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Roundup of weekend sports activities

See Page 7


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BIG SPRING HERALD

MONDAY
NOVEMBER 23, 2009

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HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Professional musicians Lyric Todkill, left, Dean Atkinson and EJ Jones perform in St. Mary's Episcopal Church's courtyard during a reception Sunday night following the 2009 St. Andrew's Day Choral Evening Prayer and Scottish Music Festival. The trio were the stars of the event, which drew an estimated 300 people. See story on Page 5.

Robbery thwarted

Police believe suspect may be involved in other aggravated cases

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The recent rash of aggravated robberies in the Big Spring area continues to grow as a local woman was attacked outside her church Sunday evening by a suspect believed to be involved in several other robberies.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department, police dispatch were notified of the robbery at approximately 6:45 p.m. Sunday.

See **ROBBERY**, Page 3

Angel Trees going up around city today

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

With more than 500 cards — each representing a local, needy child — ready to go up on Salvation Army Angel Trees today, officials with the local charity say they have their work cut out for them this holiday season.

Ada Lafler, Angel Tree coordinator for the local Salvation Army, said the trees were set to go up this morning for what promises to be a tough season for the annual effort.

"Thanks to all of our volunteers and their hard work, the cards are all filled out and ready to go up on the trees," said Lafler. "We ended up with 544 angels this year, which is close to the same number from last year's program.

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

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

According to Lafler, participating in the program is simple.

"They just take the Angel card from the tree and pur-

See **TREES**, Page 3

Kennedy dispute reveals divide among Catholics

RAY HENRY
Associated Press Writer

EAST PROVIDENCE, R.I. — A bitter dispute over abortion that prompted Rhode Island's Roman Catholic bishop to ask Rep. Patrick Kennedy not to receive Holy Communion has revealed the depth of the divide among Catholics over how politicians should reconcile their faith with their public duties.

Bishop Thomas Tobin on Sunday said he made the request because of the Democratic lawmaker's support for abortion rights. The news prompted debate among Catholics around the country and within Rhode Island, the nation's most Catholic state, about whether it was right for Tobin to publicly shame Kennedy for breaking with the church on what its leaders consider a paramount moral issue.

Angel Madera, 20, a Marine visiting his home in Providence for Thanksgiving, said before attending Sunday evening Mass that Tobin was wrong to assail Kennedy's faith.

"If they believe they're a true Catholic, who's to say that they're not?" he said.

Others, like Kay Willis, of Smithfield, applauded Tobin for calling Kennedy to account over the conflict between his professed faith and

See **DIVIDE**, Page 3

HERALD Photo/Rick Nunez

A traffic accident involving a Texas Department of Public Safety vehicle near the intersection of U.S. Highway 87 and FM 700 early Monday morning tied up traffic on the thoroughfare for some time.



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Obituaries

Wanda Sue Wilbert

Wanda Sue Wilbert, 58, died Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009, in Lubbock. Memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23, 2009, at Shiloh House of Praise in Big Spring, under the direction of Pastor Holston Banks.

She was born Feb. 14, 1951, in Mansfield, La.

Survivors include two sons, Patrick Wilbert and wife Azure and Derrick Wilbert, all of Big Spring; a daughter, Latoshia Wilbert; brothers Ray Lee Thompson of New York, Fredrick Glen Wilbert of Rusk, Ricky Ellis Wilbert and Edwin O'Neal Wilbert, both of Marshal, Bobby Ellis Wilbert of Shreveport, La., Gregory Wilbert of Dallas and Antoine Wilbert of Memphis, Ten; sisters Velma Lorraine Blythe of Dallas and Rosalind Denise Wilbert of Marshall; 11 grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Betty Jean Wilbert; brothers Randy Wilbert, Donald Ray and Roderick Wilbert; and sisters Brenda Washington and Regina Wilbert.

Services are under the direction of Memorial Funeral Home of Fort Stockton.

Jimmy G. Burt

Jimmy G. Burt, 85, of Big Spring, died Monday, Nov. 23, 2009, in a local hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Gerald D. Quillen

Gerald D. Quillen, 69, of Big Spring, died Sunday at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Charles Calloway

Charles Calloway, 72, of Big Spring, died Friday at his residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Fire/EMS

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

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1600 block of Goliad. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 3600 block of Hamilton. Service refused.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 2000 block of E. 11th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of S. Main Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1100 block of E. Fifth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Johnson. Service refused.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Simler. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1600 block of Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1300 block of Mt. Vernon. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 6800 block of Interstate Highway 20 N. Service Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1200 block of E. Sixth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 700 block of E. 13th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• RUBBISH FIRE was reported in the 2500 block of Rebecca.

• TRASH FIRE was reported in the 2600 block of Gregg Street.

• GRASS FIRE was reported in the 500 block of Hillside.

• TRASH FIRE was reported in the 400 block of E. Marcy.

Support groups

MONDAY

• Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

TUESDAY

• Grief share, sponsored by Home Hospice and the First Presbyterian Church, Seventh and Runnels (north end door), meets at 6 p.m.. Drop-ins are welcome. For more information, contact Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599.

• The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministeries, 1209 Wright St. Tuesday, Jan. 6, Teen Challenge will be held at The Path. They will present a Rally for Jesus.

•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. and closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Police blotter

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

• JONATHAN ARRENDONDO, 27, of 1210 W. Second St., was arrested Sunday on charges of assault Class C – family violence and interfering with an emergency phone call.

• MARK STANLEY, 48, of Odessa, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.

• RALPH RODRIGUEZ, 45, of 407 S. Bell, was arrested Saturday on charges of driving while intoxicated – third or more offense and driving while license invalid.

• EARNEST CLARK, 69, transient, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.

• TERRORISTIC THREAT was reported in the 1700 block of Third Street.

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported:
in the 900 block of Lamesa Highway.
in the 1500 block of Sycamore.
in the 400 block of Lancaster.

• ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported:
in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87.
in the 600 block of State.

• THEFT was reported:
in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
in the 500 block of Lamesa.

• CRIMINAL TRESPASS OF A HABITATION/SHELTER CENTER was reported in the 1800 block of Wallace.

• ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY – FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 700 block of Lancaster.

• ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 900 block of Nolan.

Sheriff

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

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

• JONATHAN ANDREW ARRENDONDO, 26, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on charges of assault causing bodily injury – family violence and interfering with an emergency phone call.

• ALFONSO BACA, 27, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a probation revocation for possession of marijuana – two ounces or less and a charge of possession of a prohibited substance or item in a correction facility.

• ERNEST WILLIAM CLARK, 69, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• ERNEST WILLIAM CLARK, 69, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• TERRY LEE GREGORY, 51, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• DAVID EUGENE HEFFINGTON, 41, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of making a false report to police officers and failure to appear.

• CHARLES RAY KUYKENDALL, 18, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of burglary of a vehicle.

• LESLIE LOUMENDY MUSGROVE, 38, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated.

• ROD LEE PUGA, 47, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• RALPH RODRIGUEZ, 45, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of driving while intoxicated – third or more offense and driving while license invalid with a previous conviction.

• GERARDO MIGUEL ROJAS, 29, was arrested Friday by DPS on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

• ROBERT MICHAEL SCHWARTZKOPF, 30, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• MARK TIMOTHY STANLEY, 47, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of solicitation of a pedestrian.

• MARK TIMOTHY STANLEY, 47, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• JACEN BRADLEY STOTT, 53, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• PAUL TORRES, 19, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving under the influence by a minor.

• LARRY DEAN WHITE, 38, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of assault causing bodily injury – family violence.

• BRADEN MICHAEL WITT, 17, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on charges of making a false report to police officers and burglary of a vehicle.

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Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Tue 11/24	Wed 11/25	Thu 11/26	Fri 11/27	Sat 11/28
62/30	66/32	63/35	67/40	69/41
Generally sunny. High 62F. Winds N at 10 to 20 mph.	Abundant sunshine. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the low 30s.	Mostly sunny. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 40s.	Sunshine. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 40s.
Sunrise: 7:23 AM Sunset: 5:42 PM	Sunrise: 7:24 AM Sunset: 5:42 PM	Sunrise: 7:25 AM Sunset: 5:42 PM	Sunrise: 7:26 AM Sunset: 5:41 PM	Sunrise: 7:27 AM Sunset: 5:41 PM

American Profile
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Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	62	35	sunny	Kingsville	72	50	t-storm
Amarillo	54	27	sunny	Livingston	66	40	t-storm
Austin	62	41	t-storm	Longview	63	40	t-storm
Beaumont	71	47	t-storm	Lubbock	60	28	sunny
Brownsville	74	55	t-storm	Lufkin	65	40	t-storm
Brownwood	65	36	pt sunny	Midland	63	34	sunny
Corpus Christi	70	51	t-storm	Raymondville	74	52	t-storm
Corsicana	63	39	t-storm	Rosenberg	68	46	t-storm
Dallas	64	41	pt sunny	San Antonio	63	45	t-storm
Del Rio	63	43	rain	San Marcos	63	41	t-storm
El Paso	61	34	sunny	Sulphur Springs	63	42	mst sunny
Fort Stockton	61	36	sunny	Sweetwater	62	34	sunny
Gainesville	62	38	pt sunny	Tyler	62	39	t-storm
Greenville	61	38	pt sunny	Weatherford	63	36	pt sunny
Houston	69	46	t-storm	Wichita Falls	63	33	sunny

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Take note

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

• The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. CASA currently has 10 active volunteers to serve the 55 plus children of Howard County in foster care. A class is forming in Howard County and 20 volunteers are needed. For more information on becoming a CASA volunteer, please contact Robyn LaForge at (432) 683-1114.

