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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**WEDNESDAY**  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 243

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Tony Garcia of Cat Construction operates a backhoe at the parking lot at the intersection of Fourth and Scurry streets Wednesday. Work crews were busy excavating an old underground gasoline tank as part of ongoing street renovations.

## Council gives its blessing to 2008-09 budget

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council put the final touch on its 2008-2009 budget Tuesday night, as the council approved final reading of the fiscal plan and first reading of its ad valorem tax rate for the coming year.

The budget, which passed first reading Aug. 26 and final vote Tuesday on unanimous votes, is a step in the right direction, according to Mayor Russ McEwen.



McEwen

"It's the most important thing we do every year, and I feel good about it," said McEwen. "I think Big Spring is progressing, and hopefully the city of Big Spring is helping it to progress."

The budget includes a hike in water and sewage rates — increasing the base rate by \$2 and a

See **CITY**, Page 3A

## BSISD trustees hope to settle on search firm

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Big Spring Independent School District trustees are expected to name a search firm to find a new superintendent when they hold their regular monthly meeting at 5:15 p.m. Thursday in the high school board room.

BSISD has been the market for a new superinten-

**Where:** Big Spring High School board room.

**When:** 5:15 p.m. Thursday.

dent since late June when Michael Downes submitted his resignation.

Downes, the district's chief executive since 2002,

See **BSISD**, Page 3A

## Float and Fly will take to the skies Saturday

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Comanche Trail Lake will be "buzzing" with activity Saturday and Sunday, as the 15th annual Don McKinney Float and Fly will take off with plenty of model aircraft action on the wa-

ter and in the air.

The event — which will be held at Comanche Trail Park near the Dora Roberts Community Center and is expected to take to the skies of the park from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday — will offer model aircraft pilots and enthusiasts the chance to

take off from the waters of the city's municipal lake.

According to Big Spring Model Aircraft Association spokesman Chuck Miller, the event is a great chance for area residents to come out and see what the hobby is all about.

"We really don't have much of

a schedule throughout the day.

We'll just be out there beating these planes to death from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.," said Miller. "The planes we will be flying are quite a bit smaller than the planes we fly at the airfield, but for most of these pilots these water-to-air planes are just a novelty, some-

thing to have fun with. The average wing span during the Float and Fly is about 52 inches.

"We're hoping folks will come out to the park and see what this is all about. We'll have the buddy boxes for people to try their

See **FLY**, Page 3A

### INDEX

Classified 5-7B  
Features 5A  
Obituaries 2A  
Opinion 4A  
Sports 1-4B



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### To reach us:

Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.

### Dine Out Day

Dell's Cafe at 1608 E. Fourth St. is this week's Dine Out Restaurant assisting the United Way for Big Spring and Howard County.

Proceeds from Friday's sales at Dell's will benefit United Way. Future participating restaurants will include Papa Georgio's Pizza, Cowboy's Steakhouse, Greg's Grill and others.



United Way

### Driver safety course

A senior citizen driver safety course will be taught at the Big Spring Senior Center, 1901 Simler Drive, Thursday and Friday. The course will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 1:30 p.m. each day, with a half-hour off for lunch.

There is a \$10 fee for the book. Many auto insurance companies will give a discount on insurance premiums when the course is completed.

To register, call the Senior Center at 267-1628. Class size is limited to 35. The course is for motorists age 50 and older and is especially designed for seniors.

### Poll workers sought

The Howard County Elections Office is in need of poll workers for several precincts to help out in the Nov. 4 general election.

Workers are needed for Precinct 304, the Elbow polling location, and for Precincts 404, 405 and 406 at the Jonesboro Fire Station.

If you would be interested in working during the election, contact the elections office at 264-2273.



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# BSHS tennis places eighth in Abilene Tournament

### Herald Staff Report

ABILENE — Big Spring's tennis team got its final tournament of the 2008 season out of the way Saturday in Abilene and can now prepare for team tennis matches against a singular opponent for the rest of the year.

The Steers hope they can continue their season at 4 p.m. Thursday against Snyder. The Tigers were supposed to face the Steers Tuesday at the Figure Seven Tennis Center in Comanche Trail Park, but the

match was cancelled due to inclement weather. Currently, there is a chance the match might be cancelled tomorrow as well.

The Steers wrapped up tournament action with an eighth-place finish out of 16 teams in Abilene. Big Spring opened play with a 10-7 win over Denison.

Winning matches for the girls were Brittany Farmer, Shayla Drake, Leslie Cash and the team of Farmer and Reba Smith. For the boys, winners were Jeremy Langford, C.J. Burleson,

Jonathan Womack, Chad Bowles and the team of Langford and Womack. The mixed doubles pairing of Mike Gonzales and Kristina Chang also picked up a victory.

The win placed the Steers into the winners bracket and matched them up with host Abilene High in the second round. Abilene entered the match ranked fourth in the state in Class 5A and lived up to their billing according to Big Spring Head Coach Dana Jones.

"Abilene was every bit as good

as advertised and we dropped all our matches to them," said Jones. "Still, it was good experience and we played well."

Saturday morning, the Steers faced off with Kerrville Tivy, playing a good, competitive match according to Jones. Jones praised Gonzales for a strong showing in the No. 1 boys singles match. He also credited Burleson and Matt Garza with an impressive victory in doubles.

Unfortunately, the Steers lost Langford to an arm injury during his singles match. He wasn't

able to return to the courts for the remainder of the tournament.

Big Spring closed out the tournament against Lubbock Monterey. Jones credited the team of Matt Ryan and Seth Yarbar with picking up an impressive double victory. He also praised Cameron Gross and Anna Scott for having good matches.

Big Spring's most consistent force in the tournament was its

See **TENNIS**, Page 2B

## Lady Steers fall to MCHS

### Herald Staff Report

MIDLAND — Big Spring's Lady Steers saw their struggles on the volleyball court continue Tuesday as they fell to Midland Christian in straight sets, 25-22, 25-12, 25-17. It's the 14th consecutive loss for the Lady Steers, whose record drops to 4-21.

"We're still too inconsistent with our play," said Lady Steers Head Coach Meghan Blake. "We played well in the first set. In fact, we were great defensively. We had three blocks and two block assists. Then we kind of crumbled after losing the close match. We didn't have any blocks in Game 2. We have to carry those good performances over into every set."

"Right now, we're struggling mentally with how much we believe in ourselves and our skills," Blake continued. "We're very athletic and can play with most teams. We just have to start believing we can."

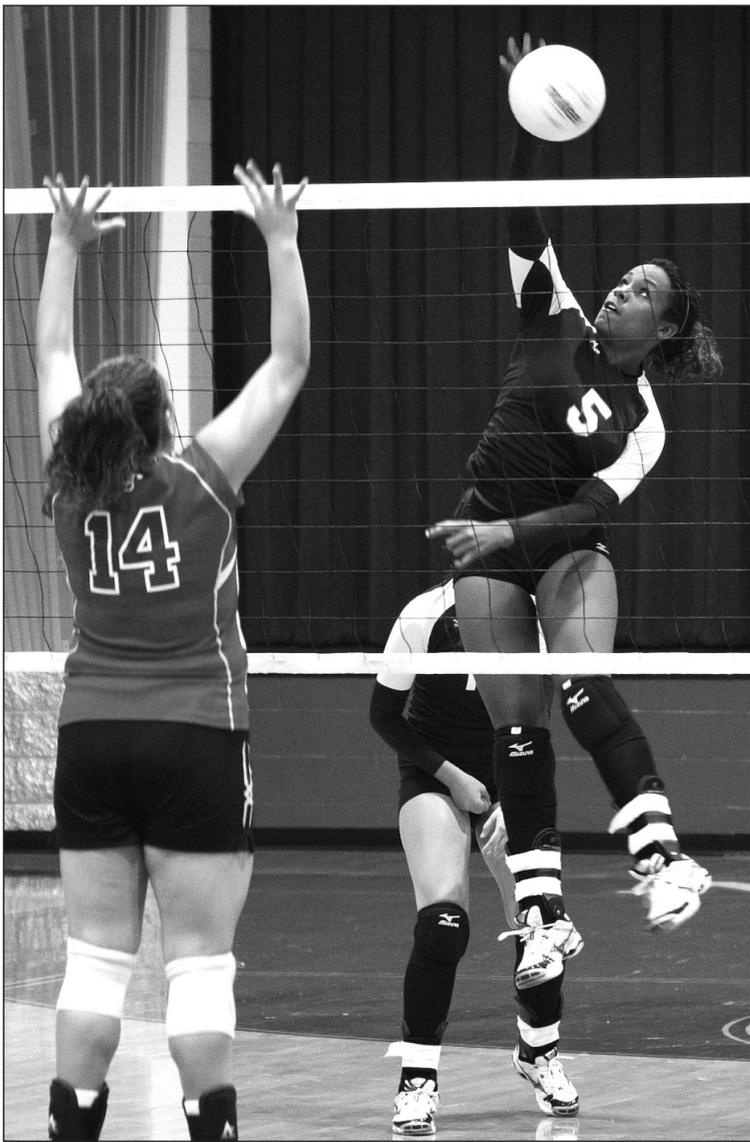
The Lady Steers had a good shot at winning the first set, but made too many unforced errors down the stretch.

"When a game is very close at the end, then the team that makes fewer errors is most likely going to win it," said Blake. "Midland Christian stepped up and we didn't."

Still, it was an improved performance for the Lady Steers compared to the first time they faced Midland Christian. At the Nita Vannoy Tournament in San Angelo, Midland Christian dominated the Lady Steers, 25-14, 25-11.

"There is plenty for us to be encouraged about," Blake said. "Our blocking was much, much better tonight and that's because we've been working very

See **LADY STEERS**, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton  
Big Spring's Desiree Anderson goes for the kill in volleyball action from Tuesday against Midland Christian in Midland. The Lady Steers lost in straight sets, 25-22, 25-12, 25-17.

