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BIG SPRING HERALD

MONDAY

NOVEMBER 29, 2010

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

With Thanksgiving over, many homes and businesses are now sporting Christmas trees. Here, the finishing touches are placed on Western State Bank's tree.

Beware the thief, PD says

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

While residents get ready to shop till they drop to fill their Christmas wish lists, local law enforcement officials say criminals will be making their own lists this holiday season, and shoppers will be the prime targets.


Everett

Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department, said thieves will be out and about this holiday season, just waiting to fill their stockings with ill-gotten gains.

"That's what they look for," said Everett. "You're going around and looking for Christmas presents, and they are walking around looking for things to steal. That's how they have Christmas. Whether it's your presents or your money, you can kind of look at it as if the thieves are out there shopping. That's what they do for a living. They steal."

While these naughty-listed criminals may seem impossible to stop, Everett said there are some things that can be done to keep you and your vehicle from being a target.

"Don't put your packages and presents in the back seat of your car without covering them up," he said. "The best way to

See **THIEVES**, Page 3

The jury summoned for Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 Place 2 Kathryn Wiseman's court for Wednesday at 9:45 a.m. has been cancelled. Those receiving a summons need not appear.

INDEX

Comics	10
Classified	7-9
Police	2
Obituaries	2
Opinion	4
Sports	5-6

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www.bigspringherald.com

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Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. Sunday.

Angel Tree donations encouraged for a brighter Crossroads Christmas

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

As Crossroads residents begin their holiday shopping, officials with the local Salvation Army are hoping they will help those in need through the annual Angel Tree program.

Applications for the program — which provides Christmas gifts for children of low-income families and area senior citizens in need of a helping hand — were handled in mid-October, and according to Paula Lafler, a social worker with the local charity, the need for donations is definitely there.

"During the Angel Tree program application period, we approved 138 families this year," she said. "That's a total of 367 children and 88 seniors. It's not as many as last year, but it's certainly an immense number of children and seniors in need this holiday season."

Last year, the Angel Tree program provided presents for 544 participants. According to Ada Lafler, Angel Tree coordinator for the local Salvation Army, the Angel Trees went up mid-November.

"We've set up Angel Trees at the Wal-Mart Supercenter, Bealls department store, the *Big Spring Herald* and the mall," said Ada Lafler. "We also have trees at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, the Heritage Museum and the Howard County Library."

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 Ada 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,

See **ANGELS**, Page 3



Nov. 29
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Doctor of Audiology

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 9 a.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. today:

• JOSEPH GUTIERREZ, 20, of 1519 E. 17th St., was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.

• MAXY L. ALLEN, 32, of New Mexico, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.

• ZACHERY R. MCDONALD, 25, of New Mexico, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.

• ANGEL CIRILO MARTINEZ III, 19, of 1706 State, was arrested Sunday on a charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor.

• ROBERTO VASQUEZ II, 19, of 1425 E. Sixth St. Apt. 134, was arrested Sunday on charges of unlawfully carrying a weapon and driving while license suspended/invalid – no insurance.

• ERNEST ENRIQUE SILVAS, 26, of 1408 Sycamore, was arrested Sunday on a warrant for possession of drug paraphernalia.

• ELIZABETH HOPE LAREZ, 34, of 1111 N. Goliad, was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid – no insurance.

• JENNIFER DELEON, 22, of 105 N.E. 10th St., was arrested Sunday on warrants for no safety belt (two counts) and failure to appear (two counts).

• YOLANDA SANCHEZ LOPEZ, 55, of 802 E. 14th St., was arrested Sunday on a charge of hindering officers discharging official duties.

• JEFFERY EDWARD MOWRER, 18, of 1517 Kentucky Way, was arrested Sunday on a warrant from another agency.

• JOHN CARROLL RUTHERFORD, 24, of 710 Douglas, was arrested Sunday on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

• BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 1300 block of Sycamore.

• THEFT was reported:
In the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.

• BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported:
In the 1100 block of Mulberry.
In the 600 block of Steakley.
In the 1200 block of Young.

• ASSAULT was reported:
In the 600 block of Caylor.
In the 200 block of W. 15th Street.

• BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 300 block of Young.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 75 inmates at the time of this report.

• JOSE LUIS RIVERA, 23, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of tampering with identification numbers on personal property.

• ROBERT RUBIN SANCHEZ, 46, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• CHAD DANIEL DEAX, 37, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated – second offense.

• PAUL EUGENE MERRELL, 57, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• ANGELICA MONTOYA, 40, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.

• JEREMY HERNANDEZ, 22, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction and a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

• RUBEN CASTANEDA LOPEZ, 26, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on charges of failure to maintain financial responsibility, unrestrained child less than five years of age, failure to change address and failure to appear (three counts).

• TONY CASTELLANO, 37, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• HAYLEY ANN WIGINGTON, 22, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated – open container.

• ANDRES LOZANO LOZANO, 60, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• FRANCISCO JAVIER GONZALEZ, 48, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• ROXANA PAYAN, 21, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of assault – family violence.

• JUSTIN CHARLES MELTON, 21, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for failure to control speed, failure to display driver's license and violation of a promise to appear.

• HERIBERTO HERNANDEZ, 35, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a Tarrant County warrant for contempt of court – disobedience of a court order.

• KEVIN GLENN CATE, 38, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for speeding, violation of a promise to appear (three counts), failure to maintain financial responsibility and driving while license invalid.

• TONY CASTELLANO, 37, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of sex offender duty to register life/annually.

• FRANCIS DELBOSQUEZ, 49, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.

• LAUREN KATHERINE DORN, 21, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of cruelty to non-livestock animals – failure to provide.

• BILLY JOE MITCHELL, 72, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

• JOANN LOPEZ, 43, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of failure to identify as a fugitive from justice – giving false information, failure to appear and no driver's license.

• TIMOTHY EDWARD ARREDONDO, 18, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of no driver's license, failure to maintain financial responsibility and wrong/altered/obscured license plate.

• JOPSEPH ANTHONY GUTIERREZ, 20, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• HERMAN TORRES HERNANDEZ, 25, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a Tom Green County warrant for driving while intoxicated – second offense and a charge of driving while intoxicated – second offense.

• ZACHERY MCDONALD, 25, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• MAXY L. ALLEN, 32, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• ANGEL CIRILO MARTINEZ III, 19, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of minor in consumption of alcohol.

• ERNEST ENRIQUE SILVAS, 26, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

• JENNIFER DELEON, 22, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on charges of passenger not wearing seat belt(two counts) and violation of a promise to appear (two counts).

• ROBERTO VASQUEZ II, 19, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on charges of unlawfully carrying a weapon and driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

• ELIZABETH LAREZ, 34, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

• JOHN CARL RUTHERFORD, 24, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

• YOLANDA SANCHEZ LOPEZ, 55, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of hindering officers discharging official duties.

• JEFFERY EDWARD MOWRER, 18, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of burglary of a building.

Obituaries

Mary 'Gener' Clanton

Mary "Gener" Clanton, 87, of Big Spring died Saturday, Nov. 27, 2010, at the Sterling County Nursing Home. Graveside services will be held at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday at Trinity Memorial Park with Chaplain Cherise Felty of Home Hospice officiating. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.



She was born July 30, 1923, in Knott to Mattie and Jimmie Jones. She was a homemaker and in the later years sat with the elderly. She was a lifetime resident of Howard County and a Baptist.

She is survived by one daughter, Beverly Johnson of Big Spring; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by one son, Allan Ely Clanton; one daughter, Mary Elizabeth Clanton; and one son-in-law, Robert Johnson.

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

Nancy Feaster

Nancy Feaster, 61, of Big Spring died Nov. 29, 2010, in Lubbock. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Juan 'Johnny' Arispe

Juan "Johnny" Arispe, 65, of Big Spring died Saturday, Nov. 27, 2010, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Earl Griffin

Earl Griffin, 68, of Big Spring died Sunday, Nov. 28, 2010, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Mary 'LuLu' Williams

Mary "LuLu" Williams, 58, of Big Spring died Saturday, Nov. 27, 2010, at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

James Ray

James Ray, 75, of Big Spring died Sunday, Nov. 28, 2010, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

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217308

News briefs

U.S. scrambles to contain diplomatic damage from leaked State Department cables

WASHINGTON (AP) — The release of more than 250,000 classified State Department documents forced the Obama administration into damage control, trying to contain fallout from unflattering assessments of world leaders and revelations about backstage U.S. diplomacy.

