

BIG SPRING HERALD

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"Reflecting a Proud Community"

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

HALLOWEEN

October 31, 2001

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT TOMORROW
55°-60° 78°-82°

Flu shots set Nov. 7 for veterans

Wednesday, Nov. 7, flu shots will be available to eligible veterans at the West Texas VA Health Care System, 300 Veterans Boulevard. Veterans may report to the outpatient clinic lobby between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Veterans currently registered for VA health care through Big Spring will be required to show their VA identification cards. Unregistered veterans will be asked to present proof of eligibility for VA benefits (DD Form 214).

Also in November, the Texas Department of Health will be giving flu shots on Wednesdays Nov. 7, 14 and 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Texas Department of Health is located at 501 Birdwell Lane Suite 28B.

The cost is \$5 or free to Medicare clients.

WHAT'S UP...

TODAY

Workforce Network of Big Spring at 310 Owen will be handing out candy from 5 to 6 p.m. at the center.

Canterbury, 1700 Lancaster, will have a Spook House from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Admission is free.

The Citizen's Police Academy Alumni will be giving out candy from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the south side of Municipal Courthouse Building.

Skateland Spook House, 2906 W. Eighth, will be open from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. \$3 per person.

The Sand Springs Boy Scout Troop No. 25 Spook House, five blocks east of Little Sooper Grocery Store in Coahoma, 7 p.m. until late.

Big Spring Mall annual trick-or-treating from 7 to 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Gideons International, Big Spring Camp No. U42060 meets at Herman's Restaurant, 7 a.m.

INSIDE TODAY...

Classified 4-5B
Comics 6B
Features 6A
General 3,5A
Horoscope 5B
Landers 5B
Obituaries 2A
Opinion 4A
Sports 1-3B

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www.bigspringherald.com

To reach us, please call 263-7331. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call 263-7335 before 7 p.m. on weekdays and 11 a.m. on Sunday.

Bright, mild night in store for trick-or-treaters

Herald Staff Report

Whether you are planning a late-evening candy hunt or a midnight broom flight, conditions look promising for a pleasant Halloween night across the area.

According to a report by the Associated Press, this is the first time in 46 years Halloween ghost and goblins can trick or treat by the light of a full moon. The next time for a full moon on Halloween is not until 2020.

"The true full moon is tomorrow night but techni-

cally, for the kids, we can call it a full moon," said Gene Hardy, director of the Marion Blakemore Planetarium located in the Museum of the Southwest in Midland.

The Associated Press predicts nighttime lows of 55-60 with winds of 10-20 miles per hour. Hardy has a few words of caution for those who plan to take their brooms out for a spin, however.

"The skies should be reasonably clear," Hardy said. "It will be a little windy

tonight, so watch out for turbulence.

"Maintain a nice decent altitude," he said. "Watch out for telephone wires and power lines and always follow the North Star Home."

Technically, the moment the moon will be at its fullest is 12:41 a.m. EST Thursday, but the moon will look virtually full when trick or treaters are out.

Hardy is a member of the West Texas Astronomer's Club from Midland, which comes to Big Spring State Park every year.

HALLOWEEN NIGHT ACTIVITIES

Trick or Treating

Citizen's Police Academy; South side of Municipal Courthouse Building, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.
Big Spring Mall; 7 p.m.-8 p.m.

The Workforce Network of Big Spring, 5 p.m.-6 p.m., 310 Owen

Costume Contest
Big Spring Mall, 6:30 p.m.

Face painting
Big Spring High School Interact Club; inside Wal-

Mart, 3:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

Spook houses:

Canterbury Retirement Homes; 1700 Lancaster, 6 p.m.-9 p.m., free to the public.

Skateland; 2906 W. Eighth, 6 p.m.-11 p.m., \$3 per person.

Sand Springs Boy Scout Troop No. 25; located five blocks east of Little Sooper Grocery Store in the big blue building in Coahoma, 7 p.m. until late, \$5 per person.

Riding the rails into Big Spring's past

By ANDREA MEDLIN
Features Editor

There is a well-kept secret in downtown Big Spring.

Jack Harrison, a retired Presbyterian minister and Bobby Hill, former yard master for the Big Spring railroad, have transformed their love for trains and history into something everyone can enjoy at no cost.

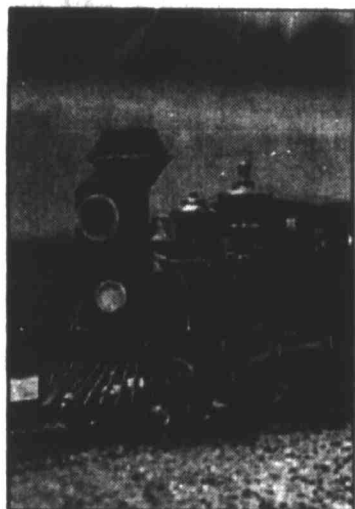
At the Doc Hardy Memorial Railroad, 123 Main Street, several HO model trains demonstrate the history of the railroad in Big Spring which began in 1881 when the last of the stagecoaches ran.

The model features a West Texas landscape, a miniature of the first Big Spring train station, with buffalo, modern windmills and old barns.

According to Harrison there are trains that represent three different eras. "The first Texas and Pacific train to come to the station at First and Gregg Streets in 1881, the conversion to the Union Pacific Railroad that presently travels through Big Spring, and the Amtrak train of the future that will make its stops in Big Spring someday," he said.

Harrison, along with Hill and Leroy Headrick, have lovingly restored the model and hope to provide a service to the community.

"We want to provide demonstrations for the schools and senior citizens



HERALD photos/Andrea Medlin

Above, this steam engine is one of the many model trains that depict different times in Big Spring's railroad history. At right, Justin Dahmer and Justin Rau watch the action at Doc Hardy's Memorial Railroad, 123 Main Street. The memorial is free to the public, open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at 2 p.m. on Nov. 8.



groups to show the history of the railroad in Big Spring," said Harrison.

The demonstrations will be free to the public. "But we will accept contributions," he added.

"We have a smaller track for the little kids to play with," he said, while the adults and older children

can enjoy the larger, more elaborate display.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony and history demonstration will be held at 2 p.m. Nov. 8, hosted by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and the Big Spring Ambassadors.

The memorial is a project of Big Spring Main Street

Inc. with Drew Mouton, attorney, chairman of the board.

The memorial is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information or a demonstration, contact Jack Harrison at 263-6397.

Man found not guilty in sex assault of child

By ROGER CLINE
Staff Writer

A Big Spring jury took just 15 minutes to agree that Oscar Gerald Pippins is not guilty of sexually assaulting a child two years ago.

The six-woman, six-man jury in 118th District Court returned the verdict Tuesday. The trial, with Judge Robert Moore III presiding, began with jury

selection Monday.

"(Pippins) was charged with the aggravated sexual assault of a child," Assistant District Attorney Robin Orr said.

Orr said the alleged victim in the case was the step-granddaughter of the defendant.

Pippins, 61, of Big Spring was represented by Big Spring attorney Don Richard.

"Naturally we're pleased," Richard said. "Not guilty's are hard to come by, especially in these types of trials."

Orr said the District Attorney's office cannot

pursue Pippins further about the incident.

"It's over," he said.

The jury wasn't allowed to hear about Pippins' former convictions on sex crime charges prior to making its decision.

In 1980, Pippins was convicted of indecency with a child in Taylor County. He received 10 years probation for that conviction. In 1985, the probation was revoked when a judge found that Pippins had engaged in sexual intercourse with a minor female.

Pippins, an ex-Marine, served time in the state correctional facility in

Huntsville following that decision.

"The jury heard all the evidence that's proper," Richard said, noting that such evidence can be presented to the jury only during the punishment phase of a trial. "It would not have been proper during the guilt-or-innocence phase."

Richard said the two years since Pippins' arrest have been painful for Pippins and his family.

"When you're wrongfully accused of such a thing, it's almost as bad as someone who would do such a thing, as far as impact on your life," he said.

Pancakes on menu at BSHS choir event

By LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

Before going to the Big Spring Steer football game on Friday night, stop by the high school cafeteria because the Big Spring Choir Boosters are cooking up something special.

Volunteer parents of choir students will be flipping the flapjacks and frying the bacon and sausage at the fifth annual Pancake Supper.

"This is something we started about five years ago; we do this at the last home football game," said choir director Linda Lindell.

The pancake supper

begins at 5:30 p.m. and runs until 7 p.m. at the high school cafeteria. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.

"We are very fortunate that lots of businesses in town help sponsor the event," Lindell said.

Several hundred people attend the event each year to enjoy a meal of pancakes, sausage, bacon, coffee, orange juice, grape juice and milk, Lindell said.

"It's been a lot of fun and successful for us," she added.

Many members of the choir, which boasts more than 100 singers, sign up to

See PANCAKES, Page 2A



Minnie Mouse, a 1950s girl, a scarecrow and a tiger pause for a picture before haunting the halls of State National Bank this morning. The devilish characters are also known as Vickie Thompson, from left, Charati Doss, Diane Harrison and Elba Pina, all State National Bank employees.

HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Mayor

Embattled city leader answers claims of flyer

By ROGER CLINE
Staff Writer

In a press conference at his office this morning,

Mayor Russ McEwen refuted allegations in a flyer being circulated by the Concerned Citizens Council of Big Spring.



MCEWEN

"It is incorrect information," McEwen said.

The flyer, which urges citizens to "Let your voice be heard: Vote for recall of Russ McEwen," lists eight items under two different headings.

The full text of the mayor's response is printed on Page 4A.

Under the first heading, "What he has done for us in 19 months in office" the flyer lists:

"1. Raised sanitation rates twice. Each \$2 per month gives the city approximately \$276,000 per year and costs citizens \$24.00 more each year.

"2. Increased sanitation rates for businesses by 17 percent this year.

"3. Raised water rates twice. This year, the increase was 20 cents per thousand gallons of water. The Colorado River Municipal Water District increased its cost to the city by 15 cents per thousand gallons of water. Our city government added on another five (5) cents per thousand gallons of water.

"4. Won approval of a \$60,000 per year position of airport manager against the expressed wishes of the citizens of Big Spring."

Under the second heading, "What he has not done in 19 months in office," the flyer lists:

See ANSWER, Page 2A

OCT 31 2001

OBITUARIES

Buster Haggard

Buster Haggard, 69, of Stanton, passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2001, in a Big Spring hospital. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 1, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Tom Craiker and Bill Welsh, officiating. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery in Stanton.

He was born on July 18, 1932, the youngest son of Norvell and Lillian Haggard, in Martin County, Texas. He married Mildred Allred on Dec. 24, 1949, in Stanton.

Buster was active in farming in Martin County for over 50 years. He and Mildred had just recently moved from their Haggard farm to Stanton.

Buster was active in various organizations including serving on the Grady School Board. He also served on the board of directors for Sweetwater PCA and then later as a director for Texas PCA. He recently had been recognized for being with PCA for 50 years. He was active in the Martin County Farm Bureau and the Martin County Freshwater District.

Buster and Mildred also helped many young men. Their home was affectionately known as the "Haggard Home for Wayward Boys!" Buster was a great influence on many of the young people that were raised in the area.

Throughout good times and bad, the Haggard home was always the place for everyone to gather. Buster always had the ability to make everyone feel welcome.

Buster always gave freely of his time and talents. He was always willing to play some music and sing a few songs for anyone, be it the Lenora Volunteer Fire Department or the Martin County Old Settlers. He influenced many aspiring musicians in the area.