## Lebron's loyalties irk Clevelanders

### By TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND — LeBron James may raise the ire of local fans by wearing a New York Yankees cap or cheering for the Dallas Cowboys, but another of the city's biggest sports stars isn't bothered by the NBA icon's out-of-town loyalties.

As far as Browns wide receiver Braylon Edwards is concerned, James can root, root, root for any team he wishes.

"I give him credit for being loyal," Edwards said Tuesday.

On Sunday, James, who last season showed up at an Indians playoff game against New York sporting a Yankees cap, was on Dallas' sideline during pregame warm-ups before the Browns' season opener against the Cowboys. In full view of Browns players, James, again wearing the Yankees cap and a blue-and-silver T-shirt, chatted with Dallas owner Jerry Jones and hugged Cowboys wide receiver Terrell Owens and cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones.

James has pledged an allegiance to America's Team since he was a

kid.

"It didn't bother me," Edwards said. "As I've gotten to know LeBron, LeBron isn't a Cleveland guy. LeBron only plays for the Cavaliers, and who knows if he even likes the Cavaliers? He doesn't like the Indians. He doesn't like the Browns. He's a guy from Akron who likes everybody but his hometown."

"I don't know how that's possible, but it is what it is, and he is who he is. You know, it's LeBron."

Some Cleveland fans have had it with James' antics and a few of them were heard screaming so at the Cavs' All-Star, who helped the U.S. Olympic basketball team win a gold medal in Beijing last month.

James has been labeled traitorous for his affection for non-Cleveland sports teams. He also grew up rooting for the Chicago Bulls.

In Tuesday's Plain Dealer, columnist Phillip Morris questioned James' decision to flaunt his affinity for other teams any chance he gets.

"Does Cavaliers superstar James really hate

See **LEBRON**, Page 2B

## Keeping up with the Cowboys' Joneses

### Felix just the latest Jones for opponents to worry about

### By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — In an organization run by Jerry Jones and several other Joneses, in a season with all sorts of attention being paid to Adam "Pacman" Jones, a rookie running back with the same surname better do something really big to stand out.

Felix Jones did exactly that in the opener.

Jones' first carry went nine yards before anyone touched him and ended after 11 yards, in the end zone. He zoomed through the line on his next carry, too, and just

when it looked like he again might not stop until the end zone, he was tripped up just past midfield, still gaining 18 yards.

He later had about a 30-yard run that was called back because of a penalty. Then came a 22-yarder that did count.

The final numbers were nine carries for 62 yards and a touchdown. He also had a 20-yard kickoff return on the very first time he touched the ball in an NFL game, enough to make a rookie think this NFL thing isn't much tougher than the SEC.

See **JONES**, Page 2B



AP photo/Matt Slocum  
Dallas Cowboys running back Felix Jones (28) looks for running room against Houston Texans safety Glenn Earl (26) during the fourth quarter of an NFL pre-season football game Aug. 22 in Irving.

## Sports in brief

### Howard College schedules mini-cheer camp and Battle

Howard College is preparing to host its annual mini-cheer camp as well as the Battle of the Cheerleaders Sept. 20.

The cheer camp is for girls from kindergarten through sixth grade. Registration is from 8-9 a.m. Sept. 20 with the actual camp lasting from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost is

\$25.

All campers will then perform at the Battle of the Cheerleaders set to begin at 6 p.m. Sept. 20. The Battle is open to any organized cheer squad at the high school or junior high levels.

Beginning this year, a traveling trophy will be awarded to the winner.

Admission is \$3 with students, cheerleaders and sponsors being admitted free.

### Tennis boosters meeting Thursday

Big Spring Tennis Booster are holding a meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday at the Figure Seven Tennis Center in Comanche Trail Park.

All parents of a Big Spring High School or Junior High tennis players are encouraged to attend.

## Obituaries

### Jose 'Joe' Ybarra



Jose "Joe" Ybarra, 70, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2008, at his residence. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park. Deacon Johnny Arguello will officiate at both services.

He was born May 9, 1938, in Coahoma to Manuela and Miguel Ybarra. He married Beatrice Munoz Sept. 25, 1957, in Big Spring. He was a retired painter, a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and was a lifetime resident of Big Spring.

He is survived by his wife: Beatrice Ybarra of Big Spring; six sons: Joe Ybarra of Cedar Park, Albert Ybarra and his wife Shannon, Jimmy Ybarra, and Andy Ybarra, all of Big Spring, Johnny Ybarra, and Jerry Ybarra and his wife Andrea, all of Leander; one daughter: Amanda Ybarra of Lago Vista; mother: Manuela Hernandez of Fresno, Calif.; three sisters: Olga Hernandez and her husband Ignacio, and Mary Valencia and her husband Ray, all of Big Spring, and Rosa Ybarra of Ventura, Calif.; two brothers: Manuel Ybarra of Colton, Calif., and Joel Ybarra and his wife Gaye of Fresno, Calif.; eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father: Miguel Ybarra; and two brothers: Mike and Jesse Ybarra.

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

### Elziria Rodriguez Hinojosa

Funeral services for Mrs. Elziria "Elsie" R. Hinojosa, 53, of Stanton have been set for 10 a.m. Thursday Sept. 11, 2008, at the St. Joseph Catholic Church with Father Emilio Sosa officiating. Interment will follow at the St. Joseph Cemetery.

She was born Oct. 7, 1954 in Big Spring and passed away Sept. 8, 2008, in Stanton.

She married Filiberto Hinojosa April 20, 1975.

She was a housewife and a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Tomas and Juanita Rodriguez, and a brother Jose Rodriguez.

Survivors include her husband, Filiberto Hinojosa of Stanton; two daughters, Corene Hinojosa of Stanton and Tina Leigh Saenz of Big Spring; three sons, Philip and wife Tara Hinojosa, Andrew Hinojosa, both of Midland and Anthony Hinojosa of Stanton; four sisters, Elidia Sanchez and Dilly Vaughn, both of Midland, Ernestina Salgado of Spearman and Dianna Henderson of Big Spring; two brothers, Oscar Rodriguez of Big Spring and Tomas Rodriguez of San Antonio; and three grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Stanton Memorial Funeral Home & Chapel.

### Michael McDaniel

Michael McDaniel, 53, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2008, in a Midland hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

### Charles Lee Matthews

Charles Lee Matthews, of Roanoke, formerly of Big Spring died Monday, Sept. 8, 2008, at Roanoke. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Support Groups

#### WEDNESDAY

• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

#### THURSDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

#### FRIDAY

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

#### SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

#### SUNDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.

#### MONDAY

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

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

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## Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity Tuesday:

- PRINCE VANDERBILT, 21, 1502 Lincoln, was arrested on a capias warrant.
- LANCE WATERS, 24, Midland, was arrested on two local warrants.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS WARNING was reported in the 400 block of Fourth.
- THEFT OVER \$500 BUT LESS THAN \$1,500 was reported in the 1400 block of Sycamore.

## Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity Tuesday (note: 58 prisoners were reported in the Howard County Jail):

- ANTHONY THOMAS MCGRUDER, 37, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- RENE VALDEZ JR., 46, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated/third or more offense and a Taylor County warrant.
- DAVID CHRISTOPHER PETREE, 21, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- KEITH ALEXANDER VINCENT, 19, was arrested by deputies on charges of driving while license invalid and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- JUAN MIGUEL RODRIGUEZ, 20, was arrested by deputies to begin a judgment sentence.
- JAMES HOWARD JENNINGS, 54, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of criminal trespass.
- NATALIE DAWN JOHNSON, 40, was arrested by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

## Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity Tuesday:

- TRAUMA was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transferred to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 2600 block of Gregg. One person was transferred to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of W. 17th. One person was transferred to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transferred to SMMC.
- DUMPSTER FIRES were reported in the 600 and 900 blocks of Nolan Street. The fires were extinguished.

## Take Note

• Scenic Mountain Medical Center's Relay for Life team is selling cookbooks to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. The cookbooks can be purchased at the PBX operator's booth for \$10 apiece. For more information, contact Beverly Grant at 268-4952.

• A fund has been established at Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union for Sheena Hill, who lost most of her possessions in a recent house fire. Mail donations to Big Spring Education Employees FCU, 1110 Benton, Big Spring 79720 or call 263-8393.

• Big Spring High School Class of 1998 10-year reunion will be held Sept. 12-13 during the BSHS homecoming weekend. To get details and register, visit [www.freewebs.com/bshs1998](http://www.freewebs.com/bshs1998) or contact Traci Bellinghausen at (817) 308-9845 or Jacob Cordova at (432) 935-0533.

• BSHS Class of 1978 30-year reunion is Sept. 12-13. Contact Kent Rice at 870-918-5875 or [kent\\_rice@murphyoilcorp.com](mailto:kent_rice@murphyoilcorp.com)

• Big Spring High School Class of 1988's 20-year reunion will be held the weekend of Sept. 12-13. Contact Cheri Wyrick Reibe at 432-268-9587 or [reibe1@suddenlink.net](mailto:reibe1@suddenlink.net) for information. The class still needs classmates' contact information so please contact Cheri to pass those along.

• Ackerly Lunch Bunch will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 27 at 14th and Main Church of Christ Fellowship Hall at 1401 S. Main St. in Big Spring. Lunch will be catered by Al's and Son Barbecue and served at noon. Cost will be \$11 per plate, including dessert and drink. RSVP to Betty Pitts at 267-1449 or Sissy Jones at 213-4452.

