years ago," said Kilgore. "Of course, we got some help from the increase in values, but even with inflation what it's been, we're still that close. It really has amazed me we've been able to do this. "The values coming up have really helped us this year, but we've also gotten a lot of help from other sources of income within the county that

we've been working on. I feel like we've been really diligent with the taxpayers' money and this seems like a good budget." Commissioner Gary Simer said he feels like the taxpayers are getting the best deal with the new rate. "I feel good about it. Taxes actually went down quite a bit," said Simer. "The values are up, so what I think we've accomplished is really great and

it's good for the taxpayers. They should see a decrease in their taxes unless their values went up a lot, and that should help. We really have to look out for the taxpayers." Commissioners also heard a report on efforts to correct several problems at the county jail that were identified during a fire evacuation drill. Commissioners recently approved \$19,875 for com-

ponents for the jail's fire alarm system, as well as \$20,000 for modifications to the facility's heating and cooling system to bring in fresh air in the event of a smoke problem. Sheriff Dale Walker said the contractor expected to do the work — Anthony Mechanical — has told him it should be completed by mid-November. "They gave me a verbal

See **COUNTY**, Page 3A

INDEX

Classified 3-5B
Features 5A
Obituaries 2A
Opinion 4A
Sports 1-2B



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DEADLY TEDDY BEAR?

MILFORD, N.H. (AP) — A teddy bear has been implicated in 2,500 deaths — trout deaths, that is.

Officials say a teddy bear that fell into a pool at a Fish and Game Department hatchery earlier this month clogged a drain. The clog blocked the flow of oxygen to the pool and suffocated the fish.

Hatcheries supervisor Robert Fawcett said the bear, dressed in yellow raincoat and hat, is believed to be the first stuffed toy to cause fatalities at the facility.

The deaths prompted Fawcett to release a written warning: "RELEASE OF ANY TEDDY BEARS into the fish hatchery water IS NOT PERMITTED."

ATTENTION GETTERS

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — A university that has been searching for more effective ways to disseminate student information is now posting the material in an intimate place.

Palm Beach Atlantic University's blue newsletters now hang above urinals and on stall doors in most campus restrooms. The bulletins are called Stall Talk.

Administrators at the Christian-based school said e-mails, posters and bulletin boards were just too easy to ignore.

Senior Sheena Cunningham loves the idea. She said students don't always have time to read the campus newspaper. But they never miss Stall Talk.

HOMECOMING FEED

The junior class at Big Spring High School will hold a fundraiser during Friday night's homecoming football game at Memorial Stadium to raise money for the junior/senior prom.

Class officers say they're providing Steers fans with an opportunity to tailgate before and during the game without any of the work.

The juniors will cooking sausage wraps or cheeseburger link wraps, and offering them with a cookie and soft drink for \$5. Items will be available for individual sale as well.

They will begin serving at 6:30 p.m. and serve until food runs out.

Obituaries

Melba Nichols

Melba Nichols, 77, died Monday, Sept. 25, 2006, in a local nursing home. Graveside funeral services will be 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2006, at Trinity Memorial Park, Big Spring. Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory, Big Spring.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 4-8-15-17-18.
Number matching five of five: none.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 3-23-25-29. Bonus Ball: 28.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: none.
Estimated jackpot for Thursday night drawing: \$1.95 million.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night, in order: 8-1-2

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday afternoon, in order: 2-9-6

Weather

Today — Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 80s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.
Tonight — Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 60s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.
Wednesday — Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 90s. Northwest winds around 10 mph.
Wednesday night — Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 50s. North winds 10 to 15 mph.
Thursday — Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Not as warm. Highs in the mid 70s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.
Thursday night — Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 50s.
Friday — Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 80s.
Friday night — Mostly clear. Lows around 60.
Saturday — Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 80s.
Saturday night — Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 50s.
Sunday — Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 80s.
Sunday night — Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 60s.
Monday — Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 80s.

Take Note

• **RESERVATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED** for the Sands/Ackerly Homecoming 2006 which will be held Saturday, Sept. 30. Registration will begin that day at 1:30 p.m. followed by a program and a business meeting at 3:30 p.m. in the auditorium.
Later, there will be a catered meal served in the cafeteria. To make reservations for the meal, notify Sissy Jones at 432-267-7732 or Dorothy Rogers at 432-399-4312. The deadline is September 20. Sands Mustangs will be playing Klondike Cougars at 7:30 p.m. at Mustang Field.

• **THE ACKERLY LUNCH BUNCH** will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 23, at Gale's Sweet Shoppe, 1200 E. Fourth. Lunch will be served at noon for \$6.25 per person. Lunch will be Mexican food, including dessert and drink

• **CHRIST COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP IS COLLECTING INFANT CAR SEATS AND CARRIERS.** These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreciated.

• **ROAD TO RECOVERY**, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call Nancy Koger at 267-7809.

• **NEW LIFE MINISTRIES Church of God In Christ** is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information.

• **THE PET PATROL** helps locate lost pets and owners of found pets. To volunteer or for more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 267-PETS (7387).

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM IS COLLECTING RECIPES** to be included in a 2006 cookbook which will display memories of Big Spring over the years. Share your memories and your recipes. Contact the Hangar at 264-1999 for recipe forms.

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Police blotter

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

- **CAROL SUE GIRATAS**, 45, of 109 Eckert Drive, was arrested Monday on a Howard County warrant.
- **PRISCILLA HERNANDEZ**, 26, of 616 Caylor, was arrested Monday on six local warrants, a Howard County warrant and a charge of assault by threat.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 1900 block of Scurry.
 - in the 800 block of Eighth Street.
 - in the 200 block of West Marcy.
- **POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE** was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.

Sheriff's report

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

- **KIRK EVAN FOWLER**, 27, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while license invalid/suspended.
- **APRIL FERN SMITH**, 25, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **JULIE ANN MINCE**, 33, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.
- **NORMA BUSTAMANTE LOPEZ**, 38, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for possession of a controlled substance.
- **CAROL SUE GIRATAS**, 45, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of theft by check.
- **MORGAN LOPEZ**, 25, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of stealing/receiving stolen checks, forgery, failure to identify as a fugitive from justice, theft by repetition, resisting arrest - violation of bond condition, failure to appear and possession of a controlled substance.
- **DAVID LEE BRUMLEY**, 45, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while license invalid.
- **GARY LEON JETTON**, 52, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of issuance of a bad check.
- **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 5400 block of Wasson Road.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 1700 block of East Highway 350.
- **MAJOR ACCIDENT** was reported near the 179 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 100 block of Ash.
- **ANIMAL CRUELTY** was reported in the 8300 block of Dee Road.

Fire/EMS

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

- **TRAUMA** was reported near McDonald Road in Glasscock County. One person was transported.
- **TRAUMA** was reported near the intersection of Highway 350 and Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2200 block of Tulane. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 800 block of West Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

• The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 6 p.m. the last Tuesday of the month in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1005 Birdwell Lane. Call Tracey at 263-4948 for more information.

WEDNESDAY

• **RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy**, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at 264-1213 for more information.

THURSDAY

• **Alcoholics Anonymous**, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

FRIDAY

• **AA open discussion meeting** from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

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

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Bulletin Board

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact the Herald news room at 263-7331 or email editor@bigspringherald.com

TODAY
• Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

WEDNESDAY
• Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.

• Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.

• Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.

• Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

• Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

• Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.

• Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.

• Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.

• Staked Plains Lodge No. 598 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 221 Main. Meal served. Meeting at 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Members bring their own lunch. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.

• **AMBUCS** meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.

• Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Big Spring Country Club.

• Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area senior citizens are invited.

SATURDAY (Sept. 30)

• Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

Around Town

• **HERITAGE MUSEUM** is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into the Potton House, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM** is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday.

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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. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

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Howard County commissioners vote unanimously to accept the 2006-2007 tax rate during Monday morning's meeting. County taxpayers that saw no increase in their property value should see a decrease in the annual bill, according to officials.

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

estimate that they plan to have it completed by the second week in November," said Walker. "I requested this morning that they give us that in writing, and I'm just waiting on the fax to come in. That's for the air system

alone. "They are going to use the existing fans that are on the windows now, and they will build special housings to permanently attach them to the window. That way they can get a good seal on them so they can blow that air out. They have a damper they will install on the air conditioner system that will be tied in to the

alarm system so when the alarm sounds it will flip it over to bring in nothing but fresh air."

A second problem identified during the drill — the lack of a stand pipe to provide firefighters with adequate water — is also being addressed, according to project coordinator Phil Furqueron. "The design for the stand pipe has been given

to the contractor," Furqueron told the court. "We don't have an estimate on the cost yet, but we've turned it over to them. We should have the rest of the information from them soon."

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

FAIR

Continued from Page 1A

play." She encourages people to search their attics and basements to find toys from their parents and grandparents that have been saved through the years. She had found a small hammer made by her

grandfather in his blacksmith shop, but said her husband had told her that wasn't a toy. She remembered that he had made several of them to give as toys, but thinks she can enter it in the crafts area. She has quite a collection of old dolls and toys to enter, as well.

"I have four generations of 'stuff' here that I need

to live long enough to give to my grandchildren," she explained.

According to this member of the volunteer board, a county fair is important for a community so people can see what others are doing and making and what is being grown in the county. She fears that county fairs may not continue if the

younger people don't work them or enter. She stressed the need for young and old, male and female members of the community to enter things in the food, art, arts and crafts areas of the fair. "We always need more entries in the Baked Goods area," she said.

TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS

San Marcos ISD superintendent accepts Midland job

SAN MARCOS (AP) — San Marcos school district Superintendent Sylvester Perez said he is leaving his position to become the superintendent in Midland.

Perez, 57, announced his decision Monday after being selected on Saturday by directors of the Midland ISD.

In Midland, Perez replaces Robert Nicks, who is retiring Nov. 30 to take a university teaching position. Perez will start the new job Dec. 1.

Perez joined the San Marcos district in 2002 and helped get a \$123 million bond package passed in 2004.

In Midland, Perez said he will work with the district to pass a \$30 million bond election in 2007 for elementary campuses.

Perez said the Midland job comes with a raise of nearly \$60,000 from his current salary of \$166,500.

Man killed in bee attack while mowing

ALICE (AP) — A South Texas man died after being swarmed by bees when he was mowing a lawn, officials said. Reymundo Ramirez

died Saturday after bumping a lawn mower into a storage shed near Alice, according to the Jim Wells County Sheriff's Office.

Ramirez, whose age was not available, ran to the side of the house but collapsed covered in bees, sheriff's officials said.

Art teacher fired after museum trip

FRISCO (AP) — School board members have voted to not renew the contract of a veteran art teacher who was reprimanded after one of her fifth-grade students saw a nude sculpture during a school trip to a museum.

Sydney McGee has been on paid administrative leave from Fisher Elementary School since Friday, said her attorney Rogge Dunn.