The publication of the secret cables on Sunday amplified widespread global alarm about Iran's nuclear ambitions and unveiled occasional U.S. pressure tactics aimed at hot spots in Afghanistan, Pakistan and North Korea. The leaks also disclosed bluntly candid impressions from both diplomats and other world leaders about America's allies and foes.

In the wake of the massive document dump by online whistleblower WikiLeaks and numerous media reports detailing their contents, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton was expected to address the diplomatic repercussions on Monday. Clinton could deal with the impact first hand after she leaves Washington on a four-nation tour of Central Asia and the Middle East — a region that figures prominently in the leaked documents.

The cables unearthed new revelations about long-simmering nuclear trouble spots, detailing U.S., Israeli and Arab world fears of Iran's growing nuclear program, American concerns about Pakistan's atomic arsenal and U.S. discussions about a united Korean peninsula as a long-term solution to North Korean aggression.

None of the disclosures appeared particularly explosive, but their publication could become problems for the officials concerned and for any secret initiatives they had preferred to keep quiet. The massive release of material intended for diplomatic eyes only is sure to ruffle feathers in foreign capitals, a certainty that already prompted U.S. diplomats to scramble in recent days to shore up relations with key allies in advance of the leaks.

SKorean leader talks tough on NKorea; military plans new artillery drills from tense island

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's president took responsibility Monday for failing to protect his citizens from a deadly North Korean artillery attack last week, expressing outrage at the North and vowing tough consequences for any future aggression.

Hours after Lee Myung-bak's nationally televised speech, South Korea's military announced it would conduct new drills — including live-fire exercises — on Yeonpyeong Island on Tuesday morning, and issued a warning over loudspeakers for residents to take shelter in underground bunkers by 9:30 a.m.

Artillery rounds will be fired into the waters southwest of Yeonpyeong Island, not toward North Korea, an official at the Joint Chiefs of Staff said Monday. He spoke on condition of anonymity, citing department policy.

Similar live drills by South Korean troops one week earlier triggered the deadly bombardment of artillery by North Korea that decimated parts of Yeonpyeong Island, which lies just 7 miles (11 kilometers) from North Korean shores. Two marines and two civilian construction workers were killed, and 18 others injured.

Bin Laden's top deputy escaped several near misses on combination of luck, guile

WASHINGTON (AP) — The CIA has come closer to capturing or killing Osama bin Laden's top deputy than was previously known, during a nine-year hunt at the root of a devastating 2009 suicide bombing at an agency base in Afghanistan, The Associated Press has learned.

The CIA missed a chance to nab Ayman al-Zawahiri in 2003 in the northwest Pakistani city of Peshawar, where he met with another senior al-Qaida leader who was apprehended the next day, several current and former U.S. intelligence officials said.

The fugitive Egyptian doctor may also have narrowly survived a bombing by Pakistani military planes in 2004, the former and current officials said. And a well-publicized U.S. missile strike aimed at him in 2006 failed because he did not turn up at the attack site, they said.

Targeting al-Zawahiri — along with bin Laden — is a main goal of U.S. counterterror efforts, focused on a man who has retained control of al-Qaida's operations and strategic planning even as he has led an underground existence in Pakistan's rugged tribal border zone.

But unlike bin Laden, a cipher since the Sept. 11 attacks who has surfaced only in occasional taped statements, al-Zawahiri has kept a higher public profile, taking risks that expose him more.

He is known to travel cautiously and regularly issues audio and video harangues that are scrutinized closely for clues, said the current and former officials, who insisted on anonymity to discuss the classified hunt for the al-Qaida leader.

Leslie Nielsen dies at 84

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Despite decades spent playing sober commanders and serious captains, Leslie Nielsen insisted that he was always made for comedy. He proved it in his career's second act.

"Surely you can't be serious," an airline passenger says to Nielsen in "Airplane!" the 1980 hit that turned the actor from dramatic leading man to comic star.

"I am serious," Nielsen replies. "And don't call me Shirley."

The line was probably his most famous — and a perfect distillation of his career.

Nielsen, the dramatic lead in "Forbidden Planet" and "The Poseidon Adventure" and the bumbling detective Frank Drebin in "The Naked Gun" comedies, died on Sunday in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He was 84.

The Canada native died from complications from pneumonia at a hospital near his home, surrounded by his wife, Barbaree, and friends, his agent John S. Kelly said in a statement.

THIEVES

Continued from Page 1

discourage criminals is to keep them out of sight and out of mind by putting them in the trunk. If you have to put them in the seat though, be sure to cover them up or obscure them in some way.

"If you put them in the trunk, it makes it a real pain for the thieves to get to them, and they don't necessarily want to be out there working on your lock in a situation where they can be seen. From time to time we try to patrol the parking lots of the mall and some of the stores looking for that sort of thing."

Most importantly, Everett said, be alert.

"Be aware of what's going on around you," he stressed. "If you'll sit up at the front doors of Wal-Mart or the mall, you'll see people walking up and down the parking lots just looking in cars. After a minute or two you can tell they're not looking for their car or headed for their car. What they're doing is scoping out the inside of your vehicle to see if you have any packages or purses or anything lying loose.

"We also suggest people keep their doors locked whenever they go inside a store and make sure you take your keys with you. If someone gets into your car to steal a radio or wallet and they find the keys, you're probably going to lose your car. We generally recover the cars that get stolen around here, but a lot of time they're not in any kind of condition to be driven."

Everett said it may seem downright unholiday-like to be so suspicious this Christmas, but it's much safer to err on the side of suspicion than to be caught unaware.

"A lot of people will walk outside and in between cars and really not be aware of what's going on around them," said Everett. "You need to pay attention to whether or not people are there or they seem to be watching you. I would rather have someone be suspicious of me if I'm standing out in the parking lot than to not even notice me.

"Also for the ladies with purses, we suggest that they don't just hold them by the strap and just leave them hanging. That makes them really easy to take. If they have straps on them we suggest you keep them over your shoulder so you can keep one arm over them and keep them secure. Also be sure that you don't leave money that's in your purse visible."

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

ANGELS

Continued from Page 1

so we can make sure it goes to the correct child."

Christmas gifts aren't the only items on the local Salvation Army's holiday wish list this year, as cold weather has made the need for warm coats and jackets a top priority, as well.

"Most of us don't think anything of it. We simply reach in the coat closet and grab a coat or a jacket," Paula Lafler said. "However, for some people, the only clothes they have are the ones on their back. For others, they may have short sleeve shirts but nothing to keep them warm as the temperatures drop. The idea of people struggling to stay warm isn't a pleasant one, but it's very real, and we see it every fall and winter."

A charity has a box set up at Wells Fargo Bank for area residents to drop off coats and jackets for the annual effort.

"This is a chance for people to clean out their coat closets while helping others," she said. "As quick as most children grow, I'm sure there are a lot of families out there that have several coats their children can't wear anymore.

"This not only gives the parents a chance to do something good for the community, it also gives them a chance to set a good example for their children. Volunteering and making donations is something our kids learn from watching the adults around them."

Paula Lafler said coats and jackets can be dropped off at the Wells Fargo location or at the Salvation Army office, located at 811 W Fifth St.

For more information on the coat drive or the Angel Tree effort, call 267-8239.

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

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Juan "Johnny" Arispe, 65, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Mary "LuLu" Williams, 58, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Mary "Gener" Clanton, 87, died Saturday. Graveside services will be at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday at Trinity Memorial. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Earl Griffin, 68, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Nancy Feaster, 61, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Sunset report wants change for RR Comm.

By Alex Mills

Barack Obama won an election by promising change. However, the changes he has proposed since taking office have thrown the nation into turmoil.

In Texas, the Sunset Advisory Commission has issued its 79-page staff report on the Texas Railroad Commission (RRC), one of the oldest and most influential regulatory agencies of the state, and they have suggested many changes that will impact the future of Texas.

The report suggests taking away the election of the three commissioners from the voters and replacing them with a part-time, appointed board of five administrators. This agency governs the oil and gas industry in the largest producing state in the nation. The industry generates hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in tax revenues for state and local governments. The people of the state of Texas should have a say in who runs this organization that has such a dramatic impact on the economy and the daily lives of all Texans.

The Sunset Review staff also wants the people who are regulated by the RRC to pay for its operation. Currently, the Texas Legislature approves the RRC budget that is paid for from the general funds of the state, which is the appropriate method of funding its regulatory agencies.

What the report did not say is that every time the industry applies for a permit, it is creating wealth for the state through the drilling of a well, the production of hydrocarbons, jobs of Texans, and on and on. Adding a new fee or increasing an old one is not what most economists would recommend to encourage more drilling and production. It would be just the opposite.

