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Garden City set to play for 6-man title

Page 7



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BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY

DECEMBER 10, 2009

VOLUME 105, NUMBER 4

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Angel Tree response has SA 'worried'

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Tough economic times may be taking a toll in the Crossroads area, as officials with the local Salvation Army say donations for the annual Angel Tree program are only trickling in.



Ada Lafler, Angel Tree coordinator for the organization, said since the Angel Trees were erected in local businesses and offices, only a handful of angel cards have been taken.

"Things are moving really slowly," said Lafler. "I'm not sure what to attribute it to. It could be the economy or maybe shoppers are just a little behind on their holiday shopping this year. Either way, however, hardly any of the angel cards on the trees have been taken, so we're quite worried at this point in the season."

Lafler said some changes have been made to Angel Tree locations to help boost their visibility, but if angel adoptions don't pick up soon, the deficit could mean serious problems for the program.

"At Wal-Mart we had two trees, one set up in the back of the store where the old lay-away area used to be, and a second near the customer service desk," said Lafler. "We've moved the one from the back up front, closer to the checkout stations, with hopes of increasing visibility. But angel adoptions aren't just slow at our Wal-Mart

See **ANGELS**, Page 3

KEEP YOUR EYES TOWARD THE SKY IN DOWNTOWN BIG SPRING FOR A HOLIDAY SURPRISE.



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Dell McGuire, left, and Garth Hyder prepare one of the many displays for the upcoming Drive-Thru Nativity, which will be held at First Church of the Nazarene Friday through Sunday.

Living nativity to again tell the story of Jesus

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

For the 23rd consecutive year, the First Church of the Nazarene will give people a live account of the birth, life and death of Jesus Christ.

The church's Drive-Thru Nativity, which has attracted thousands of visitors since its debut in 1987, will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday at the the church, located at 14th and Lancaster streets.

The event will dramatize the life of Christ in more than 13 scenes with church members and other community residents playing the parts of shepherds, angels

See **NATIVITY**, Page 3

Activists demonstrate against West Texas prison conditions

NEW BRAUNFELS (AP) — Civil rights activists say they're taking their attack on conditions in a privately run West Texas prison to the prison operator's New Braunfels offices.

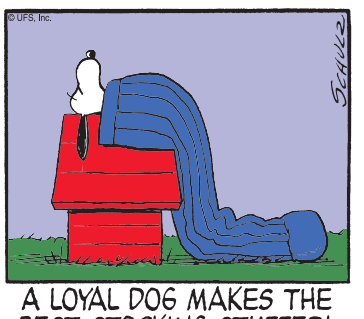
The American Civil Liberties Union of Texas and other groups are demonstrating around midday Thursday outside the regional offices of the GEO Group.

They're trying to draw attention to what they say are poor conditions in the GEO-operated Reeves County Detention Center near Pecos.

Prison detainees rioted last December and January, complaining of inadequate health care after the death of 32-year-old Jesus Manuel Galindo a year ago.

An attorney for the dead inmate's family contends prison officials and medical care providers improperly treated the epileptic inmate and his death while in solitary confinement set off the first of two riots at the prison.

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Big Spring police and emergency medical technicians responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Fourth and Tulane streets Wednesday afternoon. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center with undisclosed injuries.

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Obituaries

Reta Fee

Reta Fee, 61, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2009, at her residence. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Doug Shelley, of Eastside Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.



She was born April 14, 1948, in Crosbyton. She married Bill Fee on Aug. 25, 1968, in Spur. They pastored churches in New Mexico, Colorado, Kentucky and Texas. They moved to Big Spring in 2004 from Monument, N.M. She was a member of Eastside Baptist Church.

She is survived by her husband, Bill Fee of Big Spring; three sons, Bill Fee and wife, Michelle, and Josh Fee and wife, Dawn, all of Rankin, and Joe Fee of Big Spring; two daughters, LeaAnn McDaniel and husband, Brandon, of Eureka, Calif., and Carla Allen and husband, Jarek, of Big Spring; three brothers, Raymond Chapman, Robert Chapman, and Bo Blackwood and wife, Linda, all of Monument, N.M.; one sister, Debbie Blanscet of Hurst; and 12 grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two sisters.

The family suggests memorials to Eastside Baptist Church, 1108 E. Sixth St., Big Spring 79720.

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

Thomas 'Tommy' G. Harvell

BRONTE – Thomas "Tommy" G. Harvell of Oak Creek, 82, died Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2009, at a San Angelo hospital. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements are by Shaffer Funeral Home.

Survivors include his wife, Elsie Harvell of Oak Creek; and his sons, Edward Harvell of Canyon, and David Harvell of Carlsbad, Texas.

Support Groups

TODAY

• 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.

Take Note

• The Annual Tour of Homes hosted by the Symphony Guild and benefiting the Big Spring Symphony will be Sunday from 2–4:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased for $10 at Blum's Jewelers, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Faye's Flowers, the Big Spring Herald, Heritage Museum, KBEST Radio, and any branch of Western Bank. Tickets will also be available at the door of each home. The $10 ticket purchases admission to the four homes and one office location on the tour this year. Hosts include Joan Beil, Ricki and Leah Hughes, Burt and Cathy Sheppard, Vince and Shawn Hatfield, and Eddie Vandewalker. After the tour a reception will be held at First Presbyterian Church in the parlor, along with a free concert in the sanctuary.

• T&P Federal Credit Union has set up an account for Arthur Hernandez Jr. for medical expenses. Arthur has had numerous medical problems the past couple of years. He has had several surgeries on his stomach, the last one a few weeks ago. After the surgery he developed a staph infection. He is still in the hospital. The out-of-pocket expenses, the travel and expenses for his wife and many other numerous expenses are mounting up. Please help Arthur and his wife Melinda in this difficult time and make a much-needed donation.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Police blotter

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

• LISA RUBIO, 42, of 3911 Hamilton, was arrested Wednesday on four warrants from other agencies.

• SAMANTHA DAWSON, 22, of 1507 Sycamore, was arrested Wednesday on a local warrant.

• TERESA GARCIA, 33, of 1002 N. Main St. Apt. 56, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• THEFT was reported:
in the 200 block of FM 700.
in the 1500 block of Fourth Street.

• MANUFACTURE OR DELIVERY OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE IN A DRUG FREE ZONE was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.

• ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY – FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 1700 block of Young.

• ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1900 block of Highway 87.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 71 inmates at the time of this report.

• STEVEN JOHN ALVAREZ, 45, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• SAMANTHA DONNELL DAWSON, 22, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance (three counts).

• ABEL GUZMAN, 26, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle with a previous conviction or suspension.

• REBECCA ANN MCVEY, 25, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on contempt charges for failure to appear, no valid inspection certificate and failure to change address within 30 days.

• RENE RODRIGUEZ, 21, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of assault causing bodily injury.

• LISA JEANINE RUBIO, 41, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of failure to identify – giving false information and bail jumping – failure to appear (two counts).

Fire/EMS

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

• TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of Fourth Street and Tulane. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 3500 block of the Interstate Highway 20 N. Service Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of S. Scurry. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to SMMC.

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Fri 12/11	Sat 12/12	Sun 12/13
58/33	**69/37**	**69/39**
Partly cloudy skies. High 58F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph.	A few clouds. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the upper 30s.	Mainly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the upper 30s.
Sunrise: 7:37 AM **Sunset:** 5:42 PM	**Sunrise:** 7:38 AM **Sunset:** 5:42 PM	**Sunrise:** 7:38 AM **Sunset:** 5:42 PM

American Profile

We Celebrate Hometown Life

Stories for and about hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	48	38	cloudy	Kingsville	57	48	rain
Amarillo	47	29	mst sunny	Livingston	47	41	rain
Austin	45	40	rain	Longview	46	39	cloudy
Beaumont	48	44	rain	Lubbock	53	30	pt sunny
Brownsville	64	52	rain	Lufkin	46	41	rain
Brownwood	50	38	cloudy	Midland	61	37	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	55	49	rain	Raymondville	63	49	rain
Corsicana	44	38	cloudy	Rosenberg	51	47	rain
Dallas	45	38	cloudy	San Antonio	48	44	rain
Del Rio	53	44	cloudy	San Marcos	45	40	rain
El Paso	61	38	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	46	38	cloudy
Fort Stockton	63	40	pt sunny	Sweetwater	53	39	cloudy
Gainesville	45	34	cloudy	Tyler	45	38	cloudy
Greenville	45	35	cloudy	Weatherford	45	34	cloudy
Houston	51	46	rain	Wichita Falls	48	34	pt sunny

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 1-5-21-31-42-46.

Number matching six of six: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wedneday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 5-8-16-18-32.

Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: $23,382

Winning ticket purchased in: Garland.

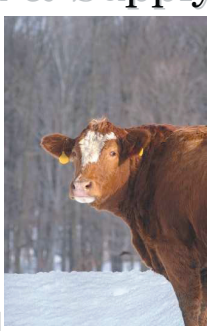
The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-5-0-3. Sum It Up: 8.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-5-0. Sum It Up: 11.

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State briefs

Lubbock police chief chases down burglary suspect

LUBBOCK (AP) — The police chief in Lubbock ran after and caught a burglary suspect after hearing a call about a crime in progress.

Chief Dale Holton was in uniform Wednesday, on his way to lunch, when the call came over the police radio.

Holton was the first officer on the scene, running after and catching the 21-year-old suspect.