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Plan to pay to expand I-35

DALLAS (AP) — The Texas Transportation Commission has told its staff to submit plans on how to fast-track an estimated $4 billion expansion of Interstate 35 between Dallas and Denton.

The commission wants details by January.

The Dallas Morning News reported Monday that the project is a prime candidate for financing similar to private toll deals nixed by the 2009 Legislature.

Lawmakers defeated attempts to extend the authority for so-called comprehensive development agreements with private companies to build roads, in exchange for toll revenue.

Commission member Ted Houghton of El Paso said Friday that authorities have got to use all of these innovative ways of building highways "or we won't be building."

Passthrough toll financing would have Texas promising to make payments to the firms based on the level of traffic use on the roadways.

Numbers up for State Aquarium

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Changing travel trends during tough economic times could explain why the numbers are up at the Texas State Aquarium.

Spokeswoman Kristin Ralls says good weather and new marketing efforts also contributed to why the aquarium in Corpus Christi could have more than 500,000 visitors this year.

The half-million mark would be the most since the aquarium opened in 1990.

Ralls says aquarium officials have found "more folks were taking advantage of traveling closer to home during these economic times." She says good weather throughout hurricane season, which runs June through November, also played a role.

Ralls says so far nearly 483,000 people have visited the attraction this year.

ROBBERY

Continued from Page 1

"A 54-year-old female was leaving her church — the Iglesia Bautista Central, located in the 2100 block of Lancaster — when she noticed a man approaching her," said Everett. "She sped up to get to her car before him, but was unable to leave before he pulled out a semi-automatic handgun and put it to her chest.

"He told her to give him her purse, which she refused to do and began laying on the car's horn. The sound attracted two men from inside the church. They ran outside, at which time the robbery suspect took off on foot, heading for the rear of the old Masonic Lodge, which was close by."

Everett said the two men pursued the suspect until the chase gave way to a standoff with the gunman.

"They ran after the suspect, and when they turned the building's corner, the suspect pointed the handgun at them and told them he would kill them if they didn't back off," said Everett. "At that point he got into a tan-colored, small-size pickup believed to be a Ford Ranger and sped away."

No injuries were reported as a result of the crime, according to Everett, and the robber failed to make away with any ill-gotten gains.

Everett said investigators believe the robber may also be responsible for several other unsolved aggravated robberies in the Big Spring area.

"We believe this is the same suspect that committed the robberies at the local motels and Sun Laundry," said Everett. "He was described as a Hispanic male, approximately 5 feet, 7 inches tall, wearing khaki shorts, a white T-shirt and a red bandana on his head. This matches the past descriptions of the suspect in the motel robberies and Sun Laundry."

Similar aggravated robberies have been reported at the Camlot Inn, located in the 2900 block of E. Interstate Highway 20; Motel 6, located in the 600 block of W. Interstate Highway 20; and the Scottish Inn Motel, located in the area of E. Third Street.

In the motel robberies, the suspect has been described as a male, 5 feet, 6 inches to 5 feet, 7 inches tall, 160 pounds, in his mid-20s to mid-30s. The suspect was also described as wearing a white T-shirt or tank top in all three robberies.

In the Sun Laundry robbery, the suspect was described as a Hispanic male in his mid-20s, approximately 5 feet, 10 inches tall, with black hair and a black goatee, wearing a black T-shirt and shorts.

Sunday's report brings the number of aggravated robberies committed in the Crossroads area since Oct. 31 to 12, according to police officials.

Anyone with information on these or any other crime can contact the BSPD at 264-2550 or Big Spring Crimestoppers at 264-TIPS (8477). Information could be worth a reward up to $1,000, and callers to Crimestoppers may remain anonymous.

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

TREES

Continued from Page 1

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

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

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

Lafler said the local charity is increasing the number of trees located within the community.

"We plan to have trees set up at the Wal-Mart Supercenter, Bealls department store, the Big Spring Herald and the mall," said Lafler. "We're also planning to have trees at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, the Heritage Museum and the Howard County Library. We're hoping having more trees up this year will help us better handle the large number of angels."

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

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

DIVIDE

Continued from Page 1

voting record.

"If you're going to be a Catholic, be a Catholic," she said.

The fight began escalating shortly after the death of Kennedy's father, Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, and came to a head on the 46th anniversary of the assassination of his uncle, President John F. Kennedy.

Tobin told The Associated Press in an interview Sunday that he's praying for the younger Kennedy, who has been in and out of treatment for substance abuse, and said Kennedy has been acting "erratically."

"He attacked the church. He attacked the position of the church on health care, on abortion, on funding," Tobin said. "And that required that I respond. I don't go out looking for these guys. I don't go out picking these fights."

Their simmering dispute escalated in October when Kennedy criticized Catholic bishops for threatening to oppose an overhaul of the nation's health care system unless lawmakers included tighter restrictions on abortion, which have since been added to the House version of the bill. Tobin said he felt Kennedy made an unprovoked attack on the church and demanded an apology.

Since then, their feud has played out in public. Tobin, who has said he might have gone into politics were he not ordained, has written sharp public letters questioning Kennedy's faith and saying his position is scandalous and unacceptable to the church. Kennedy has said his disagreement with the church hierarchy does not make him any less of a Catholic.

Two weeks ago, after a planned meeting between the two fell through, Kennedy said he wanted to stop discussing his faith in public. But then he told The Providence Journal in a story published Sunday that Tobin instructed him not to receive Communion. He also claimed the bishop had told diocesan priests not to give him Communion. Kennedy and his spokespeople did not return repeated requests from the AP seeking comment.

Tobin said he wrote to Kennedy in February 2007 asking him not to receive Communion, but never formally banned Kennedy from receiving Communion nor instructed any priest not to give it to him.

Kennedy said this month that he receives Communion, but he did not say whether his priest is in the Diocese of Providence. Tobin only has authority over priests in Rhode Island, which has a higher percentage of Catholics than any other state.

The bishop said he would probably not personally give Kennedy Communion and might have "a little conversation" with any priest who regularly gave Kennedy the sacrament.

Tobin would not say Sunday whether he had sent similar letters to other pro-choice Catholic politicians, including Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I. Reed said in a statement that he respected Tobin's authority on matters of faith but added that "any discussions we've had are between the two of us."

Catholics nationally have been spit over the issue.

Michael Sean Winters, author of "Left At The Altar: How the Democrats Lost the Catholics and How the Catholics Can Save the Democrats," said he found the public dispute unseemly, even though he opposes abortion and thinks Kennedy is wrong. He said bishops are not making appropriate distinctions when penalizing people over abortion.

There's "a difference between being an abortion doctor, procuring an abortion for yourself or your spouse and saying, 'I don't think abortion should be illegal,'" he said.

Abortion is a major concern for Catholic bishops because opposition to the procedure is based on the church's earliest teachings on preserving human life, which have not changed. By comparison, church teaching on the death penalty is not as definitive and has changed over time, making it difficult for church leaders to demand that Catholic lawmakers agree.

A small number of prelates have publicly asked a Catholic politician to voluntarily abstain from the sacrament.

Mark Silk, director of the Greenberg Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life, said statements made in 2004 by St. Louis Archbishop Raymond Burke, who threatened to deny Communion to Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, intensified the debate.

"There's real disagreement as far as anybody can tell among the bishops, but they don't like to publicly criticize each other," Silk said.

Other Catholic politicians have wrestled with the same issue Kennedy faces.

In 1984, former Democratic New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, a Catholic who supported abortion rights and was at the time a potential presidential candidate, delivered a speech at the University of Notre Dame explaining that Catholic lawmakers shouldn't be pressured by church leaders to work for anti-abortion legislation. He said Sunday it's dangerous for the church to pressure politicians because of the potential for unintended consequences.

"If you're required (by the church) to make everybody follow your Catholic role, then nobody would vote for Catholics because it's clear that when you get the authority, you're going to be guided by your faith," the former governor told the AP.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8288

Loyd (Brother) Wolf, 86, died Friday. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Mar Tina Sue Goertz Hall, 61, died Thursday. A memorial service will be held Tuesday at 2 p.m. at Myers & Smith Chapel. The Family will receive friends from 4:30 until 5:30 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Charles Calloway, 72, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Gerald D. Quillen, 69, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Government's word on vaccine not reassuring

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius has a consoling message for everyone who has tried unsuccessfully to get the H1N1 vaccine: Don't worry — more vaccine is on the way.

That message might be more reassuring if the American people hadn't already heard it.

Public and government awareness of the swine flu pandemic is more than six months old.

In July, federal health officials predicted that 160 million doses of the H1N1 vaccine would be available by the end of October. They were only off by about 130 million. In fact, approximately 30 million doses have been made available to the states thus far.

In an op-ed published in the Nashville Tennessean last week, Sebelius wrote, "Without question, we need significant improvements in vaccine production."

That would be an understatement.

Both Congress and the Obama administration should be examining why production of the vaccine for a viral threat that was well known and that has caused nearly 4,000 deaths in the United States since April has been so distressingly sluggish.

