



These men and women listen intently Monday afternoon during the Grisham Conference at Howard College's Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The college, City of Big Spring Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Rural Community College Initiative are hosting the three-day conference, entitled "Extraordinary Results in Ordinary Communities." The conference includes presentations by Dr. Vaughn Grisham, an internationally recognized authority on rural community development, as well as numerous other speakers from Georgia, Mississippi, Minnesota and Arkansas.

Courtesy photo



300 million and counting

With little celebration, nation's population officially reaches new milestone

By **STEPHEN OHLEMACHER**
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The nation's population officially hit 300 million at 6:46 a.m. CDT Tuesday, when the Census Bureau's population clock rolled over to the big number.

But there weren't any wild celebrations, fireworks or any other government-sponsored

hoopla to mark the milestone. Why bother? Many experts think the population actually hit 300 million months ago.

"I don't think anybody believes it will be the precise moment when the population hits 300 million," Howard Hogan, the Census Bureau's associate director for demographic programs, said in an

interview before the milestone was reached. But, he added, "We're confident that we're somewhat close."

It's not easy estimating the exact number of people in a country the size of the United States. It gets even more complicated when you take into account illegal immigration, another reason for the federal

government to let the milestone pass quietly.

When the U.S. population officially hit 200 million in 1967, President Johnson held a news conference at the Commerce Department to hail America's past and to talk about the challenges ahead. Life magazine dispatched a cadre of photographers to find a baby born at the

exact moment, anointing a boy born in Atlanta as the 200 millionth American.

This year, there's a good chance the 300 millionth American has already walked across the border from Mexico.

"It's a couple of weeks before an election when illegal immi-

See **POPULATION**, Page 3A

Early voting begins in just one week

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Area voters who want to avoid waiting in line Nov. 7 will get their first shot at the general election ballot Monday, as early voting gets under way at the Howard County Courthouse.

Set for Oct. 23, through Nov. 3 in the courthouse lobby, voters can cast their ballots from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

According to Sandra Bloom, elections administrator for Howard County, several branch locations have also been designated during early voting, including:

- Oct. 25 — 10 a.m. until noon at Canterbury South located at 1700 S.

See **VOTE**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Lloyd Claxton, one of the founding members of the Mustang Draw Woodcarvers Club, works on one of his famous "gnome homes" during the group's 16th annual Show and Sale at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

CARVING FEVER

Lloyd Claxton caught it about 20 years ago

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Some might say Lloyd Claxton's "bark" is worse than his bite — tree bark, that is.

Claxton, one of the founding members of the Mustang Draw Woodcarver's Club, was just one of many wood carving enthusiasts from all over the Permian Basin attending the group's annual Show and Sale Monday afternoon.

Claxton said he caught the carving bug almost two decades ago when he saw another artists work at a show in Big Spring.

"About 18 years ago I saw a fellow who was the director at the Circle 6

Baptist encampment, and I saw some of the wood carvings he had done," said Claxton. "He was a good woodcarver and I saw some of his work at one of the local shows in Big Spring and that's what got me interested."

"Shortly after that, we formed the Mustang Draw Woodcarvers Club. Jerry Bob Taylor was the guy that got it going, and it's been about 18 or 19 years since all of that. I've been involved pretty much ever since then."

Claxton said he tries to spend a little time carving daily, but everyday life has a way of intrud-

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BOWLING FOR GLORY

NAPOLEON TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) — Ralph Kluk has made a rosary fit for the Jolly Green Giant.

The 76-year-old has a 70-foot, 700-pound rosary made out of bowling balls in his front yard.

"It's a sign of his devotion. And it's a good idea," said Kluk's priest, the Rev. Darius Wyszynski. "What else do you do with an old bowling ball?"

Kluk combined 59 balls, 20 cans of pastel spray paint, 40 feet of black piping and a wooden cross.

"I do crazy things," he said. "But they're not really crazy. "The hardest part," Kluk adds, "will be cutting my grass around it."

JAIL FORUMS SLATED

Proponents of the \$10.1 million bond election to finance a new Howard County Jail will hold several forums this week.

The first forum is slated for tonight from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Bauer Elementary. A second forum is set for Wednesday from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Marcy Elementary. The third forum is slated for Thursday, from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Kentwood Elementary.

Among the speakers expected to present information during the forum are Howard County Commissioners Bill Crooker, Jerry Kilgore and Emma Brown, County Judge Ben Lockhart, Sheriff Dale Walker and local architect Phil Furqueron.

UNITED WAY ACTIVITIES

KC Steakhouse is the Dine Out Day restaurant Friday for United Way of Big Spring and Howard County.

A portion of the restaurant's proceeds that day will be donated to United Way, which serves 15 local agencies.

Also Friday, UW's mid-campaign breakfast will be held at 7:15 a.m. at Greg's Grill in the Big Spring Mall.

For information about UW, call Cynthia Scott at 267-5201.



CARVING

Continued from Page 1A

ing on his hobby.

"I try to carve a little every day, but I usually can't," said Claxton. "How much work goes into one of these pieces really depends on what your trying to carve and how much detail you put in it. You can carve a spirit face like this one pretty fast, but if you carve one of these gnome homes, it takes quite a while. About half the time you're looking at it trying to figure out what to do next. But it kind of evolves as you go along. You start at the top and work your way down the base."

Claxton's "specialty" is carving cottonwood bark, but don't let him fool you — woodcarving is just one facet of the club that keeps him coming back year after year.

"Right now my favorite part of woodcarving is carving bark. It's also really nice to see the kind of camaraderie you find with woodcarvers. As long as you can put up with this bunch you've got it made," he said with a laugh. "We really have a big time."

"We have more than 30 members in the club located throughout the Permian Basin. We meet monthly in Midland, which is kind of central to all of us, and we just get together and have fun. We share ideas, and if

you're having trouble with one particular thing, there's always someone around to help you."

Having spent nearly 20 years honing his skills — and carving blades — Claxton is hesitant to claim he has the hobby completely figured out.

"I'm still working on that," said Claxton with a laugh. "Like I always say, you can use it as firewood if you mess up. You can just chunk it in the fire, so you really don't lose anything. You might lose a little hide every now and then. When I first started it wasn't too bad. It's something you can get as serious with as you really want to. You can just get out your pocket knife and start whittling and try to make a toothpick out of a two-by-four. But it's a really good hobby to get involved with."

This is the fourth year that the club is holding its show and sale in Big Spring.

Classes are being held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily at the Dora Roberts Community Center. The organization will feature a special art sale Friday and Saturday, also from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To register for classes or learn more about them or the show, call Casey at 267-7687.

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



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Poodle Rosson, a member of a Lubbock-based woodcarving club, carves a piece of tree bark Monday afternoon during the 16th Annual Mustang Draw Woodcarvers Club's Show and Sale. The event will continue through Saturday at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

VOTE

Continued from Page 1A

Lancaster.

• Oct. 26 — 10 a.m. until noon at the Park View Retirement Center located at 3200 Parkway.

• Oct. 27 — 10 a.m. until noon at the Spring City Senior Citizens Center located at 1901 Simler.

• Nov. 1 — 10 a.m. until noon at the Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez State Veterans Home located at 1809 N. Highway 87.

Bloom said extended early voting hours will

also be offered at the courthouse polls Oct. 26 and Nov. 2, when area voters may cast their ballots from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m.

Voting will also be open Saturday, Oct. 28, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. for area residents that can't get to the polls during the week.

Voters will have several decisions to make concerning county officials, as local rancher and Democratic nominee Mark Barr squares off against Coahoma resident John Wayne Metcalf for the county judge seat.

Metcalf announced his

candidacy for the office after former Republican party nominee Mark Morgan pulled out of the race due to personal matters. Although Metcalf is running as a non-aligned candidate, Howard County Republican Party Chairman Margarita Durand-Hollis said the party will support Metcalf in the race.

Also a last-minute filer, local resident Erven Fisher will run as a write-in candidate for the Precinct 2 seat on the Howard County Commissioner's Court.

Fisher will face incumbent Jerry Kilgore in the November contest. Howard County resident Carl Lancaster also filed as a write-in candidate, in hopes of unseating Precinct 1 Constable Bill Holden.

Several bond issues — at a staggering combined price of \$35 million — will also find their way onto the November ballot, including elections for a \$10.1 million-plus county jail facility; an \$11.1 million proposal from the city of Big Spring for a street reconstruction project and sports and recreation complex; and a \$13.9

million improvements package from Coahoma Independent School District.

