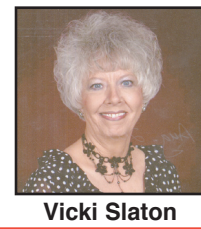




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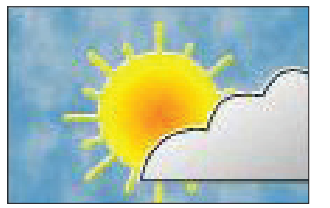
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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**WEDNESDAY**  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 237

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

## New store in town



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Tractor Supply Co., which specializes in providing a wide variety of farm and rural lifestyle equipment and supplies, opened its doors for business today. The business is located on the north service road of Interstate 20.

## On the upswing

### College officials expect enrollment to increase

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Early enrollment numbers have Howard College officials smiling.

While preliminary enrollment figures are behind the same time last year, College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks believes that when final numbers are in, this could mark a record year for the college.

Sparks said that, as of Tuesday morning, 3,158 students were enrolled at Howard's four campuses, compared to 3,448 the same time last year.

But Sparks said a big enrollment bump should be forthcoming in the next few days, when San Angelo ISD students begin registering for concurrent

courses at Howard's campus there.

"Right now, we're down from last year, but the reality is that I know for a fact that we will be up," Sparks said. "We're expecting another 500 students to enroll at San Angelo."

Tuesday's enrollment figures break down this way (September 2007 enrollment is in parenthesis):

- Big Spring — 1,341 (1,315).
- San Angelo — 1,595 (1,905).

See **COLLEGE**, page 3A

## Triathlon set for Saturday

By **BRIAN MCCORMACK**  
Staff Writer

Do you think you have what it takes to be a Comanche Warrior? If so, you can test your mettle at a triathlon which is slated to be held at Comanche Trail Park Saturday.

The Comanche Warrior Triathlon consists of three legs of athletic competition — swimming, biking, and running. The race starts with a 500 meter swim in Comanche Trail Lake. Then, participants will begin the second leg of the race, an 18-mile bicycle trek. The competitors will then finish the even with a 3-mile run.

Convention and Visitors Bureau

See **TRIATHLON**, page 3A

## Batten down the hatches

### Experts warn of stormy season in store

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**  
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON — The tropics seem to be going crazy what with the remnants of Gustav, the new threat from Hanna, a strengthening Ike and newcomer Josephine. Get used to it.

Hurricane experts say all the weather ingredients, which normally fluctuate, are set on boil for the formation of storms. And it's going to stay that way for a while, they said.

Four named storms at the same time is a bit odd, but not unprecedented, meteorologists said. In 1995 five named storms lived simultaneously. And in 1998 there were four hurricanes at the same. But wait and see what happens next.

"Give us time, this is only Tuesday," said meteorologist Dennis Feltgren, spokesman for an all-too-busy hurricane center in Miami.

The peak of hurricane season isn't until Sept. 10 and this season already has 10 named storms, which is



AP Photo/Houston Chronicle/Brett Coomer

**Lisa and Cliff Lyons stand in the flooded yard in front of their home in Coin du Lestin Estates that was flooded in the aftermath of Hurricane Gustav Tuesday in Slidell, La.**

the long-term average for an entire season.

"Normally in an active season, there are bunches of hurricanes and lulls. It just doesn't seem like there's been bunches of lulls. I sure hope we're not talking (hurricanes) Christmas Eve," said meteorology professor

Hugh Willoughby at Florida International University.

Two hurricane prognosticators — including William Gray, who pioneered the field of storm season forecasts — predicted Tuesday that this month would be almost twice as busy as an average September. They

forecast five named storms, four of them hurricanes and two of them major.

These latest predictions cover only September and are not a revision of the season-long forecast, which called for a total of nine

See **STORMS**, page 3A

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## Federer holds on, avoids major upset

By RACHEL COHEN  
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — Poor Roger Federer. All these years of dominating the tennis world, and he was missing out on the fun of riveting five-set matches.

Federer wasn't actually complaining about the dearth of drama, but he insisted he found joy — not disappointment — in being pushed to the limit by 23rd-seeded Igor Andreev on Tuesday in the fourth round of the U.S. Open.

The four-time defending champ won 6-7 (5), 7-6 (5), 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

"They're fun when you play them," Federer said of going the distance. "Sometimes, of course, they're hard physically and mentally, and the pressure is huge on me, because Igor doesn't have a whole lot to lose. For me it's way worse, so I'm very happy with the way we competed tonight."

He noted it was the first time he played a five-setter straight through at Arthur Ashe Stadium, with its boisterous crowd. In 2004, he knocked off Andre Agassi in the quarterfinals in a match split over two days because of rain. Federer went on to win his first Open title.

"I mean, it's why you practice hard, that you play good when it's crunch time," he said. "I'm happy with the way I played today when the pressure was the highest, and the crowd gives you that feeling of going crazy a little bit."

His yelling, fist-pumping and grinning after clinching the final point comprised the kind of celebration usually reserved for Grand Slam titles. He's got 12 of those, two shy of Pete Sampras' career mark. And Federer has now won 31 consecutive matches at the U.S. Open.

Not feeling quite so energized after his five-set match was No. 3 Novak Djokovic. He survived No. 15 Tommy Robredo of Spain by a score of 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 5-7, 6-3. Djokovic was bothered at various points by his stomach, his hip, his right ankle and breathing problems.

"If we start talking about things that are bothering me, as I said on the court, we'll chat for a long time," he said. "It's better I skip all these things and leave it behind."

Djokovic figured his quarterfinal opponent would be less fatigued, and that certainly should be true after Andy Roddick needed just 87 minutes to beat No. 11 Fernando Gonzalez of Chile.

Roddick, the No. 8 seed, lost only nine points on his serve. He wasn't buying the argument that he'd have an advantage over Djokovic.

"He's also had a much better year to this point," Roddick said. "It's a matter of if you want to look back 10 days or 10 months."

On the women's side, second-seeded Jelena Jankovic and No. 5 Elena Dementieva won their quarterfinal matches in straight sets.

Federer will face a much bigger underdog than Andreev in the quarterfinals. His opponent is 130th-ranked Gilles Muller of Luxembourg, only the second qualifier to advance this far in the Open era.

Muller knocked off No. 5 Nikolay Davydenko 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (10). Muller has posted big upsets before, though much earlier in tournaments.

In 2005, he beat Rafael Nadal in the second round at Wimbledon and Roddick in the first round at the U.S. Open when each was ranked third.

"He didn't beat Andy for nothing here a few years ago," Federer said. "That's why I definitely won't underestimate him, because he's a good player."

A sure thing for so long, Federer's matches now carry an air of uncertainty. He advances in the Open still seeking his first Grand Slam title of the year.

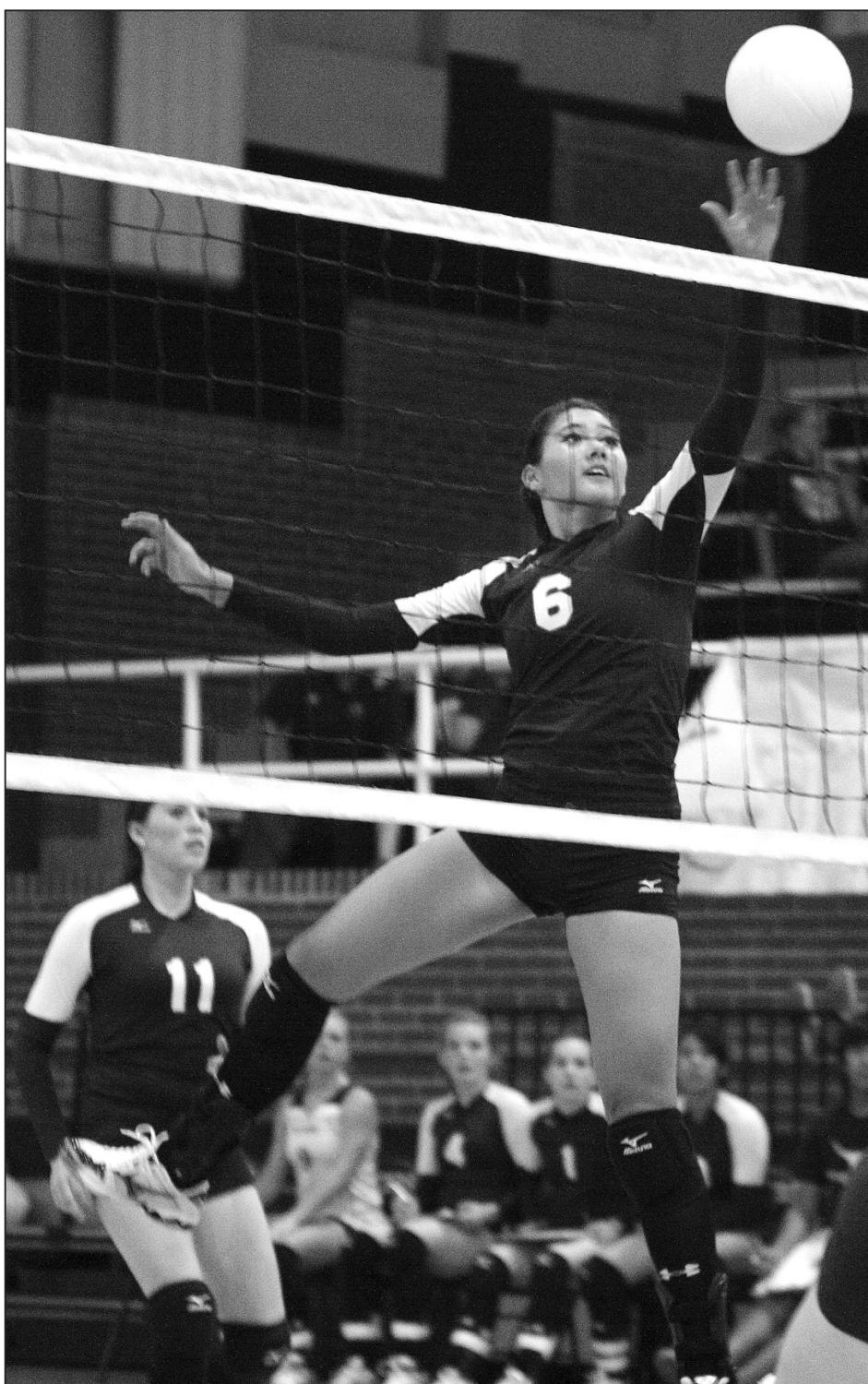
He refused to characterize Tuesday's 3½-hour marathon as a sign of decline.

Federer sounded like somebody who's not familiar with tennis describing a trip to the Open: educational, and an enjoyable change of pace.



AP photo/Rob Carr

The Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans is shown a day after Hurricane Gustav hit Louisiana, Tuesday. The New Orleans Saints are returning to the Superdome for their NFL season-opener Sunday. The NFL season begins Thursday with a game between the Washington Redskins and New York Giants.



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Andrea Claxton tips the ball over the net for a point in volleyball action against Bronte's Lady Longhorns Tuesday in Steer Gym. Bronte won the match in four sets, 25-22, 16-25, 25-12, 25-23.

## Big Spring loses battle

### Lady Steers fall in four sets to Bronte

By JONATHAN HULL  
Sports Editor

At times, losses can be meaningful. Big Spring's Lady Steers lost their 11th consecutive volleyball match Tuesday, but Head Coach Meghan Blake is encouraged by the fashion of the defeat. The Lady Steers fell to Class A's 11th-ranked squad, Bronte's Lady Longhorns, in four sets, 25-22, 16-25, 25-12, 25-23. It's the first time the Lady Steers haven't been swept in straight sets in six matches.

"Man, I really wanted this win. I wanted it bad and so did the girls," said Blake. "There are really a lot of positives we can draw from this game. This is the best we've played in a while. We competed and pushed back."

"I don't mind losing a competitive match like this one," she continued. "It's when we go out and don't compete that it really bothers me. These girls played really hard in this match against a very good team."

After Bronte won a close first set, 25-22, the Lady Steers played even with Class A's 11th-ranked team midway through the second game. Big Spring then played some of its finest volleyball of the season, according to Blake, making an 11-1 run and jumping out to a 22-14 advantage.

Finishing matches they had in hand has been a problem for the Lady Steers this season, but not in Tuesday's second set. They won three of the next

See LADY STEERS, Page 2B



AP photo/PPhil Coale

Jacksonville Jaguars offensive lineman Richard Collier takes part in warm-up drills during the Jaguars football training camp Aug. 7, 2006, in Jacksonville, Fla. Collier was shot while waiting for some women outside an apartment early Tuesday in Jacksonville, and sustained life-threatening injuries.