The shortage has put state health departments in the position of rationing scarce vaccines. Texas, with a population of more than 24 million, has received only 3 million doses.

The process of determining how H1N1 vaccines are being allocated should be transparent.

Unfortunately, it isn t.

As the Express-News reported, Bexar County received fewer vaccines per capita in the initial state allotment than Dallas, Harris, Tarrant or Travis counties.

Why?

The Texas Department of State Health Services says the allocation is based on the population of "priority vaccination groups, vaccine formulation, national supply, geography and other factors."

Yet it also refused to release records indicating which medical providers in the state had requested and received the H1N1 vaccine.

Last week, the department belatedly responded to an open records request from The Dallas Morning News and released the information. It shouldn't have required that.

When it comes to public health, information about where vaccines are going — and why — should be a matter of public record.

THE EXPRESS-NEWS
SAN ANTONIO

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A SMALL PRAYER

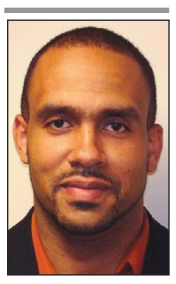
by K. Rae Anderson

May we follow our heart and Your word, Lord.

Amen

Thanksgiving: Time to consider plight of the Native Americans

This Thanksgiving season, the nation should finally commit itself to bridging the socio-economic divide between the descendants of those who came together during the first Thanksgiving: the Native Americans and the white newcomers. More than cranberry sauce and turkey, this type of reflection and action is essential to the holiday season.



DEDRICK MUHAMMAD

Recently, President Barack Obama hosted a White House Tribal Nations conference with representatives from all 564 federally recognized U.S. tribes. Bringing "about meaningful change for those who had, for too long, been excluded from the American dream," was a driving force behind his presidential bid, Obama said. "And few have been more marginalized and ignored by Washington for as long as Native Americans, our first Americans." The president's words deeply resonate with the findings in my upcoming report, "Challenges to Native American Advancement."

This Institute for Policy Studies report reviews a federal policy that, for most of U.S. history, was more apt at removing land and natural resources from American Indians than protecting their resources and property as was agreed to in federally recognized treaties.

Whether it was the allotment system, a kind of privatization of Indian land that resulted in transferring about 100 million acres to non-Native Americans, or the Reagan administration's "New Federalism," which in the name of self-determination cut funding for American Indian development, the federal government has too often blocked Native American advancement rather than supported it.

Over the last few decades, Native Americans have made important gains in cutting poverty rates and unemployment while increasing their educational levels. Yet even with these gains, Native Americans are nowhere near parity with white Americans. For example, in 2007 Native Americans had a poverty rate of almost 25 percent, triple the white poverty rate. In this weak economic condition, American Indians face a serious challenge in today's "Great Recession." During the 1980s recession, Native Americans on reservations saw a decline of real family income that lasted for a decade. We can't let this history repeat itself.

If the country is serious about the words Obama spoke during the White House Tribal Conference, where he stated he is "absolutely committed… that [American Indians] can be full partners in the American economy and…have an equal shot at pursuing the American dream," then federal investment will be necessary to finally turn the page on the history where America marginalized and alienated the "first Americans."

It was through years of intentional and focused government policy that American Indians were separated from the wealth and resources that were properly theirs.

It's through intentional and focused government policy that Native Americans will once again receive their rightful share of the wealth of this land.

During this Native American Heritage month and Thanksgiving season, let's as a country unite behind the president's call and demand that the plight of American Indians be at the forefront of the effort to rebuild the American economy.

Dedrick Muhammad is a senior organizer and research associate at the Institute for Policy Studies, a progressive multi-issue think tank that transforms ideas into action for peace, justice and the environment.



Republicans want economy to fail

When Barack Obama took office earlier this year, the economy looked like a rusted-out, beat-up 1972 Chevy badly in need of a valve job.

Our financial system was rapidly approaching collapse. Banks and brokerage houses were in danger of disappearing in an avalanche of loans gone bad. The stock market looked to be in free-fall.



DONALD KAUL

Businesses big and small were cutting back, laying off, dying. The housing market had fallen off a cliff, its bubble burst. And the auto industry? Well, that's where the 1972 Chevy image came from.

People were looking over their shoulders and seeing 1929.

That's the legacy that Obama, a freshman senator from Illinois, inherited from the Bush administration's laissez faire capitalists (no-regulation, no-tax-ever): economic chaos with the promise of utter desolation to follow.

He immediately set to work to staunch the bleeding and in 10 months has achieved a certain amount of success. The housing market has for the most part stabilized. Some of the big banks seem to be recovering their equilibrium. We still have an auto industry (albeit one with a flat tire or two). The loss of jobs has slowed. And, miracle of miracles, the stock market has shot up nearly 50 percent.

Moreover, Obama has succeeded in getting a health care reform bill through the House and is working on the Senate. This could be the culmination of 60 years of effort on the part of the Democratic Party and it's that close, closer than it's ever been as a matter of fact.

Yes, there's a huge deficit and it grows by the day. But you need a big deficit in trying economic times to pull you out of the tailspin. The problem of dealing with it will come later when the economy is perking again and you have to do something before inflation is ignited.

And the bandit bankers and financiers are still being bandits. Now that the government has bailed them out and their heads are above water they are busy rewarding themselves with huge bonuses and fighting off regulation.

Again, not a complete success but a pretty good record, particularly when the president has two wars, global warming and swine flu to deal with in his spare time.

So you would imagine that the American people would cut him some slack. They might even think about being grateful.

Not a chance.

He gets nothing but criticism, much of it brutal, vicious and stupid. And that's just Fox News.

Even liberals have been giving him a hard time for not being liberal enough.

When he tries to find a compromise with his enemies, he's accused of being wishy-washy. When he stands his ground, he's called a dictator.

In addition, through all of this he has received no help from the Republicans. None, unless you count the one Republican vote he got in the House on the health care bill.

Republicans have stood on the sidelines and jeered and thrown rocks. They have openly rooted for Mr. Obama's failure and worked for it. They believe that strategy will carry them to victory in the 2010 elections.

And maybe it will. No one ever went broke underestimating the political acumen of the American voter.

It's curious, however, that Republican leaders never so much as mention their part in putting us in this ditch. They controlled government for the better part of eight years and now it's like it never happened.

And while they complain bitterly about the deficit, they never say what they would do to get rid of it if they got back in power. Tax people? I don't think so.

This country doesn't work well when one of the major parties adopts a rule-or-ruin philosophy. It's too easy to ruin.

It's a system easily controlled by special interests. The drug and insurance companies run our health system, the military-industrial complex guides our defense policy and agribusiness giants dictate farm policy.

And that, apparently, is the way we like it.

Weird.

Minuteman Media columnist Donald Kaul lives in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Plaid and bagpipes highlight successful St. Andrew's Day

By LYNDEL MOODY
Features Writer

Plaid was the color of the evening and bagpipe music filled the air Sunday at St. Mary's Episcopal Church for the eighth annual St. Andrew's Day Choral Evening Prayer and Scottish Music Festival.

An estimated 300 people, some dressed in Scot's attire, packed the church to celebrate the American Episcopal church's long-standing connection to the Church of Scotland.

"I think the turnout was a little lighter than last year, but I it was a really good crowd — a very receptive crowd," said Cynthia Marshall, co-organizer of the event.

"Yes, I think it was one of the most enthusiastic crowds we've had," added Linda Hill, St. Mary's choral director and co-organizer of St. Andrews Day.

The festival featured performances by several local artists, choral anthems and patriotic songs, but the pipe and drum music by professional artists EJ Jones, Lyric Todkill and Dean Atkinson was the star of the evening.

Following the precession of the church's acolyte and the two choirs of St. Mary's and Midland's St. Nicholas Episcopal Church to begin the ceremony, the trio entered the sanctuary filling the room with "Highland Cathedral" and "Amazing Grace." The musicians received rousing applause from the crowd for their performance of "Jig of Slurs" and "Mason's Apron."

After the congregation joined in the fun by singing several patriotic songs and national anthems — "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies," "God Save our Gracious Queen," "I Vow To Thee My, County" and "Scotland the Brave" — Atkinson energized the crowd again with with his drum solo. And the three kicked of the procession with "Scotland the Brave," leading the crowd out to the Parish courtyard to enjoy the abundant Scot's fair provided by the parishioners of St. Mary's.





Herald Photo/Lyndel Moody

At top, St. Andrew's Day Evening Choral Prayer and Scottish Music Festival organizers pose with the featured musicans of the evening at a reception following the event. Pictured from left are Lyric Todkill, Highland Bagpiper; Cynthia Marhsall, event co-organizer; EJ Jones, Highland Bagpiper; Linda Hill, event co-organzier; and Dean Atkinson, drummer. At Left, Lyric Todkill performs in the parish's courtyard during the recpeiton.

Now a tradition at St. Mary's, St. Andrews Day was first conceived by Hill, who along with Marshall, are the driving forces behind the event.

"My dad went to this service at my first parish in Florida, and he told me about it and sent me a program," she said. "I thought we could do this here."

But it takes much planning and work by the church to pull off an event of this size, she said.

"We've done it enough years, we have it down pat but beginning about two months before, I do something on the service every day," Hill said. "I think Cynthia does, too. We couldn't do it without the help of the whole parish. There are mail outs, getting music, the musicians — a lot of work."