Holton says "it's just what we do."

Capt. Greg Stevens says an undercover officer reported seeing a burglary in process. The suspect nabbed by the police chief was among four caught Wednesday in an investigation of at least two burglaries.

Holton has led Lubbock police since February 2008.

Man convicted in Santa letter sex abuse case

EDINBURG (AP) — A jury in Edinburg convicted a man of sexual abuse in a case where a girl's 2008 letter to Santa alleged she and her sister were being molested.

Sentencing is Dec. 28 for 57-year-old Andres Enrique Cantu of Pharr, who faces a pair of 25-year prison terms. Prosecutors say the victims were his stepdaughters.

Cantu, who remains in custody, was convicted Wednesday on two counts of continuous sexual abuse of a child. He was acquitted of two other counts.

Prosecutors say the girls were 9 and 10 when the younger sister wrote the letter as part of a school assignment.

Defense attorney Mauro Barreiro says the letter was misinterpreted. The lawyer has said the mother, who previously had been deported, may have been seeking a special immigration visa for crime victims.

County eyes renewing deals with abortion providers

AUSTIN (AP) — Travis County's health board will consider whether to renew contracts with two women's health centers that perform abortion.

The Central Health board inherited the deals from the Austin city government in 2004 when voters created the health district.

The board will hold a public hearing Thursday on the $450,000 contracts with Whole Woman's Health of Austin and Austin Women's Health Center to serve the district's Medical Assistance Program. The program serves uninsured county residents who earn less than $10,830 per year if they live alone and $14,570 if they're in a household of two.

The proposal has drawn fierce opposition from groups like Texas Alliance for Life, which opposes using property tax dollars to finance abortions for low-income women. But supporters such as Planned Parenthood urge renewal.

Shotgun-carrying suspect tries to board Austin bus

AUSTIN (AP) — A burglary suspect with a shotgun who allegedly tried to hop on a public bus to flee has been arrested in Austin.

Police say some items believed taken in the burglary, including a shotgun in a soft case, were recovered from the suspect.

Travis County Jail records indicated 26-year-old Erick James Robinson was in custody Thursday on felony charges of burglary of a habitation and being a felon in possesion of a firearm.

Bail on the two counts was $22,000. Electronic jail records did not show an attorney for Robinson.

ANGELS

Continued from Page 1

location, they're slow at all of them."

The annual program — which provides Christmas gifts for area low income children and seniors who might otherwise go without during the holiday season — got under way in October when Salvation Army officials began taking application.

According to Lafler, participating in the program is simple.

"They just take the Angel card from the tree and purchase Christmas gifts for that child or senior," said Lafler. "It doesn't necessarily have to be what's listed on the angel card. Once they purchase the items, they will attach the card to the gifts and bring them to our office, or drop them off where they got the card from. It's very important that they tape or tie the card to the gift, however, so we can make sure it goes to the correct child."

While the application process to receive gifts from the program ended last month, Capt. Terrie Cheshire said the local charity will still take emergency applications throughout the season.

"Emergency applications will only be accepted from people who have just moved to town, women who are separated from their husbands or their house has burned," said Cheshire. "It will have to be an emergency situation similar to these."

Lafler said Angel Trees are located at the *Big Spring Herald*, Wal-Mart Supercenter, the Heritage Museum and the Howard County Library.

With 533 angels ready to adopt for the holiday, Lafler said tough economic times have her and other officials at the Salvation Army concerned, but they are confident the community will come together to help brighten the season for the less fortunate.

"We know the economy is going to make it tough this year, and the captains (Ed Cheshire and Terrie Cheshire) have already purchased some items to supplement," said Lafler. "However, Big Spring has always been good about helping out when the community is in need, and we feel confident they will once again help us brighten the holiday season for these children and seniors."

For more information on the Angel Tree program, call 267-8239 or stop by the Salvation Army office, located at 811 W Fifth St.

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
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Reta Fee, 61, died Tuesday. Funeral Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

NATIVITY

Continued from Page 1

and other Christmas story characters.

"It's the story of Christ's life, from the announcement of his birth to his ascension into Heaven," said C.J. Ward, church secretary.

Ward, who witnessed the event since its inception, said it began in 1987 at the behest of former pastor Gary Smith. The first year's nativity featured only five scenes, but has grown steadily since then.

This year's display will be relatively unchanged from recent years, Ward said.

Drivers are advised to approach the church from the north. Visitors will be provided a CD or tape which will narrate each scene.

Ward said the event attracts visitors from across West Texas.

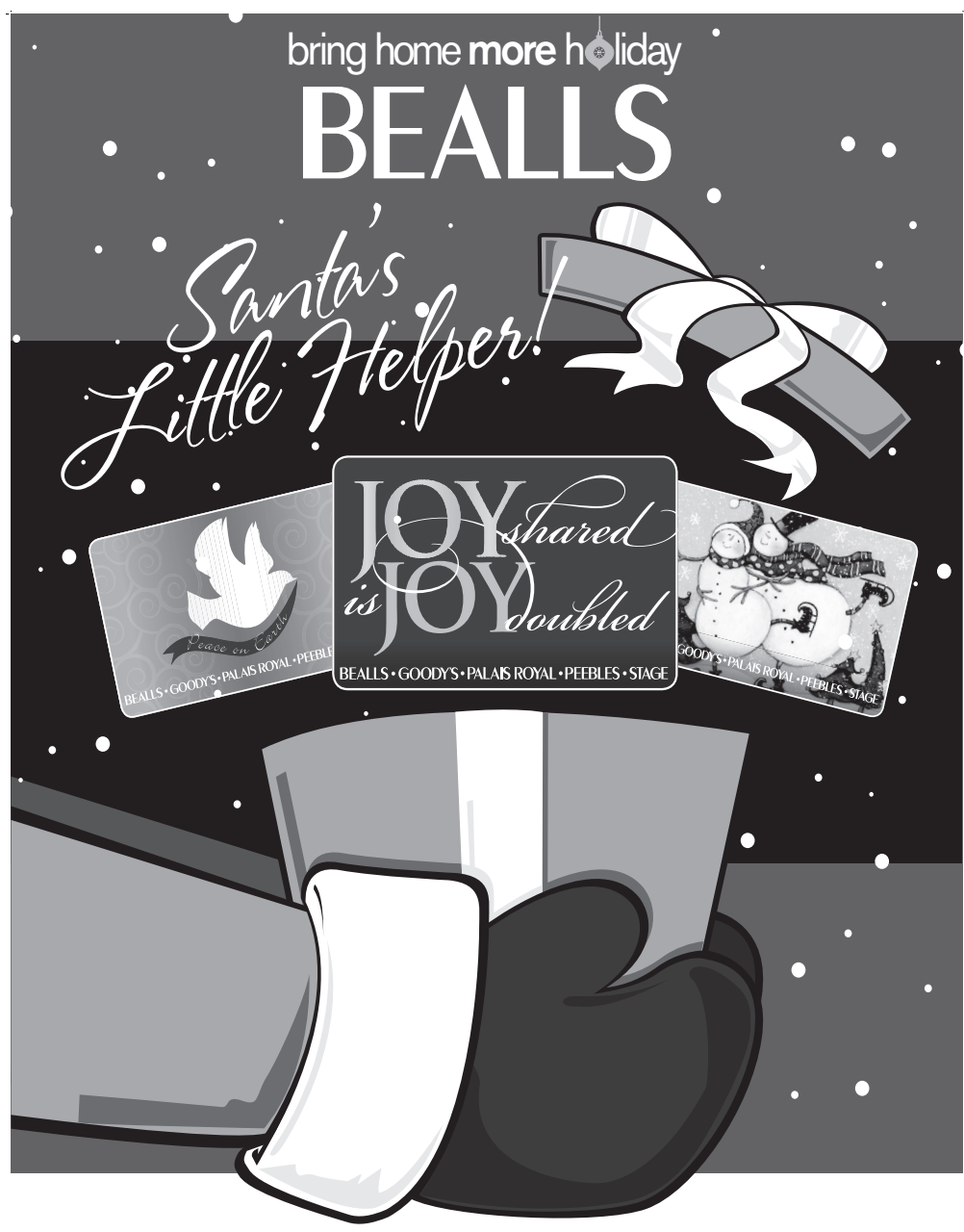
"We even have some people who come from out of town to visit relatives, or people who are just passing through and see the sign advertising the Nativity and they decide to make a little detour," Ward said. "It can be many things to many people. What has a lot to do with its popularity is that it dramatizes the true meaning of Christmas."

For more information on the Drive-Thru Nativity, contact the church at 267-7015.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD



By Eddy Pitchford

Cancer is not abstract; it has real names and faces. Cancer has the name of my uncle, who died. It has the face of my aunt, who is in her final days. It claimed the six year-old grandson of my wife's cousin Saturday night. Cancer was responsible for the funeral I attended last Wednesday.

With all due respect to my friend, David, who is actively involved in cancer research, I wonder, "*Is it possible that one of the aborted millions of babies was potentially the scientist, who would have discovered the cure for cancer?*"

Such a possibility adds to the moral concern about abortion Of course, the immorality of denying birth to a child seems obvious. Over the next few weeks, you will hear about an unmarried woman with an inconvenient pregnancy. Had she aborted Jesus, my family members would have died with no hope.