McGee's contract runs through the end of the school year and it was unclear whether she would remain on leave until then. Her attorney said he would wait for written confirmation and clarification from the school district.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Billy Joe "B.J." Wilkins, 39, died Saturday. Memorial Services will be at 5:00 PM Thursday at Midway Baptist Church. The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 7:30 PM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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EXPO

Continued from Page 1A

catering during the tour, so we're really looking forward to it because she has some really good food.

"This going to be our first year for it, so it's kind of like a trial run," she said. "We'll have to see what happens. This could turn into an ongoing annual event with the county fair."

Keynote speaker for the luncheon will be Texas Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst, according to ValVerde.

"Mr. Dewhurst was going to be in town and we just saw the opportunity and asked," said

ValVerde. "And he's going to be here. We're really looking forward to it. I'm looking forward to meeting him."

Dewhurst is a native Texan, businessman and rancher who serves as president of the Texas Senate and says he is proud of the broad support he has earned during his tenure as lieutenant governor.

For more information on the expo and luncheon, contact the chamber of commerce at 263-7641.

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

TOMMY CHURCHWELL

FARMERS' New Homeowners Policy LOW RATES

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Attention!

Sacred Heart members and others who desire to keep Sacred Heart open attend the Sept. 27th Meeting at Big Spring High School Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1A

Lane campus.

The dedication, being held in conjunction with the college's 60th anniversary celebration, will include tours and refreshments and is open to the public.

"We moved in a few weeks ago and now we are ready to show off our new house to the community," said Sparks. "We're anxious for everyone to see what a fine facility we have been gifted and share in the excitement of new possibilities for our students and college."

For more information on the dedication ceremonies, call 264-5034.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OUR VIEWS

Chaplains Corps needs our stuffed animal donations

Worthwhile causes ... there's never a shortage of them. In fact, time and again we here at the *Herald* find ourselves using this space to encourage reader support for one good cause or another.

That is the case today, because the Emergency Services Chaplains Corps is in need of help.

But this time Senior Chaplain Joel Miller isn't asking for monetary donations. Instead, they need stuffed animals.

That's right, stuffed animals.

Now more than two years in existence, the Emergency Services Chaplains Corps is well established with a group of community leaders serving as board members. And that board has done the footwork and managed to find the funding necessary for the program to operate.

Now overseen by Senior Chaplain Joel Miller, the ESCC has a total of five ministers from the community who have been trained and volunteer their services.

Those chaplains provide front line aid for lawmen, firefighters, paramedics, and emergency room personnel. What's more they're also on hand to help Victims Services staff members and personnel.

"Chaplains are often called on to help families whose lives have been impacted by serious injury and fatal accidents, sexual and physical assaults, suicide and homicide, family crisis and natural disasters," Miller noted.

And that, more than any, is where the stuffed animals play an important role.

"We're using them up pretty quickly," Miller said in explaining that this is the second call for stuffed animal donations since the chaplains corps was founded. "We give them to youngsters who come into the emergency room. Whether these youngsters are there as patients or in the waiting room while some other family member is being treated by hospital personnel, that's somewhat of a traumatic experience. It's amazing how comforting children find a stuffed animal at times like that."

Miller and the other ESCC volunteers have a tremendous impact on our community. In ministering to the needs of emergency personnel, accident victims and others, they impact virtually everyone.

And in these instances, they're having an impact on perhaps our most valuable, but vulnerable community asset — our children.

That's why we at the *Herald* encourage our readers to make donations of stuffed animals to the ESCC whenever they're needed. Just drop them by the Big Spring Police Department building at 400 E. Fourth St. or at the Howard County Sheriff's Office at the county courthouse. For more information, Miller can be contacted at 267-4082.

Yes, there are all sorts of causes needing support in this community, but we're convinced that not only you, but all of us will be blessed as a result when we answer this call.

LETTER POLICIES

- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.
- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we not take just anyone's advice, Lord, but trust in Your advice.

Amen

Looks like they're waiting to inhale

Yvonne Westbrook of Oakland, Calif., uses medical marijuana to control the spasms of multiple sclerosis. Valium left her with a heavy, drugged feeling. "A few tokes and the spasticity calms right down," she noted in the documentary "Waiting to Inhale," which will be shown at the Oakland International Film Festival on Thursday.

Irvin Rosenfeld sees marijuana as "a muscle relaxing anti-inflammatory" that helps him with multiple congenital cartilaginous exostosis. Without it, he explains, he would be dead or on disability, not a stockbroker who pays taxes.

Berkeley's Jed Riffe, who made the documentary, also taped a debate in Washington, D.C., last week on medical marijuana. David Murray from the White House drug czar's office spoke against legalization of marijuana, while two drug-war opponents, Rob Kampa, executive director of the Marijuana Policy Project, and Ethan Nadelmann, executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance, spoke in its favor.

Murray was not exactly in an enviable position. A former colleague had canceled last minute. So there he was, taking an unpopular position alone, debating two opponents and a moderator sympathetic to legalization, columnist Clarence Page, as well as an audience filled with people who — I'm guessing here — either just want to smoke pot to get high or (worse for Murray) have a sick loved one

such as Westbrook or Rosenfeld. (Riffe tells me he issued tickets to both sides so the audience would be balanced, but apparently the pro-medical marijuana crowd was more motivated.)

Murray argued that doctors are not "the principal proponent" of pushing "smoked marijuana as medicine." True, the American Medical Association isn't pushing for medical marijuana. But the California Medical Association has supported medical marijuana. More important, doctors across the country have recommended marijuana to patients — at the risk of their own careers.

Indeed, it was doctors who sued first the Clinton administration, then the Bush administration, to fight federal efforts to keep them from recommending marijuana, as permitted by Proposition 215, the medical marijuana measure passed by California voters in 1996. The doctors won. And here's something I learned from Nadelmann: The federal government had to pay more than \$700,000 to reimburse groups such as his for the legal fees they incurred fighting the bad policy.

Last year, however, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the federal government can prosecute medical-marijuana patients even in states that have legalized medical marijuana. Too bad for sick people: Federal law trumps state law.

Murray sees that as a good thing. Opponents of legal medical marijuana argue that it can increase teen recreational usage. Kampa countered that California teen marijuana usage actually has declined since 1996. But Murray scored a point when he noted that if marijuana becomes "normal-

ized," usage will go up.

Personally, I think marijuana use should not be a crime for anyone, sick or not. But medical marijuana is a separate issue. And the government has managed to outlaw more serious drugs — morphine, cocaine — while allowing doctors to prescribe them when necessary.

When you watch "Waiting to Inhale," you see how much the medical marijuana debate is about completely different approaches — corporate-government versus homeopathic.

Murray argued that marijuana should have to go through all the regulatory hurdles that other drugs must pass. Take Marinol, a legal pill-form of marijuana that is FDA approved.

But many users claim they use marijuana because it has freed them from costly and sometimes overly powerful prescription drugs. One plus for marijuana is its ability to titrate: Smokers can instantly determine the dosage they need, whereas if they take Marinol, they have to wait an hour or more to see if they took enough, too little or too much.

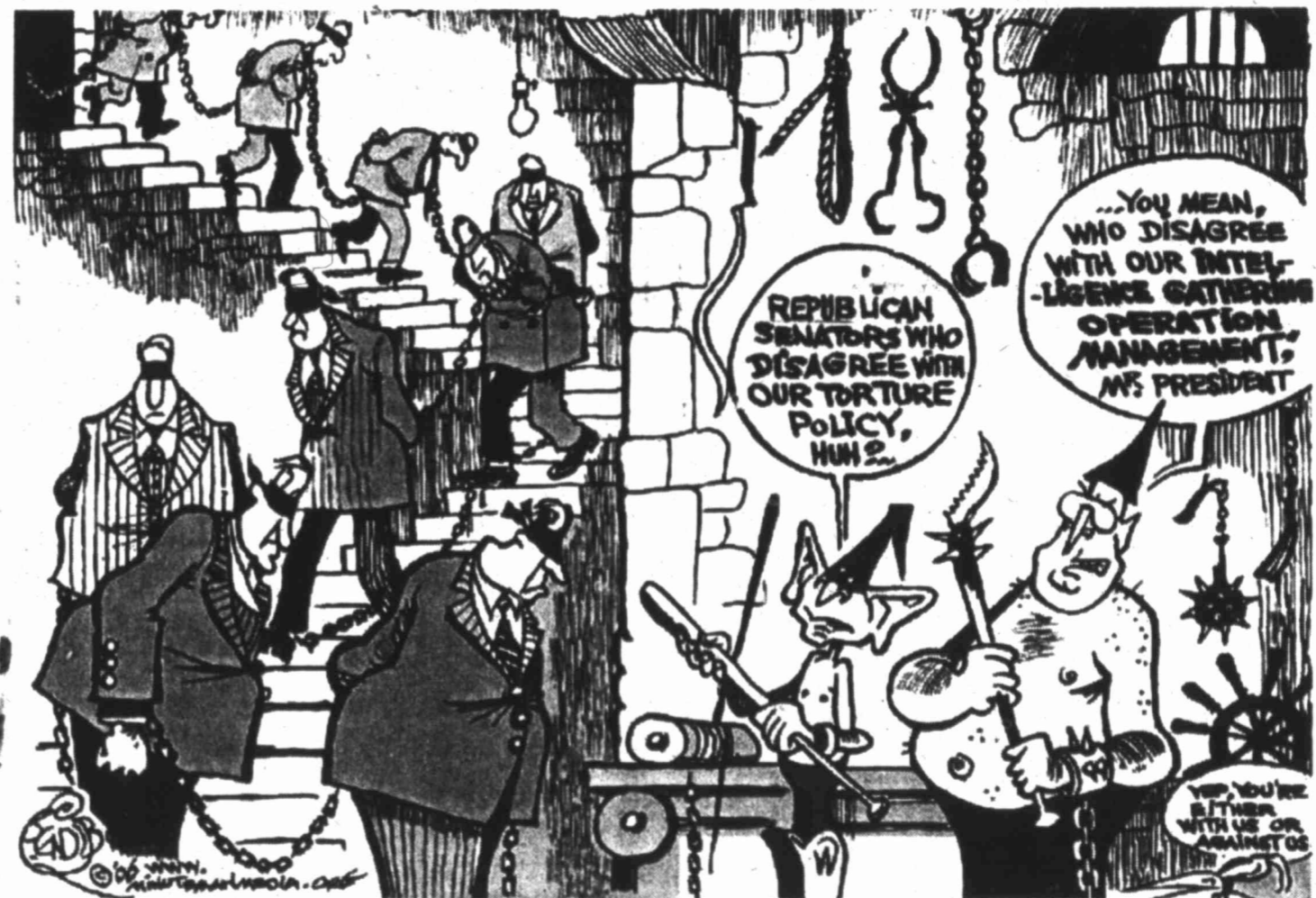
Epileptic Valerie Corral of the Santa Cruz, Calif., marijuana collective WAMM said that "living under pharmaceuticals" was like living under water. And: "To think that there was something I could grow myself that cost me absolutely nothing." For Corral, growing marijuana is like growing aloe vera to relieve sunburn — there is no regulation, no pharmaceutical company and no need for it.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunder@sfchronicle.com.