The oil and gas industry is not like any other business. It has severe peaks and valleys.

In the summer of 2008, crude oil peaked at $130-plus per barrel and natural gas sold of $13 per million British thermal unit. By January 2009, prices collapsed and oil sold for $30 per barrel and natural gas was down to $3. All of this fluctuation in price has a dramatic impact on activities at the RRC such as permits for drilling, injection wells and the many other permits issued by the RRC. If funding of the RRC is dependent upon fees from permits, the commission will have a difficult — if not almost impossible — problem of properly allocating funds and staff during times of peaks and valleys.

In 2009, the oil and gas industry paid more than $3 billion in oil and gas production taxes to the state of Texas general fund.

The Sunset Review report states that the industry should pay more — another $23 million in fees, etc. — to make up for the shortfall that has to come from general revenue. The $23 million is not even 1 percent (0.7 percent) of the $3 billion paid in production taxes alone to the general fund. This doesn't include funds from Marginal taxes, sales taxes, property taxes and others.

Additionally, the industry already pays $27.5 million in fees, fines and other miscellaneous revenues or 52 percent of the 2011 budget.

The industry also started in 1984 a self-imposed tax to pay for the plugging of orphaned wells.

The Oil Field Cleanup Fund has spent more than $300 million to plug wells and clean up cites.

In fiscal year 2011, the RRC has budgeted $27 million to be collected from industry in support of this environmental cleanup program.

The report also recommends abolishing the Oil Field Cleanup Fund Advisory Committee, which has statutory requirements to monitor and oversee the spending of the funds.

Overall, the changes recommended will increase the cost of government, and make it less effective. Like the Obama changes, the devil is in the details.

Alex Mills is President of the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers. The opinions expressed are solely of the author.

Congress must cut spending

Republicans in the House and Senate recently took an historic step and voted to support a moratorium on Congressional earmarks. I supported this effort because it will give Congress the opportunity to make our nation's budget process more transparent and accountable, and it will allow us to focus on cutting spending.



KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

As the elected representative of the people of Texas in the United States Senate, in addition to serving our national interests, I have been charged with protecting our state and keeping Texas taxpayers on an even playing field with others. And, in the process of fulfilling that duty, I have fought hard to bring federal resources to projects that have been prioritized by communities in Texas and where there is a national service.

At Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, I was able to direct spending to build up infrastructure so it could attract a new mission; that made it attractive when the Army decided to move its headquarters for Army South Command. Both Fort Hood and Fort Bliss were once in danger of being diminished or closed, but now, thanks in no small part to our ability to direct federal resources, they are two of the largest and most important training installations in America. Administration decisions to shutter these bases with their unusually large land space for training would have been very detrimental to the requirements we need today but were unanticipated at the time. Congressionally-directed support to significantly deepen and widen the Houston Ship Channel is ensuring the Port of Houston remains competitive with ports around the world. Through Congressional designations, I have been able to help Houston Metro and DART get robust mass transit systems up and running, allowing our metropolitan centers to operate on par with other major cities across the nation that have received federal support. There are scores of other initiatives that have been equally important to communities across Texas, and I believe that by supporting them, I have done the right thing for our state, its citizens, and our servicemen and women — and helped create jobs for Texans that contribute to the economic prosperity of America. Without our Congressional delegation prioritizing Texas, much of this would not have been achieved.

But, the fact is that overall government spending is out of control and our focus must be to cut spending across the board.

On Nov. 2, American voters sounded a clarion call against President Obama's big government agenda — particularly the massive health care reform bill, the stimulus, his agencies' over-regulation, and his continual push for more deficit spending. Voters are demanding that Congress get the nation's financial house in order, and Republicans are willing to take steps large and small to achieve results.

However, our reform efforts in Congress will be inconsequential if we aren't also stringently overseeing executive branch earmarks. If Congress does not direct any spending, the president will have total discretion over all federal programs. The president will set all the priorities for spending our taxpayer dollars.

In just two years, the Obama Administration has proven to be a poor and partisan steward of funding. The $800 billion so called "stimulus" — allocated solely at the discretion of the Obama Administration — is teeming with examples of waste and abuse. Some standout projects include $3.4 Million to the Florida Department of Transportation to build an "Eco-Passage" to allow turtles to safely cross under a roadway; $450,000 for 22 concrete toilets in the Mark Twain National Forest; $325,000 to study the mating decisions of female cactus bugs; $300,000 to buy a helicopter equipped to detect radioactive rabbit droppings; and $500,000 to study the impact of global warming on wildflowers in Colorado. Further, it has been reported that, on average, Democratic Congressional districts received 81 percent more stimulus funds than Republican districts.

Unelected bureaucrats and political appointees in Washington are not accountable to the people. They should not be empowered to arbitrarily distribute taxpayer dollars with little or no intimate knowledge of a state, district, or community's need — or worse, guided by a political agenda that will serve some and neglect others. States like Texas could be severely impacted if the Obama Administration has complete control over agency budgets.

Thus, it is critical that we eliminate the waste and abuse of earmarks both in Congress and the executive branch, and Republicans are trying to start the process of reform that is essential to address the crushing national debt.

The best way is to set spending caps at 2008 levels. At a recent meeting of Senate Republicans, I offered a resolution that was unanimously adopted to make it our policy to return all unspent stimulus funds. I will be working on this and other proposals to restore fiscal sanity in Congress.

Kay Bailey Hutchison is the senior U.S. Senator from Texas and is the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

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Please, let's do the right thing

At this time of thanksgiving, we are reminded how people came together, shared resources, shared opinions and worked together to form and protect our nation.



LT. GEN. DIRK JAMESON

During my long career in the U.S. Air Force, I was at the very sharp end of the spear that defended our nation, rising to deputy commander-in-chief and chief of staff of U.S. Strategic Command.

During that time, going back to the Reagan years and before, the U.S. methodically and relentlessly carved out a process for understanding and reducing strategic nuclear arms — in order increase our national security.

Many have forgotten or did not live through those times during the Cold War when the numbers of nuclear weapons and delivery platforms were escalating at a tremendous rate and costs were ratcheting up at an ever-increasing pace.

It was courageous of political leaders in those perilous times to begin talking to our heavily-armed enemy, the Soviet Union, to find paths to lower numbers of nuclear weapons, lower cost burdens and greater security for our country and the world.

Since those efforts took root, real progress has been made, the numbers of very deadly weapons are dramatically lower, costs have dropped and our security vis-à-vis the former Soviet states is far stronger.

Today we have a good treaty ready to take force and continue the progress on numbers, costs and national security.

The New START Treaty that is presently before the Senate contains verification and transparency measures — that will allow our inspectors inside Russian strategic nuclear facilities, as well as create stability between our forces.

Without New START, we will reintroduce uncertainty into the U.S.-Russia strategic relationship. Over the length of the Cold War, we learned that uncertainty breeds mistrust, costly worst-case planning and risk.

New START reduces uncertainty by locking in the size of each side's arsenal and providing for onsite verification. The resulting improved strategic stability that will come with New START will make it possible for both sides to pursue agreements on tactical nuclear weapons and proliferation.

Without ratification, we will be left with the requirement to spend our limited resources and money on weapons we don't need to counter a force structure that could be verifiably reduced under the treaty.

Without New START our national security institutions will need to devote more resources to monitoring Russian strategic forces, by satellite and other means; we will also have to force- plan for scenarios we should not need to. This will involve spending money where we don't need, and worse, it could mean taking away money from programs and systems that our war-fighters actually do need.

What stands in the way? An ever more vague, disingenuous and ill-advised raising of the bar for political support.

The very same questions that have been asked and answered about missile defense, verification and stewardship of the nuclear enterprise are brought up again and again in the face of iron clad analysis and billions of added dollars.

These "red herrings" are presented wrapped in ever more demanding commitments from future legislators that no arms control treaty past or future could meet.

As this treaty is pushed off with no deadline and no path to prevent an already developing cooling of U.S., Russia relationships, Cold War nuclear realities echo in my head saying to Senators, "Do the right thing!"

Lt. Gen. Jameson (ret.) is a former deputy commander and chief and chief of staff, U.S. Strategic Command who had responsibility for all ICBM strategic nuclear forces. He is a member of the Consensus for American Security.

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Playoffs 2010

Still going



HERALD Photo/Tony Claxton

Garden City quarterback Blayne Batla throws a pass during the Bearkats' 80-46 win over Ira in the six-man football UIL state playoff quarterfinlas matchup Saturday at Memorial Stadium. He threw five touchdown passes against the Bulldogs.