## Jags' Collier shot several times, suffered life-threatening injuries

By MARK LONG  
AP Sports Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Richard Collier has faced some adversity in recent years.

He didn't have the grades or test scores to attend most universities, so he had to work his way through junior college. He didn't have the exposure to get selected in the NFL draft, so he had to make the Jacksonville Jaguars as an undrafted rookie free agent.

He didn't have the chance to start early in his career, so he had to do anything and everything he could to make his coaches take notice.

Now, Collier is facing his most difficult challenge yet.

The 26-year-old offensive tackle was shot outside an apartment building early Tuesday, leaving him fighting for his life and prompting family, friends, teammates, coaches, fans and police to start searching for answers.

"The guys are in shock," Pro Bowl running back Fred Taylor said. "You see this kind of thing happen all the time on TV, but you never expect it in your own back yard. He's a good dude. I just pray for him and his family and wish the best for them. I'm sure he'll pull through."

Collier and former teammate Kenneth Pettway were waiting in a Cadillac Escalade for two women they had met at a nightclub when a gunman fired into the vehicle, said Jacksonville Sheriff's Office spokesman Ken Jefferson. Collier was shot several times, but it was unclear where the 6-foot-7, 345-pound lineman was hit.

Pettway, who was released in final cuts Saturday, was not injured.

Collier was in critical, but stable condition following surgery at Shands Jacksonville Medical Center. Later, the hospital said it would no longer give updates on his condition. Jaguars coach Jack Del Rio said Collier's family had requested privacy.

Several players, including running back Maurice Jones-Drew, offensive tackle Khalif Barnes and linebackers Mike Peterson and Clint Ingram gathered at the hospital. Others convened at Jacksonville Municipal Stadium, all of them concerned about their teammate and friend.

Del Rio said the entire organization paused Tuesday, taking a break from game-planning for the season opener at

See COLLIER, Page 2B

## Obituaries

## Dalhia 'Daisy' Flores Battles



Dalhia "Daisy" Flores Battles, 54, of Big Spring died Sunday, Aug. 31, 2008, at her residence. Vigil Services will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Deacon Johnny Arguello, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, officiating. The family will receive friends prior to the vigil from 6 until 7 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. A memorial service will be at 6 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Chaplain Cherise Felty, Home Hospice, officiating. Friday, the family will receive friends following the memorial service, at 810 Andree.

Daisy was born Sept. 13, 1953, in Lubbock to Ofilia and Manuel Flores. She grew up in Big Spring, moved to California in 1979, and then returned to Big Spring February 2008, moving from Las Vegas. Daisy worked in a hospital in California and later was manager of a mobile home park in Las Vegas. She was a born-again Christian.

Daisy is survived by four sons: Eddie Velasquez Jr. of Puerto Rico, and Stephen Velasquez and his wife Danielle, Delton Battles Jr., and Terrence Battles, all of California; mother: Ofilia Flores of Big Spring; one brother: Juan Flores and his wife Karen of Fort Smith, Ark.; six sisters: Oralia Tovas and her husband John, Angie Foster, Anita Massey, and Geraldine Lopez, all of Big Spring, Mary Powell and her husband Loren of Beverly, Kan., and Margie Martinez and her husband Johnny of Fort Worth; and six grandchildren: Brianna Velasquez, Caylynn Velasquez, Nick Velasquez, Aiden Velasquez, Deantei Battles and Deandre Battles.

Daisy was preceded in death by her father: Manuel Flores; one son: Thomas; and two brothers-in-law: Marcy Lopez and Hugh Massey.

The family will be at 2515 Dow Drive in Big Spring. The family suggests memorials to Home Hospice, 111 E. 7th Street, Ste. A, Big Spring 79720.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

*Paid obituary*

## Mark Eddie Cook

Mark Eddie Cook, 50, of Stanton died Monday, Sept. 1, 2008, at the Hospice Inpatient Unit at Midland Memorial Hospital because of kidney disease. Graveside funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4, 2008, at Evergreen Cemetery in Stanton with Van Pendergrass, minister of Downtown Church of Christ, officiating. The family will receive friends Wednesday, Sept. 3 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Gilbreath Funeral Home.

He was born April 12, 1958, in Big Spring to Eddie and Nelwayne Cook.

Mark graduated in 1976 from Stanton High School and had attended Howard College, Odessa College, Midland College and UTPB. He farmed in Martin, Glasscock and Midland counties. He also worked as a meter reader at Caprock Electric. He was a member of First United Methodist Church.

Survivors include two brothers and sisters-in-law, Kyle and Melody Cook and Kenneth and Cheryl Cook, all of Stanton; his step-mother, Alta Cook of Midland; one sister-in-law, Charlotte Cook of Stanton; six nieces and nephews, Kevin Cook and wife Erin of Glasscock County, Keith Cook and wife Jana, Kayla Cook, Karyn Pylant and husband Zack, all of Stanton, Ragan Outlaw and husband Justin, and Justin Darden, all of Midland; two great-nephews, Kanyon Pylant of Stanton and Brannon Darden of Big Spring; two step-brothers, Bill "Skeeter" Straub and family of San Antonio and Claude Straub and family of Reno, Nev.; numerous cousins, including Bill Wilson of Stanton and good friends, Rory Murray of Kermit, Clay and Rena Harris of Stanton and all of his dialysis friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Eddie and Nelwayne Cook and a great niece, Katie-Jo Lynn Cook.

Pallbearers will be Mike Scott, John Yater, Clay Harris, Kevin Shoemaker, Morgan Cox and Garry Hull.

The family would like to thank the staff at Stanton Care Center and Hospice of Midland In-patient unit at Midland Memorial Hospital.

The family suggests in lieu of flowers memorials be made made to Hospice of Midland Inpatient Unit, P.O. Box 2621, Midland 79701, or the First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 1193, Stanton 79782.

Arrangements are under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences can be made at: [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com)

*Paid obituary*

## Kenneth Newsom

Kenneth Newsom, 65, of Snyder, formerly of Big Spring died Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2008, in a Snyder nursing home. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

## Ruth Esther (Winbush) Akins



Ruth Esther (Winbush) Akins, 75, of Midland, formerly of Big Spring went to be with the Lord on Friday, Aug. 29, 2008, in Midland. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2008, at the Mt. Bethel Baptist Church in Big Spring with Pastor W.C. Kenan officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring.

She was born March 17, 1933, in Anson and married Thomas Earl Akins Jan. 22, 1960, in Colorado City. He preceded

her in death Jan. 17, 1986.

Ruth attended school in Brady. She moved to Big Spring in 1959 and lived there until 2000 when she moved to Midland to be close to her family. She was a member of Faith Temple/Mt. Bethel Baptist Church. She had been a member of the Eastern Star.

Survivors include one son and daughter-in-law, Edward and Greta Peterson of Tyler; two sisters, Debbie Collins of Sherman and Margie Belvin of Big Spring; four brothers, Thomas Evans of Big Spring, Charles Evans of Denver, Colo., Leonard Evans of Big Spring, and Herman Evans of Midland; two grandsons, Anthony Peterson of Beaumont and Bryan Peterson of Tyler; four great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jasper and Frankie Mae Evans; one sister, Dorothy Sherman; and two brothers, Roger Evans and Sam Evans.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com)

*Paid obituary*

## Nadine Couch



Nadine Couch, 90, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2008, at her residence. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Goree Cemetery in Goree with Chaplain Walter McCall, Compass Hospice, officiating. The family will receive friends from 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

She was born Feb. 27, 1918, in Vashti, Texas, to Elta and Floyd Kirk. Nadine married William Taylor Couch Feb. 9, 1936, in Seymour. He preceded her in death Aug. 6, 1983. She moved to Andrews from Goree in 1963, then to Big Spring in 1984. She was a homemaker.

Nadine is survived by two sons: Monty Couch and his wife Leslie of Odessa and Danny Couch of Andrews; three daughters: Shirly Smith of Roswell, N.M., Marylon Montgomery and her husband Jimmy of Big Spring, and Pamela Boren of Watauga, Texas; one sister: Fay Lambeth of Munday; 10 grandchildren: Billy Smith, Susan Smith, Ray Rye, Sheila Montgomery, Ricky Boren, Michael Couch, Monty P. Couch, Michelle Couch, Tiffany Couch and Danny Lee Couch Jr.; 16 great-grandchildren; and 8 great-great-grandchildren; and two special caregivers: Joyce Arceneaux and Marie Medina.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by one daughter: Sharon Kay Couch in 1964.

Pallbearers will be Michael Couch, Monty Couch, Michael Shockley, Ricky Boren, Jimmy Rye and Richard Rye.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

*Paid obituary*

## Ruby Scott

Ruby Scott, 64, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2008, at her residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Lottery

The jackpot in the multistate Mega Millions lottery drawing grew to \$16 million Wednesday.

None of the tickets sold for Tuesday's \$12 million drawing matched all five lotto numbers and the Mega Ball. The next drawing will be Friday.

The winning numbers from Tuesday's drawing were: 14, 23, 43, 44 and 54. The Mega Ball number was 39.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 2-24-34-17-26.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-7-7-0. Sum It Up: 17.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-0-4. Sum It Up: 13

## Your Local Weather

Thu 9/4	Fri 9/5	Sat 9/6	Sun 9/7	Mon 9/8
<b>87/64</b>	<b>89/64</b>	<b>85/65</b>	<b>83/65</b>	<b>86/64</b>
Except for a few afternoon clouds, mainly sunny. High 87F.	Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the mid 60s.	Partly cloudy, chance of a thunderstorm.	Partly cloudy, chance of a thunderstorm.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the mid 60s.

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## Police blotter

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

- REGINALD VANDERBILT, 25, of San Angelo, was arrested Tuesday on a parole warrant and charge of failure to identify and burglary of a habitation.
- ROBERT RIOS, 36, of 1010 Howell, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of failure to report a change of address.
- JAMES NELSON, 38, transient, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- LEONARD AGUINAGA, 19, of 100 Cottonwood, was arrested Tuesday on 10 local capias warrants.
- UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE was reported in the 400 block of Benton.
- THEFT was reported in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
- POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA was reported in the 1400 block of Wood.
- FAILURE TO IDENTIFY AS A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE - GIVING FALSE INFORMATION was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS OF A HABITATION/SHELTER CENTER was reported in the 500 block of Lancaster.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 600 block of Birdwell Lane.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 1900 block of 11<sup>th</sup> Street.
- ARSON was reported in the 2500 block of Ent.

## Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 56 inmates at the time of this report.

- CARL WILLIAM WELLS, 25, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury.
- JAMEY SCOTT JOHNSON, 45, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.
- JAMES DWAYNE TURNBO, 30, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a Scurry County warrant for a motion to revoke probation for burglary of a habitation and a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- LINDA EVA RODRIGUEZ, 33, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to identify as a fugitive from justice - giving false information.
- DONNA DENISE FRERES, 44, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- STACY LYNN PENDLETON, 32, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of failure to identify as a fugitive from justice - giving false information, resisting arrest, search or transportation and public intoxication.
- RENE PEREZ SALAZAR, 22, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of driving while intoxicated - open container and reckless driving.

## Fire/EMS

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

- TRAUMA was reported in the 1400 block of Main Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of Aylsford. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of E. 13<sup>th</sup> Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 300 block of Providence. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Birdwell Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of FM 700 and Hernandez. One person was transported to SMMC.
- STRUCTURE FIRE was reported in the 2500 block of Ent.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811

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LADY STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

five points, winning their first set since Aug. 23, 25-16.

Unfortunately, Big Spring didn't carry any of that momentum into the third set as Bronte made three separate runs in the game, eventually downing the Lady Steers, 25-12, taking a 2-1 set lead.

Big Spring responded to the first two Bronte third-set rallies. The Lady 'Horns opened the game with a 5-1 advantage only to see Big Spring answer with a similar rally and tie the game at 6.

The Lady 'Horns then initiated a 5-0 run, but Big Spring again responded, this time with a 4-0 rally, pulling the score to 11-10.

However, Bronte took total

command of the set from that point, winning 14 of the next 16 points for a 25-12 win.

It appeared the Lady 'Horns were going to put together a similar rally in the fourth game. After allowing Big Spring to go on a 9-2 run, earning the Lady Steers an 11-6 advantage, Bronte answered with a 13-3 rally, going up 19-14.

In past matches, Big Spring has crumbled under late deficits, allowing opponents to cruise to victories from this point. However, it appears the Lady Steers could have turned a corner Tuesday as they put together a 5-0 rally, tying the game at 19.