Both the Coahoma ISD and city of Big Spring bonds will give voters the option to choose different combinations of projects.

For more information on early voting, contact Bloom at 264-2273.

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

POPULATION

Continued from Page 1A

gration is a high-profile issue and they don't want to make a big deal out of it," said William Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank.

Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez said the Bush administration isn't playing down the milestone, though he said he had no plans for Tuesday. Census Bureau employees planned to mark the moment Tuesday afternoon with cake and punch.

"I would hate to think that we are going to be low key about this," said Gutierrez, whose department oversees the Census Bureau. "I would hope that we make a big deal about it."

Gutierrez said America's growing population is good for the economy. He noted that Japan and some European countries expect to lose population in the next few decades, raising concerns that there won't be enough young people entering the work force to support aging populations.

"This is one more area where we seem to have an advantage," Gutierrez said. "We should all feel good about reaching this milestone."

The U.S. adds about 2.8 million people a year, for a growth rate of less than 1 percent. About 40 percent of the growth comes from immigration. The rest comes from births outnumbering deaths.

The Census Bureau counts the population every 10 years. In between, it uses administrative records and surveys to estimate monthly averages for births, deaths and net immigration. The bureau has a "population clock" that estimates a birth every seven seconds, a death every 13 seconds and a

new immigrant every 31 seconds. Add it together and you get one new American every 11 seconds.

The 300 millionth American — born months ago or on Tuesday — is probably Hispanic because they are the fastest growing demographic group in the U.S., Frey said.

Jeffrey Passel, a senior demographer at the Pew Hispanic Center, said the Census Bureau has improved its population estimates in the past few years, but it still undercounts illegal immigrants.

There are an estimated 11 million to 12 million illegal immigrants in the U.S. Experts differ on the

specifics, but many estimate that more than 1 million of them don't show up in census figures.

"The census clearly misses people," said Passel, a former Census Bureau employee who used to help estimate the undercount. "Having said that, when they crossed

200 million, they were missing about 5 million people. We think the 2000 census missed a lot less than 5 million people."

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If you think you're too young for a heart attack, here's some important news. You're not.

er. When experiencing the symptoms of a heart attack, time is critical. Get to the Emergency Room for diagnosis and treatment. Because knowing the symptoms of a heart attack is important and knowing what to do about them could save your life.

SYMPTOMS OF A HEART ATTACK:

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Rains let up after Southeast Texas storms kill four

HOUSTON (AP) — A powerful series of storms that drenched Southeast Texas and resulted in four deaths had moved on, but emergency officials monitored problematic waterways for more flooding as clean-up efforts began.

The Monday storms caused widespread flooding that trapped drivers on submerged freeways and spawned tornadoes that destroyed mobile homes. But with the storms moving East, there was no rain in Tuesday's forecast and flood waters were receding, officials said.

"We are well on our way to the clean-up period," said Rusty Cornelius, administrative coordinator for the Harris County Office of Emergency

Management.

More flooding was likely for the San Jacinto River near Humble, with the river expected to crest Tuesday afternoon, Cornelius said. He said the flooding could affect 150 to 300 homes in the North Shore subdivision.

Officials were also monitoring Buffalo Bayou, which runs through Houston, though it wasn't expected to flood any residential structures, Cornelius said.

From 5 to 11 inches of rain fell across the Houston-Galveston area overnight Sunday and into Monday. Flooding prompted road closures throughout the region. Houston's two major airports experienced some delays and some public school systems were

closed. Twenty bayous overflowed their banks, but county officials said no evacuations were ordered.

Two women were found dead in a sport utility vehicle in floodwaters between 8 and 12 feet deep in Houston.

A tow truck driver pulled the SUV from a road feeding onto Interstate 45 in Houston and found the two bodies, said Police Lt. Tom Jennings. The victims were identified as Patricia Gutierrez, 36, and her daughter Melissa Rojas, 16, both of Houston. They apparently drowned, he said.

Two others died in Brazoria County, southwest of Houston. A 54-year-old woman died in a two-vehicle collision on a

rain-slicked highway.

The Department of Public Safety said James Johnston, 56, of Needville, died on the Fort Bend-Brazoria County line. Authorities said Johnston drove into high water on Farm-to-Market Road 1462.

In Hitchcock, near the Gulf Coast, a tornado tore the roof off a mobile home, but none of the six people inside were injured.

The storm spread as far east as the Louisiana line, where a tornado struck near the Jefferson County town of China, said emergency management spokeswoman Darlene Koch. The National Weather Service confirmed the tornado, and Koch said five mobile homes and two houses

were destroyed. No injuries were reported.

Another tornado ripped through northern Newton County on the Texas-Louisiana line.

Koch said the Jefferson County storm brought 40-mph wind gusts and knocked over trees, causing some power outages in east Texas.

In the Texas Coastal Bend, as many as 20 homes were damaged as a suspected tornado roared through the small Lavaca Bay community of Magnolia Beach before daybreak Monday, Calhoun County Sheriff B.B. Browning said.

That was up to one-fifth of the homes in the town 75 miles northeast of Corpus Christi, he said. The only injury reported was a cut thumb a man

suffered from flying glass, he said.

Nine members of one family were injured when their sport utility vehicle skidded off rain-slicked Interstate 10 and hit a guardrail on their way home from a family gathering, said Harris County emergency management spokeswoman Gloria Roemer.

Harris County Sgt. Dana Wolfe said none of the injuries were life-threatening. Wolfe said one of the victims was a 1-month-old baby, who was not secured in a car seat and was ejected.

Paul Lewis, a meteorologist with the weather services' Houston office, said Tuesday morning that flood waters were receding slowly.

Mexican police find girls who ran away with alleged kidnapper

NEW BRAUNFELS (AP) — Two teenage girls who had run away with an alleged kidnapper returned home after 10 days when authorities found them in a Mexican border town.

Mexican police found the two girls, ages 13 and 14, while conducting a door-to-door search Monday in Piedras Negras, across the border from Eagle Pass.

They were found with 22-year-old Steven Alan Stuber, of Austin, who was being held in the Comal County Jail on two kidnapping charges, authorities said. No bond had been set as of late Monday.

"It's like 1,000 pounds has been taken off my shoulders," said the grandmother of one of the girls. "I'll sleep tonight for the first time in 10 days. I tried to stay positive, but the longer it went on, the harder it was to hope for a happy ending."

Authorities said Stuber could face more charges. The girls appeared to be unharmed, but Comal County Sheriff's Detective Tommy Ward said the girls would be interviewed and taken to a hospital for sexual assault exams.

The two girls ran away Oct. 7 from their homes in Spring Branch, about 30 miles north San Antonio, authorities said. They allegedly went with Stuber.

Sheriff Bob Holder said Stuber has been charged

with kidnapping because the girls were taken to Mexico without their parents' permission.

Felony charges for teen in case

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. (AP) — A teenager accused of sending suggestive and threatening messages to students on MySpace.com while posing as a high school teacher made his first court appearance Monday.

Todd Gugat, 17, of Dallas, faces felony charges of criminal libel and criminal impersonation and a misdemeanor computer crime charge.

Fruita Monument High School teacher Bill Johnson was placed on administrative leave during the summer and reinstated early last month after a Grand Junction Police Department investigation cleared him.

Messages sent to other students contained photographs from Johnson's legitimate MySpace.com profile with rewritten captions. One girl reported receiving a message that included a photo of Johnson bare-chested in a hot tub.

It read in part: "I have really enjoyed watching you evolve over the years. Well you will be turning 18 any time now and hopefully you will keep ol (sic) Billy J in mind."

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♥ 8 6 3
♦ J 8 5
♠ A K J 10

WEST
♦ 10 7
♥ A 10 9 4
♦ A K 7 6 4
♠ 8 3

EAST
♦ 2
♥ Q J 5
♦ Q 10 9 3 2
♠ Q 9 5 2

SOUTH
♦ K J 9 8 5 4 3
♥ K 7 2
♦ —
♠ 7 6 4

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 3♦ Pass 4♦
Opening lead king of diamonds

There are times when the winning play runs so contrary to normal practice that very few declarers would even think of it, much less make the play. Yet, when the play is subsequently examined in the cold light of day, its validity cannot be denied.