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Showdown nears on importing low-cost drugs

WASHINGTON (AP) — A bipartisan group of lawmakers hopes to finally win a long struggle to ease curbs against importing low-cost prescription drugs but will have to overcome the Obama administration and the pharmaceutical industry to do so.

The Senate was resuming debate Thursday on President Barack Obama's drive to reshape the country's care system. The most crucial work was being done behind closed doors, where Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and his lieutenants were hunting support for a tentative deal among moderate and liberal Democrats to expand the government's role in providing care.

Such an agreement would move the Senate a step closer to approving its near trillion-dollar legislation. The bill would extend coverage to more than 30 million people, take modest steps to rein the growth of medical costs and end unpopular insurance company practices such as denying coverage to people who are already ill.

On the Senate floor, Sens. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., and John McCain, R-Ariz., are pushing an amendment to allow U.S. pharmacies and drug wholesalers to import Food and Drug Administration-approved drugs from Canada, Europe and a few other countries. People on both sides of the issue say it will be tough for supporters to get the 60 votes they'll need to win.

As a candidate, Obama supported allowing U.S. consumers to order lower-cost prescriptions from abroad.

As president, he needs the backing of the drug industry to push his health care bill through Congress. While administration officials contend the president still agrees in principle, the FDA is saying it would be difficult to fully guarantee the safety of imports, lending weight to the industry's main argument.

That concern — plus the billions of dollars drug companies would lose if Americans began buying large amounts of lower-priced pharmaceuticals from other nations — has prevented the proposal from being implemented for about a decade.

"Does the pharmaceutical industry have a lot of clout? The answer is they sure do," Dorgan said Wednesday. He said when it comes to a vote, he hoped "the interest of the American consumers will have as much clout in this chamber."

Said a leading foe, Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., "We can't certify that we can keep these products safe."

In a potential compromise on the overall legislation, Democrats were trying to join hands on a plan that bows to moderates' objections and drops full-bore government-run health coverage, long a priority for Obama and many in the party.

Instead, a new proposal would have the same federal agency that provides health insurance for members of Congress — the Office of Personnel Management — offer policies from private providers to the public. In addition, Medicare, currently for those age 65 and up, would be offered to people who are at least 55 and wished to purchase coverage.

Divisions remained before Senate leaders could even think about reaching a compromise with the House, which approved its health overhaul bill last month.

Liberal Rep. Anthony Weiner, D-N.Y., called the Medicare expansion "an unvarnished, complete victory." But Moveon.org, the liberal activist group, accused Reid of having "bargained away the heart of health care reform."



AP Photo/Harry Hamburg

Sen. Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) leaves a Democratic caucus meeting in Washington Wednesday.

LETTERS TO SANTA

Don't Miss This Section
Sunday, December 20, 2009

Area Schools Students, Submit Their Letters To Santa Claus

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In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



Acts of kindness

Friends, neighbors and strangers doing thoughtful deeds without expecting anything in return. Read our annual tribute to heartwarming random acts of kindness across our country. Plus, easy home decorating and potatoes and yams.

AmericanProfile

News in brief

Obama says others more worthy of Nobel Prize, but he'll continue to work for peace

OSLO, Norway (AP) — President Barack Obama, in Norway to pick up his Nobel Peace Prize, says he doesn't doubt there are others who may be more deserving of the honor.

Addressing criticism that the award was premature, the president said Thursday that he wants to continue working on issues that are important for America and for building lasting peace and security in the world, such as halting the spread of nuclear weapons, addressing climate change and stabilizing Afghanistan.

Obama said his goal is not to win a popularity contest or get an award, even one as esteemed as the Nobel Peace Prize.

The president said his goal is to advance America's interests. If he's successful, he added, then some of the criticism may subside.

Parents at heart of terror probe after 5 missing Americans caught in Pakistan

WASHINGTON (AP) — When five young American Muslims were arrested in Pakistan over possible links to terrorism, a key break in the case came not from federal agents or spies, but parents worried their sons may have made a terrible decision.

The families, based in the northern Virginia and Washington, D.C., area, were particularly concerned after watching what is described as a disturbing farewell video from the young men, showing scenes of war and casualties and saying Muslims must be defended.

"One person appeared in that video and they made references to the ongoing conflict in the world and that young Muslims have to do something," said Nihad Awad, of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, or CAIR.

The video has not been made public.

On Thursday, police in Pakistan said the Americans had told investigators they came to the country to take part in "jihad," or holy war.

After the disappearance of the five men in late November, their families, members of the local Muslim community, sought help from CAIR, which put them in touch with the FBI and got them a lawyer.

Al-Qaida affiliate in Iraq claims responsibility for Baghdad bombings

BAGHDAD (AP) — Al-Qaida's umbrella group in Iraq claimed responsibility Thursday for coordinated Baghdad bombings this week that killed 127 people and wounded more than 500, warning of more strikes to come against the Iraqi government.

The group, known as the Islamic State of Iraq, said in a statement posted on the Internet that the strikes in the Iraqi capital targeted the "bastions of evil and dens of apostates."

It also warned the group is "determined to uproot the pillars of this government" in Iraq and said "the list of targets has no end."

The authenticity of the statement could not be independently verified, but it was posted on a Web site commonly used for militant messaging.

The blasts Tuesday were the third major strike against government sites in the Iraqi capital since August, raising serious questions about the abilities of Iraqi security forces ahead of next's year national elections and the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki was expected to attend a special parliamentary session Thursday where lawmakers demanded Iraq's top security officials appear to answer questions over security lapses that allowed the attacks.

Black lawmakers raise heat on Obama to focus on minorities hard-hit by recession

WASHINGTON (AP) — Black lawmakers who have held their tongues during most of President Barack Obama's first year in office are stepping up their demands that the nation's first black president do more for minority communities hit hardest by the recession.

While still careful about criticizing Obama publicly, they appear to be losing their patience after a year of watching him dedicate trillions of dollars to prop up banks and corporations and fight wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, while double-digit unemployment among blacks crept even higher.

"Obama has tried desperately to stay away from race, and all of us understand what he's doing," said Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, D-Mo.

"But when you have such a disproportionate number of African-Americans unemployed, it would be irresponsible not to direct attention and resources to the people who are receiving the greatest level of pain."

Dating back to Obama's campaign, many black leaders have pressed him to take more of a stand on the challenges facing minorities.

Most voiced criticisms privately for fear of jeopardizing his candidacy or undercutting his popularity after his election.

They also have tread lightly so as not to be at odds with their own majority-black constituencies, who strongly support Obama.

But frustration has been building.

Zelaya, Honduran government negotiating terms for granting safe passage out of country

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — Mexico is working to get ousted President Manuel Zelaya out of the Brazilian Embassy, a refuge where he has spent nearly three months in a failed effort to get his office back and prevent the election of his successor.

Mexico's Foreign Relations Department said late Wednesday that it asked the interim administration installed after the coup that removed Zelaya to guarantee his safe passage out of the country without being arrested on treason and abuse of power charges.

Honduran officials said the interim government agreed to let Zelaya go if he was willing to accept political asylum, but Zelaya said he would not accept a departure under those terms.

"I want to leave as a distinguished guest, not as political refugee like the interim government wants," Zelaya told Radio Globo late Wednesday.

The interim government had been insistent Zelaya would be arrested on the charges that led to his June 28 ouster for ignoring a Supreme Court order against holding a referendum on changing the constitution, but recently it began hinting Zelaya could leave for exile or political asylum in another country.

Zelaya said his reason for leaving is to seek out a neutral site for a meeting with Honduran President-elect Porfirio Lobo to "find a peaceful solution to the situation in the country."

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Courtesy photo

Big Spring State Hospital Community Relations employees Billie Christie and Maxann Bowlin began packing the more than 600 gifts that will be distributed to the patients at Big Spring State Hospital. One of the gifts will be delivered to patients tonight at the annual Carol of Lights party.

Frigid temperatures chill Midwest

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Frigid temperatures iced the Upper Midwest as a storm that dumped more than a foot of snow in several states from Iowa to New England threatened another round on Thursday as it neared the end of its cross-country trek.

Commuters from Des Moines to Chicago were warned of morning temperatures reaching 10 degrees at best and icy roads. Wind chill values could dip as low as negative 25 in parts of Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois, according to the National Weather Service.

Blizzard warnings covered parts of southwest Michigan where another 12 inches of snow was expected by Friday evening. Up to 18 inches could fall in parts of central and western New York, while wind gusts approaching 60 mph were reported near Buffalo.

But most of the Midwest was focused on digging out of the snow — up to 19 inches in some areas — and bracing for bitter-cold weather.

"It's already very cold across the entire region," said Casey Sullivan, a weather service meteorologist in Romeoville, Ill., adding that parts of northern Illinois may hit only 2 degrees. "Iowa's even colder."

Des Moines, which saw 16 inches of snow by Wednesday, could see a high near 9 degrees — but wind chill values could make temperatures feel like minus 25. In Madison, Wis., near where almost 19 inches of snow fell, the wind chill could hit minus 20, according to the weather service.

New England, also pounded by heavy snow and strong winds on Wednesday, expected more snow but temperatures to hover around freezing.

Wind gusts of nearly 60 mph may have contributed to a double-decker bus overturning Thursday on the New York State Thruway near Buffalo. The driver and eight of the 12 passengers were taken to hospitals, but none was seriously injured, state police said.

The storm was expected to move off the coast of Maine by Thursday night, having affected about two-thirds of the country since hitting California earlier this week, meteorologists predicted.