• HATS (Hope After The Sadness), an American Cancer Society Resource Room is now available at First Methodist Church. This center provides information and valuable resources for those affected by cancer. This HATS ministry, established in memory of the late Rev. Dr. Shane Brue, maintains a room with free hats, wigs and head coverings available for check-out by those dealing with hair loss due to cancer treatment. Other services and resources are also available. Contact the "Hat Lady," Marci Lykken at 267-2915.

## Weather

Tonight, Cloudy with a chance of showers and isolated thunderstorms. Some thunderstorms may produce heavy rainfall. Lows in the mid 60s. Southeast winds around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Thursday, Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70s. Southeast winds around 10 mph.

Thursday night, Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 60s. Southeast winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light and variable.

Friday, Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 80s. Light and variable winds.

Friday night, Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 60s.

Saturday, Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 80s.

Saturday night, Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 60s.

Sunday, Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 80s.

Sunday night, Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s.

Monday, Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s.

Monday night, Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s.

Tuesday, Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s.

## Bulletin Board

**If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact the Herald news room at 263-7331 or email editor@bigspringherald.com**

#### TODAY

• Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

#### THURSDAY

• Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.

• Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

• Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main streets.

• League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The public is invited.

• American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.

• The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340.

• Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.

#### FRIDAY

• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281.

• AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.

• Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.

• Dance at the Senior Center, 1901 Simler, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

#### SATURDAY

• Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

#### MONDAY

• The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teacher's Association meets in the Cactus Room at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.

## Lottery

Here are the winning numbers selected Tuesday in the Mega Millions lottery: 22-23-28-49-52; Mega Ball: 2

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 9-10-13-15-28.

Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-4-6-2. Sum It Up: 18.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-5-9. Sum it Up: 16.

## BIG SPRING HERALD

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TENNIS

Continued from Page 1B

mixed doubles team of Gonzales and Chang. They won three of their four matches. Jones also says the Steers picked up some much needed depth with the recent additions of Womack and Cash.

It's depth Big Spring will need considering the

recent injuries suffered by members of the team. Keely Parnell — the No. 1 girls singles player — was injured in a match against Sweetwater two weeks ago.

Brandy Rigdon — half of Big Spring's No. 1 girls doubles team — is currently out with a back injury. And finally, No. 1 boys doubles player Langford is going to miss some time with an arm injury.

Chargers' Merriman pulls plug on season

By BERNIE WILSON  
AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO — Star outside linebacker Shawne Merriman pulled the plug on his 2008 season on Tuesday when he told the San Diego Chargers he'll have surgery on the two torn ligaments in his left knee.

The loss of Merriman, whose hard hits earned him the nickname "Lights Out," is a big one for a team that has Super Bowl expectations.

Merriman's decision came two days after he barely resembled the player who had an NFL-high 39 1/2 sacks in the past three seasons and played in three straight Pro Bowls.

Merriman, known for his spasmodic sack dance, didn't immediately return e-mails and telephone calls seeking comment. His agent, Tom Condon, declined to comment.

"Shawne informed me he did not feel right and thought it best to shut it down," Chargers general manager A.J. Smith said in a statement. "The road to winning the AFC West just got more difficult, but not impossible. Nothing is impossible. Shawne is a great player and an inspirational leader. He will be missed. We wish him a successful surgery and a speedy recovery."

Smith didn't return calls seeking further comment.

Merriman had only two tackles

and no sacks in a shocking 26-24 loss to Carolina at home on Sunday. Even though Merriman appeared to be a non-factor, coach Norv Turner said he thought the linebacker looked "explosive and very physical."

Merriman wore a brace on the knee on Sunday. At one point, he had to go into the locker room to have it readjusted because it was slipping due to sweat.

The Chargers were outgained 388-316 on Sunday by a Panthers team playing without leading receiver Steve Smith.

The Chargers are also without inside linebacker Stephen Cooper, who was suspended by the NFL for the first four games this season for testing positive for a banned stimulant. Cooper led the Chargers with 179 tackles last season, when San Diego won the AFC West at 11-5 and reached the conference championship game before losing 21-12 at New England.

Late in training camp, Merriman said that the posterior cruciate and lateral collateral ligaments in his left knee were torn.

He spent several days getting opinions from four doctors from outside the organization, all of whom recommended he have surgery. But on Aug. 27, he announced that he was going to play, saying, "If you give a

football player a decision to play, you know, I'm going to play."

But, he acknowledged, "I'll have the surgery at any point. Nobody knows. I kind of left it on the table when to have it. Not even doctors can tell me that."

Rehab is expected to be six to seven months.

Merriman has said he's had pain in the knee since late in the 2006 season. He also injured the knee during a game at Tennessee on Dec. 9. He sat out the following Sunday, but played in the last three regular-season games and the Chargers' three playoff games, including the loss to New England. He also played in the Pro Bowl.

Merriman had offseason arthroscopic surgery to repair torn cartilage in the knee.

Second-year pro Jyles Tucker is expected to take Merriman's spot. Tucker, who has played in only seven regular-season games, received a five-year contract extension two days before Merriman announced he was going to play rather than have surgery.

Merriman was suspended for four games in 2006 after testing positive for steroids. Both he and his lawyer blamed it on a tainted supplement. The Chargers went 4-0 in his absence.

**Contract Bridge**

By Steve Becker  
**A Little White Lie**

South dealer.  
East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ J 3  
♥ 10 9 4  
♦ A Q 10 9 6  
♣ K J 2

**WEST**  
♠ 6 4  
♥ K 7 2  
♦ 8 5 3  
♣ 10 7 5 4 3

**EAST**  
♠ K Q 9 8 7 5 2  
♥ 6 3  
♦ 7 2  
♣ A Q

**SOUTH**  
♠ A 10  
♥ A Q J 8 5  
♦ K J 4  
♣ 9 8 6

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1♥ Pass 2♦ 2♠  
3♦ Pass 3♥ Pass  
4♥

Opening lead — six of spades.

Generally, it is not a good idea for a defender to falsecard his partner. The repercussions from such an action can affect not only the current deal, but future deals as well.

However, there are times when the only way to get partner to do the right thing is to tell a little white lie. This type of falsecard is eminently forgivable.

Today's deal provides a case in point. South arrives at four hearts after East has overcalled in spades,

and West leads the spade six. East then reviews the prospects of defeating the contract.

He concludes first that if declarer has the A-K-Q of trumps, the defense has no hope. Indeed, if South's trumps are solid, he will probably finish with an overtrick with the help of dummy's diamonds. East therefore credits West with a trump trick, giving the defense four potential winners: one spade, one heart and two clubs.

But taking these four tricks is easier said than done. The trouble is that when West gains the lead with his presumed trump trick, he is very likely to return a spade, since he cannot know that East has the A-Q of clubs sitting over dummy's K-J. Once a spade is returned, East will be unable to score the setting trick with the queen of clubs.

So, to steer West in the right direction, East tells a little fib at trick one. Instead of making the normal play of the spade queen, he puts up the king! South takes the ace, leaving West with the indelible impression that declarer holds the A-Q of spades.

When West subsequently wins the king of hearts, he will therefore look elsewhere for additional tricks, and will most probably shift to a club. East then scores the A-Q, and, much to West's surprise, the queen of spades puts the contract down one.

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**LEBRON**

Continued from Page 1B

Cleveland that much?" Morris asked. "Does the anointed one really think we're all a bunch of losers? If not, why does No. 23 go out of his way to show his disdain for professional sports teams in Cleveland that don't

involve rims and orange balls?"

"It makes you wonder whether he really likes you. I suppose it could be worse: He could be a Pittsburgh Steelers fan. But that sort of nonsense would make his life difficult in Cleveland. I guess we have no choice but to count our blessings and simply celebrate our Yankee-loving-Cowboy-hugging-global icon until he divorces us and takes his

game somewhere else."

James has two years remaining on a contract extension he signed with the Cavaliers in July 2006.

His affection for New York has prompted speculation that he intends to sign with either the Knicks or the New Jersey Nets, who are partly owned by his good friend, rap mogul Jay-Z.

**LADY STEERS**

Continued from Page 1B

hard on it. That's encouraging. It'd be bad if we had been working on something as much as we have been our blocking and we didn't get better at it. But we are getting better.

"We really need a win, though," she continued. "More than anything, we need a win for our confidence."

Junior Halee Thomas led the Lady Steers with five kills. Senior Baylea Fox posted the most digs with nine.

The Lady Steers try to break their losing streak at 11 a.m. Saturday in Steer Gym when they host Midland Greenwood's Lady Rangers.

**Midland Christian defeated Big Spring**  
25-22, 25-12, 25-17

Kills — Halee Thomas 5, Desiree Anderson 3, Andrea Claxton 2, Belle Feaster 2, Macy Graves 1, Cerbi Ritchey 1, Valerie Ross 1.  
Assists — Ritchey 14.  
Digs — Baylea Fox 9, Sloan Davis 3, Ross 2, Feaster 1.  
Blocks — Ritchey 2, Graves 2, Anderson 2, Ross 5.