Consider this deal where West led the king of diamonds against four spades. South ruffed, played the A-K of trumps, then led a club to the jack, losing to the queen. Back came the queen of hearts, whereupon the defenders collected three heart tricks

There is no question that discarding a club at trick one is a play few declarers would think of. It simply runs too much against the grain. Nevertheless, there can be no denying that the club discard virtually assures a favorable outcome, while trumping the king of diamonds clearly jeopardizes the contract.

By discarding on West's king of clubs, South makes sure that East, the dangerous opponent, can never gain the lead for the potentially killing heart shift. From that point on, all roads lead directly to Rome.

Tomorrow: It happened in Dead Man's Gulch.
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Bedtime Stories

LET'S TAKE A WALK IN THE FOREST

Do you want to take a little walk with me? I know that you are probably ready for bed and maybe already tucked in, but we can still take this little walk! I'll tell you how.

First of all, you must close your eyes. Are your eyes closed? Keep them closed and dream with me. Can you dream? Sure you can! Just think about you and your mommie or daddy, or uncle, or aunt, or just someone you love and who loves you. Did you choose someone? Good! Now, think that this person is holding your hand, and you are walking toward a giant forest with big trees and lots of ani-



mals. The person holding your hand is smiling. You are smiling and feeling wonderful. Let's pretend I am holding your other hand. I see the forest now, too! We

are walking deeper and deeper into the forest. We are not afraid because the person you love is with you and I am with you, too. We are all happy. I am smiling now. Are you? I am glad the person you love is with us for we should never go into the forest alone. I don't want to get lost, do you? I hear a noise, but it is

and two little baby bunnies. They are cute, aren't they? The father bunny runs into a big hole in the ground. He comes back out with something in his paws. What is it? Could it be a carrot? Bunny rabbits love carrots, don't they? Can you think of something bunnies might love to eat? The father bunny crunches down on the carrot, then offers a bite to

the mother bunny. The mother bunny loves carrots too, and quickly grabs a bite. The little baby bunnies want some of the delicious carrot, too. The mother

and father bunnies give the rest of the carrot to the two little baby bunnies. The little baby bunnies are nibbling on the carrot. Can you see them? Can you hear them nibbling? Let's leave them alone for now and walk into the forest a little deeper.

I see something moving in the trees. It is squirrels, playing on the high branches. They are having such a good time. Would you love to be able to play on the high branches? I would too! But, it is too dangerous for us, isn't it? Squirrels can play in these high branches all day and never have to worry about falling. They are having fun. Can you see them? Can you see them playing? I see the father and mother squirrels gathering nuts to take home for dinner. They have plenty of nuts now, and they are ready to go home to feed their little

baby squirrels. Let's leave them now so they can enjoy their dinner.

We are walking back home now. We must take another walk soon. There are so many animals that we did not see today. I love walking in the forest, don't you? Will you walk with me again? I am letting go of your hand now. You can open your eyes.

It is time for you to go to sleep, isn't it? When

you close your eyes again to fall asleep, think about all the things you saw in the forest. Think about how peaceful the forest was. Think of the bunnies and the squirrels. If you could, would you tell them, 'Good Night?'

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OCT 2006

Halloween Coloring Contest

Hey, Kids, win one of these great prizes:

AGES 5 & UNDER:

•Texas Tech Red Raiders Cheerleader Costume Kit, ages 2-5, includes uniform, pom pom & megaphone •Dallas Cowboys hair clip •Mac & Cool quick cooling dish •The Incredibles Beanie •Dallas Cowboys baseball cap •Texas Longhorns logo shoes, size 8, ages 1-2 •2005 Texas Longhorns Nat'l Champions banner -- Courtesy of **JAZZY'S CHILDRENS BOUTIQUE** •\$25 Wal-Mart gift card

AGES 6-9:

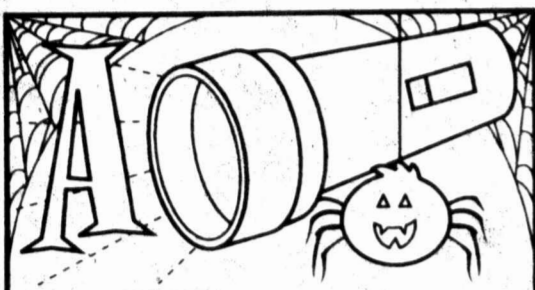
•Texas Longhorn's lunch bag with bottle •2005 Texas Longhorns Nat'l Champions banner -- Courtesy of **JAZZY'S CHILDRENS BOUTIQUE** •\$50 gift card from Wal-Mart

Ages 10-12:

•Wal-Mart \$75 gift card •Free Brownie from **Serendipity** •2005 Texas Longhorns Nat'l Champions banner -- Courtesy of **JAZZY'S CHILDRENS BOUTIQUE**

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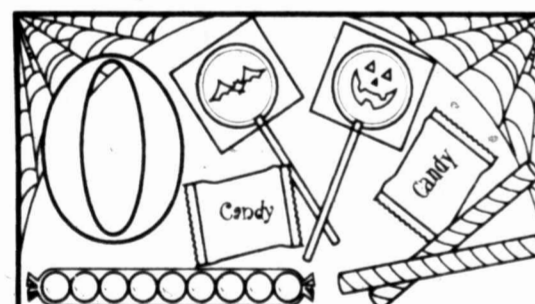
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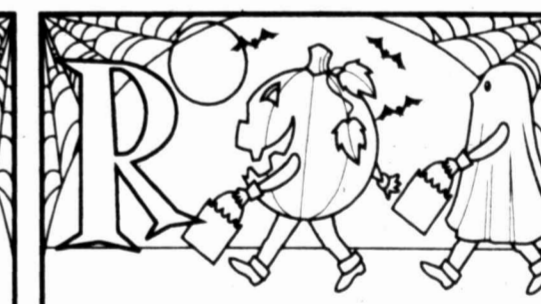
PROPS like a toy sword or wand should be flexible, without sharp edges or points.

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QUICKLY review your trick-or-treating route with Mom and Dad before you leave.

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REMEMBER to walk, not run, from house to house while trick-or-treating.

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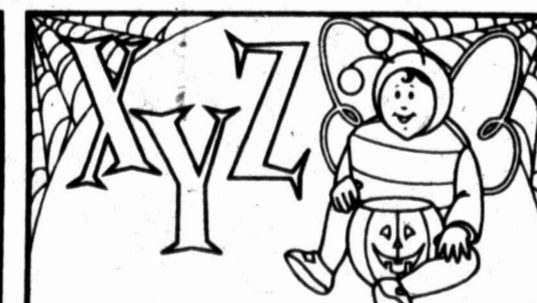
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Bird Poet Bright

North of a two-acre home had no colorful bird watching her yard. For years, mid-September, she seen migratory birds never one like this. Securing her dogs in the back yard, and her cat in the bathroom, she ran to the telephone. Excited over her discovery, the lady told us

there was a gorgeous bird in front of her that could only fly 20 feet, and not more than two or three feet from the ground. When she tried to get near, it walked away or down the fence. She added, "That's the best duck I've ever seen."

Not knowing exactly what the woman observed, we were concerned that when the bird was approached, it did not leave the area. An injury to a wild bird have grounded it for a while.

In any case, the bird was in danger from notes and other causes. It could not reach its roosting site for the night.

When we arrived at the location on the way, we noticed the bird staring across the road. What must be the beautiful water in North America.

Parent's Think

Little ears are a lot! Each parent, grandparent, aunt, teacher or friend influences the life of a child. We never know just how much we can be assured of. Things we say, words we use, react or express, make an influence that we realize, you touch the lives of someone today.

Recently I was involved in a conversation concerning the negative attitudes we see from so many people these days. It reminded me of the article entitled "When You I Wasn't Look" message every child should read before they are born. We do and list what we say!

So, I re-read and thought it interesting to and change the "When You I Wasn't Listen"

Let's observe the negative

- When you wasn't listen you curse and language about thing you did. I thought that use foul language.
- When you wasn't listen you criticize worker and I that being craters can relieve responsibility.
- When you wasn't listen say hurtful to me and it ma

Bird Poop: Brightly-colored wood duck finds itself in unfamiliar territory

North of town on a two-lane road, a homeowner had noticed a colorful bird walking in her yard. For years, in mid-September, she had seen migratory birds, but never one like this. Securing her dogs in the back yard, and her cat in the bathroom, she ran to the telephone.