During the 1950s, he played on a weekly radio show on KBC in Midland. In retirement, he created "Cowboy Crafts," building unique gifts with a Western flavor. From his youth, he had a great affinity for the land that he loved to work. He worked beside his Dad and

brothers in various cotton gins and loved to tell the stories to anyone that would listen.

He was active in the Belvue Church of Christ in Stanton and the Tarzan Church of Christ.

Survivors include his wife, Mildred Haggard of Stanton; four daughters and sons-in-law, Becky and Elton Williams of Stanton, Ann and Hugh Schafer of Glasscock Community, Janice and J.T. Pitts of Pecos and Jackie and Willie Wells of Lenora; two brothers, Tom Haggard of Tow and Alex Haggard of Stanton; three sisters, Oma Clay Johnson of Stanton, Jean Kelly of Lubbock and Willie Mae Howell of Texas City; 10 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers, two sisters and two grandsons.

The family suggests memorials to Median Children's Home, 21300 State Hwy 16 N., Medina 78055 or to the Martin County Museum, P.O. Box 929, Stanton 79782.

The family will be at 1201 W. Carpenter in Stanton.

"To live within the hearts of friends is to live forever."

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Paid obituary

Amanda Brown

Memorial service for Amanda Brown, 21, will be 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 2, 2001, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

Ms. Brown died Monday, Oct. 29, in a local hospital.

She was born on Nov. 9, 1979, in Big Spring. She was a musician and artist.

Survivors include her mother, Diana Gonzalez of Big Spring; her father, Donald E. Brown of Universal City; one sister, Melissa Sayers of Big Spring; and her grandparents, Bill and Nancy Gonzalez of Big Spring.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Bobby Ned Lawdermilk

Memorial service for Bobby Ned Lawdermilk, DVM, 62, of Big Spring, will be 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 1, 2001, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with his son-in-law, Glenn Graham, officiating. He will be assisted by the Rev. Dudley Mullins, pastor of East Fourth Baptist Church.

Dr. Lawdermilk died Tuesday, Oct. 30, at his residence.

He was born on March 4, 1939, in Big Spring and married Mary Katherine Chadwick on Dec. 15, 1975, in Lovington, N.M. He graduated from Big Spring High School and Texas A&M University. He was a doctor of veterinary medicine in the Panhandle and for about 20 years in Big Spring, retiring in 1997. He was a member of East Fourth Street Baptist Church and a member of Aggie Exes Association.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Lawdermilk of Big Spring; three daughters, Dana Graham of Georgetown, Carol Brock of San Antonio and Chanda Lawdermilk of College Station; two sons, John Lawdermilk and Matt Lawdermilk, both of Big Spring; one brother, Richard Lawdermilk of Norton; three sisters, Margaret Lawdermilk of Bronte, Betty Lepard of Andrews and Sue Smith of Garden City; and four grandchildren.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home following the memorial service.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

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PANCAKES

Continued from Page 1A

work during the event as clean-up crew or to refresh cups of coffee.

The funds raised from the event go towards the choir trip set during the high school's spring break.

"It's open to the public. The more the better," Lindell said. "It's right before the football game, so people can come and eat before the game."

Tickets can be obtained at the event, from a choir student or by calling the choir hall at the high school at 264-3641.

ANSWER

Continued from Page 1A

"1. Shown concern for senior citizens and those on fixed incomes.

"2. Improved water quality and taste.

"3. Repaired streets.

"4. Listened to the voice of the people."

In particular, McEwen responded to item four in the first list. McEwen's support of the manager's position was listed by the Concerned Citizens' Council in affidavits requesting petitions for a recall election, presented to the city in September, as dereliction of duty.

McEwen responded "I voted for the inclusion of a full time airport manager in the current budget. I did listen to both sides, researched the issue and voted my conscience. That is what I was elected to do. I regret that our city is facing a recall election because of that vote. However, if I had to do it over, I would cast the same vote."

McEwen said creation of the new position is a progressive move for the city.

"I ran on a platform of change," he said. "I've found in the past year and a half that change is not easy. I did not run for mayor to be a caretaker. I will continue to be progressive."

Action is needed because the population of Big Spring is declining, McEwen said, citing a reduction of about 100 students annually in the Big Spring Independent School District's enrollment.

"My opinion is that we are at a crossroads in our community," he said. "We are at a point where we can grow. We can be progressive and make decisions that will encourage growth."

McEwen said he originally ran for mayor because he loves Big Spring.

"I have a great affinity for this community," he said. "I want to see us grow. It's seeing our community and saying, 'We can do something better.' I just know we can do better. I didn't realize that change was going to be this hard for many people."

During discussion about the new position at a city council meeting in September, McEwen said that the city council has information impacting the decision to which the citizens are not privy.

The announcement angered members of the Concerned Citizens Council, who felt that any information impacting the decision should be public knowledge.

At the press conference, he revealed that the impending retirement of Emma Bogard, the current airport manager, is part of that information. At the time of the vote, Bogard was considering stepping down, but had not officially

A BIG SPRING
AROUND THE TOWN

announced her retirement, McEwen said.

"She has announced that her retirement will come January 1," he said. "That is an example of some of the information we are privy to that we can't disclose for either moral reasons or for other general reasons."

McEwen said the 4-3 budget vote which funded the new position was a tough one for all concerned.

"It was 4-3. It was close. It was tough," he said. "I'm just as proud of the three that voted against it as I am of the four that voted for the budget this year. We need to be making decisions based on what's best for Big Spring, not who screams the loudest."

Disagreement on an issue doesn't constitute dereliction of duty, McEwen asserted.

"Not showing up for meetings, not being informed about the issues, not getting the information, being drunk on duty, not representing the community in state affairs, that's dereliction of duty," he said. "Every issue that comes up, you can go out in the community and find someone who says, 'That was a dumb decision,' even on a 7-0 vote."

Differences of opinion shouldn't lead to recall elections, the mayor added.

"I hate to see a process where a mayor can be recalled because you disagree with him on a vote," he said. "It politicizes the process. There is a political process, and it's called elections, and I think that's the way it should be handled. You get people who say 'You don't do what I say and we'll recall you,' and it complicates the process."

McEwen said that after the current recall election, he would like to see the council take a look at the process.

"We need to define the reasons a person can be recalled," he said.

McEwen said he's a little disappointed at the early voting turnout in the recall election.

"I'd love to see 4 or 5 or 6,000 people out to vote," he said. "I would encourage all citizens, no matter where you stand on this issue, to get out and vote. That way, we know how the people feel. I am concerned because there's not as much talk on the street as there has been in previous elections. I think voter apathy hurts me."

Although the recall election is stressful, McEwen said he's grateful it hasn't impacted his family life much.

"My grandson still calls me Pee-paw and says he loves me, so life is still good in that respect," he said.

BRIEFS

THE NORTHSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER is sponsoring a winter coat/sweater drive for children wearing elementary sizes only. These coats/sweaters are previously owned, but were cleaned free by the Comet Cleaners here in Big Spring.

Coats and sweaters will be given out on a first come, first serve basis and until the supply is exhausted. If anyone has a coat or sweater for adult or children they would like to donate to the Community

TEXAS LOTTERY

PICK 3: 9,8,6

CASH 5: 10,17,21,36,37

Center, please drop them off at the center, 110 Northeast Eighth Street, or call Max Webb at 263-2673.

MARCY ELEMENTARY

FALL FESTIVAL will be held Saturday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The school is located at 2101 Wasson Rd. Bring the family out for food, fun and prizes.

A FAREWELL LUNCHEON

WILL be held for Captain Pam Jordan of the Big Spring Police Department who will be retiring after 20 years of service.

The luncheon will be held at noon today at the training center above the city council chambers and the public is invited.

ELEVEN YEAR OLD

ETHAN Strickland has been diagnosed with a devastating neurological condition that requires costly treatments and travel.

An account has been set up at Wells Fargo Bank to defray these costs and his family has asked for help and prayers for their son.

To make a donation call Wells Fargo at 267-5513.

HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM

located at the McMahon Winkle Airpark, will be open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday 1:30 to 4 p.m.

The museum will be closed on all city holidays.

THE MOBILE MEALS

PROGRAM, which delivers to the elderly and homebound, needs volunteers to deliver meals.

If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, we need you.

About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered within the city limits of Big Spring. If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

SPRING TABERNACLE

CHURCH, 1209 Wright, has free food for the area needy from 10 a.m. to noon every Thursday.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Home Hospice and Canterbury are sponsoring a new grief support group. It will meet the second Wednesday of each month at 3 p.m. in the community room at Canterbury South, 1700 Lancaster. Call Home Hospice at 264-7599 or come by 600 South Gregg for further details.

MARKETS

Noon quotes provided by Edward Jones & Co.

AT&T	15.61 -13
Archer-Daniels	13.7 +28
Atmos Energy	21.42 +19
BP PLC ADR	48.85 +92
ChevronTexaco	89.51 +51
Citigroup	46.05 +5
Compaq	9.2 +2
Cornell	16.85 nc
Dell	24.61 +1.37
Du Pont	40.51 +28
Exxon Mobil	39.83 +37

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FIRE/EMS

The following is a summary of the Big Spring Fire Department and EMS:

7:20 a.m. — 500 W. 17th, public service.

10:44 a.m. — 1800 block of Settles, medical call, one patient transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

11:49 a.m. — 8000 block of N. 1-20, medical call, one patient transported to SMCC.

5:36 p.m. — 1100 block of E. Fourth, trauma call, one patient transported to VA Medical Center.

8:45 p.m. — 300 block of Veterans Boulevard, medical call, one patient transported to Midland Memorial Hospital.

RECORDS

Tuesday's high 76
Tuesday's low 54
Record high 90 in 1945
Record low 27 in 1991
Average high 72
Average low 45
Precip. Tuesday 0.00
Month to date 0.05
Year to date 8.92
Sunrise Thursday 6:03 a.m.
Sunset Thursday 6:55 p.m.

DUNLAPS
Your Fashion
Headquarters

111 E. Marcy 267-4283

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Reflecting A Proud Community

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State

AUSTIN
Responding to the state is 11 respond to a terrorism attack Perry said Tu authorized T officials to find from within th to do a better j

"Are we pr Are we total No," said health spokesman Do

Dr. Sharilyn ciate commiss ease control ar at the depart mended in th the money be s next two years upgrade labor ment and impr

"Everyone these needs ar McBride said. tion becomes the money cor

Health offici makers were s come up with t Legislative s planned to disc

Man

EDINBURG (convicted of ca in the death friend's 2-year- was sentenced prison by a judge after a j reach a decisic tending phase.

The Hidalgo deliberated for hours — fr Tuesday to Wednesday, deadlocked 11- the death pen siding juror v condition of ar The Monitor is State district

Judge

\$32 m

verdic

mold c

DALLAS (A judge in Aust Tuesday a \$32 verdict again Insurance Gro the insuranc mishandled Springs family claims.

A Travis Cou found Farmer guilty of fraud in June in the the water and involving Southern mar Hill Country.

"This is a homeowners," Ballard, whos damaged. S Farmers Insur ing mold to home because refused to pr water leak.

"This was a penalized a ance compan lently and deceiving the she said in Wednesday's.

The Dallas Mo The lawsu against Fire Exchange, a Farmers Insur The decisi appealed, said spokesman Insurance.

"Farmers aspects of this priately. Our vide our custo resources to r essary repair file a claim," The compar homeowner c check but repairs.