Hill promises the 2010 St. Andrews Day to be bigger and better, and the church is taking donations.

"Each year the event gets bigger and costs more, but we are committed to not charging the public for this event" she said,

Donations can be make to St. Andrews Day at St. Mary's Church, 1001 Goliad. Please mark St. Andrews Day donation on the check.

Participating in the service were the Rev. Barbara Kirk-Norris, rector of St. Mary's; Dr. Keith Graumann, conductor of the Big Spring Symphony; local musicians Joseph Dawes, alto recorder and singer; Samuel Hale, trumpet and horn; Rocky Harris, trombone; Joyce Bradley and Susan Dawes, singers; the choirs of St. Mary's and St. Nicholas' Episcopal church; and Darry Knapp, organist/choirmaster.

sudoku

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News in brief

As lawmakers focus on divisive policy issues, Democrats' health bills leave gaps for consumers

WASHINGTON (AP) — For consumers, the health care bills taking final shape in Congress don't rate close to a perfect 10.

The Democratic measures would leave 12 million or more eligible Americans uninsured. Many middle-class families who'd now be required to buy coverage would still find the premiums a stretch, even with government aid. A new federal fund to provide temporary coverage for people with health problems would quickly run out of cash.

For now, these bread-and-butter concerns take a back seat to more pressing issues for Democratic lawmakers trying to deliver on President Barack Obama's signature issue.

Congressional Democrats are trying to resolve differences within their own ranks on abortion, taxes and allowing the government to sell health insurance as a competitor to private companies. Those are all crucial policy questions, and House and Senate Democrats have taken conflicting approaches. But in the end, the concerns lawmakers are focusing on may not match the needs of their constituents.

The House passed its health care bill 220-215 earlier this month. The Senate cleared the way Saturday for debate on legislation unveiled by Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. The bill, a compromise between two committee-passed versions, could undergo significant changes as senators amend it during weeks of arduous debate ahead.

Miners' families demand answers in China mine explosion

HEGANG, China (AP) — Grieving family members demanded answers Monday from mining officials about the underground gas explosion that left at least 104 men dead in northeastern China.

The massive blast Saturday in Hegang city in frigid Heilongjiang province erupted at night when some 500 miners were working below ground. Most escaped, but 104 were confirmed dead and an additional four were missing and feared dead, the official Xinhua news agency reported Monday.

The explosion at the Xinxing coal mine, which belongs to the state-owned Heilongjiang Longmei Mining Holding Group, was the deadliest in China's mining industry in two years and has highlighted how heavy demand for power-generating coal comes at a high human cost.

At the gates of the mining company's offices, family members and friends confronted mining officials with questions until some of them were escorted into an office by police, security guards and other officials.

"Why don't you tell us anything?" one shouted. "Not even a phone call!"

Obama looks to ease worries in India with elaborate state visit for PM Singh

WASHINGTON (AP) — India has watched with wariness as President Barack Obama's administration has lavished attention on rivals Pakistan and China. Now, Obama is trying to ease Indian worries by honoring Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with the first state visit of his presidency.

India will receive Tuesday's elaborate welcome because the relationship quietly has become one of the most important the United States has. It is seen as crucial to the U.S.-led fight against extremists in Pakistan and Afghanistan, as a counterweight to China and as key to efforts to settle world trade and climate change deals.

Singh's visit, however, comes at a delicate time. Indians are bristling over a perception that Obama neglected India during his recent trip to Asia and seemed to endorse a stronger role for China in India's sensitive dealings with Pakistan.

The tension has disturbed a wave of goodwill between the countries orchestrated by former President George W. Bush, who oversaw the transformation of the relationship after decades of Cold War-era distrust. The new ties are symbolized by a landmark civilian nuclear cooperation accord signed into law last year after years of close communication among senior Indian and U.S. officials who negotiated and then sold the accord to lawmakers.

Lawyer says 9/11 defendants will plead not guilty so they can express their political views

NEW YORK (AP) — The five men facing trial in the Sept. 11 attacks will plead not guilty so that they can air their criticisms of U.S. foreign policy, the lawyer for one of the defendants said.

Scott Fenstermaker, the lawyer for accused terrorist Ali Abd al-Aziz Ali, said Sunday the men would not deny their role in the 2001 attacks but "would explain what happened and why they did it."

The U.S. Justice Department announced earlier this month that Ali and four other men accused of murdering nearly 3,000 people in the deadliest terrorist attack in the U.S. will face a civilian federal trial just blocks from the site of the destroyed World Trade Center.

Ali, also known as Ammar al-Baluchi, is a nephew of professed 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed.

Mohammed, Ali and the others will explain "their assessment of American foreign policy," Fenstermaker said.

Study: Preschoolers watching TV at home-based daycare may spend hours in front of TV screen

SEATTLE (AP) — Parents who thought their preschoolers were spending time in home-based day cares taking naps, eating healthy snacks and learning to play nicely with others may be surprised to discover they are sitting as many as two hours a day in front of a TV, according to a study published Monday.

When added to the two to three hours many parents already admit to allowing at home, preschoolers in child care may be spending more than a third of the about 12 hours they are awake each day in front of the electronic baby sitter, said Dr. Dimitri Christakis, a pediatrician at Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center in Seattle and a researcher at the University of Washington.

That's double the TV time he found in a previous study based on parental reports of home viewing, according to findings published Monday in the journal Pediatrics. The study is the first to look at TV watching in child care in more than 20 years.

The figures come from a telephone survey of 168 licensed child care programs in Michigan, Washington, Florida and Massachusetts. Christakis said he thought television use was probably underreported.

Michael Jackson wins 4, but Taylor Swift wins 5, named artist of the year at AMAs

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The King of Pop is still winning awards and setting records doing it.

But while Michael Jackson won a record four posthumous awards, he couldn't beat Taylor Swift for top honors at Sunday night's American Music Awards.

The 19-year-old was named the year's favorite artist, giving Jackson his only loss of the night and giving her five trophies in all.

"Music has never been ultimately about competition," she said as she accepted the top prize via satellite from London, where she is to perform Monday. "To even be mentioned in a category with Michael Jackson, who we will miss and love forever, is an unimaginable honor."

The victories came during a performance-filled show that closed with an S&M-themed, sexually charged performance by Adam Lambert, an American Idol contestant.

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Late Romo TD squeaks Cowboys past Skins

Associated Press

ARLINGTON — His back was hurting, his team was on the verge of being shut out and Tony Romo was thinking about golf. Well, sort of.

When the Dallas Cowboys needed to turn everything around, ignore how bad they had played offensively and realize they still had a chance to win, their quarterback shook off his pain and recalled a conversation he had with buddy Tiger Woods.

"He says he could play great, horrible, whatever through 17 holes, but it all doesn't matter if you're tied for the lead on 18," Romo said. "He could have bogeyed six in a row, but if you can get yourself mentally to get to the point where it doesn't matter and it's just about executing right now and doing what matters, you'll deal with the other stuff later."

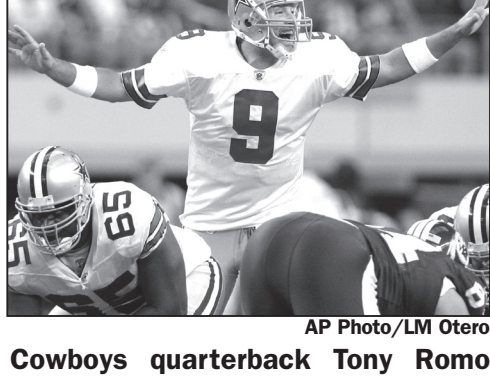
Romo certainly fulfilled that Sunday, when his seventh consecutive completion was a 10-yard touchdown to Patrick Crayton with 2:41 left to give the Cowboys a 7-6 victory over the Washington Redskins and keep them atop the NFC East.

Before that winning drive, set up when Washington's Shaun Suisham missed his second field goal of the game, Romo had only eight completions.

Now comes the short turnaround for Romo and the Cowboys (7-3), who play again Thursday against Oakland. Romo, who had a shot for his pain after the game, said he "definitely will be playing" but didn't know how he would be limited before then.

The Redskins (3-7) got beat up even

See **COWBOYS**, Page 12



AP Photo/LM Otero

Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo wasn't perfect Sunday, but he was good enough for a 7-6 victory.

PLAYOFF LEAP



HERALD Photo/Tony Claxton

Wide receiver Thaddeus Straughter hauls in a touchdown pass in Pecos on Saturday.

Steers rout EP Irvin; Everman next

By JOE ZIGTEMA
Sports Editor

PECOS — The Big Spring Steers have had a penchant for playing close games the last two weeks, with each game coming down to the final minute. In Pecos Saturday, the Steers decided the contest in the first 24.

Big Spring scored 42 first-half points on the way to a 49-25 rout of the Rockets, sending itself to a showdown with Everman next Saturday at 3 p.m. in Mineral Wells.

Quarterback Tyler Tannehill threw for 239 yards and four touchdowns and ran for another in a little over two quarters of play, and Monte Anderson ran for 174 yards on 20 carries to top the 2,000-yard mark on the season.

"We played pretty well today," head coach Phillip Ritchey said. "Pretty flawlessly really."