Second-quarter surge leads Garden City past Ira

BY ADAM COLEMAN
Sports Editor

The Garden City Bearkats aren't ones to waste opportunities or time.

So just because there were less than two minutes left in the second quarter, didn't mean they should roll into halftime with a small lead over Ira.

Garden City had different plans en route to its 80-46 win over the Bulldogs in the six-man football state quarterfinal matchup at Memorial Stadium in Big Spring.

"I think we scored two touchdowns within a minute and 30 seconds just before the half," Garden City head coach Vance Jones said. "That was really huge."

In fact, it was three touchdowns in the last 1:03 of the second quarter. While Ira was mired with fumbles and unable to get the ball moving on one drive, the Bearkats saw an opportunity to bust the game wide open, which they did.

The Bulldogs were down 22-16 late in the second, but two fumbles led to a loss of four and nine yards on first and second down, respectively. The 16-yard gain from Lance Morris on the next play wasn't enough to erase the mistakes.

That led to GCHS quarterback Blayne Batla completing a 27-yard touchdown pass to Brett Chudej, giving the Bearkats a two score lead.

Garden City piled it on when Josh Colunga scored on a 12-yard touchdown run with 1:03 left in the second. Ira's star tailback Lance Morris answered with 45-yard touchdown run to cut the lead to 36-24.

However, as quick as it took Morris to score, it was even quicker for Garden City. Batla connected with Colunga for a 34-yard score with 25 seconds left in the second. Garden City recovered an onside kick and with 15 seconds left, Batla found Brian Hirt for 26 yards. Suddenly what was a close game before halftime was a 52-24 lead for the Bearkats.

One of the catalyst in the second-quarter surge, and was Batla, who was 9-of-16 for 202 yards and five touchdowns.

Batla said he knew the Bulldogs were prepared to stop Colunga, who still managed a healthy 201 yards on 23 carries for three touchdowns. That opened up the passing game.

"They stopped Josh on a lot of plays," Batla said. "I just ran around and saw Brett open and threw it to him and he made the rest of it."

Ira didn't go down easily after the second-quarter breakdown. Morris still gave the Bearkats fits,

See **BEARKATS**, Page 6

Johnson, Finnegan brawl in Texans' 20-0 win over Titans

HOUSTON (AP) — Andre Johnson politely asked Cortland Finnegan to stop it. By the fourth quarter, Houston's star receiver had simply had it with the Tennessee cornerback's antagonistic antics.

Their feisty duel exploded into a full-blown fistfight late in the Texans' 20-0 win over the Titans on Sunday. Both players were ejected, and the ugly incident could lead to further discipline from the NFL.

"He kept doing little things and I told him: 'Just because you're frustrated, you need to stop what you're doing,'" Johnson said. "I guess he thought it was funny."

The usually soft-spoken Johnson caught nine passes and a touchdown before walking off the field to a standing ovation.

"It's just a buildup of things over plays," Johnson said. "I just lost my cool."

Finnegan did not speak to reporters after the game.

"It's not good for the game, no," said Titans coach Jeff Fisher, co-chairman of the NFL's competition committee. "You don't want to see that stuff."

Arian Foster rushed for 143 yards and also caught nine passes for the Texans (5-6), who were on their way to their first shutout since 2004 when Johnson and Finnegan began slugging it out midway through the fourth quarter.

The two got into a milder shoving match on the previous play, with Johnson giving Finnegan a shot in the back before Finnegan took off his helmet and walked away.

Finnegan then set off the brawl by jabbing at Johnson's neck and face mask at the line of scrimmage. Johnson ripped off Finnegan's helmet and landed at least two punches to Finnegan's head and neck. The two

See **TEXANS**, Page 6

Boise State drops to No. 9 in AP poll

NEW YORK (AP) — Boise State said goodbye to its top-five ranking for the first time this season.

The Broncos dropped six spots to No. 9 in The Associated Press college football poll Sunday after having its 24-game winning streak snapped.

For the third straight week, No. 1 Oregon and Auburn held the top two spots in the rankings. No. 3 TCU moved up one spot.

The gap between the Ducks and Tigers shrank to 29 points. The Ducks received 36 first-place votes and 1,475 points, while Auburn got 23 and 1,456 from the media panel.

TCU also received a first-place vote.

Wisconsin was fourth, followed by Stanford, Ohio State, Michigan State and Arkansas. Oklahoma moved up four spots to No. 10 after beating Oklahoma State 47-41.

Boise State had been ranked no lower than fourth this season, but after an excruciating 34-31 overtime loss to Nevada, the Broncos tumbled out of the national championship race.

Boise State blew a 24-7 halftime lead, then had a chance to win in regulation before kicker Kyle Brotzman missed a 26-yard field goal with 2 seconds left. Brotzman missed a 29-yarder in overtime and Nevada won it with a field goal of its own.

The Wolf Pack moved up five places to No. 14. Nevada has only been ranked in one other season previously. The Wolf Pack reached No. 10 in 1948.

Moving into the rankings were No. 23 West Virginia — in for the third time this season — along with No. 24 Northern Illinois and No. 25 Hawaii.

The Huskies were last ranked in November 2003, and are the first Mid-American Conference team in the poll this season. Hawaii was last ranked in the final poll of the 2007 season.

The Warriors, Wolf Pack and Broncos give the Western Athletic Conference three ranked teams for the first time since the final poll of 1994. BYU, Colorado State and Utah finished that season ranked, and all are now members of the Mountain West.

sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Search Party

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A K 8 3
♥ A 10 5
♦ 7 5
♣ Q 8 6 3

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

EAST
♠ J 5 4
♥ Q 9 7 6 3 2
♦ Q 3
♣ 9 2

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

The bidding:

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

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Before deciding which way to take a two-way finesse, declarer should first explore every possible avenue of information. In many cases, clues are directly available from the bidding or play. At other times, declarer can force the opponents to reveal what he needs to know.

Take this case where South is in five clubs. West leads the K-A and another diamond, declarer ruffing the third diamond with dummy's queen as East discards a heart. South then draws trumps in two rounds.

The success of the contract depends on guessing the location of the queen of hearts. If West has it, it can be neutralized by leading a heart to the ten; if East has it, the finesse must be taken the other way.

Before committing himself, South should review what he already knows about the opposing hands. So far, he has discovered that West started with precisely six diamonds and two clubs. If he can find out how many spades West was dealt, he can go a long way toward solving his problem.

Accordingly, declarer next cashes the A-K of spades and ruffs a spade, noting that both opponents follow throughout. He then leads the seven of clubs to the eight and ruffs dummy's last spade with his last trump.

The information provided by these plays is highly illuminating. West has followed to all four spades, so his hand is an open book. He started with six diamonds, two clubs and four spades, so he can have only one heart.

South can now proceed with absolute confidence. A low heart is led to the ace, and a heart is returned. When East follows low, the jack is finessed. Declarer need not even look to see what happens. Unless West was dealt more than 13 cards, he will fail to follow suit, and the contract is home.

Tomorrow: The art of good salesmanship.

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BEARKATS

Continued from Page 5

racking up 20 carries for 230 yards and four scores. At one point, Morris had a 45-yard touchdown run and 51-yard touchdown run on the first play of two different drives.

"He's the fastest running back we've faced all year," Jones said. "We've faced some really good back in Paducah, Calvert and Borden County's got some speed. But he's probably the fastest and he's a straight ahead runner and if he gets a seam, he's gone."

But once again, Garden City didn't stop scoring in the second half. Batla had a touchdown pass and a rushing touchdown and Colunga had two scores to stave off any comeback attempt from Ira.

Follett is next up for Garden City in the state semifinals and it's a familiar opponent. The two teams faced each other last year in the playoffs, a contest Garden City won.

"I know they're out for revenge," said Chudej, who caught four ball for 84 yards and three touchdowns. "We're going to give them our best shot. I know they're coming for us."