BEBE McCASLAND

Excited over her discovery, the lady told us there was a gorgeous bird in front of her house that could only fly about 20 feet, and not more than two or three feet off the ground. When she tried to get near, it walked away or ran down the fence line. She added, "That's the prettiest duck I've ever seen."

Not knowing exactly what the woman had observed, we were concerned that when the bird was approached, it did not leave the area. An injury to a wing may have grounded it for awhile.

In any case, the bird was in danger from coyotes and other critters if it could not reach a safe roosting site for the night.

When we arrived at the location on the Gail highway, we noticed the lady staring across the road at what must be the most beautiful water bird in North America.

Dressed in full breeding plumage, the brightly colored male wood duck easily walked along the fence row.

Accustomed to swamps, river bottoms, ponds and streams surrounded by woodlands, this was a bird of forests. Much of its life had been spent eating aquatic plants and insects, along with fruits, such as grapes and berries, acorns, occasional minnows and snails. Suddenly the drake found himself on asphalt, between rows of dried grasses that created a tunnel from which he could not escape.

Frustrated, the wood duck walked down the west side of the road as we stood and watched. With nets in hand, we started toward the bird.

Flying far enough ahead, the duck landed on the east side and continued his afternoon stroll. Running toward the bird would have frightened it, so again we slowly approached the duck.

Taking flight anew, it settled down at a safe distance. If ever we needed a break, it was now.

Only when the duck tired would we have a chance to capture it. The break came.

Deciding to fly across the road again, the bird misjudged its landing and briefly tangled itself in the coyote fence and weeds.

Before the duck could free itself, we were able to grab it. As we neared the lady who had watched our efforts, she said how relieved she



An unfortunate wood duck, that was grounded in an arid and foreign terrain, survived and was later released because of the kindness of a rural resident in West Texas.

was. Then the three of us enjoyed the visitor in our midst.

With its greenish iridescent head striped with white, its drooping crest, the wood duck had orange red eyes that were active with fright.

Beneath its red, yellow, black, and white bill was a white throat. Its neck and breast were a deep burgundy. A white belly and cinnamon sides made the dark and blueish iridescent back more pronounced.

The duck's dark wings and tail accented even more its magnificent courting attire.

An examination of the wood duck revealed a slight neck wound from

its confrontation with the fence. No calcification of the bones in the wings was evident. Treating the bird for a hairline fracture or soft tissue injury to the wings would require a stay at a wildlife center.

Only when he was flight worthy would a release be considered.

Then his swift flight and vertical ascents from the water's surface would become a reality.

Unfortunately, the drake would have to wait until the following season to resume his amorous activities.

Bebe McCasland is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

Parent's Corner:

Think about what those little ears hear

Little ears hear a lot! Each of us, parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, teacher or friend, influences the life of a child. We never know for sure just how much but we can be assured that it's true. Things we do, words we say, how we react or expressions we make can influence more than we realize. How will you touch the life of someone today?



DARRELL RYAN

Recently I was involved in a conversation concerning the negative attitudes we see from so many people these days. It reminded me of the article entitled "When You Thought I Wasn't Looking." It's a message every adult should read because children are watching what we do and listening to what we say!

So, I re-read the article and thought it would be interesting to paraphrase and change the title to "When You Thought I Wasn't Listening."

Let's observe some of the negative side:

- When you thought I wasn't listening, I heard you curse and use foul language about something you didn't like and I thought that it's okay to use foul language.

- When you thought I wasn't listening, I heard you criticize a fellow worker and I thought that being critical of others can relieve you of responsibility.

- When you thought I wasn't listening, I heard say hurtful things about me and it made me feel

that I was unacceptable to you and I do not live up to the expectations you have for me.

These kinds of comments lead to negative thinking and therefore negative actions. But I had much rather focus on the positive kinds of comments.

Let's observe some of the positive:

- When you thought I wasn't listening, I heard you compliment a painting I had completed and I immediately wanted to paint another one.

- When you thought I wasn't listening, I heard you say that you put my picture in your wallet and I knew I was loved.

- When you thought I

wasn't listening, I heard you talking kindly to a stray dog and I learned that it was good to be kind to animals.

- When you thought I wasn't listening, I heard you say a prayer and I knew there is a God I could always talk to and I learned to trust in God.

- When you thought I wasn't listening, I heard you speak of making a meal to take to a friend who was sick and I learned that we all have to help take care of each other.

- When you thought I wasn't listening, I heard you say that you would give your time and money to help people who had nothing and I

learned that those who have something should give to those who don't.

- When you thought I wasn't listening, I heard you speak of taking care of our house and everyone in it and I learned we have to take care of what we are given.

- When you thought I wasn't listening, I heard how you handled your responsibilities even when you didn't feel good, and I learned that I

See CORNER, Page 8A

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Area Agencies on Aging provide a number of services

Whether you are an older adult or a caregiver concerned about the well-being and independence of an older adult, Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) are well-suited to help meet your needs.

These agencies plan, coordinate and offer services that help older adults remain in their home and maintain their functional independence. By providing a range of information and options, AAAs make it possible for older individuals to choose the services and living arrangements that suit them best.

AAAs were established under the Older Americans Act (OAA) in 1973 to respond to the needs of Americans ages 60 and over in every local community. The OAA also helps fund Native American aging programs, known as "Title VI," to meet the unique needs of older American Indians, Eskimos and Hawaiians. The services available through AAA and Title VI agencies fall into five broad categories: information and access ser-

vices, community-based services, in-home services, housing and elder rights.

Within each category a range of programs is available — some examples include:

Nutrition — Home-delivered meals, congregate meals and nutritional counseling.

In-Home Assistance — Support for homebound elderly who want to be as independent as possible, including housekeeping, domestic chores, personal care and visitation.

Transportation — Rides to essential destinations such as nutrition sites, senior centers, health appointments and grocery shopping.

Senior Centers — Places to go for nutrition services, employment services and health screening, as well as a venue for social interaction and recreation.

Information, Referral and Assistance — Help getting information about federal, state or local services.

Benefits Counseling/Legal Assistance — Help provided by trained benefits counselors on public and private benefits.

Care Coordination — Arrangement and coordination of services for older people in the most efficient, economical way.

Nursing Home Ombudsmen — Trained

Living Well

and certified volunteer advocates, supervised by professionals, who visit nursing facilities and work with the residents, families and facility employees to achieve the best possible care and quality of life.

Health Maintenance — Coordination or provision of health services including, but not limited to, health screening, oral health and optical services, as well as help with the proper use or prescription drugs.

Other Assistance — Services such as home repair/modification, adult day care, emergency response systems, respite services and escort service.

Service availability is determined by the regional needs of older persons who reside within the service area, the level of funding available to support these services and the availability of providers to deliver these services. Not all services are available through all AAAs.

All persons age 60 and

older are eligible for AAA services under Older Americans Act programs. When program resources are limited, priority is given to those in greatest economic and social need; however, no income test is required. Voluntary contributions are encouraged to defray costs and expand services.

AAA often serves as portals to care, assessing multiple service needs, determining eligibility, authorizing or purchasing services and monitoring the appropriateness and cost-effectiveness of services.

AAA provides direct services and contract with local providers to furnish other services in the community.

Application for services should be made through the local Area Agency on Aging serving the location where the person who needs help lives. In Texas, services funded under the Older Americans Act are offered through 28 local Area Agencies on Aging.

Darrell Ryan is director of federal programs for the Big Spring Independent School District.



KORI MYERS

CORNER

Continued from Page 7A

would have to be responsible throughout my life.

• When you thought I wasn't listening, I heard you cry and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's all right to cry.

• When you thought I

wasn't listening, I overheard you compliment me to a friend and I understood that you cared for me and it made me want to be everything that I could be.

• When you thought I wasn't listening, I learned the things I need to know to be a good and productive person when I grow up.

• When you thought I wasn't listening I heard you say "Good night, I love you," and it made me feel loved.

• When you thought I wasn't listening, I wanted to look at you and say, "Thanks for all the things I heard when you thought I wasn't listening."

Little ears hear a lot!

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based in various regions throughout the state.

To find the Area Agency on Aging for your area, visit the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services website:

http://www.dads.state.tx.us/contact/aaa_directory.html or by phone: 1.800.252.9240. You may also dial 2-1-1 from your home telephone.

Remember: "Raising kids, eating right, spending smart, living well."