"I've been preaching and preaching to these girls that this game isn't over until someone gets to 25 or wins by two," Blake said. "I think that finally got across to them tonight. They

didn't quit. That's the beauty of volleyball. A team has the opportunity to make this kind of late run and pull even."

The Lady Steers had a chance to take control of the fourth set, but two service errors cost them the opportunity. Eventually, Bronte edged Big Spring across the finish line, winning the decisive set, 25-23.

Leading the Lady Steers was junior Halee Thomas with ninekills, including five in the final set. Macy Graves contributed seven kills. Senior Andrea Claxton led the team with 11 digs.

Classmate Baylea Fox had six digs and led with five aces.

Freshman Cerbi Ritchey posted 19 assists.

Big Spring travels to Andrews Saturday for a duel match against the Lady Mustangs and Wink.

Andrews defeated Big Spring Saturday at the Seminole Tournament, 25-16, 25-12. Wink will enter the weekend ranked fourth in Class A.

"We're going to continue to be challenged this weekend," admitted Blake.



Fox



Blake

"We already lost to Andrews, but I believe we can beat them. They're a good team, but there's no reason we can't compete with them if we can play like we did tonight. Wink is a good team. They'll be tough. I'm just hoping we can carry over what we accomplished tonight. We're feeling good about ourselves right now and our confidence is up. We have to keep it that way."

Bronte defeated Big Spring

25-22, 16-25, 25-12, 25-23

Kills (23) - Halee Thomas 9, Macy Graves 7, Desiree Anderson 4, Andrea Claxton 3.  
Digs (32) - Claxton 11, Baylea Fox 6, Anderson 5, Valerie Ross 4, Sloan Davis 2, Thomas 2, Cerbi Ritchey 1, Belle Feaster 1.  
Aces (8) - Fox 5, Claxton 1, Ross 1, Anderson 1.  
Blocks (4) - Anderson 3, Claxton 1.  
Assists (19) - Ritchey 19.

COLLIER

Continued from Page 1B

Tennessee to focus on what he called "a very unfortunate incident, really, really a shame."

"Right now, he's battling for his life," Del Rio said on his weekly radio show. "All we can do right now is pray for healing. We have no control over that situation other than saying some prayers."

"This is not about football. This is about life. This is about a man right now dealing with his body being put to the test, wheth-

er or not he can overcome these types of things. When you're in critical condition in the hospital, it's very, very serious. and that's what this is."

The motive behind the attack was unknown, and the sheriff's office was investigating.

The shooting happened around 2:45 a.m. in a middle- to upper middle-class neighborhood just west of downtown Jacksonville and blocks from the St. Johns River.

The players had gone to the apartment complex so the women could drop off their car, authorities said.

The women, who appeared to

be in their 20s, declined comment when they were escorted by police back to the complex midmorning Tuesday. One was wearing a short, silver dress and the other was wearing a short, black one.

Del Rio sent a strong message to anyone questioning whether Collier should have been out that late.

"The guy who shot the gun is the problem, not the guy who got shot," the coach said. "He's the victim. He was victimized. You ought to be able to go out and have a good time and go back home and not be worried about being killed or being put in the

hospital with bullet holes."

Del Rio also cautioned everyone from lumping the shooting in with all the other off-the-field problems the Jaguars have dealt with the last two years. The team has had 11 players arrested in that span, including receiver Matt Jones on a felony drug charge and several others - including Collier - on drunk driving charges.

"I take offense to people that insinuate and call that a lack of discipline or a lack of responsibility," Del Rio said. "There are no rules about being out on a Monday night before your day off the following day. ... This is a

disciplined football team.

"This is a big blow, but let's not put the blame on the wrong person or the wrong situation. The person that pulled the trigger is the person that's wrong."

Collier is the third NFL player to be shot in the past 18 months. Washington Redskins star Sean Taylor was fatally shot during what police said was a botched burglary attempt at his Miami-area home in November. Denver Broncos cornerback Darrent Williams was killed when his rented limousine was sprayed with bullets minutes after leaving a New Year's party at a club in 2007.

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- 2006 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Maroon w/Cloth, V-8, All Power, One Owner w/18,000 Miles. **SOLD** Was \$23,995 **Sale Price \$20,995**
- 2006 Chevrolet Avalanche - Blue w/Tan Leather, All Power, On-Star, Local One Owner. **SOLD** Was \$27,995 **Sale Price \$23,995**
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- 2005 Ford F150 Supercab XL 4X4 - White, Tilt/Cruise, 5.4 V-8, Local One Owner. **SOLD** Was \$18,995 **Sale Price \$16,995**
- 2005 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Gray w/Cloth, V-8, All Power, One Owner. **SOLD** Was \$14,995 **Sale Price \$13,995**
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- 2004 Nissan Murano SE - White w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/69,000 Miles. **SOLD** Was \$20,995 **Sale Price \$18,995**
- 2004 Chevrolet Tahoe LT - Gray w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/57,000 Miles. **SOLD** Was \$21,995 **Sale Price \$18,995**
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- 2004 GMC Yukon XL SLT - Maroon w/Leather, All Power, One Owner. **SOLD** Was \$19,995 **Sale Price \$17,995**
- 2004 Nissan Xterra SE - Silver w/Cloth, All Power, One Owner w/36,000 Miles. **SOLD** Was \$19,995 **Sale Price \$13,995**
- 2002 Chevrolet Suburban LT - Pewter w/Leather, All Power, One Owner. **SOLD** Was \$17,995 **Sale Price \$13,995**
- 2001 Lincoln Navigator 4X4 - White w/Leather, All Power, Navigator, One Owner. **SOLD** Was \$16,995 **Sale Price \$12,995**

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- 2004 Lincoln Town Car Ultimate - Cashmere White w/Leather, All Power, One Owner w/32,000 Miles. **SOLD** Was \$20,995 **Sale Price \$18,995**
- 2004 Ford Focus SE 4-Door - Black w/Cloth, All Power, One Owner w/51,000 Miles. **SOLD** Was \$10,995 **Sale Price \$7,995**
- 2004 Ford Mustang Cobra - Black ws/Tan Top & Tan Leather, Local One Owner w/40,000 Miles. **SOLD** Was \$18,995 **Sale Price \$13,995**
- 2004 Mercedes C240 - Tan w/Leather, All Power, Locally Owned w/42,000 Miles. **SOLD** Was \$21,995 **Sale Price \$17,995**
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- 2004 Nissan Maxima SL - Silver w/Leather, Moonroof, All Power, One Owner w/50,000 Miles. **SOLD** Was \$23,995 **Sale Price \$17,995**
- 2003 Cadillac DeVille. - Tan w/Leather, All Power, One Owner. **SOLD** Was \$14,995 **Sale Price \$12,995**
- 2003 Ford Escort ZX2 - Black w/Cloth, One Owner w/66,000 Miles. **SOLD** Was \$9,995 **Sale Price \$6,995**
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# Commissioners to meet, discuss health center

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

County officials will meet Thursday to discuss the creation of a Howard County Health Center, a program that recently received a \$80,000 grant from the federal government.

"This is something we (county commissioners court) have been working with Irene Dominguez (County Indigent Care Director) for about six to eight months now," said County Judge Mark Barr. "We've been working to get a grant from the federal government to get this thing moving."

"The Howard County Health Center would help take care of our indigent needs, but it would also address some of the folks who have fallen through the cracks. Low-income residents who can't afford insurance and people in that kind of situation would be able to use the center, where doctors would offer the basic services."

Barr said the \$80,000 grant from the federal government will give the county the needed funds to

get the program moving in the right direction.

"This will help us get the ball rolling. We'll be able to appoint a temporary administrator and begin taking the first steps," said Barr. "The center will be an actual place, sort of like a clinic. We really haven't given much thought as to where it will be located, however. We wanted to secure these grant funds before we started looking at where we will put the center."

Barr said the meeting, slated for 3 p.m. Thursday in room 301 on the Howard County Courthouse's third floor, should help give area residents a clear idea what the county hopes to accomplish with the program.

"Irene (Dominguez) really knows more about this than anyone, and she's going to explain the ins and outs during the meeting," said Barr. "The meeting is aimed mainly at the media, but the public is invited as well. We just want to get things moving and let people know what they can expect."

Contact Staff Writer  
Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232.

# Angel Food Ministry taking orders

Volunteers for Angel Food Ministry will be taking orders for the Sept. 27 delivery date this Friday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church, 2702 North Birdwell Lane.

Orders will be taken Friday, Sept. 12, and Saturday, Sept. 13, at the same hours. Orders will be taken at the Big Spring Mall on Saturday and Sept. 13, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Payment by cash or money order is due when placing the order.

Regular Box:

- 1 - 1.5lb. top sirloin strips steaks (4 x 6 oz.); 2 lb. boneless skinless chicken breast; 3 lb. breaded chicken chunks; 1.5 lb. boneless pork fillet; 20 oz. supreme pizza; 1 lb. ground turkey; 1 lb. cheddar cheese bratwurst sausage; 1 lb. green beans; 1 lb. stir fry vegetables (broccoli & bell pepper); 35 oz. crinkle-cut french fries; 32 oz. borden 2 percent reduced fat shelf stable milk; 7.5 oz. macaroni & cheese; 15 oz. pork & beans; 7 oz. chicken flavored rice 7 vermicelli; 1 lb. pinto beans; one dozen

eggs; one dessert item. — \$30

### Senior Box

All 10 individual meals are fully-cooked and labeled with heating instructions. Just heat and serve. Each meal has no added sodium, is low in fat and is nutritionally balanced for seniors with 3 ounces of protein, two vegetables or fruit and a starch.

- 1. Chicken Parmesan with a side of spaghetti with marinara sauce, green beans and garlic bread.
- 2. Herb Roasted Chicken Quarters with herb gravy, white rice and peas and carrots.
- 3. Barbecue Chicken Quarters with barbecue sauce, black-eyed peas, greens and apple sauce.
- 4. Baked White Fish with Asian sweet pepper sauce, vegetable fried rice, broccoli and pineapple chunks.
- 5. Chicken Cacciatore Quarter creamy rosemary red potato quarters, Italian green beans and diced peaches.
- 6. Roast Beef and Brown Gravy (pot roast), noodles,

carrot coins and collar greens.

7. Beef Meatloaf with Brown Herbed Gravy, mashed sweet potatoes, peas 7 mushrooms and wax beans.

8. Beef Lasagna with Tomato Sauce, broccoli, diced pears and garlic bread & butter.

9. Oven Roasted Turkey Breast with Sage Gravy, bread dressing, diced potatoes, green beans and cranberry sauce.

10. Chicken Stew with Chicken, potatoes and tomatoes, celery and carrots, brown rice, apple sauce and a biscuit.

All 10 of the Senior Boxes are available for \$25.

Special No. 1: assorted meat grill box, 1.5 ribeye steaks (2x12 oz.), 2 lbs. boneless pork roast, 1.5 lbs. beef short ribs, 1 lb. all beef burgers (4x4 oz.) — \$20.

Special No. 2: 5 lb. steak and meat combo, 1.5 lb. Kansas City strips (2x12 oz.), 1.5 lb. bone-in ribeye steaks, 2 lbs. all beef hamburger steaks (4x4 oz.) — \$20

Special No. 3: 10 lb. party wing box, 10 lb. unbreaded IQF Party Style Chicken

Wings — \$20

Special No. 4: Five for Four Dinner Box. Five big 2 lb. dinner meals, each will feed a family of four. All dinners are fully-cooked. Just heat and serve. 2 lb. stuffed peppers with beef and rice, 2 lb. chicken breast with rice, broccoli & cheese, 2 lb. beef steak patties with gravy and onions, 2 lb. meatloaf and gravy, 2 lb. barbecue chicken with hickory sauce and mashed potatoes. — \$20

Special No. 5: Fresh fruit and veggie box. 3 lb. red delicious apples, 2 lb. large yellow onions, 4 lbs. large Idaho potatoes, 4 bartlett pears, 1 stalk celery, 4 lb California oranges, 1 lb. carrots, 1 large green cabbage, 4 Tennessee vine-ripened tomatoes, 12 oz. black beans. — \$19

North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church, 2702 N. Birdwell, is the designated host site for Angel Food Ministry of Big Spring. For more information, call Madeline Boadle at 267-2203.

## MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Dahlia "Daisy" Flores Battles, 54, died Sunday. Vigil Services will be at 7:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. The family will receive friends, prior to the vigil, from 6:00 until 7:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. A Memorial Service will be at 6:00 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Friday the family will receive friends, following the Memorial Service, at 8:10 Andree.

Nadine Couch, 90, died Tuesday. Graveside services will be at 2:00 PM Thursday at Goree Cemetery in Goree. The family will receive friends from 6:30 until 7:30 PM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Ruby Scott, 64, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## TRIATHLON

Continued from page 1A

Director Debbie Wegman is coordinating the event with Mike and Marti Greer of Lubbock. The Greers have a track record for organizing quality events, according to Wegman.