**Prices Are FALLING**

\*\*\* TRUCKS \*\*\*

2006 Ford F250 Crew Cab Lariat Powerstroke - Black w/Gray Leather, Local One Owner. **SOLD** Sale Price \$25,995  
2006 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Maroon w/Cloth, V-8, All Power, One Owner w/18,000 Miles. **SOLD** Sale Price \$20,995  
2006 Chevrolet Avalanche - Blue w/Tan Leather, All Power, On-Star, Local One Owner. **SOLD** Sale Price \$23,995  
2005 Ford F250 Crew Cab 4X4 Powerstroke King Ranch - Maroon And Tan w/Leather, All Power, One Owner. **SOLD** Sale Price \$28,995  
2005 Ford F150 Supercrew Lariat - White w/Tan Leather, 5.4 V-8, All Power, Local One Owner w/50,000 Miles. **SOLD** Sale Price \$20,995  
2005 Chevrolet 1500 H.D. Crew Cab L.S. 4X4 - White w/Cloth, 6.0 V-8, Local One Owner w/36,000 Miles. **SOLD** Sale Price \$21,995  
2005 Ford F150 Supercab XL 4X4 - White, Tilt/Cruise, 5.4 V-8, Local One Owner. **SOLD** Sale Price \$16,995  
2005 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Gray w/Cloth, V-8, All Power, One Owner. **SOLD** Sale Price \$13,995  
2004 Chevrolet C1500 L.S. - Short Wheel Base, Pewter w/Cloth, 6 Cyl., Automatic, Air, One Owner w/58,000 Miles. **SOLD** Sale Price \$13,995  
2004 Ford F250 Crew Cab XLT Powerstroke - Blue/Silver, CFloth, All Power, Local One Owner. **SOLD** Sale Price \$20,995  
2003 Ford F250 Crew Cab XLT - 5.4 V-8, White, One Owner. **SOLD** Sale Price \$11,995

\*\*\* SUVS \*\*\*

2006 Ford Explorer XLT - Maroon w/Cloth, V-6, All Power, Local One Owner w/31,000 MILES. **SOLD** Sale Price \$17,995  
2006 Jeep Wrangler SE - Tan w/Cloth Top, 4 Cyl., 5 Speed, Air, CD, Local One Owner w/12,000 Miles. **SOLD** Sale Price \$15,995

\*\*\* CARS \*\*\*

2005 Ford Explorer XLS - Maroon w/Cloth, V-6, Local One Owner w/41,000 Miles. **SOLD** Sale Price \$12,995  
2005 Ford Explorer XLT Sport Trac - Red w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/65,000 Miles. **SOLD** Sale Price \$16,995  
2005 Toyota Sequoia SR5 - Silver w/Cloth, All Power, Moonroof, Local One Owner, 44,000 Miles. **SOLD** Sale Price \$22,995  
2004 Nissan Murano SE - Black w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/69,000 Miles. **SOLD** Sale Price \$18,995  
2004 Nissan Murano SE - White w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/69,000 Miles. **SOLD** Sale Price \$18,995  
2004 Chevrolet Tahoe LT - Gray w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner w/57,000 Miles. **SOLD** Sale Price \$18,995  
2004 Honda CRV LX 4X4 - White w/Cloth, V-6, All POWER, DVD, Local One Owner. **SOLD** Sale Price \$10,995  
2004 GMC Yukon XL SLT - Maroon w/Leather, All Power, One Owner. **SOLD** Sale Price \$17,995  
2004 Nissan Xterra SE - Silver w/Cloth, All Power, One Owner w/36,000 Miles. **SOLD** Sale Price \$13,995  
2002 Chevrolet Suburban LT - Pewter w/Leather, All Power, One Owner. **SOLD** Sale Price \$13,995  
2001 Lincoln Navigator 4X4 - White w/Leather, All Power, Navigator, One Owner. **SOLD** Sale Price \$12,995

2006 Lincoln Town Car Signature - Dark Stone, Leather, All Power, One Owner w/35,000 Miles. **SOLD** Sale Price \$21,995  
2004 Mercury Grand Marquis L.S. - Tan w/Leather, All Power, One Owner w/50,000 Miles. **SOLD** Sale Price \$12,995  
2004 Lincoln Town Car Ultimate - Cashmere White w/Leather, All Power, One Owner w/32,000 Miles. **SOLD** Sale Price \$18,995  
2004 Ford Focus SE 4-Door - Cobalt w/Cloth, All Power, One Owner w/51,000 Miles. **SOLD** Sale Price \$7,995  
2004 Ford Mustang Cobra - Black ws/Tan Top & Tan Leather, Local One Owner w/40,000 Miles. **SOLD** Sale Price \$13,995  
2004 Mercedes C240 - Tan w/Leather, All Power, Locally Owned w/42,000 Miles. **SOLD** Sale Price \$17,995  
2004 Nissan Maxima SL - Black w/Leather, All Power, Local One Owner, Skylight. **SOLD** Sale Price \$17,995  
2004 Nissan Maxima SL - Silver w/Leather, Moonroof, All Power, One Owner w/50,000 Miles. **SOLD** Sale Price \$17,995  
2003 Cadillac DeVille. - Tan w/Leather, All Power, One Owner. **SOLD** Sale Price \$12,995  
2003 Ford Escort ZX2 - Blue w/Cloth, One Owner w/66,000 Miles. **SOLD** Sale Price \$6,995  
1997 Lincoln Continental - Tan w/Leather, All Power, One Owner w/53,000 Miles. **SOLD** Sale Price \$4,995

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# News in brief

## Top North Korean officials reportedly deny leader Kim is seriously ill

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea denied Wednesday that leader Kim Jong Il is seriously ill, granting a foreign news outlet rare interviews with top officials who dismissed reports questioning Kim's health following his absence from a key ceremony.

Speculation has intensified that Kim may have taken ill after he missed a parade Tuesday commemorating the communist state's founding 60 years ago. That followed weeks of absence from public view and rumors that foreign doctors were brought in to the isolated nation to possibly treat him.

On Wednesday, North Korea's No. 2 leader and ceremonial head of state, Kim Yong Nam, said there is "no problem" with the supreme leader, and senior diplomat Song Il Ho also said reports about Kim Jong Il's health are "not true," according to Japan's Kyodo News agency.

"We see such reports as not only worthless, but rather as a conspiracy plot," Song told Kyodo in what the agency said was North Korea's first reaction to the reports. "Western media have reported falsehoods before," he said, according to the report from Pyongyang.

It was not the first time North Korea sent a message to the outside world through Kyodo. Kim Yong Nam also gave the news organization an interview two days after North Korea carried out its first-ever nuclear test blast in 2006.

## OPEC oil ministers decide to trim output by more than 500,000 barrels a day

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — OPEC oil ministers agreed Wednesday to trim overall output by more than 500,000 barrels a day in a compromise meant to avoid new turmoil in crude markets while seeking to bolster falling prices.

The news sparked a rebound in oil prices. Light, sweet crude for October delivery rose \$1.00 to \$104.26 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The OPEC announcement reflected OPEC efforts to cover all bases in an oil market that saw prices spike to a record high just short of \$150 a barrel in July, only to shed nearly 30 percent off those peaks in subsequent months.

Oil prices had lost more ground Tuesday ahead of the OPEC decision, falling \$3.08 to settle at \$103.26 on the Nymex, the lowest settlement price since April 1.

An OPEC statement issued after oil ministers ended their meeting early Wednesday said the organization agreed to produce 28.8 million barrels a day. OPEC President Chakib Khelil said that quota in effect meant that member countries had agreed to cut back 520,000 barrels a day in production over the established quota.

## Scientists: Largest collider successfully fires protons all the way around 17-mile tunnel

GENEVA (AP) — The world's largest particle collider successfully completed its first major test by firing a beam of protons all the way around a 17-mile (27-kilometer) tunnel Wednesday in what scientists hope is the next great step to understanding the makeup of the universe.

After a series of trial runs, two white dots flashed on a computer screen indicating that the protons had traveled the full length of the US\$3.8 billion Large Hadron Collider.

"There it is," project leader Lyn Evans said when the beam completed its lap.

The startup was eagerly awaited by 9,000 physicists around the world who now have much greater power than ever before to smash the components of atoms together in attempts to see how they are made.

"Well done everybody," said Robert Aymar, director-general of the European Organization for Nuclear Research, said after the protons were fired into the accelerator below the Swiss-French border at 9:32 a.m. (0732 GMT).

## Pentagon leaders to underscore uncertainties in Iraq, urge caution in troop cuts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top defense leaders are telling Congress the U.S. must be cautious as the Pentagon begins to cut troops in Iraq and focus more attention on the escalating fight in Afghanistan.

In testimony Wednesday, Defense Secretary Robert Gates was to note the dramatic security gains in Iraq over the past year but say that uncertainty remains and further troop reductions must be done with balance and care, Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell said.

At the same time, Gates and Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, were looking ahead to a broader effort in Afghanistan to beat back a Taliban resurgence and build up the fragile Afghan central government.

Both were scheduled to testify before the House Armed Services Committee about the latest proposal by President Bush to slowly reduce troop levels in Iraq and start shifting forces to Afghanistan.

Bush announced Tuesday that he will pull about 4,000 troops out of Iraq before the end of the year, and another 4,000 in January — reducing force levels there to roughly 138,000. The 8,000-troop drawdown represents just 5 percent of the 146,000 U.S. troops now in Iraq.

## Seeking middle ground, Obama opens education debate with McCain

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrat Barack Obama reached for middle ground on education this week, opening a debate with John McCain over who would do more to put good teachers in classrooms and help

parents find alternatives to bad schools.

Conceding that both parties have worthy ideas, Obama set out to prove that he's not captive to teachers unions, as his rival claims, and that there is more talk than action in McCain's plans for schools.

McCain tossed red meat to Republicans at their convention last week, saying Obama wants schools to answer to unions and entrenched bureaucracies, while he would hold them accountable to parents and kids.

A look at where the presidential candidates stand on some key education issues:

## BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

resigned citing distractions caused by an ongoing state investigation into alleged misconduct at a previous stop in his educational career. A few weeks after his resignation, trustees hired former Hereford ISD Superintendent Michael Stevens to lead the district on an interim basis.

At their Aug. 27 meeting, trustees heard presentations from two potential search groups — the Texas Association of School Boards and the firm of Griggs and Associates — but tabled a final decision until Thursday's meeting. Once a search firm is selected, it will likely be at least two or three months before a finalist is selected. The firm will first solicit applications — a process expected to take about six weeks — then submit a short list of candidates for personal interviews with the school board.