The storm was blamed for at least 17 deaths, most in traffic accidents. Hundreds of schools were closed, power was knocked out to thousands of people from Missouri to New York and hundreds of flights were canceled.

In northern New York, up to a foot fell on Wednesday and more than 3 feet was expected by the week's end. Areas in Maine and New Hampshire received up to a foot of snow. Up to 7 inches fell in northeast Pennsylvania.

The storm drenched California in rain, blanketed the mountain West in snow and shattered snowfall records in Flagstaff, Ariz. earlier this week. Wind gusts of up to 100 mph were reported in New Mexico, wind chills as low as minus 40 hit southern Montana, and heavy rain and flooding affected parts of the South, according to the National Weather Service.

The storm felt like a rude surprise after an unseasonably warm and dry November in parts of the Midwest.

The massive system is the first major blast of wintry weather for many parts of the region.

"I've been dreading this day," said Kim Brust, shoveling the sidewalk in front of his Minneapolis home before sunrise Wednesday. "I was starting to enjoy the global warming."

While an inconvenience for many, others took an opportunity to play.

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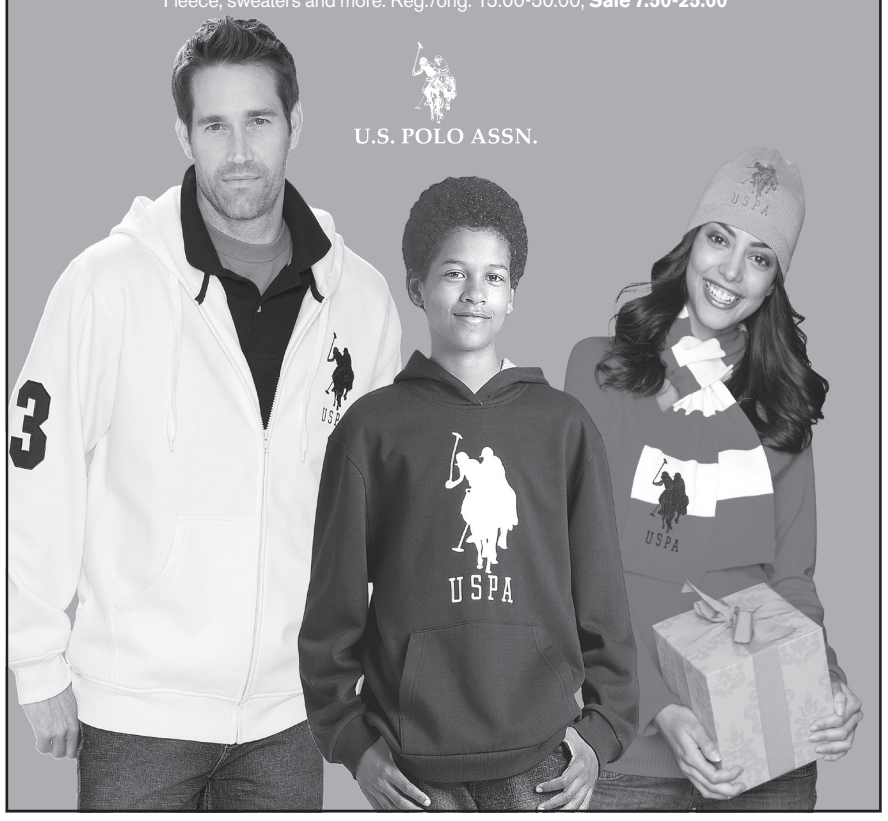


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						9		
	8			3	5			
9			6				2	8
1	2					3	4	
6		8		2		1		7
	4	9					8	2
5	9				3			6
			7	4			9	
		6						

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Points, Shmoints

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 8 4
♥ 9
♦ A K Q J 9 3
♣ K J 6 2

WEST
♠ K J 7 6
♥ K 6 5 4 2
♦ 5 2
♣ 8 4

EAST
♠ Q 9 3 2
♥ A Q J 10 7
♦ 8 6
♣ 10 7

SOUTH
♠ A 10 5
♥ 8 3
♦ 10 7 4
♣ A Q 9 5 3

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	1 ♦	1 ♥
2 ♣	2 ♥	4 ♥	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	6 ♣	

Opening lead — four of hearts.

When a side has 33 or more high-card points, it should nearly always reach a slam. But the fact is that the great majority of slams are made with fewer than 33 points in high cards, mainly due to distributional factors, and it is this rather large family of hands that challenges the bidding skill of a partnership.

Consider this deal where North opened the bidding third-hand with one diamond, East overcalled with one heart, South bid two clubs, and West bid two hearts. Since North was looking at only 14 high-card points and his partner had passed initially, a slam might seem out of the question.

But North placed a high value on his singleton heart, and this, in conjunction with his solid diamonds and excellent support for clubs, induced him to try for a slam despite his shortage of high cards. Accordingly, he jumped to four hearts — a "splinter" bid indicating good club support and a singleton (or void) in hearts.

South realized that although his 10 points were about as little as the law allowed for his two-club bid, his A-Q-A were golden cards that might produce a slam opposite North's singleton-showing bid. So he cuebid his ace of spades to show first-round control of that suit.

North needed no further encouragement. He checked for aces via Blackwood and carried on to six clubs after South showed two.

Twelve tricks proved to be laydown after East won the opening heart lead — even though North-South had only 24 high-card points between them.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

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LT looks forward to return to Lone Star state

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — LaDainian Tomlinson will never forget his first visit to Texas Stadium as an NFL player.

His family was there, he talked with boyhood idol Emmitt Smith before the game, played at the stadium he visited as a kid and his San Diego Chargers beat the Dallas Cowboys.

Oh, and he managed to lose a pair of diamond earrings worth $26,000.

"I remember it pretty vividly," Tomlinson said Monday, six days before he and the streaking Chargers visit the Cowboys in their new stadium. "Obviously losing my earrings is one thing that sticks out. I will never forget that."

That was L.T.'s second game during his rookie season of 2001, and he learned the hard way never to wear earrings during a game.

"It was during a play. I looked up and they were gone," said Tomlinson, who grew up in Waco and played for TCU.

"Here and there when I got tackled I'd kind of look around," he said. "But I didn't have a chance to actually get out there and really search. It was pretty much a done deal. They were gone."

He can laugh about it now.

Asked if anybody ever found them, he said: "I never heard anything about them. I'm pretty sure someone found them. The grounds crew, I guarantee you, found them. Merry Christmas. I had them insured, so insurance is something great. I was able to get them back."

Tomlinson is looking forward to what could be his first and only visit to Cowboys Stadium as a player.

"It'll be a pretty emotional day for me, pretty much," he said. "The fact of the matter is, you look at your career, my last time was my rookie year and I'm in my ninth year and the schedule says that I might not play there again. It'll be special."

The Chargers (9-3) have won seven straight games and continue to lead the AFC West by one game over the Denver Broncos. Sunday's game will be the first of two straight against division leaders. Dallas (8-4) is tied with Philadelphia atop the NFC East. San Diego will then return home to

See **LT**, Page 13



HERALD PHOTO/ Joe Zigtema

Garden City's Blayne Batla scrambles away from Throckmorton defenders Nov. 27 in Merkel. Batla, a sophomore, is leading his team to the state title game this weekend with a 13-1 record.

Bearkats ready for first title game

By JOE ZIGTEMA
Sports Editor

GARDEN CITY — The Garden City Bearkats and head coach Vance Jones have been on a wild ride this season.

For the Bearkats, they endured a season-opening loss to No. 1-ranked Throckmorton with a green quarterback making his first start, only to return the favor in the state quarterfinals with an 84-80 instant 6-man classic. Last week, they toppled Follett 76-55.

Now, only one hurdle stands between Garden City and its first state championship — the Strawn Greyhounds.

For Jones, he takes his third team to the state finals since he got there first in 1975.

"That first one was just so exciting to go your first time, and this one is probbly more special," he said. "Because i'm at the twilight of my career, and to get there again with a third school is really pretty awesome."

Garden City and its fans will descend on Shotwell Stadium this weekend with a coach who has built this program up since he arrived.

"They've earned it," Jones said of his players. "They have paid their dues, these kids have worked hard and they're enjoying their success."

Garden City will take on a Strawn team Saturday that is built on defense — it has not allowed more than 35 points in a game this year — which will clash with Garden City's potent offensive attack.

"We've been fortunate that the last couple weeks our offense is clicking this great, and hopefully we can do it again," Jones said. "It will be fun to see early what their defense does and what we have to do to adjust to that where we can attack them best."

Running back Josh Colunga has been running like a man possessed through the playoffs, topping 200 yards routinely. He ran for 235 yards and six total touchdowns in last week's win, including three kickoff return touchdowns.

Jones said Garden City's running attack is a team effort.

"It's awesome having a back with Josh's quality, but it's also just as awesome to have the blockers that we have," he said. "The linemen do an outstanding job, and half his yardage wouldn't be there if it weren't for the blocks he gets."

Those linemen are Aaron Long and Ian Schaefer, and end Brett Chudej. Though they are frequently outsized on the line,

See **BEARKATS**, Page 13

Texas' Brown gets $5 million contract

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Texas coach Mack Brown is a $5 million man, not just this season, but for the life of his contract.

With the Longhorns playing for their second BCS national championship in five years, school officials on Wednesday agreed to raise Brown's annual salary from $3 million to at least $5 million.