"Mike and Marti have coordinated a lot of races over the years," Wegman said. "Mike put together the first Comanche Warrior Triathlon in Big Spring about 15 years ago. They're very familiar with how to put together a good race."

The competition is also good for the community, as athletes will come here

to compete, and bring their families along as spectators. In addition to the exposure Big Spring will receive, visitors can give a boost to the local economy.

"Bringing this competition to Big Spring allows outsiders to see the benefits of this town and it is also good for local businesses", Wegman added. "These athletes and their families will come into town and eat and shop. It's good to bring new people into Big Spring to see what it's all about."

Participants are expected from as far away as Amarillo, Lubbock, San Angelo and Midland.

Many locals are also signed up for the event,

including Craig Felty, a teacher for Big Spring and Forsan schools. Felty tries to compete in several events per year.

"I did my first triathlon on my 50th birthday," Felty said. "Other sprint distance triathlons are similar to this one, but the nice thing is that this will be in open water for the swimming part, whereas most are held in pools."

The triathlon is also an ideal event for experienced endurance junkies and beginners alike, according to Felty. His advice for newcomers is simple: "Take it easy, pace yourself to compete at your activity level, and be sure your equipment is in good shape."

Felty also said the events coordinated by the Greers are excellent because of the preparation that goes into them.

"It's a blast. Just being able to say you finished one is an accomplishment," he added.

Competitors will start at the lake and swim within the boundaries of buoys which will create an oval course. The bike course will begin in front of the community center and will take the competitors out onto Wasson Road, then Longshore Rd. and FM 33, before turning around and doing the course in reverse. Finally, the participants will run the 5 kilometer track on foot, which will essentially

be a jaunt around Comanche Trail Park before finishing at the community center, where the race is to begin.

Prizes will be awarded in the form of trophies and T-shirts and a dinner will be held for the participants the evening of the race.

Registration for the triathlon will continue as late as the morning of the race. You may register online at [www.comanchewarriortriathlon.com](http://www.comanchewarriortriathlon.com) and the cost is \$45 per person or \$60 for a team of three. In the team version of the competition, one leg of the race would be done by each member of the team. Individuals will complete the entire event themselves.

## COLLEGE

Continued from page 1A

- Lamesa — 110 (108).
- SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf — 112 (120).

If Howard receives the expected 500-student boost at San Angelo, it would mark a record enrollment for the district, which is very welcome news to officials.

"Our goal all along was to see an increase in

enrollment," Sparks said. "That's why we are pleased with the way things are coming together at this time."

Sparks said Howard enrollment has been trending upwards the past several years and concurrent courses — which allow students to enroll in college classes while still attending high school — have been the major engine driving that increase.

"Enrollment at the

San Angelo campus has been growing at a great rate of speed the past few years and that's directly related to (concurrent) enrollment," Sparks said.

Howard College offers concurrent courses to each high school in its 13-county service area and Sparks believes they have a benefit greater than just padding the district's enrollment figures.

"In the past, high school students may have taken a college course at night

or during the summer, or simply waited until they began college," she said. "Concurrent courses encourage students to participate in higher education and gives them the confidence that this is something they can tackle ... I wish we had had these kind of courses when I was in high school."

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at [reporter@bigspringherald.com](mailto:reporter@bigspringherald.com)

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## STORMS

Continued from page 1A

Atlantic hurricanes through November.

The wind and water conditions that led to the September update will likely continue for the next month or so, said Phil Klotzbach of Colorado State University, co-author of the new report. But if history is any guide, those conditions should change sometime in October, he said.

Wind shear — wind coming from a different direction at high altitude — often weakens a hurricane or at least puts the lid on some developing storms. But at the moment, the only wind shear in the entire Atlantic hurricane region is around Hanna, Feltgren said. So a major factor keeping other storms from forming or strengthening is absent, he said.

Waves of clouds and thunderstorms this time of year head westward from northern Africa every couple days. Some become tropical storms

and hurricanes and others just die down. Gustav, Hanna, Ike and Josephine all started as those waves. What's different right now is that all those waves from Africa head right into a brew of air and water conditions ideal for strengthening, Klotzbach.

First, in the deep tropics, certain winds are blowing from the west and in the subtropics they are coming from the east, creating a propensity for spinning in between — which is the main hurricane development region.

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## EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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# A woman changes the game

**"S**arah Palin ... was elected Alaska's youngest and first woman governor in 2006. When she began her political career she was viewed as a rising Republican star but she won election to the governorship as a maverick reformer at arm's length from her party."

So begins the biography of John McCain's chosen running mate in the nonpartisan Almanac of American Politics. Hmm. A maverick reformer at arm's length from her party. Where have we heard that line before?

Now begins the final sprint of a campaign guaranteed to stop the presses on the next edition of history texts: Americans are about to elect their first black president — or their first woman vice president.

Palin's arrival complicates Barack Obama's effort to lure Hillary Clinton's loyalists, 27 percent of whom told CNN pollsters before the Democratic National Convention that they now back McCain.

But Palin's arrival also complicates McCain's message that he, unlike Obama, has the experience the presidency demands. Last week, in commenting on Obama's choice of Joe Biden as his running mate, we said a vice president's most crucial qualification is to be instantly capable of governing this nation if a new president flops over dead at his or her inauguration or any moment thereafter.

Does Sarah Palin meet that test? Although her personal story is compelling, her resume is thin. Democrats will say she has no experience in foreign affairs, and it appears that she doesn't. But the party that nominated Bill Clinton takes a risk arguing that a fresh-faced, 44-year-old governor — especially a woman — is not competent to lead this nation: Republicans will retort that Palin has managed more, and as a chief executive has accomplished more, than the first-term U.S. senator from Illinois.

We were amused Friday to hear network TV pundits grumble over McCain's selection of a genuine outsider, someone they didn't know. Imagine.

Palin is, though, familiar to and respected by millions of mainstream social and religious conservatives across the U.S. These are voters to whom pastor and mega-author Rick Warren — Time magazine this month named him "America's most powerful religious leader" — was a household name long before he hosted Obama and McCain at Saddleback. Like Warren, Palin can't be dismissed as a mystery or a wingnut.

She does, though, face an Alaska ethics probe: Did she improperly pressure, and then dismiss, the state's public safety commissioner because he didn't fire a state trooper? The trooper, who had been investigated and briefly suspended for alleged misconduct, is Palin's former brother-in-law. Palin says she did nothing wrong. McCain's handlers say the ethics probe is just blowback from her political foes. We'll see.

Obama wisely chose Biden to solidify his points of potential weakness on national security and foreign affairs. McCain, as the leader of the ticket, figures he already has the experience Biden brings to the Democratic ticket. McCain instead needs to corral conservatives and also those Hillaryites: They're a big presence in the 8.5 percent of undecided Americans.

McCain doesn't enjoy many luxuries in this hyper-tight race, but the opportunity to run against a hugely unpopular Democratic Congress is one. He'll present Palin as the partner who'll help him take the broom to Washington. By that calculation, of course, Joe Biden just went from seasoned veteran to dead wood with 36 rings — one for each of his years in the Senate.

Palin's background as a working mom, businesswoman and independent pol suggests a do-it-ourselves theme: It was no accident that, while introducing Palin Friday, McCain swiped at "those who value their privileges over their responsibilities."

He does, though, have to square Palin with his emphasis on global priorities. Maybe in coming weeks he'll identify prospective Cabinet members — Secretary of State Joe Lieberman? — who would fill out a McCain administration. If not, he risks leaving Palin isolated as a neophyte in foreign affairs.

For now, though, the Arizona iconoclast knows his choice of a woman running mate changes the game. Sarah Palin embodies John McCain's audacity of hope.

THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

# McCain helps Obama's argument

**I**n his Denver speech, Sen. Barack Obama tried to lay to rest the issue of whether he has the experience to become commander in chief.

He was helped by Sen. John McCain's choice for vice president, Sarah Palin. Her experience mainly consists of two years as governor of Alaska and a stint as the mayor of Wasilla, Alaska, pop. about 8,000.

It's sobering to think of Palin, however feisty, being a heartbeat away from the top job. McCain, who is the oldest man ever to run and has had health problems, turned 72 on Friday: this makes the choice of vice president more key. Palin, 44, might be suited for the presidency in a remake of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," the 1939 Jimmy Stewart movie, but in the real world the thought is bizarre.

McCain clearly puts more value on galvanizing his pro-life base (and a few angry Hillary voters) than on providing backup for his age risk. His move undermines the claim that Obama's resume is too slim for the White House.

Indeed, McCain's choice puts new focus on just what kind of qualifications are required for the next commander in chief.

The next president will face a very different world than did George W. Bush. In 2000, the United States was strong economically and unchallenged militarily. We still basked in a post-Cold War glow, where it appeared that America could exercise virtually unlimited power.

A prime qualification for the next commander in chief is a mind-set that grasps the stark changes of the last decade — and how they affect

the options we face.

Over the last eight years, our surplus was squandered and America plummeted deep into debt, its foreign IOUs held in large part by China and Arab states. The middle class has become fearful, as most Americans watch their real income slide, oil prices rise, job creation drop, and health care become less available.

A country fearful for its economic future is less able to lead abroad; it no longer serves as a global model. To restore America's inner economic strength, the next president must be willing to challenge the policies that led us to where we are.

Obama's acceptance speech recognized the central problem — the need to restore middle-class faith in the future. McCain shows little sign he grasps the seriousness of the issue, or would abandon Republican policies that created an American wealth gap unknown since the 1920s.

Maybe that's because he defines middle class as someone making less than \$5 million a year.

Equally important, the next commander in chief must recognize how our foreign-policy options have shifted. It is no longer the "axis of evil" world, where a Bush team assumed it could unilaterally eliminate unfriendly regimes without a *causis belli*.

After five years of an Iraq morass created by huge White House mistakes, our military options abroad are far more limited. Our chief security threat — the war with jihadi terrorists — cannot be waged by military means alone, but requires a far bigger arsenal of diplomatic and economic tools.

Obama may have limited experience, he may be too wedded, for now, to an unrealistic Iraq exit timeline, but he gets the overall picture — in a way McCain doesn't. Big land wars are out.

We aren't going to invade Georgia, or Pakistan or Iran.

Nor are we going to rally the world, as McCain suggests, with a new "League of Democracies." McCain's mind-set was shaped by the U.S.-Soviet conflict, but this is not the Cold War redux with America as general of the "Free World"; huge democracies such as India and Brazil will confer with us, but won't automatically follow our lead. Also, Bush policies gave "democracy" a bad name in large parts of the globe.

The world we face is far more complex than the post-World War II era. U.S. leadership in the future will depend on keen diplomatic skills, with military help in the background. Examples: the next president needs to persuade Pakistan's military to stand up to Islamist jihadis; he must rally Europeans to create a common energy policy that makes Europe less dependent on Russian natural gas.

And the next U.S. leader will have to restore respect for America in the world; poll after poll shows how far our reputation has plummeted, because of Bush policies on Iraq, Guantanamo, global warming, etc. The United States cannot lead if the publics in Europe and Turkey and the Middle East disdain the White House. McCain cannot afford to admit Bush failures caused America's reputation to plunge.

We face a choice between an experienced candidate with a Cold War mind-set, and a less-experienced candidate who understands the new era.

An imperfect choice, but one where expertise doesn't trump.

*Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at trubin@phillynews.com.*

# Finding our voice again

**A**s Russian tanks rolled across his country, an exhausted, retreating Georgian soldier was overheard asking, "Where are our friends?" One thing's for sure: They weren't on the air.

Only days before the conflict — and for the first time in 60 years — the Voice of America's (VOA) Russian-language radio programming had fallen silent. Meanwhile, Kremlin-controlled media outlets filled the news and information void.

Sadly, this is a significant, but not unexpected, failure.

In recent years, the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) has slashed funding for programming in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in favor of broadcasts in the Middle East and Asia. It's also outsourced broadcasting to semi-private entities with dubious track records.

At the same time, the Russian government has pursued a campaign to eliminate U.S. broadcasts by intimidating and harassing VOA's local, private-sector partners. America has — literally and figuratively — lost its voice in the region.

In 1942, the Voice of America opened its first broadcast, announcing: "Daily at this time, we shall speak to you about America and the war. The news may be good or bad. We shall tell you the truth."

Since then, VOA has been the only agency mandated by law to explain U.S. foreign policy, present "responsible discussions and opinion on (U.S. policy)," and offer a "balanced and comprehensive projection of significant American thought and institutions."