Ballard and Ron Allison, to leave their after toxic bli the home unit State Distric Dietz made Tuesday after were unable agreement d ordered medi

Long Garage Sales & Residential • 805-893-8216 •

State called ill-prepared for bio-attack

AUSTIN (AP) — Responding to a report that the state is ill-prepared to respond to a major bioterrorism attack, Gov. Rick Perry said Tuesday he has authorized Texas health officials to find \$12.1 million from within the state budget to do a better job.

"Are we prepared? Yes. Are we totally prepared? No," said health department spokesman Doug McBride.

Dr. Sharilyn Stanley, associate commissioner for disease control and prevention at the department, recommended in the report that the money be spent over the next two years to add staff, upgrade laboratory equipment and improve training. "Everyone agrees that these needs are legitimate," McBride said. "The question becomes where does the money come from?"

Health officials and lawmakers were scrambling to come up with the answer.

Legislative staff members planned to discuss the issue

at a meeting Wednesday to review health-care issues in the two-year \$114 billion budget.

The governor told Health and Human Services Commissioner Don Gilbert to work with the 11 agencies he oversees, including the health department, and legislative leaders to move money around within agencies' budgets to pay for the improvements, said Perry spokeswoman Kathy Walt.

The Legislature does not meet until 2003 and any budget changes made in the meantime must be approved by Perry and the 10-member Legislative Budget Board.

"We have not yet identified the funding sources," said commission spokesman Charles Stuart.

"We're looking across the entire health and human services enterprise," Stuart said, adding that officials also would seek federal funding.

With the economy slowing, spending on health care

and social services like children's health insurance was a major budget issue during the legislative session that ended in May.

It was unclear what programs, if any, would see funding cut or be eliminated in order to pay for the improved bioterrorism preparedness.

"It could conceivably be a situation where we borrow from Peter to pay Paul and deal with paying Peter back next session," McBride said.

That concerned Sen. Mike Moncrief, chairman of the committee that commissioned the report.

"There is very little fat that they can trim from health and human services for this purpose without cutting services and I don't think they can cut services any more than they already have," said Moncrief, D-Fort Worth.

"I think this becomes a question of priorities," said Moncrief. "The people of this state have a right to feel

secure" without sacrificing services.

Legislators from both parties have pressed Perry, a Republican, to find new money for the health agency to fight bioterrorism as he did for law enforcement with a recent \$1.2 million anti-terrorism grant.

The federal \$1.2 million grant to the Department of Public Safety and Division of Emergency Management followed strict guidelines and could not be used for the legislators' requests, Walt said.

The 16-page health department report came in response to a request for an assessment of the state's bioterrorism readiness after the Sept. 11 terrorists attacks and recent outbreaks of anthrax.

"We have some level of preparedness," said Stanley, the report's author. "We certainly have room to improve. We are working very hard to bring everything up to scale."

BRIEFS

Jailed writer: I miss Starbucks

HOUSTON (AP) — In the more than 100 days since a novice crime writer was jailed for refusing to surrender her interviews for a book about a Houston society murder, what she's missed most is what prompted a judge to issue a contempt citation against her.

Vanessa Leggett longs to write again, but also misses other aspects of the life she led before refusing to turn over her notes to a federal grand jury. Even so, Leggett says she's prepared to remain behind bars until January, perhaps beyond.

A photo of Leggett, 33, is posted prominently on the Web site of the Reporters' Committee for Freedom of the Press and she holds the record for the most time spent in jail for failing to turn over information to authorities. Last weekend, she spent her 100th day at the Houston Federal Detention Center.

Meanwhile, Leggett said she longs for her husband, her home — and Starbucks.

Yates trial may change jury law

HOUSTON (AP) — The state district judge hearing the capital murder case of a mother accused of drowning her five children in a bathtub was asked by her lawyers to rule unconstitutional a Texas statute preventing jurors from being told what happens to a defendant found innocent by reason of insanity.

The request by defense attorneys George Parnham and Wendell Odom was in one of 34 motions filed Tuesday in Judge Belinda Hill's court. The case is set to go to trial on Jan. 7.

Last month, a jury found Andrea Pia Yates competent to stand trial on capital murder charges.

Texas law, according to the defense motion, prevents jurors from knowing that if the defendant is acquitted, she can be committed to a mental hospital for the rest of her life.

"The Texas insanity defense is unique in that the defendant is not automatically released when acquitted," the motion states.

Man contests assumed paternity

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Claiming a DNA test shows he is not the biological father of his 15-year-old son, a Central Texas man wants to terminate his parental rights and is taking his case to the state Supreme Court.

The case, pitting genetics against years of nurturing, could set a legal precedent in Texas.

Lawyers for Franklin R. Simmons filed a petition this week asking the high court to review his case after an appeals court last week denied a rehearing.

So far, courts have upheld Simmons as the boy's legal father, finding that the boy was "a child of the marriage." Simmons and the boy's mother divorced in 1989. Because Simmons never challenged the paternity issue at the time of the divorce, he can't go back now and relitigate it.

Man gets life sentence in toddler's death

EDINBURG (AP) — A man convicted of capital murder in the death of his girlfriend's 2-year-old daughter was sentenced to life in prison by a South Texas judge after a jury failed to reach a decision in the sentencing phase.

The Hidalgo County jury deliberated for about nine hours — from 5 p.m. Tuesday to 2:30 a.m. Wednesday. They were deadlocked 11-1 in favor of the death penalty, the presiding juror who spoke on condition of anonymity told The Monitor in McAllen.

State district Judge Noe

Gonzalez said that since the jury could not reach a decision, he must sentence Guillermo Lerma to life in prison.

The same jury Friday convicted Lerma, 36, of kidnapping and murdering Estrella Rojas in July 2000 by wrapping 35 feet of duct tape around the child's face, hands, arms, legs and feet.

After hours of police questioning, Lerma led police to a ditch north of Edinburg where he had dumped the body. When police found the child, the body had already started to decompose and was covered in ants.

Throughout the seven-day trial, jurors viewed grisly crime scene video and autopsy photos of the child that showed how tight the duct tape was on her face.

Defense witnesses testified Lerma was abused for most of his childhood by his stepfather.

He was a victim of sexual abuse at the hands of his stepfather as well.

In earlier testimony, a defense expert witness, Dr. Kelly Goodness, the chief forensic psychologist for Vernon State Hospital, testified that Lerma was not mentally ill, but suffered

from bouts of depression and antisocial personality disorder.

People who suffer from the disorder have a complete disregard for the violation of other people's rights, Goodness testified.

Lerma is also classified as a pedophile, Goodness said, and would pose a threat to women and children.

Her testimony about Lerma's past and emotional health was to be used as mitigating evidence, or facts that would lessen Lerma's responsibility in the committing the crime.

Judge backs \$32 million verdict in mold case

DALLAS (AP) — A state judge in Austin left intact Tuesday a \$32 million jury verdict against Farmers Insurance Group that found the insurance company mishandled a Dripping Springs family's toxic mold claims.

A Travis County jury had found Farmers Insurance guilty of fraud and bad faith in June in the handling of the water and mold claim involving a 22-room Southern mansion in the Hill Country.

"This is a victory for homeowners," said Melinda Ballard, whose home was damaged. She accused Farmers Insurance of allowing mold to ravage the home because the company refused to properly fix a water leak.

"This was a verdict that penalized a major insurance company for fraudulently and knowingly deceiving their customers," she said in a story in Wednesday's editions of The Dallas Morning News.

The lawsuit was filed against Fire Insurance Exchange, a subsidiary of Farmers Insurance Group.

The decision will be appealed, said Bill Miller, a spokesman for Farmers Insurance.

"Farmers handled all aspects of this claim appropriately. Our job is to provide our customers with the resources to make the necessary repairs when they file a claim," Miller said. The company said the homeowner cashed a claim check but didn't make repairs.

Ballard and her husband, Ron Allison, said they had to leave their home in 1999 after toxic black mold made the home uninhabitable.

State District Judge John Dietz made the decision Tuesday after the two sides were unable to reach an agreement during court-ordered mediation.

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Hospital worker dies of mysterious case of inhalation anthrax

NEW YORK (AP) — A hospital worker with a mysterious case of inhalation anthrax died early Wednesday, the nation's fourth fatality in a month of bioterrorism, Lenox Hill Hospital announced.

Kathy T. Nguyen, 61, died three days after checking herself into the hospital and being diagnosed as the city's first case of the inhaled form of the disease.

Hospital spokeswoman Ann Silverman said Nguyen died early Wednesday. She would not provide any other

details.

Nguyen had been sedated, intubated and put on a ventilator and was too sick to help the health and criminal investigators who are trying to find the source of her infection by reconstructing her social life, her commute and her on-the-job routines at the Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital on the East Side.

Nguyen's illness, and that of a New Jersey woman who contracted the less serious skin form of the disease, complicated the investiga-

tion by raising the possibility that anthrax letters are contaminating other mail or that the spores are sickening people by means other than the mail.

The latest victims raised the number of confirmed anthrax cases to 17 nationwide since the outbreak began in the first week of October. Ten of the victims have the inhaled form, and four have now died. Seven others have less-severe skin infections.

Four of those skin-anthrax cases — and two more sus-

pected cases — are linked to city media outlets.

Nguyen, who lived alone and commuted to the hospital by subway from the Bronx, worked in a basement supply room. Until recently, the space had included a mailroom, but there was no evidence of any suspicious letter and the first environmental samples from the hospital were negative.

"Almost everyone in the hospital came in contact with her," because she delivered supplies to vari-

ous departments and offices, said Thomas Rich, a coworker.

As many as 2,000 hospital workers patients and visitors who have been to the hospital since Oct. 11 are being offered antibiotics, officials said Tuesday. The hospital was closed and other hospitals in the city were alerted to take precautions and report any suspicions.

Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health said worries about "cross-contamination" — anthrax

spores sticking to pieces of mail at postal facilities — have grown with the new cases.

On Wednesday, Fauci said preliminary tests show no anthrax at the hospital where she works and "that's part of the mystery."

"So all bets are off and we really need to do — the public health officials, the forensic group — has to do a real full court press on trying to track this down."

"This is critical," he said on NBC's "Today" show.

Festivities go on despite heightened fears

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP) — Les Hall knows exactly what kind of mask he'll be wearing to the city's annual Halloween blowout: a gas mask.

"That way I'll be ready for everything," the 27-year-old waiter says.

After FBI Director Robert Mueller warned this week of the possibility of more terrorist attacks, law enforcement officials announced plans for a greater presence at public Halloween parties around the nation.

In West Hollywood, where about a quarter-million costumed revelers are expected to pack city streets, 100 or more members of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department will be scattered among the crowd.

"A deputy on every corner," said sheriff's Sgt. Gary Griffith.

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, fears of further violence have led police to focus on large gatherings, from sport-

ing events to shopping malls. The warnings of future attacks also have worried city leaders and parents across the nation.

The mayor of Fort Worth, Texas, on Tuesday discouraged parents from letting children go trick-or-treating, suggesting parties at friends' homes, community centers or churches instead.

"I'm not suggesting we shouldn't celebrate the holiday and enjoy it; ... just use discretion," Mayor Kenneth Barr said.

Cindy Malcolm of Fort Worth said she was considering taking her children to a relative's Halloween party instead this year.

"I always check their candy, but this year, with all the terrorist incidents, I wouldn't be surprised if somebody tried to do something," she said.

Aware of parents' heightened concern and the recent anthrax scares,

St. Louis County Police added a reminder to their usual Halloween safety rules: Some candies are made of powder and leave a powdery residue.

Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, who canceled the usual trick-or-treating at the governor's mansion, also mentioned anthrax worries when he advised parents two weeks ago that keeping children off the streets at Halloween might be a good idea.