This will be the fourth time in the past 25 years that the school district will be in the market for a new superintendent. Of the last four chief executives, only Downes came from outside BSISD.

Also Thursday, trustees will:

- Hold a public hearing on the district's financial accountability rating.
- Hear the district's annual delinquent tax collection report.
- Consider resignations and employments.
- Consider a lease agreement with Greater Opportunities of the Permian Basin.
- Consider approval of a budget amendment for the purchase of school buses.

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

## MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Aiden Jerrett Matthews, 3, died Saturday. A Memorial Service will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Carmen Osborne, 4 months, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Jose Ybarra, 70, died Tuesday. Vigil Services will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Charles Lee Matthews, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## CITY

Continued from Page 1A

water rate increase of 18.5 cents per 1,000 gallons used — necessary to balance out a \$500,000 shortfall caused by the \$215,000 rate hike being passed along by the Colorado River Municipal Water District and the \$252,800 jump in the cost of chemicals.

And while the budget accepted by the council is balanced, fiscal restraints expected in the coming year have forced the council to set aside many of its plans to improve the city, a measure McEwen said was necessary but frustrating.

"There's a bit of frustration, but the other side of it is with the way energy costs have gone up so much in the last year, we

just didn't have the ability to do anything," said McEwen. "We need a couple of years to see if energy costs are going to stabilize. I think it's a good budget. It's one that provides the services necessary but is not extravagant at all."

Also Tuesday, the council approved first reading of its ad valorem tax rate, which is \$1.0132 per \$100 valuation.

City Finance Director Peggy Walker said the savings over last year's tax rate — \$1.0227 per \$100 valuation — will be less than \$10 for the majority of city taxpayers.

"The average residential home is valued at slightly more than \$40,000," said Walker. "That would be a decrease to the taxpayer of \$3.43. On a home valued at \$100,000, it would mean a decrease of \$8.57."

According to previous

reports from Walker, the tax rate consists of 68.54 cents for the general fund; 8.07 cents to fund the Big Spring Police Department's Narcotics Task Force; 2.42 cents to refund obligation bonds from 2002; 22.53 cents for general obligation bonds for the Roy Anderson Sports Complex and streets project; and .69 of a cent for certificates of obligation for the rehabilitation of the northside water facility and the new annex for the animal shelter.

While the council was forced to pinch pennies throughout the budgetary process, it was able to open its pocketbook slightly following an executive session to discuss an incentive to the Settles Hotel Development Company, which is currently in the process of renovating the downtown landmark.

The council unanimous-

ly approved a \$20,000 incentive to the company for further development of the downtown area. The company has already purchased several buildings near the Settles hotel, including the Ritz Theater, with plans to make them part of their downtown effort.

Not all votes were unanimous Tuesday night, as Council member Manuel Ramirez Jr. voted no to the agenda's consent items, which included final reading of an ordinance making the west side of the 400 block of Runnels — in front of Bargain Mart — a parallel parking only area.

Discussions on the subject began several weeks ago when a city committee made the recommendation due to complaints area motorists had expressed at trying to get through the narrow street, a problem

compounded by motorists parking on both sides of the roadway.

"I think we have bigger and better things to worry about than how people park," said Ramirez following the meeting.

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

## FLY

Continued from Page 1A

hand at, and we'll be happy to set something up so they can come out to the airfield and learn to fly the larger planes. Safety is a major concern when we're at the park and so close to town, and while we're all

insured just in case of an accident, we prefer not to take unnecessary chances in that environment."

Miller said lunch will also be available both days.

"We always have brisket at the Float and Fly, and this year is no exception," said Miller. "We'll offer brisket plates, complete with things like beans and

potato salad, for \$5 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday."

For more information on the Float and Fly, contact Miller at 398-5434.

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

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# Pigskin Picks Football



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

1. Big Spring
2. Coahoma
3. Garden City
4. South Florida
5. Georgia
6. Michigan
7. USC
8. NY Jets
9. Dallas
10. Jacksonville



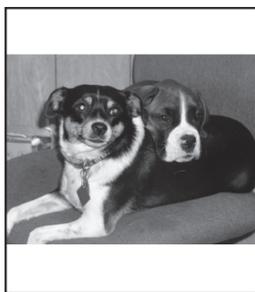
**Greg Brooks**  
**Blum's Jewelers**

1. Big Spring
2. Coahoma
3. Garden City
4. Kansas
5. Georgia
6. Notre Dame
7. USC
8. Denver
9. Dallas
10. Green Bay



**The Dodds Bowlarama**

1. Big Spring
2. Coahoma
3. Robert Lee
4. Kansas
5. South Carolina
6. Michigan
7. Ohio State
8. San Diego
9. Philadelphia
10. Green Bay



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

1. Big Spring
2. Coahoma
3. Garden City
4. Kansas
5. Georgia
6. Notre Dame
7. Ohio State
8. Denver
9. Dallas
10. Green Bay



**First Bank of West Texas**

1. Big Spring
2. Coahoma
3. Garden City
4. Kansas
5. Georgia
6. Notre Dame
7. USC
8. Jets
9. Dallas
10. Buffalo



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

1. Big Spring
2. Coahoma
3. Garden City
4. South Florida
5. Georgia
6. Notre Dame
7. USC
8. Denver
9. Dallas
10. Green Bay



**CASA BLANCA**

1. Big Spring
2. Coahoma
3. Garden City
4. South Florida
5. Georgia
6. Michigan
7. USC
8. San Diego
9. Dallas
10. Green Bay



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

1. Big Spring
2. Coahoma
3. Garden City
4. Kansas
5. South Carolina
6. Michigan
7. Ohio State
8. San Diego
9. Dallas
10. Green Bay

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



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

1. Big Spring
2. Coahoma
3. Garden City
4. Kansas
5. South Carolina
6. Notre Dame
7. USC
8. Denver
9. Dallas
10. Detroit



**Walmart**

1. Pampa
2. Coahoma
3. Robert Lee
4. Kansas
5. Georgia
6. Notre Dame
7. Ohio State
8. San Diego
9. Dallas
10. Green Bay



**Caprock**

1. Pampa
2. Seagraves
3. Garden City
4. Kansas
5. Georgia
6. Michigan
7. USC
8. San Diego
9. Dallas
10. Green Bay

**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

**NAVY AT DUKE**

Total Points \_\_\_\_\_

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# EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

**Ron Midkiff**  
Publisher

**John A. Moseley**  
Managing Editor

**Bill McClellan**  
News Editor

## OTHER VIEWS

### On energy, time to set priorities

Presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama have pledged to push for a comprehensive national energy strategy.

Both are tapping into Americans' worries over sky-high prices for gasoline and natural gas.

And the nation does need such a policy, aimed at not just raising production but encouraging conservation.

However, both candidates need to be more specific about their priorities in trying to reduce the country's dependence on imported energy and boost production of renewable fuels. Both could do a better job of laying out the choices that would have to be made, especially in handing out tax breaks and subsidies.

McCain has expressed more enthusiasm for offshore oil drilling than Obama. But on most energy matters, the candidates sounded oddly alike in their recent convention speeches.

Obama: "As president, I will tap our natural gas reserves, invest in clean-coal technology, and find ways to safely harness nuclear power. I'll help our auto companies re-tool so that the fuel-efficient cars of the future are built right here in America. ... And I'll invest \$150 billion over the next decade in affordable, renewable sources of energy — wind power and solar power and the next generation of biofuels."

McCain: "We will produce more energy at home. We will drill new wells offshore, and we'll drill them now. We will build more nuclear power plants. We will develop clean coal technology. We will increase the use of wind, tide, solar and natural gas. We will encourage the development and use of flex fuel, hybrid and electric automobiles."

In other words, both candidates want to do it all. All options, however, are not equally promising. And the federal government does not have unlimited resources to invest. So true leadership will involve setting priorities.

In the weeks ahead, McCain and Obama need to better explain the energy priorities that each of them have in mind.

More offshore drilling deserves careful consideration, but in any case it won't happen "now"; that crude wouldn't start flowing for another six to ten years.

Realities like that make it essential for the candidates to emphasize and promote conservation strategies, which can have a far more immediate impact.

The candidates should also be focusing on federal support to spur increased production of renewable sources of energy that can benefit the country for generations to come.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR

## LETTER POLICIES

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- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
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- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

# Who's being hypocritical?

Liberals are outraged at the supposed hypocrisy of Sarah Palin (and conservatives) for supporting abstinence-only education and family values generally in light of revelations concerning the pregnancy of her teenage daughter. It's only fair, then, that they should be called upon to explain their own hypocrisy in the compassion, privacy, gender and race departments.

Liberals are sick and tired of conservatives lecturing them about family values. Yet it is liberals who do most of the moralizing and sermonizing, seeming to derive their entire sense of superior self-worth in favorably comparing themselves with heartless, bigoted conservatives.

Liberals claim a monopoly on compassion for the poor, minorities, women and homosexuals. Yet when they get the chance to score political points, they abandon their allegiance to these groups as quickly as Barack Obama threw the Rev. Jeremiah Wright under the bus. Just ask Clarence Thomas, Condoleezza Rice or Michael Steele.

Liberals are fed up with conservatives for trying to regulate their "private" behavior. Yet it is they who want to regulate every minute aspect of our lives, from smoking to eating to weapons to energy consumption to confiscatory taxation to health care to retirement security.

Liberals insist that what a public official does in his private life is irrelevant to his public fitness or conduct. Yet they're now telling us that the private conduct even of a relative of a conservative candidate is fair game.

While misidentifying and condemning continued conservative support for Sarah Palin as hypocrisy, they're putting on a disgraceful clinic in what real hypocrisy looks like. They're showing us firsthand how they treat women who refuse

to toe the liberal line, just as they've shown us how they treat African-Americans who dare stray from their liberally assigned ideology.