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DEBRA SAUNDERS



Jobs take more than education

The pile of resumes on my desk suggests that either the American educational system fails to prepare students for getting a job or the rules of grammar, spelling and logic were changed without my knowledge. Of the hundreds of applications I received in my quest to hire an entry-level graphic designer, very few lacked serious flaws.

The majority of the applicants seeking to fill this particular opening actually possessed college degrees — some from reasonably prestigious schools. Four extra years of schooling may have filled their heads with facts about obscure literature and all sorts of scientific theories, but it's obvious that classes in resume writing were not part of the curriculum.

Forget the horrific grammar and spelling (for a job where the description includes being proficient in those two areas); the vast majority of applicants appear to lack the basic skills asked for in my help wanted ad. If you have no previous work experience at the job you are applying for, it's generally a good idea to explain in your cover letter why you still might be a good hire.



DANIEL KLINE

Apparently, most people don't bother to consider their qualifications; they simply send in applications for every job listed under "help wanted." As if they were entering a lottery or trying to win a raffle, these misguided folks assume that quantity matters more than quality.

Likely due to time constraints, this peculiar type of applicant tends to omit a cover letter. This leaves me, the person doing the hiring, guessing as to how her working as a dog-sitter preceded by a two-week gig as hostess at Applebees makes her a qualified graphic designer.

Many of those who actually write a cover letter do little to redeem their candidacies. Aside from the obvious grammatical deficiencies displayed in these documents, a surprising number of people consider it a good idea to share inappropriate personal information. You might be divorced, a single parent, a cancer survivor or lactose intolerant, but none of these things should appear in your cover letter.

As for your resume, while many experts debate whether you should include an "objective" section at the top, I've never read one article that suggests replacing that area with a quote from Oprah. Similarly, I'm pretty sure no book or magazine article has ever told a prospective job candidate to paper-

clip a sexy picture to her cover letter.

Unfortunately, this has not stopped actual job applicants, whom I must assume hoped I would hire them, from doing exactly those things. I've also received resumes that contained "Star Trek" quotes, one that was packaged with a mix tape and more than a few that contained multiple spellings of the applicant's name.

Just as applicants who are unsure of the spelling of their own names fail to inspire confidence, resumes that lack basic contact information aren't scoring a lot of points, either. Perhaps worse than the completely missing info might be the handful of resumes I've received where the phone number listed does not include the area code, or has too few digits.

Though it might be difficult to get a job even under the best of circumstances, a candidate who has a clean resume and a cover letter that concisely explains her qualifications has a huge advantage. Education and work experience matter precious little if your resume buries this information under a discussion of which Backstreet Boy you like the most.

Daniel B. Kline's book, "50 Things Every Guy Should Know How to Do," is available in bookstores everywhere. He can be reached at dan@notastep.com.

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Bird Poop:

The man from Wyoming was a big help with a Swainson's hawk

Flying over the pond, the bird noticed movement on top of the dirt berm surrounding the surface. As it plunged toward the ground squirrel, the bird caught a talon in the plastic material sticking up above the edge. His primary feathers dipped into the surface. The drag on his wing caused the bird's feet and tail to strike the substance in the pond. Trying to stabilize his body while off-balance, the bird used his other wing in an attempt to rise from this peril. Unfortunately, the crude oil in an open pit had claimed a victim.

Struggling against the sticky product that now covered half of his wings, feet and tail, the large bird managed to pull himself from the edge of this black abyss. The weight of the thick oil hampered any attempt at flying. The bird started walking. Driving to the drill site, an independent consultant for the oil company was making a final check for the day. West Texas crude had brought him from an area near Cody, Wyo., to Andrews. Since the oil lease was near the road, the man glanced toward the reserve pit. Between the road and the pit stood a hawk. At

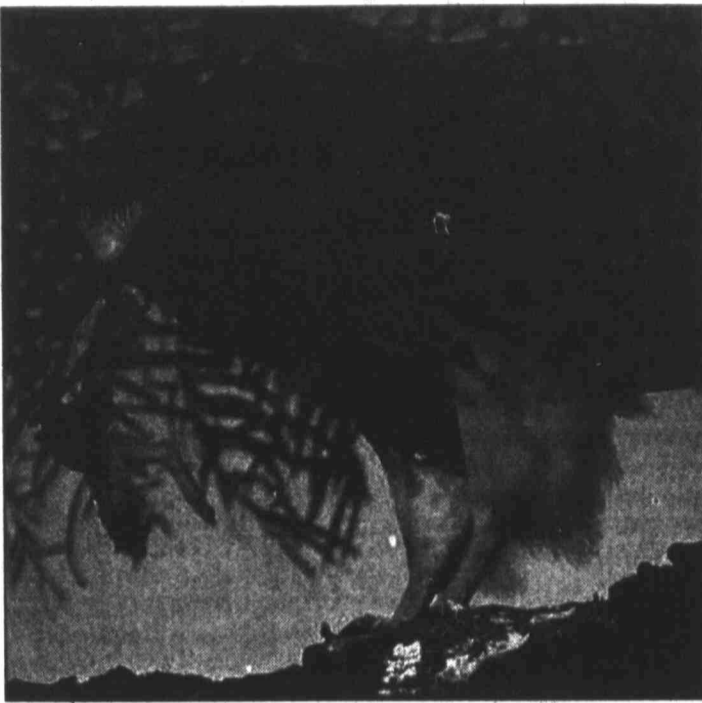
least half of its body was coated with oil.

The man stopped his truck, walked toward the bird and picked it up. Taking it to his motel room, he called a veterinarian who told him to call us at once.

"Whatever you do, don't put that hawk in an enclosed area, such as a box. The fumes can be lethal to a bird," I warned. The man mentioned that he had wiped as much crude off the hawk as possible. Arrangements were made for him to deliver the hawk the next morning.

As we opened our front door, we were greeted by the removal of the man's western felt hat as he introduced himself. "David Ball," he said distinctly. "I'm pleased to meet you. I think the hawk may be a red-tail, but you can't tell 'cause his tail's so black." As we followed David to his pick-up, I noticed the trail of dried caliche that had fallen from his knee-high boots. Well-worn, they were an integral part of his daily uniform.

The truck must have sighed when it finally reached our driveway, because clumps of dirt and caliche had fallen where it stopped. The man obviously worked in the oil fields. Inside, on the floor of the passenger side, was an oily black hawk standing on a piece of newspaper. It had ridden from Andrews to Big Spring in that position. After identifying the hawk as a Swainson's, I picked it up and looked



The Swainson's hawk readily devours a ground squirrel as part of Nature's control of rodents.

inside its mouth as it defensively opened its beak. The throat was clean, and only a trace of crude could be seen on the roof of the mouth. Since the oil had not penetrated through the feathers to the skin of its chest and abdomen, we felt the hawk had a chance to recover.

Thanking David for rescuing the hawk and bringing it to us, we cautioned him that we had a legal obligation to report this oiled bird to both federal and state officials. Well aware of the procedures, David said he would stop by the company's headquarters upon

his return to Andrews. He would tell them he had brought the hawk to people who were licensed to care for wild birds and that the Swainson's would be transported to the Lubbock center. "It's the right thing to do," he added.

At South Plains, the hawk was given the first of three baths. With a water temperature of 105 degrees, and blue Dawn, the Swainson's feathers and feet went from black to partial coloration. The bottom of the basin was dark with the remnants of crude oil and dirt. The subsequent baths would remove more residue

from its encounter with an open pit.

Atropine, to counter any poisons, and charcoal for absorption were administered.

Two weeks later, the hawk was exercising in the flight cage. By late September, the Swainson's had returned to nature.

From that chance meeting with the man from Wyoming, we knew we encountered a remarkable person. While some

try to dress a part, David Ball was the part. With his Stetson, neatly trimmed handlebar mustache, crisp shirt and jeans, tall boots, and articulate renditions of his own success in helping birds of prey, we believed his colorful outward appearance matched his inner integrity.

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Bedtime Stories

JOE JET AND STUMBLY BUMBLY

This story happened just a few years ago. It is a story about a beautiful, sleek jet plane and a bumbling, clumsy little airplane that was very old, but could still fly with the greatest of ease. Joe was the name of the pretty, fast, sleek, modern jet plane. Eduard was the name of the little old beat up, useless airplane. But, was Eduard really useless? Joe Jet and you and I will soon find out!

Joe had a job to do. He was always a very busy airplane, but he was a very busy, fast airplane. Eduard had no jobs to do for everyone thought he was of no use to anyone anymore. Oh, he had lots of jobs to do before that sleek, modern airplane came around. But since he came, poor little Eduard lost his job. He just was not as fast or as big as Joe Jet. Poor little Eduard! After all those years of helping people, they thanked him by pulling him into an old barn and letting him just sit there, gathering dust. Eduard was a very proud little airplane and this hurt him very much. Joe Jet even laughed at Eduard one day! That was not nice. Joe had passed by the old barn where Eduard was sit-

ting, gathering dust, sometimes weeping. Eduard quickly wiped the tears from his eyes and asked Joe Jet if he needed any help. Joe Jet did something terrible to Eduard that day. He laughed at him! He shouldn't have done that. We should never laugh at someone, should we? After all, Eduard just wanted to help Joe. But Joe would soon pay for that in a way that he would never have guessed.

The man who owned Joe Jet had a little daughter named Sue. Sue loved to run and play just as Eduard loved to do when he was very young. Sue loved to run. Eduard loved to run. Sue loved to play. Eduard loved to play in the skies. He would fly on his back sometimes. He would roll over while he was flying. He would

loop-de-loops, too. He could do all kinds of tricks when he was young. Let's see Joe Jet fly on his back. Let's see Joe Jet do loop-de-loops. Let's see Joe Jet do any tricks at all. Joe Jet was a very big, fast jet but he could not do tricks. And he needed lots of room to land! Eduard needed only a small piece to land. This is where Joe Jet wished he had never laughed at Stumbly, Bumbly Eduard. Sue had ridden on a very big

boat to a very small island to visit her friends. She had fun all that day, playing with her friends. She did not get to see them very much because they

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lived on that island and the only way she could get to that island was by the big boat. Or, was there another way? Can you think of another way? It was time for Sue to return home late that afternoon. Her father would be worried if she didn't get home quickly. Sue ran to get on the big boat and ride him home. The big boat was nowhere in sight. Sue had no telephone to call her father

and tell him that she was okay, but the boat was not there to give her the ride home. It was getting later and later. Sue's father was getting more and more worried. Then it was dark! Still no sign of Sue or the big boat. Sue's father knew what he was going to do. He ran down to the old barn. He passed big Joe Jet. Joe Jet just knew that

Sue's father was coming to wake him and get him to go find Sue. But, Sue's father ran right past Joe Jet. Joe turned his night lights on. Sue's father told him to turn them back off for he could not help tonight. He was too big. He needed a smaller plane to go find Sue. And Sue's father knew just where to find a smaller airplane.