GARDEN CITY 80, IRA 46

Garden City 14 38 8 20 - 80
Ira 16 8 8 14 - 46

First Quarter
IHS - Lance Morris 37 run (Seth Cotton kick), 8:16
GCHS - Aaron Long 25 pass from Josh Colunga (Brett Chudej kick), 6:54
GCHS - Brett Chudej 17 pass from Blayne Batla (kick failed), 3:15
IHS - Richard DeLuna 1 run (Cotton kick), 0:36

Second Quarter
GCHS - Colunga 25 run (Chudej kick), 9:02
GCHS - Chudej 27 pass from Batla (Chudej kick), 6:11
GCHS - Colunga 12 run (kick failed), 1:03
IHS - Morris 45 run (Cotton kick), 0:51
GCHS - Colunga 34 pass from Batla (Chudej kick), 0:25
GCHS - Brian Hirt 26 pass from Batla (Chudej kick), 0:15

Third Quarter
GCHS - Chudej 33 pass from Batla (Chudej kick), 6:16
IHS - DeLuna 45 run (Cotton kick), 5:54

Fourth Quarter
GCHS - Colunga 3 run (kick failed), 9:50
IHS - Morris 45 run (Cotton kick), 9:35
GCHS - Batla 6 run (kick failed), 7:10
IHS - Morris 51 run (kick failed), 6:51
GCHS - Colunga 14 run (Chudej kick), 4:15

	GC	IRA
First downs	19	7
Rushes-yards	34-276	24-272
Passing yards	227	27
Comp.-Att.Int.	10-17-0	2-7-1
Punts-Avg.	0-0	1-51.0
Fumbles-lost	1-0	5-0
Penalties-yds.	2-10	0-0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING - Garden City: Josh Colunga 23-201, Reggie Halfmann 2-15, Blayne Batla 3-22, Brian Hirt 3-20, Ruben Mier 3-15, Brett Chudej 1-3. Ira: Lance Morris 20-230, Richard DeLuna 2-46, Seth Cotton 2-(-4).
PASSING - Garden City: Blayne Batla 9-16-0-202, Colunga 1-2-0-25. Ira: Morris 1-4-0-8, Cotton 1-3-1-19.
RECEIVING - Garden City: Chudej 4-84, Colunga 2-52, Aaron Long 1-25, Ian Schaefer 1-24. Ira: Cotton 1-8, Steven Juarez 1-19.

Nebraska plans to finish job in B12 title game

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — No one from the Big 12 staff was on hand to present Nebraska the North Division trophy it won by beating Colorado, and that's all right with coach Bo Pelini.

For him, there's no satisfaction at the end of Nebraska's Big 12 Conference farewell tour unless commissioner Dan Beebe hands the league championship trophy to the Huskers next Saturday night in Arlington, Texas.

"We're only halfway there," Pelini said. "It was fun to win the Big 12 North, but we still have got some unfinished business. That wasn't our main goal, but it's a goal we had to reach. It's part of the process."

The 16th-ranked Cornhuskers' opponent won't be known for sure until Sunday night after Oklahoma (10-2, 6-2) beat Oklahoma State 47-41 to create a three-way tie for first in the South. The division will be decided based on who comes out ahead in the Bowl Championship Series standings between OU, OSU and Texas A&M. Oklahoma State was ninth this past week, with Oklahoma 13th and A&M 17th.

If Oklahoma advances, the Big 12's last championship game will be a sentimental one pitting old Big Eight rivals in the Sooners and Huskers.

Nebraska (10-2, 6-2) had national championship hopes to start the season, but the underlying theme for 2010 was to make it back to Cowboys Stadium and win the title that went to Texas last year, when it kicked the winning field goal after one second was put back on the clock.

"Oh, it means a lot. That's still in the back of our minds. I'm not going to lie," said running back Rex Burkhead, who ran for 101 yards and a touchdown and passed for two others in Friday's 45-17 win over Colorado.

The "destination Dallas" goal became more urgent over the summer when Nebraska announced it would join the Big Ten and that this would be its last year in the Big 12.

Nebraska's departure, along with Colorado's move to the Pac-12 next year, threatened the existence of the Big 12. In Nebraska's case, the divorce has been contentious, starting with the Huskers' challenge of the amount of money it should pay as an exit fee under Big 12 bylaws.

The Huskers haven't been happy about the officiating in several of their games this season, especially in last week's 9-6 loss at Texas A&M. The Huskers were penalized 16 times, including seven personal fouls, and the Aggies were flagged twice.

The disparity and nature of some of the calls left Pelini in a rage on the sideline and, according to Beebe, spawned a flood of nasty and threatening e-mails from fans to his office.

Imagine the scene if Beebe hands Pelini and Osborne the trophy if Nebraska wins the championship on its way out the door.

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TEXANS

Continued from Page 5

spun each other, and Finnegan tore off Johnson's helmet before players and referees intervened.

"I awarded it to Andre on points," Texans owner Bob McNair joked.

This was Round 2 between Johnson and Finnegan. Last season, Johnson was fined $7,500 for taking Finnegan to the ground by the face mask during a scuffle after a play in a 34-31 Texans win.

Johnson said this week: "That's the past, I'm over that. That's way behind me, I don't think about that." But Finnegan got under his skin again, and Johnson was apologetic after the game.

"I wish that I could take back what happened, but I can't," Johnson said. "I'm pretty sure I'll be disciplined for it."

Houston plays at Philadelphia on Thursday night.

The incident, meanwhile, came at the end of a tumultuous week for the Titans (5-6), who've lost four in a row.

Houston cornerback Glover Quin set a franchise record with three interceptions off Titans rookie quarterback Rusty Smith, who struggled in his first career start.

Smith replaced Houston native Vince Young, who argued with Fisher after he was taken out of last week's loss to Washington with a thumb injury.

Young was placed on injured reserve and apologized to Fisher via text message. Young did not join his team for Sunday's game.

Smith completed 17 of 31 passes for 138 yards and a 26.7 passer rating.

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651422

sudoku ANSWERS

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

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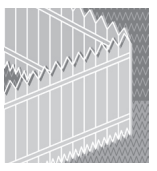
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Mars and Jupiter square-off becomes exact. As these two planets angle off, there will be questions about who deserves what and why. People will be willing to fight for what they think is theirs even before they know for sure whether their claim is just. In order to keep the peace, be slow to jump to conclusions. Thought might be better than action.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Change one small part of your routine. It's the little things you do to make life easier that will help you create a better process for going about your business. This is the way to health and fitness.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You know that you're unique and lovable, but maybe you need someone to say it once in a while. That's why an effusive, demonstrative friend will be great to have around this week.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Do more research before you make your final pitch. Figure out what you have to do to get past "no" before you even ask. Find out under what circumstances someone would say "yes" to the thing you want.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You are vacillating about what to do next. The right thing to choose is not the logical answer, and that's why you hesitate. How will you explain this when you're asked? It will be tough, but you have to go with your gut.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The choices you make today will help you increase your vitality and become healthier. It's not about diet, exercise or habits, though. It's about choosing challenges and rejecting stressors.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're ready to take the next step in a project, but the people around you need a few beats to catch up. You'll strike the right balance between leading the way and staying with your team.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The very same person who can be so warm and encouraging when you need help can change her tune and become self-centered and controlling. You figure out how to stay on this person's good side.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You are in an ambitious mood, but you won't let it show because you don't want to rile up your competition. So you stay under the radar, remaining structured and cheerful but serious.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Some of your friends can be immature and careless at times, but you don't hold that against them. After all, who wants to hang around where there's no laughter, entertainment or fun to be had?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Do a test run to see how things will fly in the real world. Proper testing and planning will save you from a headache or two, not to mention from spending time, energy and money unnecessarily.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You do your best when you're not comparing yourself to anyone else. You have all the answers you need, but you cannot see them unless you're minding your own business.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Someone will tell you a cautionary tale. Look for the motive. Is this a person who has your best interest in mind, or is it someone trying to scare you away from the success you so deserve?

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 29). You have asked a lot of yourself in the past. This year, you decide to relax and take it easy, and you wind up being even more productive than you were before. You'll find a new social niche in December and will love the new people you meet. A job gets more creative in January. You'll win an award or victory in May. Leo and Virgo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 4, 39, 18 and 30.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I want to be a beautician, and my mom wants me to go to college. She thinks I'd make a great lawyer. I don't want to be ungrateful. My mom has been saving for me to go to college for a really long time. I'm so lucky to have a supportive parent. I wish I wanted to go. I just don't have any interest in becoming a lawyer. My mom says that it's the perfect fit for me astrologically because I'm a Libra and that's the sign of law. I don't want to. I wish I could say that without sounding ungrateful. I will graduate in 2011."