For more information on this topic you may

contact, Andrew B. Crocker, specialist for gerontology health at 806-677-5600 or the Howard County Extension Office at 264-2236.

Educational programs of Texas Cooperative Extension are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.

Kori Myers is Howard County Agent for food and consumer sciences. She can be reached by calling 264-2236.

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IN BRIEF

Boys Basketball Boosters meet
Big Spring School' Boys Basketball Boosters will meet Thursday, Oct. 19, 7 p.m. in the Athletic Center.

Sam Segundo
boosters club's president, encouraged parents of BSHS basketball players to attend the teams' first game.

For more information
call Segundo at 264-2236.

Junior Tennis League continues
A free Junior Tennis League is coming to Big Spring. The league is open to players through 12, is held every Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Players should bring their own racket. However, rackets can be provided when needed.

Golf tournament
Comanche Trail
Family and friends of Juan Ortega will host a benefit tournament to help pay for his medical expenses. On Saturday, there will be a 9-hole scramble (it's your team event) at the Comanche Trail Golf Course. Play is scheduled for 9 a.m. Shotgun start. Entry fees will be \$10 per player and include the noon meal. For additional information, call Linda at 264-2366, or email Linda@CTCG.com.

Hawk Basketball Boosters meet
On Thursday, Oct. 19, at 7:00 p.m. Dorothy Coliseum, the Hawk Booster Club will be meeting in the Room. Albert the booster club President, encouraged parents, alumni and fans to attend. For more information call Carlile at 264-2236.

AP Top 25 Football Poll
The Top 25 team Associated Press Football Poll with first-place parentheses and records through Oct. 16.

- Ohio St. (63)
- Michigan
- USC
- W. Va. (2)
- Texas
- Louisville
- Tennessee
- Auburn
- Florida
- N. Dame
- California
- Clemson
- Ga. Tech
- LSU
- Arkansas
- Oregon
- Nebraska
- Boise St.
- Rutgers
- Oklahoma
- Wisconsin
- B. College
- Tx. A&M
- Missouri
- W. Forest

Others teams voted: Pittsburg, Georgia, Florida St., Tech 6, Alabama, Purdue 1, Tu

IN BRIEF

Boys Basketball Boosters to meet

Big Spring High School Boys Basketball Boosters will meet Thursday, Oct. 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the BSHS Athletic Training Center.

Sam Segundo, the booster club's new president, encourages all parents of BSHS boys basketball players and the teams' fans to attend.

For more information, call Segundo at 268-3025.

Junior Tennis League continues

A free Junior Tennis League is continuing play at the Figure 7 Tennis Center.

League competition, 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 rackets. However, rackets will be provided when available.

Golf tournament at Comanche Trail

Family and friends of Juan Ortega will be hosting a benefit tournament to help cover his medical expenses.

On Saturday, Oct. 21, there will be a four-man scramble (it's a pick your team event) at the Comanche Trail Golf Course.

Play is scheduled for a 9 a.m. shotgun start.

Entry fees will be \$25 per player and will include the noon meal.

For additional information, call Linda at 264-2366, or email her at Linda@CTCG.com

Hawk Basketball Boosters meeting

On Thursday, Oct. 19 at 7:00 p.m. at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, the Howard Hawk Booster Club will be meeting in the Hawk Room. Albert Carlile, the booster club's new President, encourages parents, alumni and the teams' fans to attend.

For more information call Carlile at 270-2878.

AP Top 25 Football Poll

The Top 25 teams in the Associated Press College Football Poll with number of first-place votes in parentheses and season records through Oct. 14.

1. Ohio St. (63)	7-0
2. Michigan	7-0
3. USC	6-0
4. W. Va. (2)	6-0
5. Texas	6-1
6. Louisville	6-0
7. Tennessee	5-1
8. Auburn	6-1
9. Florida	6-1
10. N. Dame	5-1
11. California	6-1
12. Clemson	6-1
13. Ga. Tech	5-1
14. LSU	5-2
15. Arkansas	5-1
16. Oregon	5-1
17. Nebraska	6-1
18. Boise St.	6-0
19. Rutgers	6-0
20. Oklahoma	4-2
21. Wisconsin	6-1
22. B. College	5-1
23. Tx. A&M	6-1
24. Missouri	6-1
25. W. Forest	6-1

Others teams receiving votes: Pittsburgh 73, Georgia 63, Iowa 81, Florida St. 30, Virginia Tech 6, Alabama 4, BYU 1, Purdue 1, Tulsa 1.

Strange night in Arizona

Bears remain undefeated, escape Cardinals, 24-23

By BOB BAUM

AP Sports Writer

GLENDALE, Ariz. — If the Chicago Bears finish the season without a loss, they will look back to that strange night in Arizona when they had a victory that was as improbable as they come.

"I have never seen anything like that," Bears quarterback Rex Grossman said. "It was unbelievable."

Six turnovers, 3 points on offense, and somehow the Bears are still without a loss after beating the shellshocked Cardinals 24-23 on Monday night.

"I have never played so bad and won a game like that," said Grossman, who threw four interceptions and fumbled the ball away twice.

Down 20-0 at halftime, Chicago returned two fumbles for touchdowns in the second half. Then Devin Hester returned a punt 83 yards for a score with 2:58 remaining to take the lead. The night ended with Neil Rackers missing a 41-yard field goal that would have been the game-winner with 53 seconds left.

"Sometimes, when you're a team of destiny, things like that happen," Chicago coach Lovie Smith said.

Matt Leinart, who threw two first-quarter touchdowns and finished 24-for-42 for 232 yards, coolly directed Arizona downfield at the finish for a chance to claim a victory that appeared to be the Cardinals' all night.

But Rackers, a Pro Bowl kicker last season who connected from 41, 28 and 29 yards earlier in the evening, missed a 41-yarder to the left with 53 seconds left for what would have been the game-winner for Arizona (1-5).

Just last week, he missed a 51-yard attempt at the finish that would have sent the game against Kansas City into overtime.

"Neil is still one of the best kickers in the league," Leinart said. "That's just life."

The Cardinals have lost five in a row after a season-opening win. Three have come at home — all in a similar excruciating fashion.

"I've seen just about everything at this point," defensive end Bertrand Berry said. "Heart-wrenching games. You know, one team doesn't deserve to lose like this. This is a good football team."

Arizona coach Dennis Green was seething. Judging by his comments, he clearly didn't believe the Bears lived up to the hype — or deserved to win.

"The Bears are who we thought they were!" he said, yelling at the top of his lungs and pounding on the podium at his postgame press conference. "Now, if you want to crown them, then crown (them)! But they are who they thought they were! And we let



MCT photo John Smerciak/Chicago Tribune
Chicago Bears running back Thomas Jones (20) tries to hurdle Arizona Cardinals cornerback Eric Green in the first quarter at University of Phoenix Stadium on Monday night. The Bears remained unbeaten in a wild 24-23 win.

them off the hook!"

Green then stormed away.

Anquan Boldin caught 12 passes for 136 yards and a touchdown for the Cardinals.

Edgerrin James carried 36 times for only 55 yards, an average of 1.5 yards. It was the most carries in an NFL game by a player while averaging less than 2 yards per attempt, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

"The way things have turned out is just unreal," James said. "This is some of the weirdest stuff I have ever seen in these past six weeks."

James also had one very costly fumble.

After Grossman threw his fourth interception, the Cardinals were trying to use up time. But Brian Urlacher stripped the ball from James and Charles Tillman scooped it up for a 40-yard return to cut Arizona's lead to 23-17 with five minutes left.

Urlacher finished with 11 tackles, seeming

to find his way to the ball on nearly every play as the Cardinals were making their final drives.

"First of all they weren't blocking me, so that was easy," Urlacher said.

On their next possession, the Cardinals were forced to punt. Hester caught the ball, broke a few arm tackles and weaved around hapless defenders as he sprinted upfield, scoring his second punt return for a touchdown this season and giving Chicago the lead for the first time all night.

In addition to his four picks, Grossman fumbled the ball away twice and struggled to hit receivers when he did manage to get the ball cleanly away, going 14-for-37 for 148 yards. With their offense suddenly punchless, the Bears' defense provided the points.

The first came when defensive end Mark Anderson broke through untouched and

See BEARS, Page 2B



MCT photo/Milton Adams/Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Texas Tech head coach Mike Leach admits to causing disruption with his declarations regarding Quarterback Graham Harrell. The Red Raiders have now lost two in a row.