He opened the old barn door. It startled old Bumbly Eduard. He had been fast asleep. He was tired from weeping all the day, thinking that no one loved him or needed him anymore. "Wake up, Eduard, wake up," shouted sue's father. "Please help me. I need you to help me find Sue. I need you to help because you can land on that small island and Joe can't!"

Eduard opened his eyes, and turned on his night lights. He wasn't even sure if his night lights worked anymore. He pulled his night light switch. His lights came on, shining as brightly and as proudly as they once did, long ago! "Good," said Sue's father. "But can you still start up?" Eduard huffed and puffed and with all the strength he had, turned over his little engine. With a cloud of smoke and a mighty roar, Eduard came to life. He could not wait to get out of this barn again. He missed the sky. He missed the wind. He missed doing his

loop-de-loops. But right now, he had a job to do! Find Sue and bring her safely home. Sue's father wiped all the dust from Eduard's windshield, gave him a pat on the back, and begged him to get Sue home, safely! Then he climbed up on Eduard's back, wiped the dust from the seat where he had been so many times before and put his seatbelt on. "I'm ready Eduard, can you do it? Will you help me?" Of course he would!

Joe Jet heard Mumbly, Bumbly old Eduard coming down the runway, engine roaring, and it looked as if he might be smiling as he passed Joe, just sitting there, unable to help.

Eduard found Sue right away for he had flown over that island many times and knew where she had to be. He landed on a lonely little piece of road where no big jet could ever land. He rolled right up to Sue and tilted his wing, as if to say, "Hello." "Sue," her father cried, "Jump in here and we will take you home."

Sue was really glad to see that little airplane. Sue's father was really glad to see Sue. Eduard was really glad to see, them both so happy. It made him happy, too. But, it would only be for a little while. Or, would it? It was very late when Sue and her father and Eduard got home that night. Sue and her father climbed from the seats

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walking towards their home. They both turned around and looked at Eduard at the very time a tear came to Eduard's eye.

"Don't worry Eduard," said Sue's father. "You will never go in that barn again! I need you too much. Please help me around here. I have many jobs for you." They turned again and walked on into their home. Eduard's tears dried up and a big smile came across his face. They needed him again! Eduard was once again a very happy little airplane. As for Joe Jet? Well, he is still being used every once in awhile. But not much! He just sits in the pasture most of the time. He is so big that he can't sit in the barn. He wished that he had never laughed at Eduard or called him names like Bumbly, Mumbly. Now, Eduard can call Joe Jet names, but he won't, for he is too nice. Eduard just turned toward us. He blinked his night lights, twice. In airplane talk, this means, "Good Night."

Tough interrogation techniques at the heart of debate

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — One prominent feature is missing in debate over President Bush's deal with Senate leaders on the treatment of alleged terrorists in custody: an open and explicit accounting of interrogation techniques that may be used.

The deal, which the House and Senate are expected to vote on before Congress adjourns this week, prohibits consequences more than actions, and leaves much open to interpretation. For example, interrogators would not only be barred from causing captives "prolonged" mental suffering, as they are now, but would be prevented from inflicting "serious and nontransitory" mental harm, whether the technique is prolonged or not.

Exactly what techniques may and may not be used under such strictures is unclear even to those who negotiated the agreement. It gives Bush leeway to interpret the language and to produce regulations that senators say they can challenge if

the steps go too far. But it's unlikely Bush will lay out techniques in enough detail for everyone to be sure what's allowed and what's beyond the pale.

Measures used against detainees in secret CIA prisons have not been fully discussed in an open forum for fear of hampering interrogators or helping terrorists train people to deal with such steps. But a partial picture has emerged in public reports and conversations with intelligence officials who have discussed interrogation on condition they not be identified.

Among the tens of thousands of people held by U.S. authorities during the war on terrorism, 96 are thought to have been in secret CIA custody.

A look at what's known about some of the more radical techniques and their possible fate under the agreement:

• **Sleep deprivation and disorientation:**

These tactics are thought to have been used in extraordinary circumstances. Specific methods may involve using loud noise, such as clattering machinery or blasting music, to keep captives

awake; interrogating them day and night or moving them from place to place to disorient them.

"People who have gone through this describe this as one of the worst things that a human being can experience because sleep is such a fundamental need," said Tom Malinowski, Washington advocacy director for Human Rights Watch. He was speaking generally about the technique, not with specific knowledge about how U.S. interrogators might have applied it.

• **Temperature extremes:**

Exposing prisoners to uncomfortable cold or heat for long periods.

• **Stress positions:**

Prolonged, forced standing is also believed to have been used in some cases. Captives might be threatened with beatings if they sit, or shackled in a way to prevent sitting. Various other forms of discomfort have been allowed.

• **Simulated drowning:**

Meant to induce panic, the technique is commonly known as waterboarding because it may involve a prisoner being

tied to a board, head slanted down, a wet towel placed on his face and water applied to the towel. As many as four prisoners are believed to have been subjected to this.

"It's a technique that we need to let the world know we are no longer engaging in," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., one of those who negotiated the deal.

Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona, another broker of the agreement, said the deal "could mean" the prohibition of extreme sleep deprivation, hypothermia, waterboarding and other steps that amount to torture or come close to it. Yet he acknowledged he has not been privy to everything that has been done with captives and that the agreement's practical effects remain to be seen.

McCain, who was beat-

en as a Vietnam prisoner of war, said some forms of induced stress are an important and valid tool for interrogators.

The most extreme steps have been clearly prohibited all along, including closed-hand punching, electric shock, terrorizing suspects with dogs, disfigurement and sexual

abuse, although some were used in criminal fashion at Abu Ghraib, the U.S. military-run prison in Iraq. Openhanded slapping has not been similarly banned.

The deal between the administration and the Senate is packed with imprecise adjectives.

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Vote on border fence possible late in week

By **SUZANNE GAMBOA**
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist set up a possible vote late this week on a proposal to erect fencing along a third of the U.S.-Mexican border.

Frist, R-Tenn., made the procedural move late Monday despite shaky support among some senators within his own party.

However, the fence may take a back seat to the more pressing issue of detainee treatment, which Frist attached to the fence bill.

If Democrats agree, the

Senate would debate detainee treatment first and a vote on the border fence could happen Friday.

Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada said he believed he and Frist could work something out.

Congress is scheduled to

leave at the end of the week for the November elections.

Meanwhile, key Republican senators remained opposed to the House proposal to erect 700 miles of fence or said they wanted changes to the bill.

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IN BRIEF

Quarterback Club meeting is Monday

Big Spring High School's Quarterback Club will meet at 7 p.m. Mondays at the BSHS Athletic Training Center.

Mark Tissue, the booster club's president, encourages all parents of BSHS football players and fans of the Steers to attend.

For more information, call Tissue at 816-3458.

Junior Tennis League continues

A free Junior Tennis League continues at the Figure 7 Tennis Center.

The league, open to players ages 8 through 12, is held from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday.

Players should bring their own racquet, or one will be provided when available.

Texas A&M chosen to host soccer finals

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The NCAA on Monday selected Texas A&M to host the women's Division I soccer finals next year.

It will be the second time the Aggies have been the host school for the women's championship, which will be held Dec. 7 and Dec. 9, 2007, in College Station, Texas.

"They did an exceptional job managing this event in 2005 and earned the right to serve as a repeat host," said Paul Schlickmann, chairman of the NCAA Division I women's soccer committee. "Texas A&M has a first-rate soccer venue, terrific fan support in the community, and an excellent staff that takes a vested interest in running a first-class event."

AP top 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Sept. 23.

1. Ohio St. (59) 4-0
2. Auburn (2) 4-0
3. Southern Cal (2) 3-0
4. West Virginia (2) 4-0
5. Florida 4-0
6. Michigan 4-0
7. Texas 3-1
8. Louisville 4-0
9. LSU 3-1
10. Georgia 4-0
11. Virginia Tech 4-0
12. Notre Dame 3-1
13. Iowa 4-0
14. Oregon 3-0
15. Tennessee 3-1
16. Oklahoma 3-1
17. TCU 3-0
18. Clemson 3-1
19. Florida St. 3-1
20. California 3-1
21. Nebraska 3-1
22. Boise St. 4-0
23. Rutgers 4-0
24. Georgia Tech 3-1
25. Missouri 4-0

Others receiving votes: Boston College 42, Miami 37, Arizona St. 34, Purdue 34, Michigan St. 20, Texas A&M 20, Penn St. 19, Texas Tech 17, Arkansas 13, Washington 13, Wake Forest 12, Wisconsin 6, Houston 5, UCLA 5, Alabama 3.

Tonight

Volleyball — Big Spring vs. Frenship
7 p.m., Steer Gym



Photo provided by Howard College.
Howard All Stars Jessica Garcia, left, Kendra Corbin, Alejandra Rodriguez, and Allisha Rams prepare for Texas Junior College All Star game.

Howard Hawks earn right to compete in All Star game

By MIKE GRIMES
Sports Editor

Four Howard College Hawks softball players have earned the right to participate in the Texas Jr. College All Star game this weekend at UT Tyler. The standout players consist of three returning all conference players and

another returning starter that was voted in by coaches in the conference.

With the first game of the season not until February, Hawks Softball Coach Kelly Raines said she is pleased for these players to be able to go and compete against the

best players in the state.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for these girls and they should take advantage of every minute of the experience," said Raines. "It is an honor for this school to have these four go and represent us this weekend."

Leadoff hitter and second baseman Alejandra Rodriguez started every game last season and led the team with seven home runs. She also carried a .370 batting average to go with those long balls.

"I'm just looking for

See HAWKS, page 2B

Astros surge, trail Cardinals by only 2 1/2 games in Central

By ROB MAADDI
AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA — The surging Houston Astros have put their vacation plans on hold.

Pinch-hitter Mike Lamb's infield single drove in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning, lifting the Astros to their sixth straight victory, 5-4 over the Philadelphia Phillies on Monday night.

The Phillies (82-74) dropped into a tie with Los Angeles for the NL wild-card lead. Both teams have six games remaining in the regular season - all on the road.

Meanwhile, the Astros (78-78) moved within 2 1/2 games of NL Central-leading St. Louis. Houston swept a four-game

series against the Cardinals last weekend to cut the gap.

A week ago, the Astros were 8 1/2 games behind the Cardinals and getting ready to break out their golf clubs and hit the beaches. Now, they're putting pressure on St. Louis, which has lost six straight.