You have time to decide. Luckily, you are not required by law to enroll in college directly from high school. You can tell your mom that Libra is also a sign of art and beauty. Since you are compelled to explore this side of your sun sign, you will probably excel at it. And if not, you can always try another subject. Bottom line: As close as you are to your mother (and Libra tends to be very close to mom), it's still your life. Sooner or later, you have to make your own decisions.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Her nickname is The Bronx Blonde, and Cathy Moriarty has made a career of playing tough women in her own husky-voiced, sassy way. With roles in classics like "Raging Bull" and comedies like "Analyze That," her fiery Sagittarius spirit lights up the screen. Her natal Mercury and Neptune are in sizzling Scorpio. Venus, Jupiter and Saturn in Capricorn show business savvy — Moriarty is also a restaurateur!

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.

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"CLASSIC" ANN LANDERS®

Editor's Note: Hundreds of Ann Landers' loyal readers have requested that newspapers continue to publish her columns. These letters originally appeared in 1999.

Dear Ann Landers: I am sending you the column that gave me the courage to "plant my own garden."



HOLIDAY MATHIS

I had been married for 20 years and was totally miserable. When I read that essay, it made me realize that the life I had been living was not what I wanted or needed, and I was the only one who could change it.

It helped me find the strength to leave my empty marriage and all the trappings that came with it — a big house, a Mercedes, fabulous jewelry, glamorous vacations and a lot of unhappiness.

I moved out with my three beautiful children, and although it was difficult, I learned that I had the strength to make it on my own.

It is 13 years later, and now, I am married to a wonderful man. We have a modest life and two wonderful children, who adore their three stepsiblings from my first marriage.

This poem opened my eyes to finding happiness within myself. It was an inspiration and a challenge. I hope you will print it again for others who are back there, where I once was. — *Contented Now in Kansas City, Kan.*

"After A While"
by Veronica A. Shoffstall

After a while, you learn the subtle difference
Between holding a hand and chaining a soul,
And you learn that love doesn't mean leaning
And company doesn't mean security,
And you begin to learn that kisses aren't contracts
And presents aren't promises,
And you begin to accept your defeats
With your head up and your eyes open
With the grace of a woman, not the grief of a child,
And you learn to build all your roads on today
Because tomorrow's ground is too uncertain for plans.
And futures have a way of falling down in midflight.
After a while, you learn
That even the sunshine burns if you get too much.
So you plant your own garden and decorate your own soul,
Instead of waiting for someone to bring you flowers.
And you learn that you really can endure...
That you really are strong.
And you really do have worth.
And you learn and learn...
With every goodbye you learn.

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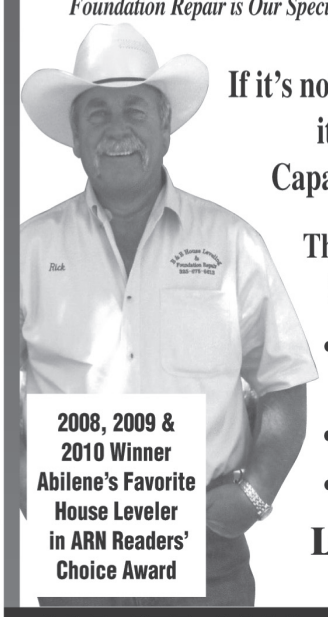


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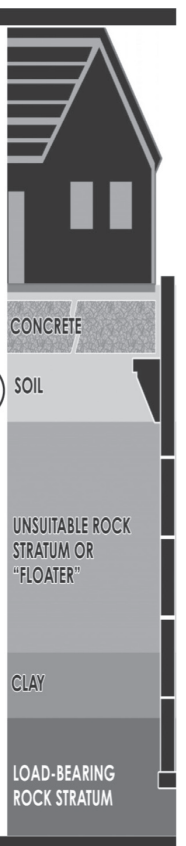
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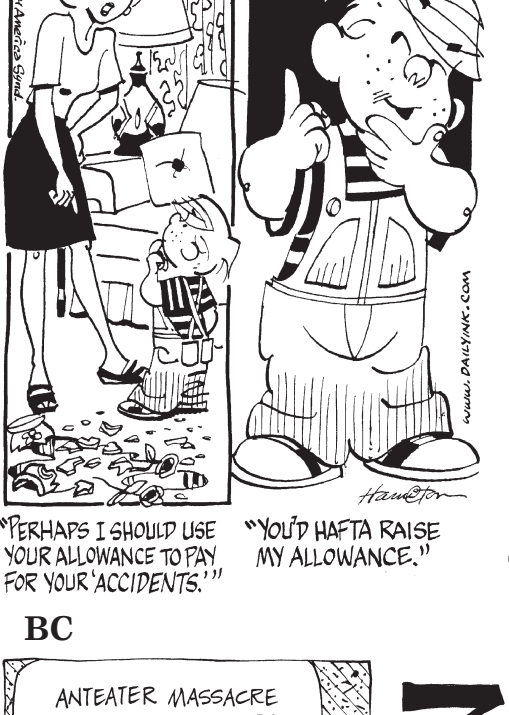
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• Landscape Friendly
LIFETIME TRANSFERABLE GUARANTEE
2008, 2009 & 2010 Winner Abilene's Favorite House Leveler in ARN Readers' Choice Award



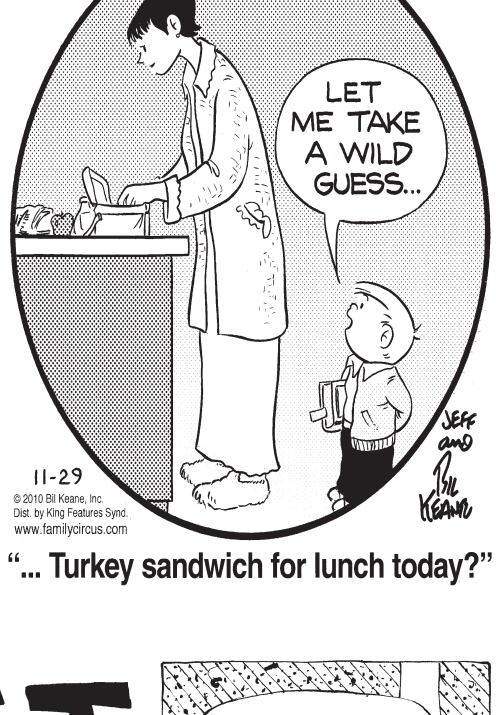
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Owner: Rick Burrow
Licensed & Bonded for Home Owner's Protection
Insurance Claims Welcome • Free Inspections • Senior Citizens & Military Discounts
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	KMID 3 Midland	UNI 4 Spanish	KPEJ 5 Odessa	KOSA 7 Odessa	KTLE 8 Telemundo	KWES 9 Midland	WTBS 11 Atlanta	KMLM 12 Odessa	KPBT 13 Odessa	KWWT 14 Odessa	DISC 20 Discovery	AMC 21 Classics	SPIKE 22 Spike TV	TNT 23 Atlanta	BET 26 Black Ent.	DISN 27 Disney	ESPN2 28 Sports	ESPN 29 Sports
5 :PM	News	Alma	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	King	Chumney	World	Lyrics!	Cash Cab	Overboard, Edward Herrmann	CSI: Crime Scene	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Deck	Nation	SportsCenter
:30	ABC	Notic.	Lopez	News	Noticiero	News	King	Granger	Business	Lyrics!	Cash Cab					Sonny	Pardon	
6 :PM	Jeopardy!	Llena de Amor (SS)	Two Men	News	Caso Cerrado	News	Seinfeld	Van Impe	PBS NewsHour	70s Show	Hudson Plane Crash		(:05) UFC Fight Night	Bones		Hannah	College Basketball: Virginia at Minnesota.	Monday Night Countdown
:30	Wheel		Two Men	Ent		Millionaire	Seinfeld	Holmes		'70s						Hannah		
7 :PM	Skating With the Stars	Eva Luna (SS)	House	How I Met	Aurora (SS)	Chuck	Fam. Guy	Upd	John Denver: A Song	90210	Bermuda Triangle	Movie: Scrooged, John Forsythe		Bones	Food: T.I.	Movie: Camp Rock 2: The Final Jam		NFL Football: San Francisco 49ers at Arizona Cardinals.
:30				Rules			Fam. Guy	Hansen							Movie: Romeo Must Die, Isaiah Washington			
8 :PM		Soy Tu Dueña (SS)	Lie to Me	Two Men	El Fantasma de	The Event	Fam. Guy	Light of the Southwest		Gossip Girl	Finding Amelia			Bones			2010 Poker	
:30	CMA Country Christmas			Mike			Fam. Guy		ADD and Loving It?!				(:16) Movie: Waist Deep, Larenz Tate					
9 :PM		Cristina (SS)	Simpsons	Hawaii Five-0	Alguien te Mira (SS)	Chase	Fam. Guy			Browns		Movie: Scrooged, John Forsythe		The Closer		Sonny	2010 Poker	
:30			How I Met				Fam. Guy			Browns						Sonny		
10 :PM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Conan	House	Echoes of Creation	King	Bermuda Triangle		(:36) Movie: National Security, Colm Feore	Certain Age	The Mo'Nique	Hannah	2010 Poker	
:30	Nightline	Noticiero	Raymond	Letterman	Decisiones (SS)	Jay Leno		Sala		King						Hannah		SportsCenter
11 :PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Verdad Oculta	Law & Order: SVU				Lopez Tonight	Scrivner	World	South Pk	Finding Amelia	Movie: The Perfect Storm, John C. Reilly	CSI: NY		Wendy Williams	Hannah	Nation	
:30				Late		Late Night		CCM	T. Smiley	South Pk						Hannah	NFL Films	
12 :AM	Extra	Tontas Cielo	Paid		Decision		Conan	Upd	(Off Air)	Cops				CSI: NY	Movie: Romeo Must Die, Isaiah Washington	Wizards	NBA	NFL Prime-Time
:30	Paid		Raymond	Insider	Pagado	News		Cortes		Da Vinci's Inquest						Wizards	2010 Poker	
1 :AM	Paid	Mujer...	TMZ	Ent	Pagado	Poker After Dark	Lopez Tonight	Light of the Southwest			Overhaulin'		MAN	Leverage		Suite Life		SportsCenter
:30	Paid	Cero	King-Hill	(:37) Up to the Minute	Pagado					Munroe			MAN			Suite Life	2010 Poker	