Leach admits to mistakes; offense needs to find rhythm

By BETSY BLANEY

Associated Press Writer

LUBBOCK — Texas Tech coach Mike Leach second-guessed himself more than once Monday, two days after Colorado trounced the Red Raiders 30-6 to end a school record-tying 10-game losing streak.

Pulling Graham Harrell out for one series in a 38-21 loss to Missouri two weeks ago was the right move, but trying it again against the Buffaloes wasn't smart, Leach said. Backup Chris Todd played the first two series of the second half in Boulder, Colo.

"I thought it was more disruptive than positive," Leach said. "You stick with them, let them get in a rhythm. You got to pitch your way through some of that stuff, so that would have been better on my part if I left him in."

He also wondered, too, if he was too harshly critical of his team earlier this season. After

a 12-3 loss at TCU when the Red Raiders were still nationally ranked, Leach called some on the team "posers," "front-runner showboats" and "prima donna pretty boys."

"I think some of that existed, but I don't think I addressed it real well," he said. "The best way is the way that gets the best results. I don't think that got the best results, so that's not the best way."

Tech has five regular-season games remaining — including a visit from No. 5 Texas on Oct. 28 — and the Red Raiders already have lost as many games as all of last season.

Leach, who rarely alters the team's routine, canceled Sunday night's practice, and instead called a team meeting to address turning things around.

"We set some team goals," offensive lineman Brandon

See TECH, Page 2B

New Texans looking a lot like old, and bad, Texans

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — The Houston Texans were supposed to be revamped and revitalized after the housecleaning that followed last year's 2-14 debacle.

But five games into the season with their first-year coach Gary Kubiak and prized No. 1 draft pick Mario Williams, these new Texans are looking increasingly like the bad Texans of 2005.

Their defense is ranked last in

the league. The offense is third worst, thanks in large part to the feeble running game, which is also last in the NFL.

And quarterback David Carr, who had been this season's bright spot, fell apart Sunday under the continued pressure of Houston's inability to run the ball. He matched his season total for interceptions by throwing two in the second half of a 34-6 loss to Dallas and didn't have a touchdown pass for the first time this season.

Veteran center Mike Flanagan said the one-win Texans' problems with the running game were frustrating.

"We just flat-out didn't give us a chance to run the ball," he said. "When you turn your offense into a one-dimensional offense it makes it hard to win."

The Texans are averaging just 68 yards rushing a game. They had only 34 yards rushing against Dallas and 15 of those were by Carr.

Ron Dayne has started the past

three games for Houston and averaged 43 yards a game. He was stopped for no gain several times on Sunday, including once from the 1-yard line.

"It was tough, not being able to get those third-and-1s down on the goal line where I should have got in," he said. "I was disappointed in myself."

After his 10-carry, 14-yard performance on Sunday, the 1999 Heisman Trophy winner's days

See TEXANS, Page 2B

FILMED BY THE PROFESSIONALS AT HERITAGE MICROFILM, INC. 2009

Tigers GM Dombrowski acts like a fan, briefly

By LARRY LAGE
AP Sports Writer

DETROIT — The man who built these turnaround Tigers still has work to do before the World Series.

Like getting his voice back. General manager Dave Dombrowski hollered himself hoarse after Magglio Ordonez homered to clinch the AL pennant on Saturday, throwing his hands in the air and hugging everyone around him. It was a rare display for the reserved, buttoned-down executive.

"When you're in charge, you often have to keep your emotions inside," Dombrowski said Monday in an interview with The Associated Press.

"People don't see the emotional side of me often, but there are times you just let it go — like when you win the pennant in dramatic fashion at home like we did," he said. "Now, it's time to get composed again and hopefully we can react like that again because there's still another notch to go."

Ordonez's ninth-inning homer finished a sweep of Oakland in the AL championship series. It gave Detroit a whole week to calm down and rest up for the World Series, starting Saturday night at Comerica Park against

either St. Louis or the New York Mets.

The Tigers will play for their first championship since 1984 just three years after losing an AL-record 119 games and being baseball's losingest team the past 13 years.

"They could not have done it without owner Mike Ilitch's money and Dombrowski's moves.

Ilitch was so embarrassed by the 2003 season that he desperately wanted to sign free agents at whatever costs were necessary.

The owner of the Tigers since 1992 knew he would have to overpay to lure some stars to Detroit, but some such as Miguel Tejada, wouldn't even take the Tigers seriously when they called.

All-Star catcher Ivan Rodriguez did, signing a \$40 million, four-year deal the winter after the long-suffering franchise hit an all-time low.

Ordonez, an All-Star outfielder coming off an injury-shortened season, followed in 2005 with a \$75 million, five-year contract that could be worth as much as \$105 million over seven seasons.

Baseball analysts and fans laughed at the Tigers for giving



The Detroit Tigers celebrate in the clubhouse as the Detroit Tigers beat the Oakland Athletics 6-3 in the ALCS Game Four at Comerica Park.

such lucrative offers to both players, but they're not anymore.

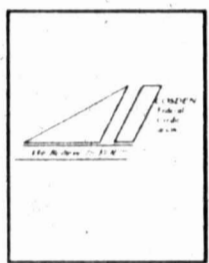
"Dave's credit needs to be laid at Mr. Ilitch's feet for spending the money to get Pudge and Maggs," said 38-year-old closer

Todd Jones, who signed last winter along with 41-year-old starter Kenny Rogers. "That gave the other guys reasons to come. If you're an older player and you don't have a chance to win, there's no chance coming.

"But Dave gets credit for getting the right guys."

Detroit's opening-day payroll was \$82.3 million — putting it in the middle of the pack in the majors — and it grew by making trades during the season.

Pigskin Picks Football Contest



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Gary Harris
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Alan Partee
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Mike Abusaab
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Jake Smith
700 Auto Sales

1. Coahoma
2. Ft. Davis
3. Stanton
4. Detroit
5. Indianapolis
6. Dallas
7. Iowa State
8. N. Carolina St.
9. Texas Christian
10. Texas A&M

1. Coahoma
2. Ft. Davis
3. Stanton
4. N.Y. Jets
5. Indianapolis
6. Dallas
7. Texas Tech
8. N. Carolina St.
9. Texas Christian
10. Texas A&M

1. Coahoma
2. Grady
3. Stanton
4. N.Y. Jets
5. Indianapolis
6. Dallas
7. Texas Tech
8. N. Carolina St.
9. Texas Christian
10. Oklahoma St.

1. Coahoma
2. Grady
3. Stanton
4. N.Y. Jets
5. Indianapolis
6. Dallas
7. Texas Tech
8. N. Carolina St.
9. Texas Christian
10. Texas A&M

1. Colorado City
2. Grady
3. Stamford
4. N.Y. Jets
5. Indianapolis
6. Dallas
7. Iowa State
8. N. Carolina St.
9. Texas Christian
10. Oklahoma St.

1. Colorado City
2. Grady
3. Stamford
4. N.Y. Jets
5. Indianapolis
6. Dallas
7. Texas Tech
8. Maryland
9. Texas Christian
10. Oklahoma St.

1. Colorado City
2. Grady
3. Stanton
4. N.Y. Jets
5. Indianapolis
6. Dallas
7. Iowa State
8. N. Carolina St.
9. Texas Christian
10. Texas A&M

1. Coahoma
2. Grady
3. Stanton
4. N.Y. Jets
5. Indianapolis
6. Dallas
7. Texas Tech
8. N. Carolina St.
9. Texas Christian
10. Texas A&M

1. Colorado City
2. Grady
3. Stanton
4. N.Y. Jets
5. Indianapolis
6. Dallas
7. Iowa State
8. N. Carolina St.
9. Army
10. Texas A&M

Pigskin Picks Entry Form

Team

1. _____ Name: _____

2. _____ Address: _____

3. _____ Phone Number: _____

4. _____

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

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____ **Iowa at Michigan**

9. _____

10. _____ Total Points: _____

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Rules: Find this week's games in the merchants' ads on this page. Choose the teams you think will win. Clip and fill in the official entry blank on this page with your team choice. The entry with the most correct picks will win \$75. You must be 18 to enter. Only official entry forms accepted. In the event of a tie, the tie breaker will determine the winner. Guess the winner and the combined scores for the total points. Decisions of the judges are final. Employees and families of employees of The Big Spring Herald are ineligible. All entries must be received at one of the participating merchants by 1 p.m. Friday of the week played. Winners will be announced in the Big Spring Herald the Tuesday following the games.