Brown was scheduled to receive a one-time $2 million payment early next year. University system regents agreed to make that an annual payment for the rest of his contract, which runs through 2016.

The length of the contract has not changed. Brown also will continue to receive an annual $100,000 raise already in his contract. He'll also get a $450,000 bonus if Texas (13-0) beats Alabama (13-0) on Jan. 7 in Pasadena, Calif.

Brown's counterpart in that game, Nick Saban, recently signed a one-year extension to his contract with Alabama that pays him $4.7 million annually.

"Mack is the best college football coach in America and this action recognizes him for that," Texas athletic director DeLoss Dodds said. "He brought new life to our program and he's done it with great integrity and class. He is who we want at Texas for as long as he is willing to serve as our head coach."

Texas has raised Brown's salary more than 500 percent since his first $750,000 deal signed in 1997. Texas has given Brown restructured deals with raises in 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005 and 2007.

Texas' second-year defensive coordinator Will Muschamp has been designated as Brown's replacement when he decides to retire, but Wednesday's deal seems to make that unlikely to happen anytime soon.

Brown is 58 and just won his second Big 12 championship. Texas won the 2005 national championship and has won at least 10 games for nine consecutive seasons, the second-longest run of 10-win seasons in NCAA history.

The Longhorns also earned their third trip to one of the lucrative BCS bowls in the last five years.

With Brown still reeling in recruiting classes that are consistently ranked among the best in the country, he'll be expected to maintain that run of success.

"Mack Brown has built one of the nation's premier football programs, and he's brought credit to our university," university President William Powers Jr. said. "He has done an out-

See **BROWN**, Page 13

Kentucky's Wall leads No. 4 Wildcats past No. 12 UConn 64-61

Associated Press

NEW YORK — John Wall has played nine games for Kentucky. His latest was his best — and the end of this one showed the freshman guard is as good as advertised.

Wall scored a season-high 25 points, including 12 of his team's last 15, and the fourth-ranked Wildcats beat No. 14 Connecticut 64-61 on Wednesday night in the SEC/Big East Invitational.

"He's phenomenal, one of the best players out there," Kentucky forward Patrick Patterson said. "If we need a crunch-time basket we give it to John and we know we are going to have the advantage. Pretty much when we need baskets we know who to get the ball to."

What made Wall's performance in his first appearance in Madison Square Garden even more remarkable is that he was saddled with foul trouble in the first half before dominating the game over the final 7½ minutes — even when Connecticut made a defensive switch that slowed him down for a few possessions.

"I just try to be a point guard," Wall said. "I struggled some in the first half then picked it up in the second and led us to the victory."

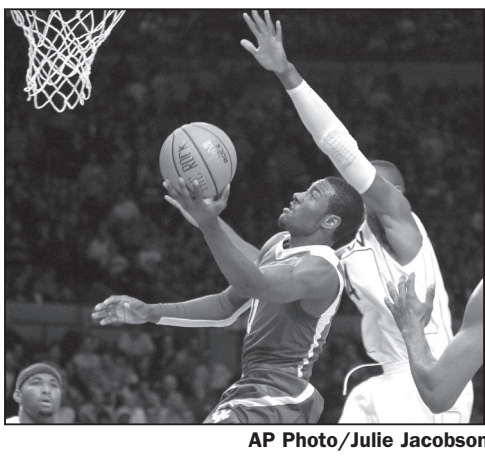
Connecticut's Kemba Walker, considered one of college basketball's fastest guards, spent most of the game covering and being covered by Wall.

"He's not a freshman, not at all," Walker said. "The ball is always in his hands and that's good for him and his team."

Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun said Wall "is no freshman. He's a great player."

The Wildcats (9-0) moved John Calipari closer to one of the icons at the school that has more wins (1,997) than any other program. The only coach to have a better start to

See **KENTUCKY**, Page 13



AP Photo/Julie Jacobson

Kentucky's John Wall shoots against a UConn defender Wednesday in New York. Kentucky won 64-61.

Sports in brief

Second round of tournaments to begin this weekend

Several area teams will be competing in tournaments this weekend.

The Big Spring girls will play Andrews today at 2:30 p.m. at the Monahans Sandhills Tournament. The boys will play either Kermit or Greenwood at 5:30 p.m. in the same tournament.

Stanton, Coahoma and Grady boys and girls teams will compete in the Stanton Hoopstown Classic this weekend. Forsan will compete in the Borden County tournament. Check the weekend's Herald for more.

One more chance for Coahoma youth basketball

Signups for the Coahoma youth basketball league have been extended to Saturday in the Coahoma junior high gym.

Signups and tryouts for boys and girls in grades 3-6 will take place Saturday at 2 p.m. Every player will make a team.

Games start in January.

All are welcome. For more information, contact Mendy Ward at 432-466-3811.

Big Spring alumni to play football game

Former Big Spring football players have one more chance to put on the pads and play a full gear, full contact football game with other Big Spring alumni.

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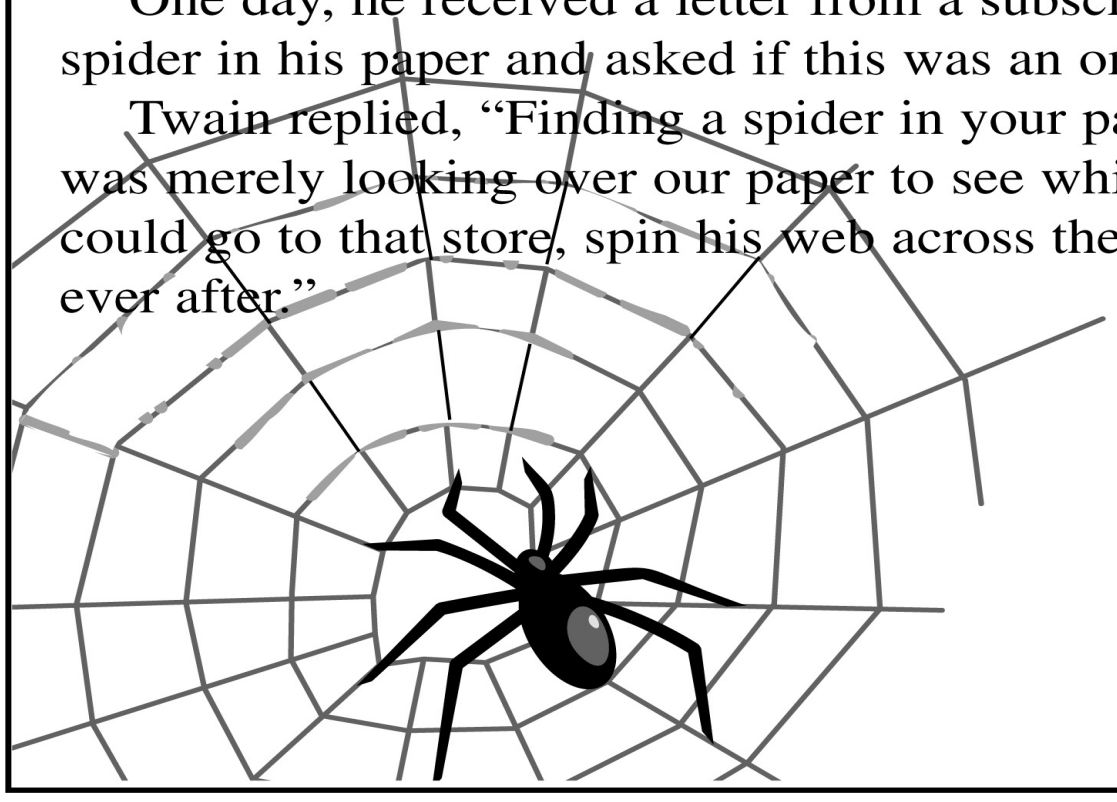
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Libra moon is a fickle force. She looks deeply into situations, weighing every option with her own point system, which is only partly based in logic. How much does an emotion weigh? She seems to know, and she carefully accounts for each feeling that flickers across our hearts. What used to be cut and dried suddenly becomes complicated.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Some shrink from danger, others seek it, and still others meet it when they must, knowing it to be part of their own journey upward. You'll be in the lattermost category today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Taking a day off to recharge your batteries is not only an acceptable use of your time; it's essential. You can't run on empty, and the one who best paces himself will be the winner.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Like a grasshopper leaping around in the tall grass, you are thriving in your present surroundings. It's been a while since an environment was as suitable to you as this one. Enjoy!

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Someone close to you wants to express what you mean to him or her, but this person isn't sure how to do it. If you are open to hearing compliments and/or an emotional message, then it will come.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Make a point to reach out to someone you care about but haven't heard from in a while. This person has been thinking about you and will be so happy to hear your cheerful voice.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The best way to court a breakthrough will be to go on a long walk. The physical movement forward will be an analogy for your mental march forward. Plus, it will get the blood flowing to your brain.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The time and care you put into the creative process will have great power. Look for opportunities to let the muses speak to you. Avoid buying things in favor of making them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Risk doesn't bother you, as long as it's calculated. Take the time to figure out the odds. Ask around. Gather as much information as you can before you decide whether it's wise to make a move.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The surface of things will tell one story, but the whole and true story only comes out when you start poking around. Be sly. One well-timed question is all you need to get someone to open up and spill the goods.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's hard work to be someone you're not, and it's just the kind of work you might find fun, enlightening and mind-expanding. A bit of pretending, role-play or vivid imagining broadens your perspective.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Look deeper into everyday matters. Try to understand the science behind things and figure out what makes them work. You'll find that the seemingly mundane is actually quite miraculous.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Being powerful enough to take what you want is a good feeling. However, common sense will propel you forward much more quickly than will mere dominance. Match power with prudence.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 10). Once you establish your standards, others will live up to them. The choices you make in the next seven weeks to improve your health and vitality will greatly enhance your personal life, too. You like to get things done quickly, and in April life moves according to your schedule. October brings a windfall. Cancer and Taurus people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 14, 3, 12 and 18.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Scorpio woman, and I've always felt pretty pleased with the way I look until now. I just turned 41, and when I look in the mirror, I can't relate to what I see. I'm frumpy. I've put all of my time and energy into my children, my husband and my job. Taking time to exercise or get my hair done is a luxury now. I've fantasized about getting my fat surgically sucked out and having everything on me lifted. That seems extreme, but I'm really considering it. What do you think?"