Big Spring (10-2) racked up 356 yards of offense in the first half while holding the Rockets to 78 yards, 62 of which came on a bomb from quarterback Diangelo Sanchez to Miguel Edwards with less than a minute left in the second quarter. The Steers promptly responded to that drive with a 48-yard touchdown pass from Tannehill to Thaddeus Straughter 13 seconds before the half ended, the duo's second touchdown of the day.

"I was running a curl and I noticed the safety coming out on (receiver Martin Yanez), and I went inside of him," Straughter said. "I caught the ball and I saw nobody in the middle so I ran, and (Yanez) pushed me in the end zone."

The Steers opened the scoring on their first play from scrimmage when Tannehill hooked up with wide receiver Tevian Parnell for a 20-yard touchdown. That set the tone for the game as Big Spring went on to score 35 unanswered points.

"One thing we needed for this game was to start out strong because the last couple games

See **STEERS**, Page 12

Several teams still in hunt for 2 BCS bids

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Iowa and Penn State ended their seasons eligible for an at-large BCS bid, and Oklahoma State and Virginia Tech are also in position to be eligible for invites to the four big-money bowl games even though they have no shot to win their conferences.

The top seven teams in the Bowl Championship Series standings released Sunday were unchanged from last week, with Florida, Alabama and Texas still in control of the national championship race.

Barring any major upsets over the next two weeks, the winner of the Florida-Alabama Southeastern Conference title game will face Texas in the BCS title game on Jan. 7 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif.

With fourth-place TCU a victory away from securing an automatic BCS bid and the loser of Florida-Alabama essentially a lock to be selected, only two at-large berths would remain.

To be eligible for an at-large BCS bid, a team must finish 14th or better in the final standings, which are released Dec. 6.

Iowa is 11th after completing its regular season Saturday with a 10-2 record, while Big Ten counterpart Penn State is 13th after also finishing 10-2.

The Hawkeyes and Nittany Lions will likely by vying for an at-large bid with sixth-place Boise State, which is two victories away from a 13-0 regular season but would be unable to gain an automatic bid if it finishes behind TCU.

Oklahoma State (9-2) from the Big 12 is in 12th place with its regular-season finale at Oklahoma on Saturday. The Cowboys need a victory to keep their hopes for an at-large bid alive.

Virginia Tech (8-3) is 14th and has to be considered the longest shot to receive a bid, even if it finishes its regular season by beating Virginia on Saturday.

No automatic bids to conference champions will be clinched this week, but five conference titles and BCS bids will be decided by five games the following week.

Oregon and Oregon State meet in Eugene on Dec. 3, with the winner earning the Pac-10 title and a trip to the Rose Bowl. The loser is essentially eliminated from BCS contention.

Cincinnati is at Pittsburgh on Dec. 5 in what has turned into a Big East conference championship game. Both teams play this week (Pitt visits West

See **BCS**, Page 12

Slaton's and Johnson's paths diverge heading into MNF matchup

Associated Press

HOUSTON—Houston's Steve Slaton and Tennessee's Chris Johnson were two of the best rookie running backs in the NFL last season.

Slaton was the top rusher among rookies with 1,282 yards and Johnson was third behind Chicago's Matt Forte with 1,228.

Their careers have taken very different turns this season as they prepare to meet Monday night when the Texans host the Titans. The Texans (5-4) are trying to remain viable in the playoff chase with a win. The Titans (3-6) are looking for their fourth straight win to move farther away from their 0-6 start.

Johnson has established himself as one of the top running backs in the NFL and led the league in rushing with 1,091 yards entering this week. Slaton has been mired in a fumbling funk that kept him out of the starting lineup in Houston's last game and he has just 359 yards rushing.

While Slaton hasn't had a 100-yard game since December against the Titans, Johnson is thinking about 200-yard games. He has one this season, but laments finishing just shy of the mark with 197 in Tennessee's 34-31 loss to Houston in Week 2.

"I was kind of upset I didn't get 200 yards," Johnson said. "I'm going to try and get that."

He knows Houston's defense has improved since that game. The unit allowed a league-worst 205 yards rush-

See **TEXANS**, Page 12



AP Photo/David J. Phillip

Texans running back Steve Slaton wants to prove he's a reliable back.

Sports in brief

Howard College basketball in action at home tonight

The Howard College men's and women's basketball teams will be in action tonight in a doubleheader at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The women will tipoff at 5:30 p.m. against the Lubbock Christian junior varsity. The team is 10-0 on the season.

The men will follow in the nightcap as they play the Wayland Baptist junior varsity. The Hawks are 8-0 after picking up two wins at the South Plains Tournament in Levelland over the weekend.

YMCA Basketball registration ends Wednesday

Those waiting to sign up for the YMCA youth basketball league have until Wednesday to get on a roster.

The league has separate boys and girls divisions for grades 1-6.

There is a new co-ed division this year for pre-k children ages 3-5. The program fee is $60 per player.

Games are played Saturday beginning Jan. 9. For more information, call 267-8234.

YMCA After Thanksgiving Party scheduled

The Big Spring YMCA is hosting an After Thanksgiving Party on Saturday from 8 p.m. to midnight.

Junior high and high school students ages 12-17 are invited for food and fun at the party, which will include a DJ.

The event will take place at the Big Spring YMCA. Cost is $3.

For more information, call 267-8234 or stop by the YMCA at 801 Owens.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Venus, the love goddess, and Jupiter, the Big Daddy of the zodiac, square off. There will be some tension in personal and professional relationships. It's challenging to come up with agreements that are mutually beneficial. Wherever possible, take charge of your own happiness and depend strictly on your own abilities and resources.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If you feel like you're under a great deal of pressure, remember: Life only sends us the challenges we can handle. There is always a way through, and in today's case, it probably requires delegating or simply saying no.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The stress you might be feeling at the moment won't matter in the long run, so don't let it get to you more than is necessary. True, you have looming deadlines, but you're also pretty amazing under pressure.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Check out your employment alternatives. This is a good idea if only that it convinces you of the worth of staying at your current job. So poke around the job market. You'll avoid falling into a rut.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). People will lay their grievances at your feet. It's as though you are wearing a sign that says, "Tell me your problems." Maybe it's because you are famous for your ability to listen without judgment. Accept the implied compliment.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll take a scary, exhilarating risk. You know your limits. Remind yourself of them, though, so you don't push yourself too far. Taking this chance is a big step for you, and you'll get support from places you weren't expecting.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Sometimes you're the ship, and sometimes you're the lighthouse. Right now you're the lighthouse, keeping someone else from crashing on the rocks during their dark and stormy night.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A decision must be made. You'll choose between two roads. Both are positive, but one — while being the higher, more difficult path — will lead to the sunniest patch.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Don't let yourself be rushed by seemingly pressing circumstances. In reality, hurrying through won't get you there faster. Can you make haste slowly? Good things happen when you are methodical, organized and thorough.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The stars gift you with an intellectual boost. It only takes a small effort to increase your brainpower immensely. For instance, memorize a famous quote, part of a song or a joke.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Play is not the opposite of work —not if you're doing it right. Play is work. In today's case, it's the work you do to access your creativity, to access your physical strength and to build your relationships.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Everyone loves a pleasant surprise. You'll provide one for someone you like. You'll also be on the receiving end of one that likely comes from an unexpected source.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The people you live with will drive you nuts. You know they mean well, and that tomorrow you'll love them more than ever. If you need to lie low in the meantime, it's fine. They'll still be there.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 23). Love is the force that moves you to explore and take risks this year. What you attempt in December will work! Social fun is featured in February. May brings financial increase. Be a cautious, responsible steward of your money. Travel in July. You'll be promoted to a place of authority and respect in August. Virgo and Pisces people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 43, 25, 11 and 19.

HOW TO GET THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS WITH GRACE: Oh, the joyful, stressful holidays. They seem to bring out the best and the worst in us. My holiday wish is that we can all follow our guiding star and experience the best of the season. For ARIES, the stress of the holidays comes from high expectations. There is a part of Aries that never grows up and still focuses on the magic and miracles implied in the season. Thank goodness for Aries for keeping this part of the holiday alive! It will be helpful for Aries people to remember that magic always looks effortless, but it almost always requires practice and work in order to be so, well, magical. This first-born child of the zodiac needs to be patient and understand the steps involved in pulling off even the simplest aspects of the season. If Aries is the one giving a gift or hosting a party or making a cookie platter, Aries needs to be patient and realize that sometimes things don't go right on the first try. And when they don't, it's not the end of the world. There will always be another chance. When things go perfectly, that's Aries' cue to celebrate big.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: This celeb's smiley nature earned her a nickname that later became a household name. Miley Cyrus has even more to smile about now that she's a major force in the entertainment industry -- not to mention the clothing industry and countless other merchandising outlets. Her Venus, Uranus and Neptune all in Capricorn suggest she'll continue to make the business decisions that keep her on top.