In San Francisco, city officials are trying to encourage partygoers to attend the city's official Halloween event at the Civic Center.

"I don't think in San Francisco you can tell people not to gather for Halloween," said P.J. Johnston, spokesman for Mayor Willie Brown. "I don't think the city is going to stop functioning in its normal way."

Neither will West Hollywood, particularly this year.

Red Cross to stop soliciting for Sept. 11 disaster fund

WASHINGTON (AP) — The American Red Cross has raised enough money to help victims of the terrorist attacks and will stop asking for donations, its interim chief executive says.

The Liberty Fund held \$547 million in pledges as of Monday. More than \$200 million in uncommitted money will be held to meet future needs arising from

the attacks.

Harold Decker, the charity's temporary leader, said it was known from the start that the fund was for a specific event — the Sept. 11 attacks — and would eventually be closed.

As a result, contributions arriving at the Red Cross after Wednesday will go to the general disaster fund unless donors specify



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Military working behind the scenes in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AP) — American soldiers are in Afghanistan advising anti-Taliban forces and helping guide bombs to their targets, improving the success of the U.S.-led air campaign, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld says.

Warplanes launched heavy bombing raids Wednesday on Taliban front line positions north of the Afghan capital. Witnesses said it was some of the heaviest bombing of the front line yet, with at least 11 bombs striking Wednesday morning.

Rumsfeld said Tuesday of U.S. special forces in Afghanistan: "Because they are there now, the effort has improved in its effectiveness."

Target information supplied by opposition forces has not been exact enough, officials have said.

Rumsfeld said a "very modest" number of U.S.

forces are in northern Afghanistan, working with specific units of the loose anti-Taliban coalition known as the northern alliance.

He said other U.S. forces had been "in and out" of southern Afghanistan to work with Taliban opponents there.

Rumsfeld did not say which U.S. troops are in Afghanistan or how long they have been there, but from his description of their missions, it seemed likely they included Army Special Forces, commonly called Green Berets.

Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said after meeting with President Bush on Wednesday that congressional leaders are satisfied with the military action so far.

"There may be a need for additional efforts on the ground and if that's neces-

sary I'm sure the president will brief Congress on the importance of doing it," Daschle said. "We're prepared to work with him."

Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., who also attended the leadership meeting at the White House, said military leaders "are going about it the right way. We'll continue to see developments. All options are on the table."

Rear Adm. John Stufflebeem said the American ground forces had been in Afghanistan for days, not weeks, and were there because northern alliance officials asked for them. Stufflebeem, deputy operations director for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the U.S. forces took a long time to arrive in the north because the main mode of transportation there is horse or donkey.

"So getting in, making sure you are with the right

group, which is important, is somewhat problematic," Stufflebeem said. "And you don't necessarily want to just show up and announce yourself too loudly."

Army Gen. Tommy Franks, commander of U.S. forces involved in the war in Afghanistan, said Tuesday that opposition Afghan forces could help the United States in several ways.

They could contribute directly by aiding in the overthrow of the Taliban government and the fight against Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, he said, or they might help open an overland route to deliver emergency food aid to starving Afghans.

So far the Air Force has dropped about 1 million packets of food rations, but the pace of that effort has been criticized by international aid agencies as too slow.

MAYOR

Continued from Page 4A

request, all staffing levels were studied with the result that five positions have been eliminated with a savings of over \$100,000 th the city.

When I ran for mayor in March of 2000, I very carefully stated that, if elected, I would put my full energy into the position and strive to be as progressive as possible. I ran on a platform of change and made it clear that if elected I would examine every area of government with an eye to the future. I am not a mayor who is interested in the status quo. I am a person who looks at the possibilities in any endeavor that I undertake. I believe that nothing is impossible if we set aggressive goals and put our energy into achieving them. I have found out in the past year and a half that change is not easy. There has been much opposition to the changes that I have sought to bring about. In addition to the aforementioned items the following is a partial list of the city's accomplishments in the first 19 months of my tenure as mayor:

The complete study of our EMS service including receiving proposals from private companies for the running of our EMS service. Based on the competitive process the city and the

county have been able to enter a realistic agreement for the internal management of the EMS service. This program has become self sufficient for the first time in the five years that it has been run by the city of Big Spring.

Completed a study of our city pool with an eye toward the highest/best use of our facilities. The result was a complete retrofit of the pool which made it a more attractive source of recreation for our citizens. This was borne out by the fact that our attendance at the pool more than tripled this

summer.

Revamped the city committee system bringing uniformity to all committees.

Began a program designed to significantly upgrade Cotton Mize Field and the ball fields at Roy Anderson Park to a standard that we can all be proud of.

Instituted a study to find efficient use of our effluent water.

The citizens of Big Spring will be going to the polls in the next two weeks to decide if you want to retain me as your mayor. Please be aware that I did not run for mayor to be a caretaker. I

will continue to be progressive in my approach to my job as your mayor.

We are at a crossroads. The attendance at the Big Spring ISD continues to decline by approximately 100 students per year. That is a sure sign that our real population is decreasing. If we do not reverse that trend we will die a slow death. Change is not easy. We will make mistakes along the way. However, it is my opinion that we must be progressive in our thoughts and our actions. That is what I intend to do as your mayor.

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IN BRIEF

International LL sets ragball tournament

The International Little League has scheduled a coed ragball tournament for 8 a.m. Saturday.

Players must be at least 13 years old and entry fees are \$10 per player. All teams will have six male and female players.

For more information, call Denise at 756-2841, Raymond at 263-0381 or Delbert at 263-2631.

Deer harvest recommendations

Hunters and landowners are being reminded by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials that the general deer hunting season will begin Saturday, Nov. 3, and continue through Jan. 6, 2002.

The legal bag limit for Howard County is five deer, no more than two bucks. No special permits are required for harvesting antlerless deer, but both antlerless deer and bucks must be properly tagged with a tag from a valid hunting license.

The recommended harvest in Howard County, according to TP&WD wildlife biologist Kathy McGinty, is one antlerless deer per 1,200 acres and one buck per 2,500 acres.

For more information, call McGinty at 915-795-2238.

DFW Turnpike now Tom Landry Highway

DALLAS (AP) — State and local officials Tuesday paid tribute to longtime Dallas Cowboys coach Tom Landry as they unveiled new signs, renaming the old Dallas-Fort Worth Turnpike the Tom Landry Highway.

Landry's widow, Alicia, with her children and grandchildren watching, removed coverings from a green and white sign with a picture of Landry's signature fedora during a ceremony in downtown Dallas.

The renaming of the highway "is just splendid," Alicia Landry said. "The grandchildren are excited, the children are excited and I'm excited."

She said being a Texan is like being a member of a club, and that Landry was always proud to be a Texan.

The designation is for Interstate 30 between Interstate 35E in Dallas and Interstate 35W in Fort Worth.

State Sen. Chris Harris and state Rep. Tony Goolsby, authored bills to rename the 40-mile stretch of Interstate 30, and Gov. Rick Perry signed the act May 21.

The legislation required the Texas Department of Transportation to design and construct unique signs for I-30 indicating not only the designation as the Tom Landry Highway, but for a fedora on each marker.

Perry praised Landry as a man of unshakable faith who inspired others to goodness.

"He was more than a coach," Perry said. "He was a builder of character."

ON THE AIR

Television

BASEBALL

7 p.m. — World Series, Game 4, Arizona Diamondbacks at New York Yankees, FOX.

BASKETBALL

7 p.m. — Toronto Raptors at Miami Heat, TNT.

HOCKEY

7 p.m. — St. Louis Blues at Colorado Avalanche, ESPN.

TENNIS

7 p.m. — Women's Sanex Championships, early round coverage (same-day tape), ESPN2.

Mavericks open season with win over Pistons

DALLAS (AP) — Jerry Stackhouse and the Detroit Pistons were off to a great start. Dirk Nowitzki and the Dallas Mavericks weren't.

Then the Mavericks made a defensive change, putting Michael Finley on Stackhouse. Neither offense would be the same.

Finley shut down Stackhouse and began to find his own shot, scoring 23 of his 34 points in the middle two quarters, then Nowitzki took over in the final period as Dallas beat Detroit 94-87 in the season opener Tuesday night.

While it wasn't the prettiest way for the Mavericks to break in their new \$420 million home court,

American Airlines Center, it was fitting that they were led by Finley and Nowitzki, both of whom recently signed deals to stay in Dallas through 2008.

"We looked terrible out there at the beginning, but the biggest thing is that we won," said Nowitzki, who scored 20 of his 21 points in the second half, 12 in the fourth quarter. "Mike had a great game and he really carried us in the first half. That's why he's an All-Star."

Stackhouse scored 11 points in the first quarter when defensive specialist Greg Buckner guarded him. Then Buckner sprained his right ankle and Finley got the assignment because Dallas' other ace defender,

Adrian Griffin, is out with back spasms.

Stackhouse missed his next seven shots, not scoring again until a tip-in with 1:11 left in the third quarter. He made only one basket in the fourth quarter.

"When you're guarding a guy who's not a mainstay, you tend not to go as hard," said Finley, who had 12 points in the second quarter and 11 in the third. "Having to guard Stackhouse when they're going to him almost every time down the floor kept me more involved in the game."

Finley made 14-of-28 shots, including 4-of-6 on 3-pointers. He also had six rebounds and three assists while

playing 46 minutes. For one night, at least, Dallas went away from its plan of taking away Finley's crown as the league's most-used player.

"He carried us from beginning to end," said Tim Hardaway, an off-season pal of Finley's who was playing his first regular-season game as his teammate. "He carried us on his shoulders."

The Pistons led by eight early, yet came up short in the NBA coaching debut of Rick Carlisle.

"I thought we had a good defensive first half, then we succumbed to some shot-making and we let them get out in transition a little bit," said Carlisle, an assistant the last 11 seasons.

Cowboys coming up lame?

Emmitt day-to-day with sprained knee

IRVING (AP) — Emmitt Smith won't practice Wednesday because of his sprained right knee, but the Dallas Cowboys are optimistic the second-leading rusher in NFL history won't miss a game.

Coach Dave Campo said Tuesday that MRI tests showed Smith has a "relatively mild" sprain of his medial collateral ligament.

"We'll take that day-to-day. It doesn't appear to be too bad, so I'm hoping that it's going to be relatively quick," Campo said. "If he's ready at 1 o'clock Sunday, New York time, he'll start."

Campo said Smith could be back at practice by Thursday.

The Cowboys (2-4), who have won two straight games, play the New York Giants on Sunday.

Smith was hurt when tackled by Arizona linebacker Ronald McKinnon after a 1-yard gain in the Cowboys' 17-3 win Sunday. He was on the turf for a while and seemed in great pain, then walked to the sideline with the aid of trainers. He walked to the locker room on his own after the game.

In his 12-year NFL career, Smith has played in 176 regular-season games and missed only two because of injury. He has 15,564 career rushing yards, 1,162 behind Walter Payton's NFL record.

Smith last missed a game because of injury Nov. 14, 1999, when he sat out against Green Bay because of a broken bone in his right hand.

A strained left hamstring sidelined him for the 1994 regular season finale against the Giants. But the Cowboys had already clinched a playoff spot, and Smith played in both postseason games that season.

Troy Hambrick would start at tailback and Johnny Huggins, primarily a tight end, would fill in at fullback if Smith doesn't play Sunday. Campo said there also was the possibility that Smith wouldn't start but could play.