Players were glued to the television in the clubhouse watching the final inning of San Diego's 6-5 win in St. Louis. It made the one-day trip to Philadelphia to make up a Sept. 5 rainout worth the trouble.

"It turned out to be best for us," said manager Phil Garner, whose team didn't arrive in Philadelphia until shortly before 4 a.m. EDT. "It worked out."

Jimmy Rollins hit a two-run homer off Dave Borkowski to

give the Phillies a 4-2 lead in the sixth, but the Astros answered against a trio of relievers in the seventh.

Rick White got one out before walking Morgan Ensberg. Matt Smith (0-1) entered and struck out Lance Berkman, but walked Luke Scott and Chris Burke. Pinch-hitter Orlando Palmeiro followed with a tying, two-run single to left off Geoff Geary. Burke went to third on the play when left fielder Pat Burrell's throw home skipped past catcher Mike Lieberthal for an error.

Burke scored the go-ahead run on Lamb's sharp single off second baseman Utley's glove. Utley dove to his left to stop the ball, but couldn't control it.

"We got six games to play and it's a tie," Phillies manager

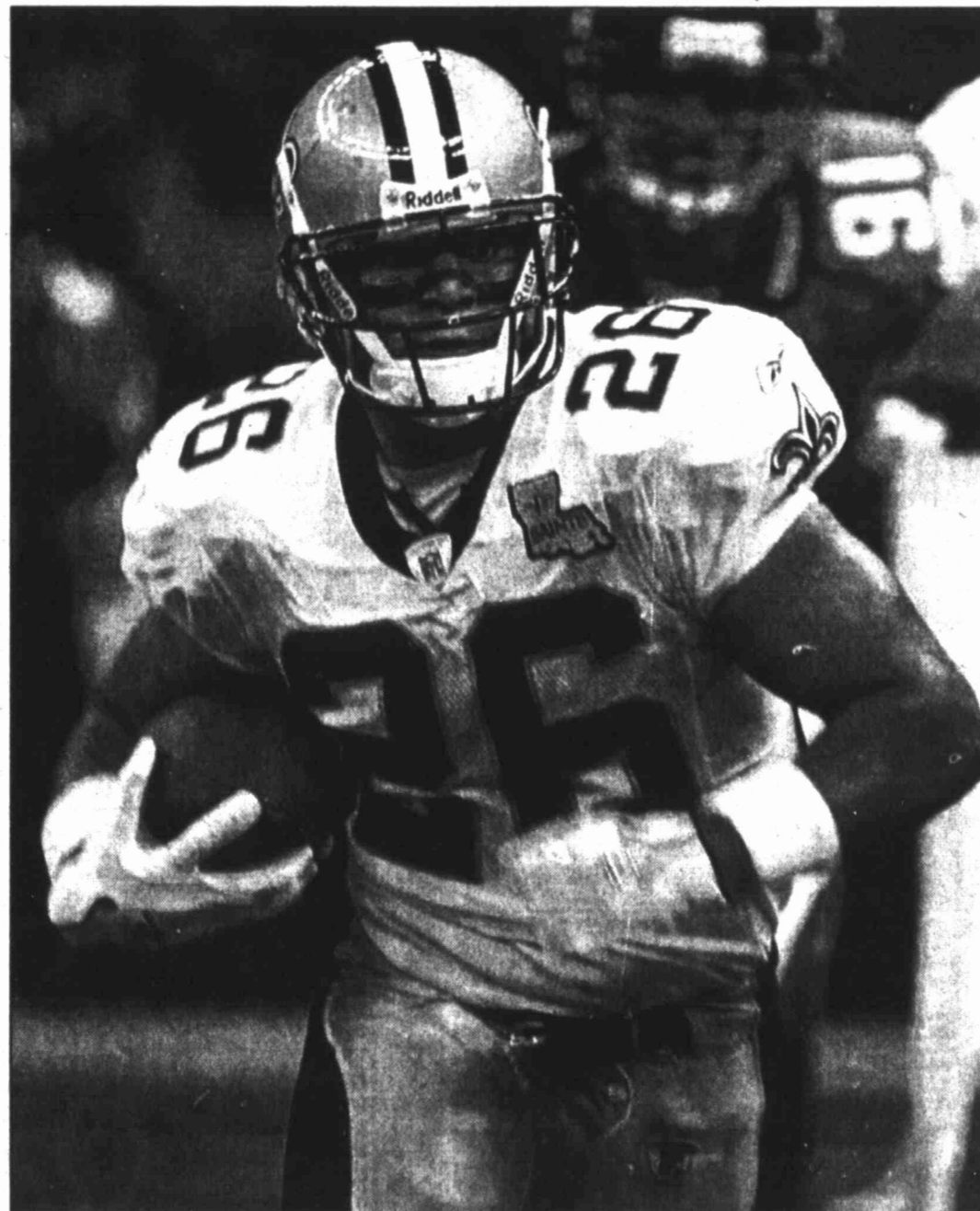
Charlie Manuel said. "We have to keep winning. We didn't let anything slip away yet."

Borkowski (3-2) allowed two runs in one inning, but got the win. Chad Qualls retired his only batter, pinch-hitter Chris Coste, to leave a runner on third in the eighth. Dan Wheeler pitched the ninth for his eighth save, getting Utley on a game-ending popup that left Ryan Howard on deck.

Houston used nine pitchers. "I can't even read my lineup card," Garner said.

After falling behind 2-1, the Astros tied it on Jason Lane's solo shot with one out in the sixth off Phillies starter Randy Wolf. Lane lined one into the

See ASTROS, page 2B



Bob Snow/Macon Telegraph/SGT
New Orleans Saints running back Douce McAllister looks up field during a run against the Atlanta Falcons at the Superdome in New Orleans Monday.

Saints win, now 3-0

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP National Writer

NEW ORLEANS — The New Orleans Saints knew it would be a special night, but the point was really driven home when they pulled into the parking lot at the refurbished Superdome.

Several hours before kickoff, tens of thousands of fans already were milling about in the streets, ready for a party that was a horrific year in the making.

Even quarterback Drew Brees had a tough time finding his parking spot, resolving at one point to maroon his car on an island before someone showed him the way.

No problem. After all New Orleans has been through, that hardly qualified as a hassle.

The Saints made a triumphant return to the Big Easy on Monday night, romping to a 23-3 victory over the Atlanta Falcons that - for several hours, at least - helped this battered city feel good about itself again.

Instead of worrying about insurance payments or grieving for those died, the fans cheered on Reggie Bush in his first home game,

revealed in a defense that battered Michael Vick, marveled at a special teams that blocked two kicks, and roared when the Saints pulled off a trick play known, appropriately enough, as "The Superdome Special."

They even got a chance to salute once-reviled owner Tom Benson, who broke out his parasol and bounced around the field - just like the good ol' days before Hurricane Katrina changed life forever.

"From the moment I signed with the Saints, I was looking forward to this," said Brees, who joined New Orleans during the offseason. "It was a great night. It's something we'll never forget."

This one couldn't have been scripted any better for a team that spent all of last season on the road, and it couldn't have come at a better time for a city that is still struggling to overcome the devastation of Katrina.

After a Super Bowl-like pregame show that included a performance by supergroups U2 and Green Day, the Saints wasted no time turning their welcome-home party into Mardi Gras:

See SAINTS, page 2B

Player dies after practice

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — A Rice University freshman football player died Monday, a day after collapsing during a light workout.

Dale Lloyd, a 19-year-old defensive back, collapsed on the field about 5 p.m. Sunday but was conscious when taken to a hospital by ambulance. He died about 9 a.m. Monday, school officials said.

"I just can't describe the pain we're feeling right now and the shock," Rice athletic director Chris Del Conte said. "It will take a long time to digest. The coaches are crushed. This is a tough time for all of us."

Del Conte said Lloyd collapsed while the team was doing some light running. Although he didn't complain of anything specific, he told team trainers he didn't feel right.

"No one knows what happened," Del Conte said. "It's a mystery."

An autopsy was pending.

Coaches met with the

See RICE, page 2B

RICE

Continued from 1B

team Monday afternoon to talk about Lloyd's death. "He was a tremendous student who happened to play football," Del Conte said, fighting back tears. "His smile just lit up the room." Lloyd played in Rice's season opener against Houston but didn't play the last three games. The team planned to redshirt him. Rice is scheduled to travel to face Army on

Saturday. Del Conte said he hasn't made a decision on the status of that game. "The Rice Owl family has suffered a devastating loss," Rice coach Todd Graham said in a statement. "Dale was a tremendous person with the heart of a champion." Lloyd played football and baseball at Houston's Lamar High School, was selected to the Who's Who Among American High School Students and volunteered with the Mayor's Youth Council. He is survived by his parents, Dale and Bridgette Lloyd, and two brothers.

SAINTS

Continued from 1B

The Falcons' first drive went three-and-out, and special teams demon Steve Gleason sliced through the middle of the Atlanta line to smother Michael Koenen's punt. The ball skidded across the goal line, where Curtis Deloatch fell on it for a touchdown - the first given up by the Falcons this season. Just like that, Saints sent an emphatic message to the NFL and the entire country. New Orleans is open for business. Deloatch ran over to the stands and pointed at the crowd of 70,003, as if to say, "Take that Katrina!" Undoubtedly, many more were cheering around this still-recovering city, some of them vowing to set up televisions outside government-issued trailers that pass for homes more than a year after the storm blew ashore, the levees broke and the water poured through. "That set the tone," Brees said. "That's when we all knew. This was our day, our night." The Saints dedicated a game ball to the entire city. "It meant a lot to them when the Saints didn't leave in their time of need," rookie Reggie Bush said. "When the people of New Orleans needed something to look to for confidence and something to be proud of, they looked to the Saints." The Saints (3-0) poured it on against the Falcons (2-1), who fell behind 14-3 in the first quarter and never recovered. Devery Henderson scored New Orleans' second TD on an 11-yard double-reverse, taking a handoff from Bush and cutting inside the pylon with help from

a block by Brees. How could that play not work? When fine-tuning it in practice, the Saints dubbed their bit of chicanery "The Superdome Special" - a tribute to the stadium that was the scene of misery and despair in the days after Katrina, but has come back to life with a \$185 million renovation. John Carney kicked two field goals in the second period, including a 51-yarder that cleared the crossbar as time ran out. The Saints trotted to the locker room with a 20-3 lead and a rousing ovation ringing in their ears. The Falcons straggled off in the opposite direction, as if they already knew this wasn't going to be their night. "As tough as it is to lose a game, I'd be lying if I said there isn't a little, little, little piece of me that didn't appreciate what this game meant to this city," said Falcons coach Jim Mora, whose father is the winningest coach in Saints history. "It meant a lot." After Bono left the stage and former President George Bush took care of the coin flip, the Saints made sure the party lasted all night. They dominated on special teams, also blocking a short field goal attempt by 46-year-old Morten Andersen. They held the Falcons, coming off a franchise-record 306 yards on the ground against Tampa Bay, to just 117 rushing. And they contained Vick, who completed 12-of-31 for 137 yards. "I never in my life heard a crowd roar so loud," Vick said. "They deserve it." Any hopes of an Atlanta comeback were snuffed out on the first possession of the second half. New Orleans took the kickoff and drove 73 yards in 12 plays, burning more than 7 minutes off the clock.