Washington Post columnist Richard Cohen, demonstrating his liberal erudition and enlightenment, described McCain's selection of Palin as "a sitcom of a vice presidential choice and a disaster movie if she moves up to the presidency." In mocking Newt Gingrich for defending Palin, Cohen displayed his respect for the fairer sex by comparing her to a horse. "It's a pity Gingrich was not around when the Roman Emperor Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus Germanicus, better known by his nickname Caligula, reputedly named Incitatus as a consul and a priest. Incitatus was his horse."

Regaling in smug self-satisfaction for putting it to an impressive, self-made, no-nonsense, but alas conservative woman, Cohen went on to attack GOP spokesmen for defending Palin, which he says betrays "a feeling of consummate contempt for the intelligence of the American people — a contempt that will be justified should Palin be the factor that makes McCain a winner in November."

Cohen is not the only celebrated media liberal who believes that only idiots could support Palin. NBC's Andrea Mitchell suggested that only uneducated Hillary Clinton voters, "not college-educated ones," could possibly support Palin.

In their world of twisted logic and values, liberals believe they've come upon the smoking gun with the Palin pregnancy.

They are wholly oblivious to the endearing aspects of this story, from Sarah and Todd Palin's unqualified love and support for their daughter to Bristol Palin's decision to marry the baby's father and give birth to this child.

They see in this pregnancy slam-dunk proof of Sarah Palin's hypocrisy because she supports abstinence-only education — as if she claims abstinence-only is foolproof and as if her opposition to government-

supported condom distribution caused this pregnancy. But why should that surprise us when leftists blamed Hurricane Gustav on Palin's insufficient deference to the liberals' man-made global warming narrative?

Many liberals can't fathom why this pregnancy isn't damaging Palin's and McCain's credibility as social conservatives. They can't comprehend how anyone could continue to trumpet moral values once he or someone close to him has committed a sin, as if moral perfection is a precondition to upholding moral standards.

The liberal position is morally bankrupt and suicidal to civilization. It is anathema to the Judeo-Christian worldview.

If one were disqualified from advocating moral standards because of his own sinful nature, we could have no moral standards because none of us approaches moral perfection. Thus, the logical consequence of the liberals' attempted intimidation of any sinner (and her mother) for promoting moral standards is the wholesale eradication of those standards.

By taking this absurd position, the liberal exposes his own practical opposition to moral standards and the utter cynicism in his claim to represent values voters.

What is truly bothering liberals is that conservative Sarah Palin is living out her compassion, her values, her love of family and her strong womanhood rather than just mouthing empty, self-serving bromides.

If you want a real lesson in liberal compassion, gender-neutrality and rank hypocrisy, stay tuned because they're just getting warmed up.

But so is Sarah.

*To find out more about David Limbaugh, please visit his Web site at [www.davidlimbaugh.com](http://www.davidlimbaugh.com). To read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).*

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## McCain hits, stays on first base

When it became John McCain's turn to bat in the contest to win the Hispanic vote, the senator from Arizona took a good swing at the "bola." But he got a base hit when he needed a home run.

"We believe everyone has something to contribute and deserves the opportunity to reach their God-given potential," McCain said in his acceptance speech at the Republican National Convention, "from the boy whose descendants (I think he meant ancestors) arrived on the Mayflower to the Latina daughter of migrant workers.

"We are all God's children," he added, "and we are all Americans."

It was a gutsy statement before a crowd that had just drafted an anti-immigrant and anti-Hispanic party platform, which includes "official English" and immigration enforcement-only proposals. But given the polls that say Sen. Barack Obama is leading McCain by a 3-1 margin among Latino voters, McCain needed to say much more. With the same bravado with which he was critical of his own party on other issues, McCain needed to tell both Latinos and his fellow Republicans that he is not the right-wing extremist that the GOP platform expects him to be. McCain needed to argue that his new border-security-first proposal

is the middle ground on which both sides finally can agree to fix the nation's broken immigration system. He needed to tell Latinos that Obama's plan (which used to be his own) is not realistic because Congress and the American people will not accept an amnesty plan that could encourage more illegal immigration. And he needed to tell anti-immigrant GOP zealots that once the borders are secured, they need to search through their evangelical teachings and find compassion for the 12 million illegal immigrants — "God's children" — already living here.

He didn't say that because he was obviously afraid of angering the so-called base of the Republican Party, especially those who suffer from xenophobia and those who use it for political gain. On immigration, the "maverick" was very measured.

Still, at least he was not hypocritical, which is the only way to describe the way the Democrats handled the Hispanic vote and the subject of immigration at their convention. Their base would not have been offended if they called for compassion for illegal immigrants, yet they didn't. With such a lead among Latino voters, why bother? Taking the Hispanic vote for granted is their specialty.

In fact, immigration reform was not mentioned in any of the major speeches at the Democratic convention. And vague references to immigrants, by Obama and Sen. Hillary Clinton, were intentionally mixed signals, hypocritical attempts to stand on both sides of the immigration debate. On immigration,

instead of inspiring, Obama and Clinton were insulting.

Clinton said she ran for president "to make America once again a nation of immigrants and of laws." Obama said, "Passions fly on immigration, but I don't know anyone who benefits when a mother is separated from her infant child or an employer undercuts American wages by hiring illegal workers."

To shift the Hispanic vote dramatically in his favor, McCain needed to rise above Obama's and Clinton's two-faced rhetoric. That wasn't hard. And he did it! Obviously, reminding Republicans that a young Latina deserves the same opportunity to reach her God-given potential as a young descendant of those who came on the Mayflower was a courageous statement.

But it was not enough! Not when he's representing a party that has mastered the art of immigrant bashing.

Maybe McCain has decided that with the appointment of Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin as his running mate and with the potential she has for swaying women to vote for the Republican ticket, he doesn't need the Hispanic vote in the swing states that could give him the margin of victory.

But that could be his most costly mistake.

*To find out more about Miguel Perez and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).*

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DAVID  
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# Rangers knock off Seattle, 7-3

By **TIM BOOTH**

AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE — Ron Washington doesn't really care what Taylor Teagarden does at the plate. The Texas Rangers manager is more concerned with how the young catcher approaches the game behind the plate.

Still, he doesn't mind three RBIs from his No. 9 hitter.

"What he hits is not important to me," Washington said. "It's how he gets the pitchers through innings is what's important to me. ... But there are times he's going to go up there and get big hits for you. He's not just an out."

Teagarden and Marlon Byrd

both had two-out, two-run doubles and drove in three runs, and Texas took advantage of Felix Hernandez's wildness for a 7-3 victory over the Seattle Mariners on Tuesday night.

Teagarden guided Vicente Padilla through 5 2-3 strong innings, as the right-hander made his first start since late August after a brief stint on the disabled list. As pleased as Washington was with Teagarden's offensive contributions, it was his performance behind the plate that was most impressive.

"A catcher's job is to have a positive impact on your pitching staff. That's what his only

job should be," Washington said. "I think Taylor Teagarden is doing a good job. He's been in sync with the guys he's out there catching and that's what he brings."

The Rangers' potent offense took advantage of a night where Hernandez had no feel and no consistency. He was all over the place from the beginning, hitting leadoff batter Joaquin Arias to start the game. It didn't get much better for the Mariners' young ace and the highest-scoring team in the American League took advantage of the pitches Hernandez left in the strike zone.

Byrd's double came in the first

inning on a ball that likely should have been caught by left fielder Raul Ibanez. Teagarden's shot was in the fifth when reliever Randy Messenger was one pitch away from getting out of a major jam.

Hernandez hit three batters, allowed a season-high tying six earned runs and walked four.

Padilla was activated from the disabled list on Tuesday and won for the first time since July 25 against Oakland. After the stint on the DL with a strained left hamstring, Padilla (13-7) showed very little rust, not allowing an earned run, and giving up six hits. He added five strikeouts and won his 10th road

game of the season.

Warner Madrigal got the final four outs for his first career save.

While Padilla rolled through the Mariners lineup, Hernandez (9-10) lost for the fourth time this year to the Rangers. Just a week ago, Hernandez allowed one run in 7 1-3 innings against the Rangers in hitter-friendly Arlington, yet looked nothing like that on Tuesday.

Byrd's double in the first came when Ibanez jumped into the padded fence, but slightly misjudged the ball and had it fall between his arms and the fence. Arias and Josh Hamilton scored on the play.

## JONES

Continued from Page 1B

"No, I didn't think like that," Jones said, laughing. "This is a first game. I had some great holes, really, running lanes I could run through. It kind of worked out in my favor at that point in time. We have a long season ahead of us. You never know what can happen."

That's for sure. Now that coaches have seen what Jones can do, the Cowboys might look for more creative ways to use their newest weapon.

"He has patience when he runs with the football and when he sees the hole, he gets through it," coach Wade Phillips said. "He made one run to his right where he cut up the field and accelerated past two or three

guys that looked like they could have made the normal tackle on some backs. But they didn't make the tackle on him."

Jones' dazzling debut set to rest any lingering questions about why Dallas spent its top draft pick on a guy who backed up Darren McFadden in college and would be backing up Marion Barber here.

The joke was that Jerry Jones was determined to take an underclassman from his alma mater, Arkansas, and settled for Jones when McFadden wasn't available.

The Razorbacks connection seemed even stronger considering the Cowboys could've taken Rashard Mendenhall, a featured back in college who was expected to be drafted much earlier. It also was the first time since 1997 that Dallas took an offensive player in the first round.

The 1-2 combination of smash-mouth runner Barber and the speedy Jones didn't happen in the first half.

In fact, Jones didn't get his first carry until Barber was in the locker room with bruised ribs.

Still, the change of pace worked to perfection.