Unfortunately, VOA has fallen into decline since the end of the Cold War and, in particular, since the demise of the U.S. Information Agency in 1999.

The Broadcasting Board of Governors is now in charge of U.S. broadcasting.

It's managed to expand the global

audience by 75 percent (from 100 million listeners in 2001 to 175 million today). This growth, however, has occurred almost exclusively in the Middle East and Asia, at the detriment of broadcasting in other regions.

The BBG has outsourced many VOA programs to semi-private entities in the Middle East, claiming they are less bureaucratic and attract larger audiences. Unfortunately, these organizations — namely,

Radio Sawa and al-Hurra television — have suffered from several scandals due to biased reporting and mismanagement. Thus, while attracting larger audiences, these semi-private entities are inadequately representing America abroad.

In contrast, funding for VOA broadcasts in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia has either flat-lined or declined. Since the dollar isn't going nearly as far these days (down 30 percent against other currencies) it's little wonder VOA is bleeding programs and personnel at a staggering pace.

Over the past several years, VOA has ceased virtually all English broadcasts and cut programs in 21 other languages (mostly in the three aforementioned regions). This was after more than a third of VOA's employees signed a petition in 2004 protesting the "dismantling" of the agency.

In July Congress attempted to stop even more cuts. The Senate Appropriations Committee condemned the BBG's latest budget request, which would have eliminated VOA's Russian language programs, terminated broadcasts in Ukraine and significantly cut back those in Georgia, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

Instead the committee approved legislation explicitly funding programs in each of these countries. Yet without any public announcements, and on the eve of conflict between Russia and Georgia, the BBG ceased VOA's Russian-language programs anyway.

In its stead, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), a semi-private entity operating in the former Soviet Union, has been tasked

with continuing radio broadcasts in Russian. While RFE/RL has a much better track record than Radio Sawa or al-Hurra, the organization has proved uniquely vulnerable to the Kremlin's crackdown on independent media.

Since coming to power in 2000, Vladimir Putin has systematically brought the country's media under control of the state or state-friendly businesses. In addition, Russia remains one of the world's most hostile environments for independent journalism. For instance, Anna Politkovskaya, a prominent investigative journalist who had written about Russian human rights violations in Chechnya, was infamously killed execution style in Moscow in 2006.

Politkovskaya's murder was no aberration; over the last 15 years, Russia has become the third deadliest country in the world for journalists to operate in, behind only Iraq and Algeria.

The pressure's on RFE/RL, which depends on local partners to broadcast its programming. Kremlin regulators have forced most of its local partners to stop broadcasts, even though they're popular. As a result, three-quarters of the radio outlets provided by private companies have terminated their partnership with U.S. broadcasting over the past two years alone.

Voice of America is more important now than ever. Many areas of the world are slipping back toward autocracy.

U.S. broadcasting must to serve as the lifeline of freedom in these regions, providing uncensored news, explaining U.S. foreign policy, and tell America's story to our friends and foes alike.

This is no time to fall silent.

*Helle Dale is the director of the Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation. Readers may write to the author in care of The Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, D.C. 20002; Web site: www.heritage.org. Information about Heritage's funding may be found at http://www.heritage.org/about/reports.cfm.*



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# Wisdom of a colonoscopy

There are approximately 112,000 new cases of colon cancer diagnosed each year, making it the second leading cause of cancer death in the United States. Both men and women face a lifetime risk of nearly 6 percent for the development of invasive colorectal cancer.



DR. LADD C. HOFFMAN

Although there is no cure for colon cancer, there are precautions people can take to reduce their risk of developing the fatal disease. One of the most important precautions is to get a colonoscopy, since early detection of the disease may increase the survival rate.

A colonoscopy is the most commonly used outpatient procedure to determine if a person has colon or rectal cancer or colorectal cancer.

The procedure allows a physician to visually examine the entire colon and rectum for abnormalities such as inflamed tissue, irregular growths and ulcers. It is also used to look for causes of changes in bowel habits and to evaluate symptoms like abdominal pain, rectal bleeding and unexplained weight loss.

For the colonoscopy assessment to be accurate, the colon must be clear of stool and fluids that may obscure the view of the colon and rectal lining. Therefore, your physician will likely ask you to do the following at least 24 hours before the procedure.

- Avoid eating solid foods.
- Drink only clear, non-alcoholic liquids such as black coffee, tea, water or clear broth.
- Stop taking iron pills or medications containing iron, as it can alter the color of the colon lining.
- Take laxatives or enemas prescribed by your physician.

It is important to inform your physician if you have diabetes or take blood thinners, including aspirin or other pain relievers, as your preparation for the colonoscopy may be slightly different.

A colonoscopy is usually painless, but can sometimes cause anxiety. Therefore, most people opt for either anesthesia or a mild sedative to minimize any discomfort during the procedure.

During the exam, the physician will insert into the rectum a long, flexible lighted tube with a tiny video camera on the tip, called a colonoscope. The camera transmits images of the colon onto a screen for the physician to carefully examine the lining of the colon.

If a polyp or abnormal tissue is found, the physician may decide to remove it immediately or take a biopsy and test it for cancer. The recovery time after the procedure is approximately an hour and you will likely need someone to drive you home.

According to the American Cancer Society there are five myths about colon cancer that people need to

be aware of:

**Myth One:** Colorectal cancer is a man's disease.

**Truth:** Colorectal cancer is just as common among women as men.

**Myth Two:** Colon cancer cannot be prevented.

**Truth:** In many cases colon cancer starts with a small polyp. If the polyp is found early, physicians can remove the abnormal growth and stop colon cancer before it begins.

**Myth Three:** African Americans are not at risk for colon cancer.

**Truth:** African American men and women are diagnosed with and die from colorectal cancer at higher rates than any other US racial or ethnic group.

**Myth Four:** Age is not a factor in developing colon cancer.

**Truth:** More than 90 percent of people diagnosed with colon cancer are age 50 and older. The American Cancer Society recommends people start being tested for the disease at age 50.

**Myth Five:** It's better not to get tested for colon cancer because it's fatal regardless.

**Truth:** Colon cancer is treatable. If the cancer is found early, the five-year survival rate is 90 percent.

If you have questions about a colonoscopy or would like additional information about the procedure, contact your physician.

*General Surgeon Ladd Hoffman specializes in same-day laparoscopic and outpatient procedures utilizing advanced equipment that eliminates the need for a hospital stay. His office is located at 1501 West Eleventh Place on the first floor of the Malone & Hogan Clinic. To schedule an appointment, call 263-6018.*

# The poor, misunderstood root canal

What is the one dental procedure that is most often made fun of in the popular entertainment media. Think about how many times you have heard some actor say, "I'd rather have a root canal than ...". You fill in the blank.



DR. DAVID WARD

I admit I may be a little more sensitive to "dental humor" than the average person. But all most people know about root canals is they sound scary and lots of TV or movie characters would rather do almost anything than have one.

So what is the poor misunderstood root canal and is it really scary? Root canal therapy, for which is medical term is Endodontic Therapy, is the way that many teeth are saved that would otherwise have to be removed. A little anatomy first ... The outside of the tooth is enamel, the middle layer is dentin, and the inner layer is the pulp (commonly called the nerve). The pulp is actually composed of nerve tissue and blood vessels.

Why are root canals needed? Root canal therapy is needed when the pulp tissue is dead, dying, or irreversibly damaged. Once the pulp dies, the tooth will usually get infected (abscessed), although not all dental abscesses are from this cause.

What causes the pulp to die? The most common reason is a deep cavity (decay) that gets near or into the pulp. Less common reasons are trauma to the tooth or

severe gum disease.

So does a root canal take the roots out? No, only the inner layer, the dead or dying pulp tissue is removed. The roots are still there following root canal therapy.

How is it done? The tooth is anesthetized and an opening is made into the pulp chamber. Tiny rotary files are used to remove the pulp tissue all the way down to just short of the end of the root (or roots) making a tiny canal in each root. The canals are disinfected and then filled with an antibacterial, rubbery material called gutta percha.

That's it. Front teeth usually have one canal, premolars (bicuspid), usually have two, and molars have either three or four. That's why a molar root canal takes longer than a non-molar.

How does the root canal save the tooth? The root canal gets rid of the infection or potential infection. What keeps the infection from coming back is the seal at the end of the root. The inside of a dead tooth is a great incubator for bacteria. The root canal filling seals off this space and prevents the tooth from becoming reinfected.

Does anything need to be done after the root canal? Most teeth will need to have a crown (cap) done to make the tooth strong. In fact, if not restored properly, a tooth with a successful root canal will usually be lost eventually.

Do all capped teeth need to have a root canal

first? No, most teeth that need caps do not need to have a root canal first. If, however, the pulp has a poor prognosis, it is a good idea to do the root canal therapy first.

Are root canals painful? There is usually no discomfort during the procedure once the tooth is good and numb. There is usually mild or moderate discomfort for a couple of days afterward.

Are all root canals successful? Unfortunately, no medical procedures are 100 percent effective. Root canal therapy is approximately 80-90 percent effective.

So why are people afraid of root canals? My best answer is fear of the unknown (and a scary name).

Should all abscessed teeth be saved with root canal therapy? No, if the tooth

is too badly damaged to repair, if there is significant gum disease, or if the tooth does not hit against another tooth when chewing then extraction of the tooth should be considered. In fact, since implants are so useful, any tooth that needs a root canal can be replaced and sometimes should be. Your dentist will discuss and advise you on the best way to go.

*Dr. David Ward practices general dentistry in Big Spring. He is a past president to the Permian Basin District Dental Society and is a member of the Texas and American Dental Associations, the Academy of GP Orthodontics, the Institute for Advanced Laser Dentistry, and the Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry.*

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In *Sunday's* Big Spring Herald

**Dining adventures**

Across America, imaginative restaurateurs are serving up more than just good food. They are providing dining adventures. We profile several of these unusual eateries and the inspirations behind them. Plus, cleaning waterways and couscous salad.

**American Profile**

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**BY HOLIDAY MATHIS**

This enthusiastic Sagittarius-moon day is a day at the races. The starter gun pops and we're off and running on some grand scheme. Because we've got a lot of ground to cover, today's plans may include a change of scenery. Even a spontaneous pony ride into the next town over introduces exciting new influences and experiences into our lives.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're inventive and sharp. You don't need much guidance now. You have fun working and playing where the rules are loose. A project that is completely undefined is your best-case scenario.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Strengthen your faith in the way things are going. You're fine now and you'll be fine if things change. Knowing this deep in your soul, you can take the chances that will make you feel vividly alive.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A social creature, you naturally assume you're in charge of making sure others have fun, which right now would be exhausting. Instead, just make sure that you have fun. Everyone around you follows your lead.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You have the ability to absorb the emotions of

**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

those around you like a sponge -- a talent you might want to turn off this afternoon in favor of keeping your personal experience pristine.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Put your blockers on. Let the answering machine get your calls, and leave the cell phone at home. You do not have to automatically give your attention to everything in front of you that asks for it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Whether it's a job, deal or relationship, you're excited to get into it. Don't let that eagerness show. Play it cool. Otherwise, at the mention of the word "commitment," you just may hear the sound of feet hitting the ground.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Negative emotions happen. But they don't have to last long. When you see that your way of dealing in a situation is not helping you to feel good, stop, take a breath and try to do it another way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're determined to parlay a good thing into a better thing. What you thought would take a long time is happening more quickly than you anticipated. Improvements are in the works even as you read this.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A quirky way of dealing with life has served a purpose for you thus far. Now you're ready to let it go. A ritual of some kind will help in this endeavor. Light a candle and send your old behavior off.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-

Jan. 19). Look for new things to appreciate about your environment, different ways to delight your loved ones and novel ways to make a profit. You'll be pleased, if not exuberant in your findings.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have found a way to love the one who has wronged you. But will they wrong you again? You can practice acceptance and compassion and still maintain personal boundaries.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). An exciting encounter with someone you admire is like a beacon on a dark night. It shows you a favorable direction to take your journey. Act immediately in some small way to get this show on the road.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I am an Aquarian, born 2/3/59, and I met a Taurus in January. When he proposed to me, I said yes, later finding out he has been in a relationship with another lady. Eventually, I met her and she told me everything, including a birthday visit to her last April and his promise to protect and love her always. When I confronted him, he begged me to stay with him. He says they're broken up. I do not know if they still communicate with each other. I am assisting him financially since he's been jobless since March. Should I continue this relationship? I have so much mistrust in my heart and mind."