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6. N.Y. Giants at Dallas
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10. Texas A&M at Oklahoma State

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Wacky Facts

■ The "funny bone" is not funny at all — it's the "humerus" (the Latin name for the bone). The ulnar nerve running along your arm rests against the humerus bone; that's why it hurts when you hit it.
— World Almanac for Kids

KID NEWS

Chatter Box

"Stories can offer a truth — that real trouble cannot be erased, only endured — that is more soothing to me than any determinedly cheerful grin." "You never love a book the way you love it when you're 10. It's a blessing to be a part of that."
— Daniel Handler. ueonline.tripod.com

Try This

Wordplay + \$20 = a clever costume

We challenged kids to create play-on-word costumes that would have us doubling over, over double-entendres. The bigger challenge: We told them not to spend more than about 20 bucks. Here are two winning ideas for clever costumes you can copy for Halloween fun.

MISS FIT

She's ready to spread peace and happiness with biceps like a linebacker and a twinkling tiara. This idea was submitted by Tara Meisner, then 13.

Materials: Satin for sash, iron-on letters, silk roses, toy tiara, long-sleeved shirt, T-shirt, athletic pants and sneakers (Tara already owned the clothing.)

Total bill: \$15.93.

Tara's notes: A friend helped me sew the satin sash. Then I ironed on the Miss Fit letters. To make my "muscles," I cut a Styrofoam ball in half and inserted it into the sleeve of a fairly tight long-sleeved T-shirt. Then I put another T-shirt on top and pulled on some athletic pants and shoes. In one hand, I'm carrying silk roses and in the other I've got a 5-pound weight. This would be a great costume for a party, but carrying the weight would get heavy if you were trick-or-treating.

Note: If you don't sew, glue precut heavy paper letters from a crafts store onto the sash and make the sash with either safety pins or using hot glue. If you want to add some big leg muscles, wear dark tights and place Styrofoam half-balls on your thighs and calves. Then top with some athletic shorts. Also, you might want to craft a papier-mâché — or even two-dimensional cardboard — faux weight to make it easier to carry.



CHEESE WHIZ

Smart guys and girls will find this cheesy get-up perfect for lactose-tolerant children. This idea was submitted by Nate Shepherd, then 12.

Materials: Big box, scissors, duct tape, spray paint, nerd glasses, pencil, fake teeth, dorky shoes and fun white socks.

Total bill: \$7.51.

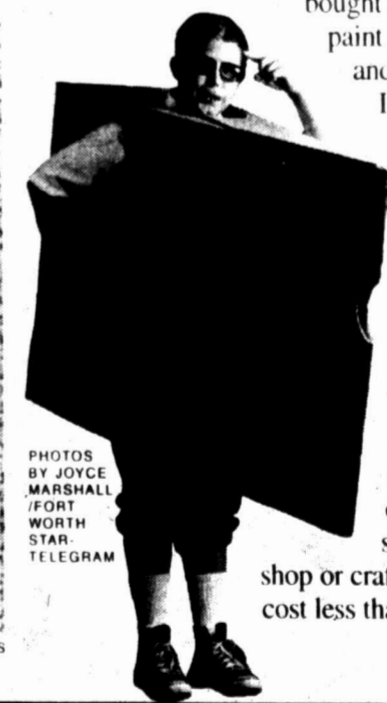
Nate's notes: This play-on-words costume was easy to put together. Most stores end up throwing away or recycling boxes that merchandise comes in. Just ask the manager if you can have one, but think big.

After cutting one end of the box completely off, I pulled in the two sides and duct-taped them together to make the box look like a triangle of cheese. Then I bought a can of yellow spray paint from Lowe's for \$7.51 and painted the box. Then I cut out the holes for a cheesy effect.

I already owned everything else I needed to dress up like a nerd — the thick glasses with white tape, pencil behind the ear and funny teeth.

Note: Even if you need to purchase some of the extra "nerdy" supplies at a costume shop or crafts store, this outfit will cost less than \$20.

— Fort Worth Star-Telegram



PHOTOS BY JOYCE MARSHALL/FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

THE END

Snicket talks about the unfortunate demise of the series.

BY BRENDA IASEVOLI
TimeforKids.com

"The End" is here! The 13th and final book in Lemony Snicket's "A Series of Unfortunate Events" hit bookstores Friday, Oct. 13. Snicket, also known as Daniel Handler, has risked his life repeatedly to inform readers of the lives of the three Baudelaire orphans. His work is now complete, and he is ready to reveal the orphans' fate.

Will the Baudelaire orphans escape crooked Count Olaf? Can you handle the truth? We talked to the elusive author to learn more about Snicket and the final book in the series.

TFK: How does it feel to have completed your work on the Baudelaire case?

SNICKET: I suppose it feels rather like a fireman standing with a recently turned-off hose in the ashes of what was once a magnificent mansion. Whatever sense of accomplishment the fireman would feel would be dimmed by a regret that he hadn't arrived sooner and that he couldn't have done more.

TFK: Now that you're done chronicling the lives of the Baudelaire children, what will you do with your time?

SNICKET: There are a number of other cases that have come up, so I imagine that I'll be almost as busy and possibly in even more danger than I was while researching the Baudelaire case.

TFK: What advice do you have for kids who may be disappointed that they can no longer follow the Baudelaire children's story?

SNICKET: I think they should consult medical professionals. The proper emotion to be feeling at the close of "A Series of Unfortunate Events" is relief that the dreadful story is over. After all, it's much less likely that someone would accidentally pick one of the books up and read it.



TFK: Can you suggest other books Snicket fans to read?

SNICKET: I was on the back of a big bag of pretzels that had a suspicious story about the of the pretzels along with the very inaccurate illustrations of the people who supposedly made the pretzels. There was a very horrifying incident on the farm of a well-known author. It's not a book, but kids might enjoy it anyway.

TFK: What were your last words?

SNICKET: I was short on time when I began my self-tutoring on the series. So I wasn't nearly as good as I am now.

TFK: How would you respond to the who say that there is no Lemony Snicket?

SNICKET: I think that's a very good reaction. I think the fewer people believe that Lemony Snicket is the safer Lemony Snicket is. The more Claus, you know. The more people contains a certain amount of faith sustained by faith. Mr. Snicket is in constant danger of being exposed to the fewer people who believe in him. The more it would be for him to enter a library or get a library card.

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TUESDAY

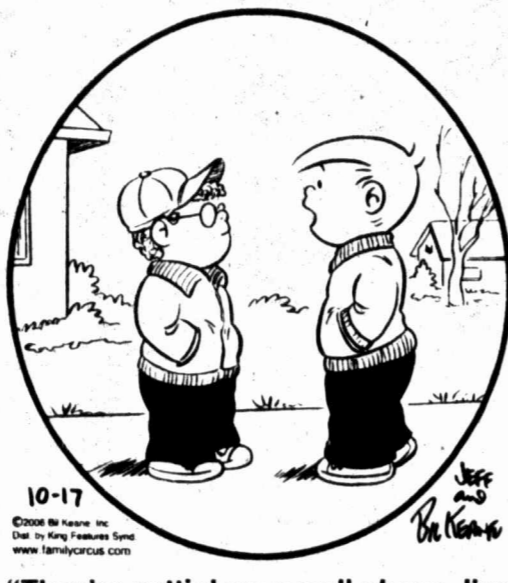
	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KPBT (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPICE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	SCIFI (34)	
6:30 PM	News (CC)	News	Hondas de Amor	King of the Hill	News	Vuda de Blanco	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond	Dr. Young	News-Lehrer	How It's Made	Classics	CSI Crime Scene	Without a Trace (CC)	Live (CC)	Phi of Future	Interruption	Baseball - The	Dead Like Me	
7:30 PM	Entertainment	Dancing With the Stars	La Fée Mas Bella	The Simpsons	MLB Baseball: ALCIS Game 6	Tierra Pasiones	Friday Night Lights (CC)	Raymond	Update/Israel Marriage	Nova (CC)	Mega Builders	Movie: The In Laws (CC)	CSI Crime Scene	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Don't Trip... He Ain't	Hallowentown II: Kalabar's	vs. The Pros (CC)	Monster Shark	Dead Like Me (CC)	
8:30 PM	Help Me Help	Help Me Help	Mundo de Fieras	The Unit (CC)	Criminal Minds (CC)	Amores	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Sex and City	Light of the Southwest	Frontline (CC) (DVS)	Fugitive Strike Force	Movie: Blues Brothers 2000	CSI Crime Scene	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Through With Me Yet?	Revenge	Phil of Future	Streetball	2006 World Series of Poker	
9:30 PM	News (CC)	News	Primer Impacto	70s Show	News Late Show	Noticias Laura	News Tonight Show	Funnest Wedding Outtakes	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	Dirty Jobs (CC)	Movie: Slap	CSI Crime Scene	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Jame Fox	Zack & Cody That's-Raven	Quite Frankly With Smith	SportsCenter	2006 World Series of Poker	
10:30 PM	The Insider	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora de la Resa	King of the Hill	Letterman Late Late	AI Rojo Vivo!	Late Night: Conan O'Brien	Madness	Update/Israel Booker	Sign Off	Dirty Jobs (CC)	Movie: Slap	CSI Crime Scene	NYPD Blue	In Living Color	Kim Possible	Monster Shark	Baseball: Cutler's Cove	Twilight Zone	
11:30 PM	News (CC)	News	Sonadoras	My Wife-Kids	Show The Insider	Pagado														
12:30 AM	News (CC)	News	Amer. Chevy																	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"GEE... A WHOLE DAY'S WORTH OF PERFECTLY GOOD DIRT DOWN THE DRAIN."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"They're gettin' me a wall phone. I've lost three cell phones in my room."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