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

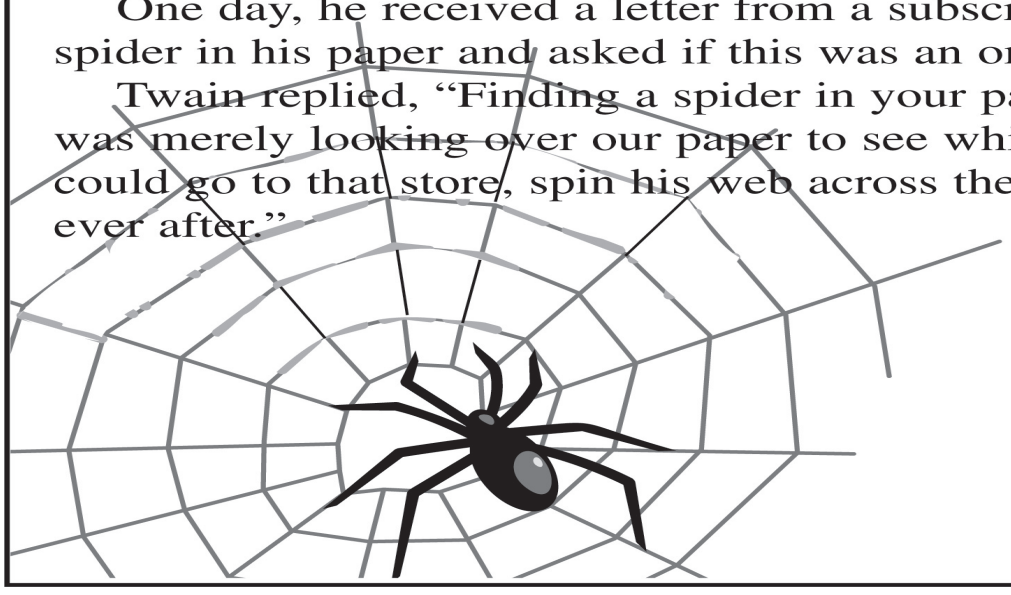
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The Spider

During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper.

One day, he received a letter from a subscriber stating that he had found a spider in his paper and asked if this was an omen of good or bad luck.

Twain replied, "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good nor bad luck. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever after."



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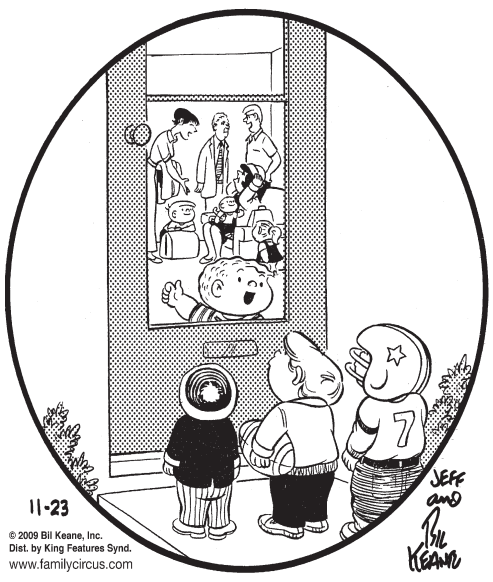
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5 :PM :30	News / ABC	News / ABC	Locura / Noticiero	Lopez / Lopez	News / CBS	Noticiero / Noticiero	News / NBC	Seinfeld / Office	Chumney / Granger	BBC / Business	Cash Cab / Cash Cab	Madison County, Annie Corley	Ways Die	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Montana / Montana	ketball: Maui Invitational	SportsCenter
6 :PM :30	News / Entertain	Jeopardy! / Fortune	Gancho	Two Men / Two Men	News / Entertain	12 Corazones	News / Millionaire	Name / Name	Van Impe / Holmes	News-Lehrer	Man vs. Wild		Movie: Kill Bill: Vol. 1, Vivica A. Fox	Bones		Montana / Montana		Monday Night Countdown
7 :PM :30	Dancing With the Stars	Dancing With the Stars	Nombre-Amor	House /	How I Met / Purpose	Más Sabe el Diablo	Heroes	Fam. Guy / Fam. Guy	Upd / Hansen	Antiques Roadshow	Planet Earth	Movie: Ghost, Whoopi Goldberg		Bones	The Unit	Montana / Hannah Montana	College Basketball: CBE Classic	
8 :PM :30		Family	Sortilegio	(:01) Lie to Me	Two Men / Big Bang	Pobres	Trauma	Fam. Guy / Fam. Guy	Light of the Southwest	American Expr	Planet Earth		Movie: Kill Bill: Vol. 2, Michael Madsen	The Closer	The Unit	Montana	Score	NFL Football: Tennessee Titans at Houston Texans.
9 :PM :30	Castle	Castle	Cristina	Simpsons / Friends	CSI: Miami	Victorinos	The Jay Leno Show	Fam. Guy / Fam. Guy		Elbert Hubbard	2012 Apocalypse			Bones	The Unit	Phineas / Montana	College Basketball: CBE Classic	
10 :PM :30	News / Nightline	News / Nightline	Impacto / Noticiero	Raymond / TMZ	News / Late Show	Noticias / Decisiones	News / Tonight Show	Lopez Tonight / Name	Upd / Sala	Charlie Rose	Planet Earth	Movie: Outbreak, Morgan Freeman		The Closer	The Mo'Nique	Wizards / So Raven		SportsCenter
11 :PM :30	Insider / Jimmy Kimmel Live	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Escuelita VIP	Law & Order: SVU	Late Late Show	Decisiones	Late Night-Jim	Name / Name	Uri Harel / Mark	BBC / Smiley	Planet Earth		Super / Ways Die	CSI: NY	W. Williams	Life De / Cory	College Basketball: Maui Invitational	
12 :AM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live / News	Extra / Paid	Torrente, un Torbel	Paid / King-Hill	Insider	Pagado	News	Sex &	Upd / Cortes	(Off Air)	2012 Apocalypse		CSI: Crime Scn	CSI: NY	The Unit	Replace / Kim		NFL Prime-Time
1 :AM :30	Paid / Paid	Paid / Paid	Mujer... / Cero	Paid / RENO 911	Entertain / Paid	Pagado / Pagado	Poker After Dark	Lopez Tonight	Light of the Southwest		Cash Cab / Cash Cab	Movie: Ghost, Whoopi	Star Trek: Voyager	Cold Case	The Unit	Emperor / Dragon	NFL Films / College Foot-	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