HAWKS

Continued from 1B

ward to meeting and competing with the other girls from our conference," Rodriguez said. "It is just an honor to be selected to go and play." Following her in the batting order is shortstop Alisha Rams, a solid defensive player who led the Hawks in batting with a .445 average. Raines said she will be a key player if the team will contend for a conference championship this season. "This is a great opportunity to get out there and show a larger audience what I can do on the field, I'm really excited about being given this chance," said Rams. The third all conference returning player is Jessica Garcia, and according to her coach she is the "little girl that swings the big bat." The clean-up hitter started in the outfield last season and has a strong arm, but her performances on offense can't be overlooked.

"She is a big hitter for us," Coach Raines said, describing Garcia. "She has a knack for getting hits at just the right time and she batted close to .400 for us last season." "I'm looking forward to going out there and playing with my teammates," Garcia said. "As for my goals after the season, I would really like to continue my education and go play for UTA (University of Texas at Arlington)." Rounding out the four all stars is Kendra Corbin, who Raines described as a solid defensive player, batting over .300 last season. According to Raines, she was chosen for the team because of her all around ability and the key defensive plays she made throughout last season. "This gives all of us an opportunity to perform and to try and land a scholarship at the next level," Corbin said. "This is going to be fun."

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

ASTROS

Continued from 1B

seats in right-center for his 15th homer. But Rollins drove his 25th homer into the seats in right-center to put Philadelphia ahead. Rollins pointed to teammates in the dugout as he began his jog around the bases and earned a curtain call

from the sellout crowd of 44,688 at Citizens Bank Park. The Phillies scored two runs off Wandy Rodriguez in the fifth. With the crowd chanting "M-V-P!" and standing the entire at-bat, Howard ripped a single up the middle on a 1-2 pitch to score two runs, giving the Phillies a 2-1 lead. Ensberg's sacrifice fly in the fifth drove in the first run.

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The bidding:
North East South West
1♦ Pass 1♦ Pass
2♦ Pass 3NT

Opening lead — two of hearts.
Assume you're West and that South gets to three notrump as shown. You have no clear-cut opening lead, but you decide, after considering the bidding, that the only real chance of defeating the contract is to find partner with good hearts.
So you lead a heart, and it immediately becomes apparent that you must have done something right, because when your partner plays the jack, it wins the trick. East returns the eight of hearts (his original fourth-best heart), and you win declarer's ten with the king.

You might mechanically continue with a third round of hearts at this point, but before you do, you should stop to analyze the situation before proceeding.
If declarer's bidding is to be believed, he is virtually certain to have the A-K of spades and ace of hearts for his leap to three notrump. Translating that into tricks, South is sure to score a minimum of nine tricks — four diamonds, at least three spades, a heart and a club — if you return a heart at trick three.
Faced with this prospect, you arrive at the conclusion that the only chance of defeating the contract lies in finding partner with the queen of clubs. So, at trick three, you shift to the seven of clubs!
Bingo! Declarer cannot cope with this deadly switch. The combination of your heart lead at trick one and your club shift at trick three renders him helpless. He cannot stop you from scoring two hearts, two clubs and a diamond before he can take nine tricks, and there is nothing he can do about it at any juncture.
It is often said that defense is by far the most difficult part of the game. Undoubtedly it is, but as this deal illustrates so well, it is mostly a step-by-step process. All that's required to achieve the desired result is the willingness to expend a bit of extra effort.

Tomorrow: Sylvia brings home the bacon.
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Texans choke

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
AP Sports Writer
HOUSTON — On Monday, after yet another ugly loss, the Houston Texans were embarrassed. The Texans have not just lost en route to their 0-3 record. They haven't even kept a game close, getting beat by an average of 16 points. And that number isn't as high as it should be since Houston managed three touchdowns against Indianapolis backups in the fourth quarter of a 43-24 loss in Week 2. "Our fans don't deserve this," said defensive tackle Seth Payne. "It's just unacceptable, and we deserve any criticism anybody wants to give us."

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Big XII not looking like a super conference this year

By JEFF LATZKE
AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — With nonconference play all but over, the teams of the Big 12 still find themselves looking for a signature win.

Big 12 teams finished a combined 0-9 against ranked foes from other conferences, with only a pair of games against Division I-AA teams left on the nonconference schedule.

Still, the conference's coaches feel the Big 12's strong reputation is not at risk.

"I wouldn't get my

shorts in a bunch too much over that, to be honest with you," Iowa State coach Dan McCarney said. "... There's just so much football to be played. I think when this whole college football season is over, all of us associated with the Big 12 will be able to hold our heads high."

After four weeks, the Big 12 has only two wins against teams from the five other conferences with automatic berths to the Bowl Championship Series: Missouri's 34-7 win against Mississippi and Oklahoma's 37-20

defeat of Washington. Those are also the Big 12's only other games against BCS conference teams besides the ones against ranked opponents.

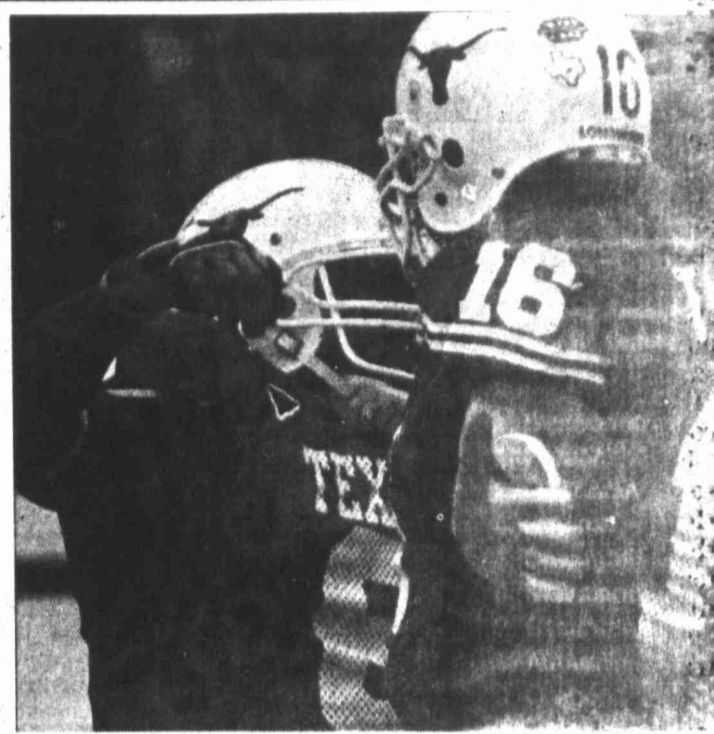
There have been close calls, including Oklahoma's controversial 34-33 loss at Oregon two weeks ago and Colorado's 14-13 loss to Georgia on Saturday on a last-minute touchdown.

What's unclear is whether the conference's reputation will take a hit because of the lack of a big win. Four Big 12 teams are in the top 25 - Texas, Oklahoma,

Nebraska and Missouri - and Texas A&M and Texas Tech are receiving votes.

Because it is the highest-ranked team in the bunch, No. 7 Texas might be the most affected when it comes time for the BCS standings to be released on Oct. 15.

"It obviously will have some bearing, but when you look at it I have not seen strength of schedule as big of a factor as I would like to see it over the last few years," Longhorns coach Mack Brown said.



The Texas Longhorns are still the class of the Big XII

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Pigskin Picks Entry Form

Team _____

1. _____ Name: _____

2. _____ Address: _____

3. _____ Phone Number: _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____ Tie Breaker - Circle the winner and note total points scored

9. _____ **Texas Tech at Texas A&M**

10. _____ Total Points _____

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KID NEWS

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Chatter Box

● "I have no fear of losing my life — if I have to save a koala or a crocodile or a kangaroo or a snake, mate, I will save it."
● "Yeah, I'm a thrill seeker, but crikey, education's the most important thing."
— Steve Irwin, *brainyquote.com*.

Arbor dwellings



PHOTOS BY MEI-CHUN JAU/DALLAS MORNING NEWS

These treehouses take backyard fun to a new level

BY HEATHER VENRICK
The Dallas Morning News

Only the far reaches of imagination limit what lies within the bounds of the walls at the Dallas Arboretum's Ultimate Tree Houses exhibit.

Thirteen treehouses are as magical on the outside as they are inside. We spoke with some of the treehouse designers about their creations.



ULTIMATE BLOOMS ▲

What is it? Three 11-foot-tall purple tulips connected by ramps surround the tree.

We talked with: Kelly Giddens of the Beck design team.

Giddens says: "As a kid, I remember getting up and getting all dressed up at Easter and driving out to the Arboretum to come to the Dallas Blooms exhibit that they do every year. I wanted to incorporate Dallas Blooms into it, which is why I did the three big tulips."

Treehouse as a kid? "No. ... But I remember actually trying to grow a treehouse when I was little. My parents have a picture of me squatting down watering the ground because I thought that a tree would grow, and a treehouse would grow up in



CORE ▲

What is it? A short hallway leads to a tree encircled in red panels of wood, with benches on either side of the tree.

We talked with: Designer Jason Oliver of Corgan Associates.

Oliver says: "I really wanted to create a shrine to this bamboo; it caught my eye the moment that I saw it. My whole idea was just to create a colorful hideaway. The red color and the vertical paneling that lets in amazing light really makes the bamboo, and the treehouse itself for that matter, stand out."

Treehouse as a kid? "I used to go back into the woods and just spend hours upon hours back there building things and playing around, doing whatever I wanted."

LEAVES IMAGINATION ▲

What is it? Wall panels resembling leaves surround the tree.

We talked with: Ryan Bricker of the HNTB Corp. and Brad Bell Studio design team.

Bricker says: "We went to about 10 or 11 different elementary schools and talked to students from different grades. We taught them about some different trees that are native to North Texas and asked them to decorate some leaves that resembled leaves from those trees. We're hanging those leaves up all around the treehouse; they're going to be dangling from the top of it so the kids can look up at them as they're walking through."

Treehouse as a kid? "We made a lot of makeshift treehouses when I was a kid; they weren't nearly this big, though."

FLUTTERBY ▼

What is it? This treehouse displays the transformation of a caterpillar into a butterfly with a 42-foot wingspan.

We talked with: Bill Lavrinovich, primary designer of the HDR Architecture team.