As the sign of transformation, there is something irresistibly exciting about the prospect of a makeover. One of Scorpio's symbols is the phoenix, which bursts into flames and then rises renewed from the ashes. Scorpio is also the sign of surgery. So I can see why the immediacy of a few procedures seems very appealing. However, it's also important to consider what you will learn from this quick fix. You didn't go from foxy to frumpy overnight. A culmination of daily habits has produced your current state, and I think you'll gain self-esteem and lasting results by establishing new daily habits and observing where they take you over the course of several months.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Raven Symone was a model at age 2 and an actress at age 3. So it shouldn't be surprising that at the ripe age of 24, she's also a television producer, fashion designer and multiplatinum-selling singer-songwriter. Her natal sun, Venus, Saturn and Uranus are all in the adventurous, independent, lucky, expansive sign of Sagittarius, indicating that Symone is just getting started.

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.

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Annie's Mailbox ®

Dear Annie: My outgoing, popular and smart daughter, "Lizzy," graduated from high school last June.

During the school year, there was an investigation into rumors of inappropriate conduct between a male teacher and my daughter.

Lizzy assured me nothing was going on. A few days later, the principal informed me that the rumors were not true and Lizzy was in the clear.

To make a long story short, the teacher eventually resigned because of the rumors, and I thought that was the end of it.

But over the summer, the mother of one of Lizzy's best friends informed me that my daughter was spending time with this teacher and they had bought a dog together.

He also gave her a cell phone so I wouldn't know about his calls, and she was staying at his house until late at night.

Lizzy admitted everything, but said there was no sex involved. I was devastated.

Annie, this has tainted my whole image of my daughter. The teacher is old enough to be her father.

It makes me sick to know what was happening. My husband and I contacted this teacher, telling him we think he's an awful person for taking advantage of one of his students and that he must never see her again.

But I don't trust my daughter. I fear her infatuation with this pervert will cloud her judgment.

Can I take any legal action against this teacher or the school? Teachers like this should not be in the classroom. — *Teaching Her To Lie*



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Teaching: The school investigated when it became aware of the rumors and could find nothing incriminating.

If Lizzy was 18 and out of school before there was evidence that they were involved, there may not be much you can do, especially if they weren't intimate.

However, you should inform the school that there was inappropriate contact during her senior year and ask if anything can be done from their end.

You, however, need to talk to Lizzy calmly and let her know how much you love her and want her to be in a healthy relationship.

Explain that it can be manipulative for a teacher to become involved with a student because, intentionally or not, he is taking advantage of his position of authority.

Don't alienate her by attacking him. She will only feel obligated to rush to his defense.

Dear Annie: You made my day. I read the letter from "Dirty Debbie," who has a very serious cat bowl problem.

Wow, this couple has a rough life. One of the cats prefers to get up early, and the other two sleep in, as does her husband. How sweet is that?

Her husband, being retired, should volunteer somewhere and maybe take the cats with him. Thanks for the distraction from the real world. — *Carol in Oklahoma*

Dear Carol: Dirty cat bowls may not be a world catastrophe, but it is a genuine annoyance for the couple involved and deserves the same consideration from us as any other problem. We're glad, however, that it cheered you up.

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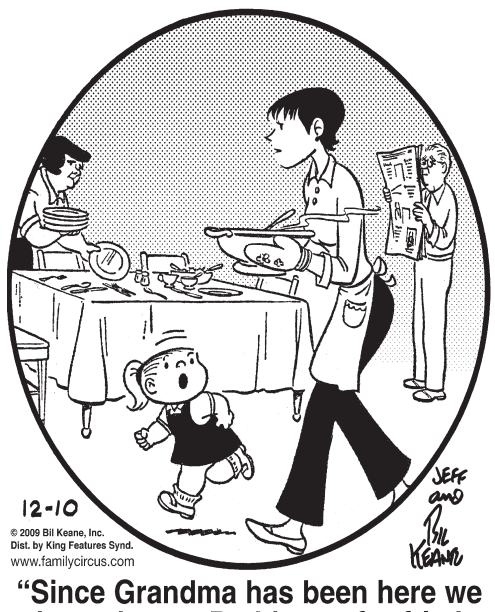
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5 :PM	News	News	Locura	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	Seinfeld	Granger	BBC	Cash Cab	**Movie:** *Mad Max 2: The Road Warrior*	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas	Around	SportsCenter
:30	ABC	ABC	Noticiero	Lopez	CBS	Noticiero	NBC	Office	Brad	Business	Cash Cab					Suite Life	College Basketball	
6 :PM	News	Jeopardy!	Gancho	Two Men	News	12 Corazones	News	Name	Sanchez	PBS NewsHour	Destroyed		UFC Unleashed	Bones		Wizards		ESPNU College Football Awards
:30	Entertain	Fortune		Two Men	Entertain		Millionaire	Name	Dr.		Destroyed					Montana		
7 :PM	FlashForward	FlashForward	Nombre-Amor	Bones	Survivor: Samoa	Más Sabe el Diablo	Commun	**Movie:** *Old School, Vince Vaughn*	Upd	Old House Hr.	Destroyed	**Movie:** *Terminator 2: Judgment Day, Edward Furlong*	UFC Unleashed	NBA Basketball: Celtics at Wizards	**Movie:** *Coming to America, John Amos*	**Movie:** *Hoot, Brie Larson*		
:30							Parks		Sprna		Destroyed						College Basketball	
8 :PM	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Sortilegio	Fringe	CSI: Crime Scene	Pobres	Office		Light of the Southwest	Michael McDonald	Mob Kill JFK?		TNA Wrestling					College Basketball
:30							30 Rock											
9 :PM	(:01) Private Practice	(:01) Private Practice	Nuestra Navidad	Simpsons	The Mentalist	Victorinos	The Jay Leno Show	Fam. Guy		The Story of India	JFK Ruby Con.					Phineas		
:30				Friends				Fam. Guy						NBA Basketball: Orlando Magic at Utah Jazz.	Welcome	Montana	ESPNU College Football Awards	SportsCenter
10 :PM	News	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Lopez Tonight	Upd	Charlie Rose	Destroyed	**Movie:** *Batman Begins, Liam Neeson*	Action		The Mo'Nique	Wizards		
:30	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	TMZ	Letterman	Titulares	Tonight Show		Van Impe		Destroyed		MAN			So Raven		
11 :PM	Insider	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Escuelita VIP	Law & Order: SVU		Decisiones		Funny	Bill Cloud	BBC	Mob Kill JFK?		Game		Wendy Williams	Life De		NFL Live
:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Extra	Torrente, un Torbel	Paid	Late Late		Late Night-Jim	Seinfeld	Swallow	Smiley			Game			Cory	SportsNation	Baseball
12 :AM	News	Paid		King-Hill	Insider	Pagado	News	Sex &	Upd	(Off Air)	JFK Ruby Con.		UFC 107 Countdown	Inside the NBA	**Movie:** *Coming to America, John Amos*	Replace		SportsCenter
:30	Paid	Paid	Mujer...	Paid	Entertain	Pagado	Poker After Dark	Sex &	World							Kim	Rodeo: Wrangler National Finals	
1 :AM	Paid	Paid	Cero	RENO 911	Paid	Pagado		Lopez Tonight	Light of the Southwest		Cash Cab	**Movie:** *Terminator 2: Judgment*	Afro Samurai	Cold Case		Emperor		SportsCenter
:30											Cash Cab					Dragon		