"If he's capable of dressing and being a factor, he might not get quite as many carries as he normally would, but I won't go as far as to say



Dallas Cowboys running back Emmitt Smith, pictured here rushing for a touchdown in 1993, has been hobbled by a mild knee strain suffered late in Sunday's win over the Arizona Cardinals. As a result, the Cowboys have him listed as day-to-day.

it's either start or don't play," Campo said. "I think he'll want to play."

Campo isn't saying yet who will be the starting quarterback, although he still appears to be leaning toward Clint Stoerner over Ryan Leaf.

Stoerner was adequate in his first NFL start against the Cardinals, completing 9-of-18 passes for 93 yards. He

also ran 6 yards for the only offensive touchdown.

Leaf, the No. 2 overall pick by San Diego in 1998, is still learning the Cowboys offense. This is only the third week in Dallas for Leaf, who was cut by the Chargers after three seasons and didn't make Tampa Bay's roster during training camp.

NFL owners could ratify labor deal today

PITTSBURGH (AP) — NFL owners are on the verge of ratifying a three-year extension of the labor agreement, although they want the players to help pay for the extra security in place since Sept. 11.

The terrorist acts led the NFL to greatly increase security at all games, and commissioner Paul Tagliabue said one of several remaining unresolved issues with the extension of the collective bargaining agreement is paying for that security.

The NFL Management Council and the NFL Players Association agreed in June to the three-year extension, which would assure labor peace through the 2007 season. It would be the fourth extension of the original agreement reached in 1993. The league's last labor-related interruption was the 1987 strike.

"There's a lot of support for it, subject to getting anywhere between one and four remaining issues resolved," Tagliabue said Tuesday. "Mostly, they're about where we are going to

be in 2006, how we deal with the cap that year based on TV and the considerable added expenses the teams are going to have and the league is going to have in terms of security."

"We think the cost of that should be split with the players association under the CBA in some way and not borne entirely by the owners."

Tagliabue would not estimate how much the additional security is costing each team or the league, but sug-

See OWNERS, Page 2B

This isn't the way Michael's return was supposed to begin

NEW YORK — This was not the way it was supposed to begin.

Or end.

With the game on the line, Michael Jordan missed and then he missed again. In between, he tried to pass over the top of the Knicks' defense and threw the ball away.

On the slim evidence of a single game, at least the first one that counted, the man defined by winning is now going to have to learn how to deal with losing.

The first basket of his Third Coming carried faint echoes of the Jordan that used to be.

Barely 90 seconds into the game, Jordan faked a drive to his right,

cut left past Latrell Sprewell and switched the ball to his right hand just in time to slip it under and then around New York center Felton Spencer for a finger-roll layup.

But there were more than a few glimpses of the 38-year-old former front-office boss who is nowhere near the Jordan that left the game three seasons ago near the peak of his considerable powers. And never was that more evident than at the end of the Knicks' 93-91 win over the Washington Wizards.

"What did Michael have, six assists, four steals and five rebounds?" Wizards coach Doug Collins said. "He makes two more shots and you say, 'Wow, he had a great game.'"

Maybe. But first you have to look past the 7-for-21 shooting night, the last of the three turnovers and the fact that advancing age and the NBA's

decision to allow teams to play zone defense might have reduced the best player ever to little more than a wily veteran with perhaps the best midrange game going.

The question all along was not whether Jordan could score, but whether he could do enough to make the team around him better. The answer at the moment is no.

"It could have been a great outcome, but it's the beginning of a long season," Jordan said. "That's the way I look at it."

But that's not the way his opponents will.

"He's used to being around Scottie Pippen and guys knocking down shots around him," Sprewell said. "We definitely forced their team to have guys make the plays other than Michael. It just worked out for us tonight."

Several times in the opening half, Jordan let fly with a jumper, turned while the outcome was still

in doubt and loped back up the court with the arrogance of a man who knows thousands of those shots have fallen before. He turned out to be right only once.

He was 5-for-13 at halftime, and then the cold shooting set in. Jordan turned aside fatigue as an excuse and refused to blame the tendinitis that nagged at his knees during a summer packed with four-hour workouts.

"The knees have been bothering me a little bit," he said, "but they felt fine tonight."

Left unsaid, by Jordan, anyway, was the five days of practice he skipped to let those knees rest. Because the Wizards hold closed practices, no one but his coach and teammates knew his preparation for the opener effectively ended with the last exhibition game Friday.

See LITKE, Page 2B

Jordan ordinary in comeback; Lakers overpowering in opener

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michael Jordan's comeback fell short of his desired outcome. Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant made sure the Los Angeles Lakers' defense of their second straight championship started with a victory.

Jordan, sporting the familiar uniform No. 23 and the unfamiliar blue, black and gold colors of the Washington Wizards, was ordinary in his return from a 3-year retirement, scoring 19 points in a 93-91 loss to the New York Knicks on Tuesday night, the first night of the NBA regular season.

The Lakers celebrated their second straight championship with a minimum of fanfare, raising their eighth title banner to the rafters, then beat the Portland Trail Blazers 98-87.

Before a subdued sellout crowd at Madison Square Garden, Jordan shot 7-for-21 and had six assists, five rebounds and four steals. He had two turnovers in the final three minutes and missed four of his final five shots, including a 3-pointer that would have tied the game with 18 seconds left.

"The game is a little bit different, my teammates are a little bit different, and obviously the outcome is a little different from what I wanted," Jordan said.

Jordan missed his first shot, but used a familiar quick first step to get past Latrell Sprewell and score on finger-roll 90 seconds into the game.

They were Jordan's first points since he scored over Utah's Bryon Russell in Game 6 of the 1998 NBA Finals to give the Chicago Bulls their sixth championship.

Chris Whitney scored 18 points to lead the rest of the Wizards, who gave Jordan a chance to make his comeback memorable.

Even Knicks coach Jeff Van Gundy seemed to expect a different outcome.

"I think we were all surprised, I know I was. When that 3 went up, I thought it was in," he said.

Jordan showed no emotion when the game ended and shrugged off the loss.

"I had a good look and it came up short. My shot was pretty short and pretty flat," Jordan said. "It could have been a great situation, but it's the beginning of a long

season — that's the way I look at it."

In other season openers, it was Boston 108, Cleveland 89; Orlando 114, Toronto 85; New Jersey 103, Indiana 97; Minnesota 83, Philadelphia 74; Houston 89, Atlanta 84 in overtime; Dallas 94, Detroit 87; San Antonio 109, Los Angeles 92; Milwaukee 119, Utah 112 in overtime; Denver 99, Phoenix 96; Sacramento 101, Seattle 95; and L.A. Lakers 98, Portland 87.

In Los Angeles, O'Neal, playing through the pain of a sore left foot, had 29 points — including 9-of-16 from the line — 18 rebounds, five assists and five blocked shots as Los Angeles took control early.

"Hurtin' bad," O'Neal said of his surgically repaired toe. "I'm still good enough to do what I do."

Kobe Bryant, who also had 29 points, said the Lakers — both old and new — fed off the pregame ceremony.

"We talked to each other after we got the rings and said, 'This is what you guys are here for,' Bryant said, referring to the four new players on the Lakers' active roster.

Rasheed Wallace led the

Blazers with 22 points and 12 rebounds.

The loss spoiled the debut of Trail Blazers coach Maurice Cheeks.

Kings 101, SuperSonics 95

Vlade Divac scored 27 points and Peja Stojakovic 26 in Sacramento's win at home.

Vin Baker had 20 points for the Sonics, while Gary Payton had 18 points and 13 assists.

Bucks 119, Jazz 112, OT

Ray Allen scored 32 points, Glenn Robinson 28 and Sam Cassell 25 in Milwaukee's victory in Utah.

John Starks led the Jazz with 20 points.

Nuggets 99, Suns 96

Nick Van Exel had 27 points as Denver spoiled Stephon Marbury's debut in Phoenix.

Tariq Abdul-Wahad and James Posey each scored 13 points for Denver.

Tony Delk had 21 points, and Shawn Marion had 20 points and nine rebounds for the Suns. Marbury had

14 points and 10 assists.

Rockets 86, Hawks 84, OT

Steve Francis scored 23 points, including seven in overtime, and Houston started the post-Hakeem Olajuwon era with a victory over visiting Atlanta.

Cuttino Mobley had 21 points and seven rebounds for Houston.

Shareef Abdur-Rahim finished with 28 points and 18 rebounds for the Hawks.

Nets 103, Pacers 97

Jason Kidd had 14 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists, and host New Jersey rallied from a 13-point deficit in the fourth quarter to beat Indiana.

Keith Van Horn added 26 points and Kerry Kittles had 20.

Jalen Rose scored a career-high 43 points for Indiana.

Spurs 109, Clippers 98

In San Antonio, Steve Smith scored 19 points and Antonio Daniels 17 to lead the Spurs past Los Angeles.

Elton Brand scored 27 points in his first game with

the Clippers.

Timberwolves 83, 76ers 74

Chauncey Billups scored 22 points as host Minnesota beat injury-depleted Philadelphia.

Derrick Coleman had 15 points and 11 rebounds for the Sixers. Speedy Claxton, who missed his rookie season because of injury, had 20 points in his pro debut for the Sixers.

Celtics 108, Cavaliers 89

Paul Pierce scored 29 points and Antoine Walker 23 as Boston spoiled John Lucas' coaching debut in Cleveland.

Trajan Langdon and Wesley Person scored 13 points apiece to lead the Cavs.

Magic 114, Raptors 85

Tracy McGrady had 23 points, and Grant Hill scored 22 as host Orlando posted its largest margin of victory in a season debut.

Toronto was led by Chris Childs' 13 points.

Vince Carter hurt his left knee late in the second quarter.

Only the drama is missing from this year's PGA Tour Championship

HOUSTON (AP) — The final tournament of the year, played on a course that has hosted a U.S. Open and a Ryder Cup. The top 30 players on the PGA Tour money list. A \$5 million purse, one of the richest in golf, with \$900,000 going to the winner.

Now all the Tour Championship needs is some significance.

Fat chance. Blame it on Tiger Woods, who again has turned the Tour Championship into an epilogue instead of the dramatic climax it was intended to be.

He already has won the money title with more than \$5.5 million. His closest pur-

suer, Phil Mickelson, is \$1.1 million behind and changing diapers this week on his 5-day-old daughter.

Woods is a lock to win another Vardon Trophy for lowest scoring average, and barring some hanging chads on the ballots, should win player of the year.

So, what would it mean for him to win?

"It would mean six victories on our tour," Woods said Tuesday on the practice range at Champions Golf Club.

And what would that mean?

"A lot." Like what? "A lot." Oh.

The last time anything was at stake in the Tour Championship was three years ago at East Lake, when David Duval needed to finish four strokes higher than Woods to claim the Vardon Trophy. He wound up eight strokes ahead of Woods.

Gone are the times when a player could win the Tour Championship and claim the money title. That's what Tom Lehman did at Southern Hills in 1996, surpassing four-time winner Mickelson, and it was enough for him to get voted player of the year.

To find something meaningful about this year's edition requires a little imagi-

nation.

It starts with Woods, who was correct when he said six PGA Tour victories would mean a lot. For one thing, it would make him the first player since Ben Hogan in 1946-48 to win at least six times in three consecutive seasons.

Plus, it would help change the public perception on his season. Rarely a week went by without someone comparing Woods' play to last year, when he won nine times — including three straight majors — and didn't have a single round over par after the first week in May.

The Miami Dolphins went undefeated in 1972. They

were only 12-2 a year later, but still won the Super Bowl.

"Take out what I did last year, and this is a better year than I had in 1999," Woods said. "I won bigger tournaments. I won Firestone both years, won a major. But I won The Players Championship, which I didn't do in '99."