He needs to repair your trust. And I don't think he can earn back your trust while you're paying his rent -- it's a conflict of interest. That you've already made a courageous move and tracked the other lady tells me you already know the next step you must take. With Venus in Pisces, your love is unconditional, generous and wants to see the best in him. But if you don't build some boundaries around how you want to be treated, who will? In my experience: no one.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Well-spoken and glamorous, Rose McGowan makes perfect sense. Why? Mercury joins her Virgo sun, so flawless logic blends easily with her self-expression. The connection gives her a methodical and scientific mind, although I do imagine that, quite often, what she says goes. The smartest person around pretty much always gets the final word. This intelligent Virgo is an untouchable Virgo.

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

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**Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need**

Dear Annie: I am writing to encourage your readers to take care of their cardiovascular health. September is Vascular Disease Awareness Month, and there is no better time to remember to take care of our heart and arteries.

In 1987, I woke up in intensive care after a quintuple bypass. This life-changing experience made me want to help others with cardiovascular disease. I established the Larry King Cardiac Foundation with the goal to "Save a Heart a Day."

One way you can save your own heart and arteries is by seeing your doctor and knowing key numbers. Know your cholesterol, blood pressure, weight and blood sugar level. If you are 50 or over, consider cardiovascular screening to image the inside of your arteries to see if you are at risk for stroke or heart attack. Stay active, eat right and take your medicines as prescribed, even if you are feeling well. Many vascular conditions are silent, especially high blood pressure and atherosclerosis, a fatty plaque buildup on the artery walls. Prevention is the key to maintaining health.

Cardiovascular disease is the No. 1 killer in the United States, for both men and women. Stroke, by itself, is No. 3. We can do better. Treatment for cardiovascular disease is only one part of the picture. We need to do more to keep people from getting sick in the first place. To learn more about what you can do, visit the Larry King Cardiac Foundation website at www.lkcf.org.

Wishing you the best in health. -- Larry King, Sr., The Larry King Cardiac Foundation

Dear Larry King: Thank you for sharing your story with our readers. We hope it will provide



KATHY MITCHELL  
MARCY SUGAR

the inspiration to motivate all of us to eat right, exercise more and see a doctor regularly to monitor our cardiovascular health.

Dear Annie: We recently had a party at the lake as a send-off for our daughter who is leaving for college. We invited 60 friends and family members, including my husband's two brothers and their families.

These brothers let their children, ages 8, 6 and 4, go swimming naked. Then one of the wives took off her bikini top to nurse her baby. My daughter was completely shocked and could not sleep that night because she had been so embarrassed in front of her friends. The next day, my husband found out that both of his brothers had joined a nudist resort and this is how they act at the resort.

Right now, I don't ever want these family members to visit again. My husband insists it's a "one-time thing." Please tell me if I'm overreacting. -- Angry in Michigan

Dear Michigan: We can only imagine your daughter's mortification to have her friends see the relatives au natural. They showed poor judgment and lack of consideration for others. And, at a public lake, they could have been arrested for indecent exposure. However,

it's not the end of the world, and if your husband strongly reminds his brothers to confine their nudist activities to the private resorts, it may not happen again. We'd give them one more chance.

Dear Annie: I wrote the letter signed "Friends or Feelings?" about going to the prom with Britany, a special ed student, or Natasha, the girl I really like. You told me to be a stand-up guy and go with Britany because I asked her first. I just wanted to let you know that I took your advice to do the right thing. It was so much fun and turned out to be an awesome night. Plus, Natasha and I are better than ever, and she totally understood when I told her about my dilemma.

"Texas Tea" asked why the special ed kids had a separate prom. My school had two proms -- one for the whole school and another just for the special ed students. At that prom, they handed out awards. The kids said it was a chance for them to hang out with each other. Thanks for everything. -- Content Now

Dear Content: Thanks for letting us know how things turned out. You sound like a terrific young man.

*Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annies-mailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creator.com.*

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# What not check this out? At the library

The library starts winter hours Saturday. Operational hours will be 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. If a holiday should fall on either a Friday or Monday, the library will be closed Saturday. Story time is at 10:15 a.m. every Wednes-

day. Eunice Thixton returns as Story Time Lady and she has a great time with the little ones.

## Used Book Sale

The library is also gearing up for the Friends of the Library's annual book sale. It will start at

9 a.m. Friday, Sept. 19, in the basement. Enter at the side door to access the sale prior to the library opening at 10 a.m.

The sale will continue Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 20-21. We will consolidate all books into one room and the sale will continue probably until Oct. 1. Remember, the good stuff goes fast, but you can still get some bargains on the last day of the sale. Donations are still being accepted but they should be in boxes or double-sacked plastic bags.

## Biography

• "Tales From the Bed: A Memoir" (B EST J), by Jenifer Estess. While not new, this book is her story of living as a person with Lou Gehrig's disease, ALS. This fast-paced, witty book, written with one of her sisters, is both a memoir of Jenifer's six-year struggle with the disease and a chronicle of Project A.L.S.'s birth and work.

Unfortunately, the beauty of the writing and the story is compromised by a too-casual structure; even simple chapter titles could have remedied the book's scattered feeling. The final chapter, though, is beautiful: in a clever, poignant twist, Jenifer continues to narrate her death and its aftermath, bringing

the sisters' love and closeness full circle as readers wonder where Jenifer ends and Valerie begins. — review from Amazon.

• "Big Russ and Me" (B RUS T). Many of you will miss Tim Russert's coverage of both the Democratic and Republican political conventions. As you know, Tim died of a heart attack in June of this year, leaving behind a legacy of friends and family.

You meet the Tim's father in this stupendously entertaining tome. The senior Tim Russert served in World War II, married and settled in South Buffalo, N.Y., worked days for the sanitation department, drove a night truck for the local evening paper and raised four kids.

The younger Russert's memoir begins as a tribute to his dad and the lessons he taught through the years, but also takes ample time to tell how Russert junior grew up and became the moderator of the political show, Meet the Press. — review from Amazon.com



HOLLIS  
MCCRIGHT

anchor Ali Reynolds is in her native Arizona. Still recovering from the murder of her not-quite-ex-husband, she is aided by her parents and her old high school chum, newly divorced detective and U.S. Marine reservist Dave Holman.

Meanwhile, wealthy, reclusive Arabella Ashcroft, whose family's college scholarship program supported Ali as an undergrad, has read Ali's grief-filled blog, and wants Ali's help in writing an incest memoir: elderly Arabella says that her childhood was despoiled by a late stepbrother, Bill, and that she's being threatened by his son should she go through with writing about it.

Soon after, Dave's daughter Crystal disappears from the Las Vegas home of his ex- and her new husband; Dave seeks Ali's counsel before barreling out there.

Jance crowds the book with subplots, and her characters air a lot of opinions about sexual abuse and health care.

But sparks between Ali and Dave and an upbeat ending keep this latest Ali outing on track. The library also has the first one of the series, "Edge of Evil" and also the second one: "Web of Evil."

## New Fiction

"Keepers of the Earth," by Laverne Harrell Clark, is new fiction that might catch your eye. This is the story of a Texas community, its local black conjurer

and land-owning white family brought to confusion by oil-money greed, resurgent familial feelings and jealousy.

The author leads readers through the rituals of Uncle Cefus' "great hand" in reuniting coach whip snakes with their rightful homeland, and in the process leads us to believe that doing right by others may do more for luck and success than any amount of hard work.

Not only is the novel poetic, but passionate, clearly exhibiting the author's love of folklore. The fictitious account is equally instructive in the lost art of conjuring (which slipped away in the 1960's). An enjoyable and fun book to read. This is from Cinco Puntos Press, an imprint out of El Paso. It is "niche" publishing company that publishes items that do not attract the attention of Harper Collins, etc.

Instead it focuses on regional writers (like Clark) and brings them to the attention of the reading public.

Remember, the library's hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. The Internet/Video room closes 1/2 hour before closing. The library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260. The Web site is [www.howard-county.lib.tx.us](http://www.howard-county.lib.tx.us).

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.



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A World for Children is a Christian, non-profit, child placing agency that believes every child is uniquely special and deserves a family that will provide a loving and safe environment for him/her to develop to their maximum potential.

AWFC was founded in 1997 by Paul and Sharon Willis along with Rebeca Allen. AWFC currently has 10 offices across the state including an office in Brownwood. During the past 11 years, AWFC has served over 4,603 children and youth in some of the finest foster homes in America. AWFC was awarded Foster Care Agency of the Year in 2003 and again 2007 by the Texas Foster Family Association of Texas.

AWFC is now operating in the Permian Basin. Foster home developer Isaac Miramontes, a Big Spring resident is currently seeking potential foster parents in Big Spring and surrounding areas. An information meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, Sept. 4th @ 6:30 p.m., 3rd floor of the Howard County Courthouse**. All members of the community who are interested in learning more about AWFC are welcome to attend.

Please contact **Isaac Miramontes** at 432-935-9056 or at [miramontesi@awfc.org](mailto:miramontesi@awfc.org)

13285

2 times Grammy Winning Band  
**Little Joe y La Familia**  
opening for the  
1st Annual West Texas Horse Expo,  
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Sara  
Adams



Bobby  
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Kasey Lansdale, and legendary  
singer song writer Brian Collins.



The Great Texas Ranch Horse Tour  
kicks off 9am September 5, 6 & 7 at The West  
Texas Horse Expo at the Midland, Texas  
Horseshoe Arena with Josh Lyons, Al Dunning,  
Richie Wingfield, and Tommie Turvey.

PLEASE CALL FOR INFO 1-432-599-1569  
Adults \$18.00 \* Kids \$12.00 (ages 16 to 13)  
12 and under FREE  
Tickets include EVERYTHING!  
each day 100% auction proceeds and  
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Josh Lyons



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**Special Charity Auction item features an autographed guitar signed by Clint Black**

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\* Ranch Horse demos & clinics  
\* Reining Horse demos & clinics  
\* Live Cutting & Mechanical Cow demos & clinics  
\* Starting the Unbroke Horse



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## Thrillers

• "Hand of Evil." A new character has emerged from J.A. Jance's pen (computer), Ali Reynolds. In her third outing, former L.A. TV news

## BSHS Class of 1988 members sought

The Big Spring High School Class of 1988 will have its 20-year reunion the weekend of Sept. 12-14. We need help finding the classmates listed below. If you have information

on one of these students, please contact Cheri Wyrick Reibe at 432-268-9587 or [reibe1@suddenlink.net](mailto:reibe1@suddenlink.net) ASAP.

Elizabeth Alvarez, Manuel Alvear, Maria Alviar, Thomas Ashley, James Averette, JoAnn

Baeza, Kenneth Banks, Letitia Baucham, Rebecca Bertrand, Guy Bond, Cary Brooks, Michelle Brooks, Vicente Bustamante, Martin Carrillo, Pete Chavarria, Garry Chavez, Ronald Clarkson, Alejandra Cruz, Josephine Cruz, Kathryn Dawes, Barney Dodd, Patsy Dominguez, Unis Drew, LeeAnn Dudley, Kimberly Duffy, Carey Duffy, Tiffany Evans and Tanya Farmer.

Also, Olivia Flores, David Fox, Salvador Garcia, Yvette Garcia, Albert Garza, Andrew Garza, Dieter Gerstenberger, Mark Hall, Timothy Harkins, Calvin Harrison, Terry Hart, Tracey Hicks, Sammy Hilarlo, Laura Hinojosa, Kimberly Homfeld, Diana Howard, Kimberly Howell, Stanley Johnson, Bruce Jones, Ronnie Karwedsky, David Kilgore, Eric Kinman, Michelle LaGrand, Debbie Lee, Cindy Locke, Amber Logback, Christina Marquez, Gina Martinez, Kelley Mauldin, Matthew Mayes, Rosalyn McCalister, Byron McElreath, Isidro Melendez and Ronnie Mendoza.

Also, Shawn Meredith, Ida Montez, Robert Moran, Kelly Myles, Elsie Nieto, Debbie Norman, Joey Oglethorpe, Lyncinda Oliver, Ruth Oliver, Scott Oliver, Scott Owen, JoAnn Paredez, Kelly Parks, Rusty Patrick, Dean Payne, Michael Perez, Jennifer Pierce, Jennifer Poe, Michael Porch, Bobby Porras, Sandra Puentes, Steve Raines, Marina Ramirez, Rocky Ramirez, Rebecca Read and Debra Renteria.