DENNIS THE MENACE



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



HAGAR

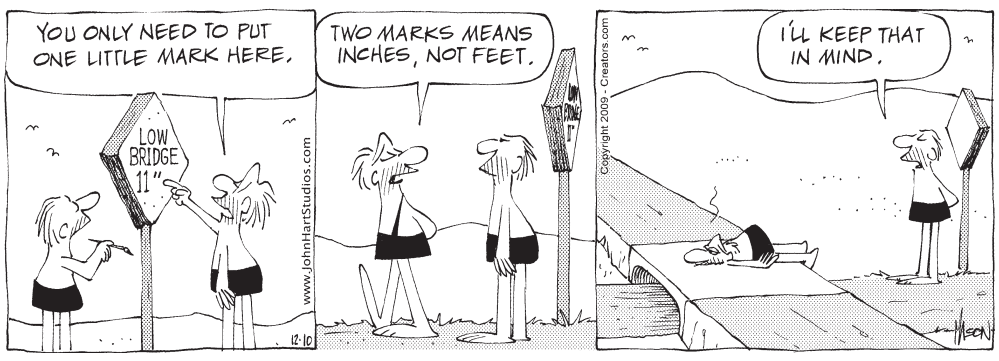




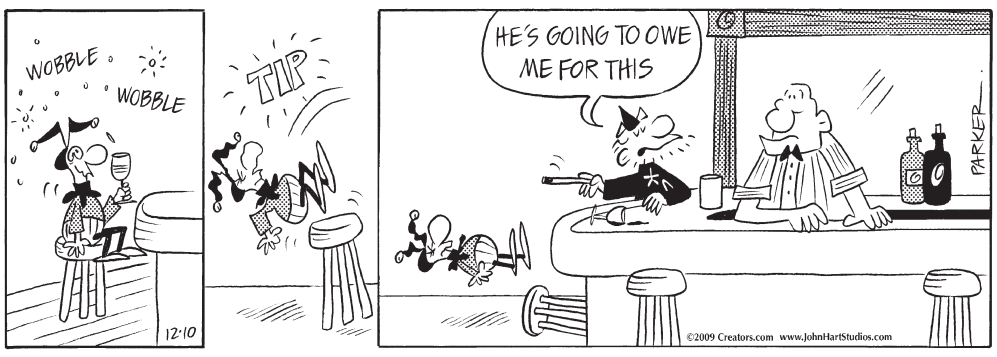
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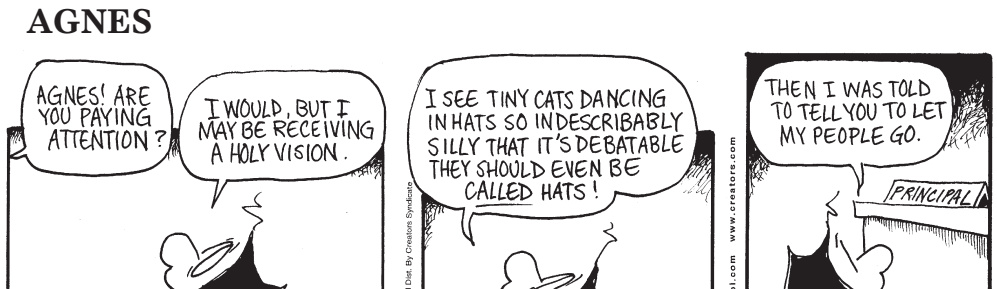
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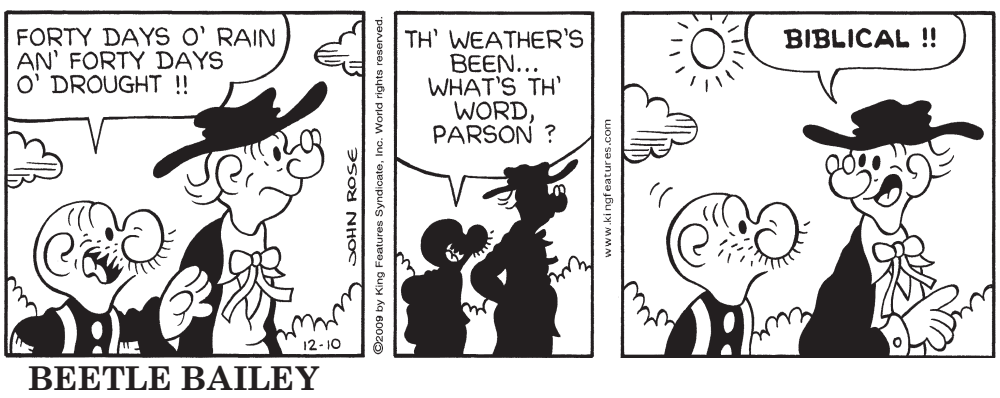
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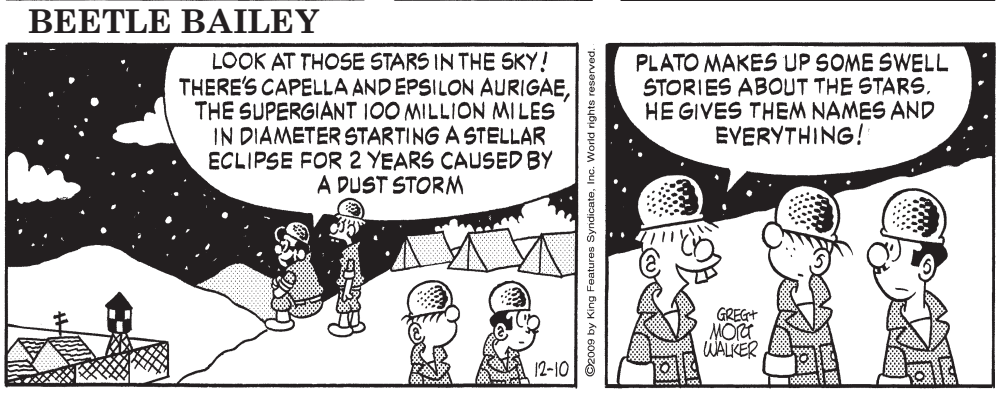
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Dec. 10, the 344th day of 2009. There are 21 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 10, 1884, Mark Twain's novel "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" was first published, in Canada as well as England (the book was not released in the United States until February 1885).

On this date:

In 1520, Martin Luther publicly burned the papal edict demanding that he recant, or face excommunication.

In 1817, Mississippi was admitted as the 20th state.

In 1869, women were granted the right to vote in the Wyoming Territory.

In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt became the first American to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, for helping mediate an end to the Russo-Japanese War.

In 1931, Jane Addams became the first American woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize (the co-recipient was Nicholas Murray Butler).

In 1948, the U.N. General Assembly adopted its Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

In 1950, Ralph J. Bunche was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, the first black American to receive the award.

In 1964, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. received the Nobel Peace Prize.

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

In 1984, South African Bishop Desmond Tutu received the Nobel Peace Prize.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Harold Gould is 86. Former Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter is 79. Actor Tommy Kirk is 68. Actress Fionnula Flanagan is 68. Pop singer Chad Stuart (Chad and Jeremy) is 68. Actress-singer Gloria Loring is 63. Pop-funk musician Walter "Clyde" Orange (The Commodores) is 63. R&B singer Ralph Tavares is 61. R&B singer Jessica Cleaves (Friends of Distinction) is 61. Country singer Johnny Rodriguez is 58. Actress Susan Dey is 57. Former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich is 53. Actor Michael Clarke Duncan is 52. Jazz musician Paul Hardcastle is 52. Actor-director Kenneth Branagh is 49. Actress Nia Peeples is 48. TV chef Bobby Flay is 45. Rock singer-musician J Mascis is 44. Country singer Kevin Sharp is 39. Rock musician Scot Alexander (Dishwalla) is 38. Actress-comedian Arden Myrin is 36. Rock musician Meg White (The White Stripes) is 35. Violinist Sarah Chang is 29. Actress Raven-Symone is 24.

Thought for Today: "Originality and a feeling of one's own dignity are achieved only through work and struggle." — Feodor Dostoyevsky, Russian author (1821-1881).

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Answer to previous puzzle

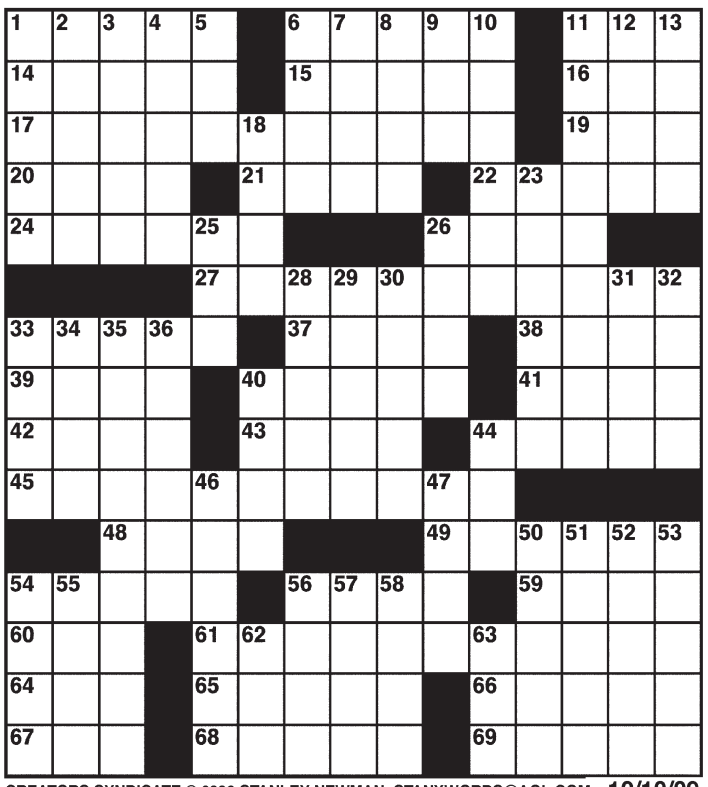
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Newsday Crossword