David Toms has something at stake.

The Tour Championship would be his fourth victory of the year, which might merit fleeting consideration for player of the year. But only fleeting.

If anything, it would demonstrate how Woods has changed the curve on tour.

Four victories used to be considered a blockbuster season. If Toms were to win, it likely would be the fourth straight year — and five of the last six — that a player has won four times and failed to get player of the year.

Duval won four times in 1998 and was beaten out by Mark O'Meara's two majors. Duval won four times in 1999, all of them before the clocks changed to Daylight Saving Time. Mickelson won four times last year, but that was five fewer including three majors than Woods.

Ernie Els probably has more riding on this week than anyone.

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263-6022

LAWN CARE

S & L
Lawn ServiceMowing, edge,
weedcut, hedge & tree
trimming removal,
fencing.

Free Estimates

267-0427
864-0831 ask for
Shane

RENTALS

VENTURA
COMPANY

267-2655
Houses
duplex
1, 2, 3
bedrooms.
For rent &
For sale.

TREE TRIMMING

LUPE'S TREE
TRIMMING

More than 20 years

HELP WANTED

Seeking motivated people for nighttime work. Must have valid driver's license & travel required. Will train. Call 267-5448 ext.203

Working quarry foreman. Needs some mechanical experience with large equipment. Forklift and crane certification helpful. Organizational and managerial skills necessary. Bilingual a plus. Insurance, dental and retirement benefits. Fax resume to 915-35-2589

JOBS WANTED

Mowing, tree trimming, hauling, interior-exterior painting. Call 267-5460 or e-mail

LOANS

MIDWEST FINANCE
Loans \$100-\$430. Open M-F 9-6pm. 812 Gregg. 263-1353. Phone app. welcome. Se Habla Espanol.

NEED EXTRA \$\$\$

COME SEE US!
No Credit
No Problem
Loans \$100-\$467
Apply by phone 267-4591
or come by
SECURITY FINANCE
204 S. Gold
Big Spring

GRAIN HAY OR FEED

Fert. Coastal Hay rolls. Delivery available. 903-425-8031 or 903-681-4629

Garage Sales

2607 Central Sat. 8-5. Books, clothes, lamps, dishes, home decor & lots more.

4 Family Garage Sale, Sat. 8:30-7, 205 NE Broadway, Coahoma. Don't Miss This One!

700 Highland Drive. Computer, golf clubs, very nice jewelry. Sat. 9-1pm.

Garage Sale, Sat. 8-5. 15th, Thur & Fri. 8am. Antiques, furniture, glassware, & much more.

Garage Sale: Saturday only 8-1. 611 Craigmont. Refrigerator, twin beds, clothes, misc.

Garage Sale: Sat. 8-1. 4211 Dixon. Must empty storage building. Maple dining set w/ chairs, 19" color TV w/remotes, sleeper sofa, rocker, coffee table, SW art items, Christmas tree/decorations, mens & ladies clothes, small appliances & lots of misc.

Garage Sale: Sat. 8-5. 8411 N. Service Road. Golfcart, furniture, 440 headers, books, clothes, toys.

Garage Sale: Sat. 8-5. 9am. Mens & Womens clothing, tools, wheels, tires, fax phone, printer. Follow signs off S. 87 & Jeffery Rd. to 500 Deary Rd.

Garage Sale, Sat. Only. 401 E. 8th. 8am-5pm. Furniture, misc.

Garage Sale: This the last one! Sat. only 2107 Alabama. 8-7 Young ladies clothes, some mens clothes, dishes, etc.

Huge 3 Family Garage Sale, Fri & Sat. 4015 Vicky. 8-7. Lots of Bargains.

Refrigerator, dryer, dishes, dining set, misc. Fri & Sat. 8-5, 1310 Stamford.

Yard Sale: 3605 Tingle Sat. 8-2. Furniture, Christmas, lg men & women size clothing.

Garage Sales

Garage Sale, Clothes, dryer, lavatory, furn. misc. Sat. 8-7 8th house So. of Ackery on FM 2212

Garage Sale: Fri. & Sat. 1912 Cause off Rock House Rd. Dearborn Heater, teapots, power tools, dryer, 7-Up Machine, kerosene lamps, cast iron pots, computer, bunk beds, cookie jars, popcorn machine, bikes, table saw, dining table.

FURNITURE

Ornate set \$75.00 & tan double recliner \$100.00. Call 263-0800 after 6pm.

Holiday Specials
Sales on Brand name Stereo, TVs, VCR & DVD's
E-Z Cash
263-4315

MISCELLANEOUS

4 piece Lazy Boy Living Room Group. Dark Camel Couch and Love seat. Multicolored large chair and ottoman. excellent condition. \$800.00. Daytime 267-5205, Ask for Don or Betty, Night 264-0058

YANMAR YM 1500 Tractor, diesel, 3 point hitch, \$2,150. Also, new 4' finish mower, still in crate, \$850. Shipping available. Located just outside of Huntsville, AL (256) 776-9435 www.maynardequipments.com

Bear Claw Tool Sharpening Co. All machines, tools, supplies. One price for All No piece sales. Call 264-0054.

Lalides gold coin bracelet & 1899 U.S. \$5.00 gold coin. \$200.00 Call 263-8759

WEDDING CAKES!!
Silk florals, arches, abas, etc.
Creative Celebrations
267-8191

BUILDINGS FOR RENT

40 x 70 Commercial Building with small office. East I-20. 2 Drive in doors. 263-4327

FARMS & RANCHES

240 acres. 3Br/2bath house. Big barn. Lease option on adjoining 400 acres. Good hunting. Call 915-561-5071 8-5, M-F.

HOUSES FOR SALE

1307 Virginia
For Sale By Owner
Extremely nice large brick home with covered parking, privacy fence, CH/A, new carpet, ceramic tile. A "MUST SEE" for \$37,000. 263-1792 or 264-6006

2 BR, closed in back porch, 2 large garages & carport. 1010 Sycamore. \$27,000. 267-7342

Comfortable living in the Country. 3/2 1/2 on acreage. CISO. \$100's. By owner/agent. 267-4147

For Sale or Lease: 4/2/2 with pool. 1 yr. lease. \$1,200/mo. or \$132,000. Under market appraisal. #5 Craigmont Court. 785-969-6136

Near College
Owner Financing
3 bdr. 1 bath.
Low down payment
low monthly. Great for students.
915-638-7100

OWNER FINANCE
Low Down. Easy
Qualify. 3/1 new paint
and flooring through out.
1103 Sycamore.
915-352-7778

RENT TO OWN HOMES

4BR 2bth.
\$300 mo.
2 bdr \$220 mo
3 bdr. \$240
264-0510

HOUSES FOR SALE

For Sale By Owner: 3 bdr. 2 bath. 2 car garage, carport, fireplace, & more. 505 Highland Drive. Call Joe @ 263-3816

For Sale By Owner: Approximately 8 acres, completely fenced with riding arena. 3 bedroom 2 1/2 bath. home. Coahoma School District. Call 394-4522 or 667-7080

PROPERTY BUSINESS

Apts. for sale: 6 - 1 BR, 2 - 2 BR. Gd Invs. Prop. Call for appt.

Lge. Comm. whse for sale. 101 Johnson. Bldg at 2nd & Johnson. Great Loc. Janice Pitts - Real Estate 264-0526

FURNISHED APTS.

COURTYARD APTS.
1 - 1Bdr unit available. Fully furnished. Water/gas paid. Call 263-2131

OFFICE SPACE

Office space for rent. Receptionist, copier and fax machine available. Call 267-5211 for more information.

UNFURNISHED APTS.

\$50 - First Month
Water & gas paid
CH/A, covered picnic area
w/beer-b-que grill.
Play ground and laundry facilities
1 & 2 bdr. apt. homes
Heather Apartments
2911 W. Hwy 80
263-2292

Eff. 1 bdr. & 2 bdr. Move in special \$49-deposit. + rent. 267-4217

ONE, TWO & THREE BEDROOM RESIDENCES

No utility deposits on gas or water
One year lease special and Senior Citizens Discount

VIEW THESE HOMES AT OUR WEBSITE
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"Remember... You Deserve The Best"
CORONADO HILLS APARTMENTS
801 W. Marcy Drive, Phone 267-6500

UNFUR. HOUSES FOR RENT

1 bdr. 1 bath w/d connection, near college within walking distance. \$350/mo. NO HUD. 267-2296

1 bdr. duplex stove & refrigerator. NO bills paid. \$200/mo. references & deposit. 267-1857

1 BR, 1 bath, with covered and fenced carport. w/d connections, partially furnished. 503-A Washington Blvd. (Close to College) \$300/mo. 915/267-8324 after 6

1107 Barnes 2 bdr. 1 bath. CH/A. fenced yard, very clean. \$375/mo. \$300/dep. 263-3778

2 and 3 bdr. houses for rent. Stove & ref. furnished. Call 263-4410 or 267-7071

2 bdr. 2 bath fenced yard. References 263-7259

2 Bedroom house, also 3 Bedroom house. Call 263-5818

2 BR 1 bath duplex. 1501 Lincoln - A. Call 267-3841 or 270-7309.

3 bdr. 1 1/2 bath. 1313 Oil Mill Rd. w/garage apt. new carpet, newly remodeled. \$600/mo. + deposit. Call 267-5759.

3 BR, 2 1/2 bath, 2 living, 2 car garage, lg kitchen, util. rm. 503 Washington Blvd. \$800/mo. 915-267-8324 after 6.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Nov. 1:

You manifest a strong will mixed with high creativity. What a winning combination! Ask for more of what you want from the people who affect your day-to-day life. If you don't ask, you won't receive. Emphasize organization, work and good health habits. If you are single, you are likely to meet someone close to home or to get to know someone within your immediate circle better. This person could knock your socks off. If you are attached, you'll build a stronger home life on trust and loving. ARIES always pitches in. You can count on the Ram!

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)**** Don't let a passing sense of confusion affect you this morning. Be positive about your friendships and close loved ones. Sometimes a certain person can drive you a little crazy. Could this be mutual? Develop a greater understanding of each other. Tonight: Smile away.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**** Don't worry so much about what is happening with a strong authority figure. Sometimes you can feel too responsible. Use your instincts with this person. Sensitivity to others helps, but you also need to be good to yourself. Tonight: Call it an early night.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**** A meeting stimulates your resourcefulness. Sorting through confusion allows you to deal with overdue action. Take on both health and professional issues. When was the last time you had a checkup? Bring others together through a common interest. Tonight: Do only what you want to do.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)**** Assume command, and don't let others interfere with your plans. Another's excellent financial advice ultimately can make quite a difference. Think about the others around you before you decide on a plan. Why not toss out an idea for discussion? Tonight: Work late.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

**** Reach for the sky. Know that nothing is impossible. Confusion surrounds a key association, but you do seem to muddle through the issues. Being willing to take back and study what is going on leads to understanding and compassion. Tonight: Shrug off gossip. Accept only facts.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**** Dealings cut to the financial and emotional quick. Be sure you understand every word of a contract and what someone means. Keep throwing out questions, even at the risk of annoying another. Your work takes on an even higher priority than normal. Tonight: Quality time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**** Let others run with the moment, but do hold on to your wallet. A risk might sound like a sure deal, but it isn't. Checking it out anyway won't hurt. Don't be pressured by others or swayed by your need to be agreeable all the time. Opt for honesty and maybe bluntness. Tonight: Say yes to someone.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**** You'll be on the right track once you clear the cobwebs from your sleepy brain. Focus on work and home. Don't worry about anything else. Refuse to incorporate anything else into your day. Simplicity works best. Tonight: Put up your feet and relax.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**** Your fire draws others. Your unusual creativity comes out right now, but communicating clearly be challenging. Could not everyone wants to understand your ideas. Try a different approach. Express your dynamic personality in conversations. Tonight: Ever frisky.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**** Settle into basics. A friend might not come through for you. Don't be disappointed. Finances could swing wildly. Think in terms of stability rather than growth. You could be a lot happier that way. Your family needs more from you, and not all of what they want is material. Tonight: Head on home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**** Your intuitiveness remains one of your strong suits, even though your first hunch could be way off now. Think about your expectations from a neighbor, sibling or friend. Communication starts in your life, particularly right now. Speak of dreams as well as realities. Tonight: Hang out with friends.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**** You know what works for you. Another's ideas could get you in trouble. Check out his information. Do not act on hearsay or a hunch. Make gathering facts a must. You also could easily misunderstand another's intentions. Be circumspect with your funds. Tonight: Pay bills.