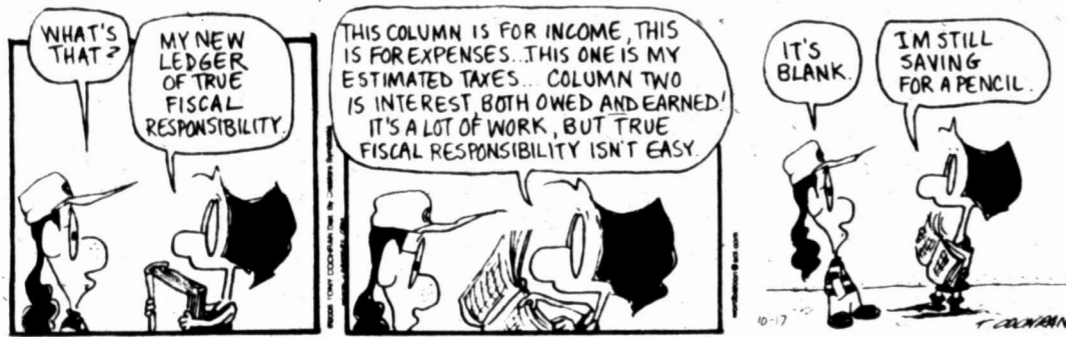
BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 17, the 290th day of 2006. There are 75 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Oct. 17, 1777, British forces under Gen. John Burgoyne surrendered to American troops in Saratoga, N.Y., in a turning point of the Revolutionary War.

On this date: In 1919, the Radio Corporation of America was chartered. In 1931, mobster Al Capone was convicted of income tax evasion (sentenced to 11 years in prison, Capone was released in 1939.)

In 1933, Albert Einstein arrived in the United States as a refugee from Nazi Germany.

In 1941, the U.S. destroyer Kearny was torpedoed by a German submarine off the coast of Iceland; 11 people

died. In 1945, Col. Juan Peron, the future president of Argentina, was released from prison after protests by trade unionists, ending a crisis that began with his forced resignation from his government posts and his arrest.

In 1973, Arab oil-producing nations announced they would begin cutting back oil exports to Western nations and Japan; the result was a total embargo that lasted until March 1974.

In 1977, West German commandos stormed a hijacked Lufthansa jetliner on the ground in Mogadishu, Somalia, freeing all 86 hostages and killing three of the four hijackers.

In 1979, Mother Teresa of India was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1989, an earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale struck northern California, killing 67 people and causing \$7 billion in damage.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Marsha Hunt is 89. Actor Tom Poston is 85. Actress Beverly Garland is 80.

Actress Julie Adams is 80. Daredevil Evel Knievel is 68. Country singer Earl Thomas Conley is 65. Singer Jim Seals (Seals & Kamp; Crofts) is 64. Singer Gary Puckett is 64. Actor Michael McKean is 59. Actress Margot Kidder is 58. Actor George Wendt is 58. Actor Sam Bottoms is 51. Astronaut Mae Jemison is 50. Country singer Alan Jackson is 48. Movie director Rob Marshall is 46. Animator Mike Judge is 44. Actor-comedian Norm Macdonald is 43. Singer Rene' Dif is 39. Reggae singer Ziggy Marley is 38. Singer Chris Kirkpatrick (N Sync) is 35. Rapper Eminem is 34.

Answer to previous puzzle

DART	IGOR	EPIC
VAGUE	NONO	LENO
CLOTS	DRAW	PETS
RIGHT	FIELD	ALOT
SAG EYES		
LEAP	CODA	ROOST
ATREST	ISLE	PAY
THEP	LOTT	HICKENS
HEN	TRAS	STEREO
ERASE	NYET	YIARN
TROT REC		
NAPA	GROUND	CREW
ALAI	LUMP	ROUTE
POUR	EMIT	ORBAD
EELS	SITS	MEISS

Newsday Crossword

JUNK DRAWER by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 At any (nevertheless)
 - 5 Halo wearer
 - 10 Lab animals
 - 14 Online auction site
 - 15 River through Paris
 - 16 Hosiery hue
 - 17 Make a fool of
 - 18 Extremely narrow
 - 20 Crockpot concoction
 - 21 Boise's state: Abbr.
 - 22 Black-and-white cookies
 - 23 Orchard fruits
 - 25 Florist's vessel
 - 27 Royal residence
 - 29 Error
 - 32 Genre of dizzying drawings
 - 33 Short skirt
 - 34 Time in office
 - 36 Indy 500 month
 - 37 Types of cabbages
 - 38 "I kid ___ not"
 - 39 Get ready, for short
 - 41 Cartoonist's supplies
 - 42 Works with clay
 - 44 Streetcar of yore
 - 46 Ongoing TV show
 - 47 Bowler's targets
 - 48 Coffee break hr.
 - 49 National bird
 - 52 Bikini top
 - 53 Office sub
 - 56 Green vegetable

- DOWN
- 1 Wine-list choices
 - 2 Be next to
 - 3 Stereo accessory
 - 4 Glasses and contacts
 - 5 Hope (to)
 - 6 Has to have
 - 7 Lollobrigida of film
 - 8 Envelope contents: Abbr.
 - 9 Hawaiian neckwear
 - 10 Pull back, as an army
 - 11 Post-workout complaint
 - 12 Duet plus one
 - 13 Tries to get a tan
 - 19 In need of directions
 - 24 Perform on stage
 - 25 Wall-climbing plants
 - 26 Auction condition
 - 27 "___ and Circumstance"
 - 28 In pieces
 - 29 ___ Way galaxy
 - 31 Eat away at
 - 33 Thick heads of hair
 - 35 Rumple, as hair
 - 37 Clay-baking oven
 - 40 Drapery fabrics
 - 42 Frat members
 - 43 Public speakers
 - 45 Property claim
 - 46 Occult meeting
 - 48 Hiking path
 - 49 TV sports channel
 - 50 Suit to ___
 - 51 Get taller
 - 52 Show flexibility
 - 54 Spouse
 - 55 Beseeched
 - 57 College student's stat.
 - 58 Poorly behaved

Unit Effort of goal

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer
As the United V...
paign nears its
point, local offic...
feeling more op...
than a year ago.

Cynthia Scott, c...
director of th...
United Way, s...
drive has netted...
more than...
\$95,000 to date.

Although th...
figure represents less...
than half of th...
the campai...
gn's \$300,000 goal,
it is still cause...
for optimism,
Scott said.

"That's with...
money still out...
divisions not...
yet," she noted...
were a lot of thi...
on last year. T...
I'm feeling pre...
mistic. Our pe...
getting great res...
Money raised b...
ferent campaign...
include:

- Loaned exe...
- Pacesetters...
- Commercial...
- Restaurant...
- Community...

The Professio...
Agency divid...
not reported y...
said.

Vaughn Grisham
in Ordinary Com...

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To reach u...
Please call 26...
a.m. to 5 p.m.
If you miss yo...
263-7335 betw...
noon Sunday.