USE THE CLUES by Shirley Soloway
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Plane landing area
6 Son of Abraham
11 One of golf's "majors"
14 Stand up
15 Unusual article
16 Skiing spot
17 Work perfectly
19 Feel bad about
20 Sport sword
21 __ Major (constellation)
22 Elastic material
24 Sign of a sale
26 Accompanying
27 Cool off, perhaps
33 Piece of grass
37 Hunted one
38 Not fooled by
39 Elm City school
40 Split __ (quibble)
41 Complain
42 Austen novel
43 Old pros
44 Repels, with "off"
45 Complete negotiations
48 Phoenix suburb
49 Ones in charge
54 Predatory one
56 Risky business
59 Vocal
60 Raconteur asset
61 Surpass all, undesirably
64 One way to vote
65 Top with arms
66 Founded
67 Keep out
68 Letter on some keys
69 Shine upon

DOWN
1 Less risky
2 Hogwash
3 Steamed up
4 Tiny spot of land
5 Favorite
6 Bakery aide
7 Undersea travelers
8 Oratorio selection
9 Feel off
10 Herding dog
11 Athens attraction
12 Sticky stuff
13 High point
18 Enormous
23 Not away
25 *Simpsons* grandpa
26 Motives
28 Quite quickly
29 Checked out
30 Of few words
31 Just slightly
32 A host (of)
33 Tourney passes
34 Hard to believe
35 One's old school
36 Casino staffer
40 Some laughs
44 Winter bug
46 Chider's sounds
47 Champs-Élysées landmark
50 From around here
51 Wipe clean
52 Autumn implements
53 Motorless vehicles
54 Deck cleaner
55 Informal greeting
56 Do without
57 Criminal, to cops
58 Sundance's girlfriend
62 "Now I've got you !"
63 Recede



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2009 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/10/09

Rangers trade Millwood, add Harden at winter meeting

INDIANAPOLIS(AP)—Pitchers were on the move at the winter meetings, with Milwaukee landing Randy Wolf and LaTroy Hawkins, and Baltimore acquiring Kevin Millwood in a trade with Texas.

As the Rangers dealt Millwood, they added Rich Harden. The Yankees re-signed postseason star Andy Pettitte as they completed the three-team, seven-player swap that brought them All-Star center fielder Curtis Granderson. And Houston reeled in hard-throwing reliever Matt Lindstrom from the Florida Marlins on Wednesday.

Going into the final morning of the annual four-day annual session, the Boston Red Sox were discussing whether to trade 2007 World Series MVP Mike Lowell to Texas, and Atlanta and Tampa Bay neared a trade that would send reliever Rafael Soriano to the Rays, most likely with a new contract as part of the deal.

As always, money overshadowed everything, with some teams prepared to pay for top talent and others set to slice payroll.

"We are making some adjustments and it's a business decision," Detroit Tigers general manager Dave Dombrowski said after dealing Granderson to the Yankees and All-Star pitcher Edwin Jackson to the Diamondbacks.

Detroit obtained lefty reliever Phil Coke and outfield prospect Austin Jackson from the Yankees, plus touted young pitchers Max Scherzer and Daniel Schlereth from Arizona. The Diamondbacks also got right-hander Ian Kennedy from New York.

Baltimore will receive $3 million from Texas along with Millwood, while the cash-strapped Rangers get a player to be named. The money offsets part of the former All-Star's $12 million salary.

"Our job is to identify motivated buyers and motivated sellers," said Andy MacPhail, Orioles president of baseball operations.

Millwood, who lives in Texas, heads to a team coming off its 12th straight losing season. He was 13-10 with a 3.67 ERA and three complete games this year.

Relief pitcher Chris Ray and a player to be named head to the Rangers, a club in the process of being sold. Ray, 28 next month, was 0-4 with a 7.27 ERA in 46 games and has struggled since elbow surgery two years ago.

Texas also reached a preliminary agreement at $7.5 million, subject to a physical, with the hard-throwing Harden, who struck out 171 batters in 141 innings last season. Harden, who turned 28 last month, is 50-29 with a 3.39 ERA in seven big league seasons.but has been slowed by seven trips to the disabled list.

Milwaukee, trying to rebound from an 80-82 record and third-place finish in the NL Central, agreed to a $29.75 million, three-year contract with Wolf and a $7.5 million, two-year deal with Hawkins. Both agreements are subject to completion of final details, two people familiar with the talks said, speaking on condition of anonymity because no announcements had been made.

Wolf, a 33-year-old left-hander, was 11-7 with a 3.23 ERA this year in the lone season of his second stint with the Los Angeles Dodgers. Hawkins, a right-hander who turns 37 on Dec. 21, went 1-4 with a 2.13 ERA and 11 saves for Houston.

Pettitte got an $11.75 million, one-year contract, up from a $5.5 million base with $5 million in earned bonuses last season. The 37-year-old left-hander was 14-8 with a 4.16 ERA in 32 regular-season starts and 4-0 with a 3.52 ERA in five postseason starts. He became the first pitcher to start and win the clincher in all three postseason rounds.

"How could you finish any better?" said Pettitte, who contemplated retirement before deciding: "Let's do it another year."



AP File Photo/Chris Carlson

The Rangers traded Kevin Millwood, above, but they signed pitcher Rich Harden to a $7.5 million deal, the AP reports.

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BEARKATS

Continued from Page 7

Jones said the group makes up for it with its quickness.

"We've done a lot of work in the offseason and in the preseason of getting our quickness better and teaching them good blocking technique, and that's the key," he said.

And Blayne Batla, the sophomore quarterback who made his first start in August against Throckmorton, now has game experience under his belt, and it's showed in the Bearkats' efficient passing game.

Last week, Batla was 7 of 10 for 171 yards and a touchdown.

"Right now, I'm not worried about him at all," Jones said of the sophomore. "He's handled the pressure the last few weeks really well, and I think he's going to be fine."

LT

Continued from Page 7

face AFC North leader Cincinnati.

Tomlinson is looking forward to checking out the new $1.2 billion Cowboys Stadium.

"I've heard so much about the stadium," Tomlinson said. "I've got friends who have season tickets. They say it's great, and I just can't wait. This is the next thing, this stadium. This is as big as it gets. I'm going to look around, hopefully be able to take a tour. I would like to see where Jerry Jones sits, and, you know, check it out."

Tomlinson reached two more milestones in Sunday's 30-23 win at Cleveland. He moved past Hall of Famer Jim Brown and into eighth place overall on the career rushing list with 12,321 yards. He also reached 150 touchdowns faster than any player in league history, hitting the milestone in his 137th game. Smith needed 160 games to reach 150 and Jerry Rice didn't score his 150th until his 167th.

NOTES: Coach Norv Turner said he's optimistic that OLB Shawne Merriman (foot) and DE Luis Castillo (calf) will return from sitting out the Browns game with injuries, but won't know for sure until later this week. He said S Eric Weddle (knee) is a longer shot to return.

KENTUCKY

Continued from Page 7

career at Kentucky was Adolph Rupp, who started 10-0 in 1931.

What Calipari was worried about after the game was how he is going to react to a season with a young team that plays great in some stretches and is downright quizzical in others.

"I'm going to look like Dick Vitale when this season's over or I'll be as gray as Bobby Cremins," Calipari said. "We rode John Wall at the end of the game."

Jerome Dyson had 17 points for the Huskies (6-2), who finished 14 of 24 from the free throw line, including 2 of 4 in the final 3 minutes.

"They made big plays down the stretch," Calhoun said. "If we made some foul shots. We did play 40 minutes of tough basketball."

After a first half of runs and big swings, neither team had a lead of more than five points over the final 7 minutes.

Wall, the key player as Calipari tries to lead Kentucky back after two disappointing seasons under Billy Gillispie, scored almost every way possible in his game-closing spurt.

His three-point play on a breakaway dunk gave the Wildcats a 54-47 lead with 7:16 left. Stanley Robinson, Connecticut's skywalking forward, finally became a factor for the Huskies, scoring six straight points. When Gavin Edwards scored on a break dunk with 4:24 to play, Connecticut was within 56-55 with 4:24 to go.

Walker, who had 12 points and six assists, gave the Huskies their final lead of the game on a jumper with 1:12 left.

Wall, who was slowed a bit when Calhoun switched the 6-9 Robinson on him for five possessions, put Kentucky ahead for good on a three-point play when he was fouled hard as he drove to the basket — making it 63-61 with 30 seconds left.

Connecticut called two timeouts then went for the tie as Walker drove and there was a tip by the Huskies as well. But Walker was forced to foul on the rebound, and Ramon Harris made one of two free throws with 13 seconds left.

Edwards missed a forced 3-point attempt, and Walker couldn't get a shot off from the corner in time after corralling the rebound.

Patterson had 16 points for Kentucky, and DeMarcus Cousins added 10 points and 10 rebounds.

There were two totally different halves played in front of the crowd of 15,874, which seemed split down the middle.

Kentucky opened the game with a 12-0 run, and the Huskies scored the next 10 points as part of a run that gave them a 26-18 lead on a drive by Walker with 6:30 left. Connecticut led 29-23 at halftime.

"We drank the poison in the first half and listened to all the hype about John Wall and our players," Calipari said. "We go up 12-0 and they're acting like we won the national championship, and then Connecticut makes a run as all well-coached teams do, and it's on."

BROWN

Continued from Page 7

standing job, and in the time he's been here, he has generated millions of dollars in new revenue."

According to university officials, football revenues have quadrupled under Brown, from $21.3 million in 1997 to $87.5 million in 2008. That figure is expected to grow again this year. Texas sold a school-record 84,000 season tickets this year.

Brown's salary is paid entirely with money raised by the athletic department revenues, school officials said. No state tax money is used.

With the increase, Brown becomes the highest paid coach in college football. USC's Pete Carroll is second.

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