BORN TODAY

Actor Richard Dreyfuss (1947), actress Kate Jackson (1948), actress Winona Ryder (1971)

For America's best extended horoscope, recorded by Jacqueline Bigar, call (900) 740-7444, 99 cents per minute. Also featured is The Spoken Tarot. Callers must be 18 or older. A service of InterMedia Inc., Jenkintown, Pa.

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com.

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HOROSCOPE

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Ex-wife's juicy tidbits deemed inappropriate

Dear Ann Landers: I have been seeing a wonderful man for nine years. He has a daughter, "Rita," age 15, who lives with us and visits her mother every month. The problem is that Rita's mother, "Clara," has been telling her things that are inappropriate. She told her she had an affair while married to Rita's father. Last month, Clara told her that they did a lot of drugs together when they were younger.

Ann. We have all done things in our younger days that we aren't proud of, but I see no reason to fill a 15-year-old girl's head with stories about her father's mistakes. My husband said if he confronts his ex-wife about this, it will only add fuel to the fire. I disagree. Clara should know how damaging these stories are to Rita. Also, she shouldn't tell the girl stories about her father that he might not want her to know.

Teenagers are extremely impressionable. I am worried that these juicy tidbits might send Rita down the wrong path. What should I do? - Protective in Canada

Dear Protective: The first thing you can do is stop worrying. "Juicy tidbits" do not send teenagers down the wrong path. Clara sounds a bit loony. You can counteract her looniness best by staying close to Rita and letting her know she can confide in you. (P.S. Maybe you and Rita's father should consider getting married. It would add stability to Rita's life.)

Dear Ann Landers: I am a 19-year-old college sophomore with a problem. For my high school graduation, my parents bought me a new car. For my last birthday, they bought me a cell phone. I had not asked for either of these gifts, but I was thrilled with both and did my best to show my appreciation. Since then, my life has been miserable.

My mother insists that I keep my cell phone on at all times so she can reach me "in case of an emergency." She tells me I have an obligation to use my car to pick up my little brother from school every day. I don't understand why this is my responsibility. He is not my kid. Mom also wants me to run errands for her whenever she asks and makes me feel guilty if I say I have other plans.

When I first got the car, I asked Mom if there were any strings attached. She assured me there were not. However, if I say no to her requests for favors, she reminds me of her "generosity" and makes me feel guilty. Do you have any advice for me? - Over-Obligated in New York

Dear New York: I assume you DO help your mother out when you can, and the problem is that her requests have become excessive. You are a college sophomore. Can you move out of the house into a dorm or apartment? This would be the ideal solution. If it's not feasible, you are stuck - like brother and all.

Dear Ann Landers: My 45-year-old daughter has a screaming fit if I take a doggie bag home from a

Ex-wife's juicy tidbits deemed inappropriate

restaurant. My son doesn't like it either. They say it is tacky and it embarrasses them. I don't see why they should feel embarrassed.

I hope you will print this letter, Ann. There are a lot of people who do this and need your support. Thank you. - Connie in Los Altos, Calif.

Dear Connie: I frequently take home a "doggie bag" from restaurants and have no feelings of embarrassment. Left-over lasagna can make a delicious lunch the next day. Most restaurants have boxes designed for this purpose, and the waiters are pleased to accommodate those folks who want to take the leftovers home. Remember the old saying, "Waste not - want not."

Dear Ann Landers: You have printed several columns about the dangers of allowing children to trick-or-treat on Halloween. Our church has come up with an idea we think might be helpful to you readers. We call it "Trick or Trunk."

Here's how it works: Church members and families decorate the trunks of their cars and fill them with candy and other treats. They drive to the church parking lot where the decorated trunks are accessible. The children dress up in their Halloween costumes and go from car to car while family members hand out treats. The parents enjoy watching their children parade around the parking lot. A local youth group sells hot dogs and pop at bargain prices as a church fund-raiser.

This is a safe way for children to trick-or-treat with families they know, and it makes for an inexpensive night out for the family. - We Like Living in Tucson, Ariz.

Dear Tucson: Your suggestion is a good one. What an excellent way to keep children safe on Halloween - which is just around the corner, folks.

Gem of the Day (credit Woody Allen): I don't want to achieve immortality through my work. I want to achieve it through not dying.

"A Collection of My Favorite Gems of the Day" is the perfect little gift for that special someone who is impossible to buy for. Send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$5.25 (this includes postage and handling) to: Collection, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562. (In Canada, \$6.25.) To find out more about Ann Landers and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

Is that Ann Landers column you clipped years ago yellow with age? For a copy of her most frequently requested poems and essays, send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$5.25 (this includes postage and handling) to: Gems, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562. (In Canada, send \$6.25.) To find out more about Ann Landers and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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PUBLIC ESTATE AUCTION
Selling House and Contents
2301 Roberts • Big Spring, Tx
South on Birdwell to Alameda, Left to Cindy, Right on Roberts
Saturday, November 3, 2001 • 10:00 a.m.
Preview from 8 to 10 a.m. the Day of Sale
All Bids, Offers, Questions and Contents are Final. Cash Only.
Household Items • Furniture • Pictures • What Knobs • Records • Wall Hangings • Collector Plates • Antique Wall Clocks • Porcelain Dolls • Books • Costume Jewelry • Oriental Items • Quilt • Ladies Old Hats • Duncan Play Bedroom Set • Duncan Play Buffet • (2) French Provincial Tubs • French Provincial 3-Drawer Chest • Victorian Sofa • Spot Chair • Tied Table • Hexagon Table with (4) Chairs • Spot Table • Wood Book Shelves • Console TV • Combination Radio & Stereo Console • Radio & 8-Track Console • Lamp • Floor Table • Handicapped • Wood Corner Shelf • Bedside • Wood Handicapped Chair • Maple 10-Drawer Chest • Linens • Spotted Leather Table • Small Night Secondary • Maple Bedroom Set • Whirlpool Refrigerator • Sharp Microwave • Whirlpool Washer & Dryer • Kenmore Upright Freezer
- Items to be Sold - Must Come As Is - No Returns & No Refunds
- HOUSES TO BE SOLD AT WITH OWNER'S APPROVAL -
- Bids Home on a Corner Lot - 3 Bedrooms - 3 Baths - Kitchen - Den with a Fire Place - Large Living Room - Bath in Range & Oven - Central Heat & Air - Fruit Trees - Paved Back Yard - Well House with Well & Storage - Car Port
10% Down the Day of Sale - Balance on Closing
BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS - FOOD AND DRINK AVAILABLE
Spring City Auction
BIG SPRING, TEXAS
Robert Pruitt, Auctioneer, (915) 263-1831
TXS-7759

Barcelona Apartments
"Call For Move-In Specials"
All Bills Paid
538 Westside Rd. 263-1522

BEAUTIFUL GARDEN COURTYARD
•Swimming Pool
•Private Patios
•Carports
•Appliances
•Most Utilities Paid
•Senior Citizens Discount
•1 & 2 Bedroom Unfurnished PARKHILL TERRACE
APARTMENTS
404 W. Marcy Drive
263-5225 263-5266

CHURCH AND CLUB NEWS DEADLINES
Items should be dropped off to the office at 710 Scurry; P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721-1431; or faxed to 264-7205.
For more information call 263-7331

PUBLIC NOTICE
The County of Howard, Texas, will hold a Computer Accuracy Test as required by Sec. 127.001 to 127.003 of the Texas Election Code. This test is conducted to ascertain that the equipment will accurately count the votes cast in punch-card ballots for the Constitutional Amendment Election to be held November 8th, 2001.
This computer accuracy test will be held at the County Clerk's Office of Howard County, City of Big Spring, on November 2nd, 2001 at 3:00 PM.
For Understanding: Presiding Judge Central Counting Station 63959 October 31, 2001

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ATTENTION CLASSIFIED CUSTOMERS
IF YOU WAKE TO CANCEL OR MAKE CHANGES IN YOUR AD, PLEASE CALL BY 8:00 AM THE DAY THE CHANGE IS TO OCCUR.

1998 Chevrolet Suburban
Loaded. \$8950. 87 Auto sales. 263-2382

1998 Chevrolet Suburban
Loaded. \$8950. 87 Auto sales. 263-2382

Garage Sale, Lots of baby items & clothes, Sat. 9-2. No early birds. 606 Hildebrand Dr.
Free to good homes 6 month old black puppies. 1/2 German short hair. Call 268-9450.

1 owner Dodge 15 passenger van. Perfect condition. 40,000 miles. New tires. \$5950. 87 Auto sales. 263-2382