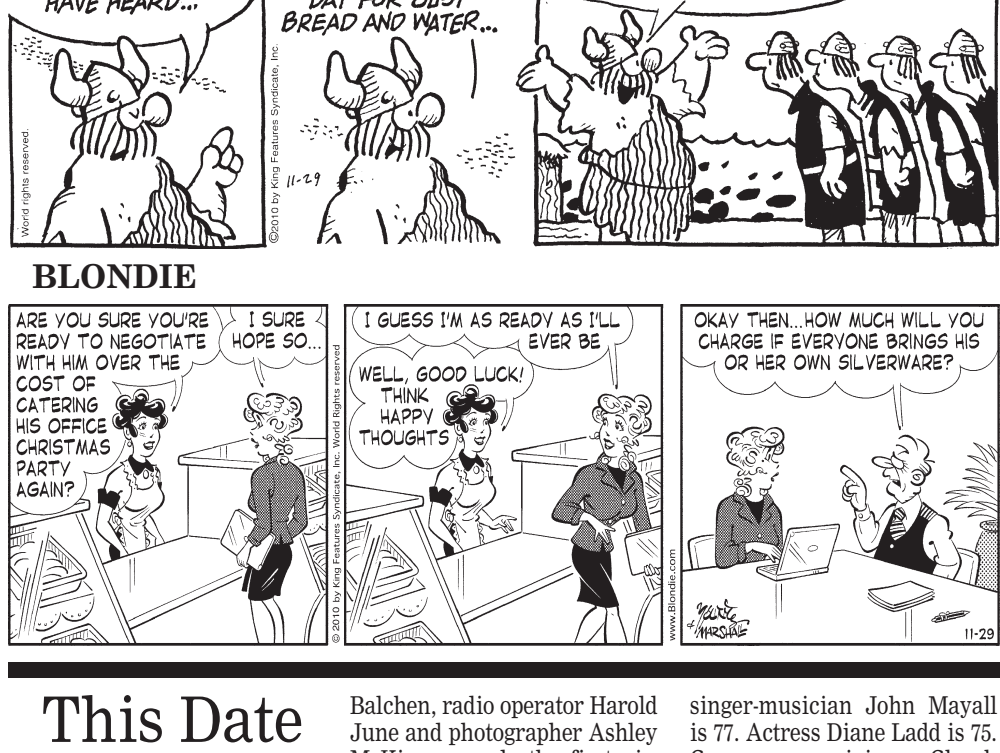
DENNIS THE MENACE



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

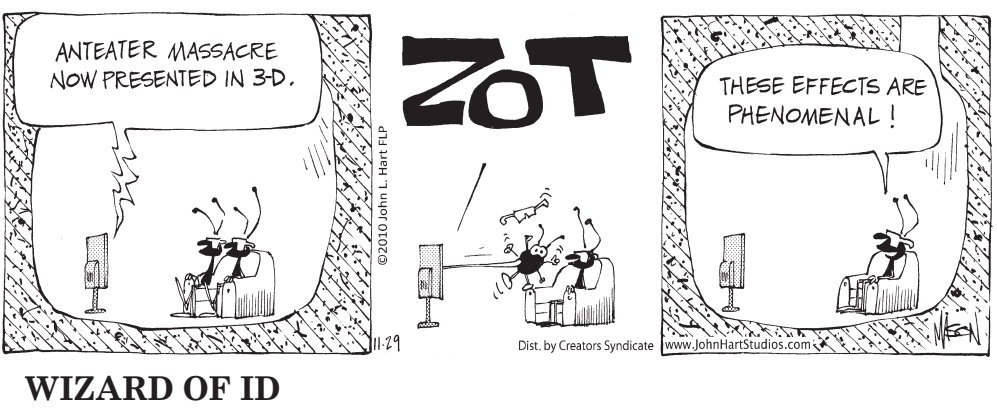


HAGAR



BLONDIE

BC



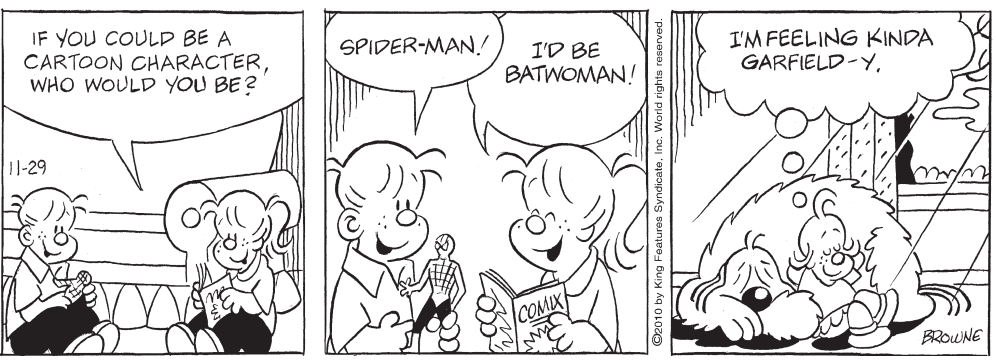
WIZARD OF ID



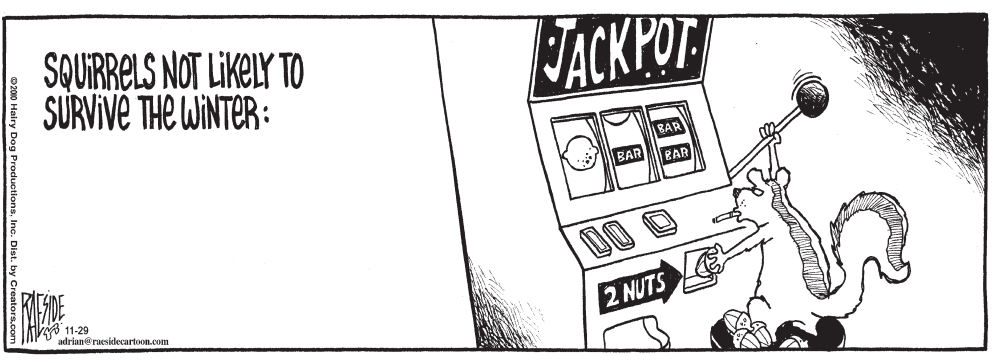
AGNES



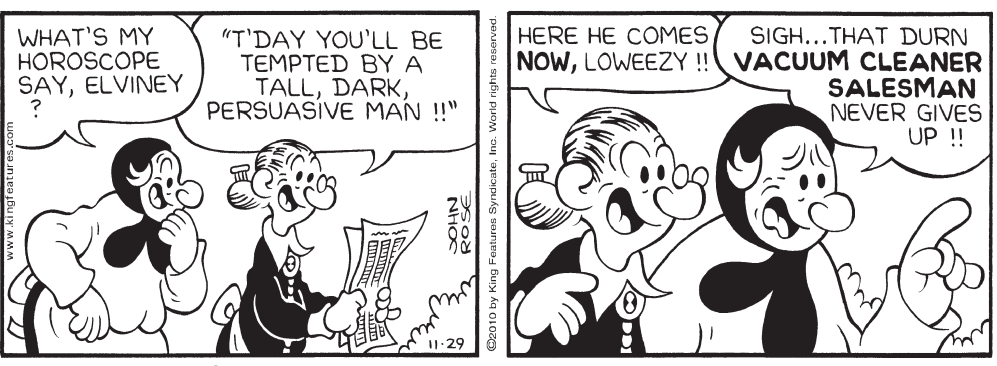
HI AND LOIS



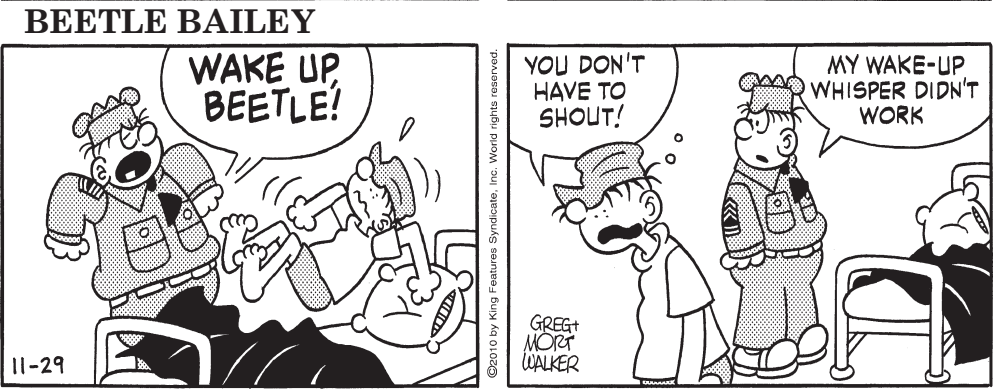
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Monday, Nov. 29, the 333rd day of 2010. There are 32 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 29, 1910, British explorer Robert F. Scott's ship Terra Nova set sail from New Zealand, carrying Scott's expedition toward Antarctica on what turned out to be a futile — as well as fatal — race to reach the South Pole first.

On this date:

In 1530, Cardinal Thomas Wolsey (WOOL'-zee), onetime adviser to England's King Henry VIII, died.

In 1864, a Colorado militia killed at least 150 peaceful Cheyenne Indians in the Sand Creek Massacre.

In 1924, Italian composer Giacomo Puccini died in Brussels before he could complete his opera "Turandot." (It was finished by Franco Alfano.)

In 1929, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Richard E. Byrd, pilot Bernt Balchen, radio operator Harold June and photographer Ashley McKinney made the first airplane flight over the South Pole.

In 1947, the U.N. General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the partitioning of Palestine between Arabs and Jews.

In 1961, Enos the chimp was launched from Cape Canaveral aboard the Mercury-Atlas 5 spacecraft, which orbited earth twice before returning.

In 1967, Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara announced he was leaving the Johnson administration to become president of the World Bank.

In 1981, actress Natalie Wood drowned in a boating accident off Santa Catalina Island, Calif., at age 43.

In 1986, actor Cary Grant died in Davenport, Iowa, at age 82.

In 1990, the U.N. Security Council voted to authorize military action to free Kuwait if Iraq did not withdraw its occupying troops and release all foreign hostages by Jan. 15, 1991.