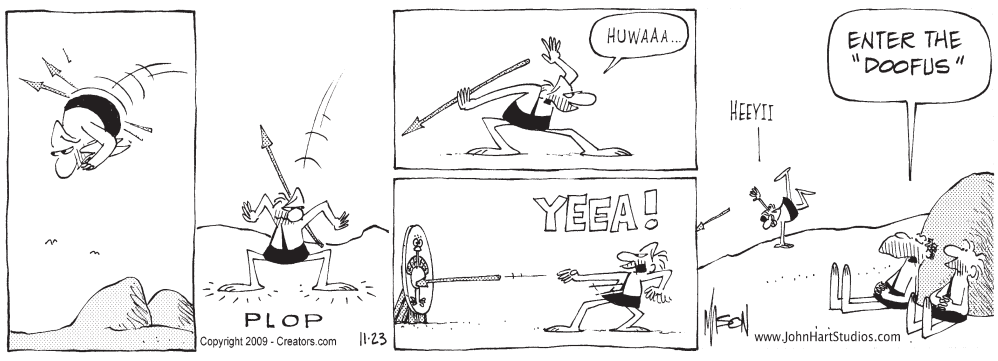
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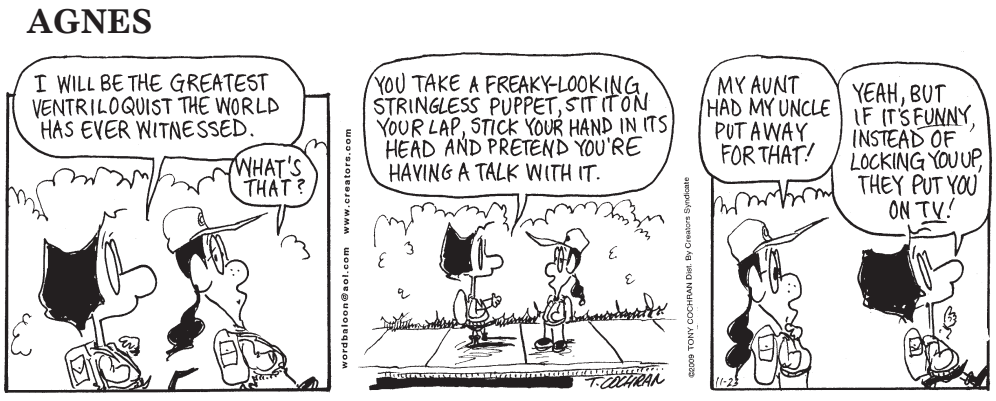
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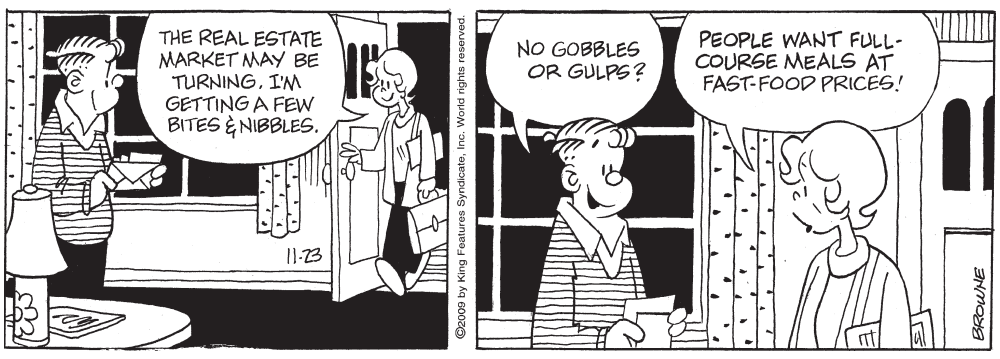
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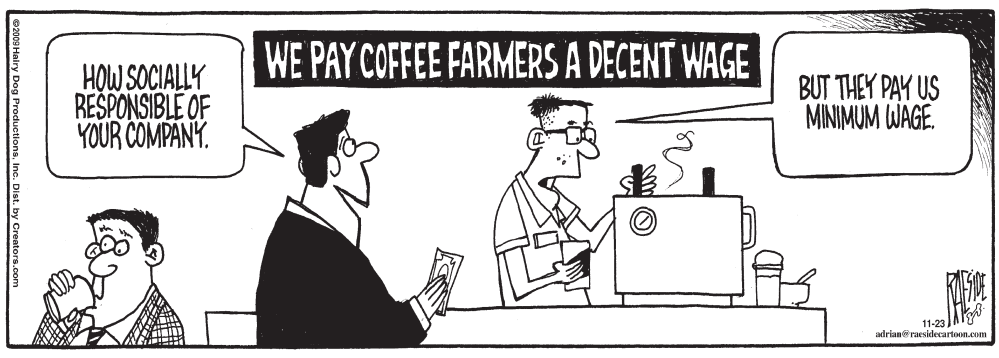
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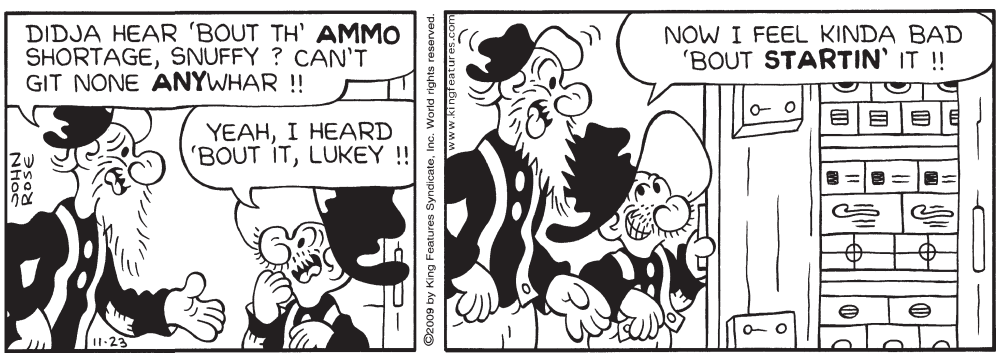
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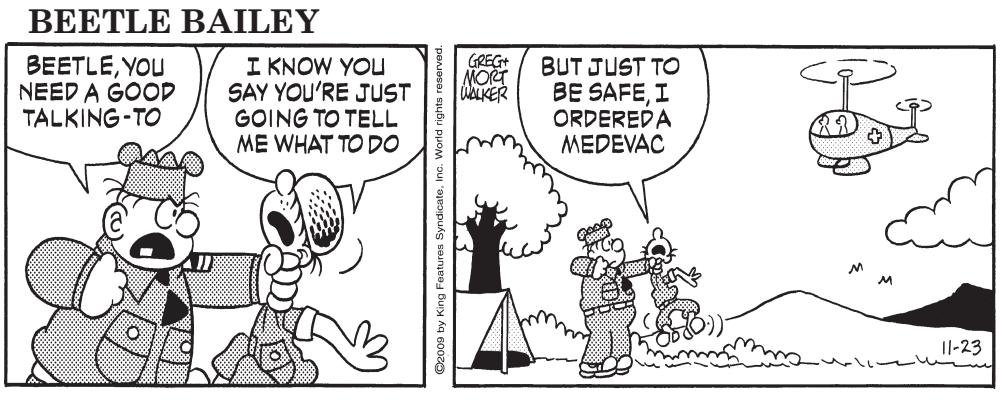
THE OTHER COAST



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This Date In History

Today is Monday, Nov. 23, the 327th day of 2009. There are 38 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 23, 1765, Frederick County, Md., became the first colonial entity to repudiate the British Stamp Act.

On this date:

In 1804, the 14th president of the United States, Franklin Pierce, was born in Hillsboro, N.H.

In 1889, the first jukebox made its debut in San Francisco, at the Palais Royale Saloon.

In 1903, singer Enrico Caruso made his American debut at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York, appearing in "Rigoletto."

In 1936, Life, the photojournalism magazine created by Henry R. Luce, was first published.

In 1943, during World War II, U.S. forces seized control of Tarawa and Makin atolls from the Japanese.

In 1959, the musical "Fiorello!" starring Tom Bosley as legendary New York Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, opened on Broadway.

In 1963, President Lyndon B. Johnson proclaimed Nov. 25 a day of national mourning following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

In 1971, the People's Republic of China was seated in the U.N. Security Council.

In 1980, some 2,600 people were killed by a series of earthquakes that devastated southern Italy.

In 1996, a hijacked Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 767 crashed into the waves off Comoros Islands, killing about two-thirds of the 175 people on board.

Today's Birthdays: Broadway composer Jerry Bock ("Fiorello!") is 81. Former Labor Secretary William E. Brock is 79. Actor Franco Nero is 68. Actress Susan Anspach is 67. Screenwriter Joe Eszterhas is 65. Actor Steve Landesberg is 64. Actor-comedy writer Bruce Vilanch is 62. Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., is 59. Singer Bruce Hornsby is 55. Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., is 54. Actor Maxwell Caulfield is 50. Rock singer-musician Ken Block (Sister Hazel) is 43. Rock musician Charlie Grover is 43. Actress Salli Richardson-Whitfield is 42. Actor Oded Fehr is 39. Rapper-actor Kurupt (Tha Dogg Pound) is 37. Actress Kelly Brook is 30. Actor Lucas Grabeel is 25. Actress-singer Miley Cyrus ("Hannah Montana") is 17. Actor Austin Majors is 14.

Thought for Today: "We are incredibly heedless in the formation of our beliefs, but find ourselves filled with an illicit passion for them when anyone proposes to rob us of their companionship." — James Harvey Robinson, American historian (1863-1936).

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Answer to previous puzzle

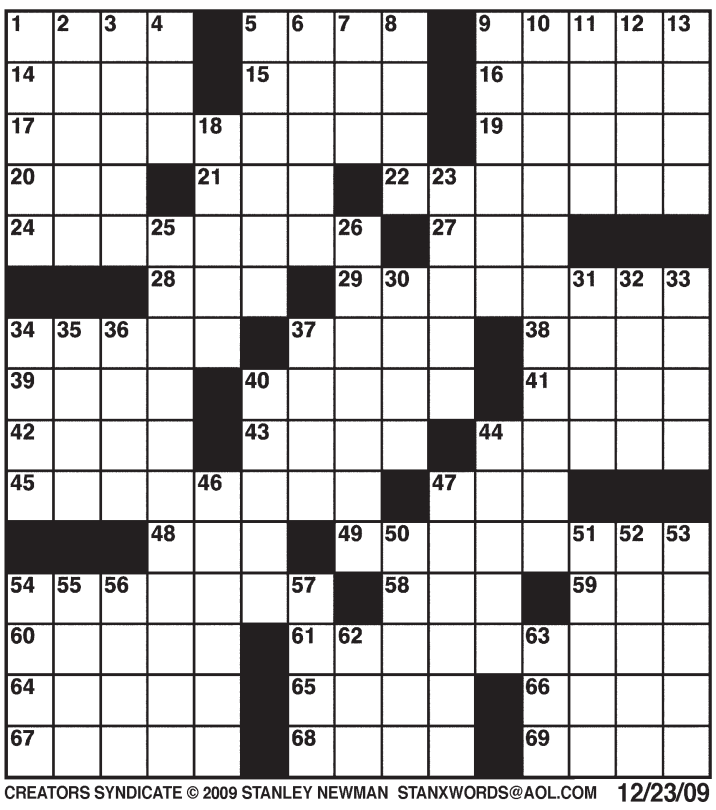
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Newsday Crossword

MAG RACK by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Cabbie's client
5 "Money __ everything"
9 Glassy look
14 Eden evictee
15 "Scram!"
16 Rome's river
17 Fad addition to the language
19 __ acid (protein part)
20 Stuff to refine
21 Prefix for natal
22 X'es out
24 Alabama or Utah, politically
27 Sharpshooter asset
28 Blow it
29 Honey and Sugar
34 In the worst way
37 Take a bus
38 King of nursery rhyme
39 "That's what you think!"
40 Was accepted
41 Vacuum feature
42 Look from Groucho
43 Very funny one
44 Warning signal
45 Tropical fruit source
47 Get some sun
48 Watched Junior
49 Mr. Scrooge
54 Tennis star Pete
58 Opera part
59 Actress Mendes
60 Sharon of Israel
61 Lewis Carroll character
64 Show distress
65 Black cat, to some
66 Bamboo, essentially
67 Sharply dressed
68 Pita sandwich
69 Cold War principal

DOWN
1 Lean toward
2 Be wild about
3 Blew one's cork
4 Aussie bird
5 "That's really the truth!"
6 Take a pic
7 Hide-hair link
8 Lincoln in-law
9 Onetime 69 Across leader
10 H.G. Wells vehicle
11 Slightly
12 Philosopher Descartes
13 Bow-toting god
18 Diary note
23 Eroded
25 Healthy dignity
26 Prime example
30 Cut and paste
31 Drop anchor
32 Alternatively
33 Taken a look at
34 Like very worn tires
35 Out of port
36 Meal plan
37 Muddy up
40 Persona non __
44 December temp job
46 Truce talk
47 Modern music genre
50 Ruth __ Ginsburg
51 Greek letters
52 Makes level
53 Less typical
54 Like fireplace logs
55 Soprano solo
56 Diner-counter freebie
57 Urban pollution
62 Singer Winehouse
63 Fort Worth sch.