While Jones had the luxury of a huge hole to run through, he got to it and through faster than Barber would've — and the faster than the Browns expected. Running backs coach Skip Peete said defensive Shaun Rogers didn't even look up to try finding Jones until he was already into the secondary.

"It was just a matter of finding a lane and hitting it," Jones said.

Jones laughed when asked if he and Barber are a thunder-and-lightning type of combina-

tion.

He knows speed is his forte, but he's proud to point out several up-the-middle runs against Cleveland.

"It just shows that I am not just an outside guy," he said. "Running between the tackles is something I enjoy doing anyway. It gets us close to the end zone."

Things weren't perfect, though.

Jones got a reminder about picking up his knees in the open field to avoid shoestring tackles, like the one that prevented him from having two touchdowns on his first two carries.

He also got a reminder about the importance of handling his blitz assignments because a guy he failed to slow wound up forcing Tony Romo to throw sooner than he wanted, resulting in an interception in the end zone.

But Jones also learned from that, doing a better job of blocking on the following series.

"I'm never satisfied," Jones said. "I believe I can always get better."

Barber's ribs are expected to heal in time to start Monday night against Philadelphia. He may or may not miss some practice time, although extra practice-field carries for Jones might be a good idea anyway.

"I understand that you've got to get that rotation going for players in the first group," Jones said. "I'm just here to learn the offense and wait for my turn. The coaches are coaches for a reason. When my time comes, I just take advantage of my opportunity. ... I'm very confident in what I can do on the field. Just going out there and just making it happen is what makes you feel great."

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# Why not check this out? At the library

It was gratifying to see everyone waiting at the door for our first fall "open" Saturday at the library. You are invited on Saturdays, too! Remember, if we have either a Monday or Friday holiday, the library will be closed Saturday so that staff may enjoy a long weekend.



HOLLIS  
MCCRIGHT

We have quite a few books still coming in and while I do try to read each one, I usually don't have the time. I rely upon Amazon.Com for many of the reviews. Booklist or Library Journal are other resources that have excellent reviews. When those sources are not available, I usually take excerpts from the book flap to have some idea of what the book is about.

## Non-fiction

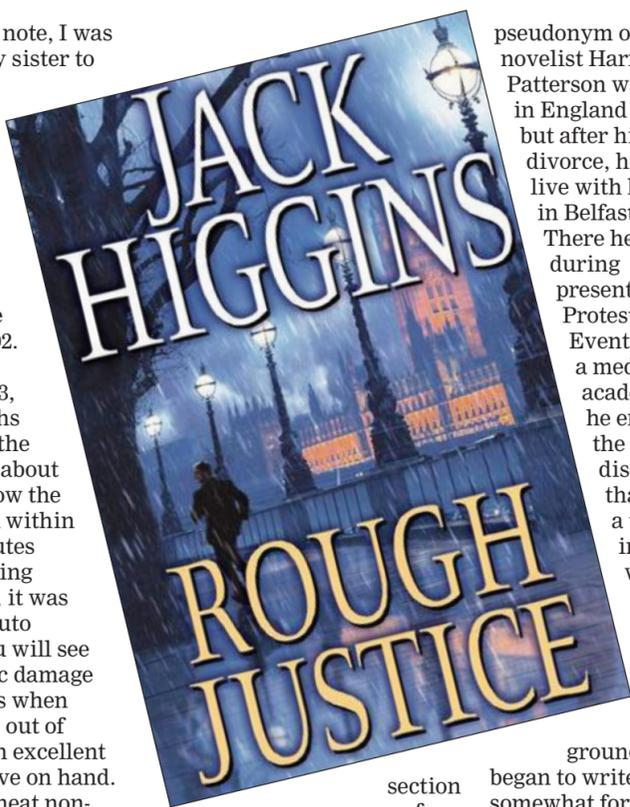
A new non-fiction book just in from the Texas A&M University Press is "Flash Floods in Texas" (551.489 BUR J), by Jonathan Burnett. Burnett notes in his acknowledgements that he could not have written this book without immense assistance from many people and other sources. Libraries, museum, historical commissions — the list goes on as primary and secondary research sources. The first flood he recounts is the Austin flood of 1900 and ends with the Guadalupe River Flooding in 2002. On

a personal note, I was driving my sister to Austin via 281 on a sunny

afternoon and crossed the bridge over the Guadalupe in July 2002. If you look on Page 293, photographs show that the water was about 10 foot below the bridge and within a few minutes of us crossing the bridge, it was closed to auto traffic. You will see the horrific damage that occurs when water goes out of control. An excellent book to have on hand.

Another neat non-fiction book is "The Amazing Book of Useless Information" (031.02 BOT N), compiled by Noel Botham and The Useless Information Society. Here are some facts to tempt you: Nabisco's Oreo cookies sells at least six billion cookies a year; the first Oreo appeared in 1931. The Japanese word for carrot is ninjin. So a ninja is someone who eats carrots? Earth is the only planet not named after a god. And for the finale: All 13 minerals necessary for human life can be found in alcoholic beverages. Now, how about a book on four-letter words? Check out Michelle Arnot's "Four-Letter Words and Other Secrets of a Crossword Insider" (793.732 ARN M).

Frank Goodwyn is the son of the King Ranch's



section manager for the Norias Division. Growing up on the ranch, he was exposed to an early age to ranch life and habits. Goodwyn writes of the fun and games in prickly mazes of mesquite, the real work on roping, branding, dipping and working the cattle and perhaps most important of all, the life lessons learned from his compadres. First written in 1951, it has been republished by the Texas A&M University Press. "Life on the King Ranch" (976.447 GOO F) by Frank Goodwyn is the essential ranch story, whether in the breaks of West Texas, the mountains of Montana or the plains of the Great American Desert.

## Fiction

Jack Higgins is the

pseudonym of British novelist Harry Patterson. Patterson was born in England in 1929 but after his parent's divorce, he went to live with his mother in Belfast, Ireland. There he grew up during the ever present Catholic/Protestant conflict. Eventually after a mediocre academic career, he enlisted in the Army and discovered that he had a talent for intelligence work and was an excellent sharp-shooter. With this back-

ground, he began to write several somewhat forgettable action thrillers. It wasn't until his book, "The Eagle Has Landed" in 1975, that he really began his writing career. With the development of two characters, Liam Devlin and Sean Dillon (both Irish), his subsequent books became more sophisticated with serious character development and plot structure. Higgins' newest book, "Rough Justice," combines both the American and the British role in the Balkan province of Kosovo. There is considerable amount of double-dealing, revenge and the like by both the Americans and the British. An excellent thriller and the library has quite a few that can be checked out for the "back" history.

## Also...

Doris Lessing won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2007. Lessing explores the lives of her parents, both of whom were terribly damaged by the Great War (also known as World War I). Her father, injured by shrapnel, wore a wooden leg the rest of his life. Lessing's mother nursed the wounded in the Royal Free Hospital after her great love, a doctor, drowned. In the first half, Lessing writes the story of her parent's lives as if the Great War had not happened. The second half examines their lives as it occurred in the shadow of the war. The reviews have

been excellent and is well worth a read. 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 one-half 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). Our Web site should be changing within a month or two and it will be much more intuitive and perhaps easier to navigate.

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.

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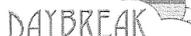
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29839

# For some Sept. 11 families, wait continues for remains of relatives

By JENNIFER LIN  
MCT

PHILADELPHIA — Judi Reiss was deciding what to cook for dinner on July 15 when the phone rang in the kitchen of her Lower Makefield, Pa., home.

The voice was official. "This is the Medical Examiner's Office of the City of New York," the woman said.

Judi's throat tightened. Her eyes filled. She knew what would come next. She had been through this before.

Twice before. "We have more remains of your son, Joshua. A metatarsal bone."

"That's a foot bone?"

"Yes."

The room blurred as her mind snapped back to another morning in that kitchen, seven years before, when she prayed for her son to escape his burning office.

The work of identifying the 21,741 fragments of human remains from the wreckage of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11,

2001, continues today with the same determination as before.

Mary Fetchet, a founder of the family support group Voices of September 11th, has gotten six calls, the most recent in May. Each announced that a piece of tissue or bone had been linked to her 24-year-old son, Brad.

After the first time, some families asked not to be notified again. But not Reiss; not Fetchet. "As a mother, I would want at some point to bury as much of my son as I could," said Fetchet, of New Canaan, Conn.

For the nation, the memory of that day fades with each year. But for 1,126 families without remains, the wait continues for science to deliver them evidence of their relatives.

The identification process is slow. Since 2006, only 22 new people have been identified through DNA matching of remains. But the pace does not matter, said Ellen Borakove, a spokeswoman for the Medical Examiner's Office.

New York's chief medical examiner, Charles Hirsch, has made a commitment to families to do whatever he can, to use whatever new technology is available, Borakove said. Of the 2,751 victims of the trade center attack, 1,625 have been identified.

Not long after Sept. 11, the Reiss family returned to Josh's apartment on West 57th Street.

Josh was the second of five children of Judi and Gary, who own men's clothing stores in Trenton and Ewing, N.J. A bond trader for Cantor Fitzgerald, Josh was 23, earning six figures and living large in Manhattan.

At his apartment, the family gathered up his toothbrush, his hairbrush, even his underwear - all items requested by the Medical Examiner's Office for DNA testing.

At New York's Lexington Avenue Armory, which became a center for families of victims, everyone in the Reiss family had his or her mouth swabbed.

DNA samples would prove to be the most important tool for investigators, used solely or jointly in 88 percent of the identifications.

A few months after Sept. 11, workers at ground zero found Josh's company ID, which he usually clipped to his belt. A little later, they recovered his wallet with its credit cards and some money.

Police did not return the wallet to the family, but did issue a check for the amount inside. "Down to the penny," said Judi, 59.