Also, Frank Reyna, Jeffrey Rhodes, Casey Richbourg, Donny Rocha, Diana Rodriguez, Gary Rodriguez, Juan Rodriguez, Nikki Rodriguez, Robert Rodriguez, Brenda Rodriguez, Gilbert Rodriguez, Kenneth Ross, Sandra Ross, Trevor Rotten, Chris Ruiz, Elizabeth Saenz, Kimberly Sanders, Lisa Seeley, Shawn Shellman, Ragoon Shirey, Heath Shotts, Dawn Smith, Michelle Smith, Todd Smith, Martina Solis, Joseph Sosa, Anthony Spears, Teresa Surratt, Penny Tatum, Katrina Thompson, Victor Tijerina, Tim Tubb, Margaret Uribe, Michael Valli, Randy Vanderbilt, Rosie Vanderbilt, Anna Vega, Delma Vela, Linda Vela, Mary Lou Villa, Charles White, Danny Williams, Melissa Wilson, Dewayne Woodall, Jerry Ybarra, Juan Delgado, Julie Fortner, Chuck Landers, Donovan Lucero, Robert Martinez, Susan Self, Margarito Yanez.



South dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♦ A 8 6  
♥ A K  
♦ Q J 8 5 2  
♠ 9 8 2

**WEST**  
♦ 7 2  
♥ Q 10 4 3 2  
♦ K 9  
♠ 10 7 5 4

**EAST**  
♠ K 10 9 5 3  
♥ 8 6  
♦ A 10 3  
♣ Q J 6

**SOUTH**  
♦ Q J 4  
♥ J 9 7 5  
♦ 7 6 4  
♠ A K 3

The bidding:  
South West North East  
Pass Pass 1♦ 1♠  
2 NT Pass 3 NT  
Opening lead — seven of spades.

**Ardent disciples of the game** will get a kick out of this deal, which appeared many years ago in a par contest. It has a neat double twist.

**Superficially**, it seems that declarer can make nine tricks: three in diamonds and two in each of the other suits. Yet, good defense will defeat the contract.

**When a spade is led** and dummy plays the eight, East should play the nine instead of the king, taken by declarer with the jack or queen.

**When South next leads** a dia-

mond, West goes up with the king and plays another spade, and it is curtains for declarer. East's spades become established while he still has the ace of diamonds as an entry, and South goes down one.

**Note that if East wins** the spade lead with the king and returns a spade, South makes the contract with normal play. West does not have a spade to return when he wins the first diamond lead, and declarer finishes with nine tricks.

**But the hand is constructed** so that even if East flounders by winning the first spade lead, the defense can still recover by an unusual play later on.

**Let's say East takes** the first spade and returns a spade at trick two. Declarer wins and leads a diamond, on which West follows low. East takes the jack with the ace and plays a third round of spades to establish his suit, and on this trick West discards the king of diamonds!

**Declarer cannot recover** from this brilliant stroke. He can't make nine tricks without the diamonds, and since East's 10-3 constitute a stopper behind dummy's Q-8-5-2, South fails in his mission.

**A remarkable hand.** First, East has a chance to shine by refusing to win the opening lead, and then, if he slips, West gets a chance to shine by ditching his high diamond.

	WFAA 2 Dallas	KMID 3 Midland	UNI 4 Spanish	KPEJ 5 Odessa	KOSA 7 Odessa	KTLE 8 Telemundo	KWES 9 Midland	WTBS 11 Atlanta	KMLM 12 Odessa	KPBT 13 Odessa	DISC 20 Discovery	AMC 21 Classics	SPIKE 22 Spike TV	TNT 23 Atlanta	BET 26 Black Ent.	DISN 27 Disney	ESPN2 28 Sports	ESPN 29 Sports	
5 :PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Simpsons King-Hill	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Friends Raymond	Cortes Israel	News Business	Cash Cab Cash Cab	Em High, Ed Begley		Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards of Waverly Hills	Horn Interrupt	SportsCenter	
6 :PM	News Dallas	Jeopardy! Fortune	Querida Enemiga	Simpsons Two Men	Entertain Two Men	12 Corazones	News Millionaire	Raymond Hagee	Prophecy	News-Lehrer	Made		CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	Hell Date	The Cheetah Girls: One World	Series of Poker	MLB Baseball: Teams to Be Announced.	
7 :PM	Wife Swap	Wife Swap	Diablo-Guapos	Bones	American Dog	El Juramento	America's Got Talent	Fam. Guy Scott	Israel	Republican National Convention	NextWorld	Movie: The Enforcer, Harry Guardino	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	Blk Car	Montana	Series of Poker		
8 :PM	Supernanny	Supernanny	Fuego en la Sangre		Criminal Minds	Doña Barbara		Payne Payne	Light of the Southwest		MythBusters	UFC Un-leashed	Law & Order	Movie: Pa-per Soldiers, Damon Dash	Montana Suite Life	High School Football: Carson (Calif.) vs. Mater Dei (Calif.)		Baseball Tonight	
9 :PM	Convention	Convention	Don Francisco	TMZ	Convention	Sin Senos	Convention	Payne			Man vs. Wild	UFC Un-leashed	Law & Order	Movie: The Enforcer, Harry Guardino	UFC 88 Countdown	Cold Case	Comic Montana	Suite Life	Baseball Tonight
10 :PM	News	News	Impacto	Two Men	News	Noticias	News	Friends	Israel	Charlie Rose	Made	UFC 88 Countdown	Cold Case	Comic Montana	So Raven	NASCAR	Baseball		
11 :PM	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	Raymond	Late Show	Decisiones	Tonight Show	Friends	Dr. Young		Smiley	CSI: Crime Scn	Cold Case	Movie: Pa-per Soldiers, Damon Dash	Replace Kim	Series of Poker	SportsCenter		
12 :AM	Insider	Jimmy Kim-mel Live	La Hora de la Risa	Cl Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones	Late Night	Sex & Scott	CCM	Smiley	NextWorld	Mad Men	Cold Case	Star Trek: Voyager	Without a Trace	Emperor Dragon	MLB Baseball: Teams to Be Announced.		
1 :AM	Paid	Paid	Clasicos	RENO 911 Lopez	Insider	Programa Pagado	News	Movie: A Very Brady Sequel	Israel Sanchez	MythBusters	Movie: On the Water-front, Karl Malden	Star Trek: Voyager	Cold Case	Deep Space 9	Without a Trace	Emperor Dragon	MLB Baseball: Teams to Be Announced.		

### DENNIS THE MENACE

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"IF I HAD IT ALL TO DO OVER AGAIN... I WOULDN'T GET CAUGHT."

### THE FAMILY CIRCUS

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"The honeymoon's over. She gave us homework."

### HAGAR

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I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT KIND OF WINE HAGAR TOLD ME TO BUY FOR HIM...

IF IT'S FOR HAGAR, IT'S PROBABLY A FULL-BODIED WINE!

I'M GOING TO TELL HIM YOU SAID THAT !!

### BLONDIE

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I KNOW THIS KID AT SCHOOL WHO HAS AN IMAGINARY FRIEND NAMED ZEKE

THIS KID HAS NEVER TOLD ONE SINGLE PERSON ABOUT ZEKE

THEN HOW DID YOU FIND OUT?

ZEKE CALLED ME UP AND SAID HE LIKES ME BETTER

### BC

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DID YOU KNOW THAT A FLY FLAPPING HIS WINGS CAN LEAD TO A HURRICANE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

SAVING A FEW LIVES.

### WIZARD OF ID

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THERE'S MORE COLD AIR COMING DOWN FROM THE NORTH

WE NEED TO TIGHTEN UP BORDER SECURITY

### AGNES

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WHAT IS ALL THIS?

I'M LOOKING FOR A CLEAN, SAFE NEW SOURCE OF NATURAL EDUCATION SO SCHOOL CAN BE ELIMINATED.

FOR EXAMPLE, I HAVE MADE A BRAIN BALM... RUBBING IT VIGOROUSLY ON THE FRONTAL LOBES INCREASES SMARTNESS.

SO... HOW DO YOU RUB IT ON YOUR BRAIN?

THAT'S A PROBLEM, I DON'T KNOW, AND I WON'T UNTIL I CAN.

### HI AND LOIS

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WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING?

I'M CREATING A FACEBOOK PAGE FOR TRIXIE.

THAT'S JUST SILLY

I DON'T THINK SO...

IT'LL MAKE ME THE COOLEST GIRL IN PRESCHOOL!

### THE OTHER COAST

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DUDE, DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING?

NO, DUDE, DID YOU?

WHY DO I BOTHER?

### SNUFFY SMITH

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WHAT DID YOU DO ON YORE SUMMER VACATION, JUGHAID?

I WORKED HARD WEEDIN' TH' GARDEN, CHOPPIN' WOOD AN' SLOPPIN' TH' HOGS !!

I RECKON MY VACATION STARTS NOW !!

### BEELE BAILEY

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I WAS TYPING YOUR SPEECH, SIR, AND SUDDENLY THE SCREEN WENT BLANK AND I LOST EVERYTHING YOU SAID

STRANGE - THE SAME THING HAPPENS WHEN I TALK TO MY WIFE

## This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 3, the 247th day of 2008. There are 119 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**  
On Sept. 3, 1783, the Treaty of Paris between the United States and Great Britain officially ended the Revolutionary War.

**On this date:**  
In 1189, England's King Richard I (the Lion-Hearted) was crowned in Westminster Abbey.  
In 1658, Oliver Cromwell, the Lord Protector of England, died in London.  
In 1939, Britain, France, Australia and New Zealand declared war on Germany, two days after the Nazi invasion of Poland.  
In 1943, the British Eighth Army invaded Italy during World War II, the same day Italy signed a secret armistice with the Allies.  
In 1951, the television soap opera "Search for Tomorrow" made its debut on CBS. (It ran on CBS until 1982, when it moved to NBC until its final episode, which aired in December 1986.)  
In 1967, Nguyen Van Thieu was elected president of South Vietnam under a new constitution.

**Birthdays:** Actress Helen Wagner ("As the World Turns") is 90. "Beetle Bailey" cartoonist Mort Walker is 85. Actress Anne Jackson is 82. Actress Eileen Brennan is 76. Country singer Tompall Glaser is 75. Actress Pauline Collins is 68. Rock singer-musician Al Jardine is 66. Actress Valerie Perrine is 65. Rock musician Donald Brewer (Grand Funk Railroad) is 60. Rock guitarist Steve Jones (The Sex Pistols) is 53. Rock singer-musician Todd Lewis is 43. Actor Costas Mandylor is 43. Actor Charlie Sheen is 35. Singer Jennifer Paige is 35. Actor Nick Wechsler is 30.

**Thought for Today:** "Any doctrine that will not bear investigation is not a fit tenant for the mind of an honest man." — Robert G. Ingersoll, American lawyer and politician (1833-1899).

### Answer to previous puzzle

L	I	V	I	D	M	I	S	T	A	L	C
A	S	I	D	E	A	R	E	A	E	R	I
C	L	A	S	S	C	L	O	A	N	A	C
E	E	L	T	E	E	N	N	A	C	H	O
M	E	A	N	T	K	N	E	E	P	A	D
S	O	R	R	Y	S	T	A	G	R	E	N
A	L	O	T	C	A	T	S	A	G	S	
L	A	D	Y	G	A	P	E	S	P	R	E
T	R	E	A	T	E	R	S	H	E	L	L
C	O	P	I	E	S	S	L	A	M	R	E
A	H	E	M	M	O	T	O	R	M	O	U
L	I	S	A	A	R	A	B	M	E	L	I
F	O	O	L	D	E	B	S	R	E	N	E

## Newsday Crossword

**BEE HIVE** by Fred Piscop  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

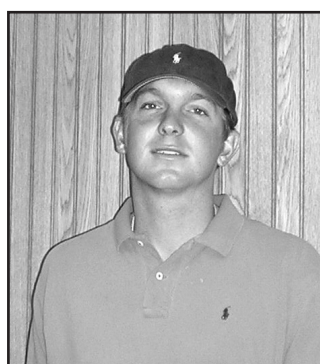
- 1 Dealers' decks
- 6 Pro\_\_ (some tournaments)
- 9 Salon treatments
- 14 Midwest airport
- 15 Long. crosser
- 16 Aromas
- 17 Mongol invader
- 18 By way of
- 19 Some evergreens
- 20 Rustic stream
- 23 Charged particles
- 24 On the \_\_ (fleeing)
- 25 Kilt pattern
- 29 Track transaction
- 30 12/24 or 12/31
- 33 Creative concept
- 34 Creature copy
- 36 Airline watchdog org.
- 37 Baseball promotional giveaways
- 41 Poetic preposition
- 42 Takes one's leave
- 43 Stalactite's place
- 44 Bus. card info
- 45 Broadcast regulatory org.
- 46 Frisked, with "down"
- 48 Munched on
- 49 Cross-word exchange
- 51 Party device
- 57 Fictional Doone
- 58 Slip-on shoe, for short