Lavrinovich says: "It's really a combination of several different ideas that we just kind of morphed into one. There were some things that we wanted to do but couldn't; for instance, we toyed around with the idea of having mobile wings, but decided that that would be very difficult to actually do."

Coollest feature: "The wings, no doubt about it."

What it teaches us: "The treehouse is not just the butterfly, but it represents the metamorphosis from a caterpillar to a cocoon, and then into the butterfly."

Treehouse as a kid? "I didn't have one nearly this elaborate."

For more information, visit



In The News Remembering Steve Irwin

Animal lovers around the world are paying tribute to a brave and beloved conservation hero. Steve Irwin, also known as the "Crocodile Hunter," died this month after being attacked by a stingray at Australia's Great Barrier Reef. He was 44.

Irwin was filming a documentary about ocean creatures when the stingray attacked him. A stingray is a marine fish related to a shark. Fatal stingray attacks are very rare. Normally, stingrays are very shy and lie in the sand. But when they feel threatened, they use barbs to protect themselves. Experts believe the stingray may have felt threatened by Irwin and his cameraman.



A HUGE LOSS

Australia's Prime Minister John Howard said Irwin's death is "a huge loss to Australia." Howard called Irwin "a wonderful character" and a "passionate environmentalist."

Irwin spent his life facing danger in the wild. "Crikey!" Irwin would shout while wrestling crocodiles or handling poisonous snakes and spiders. His brave adventures were designed to teach the world to respect wildlife. Irwin also fought against the hunting of wildlife and worked with animals in their own habitats.



A LIFE IN THE WILD

Irwin was born in Australia, where he grew up around wild animals, including crocodiles. Irwin's parents ran a wildlife park, which Irwin later took over and renamed the Australia Zoo. From a young age, Irwin worked with his dad to protect crocodiles from illegal hunters. They would trap the reptiles and move them to safer places. That's how Irwin earned his nickname, the Crocodile Hunter.

Irwin's television shows about his adventures, including "The Crocodile Hunter," were seen in more than 100 countries. More than 500 million people around the world knew of Irwin's adventures in the wild. He appeared on talk shows to spread his message about wildlife conservation. Irwin's wife Terri often appeared on television with him. Together, they starred in a 2002 movie, "The Crocodile Hunters: Collision Course." The Irwins had a son and a daughter.

At his Australia Zoo, fans poured in to honor the animal hero. They brought flowers and wrote special messages. "Steve, from all God's creatures, thank you," one tribute message said. "Rest in peace." — Dina El Nabli

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Wacky Facts

Koalas do not need to drink. They get the moisture they need from eucalyptus leaves.

Australia has more than 7,000 beaches, more than any other nation in the world.

There are an estimated 50 million kangaroos in Australia.

Crocodiles can go as long as a year without eating. Because they are cold-blooded animals, they can function at low body temperatures and use energy in food more efficiently than almost any other animal.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
The Scorpio lunar energy poses a challenge. What area of your life can you completely transform before the day is through? It sounds like an impossible task, but it's as easy, or as hard, as changing an attitude. You can work from the outside in, or the inside out - both are valid methods for creating a quick and startling change.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're lucky in so many ways. Giving back to society is a theme in the back of your mind. Bring it to the front, and you'll have even more to be grateful for.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). What you program into the jukebox of life comes immediately through the stereo system

of your environment. If you can't dance to the current "song" that's playing, change your selection.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Self-doubt is a complete waste of time - and today you have no time to waste. So lead by the strength of your convictions. Let your innate courage guide you into your future.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There is scientific proof that having love in your life boosts your immune system. Chuck the vitamins, and work on attracting more generous spirits into your world.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You believe you know what other people's expectations of you are, but you save yourself a lot of time and trouble by asking directly. Your pointed questions get to the heart of the matter.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're always putting out a certain attitude to the world, but not always aware of what it is. Today you're extremely con-

scious of what you project and intent on getting a certain response.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You raise the stakes of a relationship or deal. It was only a few weeks ago that you were afraid to try at all. Now you take a completely different approach. Why succeed when you can triumph?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your psychic powers are strong now. Loved ones think they're hiding their inner thoughts - how cute. Meanwhile, you can read them like a neon sign.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The stars shine on your romantic life. Loving acts should feel more like fun than work, but either way, it's important to "just do it." When you're not expecting a response, you'll get the best one.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Though most everyone enjoys magic tricks, there's always that person who can't suspend disbelief because he's too

bent on figuring out the "trick." Today, you'll win over that guy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Buddy up. Two heads are better than one on an interesting project, and way better on a boring project. Oddly enough, this is true even if the other person is unqualified to help you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). That thing that everyone talks about, but nobody does anything about falls under your jurisdiction. You're the one! And you do a brilliant job! This makes everyone happy for approximately an hour and a half.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "What can you tell me about my family? How can I challenge my children's interests, what are their motivators, and how do we flow as a unit? I'm an Aquarius, my wife is an Aries, our first daughter is a Scorpio, our son is a Capricorn and our second daughter is a Pisces." Your family unit repre-

sents all the elements of the zodiac: air, fire, water and earth. You're a complete group, bringing a full range of talents to the world. The birth of your youngest daughter was a healing of sorts for your family, endowing your group dynamic with a new and stronger unity.

Your Aquarian attitude predisposes you to connect in unexpected and delightful ways with the new generation growing up in your home. I'll bet you've played more than a few rounds of video games and that you have achieved that rarest of parental categories - your children actually think you're cool. Your wife is equally youthful in other ways, especially rich in the physical stamina required to raise three! Your first daughter is intensely smart, your son is responsible and your youngest daughter is wise. The strongest motivation you can give them is to follow your own interests with the tena-

cious playfulness with which you're so bountifully endowed.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Sassy singer Avril Lavigne may be a multi-platinum recording force on the worldwide music scene, but she wants the same thing most 22-year-old Libras want out of life - love, sweet love. Lavigne surprised all her fans this past year with a traditional and romantic wedding for she and fellow Canadian rocker Deryck Whibley, Sum 41 front man. Next comes the baby in a baby carriage!

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2006 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

Annie's Mailbox: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My boyfriend and I have had an on-and-off relationship for the past three years. Recently, he invited me to an event with his family and their friends, and I made a fool out of myself in front of everyone.

I had three large alcoholic drinks and, for some reason, they did not agree with me. I can usually handle drinking, but this time, I got drunk and threw up. Unfortunately, some of it hit a lady friend of his family. Also, I supposedly groped another woman's husband.

Do you think someone could have put something in my drink? Should I send his family an apology or leave it alone? Right now, my boyfriend is not talking to me, and I don't blame him. I don't know what came over me that night.

Normally, I am quiet and very shy, and always respectful of family and friends. I love my boyfriend and want him to forgive me. What can I do to make this situation better? - Not High in Highland

Dear Not High: OK, you made a fool of yourself and behaved like a drunken idiot. You must apologize profusely to your boyfriend, his family and the people who were the victims of your behavior. Don't make excuses for yourself. Take full responsibility for overindulging, making everyone uncomfortable, and embarrassing yourself and your hosts, and then beg for mercy. And promise to lay off the booze so you can be the shy, quiet, respectful woman you believe you are.

Dear Annie: My mother has a very quick temper when it comes to my autistic twin brother, "Gabe." She threatens to hit him with objects instead of the old-fashioned way, with her hand. She'll pick up a hanger and say she's going to hit him with it if he doesn't listen or finish a job completely, because he tends to be a little lazy sometimes and doesn't understand that he has chores to do around the house.

I have told Mom she needs to go to an anger-management class or a support group for parents with autistic children, but she's stubborn and insists she doesn't need any of that. Then she gets mad at me. It also frustrates her because I'm in college and don't have time to do all the things she expects. Sometimes, homework keeps me up until midnight or later. Please help



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

me out. - Angry and Stressed

Dear Angry: It sounds as if your house is filled with stressed and angry people. Caring for an autistic son can be difficult for any parent, and Mom is not handling it well. Even though she chooses not to ask for help, you can check out the available support groups and talk to someone. Please contact the Autism Society of America (autism-society.org) at 1-800-3AUTISM (1-800-328-8476). You also can discuss this with a counselor at your college.

Dear Annie: Please print this for "Hurt & Confused," the 11-year-old girl whose 23-year-old sister teases her about being a vegetarian.

I am a lifelong vegetarian and have experienced everything from teasing to outright hostility. I sometimes try humor. When people ask me why I'm a vegetarian, I tell them that I hate plants and want to do my part to rid the world of them. (You wouldn't believe how many people take me seriously.)

Another way is through education. I discuss the horrors of slaughterhouses and chicken farms, the dangers of antibiotics fed to livestock and the advantages of a plant-based diet, including a lower fat and greater fiber intake. I have no problem maintaining my weight, and I point to vegetarianism as a means of helping with that.

I hope this girl can be the more mature sister and point out to her older sibling that eating a cruelty-free diet is a smart choice. - Veggie Lover from NYC

Dear Veggie Lover: You have made a good argument in favor of a vegetarian lifestyle, and we hope "Hurt & Confused" sees this. (We also love your sense of humor.)

Dear Annie: My husband and I had a falling out with his cousin, "Ralph," and Ralph's wife,

"Denise." We have not spoken to them in over five years.

We used to be the best of friends and spent a great deal of time together. Then I found out through a very reliable source that Denise was bad-mouthing my entire family, saying how she can't stand to be around us. She said many hateful things and really hurt my feelings, and I stopped talking to her. After six months, Denise e-mailed and asked what was wrong, and I told her everything. Instead of denying it or apologizing, she called me names and told me to grow up.

Over the years, Denise has said many nasty things about mutual

friends. I never told these friends what she said, so now all of them treat us like we are in the wrong. Recently, my husband has started talking to Ralph again because he really enjoys his company. My husband told me it was time to "get over it." I feel like he is stabbing me in the back.

What I really want to do is tell my friends the awful things Denise said about them and about my family. Of course, then I would be just as bad as she is. This is eating me up inside. What should I do? - Betrayed and Miserable

Dear Betrayed: You do not have to be friends with Denise just because

your husband likes Ralph. Tell him he is free to enjoy that relationship, but you will not be involved. This is how you "get over" a so-called friendship with someone who is mean, hateful and lets others know she doesn't really like you. You don't have to spread Denise's poison around. It will catch up to her eventually.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Mom in the Middle," who said her 11-year-old daughter is being ostracized at school. As you explained, this is a form of bullying. In our society, boys are taught that it is manly to be aggressive in one's defense, but the same

behavior for females is unacceptable. Instead, females ostracize one another as their form of aggression.

There is a terrific book that explains this phenomenon and offers suggestions on ways to address it. It is "Odd Girl Out: The Hidden Culture of Aggression in Girls," by Rachel Simmons. - School Counselor

Dear Counselor: Thanks for the suggestion. Many readers also recommended checking the library for "Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls," by Mary Pipher, Ph.D. We appreciate the information and are happy to pass it along.