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WEDNESDAY

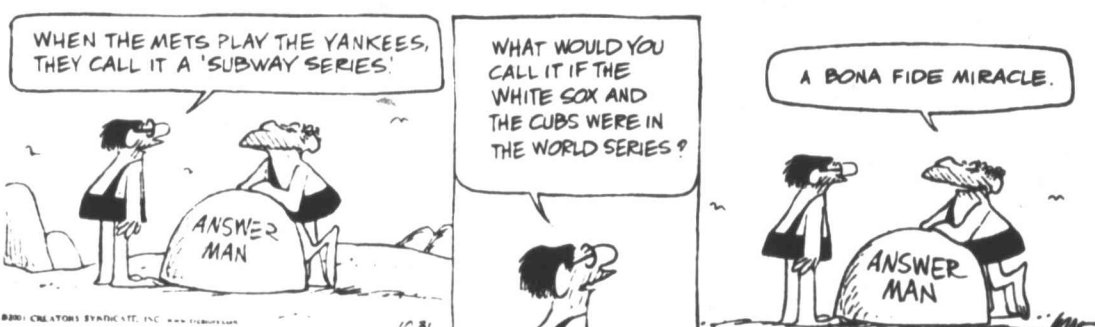
OCT. 31

	KMID (2)	KPEJ (3)	KERA (5)	FAM (6)	KOSA (7)	WFAA (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	UNI (13)	DISN (14)	NASH (15)	TMC (16)	SHOW (20)	HBO (22)	KMLB (23)	A&E (25)	DISC (26)	TNT (28)	TLC (31)
6:30 PM	News (CC)	King of the Hill	Wishbone	World's Magic	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	Fresh Prince	Carla de	Movie: Halloween-	Mad TV (CC)	Movie: Passion of	Movie: Bless	Vance (CC)	Liberty	Law & Order	Who's Afraid	Pretender	Ruby Ridge
7:30 PM	My Wife-Kids	World Series	Hunt for Balthazar	Danger, Magic	60 Minutes II	My Wife-Kids	Ed (CC)	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Amigas y Rivalas	Movie: Halloween-	Mad TV (CC)	Movie: Mind (CC)	Movie: Bless	Reverend (CC)	Update With	Biography	Inside the	NBA Basketball	Monster Mash
8:30 PM	Drew Carey	Backs or Brakes	Secrets of the Dead	Movie: Lost Souls	Amazing Race	Drew Carey	West Wing	Movie: The Mask	Derecho de Nacer	Movie: Halloween-	Mad TV (CC)	Movie: Sleepy Hollow	Movie: Bless	Curb-Enthusiasm	Light of the	American	Machine Gun	Raptors at	Jurassic
9:30 PM	20/20 (CC)	Yankees or Mariners	Sweeney Todd	700 Club (CC)	Wol Lake	20/20 (CC)	Law & Order	Movie: The Mask	Don Francisco	Movie: Halloween-	Mad TV (CC)	Movie: Sleepy Hollow	Movie: Bless	Oz (CC)	Hour of	Law & Order	Inside the	Movie: Potemkin	Extreme
10:30 PM	News (CC)	Jerry Springer	Concert: The Demon	700 Club (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	Movie: The Mask	P. Impacto	Movie: Halloween-	Mad TV (CC)	Movie: Sleepy Hollow	Movie: Bless	Resurrection	Hour of	Law & Order	Inside the	Movie: Potemkin	Extreme
11:30 PM	Politically Inc.	Suddenly Spin City	Barber News-Lehrer	Who's Boss?	Show (CC)	Ent. Tonight	Show (CC)	Movie: The Mask	El Super	Movie: Halloween-	Mad TV (CC)	Movie: Sleepy Hollow	Movie: Bless	At Close	Update With	Biography	Inside the	Movie: Potemkin	Extreme
12:30 AM	Paid Program	Attorney Divorce Court	Africa (CC)	Paid Program	Show (CC)	(12:06) Oprah	Night (CC)	Movie: The Mask	El Premio	Movie: Halloween-	Mad TV (CC)	Movie: Sleepy Hollow	Movie: Bless	Movie: Shot in the Heart	Update With	Biography	Inside the	Movie: Potemkin	Extreme

DENNIS THE MENACE



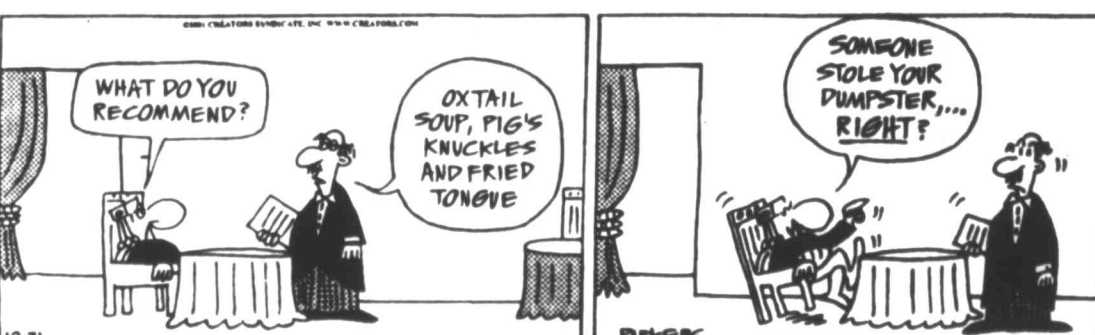
B.C.



GEECH



WIZARD OF ID



HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILY



HAGAR



BLONDIE

THIS DATE
IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Wednesday, Oct. 31, the 304th day of 2001. There are 61 days left in the year. This is Halloween.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses on the door of the Witte...nberg Palace church, marking the start of the Protestant Reformation in Germany.

In 1795, English poet John Keats was born in London.

In 1864, Nevada became the 36th state.

In 1926, magician Harry Houdini died in Detroit of gangrene and peritonitis resulting from a ruptured appendix.

In 1941, the U.S. Navy destroyer Reuben James was torpedoed by a German U-boat off Iceland with the loss of 115 lives, even

though the United States had not yet entered World War II.

In 1956, Rear Admiral G.J. Dufek became the first person to land an airplane at the South Pole.

In 1968, President Johnson ordered a halt to all U.S. bombing of North Vietnam, saying he hoped for fruitful peace negotiations.

In 1980, Reza Pahlavi, eldest son of the late shah, proclaimed himself the rightful successor to the Peacock Throne.

In 1984, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by two Sikh security guards.

In 1994, a Chicago-bound American Eagle ATR-72 crashed in northern Indiana, killing all 68 people aboard.

In 1999, EgyptAir Flight 990 crashed off the Massachusetts coast, killing all 217 people aboard.

Ten years ago: On the second day of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid, Spain, Israeli

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Arab delegates clashed bitterly over land issues. Theatrical producer Joseph Papp died in New York at age 70.

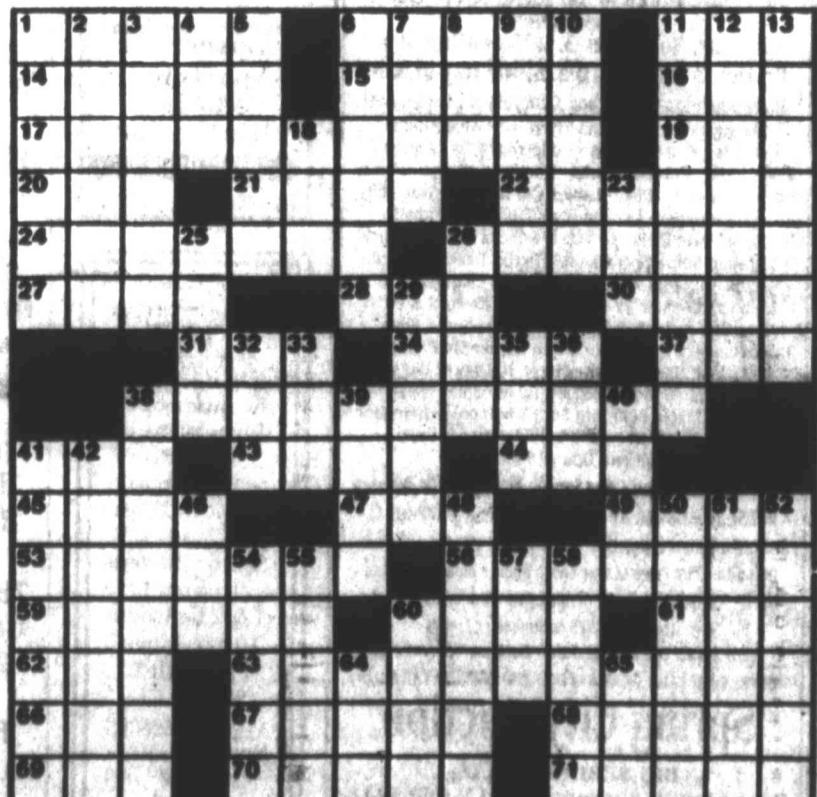
Today's Birthdays: Former Attorney General Griffin Bell is 83. Author Dick Francis is 81. Actress Barbara Bel Geddes is 79. Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk is 79. Movie critic Andrew Sarris is 73. Former astronaut Michael Collins is 71. Actress Lee Grant is 70. CBS anchorman Dan Rather is 70. Actor Ron Rifkin is 62. Actor David Ogden Stiers is 59.

Answer to previous puzzle:
NABE YEMOR EME
ADARE OUVLE FOR
GARAGEDANDS EME
EMUT TEN SCOMLS
HANA STAY
GILLARDWELLERS
KALEL ADRE LEA
USED DARTS JELL
HIS PANTY MENTIE
TOBINTHEATYIC
ARIE REBY
CALLAS ORR ISLE
ABA THEWOODSHED
PEZ TELLER NOONE
TAL DROSS ANTON

Newsday Crossword

JOIN THE CHORUS by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS**
- 1 Baryshnikov's nickname
6 Angler's haul
11 Hwy's
14 Statesman
15 Hawaiian's
16 Electrified fish
17 HBO mob series
19 Two-
20 Smidgen
21 Braves' rivals
22 WWII Russian leader
24 Promote
26 Busy place, so to speak
27 Actress
28 Sandwich bread
30 Poker pair
31 Computer-keyboard key
34 Propels a canoe
37 gratia artis (MGM motto)
38 Type of cloud
41 Make illegal
43 Portal
44 Harriet, to
45 Murder at 1600 bad guy
47 Fly trap
49 Walking speed
53 Dicer or ricer
56 Really, really bad
59 Abut
60 La tar pits
61 Santa CA
62 Spanish article
- DOWN**
- 63 Not a huge amount
66 Compass reading
67 In reserve
68 Bearing freight
69 Japanese honorific
70 Himalayan land
71 Long look
- 8 Heavy weight**
9 Made a selection
10 Alacrity
11 Close copies
12 Keep one's promises
13 Crafty quality
18 Favorite
23 "Caught you!"
25 Cutlet meat
26 Smile broadly
29 "the Top" (Porter tune)
32 Inc., in Alberta
33 Overly
35 Jamaican export
36 Highway warning
38 The Little Mermaid author
- 39 Part of Batman's costume**
40 Calls the strikes
41 Trinkets
42 Pennsylvania city
46 Additionally
48 OPEC unit
50 Actress
51 Horse's gait
52 Comic Booster
54 Attack
55 Goddess of peace
57 Put at risk
58 Two-masted sailboats
60 Raton
64 Tuck's partner
65 Pack it away



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• Dentures can hide oral
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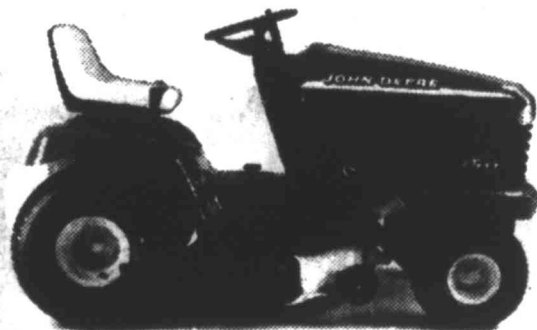
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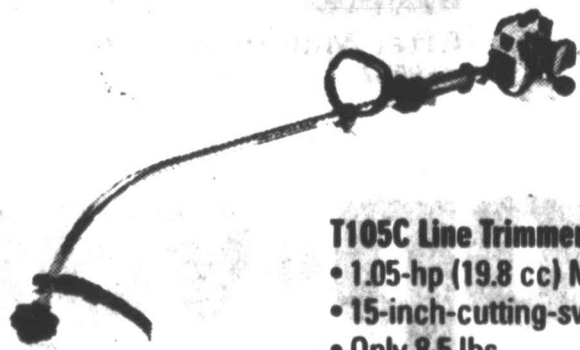
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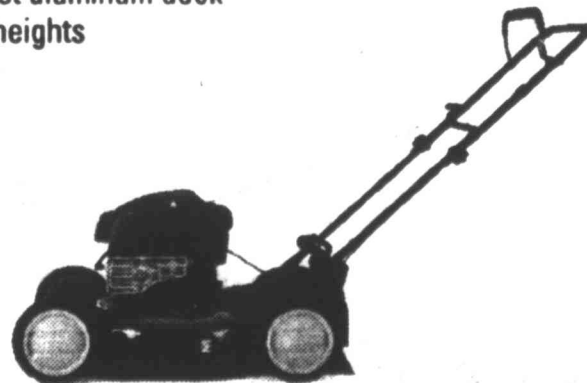
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