Today's Birthdays: Hall-of-Fame sportscaster Vin Scully is 83. Former French President Jacques Chirac is 78. Blues singer-musician John Mayall is 77. Actress Diane Ladd is 75. Composer-musician Chuck Mangione is 70. Country singer Jody Miller is 69. Pop singer-musician Felix Cavaliere (The Rascals) is 68. Olympic skier Suzy Chaffee is 64. Comedian Garry Shandling is 61. Actor Jeff Fahey is 58. Movie director Joel Coen is 56. Actor-comedian-game show host Howie Mandel is 55. Homeland Security Director Janet Napolitano is 53. Former White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel is 51. Actress Cathy Moriarty is 50. Actress Kim Delaney is 49. Actor Tom Sizemore is 49. Actor Andrew McCarthy is 48. Actor Don Cheadle is 46. Actor-producer Neill Barry is 45.

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Answer to previous puzzle

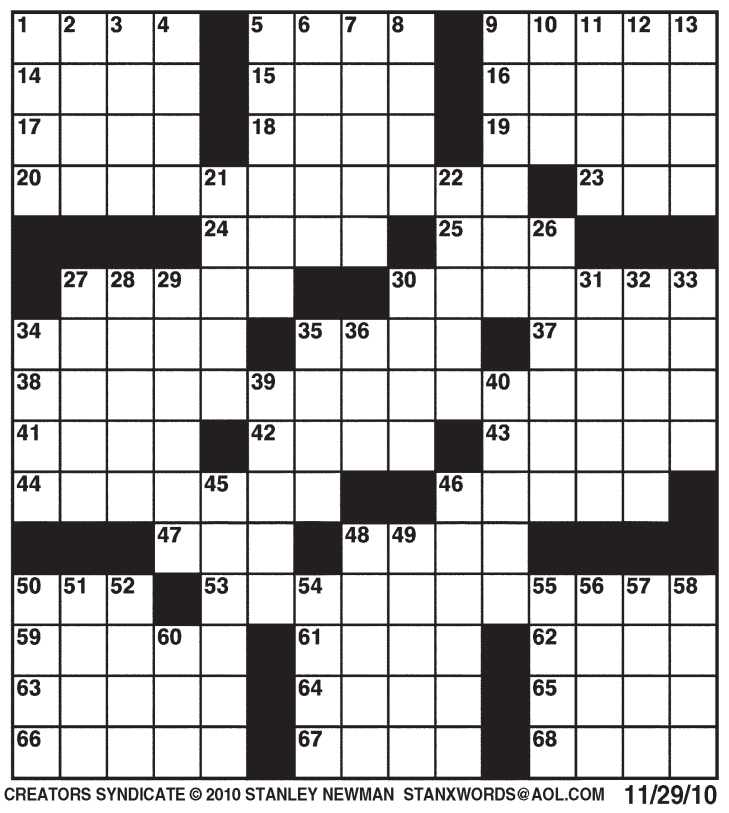
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D	O	M	I	N	E	E	R		I	C	O	N	I	C
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A	B	O			S	C	E	N	T			L	I	T
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M	A	R			S	A	L	E	S			D	D	E
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L	O	G	O	U	T		S	I	C	I	L	I	A	N
E	N	E	R	G	Y		I	T	A	R	T	A	S	S
R	E	N	D	E	R		N	E	W	M	O	N	E	Y

Newsday Crossword

PLENTY OF PLENTY by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Shut forcefully
5 Neighborhood
9 Make happy
14 Arrive
15 Cutlet meat
16 Quick
17 Matures, as wine
18 Elephant's floppy features
19 Really love
20 Plenty
23 Writing utensil
24 Flow with force
25 Comic-strip scream
27 Distress signal
30 Sailor
34 Geography-class sphere
35 __ moss (gardening material)
37 Alaskan port
38 Plenty
41 Theater section
42 Ocean's rise and fall
43 Spark producer
44 Air out
46 Trifled (with)
47 Sunbather's goal
48 Brother of Cain
50 100 percent
53 Plenty
59 Greet, as a movie villain
61 Makes unfair
62 Aid in a crime
63 Heavy rope
64 Brink
65 Parcel (out)
66 Scornful smile
67 Door openers
68 Shrill cry

DOWN
1 "Shoo!"
2 Company emblem
3 Prayer ending
4 Sloppy condition
5 Wide street
6 Enjoys a book
7 The third planet
8 In addition
9 Chalkboard cleaner
10 Young fellow
11 Each, slangily
12 Spare in a trunk
13 Biblical garden
21 Think alike
22 "Cool!"
26 Benevolent
27 Elevator stop
28 Inn kin
29 Most skilled
30 Manufactured
31 "That's the truth!"
32 Edit, as text
33 Take a break
34 Sport with tees and clubs
35 Aspirin target
36 Conclusion
39 Dictation-taking pro
40 Days __ (yore)
45 Woman's summer top
46 Forms of a verb
48 "All kidding __ . . ."
49 Loose-fitting
50 Grade-school basics
51 Mortgage, for instance
52 Ear-piercing site
54 Difficult journey
55 Gentleman's date
56 Woodwind instrument
57 Be a tattle
58 Part of a plan
60 Pub beverage



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