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Up to 25 words: Sunday Only \$19.50 One weekday only \$12.25 Two Consecutive Days \$16.50 Three Consecutive days \$20.25 Four Consecutive Days \$23.50 Five Consecutive Days \$25.75 Six Consecutive Days \$27.00 Two weeks \$51.00 Three Weeks \$64.50 Four weeks \$75.00 Garage Sales (3 days) \$16.75 Each add'l word 20-cents per word per day.

Enhancements Price per word for entire run: Bolding \$1.00 Centering \$1.00 Italics \$1.00 Price for entire run: Blind Box \$10 Photo \$4.00 Graphics \$1.00 Logos \$1.00

Prices include placement on internet at www.bigspringherald.com

Start Date _____ Classification: _____

DEADLINES:
12 noon Fri. for Sunday; 4:15 Fri. for Monday; 12 noon Mon. for Tues.; 12 noon Tues. for Wed.; 12 noon Wed. for Thurs.; 12 noon Thurs. for Fri.

CLASSIFICATIONS:
Announcements; Business Opportunity; Cemetery Lots; Financial; Garage Sales; Help Wanted; Instruction; Items for Sale; Jobs Wanted; Lost and Found; Miscellaneous.; Mobile Homes; National Ads; On the Farm; Pets; Public Notice; Real Estate for Rent; Real Estate for Sale; Services Offered; Vehicles; Legals

Enclosed is \$ _____ Cash _____ Money Order _____ Check _____

Credit Card# _____

Exp. Date _____ Vcode# _____

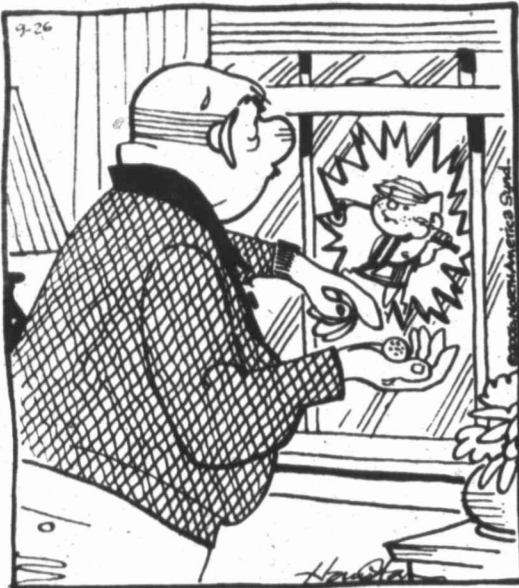
Are you a subscriber: Yes _____ No _____



TUESDAY

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KPBT (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPICE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	SCIFI (30)
	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports	Sci-Fi
6	PM News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Heroes de Amor	King of the Hill The Simpsons House (CC)	News Entertainment	Vuda de Blanco	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond	Dr. Young John Hagge	News-Letter	Dirty Jobs (CC)	(CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigator	Without a Trace (CC)	Live (CC)	Phil of Future	Interruption College	MLB Home-town Heroes	Dead Like Me (CC)
7	PM Dancing With the Stars	Dancing With the Stars	La Fae Mas Bella	NCIS (CC)	Tierra de Pasiones	Amores	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Sex and-City	Light of the Southwest	Novo (CC) (DVS)	Oil, Sweat and Riggs (CC)	Movie: Cocoon	CSI: Crime Scene Investigator	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Movie: Chl Brand (CC)	Movie: Wendy Wc	Football: Southern	2006 World Series of Poker (CC)	Dead Like Me (CC)
8	PM Help Me Help	Help Me Help	Barrera de Amor	Standoff (CC)	The Unit (CC)	Amores	Law & Order: SVU	Sex and-City	Light of the Southwest	Great Performances	Dirty Jobs (CC)	(CC)	Movie: Lethal Weapon 2	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Movie: Lethal Weapon 2	Homecoming Warrior (CC)	Mississippi at Central Florida	2006 World Series of Poker (CC)	Eureka (CC)
9	PM Boston Legal	Boston Legal	Ver Para Creer	To Be Announced	Smith (CC)	Decisiones	Law & Order: SVU	Sarfield (CC)	The Hour of Healing	Encore! With Sign Off	Dirty Jobs (CC)	Movie: Cocoon: The Return	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	The Parkers	Life Derek Phil of Future	(CC) Baseball	The Contender	ECW
10	PM News (CC)	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ.	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Laura	News Tonight Show	Friends (CC)	The Hour of Healing	Encore! With Sign Off	Dirty Jobs (CC)	Movie: Cocoon: The Return	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Jamie Foxx	Zack & Cody	Tonight	Eureka (CC)	
11	PM The Insider	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora de la Risa	King of the Hill Malcolm-Mid.	Letterman Late Late	W/ Rojo Vival	Late Night: Moray	Midnight Joe McGee Biblical Israel	Joe McGee Biblical Israel	Sign Off	Oil, Sweat and Riggs (CC)	(CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigator	NYPD Blue In Living Color (CC)	In Living Color	Phil of Future Kim Possible	Quite Frankly With Smith	SportsCenter (CC)	Dead Like Me (CC)
12	AM Live (CC)	Extra (CC)	Soradonas	My Wife-Kids Malcolm-Mid.	Show The Insider	Pagado	Conan O'Brien Paid Program	Madness	Update/Israel Booker	Dirty Jobs (CC)	Movie: The Comancheros	Movie: The Comancheros	Blind Date	NYPD Blue (CC)	Comicview (CC)	Proud Family Sater, Sater	The Contender	Baseball NFL Live	Twilight Zone

DENNIS THE MENACE



"HEY, MR. WILSON. DOES THAT COUNT AS A HOLE-IN-ONE?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"It's her way of keeping people from banging on the piano and waking her up."

HAGAR



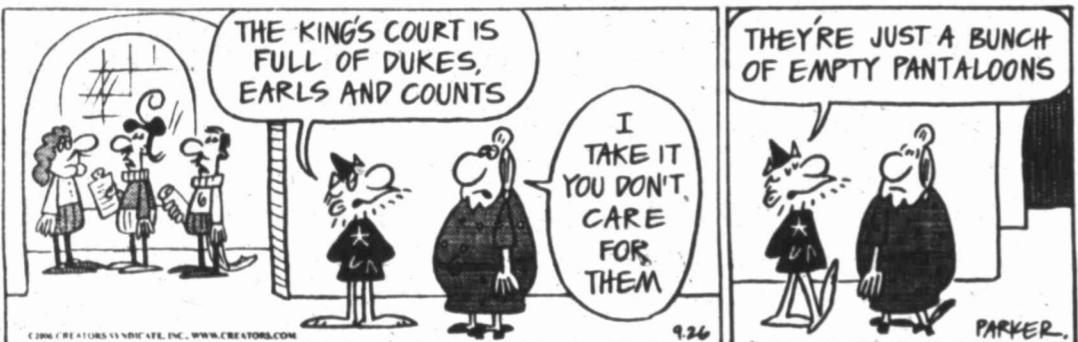
BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 26, the 269th day of 2006. There are 96 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 26, 1960, the first televised debate between presidential candidates John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon took place in Chicago.

On this date: In 1777, British troops occupied Philadelphia during the American Revolution.

In 1789, Thomas Jefferson was appointed America's first secretary of state.

In 1888, poet T.S. Eliot was born in St. Louis.

In 1914, the Federal Trade Commission was established.

In 1952, philosopher George Santayana died in

Rome at age 88.

In 1955, following word that President Eisenhower had suffered a heart attack, the New York Stock Exchange saw its worst price decline since 1929.

In 1980, the Cuban government abruptly closed Mariel Harbor, ending the "freedom flotilla" of Cuban refugees that had begun the previous April.

In 1981, the twin-engine Boeing 767 made its maiden flight in Everett, Wash.

In 1986, William H. Rehnquist was sworn in as the 16th chief justice of the United States, while Antonin Scalia joined the Supreme Court as its 103rd member.

In 1991, four men and four women began a two-year stay inside a sealed-off structure in Oracle, Ariz., called Biosphere 2. (They emerged from the Biosphere on this date in 1993.)

Today's Birthdays: Fitness expert Jack LaLanne is 92. Actor Philip Bosco is 76. Country singer David Frizzell is 65. Actor

Kent McCord is 64. Television host Anne Robinson is 62. Singer Bryan Ferry is 61. Former Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christie Whitman is 60. Singer Lynn Anderson is 59. Singer Olivia Newton-John is 58. Actress Mary Beth Hurt is 58. Actor James Keane is 54. Rock singer-musician Cesar Rosas (Los Lobos) is 52. Country singer Carlene Carter is 51. Actress Linda Hamilton is 50. Country singer Doug Supernaw is 46. Actress Melissa Sue Anderson is 44. Actor Patrick Bristow is 44. Rock musician Al Pitrelli is 44.

Answer to previous puzzle

L	I	L	A	G	A	L	I	N	E	P	I	A	D
A	D	A	M	L	O	S	E	R	I	E	R		
W	A	S	H	A	N	D	O	E	A	R	V	A	N
C	R	E	A	T	E	D	E	D	E				
M	I	R	A	G	E								
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A	L	L											
M	E	L											

9/26/06

Newsday Crossword

HAVE AN ICE DAY by Sally R. Steir
Edited by Stanley Newmar
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- Actor Sharif
- Enter, as a room
- Garbage-hauling boats
- Additional
- Diarist
- Boy Scout unit
- Mellows, as wine
- Location
- Barber's sharp tool
- Fox-and-hounds activity
- Cough-and-sniffles medicine
- Nome resident
- Donkey
- Five-sixths of a dozen
- Beer barrels
- Baba
- Type of tea
- Cost to ride a train
- Part of the eye
- Very hard to hold
- Former fast fliers: Abbr.
- Thailand neighbor
- Rental contract
- Golf-ball platform
- Sandwiches, for short
- Buddy
- Bullfight cheer
- Runs out on
- Refrigerated supermarket aisle
- Bearded barnyard beast

DOWN

- Nebraska city
- Movie bigwig
- Sports stadium
- Highway conveniences
- Container for unleaded
- Burger topping
- Worldwide: Abbr.
- Have to have
- Pressure
- Packs tightly
- Flow slowly
- Lumber or log
- Agile
- Blows
- one's top
- Hang on to
- Boxing-match conclusions
- Historical periods
- Vicinity
- Isn't sincere
- Maui or Tahiti
- Attention-getting sound
- Alternatively
- Airborne toy with a tail
- College club
- Not at all graceful
- Actress Barkin or Burstyn
- "Too bad!"
- Mixes together
- Foot levers
- Endangered atmospheric layer
- Parceled (out)
- Juliet's love
- Circus performer
- Emporium
- Unsuccessful show
- City near Lake Tahoe
- Poems of praise
- Office plant
- Margarine