**DOWN**

- 1 Barracks bed
- 2 Moby Dick's pursuer
- 3 Pro \_\_ (proportionally)
- 4 Dull as dishwater
- 5 Belgrade's land
- 6 One of the Chipmunks
- 7 Water pipes
- 8 Antlered beast
- 9 Critically acclaimed
- 10 Language lesson
- 11 Taboo act
- 12 Arduous trip
- 13 Draft agcy.
- 21 Chaney Sr. or Jr.
- 22 Mix
- 25 Lhasa's land
- 26 Really go for
- 27 James Dean persona
- 28 Indent key
- 29 Feathery wraps
- 30 D-sharp equivalent
- 31 Trumpet feature
- 32 Lightened up
- 34 In style
- 35 Do-over, in tennis
- 38 Artsy Paris district
- 39 Be outstanding
- 40 World Series mo.
- 46 DC lobby
- 47 Not on the road
- 48 Daisy Mae's man
- 49 Evidence of fire
- 50 Walked nervously
- 51 Door securer
- 52 Celestial bear
- 53 Give off
- 54 Dr. Pavlov
- 55 Uncool sort
- 56 Pennsylvania port city
- 57 Part of LAPD
- 60 Smidgen

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# Pigskin Picks Football



**Gary Harris**  
87  
**Auto Sales**

1. Big Spring
2. Coahoma
3. Sands
4. Florida
5. Texas A&M
6. Buffalo
7. NY Jets
8. Dallas
9. Indy
10. New Orleans



**Greg Brooks**  
**Blum's Jewelers**

1. Big Spring
2. Coahoma
3. Sands
4. Miami
5. Texas A&M
6. Pittsburgh
7. NY Jets
8. Dallas
9. Indianapolis
10. Tampa Bay



**The Dodds**  
**Bowlarama**

1. Big Spring
2. Coahoma
3. Sands
4. Florida
5. Texas A&M
6. Pittsburgh
7. Miami
8. Dallas
9. Indianapolis
10. Tampa Bay



**Tank & Roxie**  
**Buffalo Country Fina**

1. Big Spring
2. Forsan
3. Sands
4. Miami
5. Texas A&M
6. Buffalo
7. NY Jets
8. Dallas
9. Indianapolis
10. Tampa Bay



**First Bank Of**  
**West Texas**

1. Denison
2. Coahoma
3. Sands
4. Florida
5. Texas A&M
6. Pittsburgh
7. NY Jets
8. Dallas
9. Indianapolis
10. New Orleans



**Don Bowles**  
**Howard County Feed & Supply**

1. Big Spring
2. Coahoma
3. Sands
4. Miami
5. Texas A&M
6. Pittsburgh
7. NY Jets
8. Dallas
9. Indianapolis
10. Tampa Bay



**CASA**  
**BLANCA**

1. Big Spring
2. Coahoma
3. Sands
4. Miami
5. Texas A&M
6. Buffalo
7. Miami
8. Dallas
9. Chicago
10. Tampa Bay



**Randy Gee**  
**Gee Motors**

1. Big Spring
2. Coahoma
3. Sands
4. Florida
5. Texas A&M
6. Pittsburgh
7. NY Jets
8. Dallas
9. Indianapolis
10. New Orleans

**Don't Forget To Enter At One Of The Merchants Below**



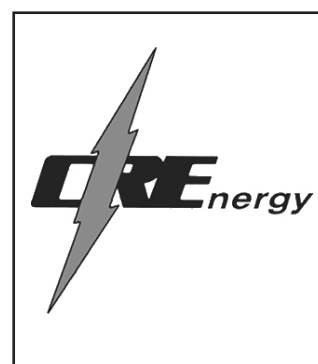
**Mike Abusaab**  
**Sonic Drive-In**

1. Big Spring
2. Coahoma
3. Sands
4. Florida
5. Texas A&M
6. Pittsburgh
7. NY Jets
8. Dallas
9. Chicago
10. New Orleans



**Walmart**

1. Big Spring
2. Forsan
3. Sands
4. Miami
5. Texas A&M
6. Buffalo
7. NY Jets
8. Dallas
9. Indianapolis
10. New Orleans

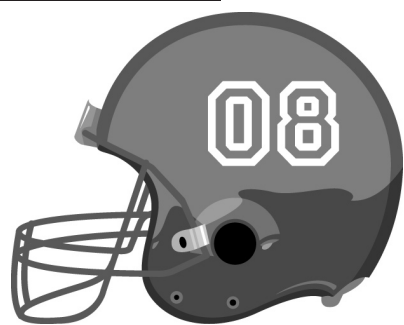


**Caprock**

1. Denison
2. Coahoma
3. Sands
4. Miami
5. Texas A&M
6. Pittsburgh
7. NY Jets
8. Dallas
9. Indianapolis
10. New Orleans

**Enter To Win \$50 At These Participating Merchants**

**Rules:** Find this week's games in the merchants' ads on this page. Choose the teams you think will win. Clip and fill in the official entry blank on this page with your team choice. The entry with the most correct picks will win \$50. You must be 18 to enter. Only official entry forms accepted. In the event of a tie, the tie breaker will determine the winner. Guess the winner and the combined scores for the total points. Decisions of the judges are final. Employees and families of employees of The Big Spring Herald are ineligible. All entries must be received at one of the participating merchants by 1 p.m. Friday of the week played. Winners will be announced in the Big Spring Herald the Wednesday following the games.



**PIGSKIN PICKS ENTRY FORM**

**TEAM**

1. _____	6. _____
2. _____	7. _____
3. _____	8. _____
4. _____	9. _____
5. _____	10. _____

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Tie Breaker - Circle the winner and note total points scored  
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Total Points \_\_\_\_\_

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## News in brief

**Palin takes center stage at convention**  
ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — After two days of silence, Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin will step to center stage at the Republican National Convention to prove to delegates that she can

help John McCain win the White House despite distracting questions about her family life and qualifications.

Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, once McCain's rival for the GOP presidential nomination, was to deliver the conven-

tion's keynote address Wednesday. Both Palin, 44, and McCain, 72, also were to be officially voted onto the GOP presidential ticket by convention delegates.

Republicans hoped Palin's speech — to be delivered before a nationwide television audience Wednesday night — would sell voters on her candidacy despite questions about her qualifications and the thoroughness of McCain's selection process, to say nothing of the continuing distractions involving her family and her brief tenure as governor.

The addition of Palin to the ticket has excited Republicans here and across the country. She has earned a reputation for taking on entrenched interests in Alaska and is staunchly pro-gun and anti-abortion.

But the stunning disclosure Monday that Palin's unmarried 17-year-old daughter, Bristol, is five months pregnant — and a continuing drip of potentially embarrassing details — had knocked the convention off message before a rousing program Tuesday night.

**Gunman accused of Washington rampage described by mother as 'mentally ill'**

ALGER, Wash. (AP) — A man recently released from jail on drug charges and whose mother calls him "desperately mentally ill" is accused of a shooting spree that left six people dead and two others injured in northwest Washington.

State Department of Corrections officials identified the gunman as Isaac Zamora, 28, who had just served a six-month jail sentence for drug possession in Skagit County. He surrendered to authorities

after Tuesday's deadly spree.

Zamora, had been released Aug. 6 and was under community supervision by Corrections officers, spokesman Chad Lewis said. Zamora's mother said she had tried repeatedly to get help for her son, whom she described as "desperately mentally ill."

"We're so devastated for the families," Dennis Zamora told The Associated Press by telephone. "I wish it would have been him or me that was killed. That's how deeply I feel about it."

Six people died Tuesday, including a Skagit County sheriff's deputy who had tried to help the suspect's family in the past, and a motorist who died on Interstate 5 as the suspect fled.

**Mayor says residents can return tonight**

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Enter at your own risk, New Orleans. That was the message from Mayor Ray Nagin, who gave residents the go-ahead to return to the Crescent City on Wednesday night at midnight, but with several warnings — many homes were without electricity or working toilets and a dusk-to-dawn curfew would still be in effect.

"It's my humble opinion that the city is still in a very, very vulnerable state," Nagin said Tuesday evening.

Millions fled the Gulf Coast in fear of Hurricane Gustav, and many were ready to get back home after spending several days in hot, overcrowded shelters. But as of late Tuesday, there were still nearly 800,000 homes in Louisiana without power, including about 77,000 in the city of New Orleans. Officials said the main transmission lines into southern Louisiana were crippled and they had no timetable of when much of the power might be restored.

The mayor said he had no choice but to begin allowing residents back because neighboring parishes were reopening Wednesday morning. But they, too, face the dangers of downed power lines and trees.

**Bush moving quickly to inspect Hurricane Gustav damage**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush is keeping a hands-on profile in the aftermath of Hurricane Gustav, in contrast with his administration's poor

response to Hurricane Katrina three years ago.

This time he's quickly flying down to the Gulf Coast to survey the storm damage on the ground in Louisiana, where the focus has turned to getting people who fled the storm back into their homes. He was to make the trip Wednesday.

On the eve of his departure, Bush said, "We are thankful that the damage in New Orleans and across the Gulf Coast was less than many had feared."

"I commend the governors of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas for their sure-handed response and seamless coordination with the federal government," Bush said Tuesday via satellite to the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minn. "I thank all of the wonderful volunteers who stepped forward to help their brothers and sisters in need."

He urged Gulf Coast residents to wait for local officials to give them a green light to return to their homes.

**Hanna expected to cross Bahamas after 21 deaths in Haiti**

SAINT-MARC, Haiti (AP) — A day after sending Haitian families scrambling onto rooftops to avoid flooding, Tropical Storm Hanna was meandering off the country's northern coast Wednesday, dumping heavy rain on much of Hispaniola.

But Hanna was expected to begin moving over the Bahamas later in the day.

A day earlier, Hanna added to the misery in Haiti, a country still recovering from drenchings by Hurricane Gustav and Tropical Storm Fay in the past two weeks.

In all, floods and mudslides from the three storms have killed more than 100 people as Haiti's deforested hills melted away in torrential rains.

Families screamed for help from rooftops Tuesday in a flooded city as U.N. peacekeepers and rescue convoys tried in vain to reach them.

**Witness alleges women, children among fatalities in US-led attack**

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP) — Women and children were among 15 people killed in an attack Wednesday involving U.S.-led forces in a Pakistani village near the border with Afghanistan, officials and a resident

said.

1st Lt. Nathan Perry, a spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition in Afghanistan, said it had "no information to give" about the alleged operation, while a spokesman for NATO troops there denied any involvement.

The United States and Pakistan, allies in the war on terror, have had tensions over cross-border attacks, including a series of suspected American missile strikes which have killed two senior al-Qaida operatives in Pakistani territory this year.

Officials gave differing accounts of the pre-dawn raid in the South Waziristan region, part of the tribal belt where officials suspect Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida No. 2 Ayman al-Zawahiri are hiding. It was unclear whether any militant leaders had been killed or captured.

The governor of North West Frontier Province, the chief administrator for the tribal belt, said three coalition helicopter gunships and commandos carried out an "outrageous" attack on a village.

**Cheney arrives in Azerbaijan to support ex-Soviet republics wary of Russia**

BAKU, Azerbaijan (AP) — Vice President Dick Cheney arrived in Azerbaijan on Wednesday, part of a tour of three ex-Soviet republics wary of Russia's intentions following last month's war between Russia and neighboring Georgia.

State-run TV showed footage of Cheney arriving at a Baku airport and being greeted by government officials.

No schedule for Cheney's visit was made public, though he was expected to meet with President Ilham Aliyev and others in this Caspian Sea nation — home to some of the largest oil and gas reserves in the former Soviet Union.

The U.S. vice president was later to head to neighboring Georgia, where Washington is trying to bolster support for President Mikhail Saakashvili's U.S.-allied government, battered by last month's short war with Russia.

**Study: Women who smoke have heart attacks about several years earlier than non-smoking women**

MUNICH, Germany (AP) — Women typically get heart disease much later than men, but not if they smoke, researchers said Tuesday.

In fact, women who smoke have heart attacks more than a dozen years earlier than women who don't smoke, Norwegian doctors reported in a study presented to the European Society of Cardiology. For men, the gap is not so dramatic; male smokers have heart attacks about six years earlier than men who don't smoke.

"This is not a minor difference," said Dr. Silvia Priori, a cardiologist at the Scientific Institute in Pavia, Italy. "Women need to realize they are losing much more than men when they smoke," she said. Priori was not connected to the research.

Dr. Morten Grundtvig and colleagues from the Inland Hospital Trust in Lillehammer, Norway, based their study on data from 1,784 patients admitted for a first heart attack at a hospital in Lillehammer.

Their study found that the men on average had their first heart attack at age 72 if they didn't smoke, and at 64 if they did.

## sudoku

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

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

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