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TEXANS

Continued from page 7

rushing through the first three games, but has given up just more than 60 a game in the last six.

The Texans held Johnson to 65 yards rushing in the last game in Houston, a 13-12 win by the Texans.

Johnson, who has rushed for at least 100 yards and two scores in three straight games, said he worried about the dreaded sophomore slump.

"In fact, that was my biggest fear after my rookie year was a sophomore slump," he said. "I didn't want to have no sophomore slump. I didn't want nobody to say my rookie year was a fluke. So that was my No. 1 fear, so that's why I worked so hard in the offseason."

Johnson has rushed for 100 yards five times this season, including a season-high 228 yards against the Jaguars. He's scored nine touchdowns and is averaging 6.4 yards a carry.

Slaton has more fumbles (7) than touchdowns (6) this season and his season-high is 76 yards. Coach Gary Kubiak hasn't said if he'll return to his starting role this week after he was replaced by Ryan Moats two weeks ago against Indianapolis.

"It's been very frustrating," Slaton said. "Anytime you put the ball on the ground it's very frustrating, and doing it on a consistent basis is bothering, but hopefully I can change around in this half of the season."

Slaton has tried everything to correct his problem and spent the bye week watching a tape of former Giants running back Tiki Barber and asking some former coaches for advice.

"Tiki had a real big problem, just like myself," Slaton said. "So I think, if he got his fixed, why can't I get mine fixed?"

Slaton hopes he can get past his struggles and help the Texans to their first playoff berth and has nothing but compliments for Johnson.

"He's doing everything the coaches ask for," Slaton said. "Anytime he gets the ball he's making plays. And just for me, I just want to get back to where I was before."

Johnson has one fumble this season, but said it's difficult because defenses go after the ball on every play.

"Defenses are so good these days, they have special techniques on how they strip the ball from you and make you fumble," he said. "But you've just got to be cautious of it. It's a bad thing: He's a good running back, but he's been having some fumbling problems."

Despite his troubles, the Texans remain confident that Slaton can get back on track and help the team.

"In Year 2 it's been a lot tougher than Year 1 for him, but one thing about Steve that's been constant is his work habits haven't changed," Kubiak said. "He's giving us everything he has, he just needs to clean up hanging onto the ball, and for us to play well in the next seven weeks, Steve will have to be a big part of it. I know I'm counting on him."

The first time Houston faced the Titans this season, Kerry Collins was at quarterback. This time the Texans will have to deal with Johnson and Vince Young and the dual running threat they present.

"Vince changes things, as you all know," Houston's DeMeco Ryans said. "He can run the ball in crucial third-down situations. When it's third-and-4 and third-and-5, we have to definitely keep our eyes on him because he can make the play. He can go run for the first down."

Still, slowing Johnson and the running game will be the No. 1 priority for Houston.

"You're always trying to make a team a passing team," Ryans said. "Our goal is to go out and stop the run. That's first and foremost. We can't have them running the ball and throwing the ball."

STEERS

Continued from page 7

we got off to slow starts," senior linebacker Matt Ritchey said. "Starting out real fast and scoring and scoring and scoring, that's what we needed."

The Rockets totaled just three first downs in the first half and went three-and-out on all but two of their first-half possessions. They totaled less than 50 yards rushing in the first half.

"We played well defensively," Phillip Ritchey said. "They had trouble running against us. They threw a couple long passes at the end, but our defense has played real well. It's going to take every bit of that next week."

Irvin was able to generate some offense in the second half, outscoring the Steers 18-7 including a 17-yard touchdown run from Rene Rojas as time expired on Big Spring's second-team defense. Irvin quarterback Diangelo Sanchez finished nine of 19 for 139 yards and two touchdowns.

Phillip Ritchey knows first-hand how good Everman is. It's the same team that knocked Big Spring out of the playoffs last year, and he saw his next opponent take down Lake Dallas Friday.

"We got what we came for, and that's an area championship," Ritchey said. "We have a tremendous test ahead of us, and it's going to take an extreme amount of preparation and focus for us to beat Everman next week."

Big Spring 49, Irvin 25
BS 14 28 7 0
Irvin 0 7 6 12

First Quarter

BS- Parnell 20 pass from Tannehill (Tannehill kick) 9:22
BS- Anderson 1 run (Tannehill kick) 3:27

Second Quarter

BS- Straughter 24 pass from Tannehill (Tannehill kick) 9:58
BS- Yanez 10 pass from Tannehill (Tannehill kick) 6:02
BS- Tannehill 15 run (Tannehill kick) 1:38
EP- Edwards 62 pass from Sanchez (Ray kick) :41
BS- Straughter 48 pass from Tannehill (Tannehill kick) :13

Third Quarter

BS- Anderson 19 run (Tannehill kick) 9:18
EP- Edwards 50 pass from Sanchez (conversion failed) 1:16

Fourth Quarter

EP- Rucker 36 pass from Sanchez (conversion failed) 5:05
EP- Rojas 17 pass from Meisenbach (no try), :00

COWBOYS

Continued from page 7

worse. They were already without running back Clinton Portis (concussion, and already ruled out for his third straight game next week), defensive tackle Albert Haynesworth (sprained left ankle) and tight end Chris Cooley (right ankle surgery) .

Portis' backup Ladell Betts suffered knee ligament damage in the first quarter and will need an MRI to determine the severity of the injury. Right guard Chad Rinehard, the replacement for Randy Thomas (injured reserve), fractured his right leg in the third quarter.

"To lose it like that in the end in a hostile situation, it's just so hard," coach Jim Zorn said. "Yet, we hung in there. I believe this is a special team of players who will not just chuck things in being 3-7. ... We're going to look at our roster, patch it up and go again."

Washington led 6-0 on field goals of 45 and 31 yards by Suisham, who hadn't missed all season before Sunday, when misfired on a 39-yarder before halftime, then a 50-yarder that would've made it 9-0 right before Dallas took over with 7 minutes left.

Romo converted third-and-3 from his 47 by running up the middle for 5 yards, then hit Miles Austin three times and Jason Witten twice to get to the Washington 10. From there, Romo scrambled left out of trouble and, instead of running into the wide-open gap toward the end zone, saw Crayton getting loose from his defenders.

"We got it to the end and Tony did the Romo thing," owner Jerry Jones said. "He bought the time and made the score. ... I'll take that with a hurt back every time."

Romo finished 15 of 27 for 152 yards, his fewest ever in a win.

He was sore throughout after taking a knee in the back only 7 minutes into the game. He got hurt making what was possibly a touchdown-saving tackle on DeAngelo Hall, who was returning a fumble after Marion Barber lost the ball near the Redskins 10.

"You could tell he was hurting a little bit. That's just guts," Crayton said.

"I'm just surprised I made the tackle," Romo said smiling, before gingerly leaving the postgame podium. "If the guy goes down, I'll take that."

A week after scoring in the final minute to avoid being shut out at Green Bay, the Cowboys again waited until late to get in the end zone. But after Crayton scored, the Redskins still had a chance to pull out a second straight win.

Except Jason Campbell threw a pass that was tipped and intercepted by Anthony Spencer with 1:46 left, then had a heave fall incomplete on the final play of the game.

The pick was a nice consolation for Spencer, who appeared to have his first sack of the season at the end of the first half before it was erased after a penalty was called on the next play.

A booth-induced replay showed Campbell threw the ball away before stepping out of bounds. Though the delay of game penalty ultimately wasn't enforced by officials after extended discussions, Suisham missed the shorter kick.

"We fought so hard the whole game. They got one drive the whole game," said Campbell, who was 24 of 37 for 256 yards. "Then, the luck of the draw at the end of the game, they got an interception to win the game. It's one of the toughest losses you can take."



BCS

Continued from page 7

West Virginia on Friday, the same day Cincinnati hosts Illinois in a nonconference game). If the Bearcats and Panthers both finish 11-1, the loser of their game would definitely be in the running for an at-large bid.

Florida and Alabama both face big rivalry games this week, with the Gators taking on Florida State and the Crimson Tide playing at Auburn. Upsets in those games could keep the SEC champion out of the BCS title game.

Texas plays at Texas A&M on Thursday before facing Nebraska in the Big 12 title game. A loss in either could keep the Longhorns from playing for a national championship, but like Alabama and Florida, the Longhorns don't need to win the conference title to end up in a BCS game.

The Cornhuskers' only route to the BCS is to win the Big 12.

Georgia Tech (11-1), seventh in the BCS standings, play Georgia on Saturday and can earn an automatic bid by beating Clemson in the Atlantic Coast Conference title game on Dec. 5. The Yellow Jackets would likely remain eligible for an at-large bid even with a loss in the conference title game.

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