Then, in May 2002, Judi and Gary were taking their daughter to a bat mitzvah in New Jersey when their youngest son, Jon, called Judi's cell phone.

"They found Josh," he told her.

Gary swung the car to the side of the road. The news they had craved and dreaded engulfed them in renewed grief.

The family buried Josh at Ewing Cemetery. According to Jewish custom, his remains - most likely part of his torso - were shrouded in white. His gravestone is etched with an image of the twin towers.

Less than a year later, the family got a second call from the medical examiner.

Judi didn't know what to do. How do you handle a second burial? "There are no Jewish laws for this, no traditions," she said. "Am I supposed to sit shiva again?"

This time, the Reisses did not go to the gravesite for a second burial. Their rabbi from Adath Israel in Lawrenceville, N.J., Daniel Grossman, advised them not to.

"It was just too much for me," Judi said.

In midtown Manhattan, a big tent sits on a former parking lot next to the medical examiner's offices near First Avenue and 30th Street. The site is called



Philadelphia Inquirer/MCT/ Clem Murray

Judi Reiss stands by her son Joshua Scott Reiss' name, which is etched into the glass railing surrounding the twin fountains in the 9/11 Memorial Park in Lower Makefield. Joshua died in the 9/11 World Trade Center attack.

Memorial Park.

Inside are humidity-controlled metal closets for storing pouches of remains. Each pouch is identified with a bar code and number.

Once the city finishes a permanent memorial for victims at ground zero, items still not identified will be moved there, Borakove said. Currently, there are 9,519 unidentified fragments.

The destruction of the World Trade Center pushed to the limits the ability of forensic investigators to identify victims. Fewer than 300 bodies were recovered intact.

Investigators have used DNA, dental X-rays, fingerprints, photos, tattoos, body X-rays and photos to identify remains.

In early 2005, Hirsch, the medical examiner, announced to families that

his office had gone as far as it could with available technology. But he was careful to say the investigation had "paused," not ended.

Robert C. Shaler, who was in charge of DNA identification of World Trade Center victims and now directs the forensic science department at Pennsylvania State University, said investigators had to wait for technology to catch up with them.

"The families were critical. It was their grief and continued support and emotions that infiltrated every part of my soul," Shaler said. "They're the ones who kept us going."

Technology did catch up. In January 2006, the Medical Examiner's Office resumed sampling, employing new methods for extracting DNA from compromised bone samples. A new computer system used principles of probability to interpret data.

At the same time, hundreds of new remains were found on the roof of the Deutsche Bank building and at other locations around ground zero.

With the process beginning anew, investigators matched an additional 758 specimens to individuals who had previously been identified.

One of those was Josh Reiss.

Judi said her religion prevented her from refusing to take possession of any of her son's remains. Jewish law, she said, dictates that the body cannot be desecrated.

"I want him," she said.

It's like the ongoing search for remains of soldiers missing in action in Vietnam. The World Trade Center was attacked, and families want evidence that their relatives lived — and died.

For Sept. 11 families, there is an added dimension that is hard to suppress. It is wanting to know what happened in those last moments.

Judi has a theory about Josh. Like a forensic detective, she has looked at the evidence — the company ID card, the intact wallet, the large amount of remains.

She has concluded that her son probably jumped. "I can see him taking a chance that something might break his fall rather than just waiting to die," Judi said.

"I'd like to know he went down fighting."

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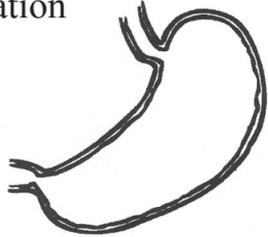
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# Head lice: How to handle this common problem

**W**ith the new school year starting, many kids are excited to get back to the classroom and play with friends. However, parents are not so enthusiastic about the possibility of their children being infected with head lice. Lice are tiny insects that live in the scalp and survive by sucking blood. While they can affect anyone, children are most at risk. In fact, one in every 10 children in a



RYAN WILLIAMS  
PA-C

school setting is infected with head lice each year. Head lice are contagious but do not spread disease. They spread in group settings such as schools, camps and playgrounds. Sharing anything that involves head-to-head contact, such as hats, brushes and bed linens is the most common way children are infected. Head scratching and itching is the most common symptom of head lice. Your child may complain about irritation of the scalp. For some, a rash might appear, while others may notice small sores, red bumps or swelling of the lymph glands in the neck. In extreme cases, a bacterial infection can occur. If you suspect

an infection, contact your child's healthcare provider for a prescription antibiotic. Even though head lice are very small, they are still visible. Always check the scalp, neck and behind the ears. Lice eggs, known as nits, are found on the skin's surface closest to the hair shafts. Eggs hatch after a week and lice survive up to three days. Check your child's scalp for eggs that resemble sesame seeds. Part the hair into small sections and use a fine-tooth comb to check for lice. Combing the head lice out is easiest when the hair is wet. If you're having trouble, use a bright light or a magnifying glass for better visibility.

To effectively treat lice, it is important that every affected person in a family, classroom or other group that shares close space be treated at the same time. Medicated shampoos and creams are available with a prescription or over-the-counter. To avoid subsequent infections, repeat treatment in one week. Even if shampoo treatment works immediately, the itching and scratching may persist for a few days. Be sure to wash all clothing and bed linens with hot water and dry on the hot dryer cycle. Soak hair items such as barrettes, hair bands or brushes in rubbing alcohol or shampoo for an hour. It is important to check

with your child's school to determine if other students have recently been infected with head lice. If your child has been infected, notify your school immediately so they can be aware if other infections occur. Children who are found to have head lice at school are generally sent home until the problem is corrected. In addition, a note will be sent home with the other children in the class or school, asking parents to watch their children closely and to im-

mediately treat any problem that develops. Remember, being infected with head lice does not mean your child has bad hygiene. Any child can be infected. To prevent head lice, teach children to avoid head-to-head contact and not to share items like brushes and hats. If your child is still infected two weeks after you have started treatment, notify your healthcare provider immediately for other treatment options.

# Rising bill for new drugs threatens to overwhelm patients and employers

By CAROL M. OSTROM  
MCT

SEATTLE — Sally Garcia, a 53-year-old lawyer disabled by multiple sclerosis, was torn. A new-generation medication, Copaxone, was really working for her. After two decades of being in and out of hospitals, Garcia was taking steps to work again.

Her wallet, though, was in severe distress. Under her Medicare prescription plan, Garcia's share of the expensive drug was \$330 per month. All together, medications were taking a third of her disability payments — her only income — and she couldn't swing it.

Copaxone, Enbrel, Remicade: For some patients, such new-generation drugs, often called "biologicals" or "bioengineered" when they are created by genetically modified living cells, have performed magic. In some cases, they work when other drugs have failed, or for diseases that previously had no drug treatments at all.

But they cost a lot — often \$2,000 to \$3,000 per month. And in a double whammy, some insured patients who previously paid a fixed amount — likely \$30 to \$50 even for the most expensive, brand-name drugs — are suddenly finding the rules have changed.

For these new drugs, an increasing number of patients must pay a percentage of the tab, generally 25 to 30 percent. For many of those patients, that can mean a bill of \$600 to \$900 a month for a drug that they may need for many years.

The rising bill for such complex drugs threatens to financially overwhelm patients and employers, and — if current trends continue — to unravel the very philosophy of health insurance.

"The idea of insurance is to protect people from catastrophic costs," says Gary Claxton, director of the Healthcare Marketplace Project for the Kaiser Family Foundation.

"At some point, people aren't going to consider themselves insured if they're at risk for a huge amount out-of-pocket just because they have one disease rather than another."

Today, such drugs are prescribed relatively rarely. But their use is expected to explode.

In 2007, the tab for bioengineered and "specialty" drugs was nearly \$59 bil-

lion. Industry analysts predict it will reach \$98 billion by 2011.

"The reality is that this is where the pharmaceutical industry is focusing their research," says Jim Carlson, Group Health Cooperative's pharmacy director.

The pharmaceutical industry long has been accused of price gouging and producing "new" drugs that aren't better than cheaper ones already on the market, and it has been criticized for its direct-to-patient advertising.

In response, the industry points to long periods of expensive research and development that often end without new products. Healthy profits attract investors to fund new research, it argues, and advertising helps patients make informed choices.

The emergence of bioengineered drugs has dramatically magnified these disputes. Most are produced through complicated, delicate procedures that are difficult to replicate.

Unlike a typical oral pill, the new bioengineered drugs have no simple chemical "recipe" that

can be easily followed by another company. In fact, the federal Food and Drug Administration has no process yet for creating a generic version, in this world often called a "biosimilar."

Most often given as injections for diseases such as advanced breast cancer, rheumatoid arthritis or MS, bioengineered drugs can be lifesavers.

"The costs might be out of the ballpark, but in the past, without that drug, the person might not be living or not living any type of quality of life," says SuAnn Stone, director of pharmacy services for Regence BlueShield, one of Washington's largest insurers.

For patients and employers, the costs can be huge, particularly since many are targeted at chronic diseases that can require long-term treatment.

Typical bioengineered drug treatments for rheumatoid arthritis now run about \$16,000 a year, says Dr. Philip Mease, director of rheumatology research for Swedish Medical Center.

At Premera Blue Cross,

another large local insurer, such unique "specialty" drugs account for 1 percent of pharmacy claims, but 15 percent of the costs.

Because such specialty drugs are so expensive, most Medicare "Part D" prescription-drug plans and a small but increasing number of private insurance plans have isolated them — either by type or by price — into a separate category that requires patients to pay more. Usually, the patient is asked to pick up a percentage of the cost, rather than a fixed co-payment.

Patients with chronic illnesses, who could need the drug for years, are getting hit hardest by the change, says Dan Mendelson, president of Avalere Health,

SEE DRUGS, PAGE 8A

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**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

The moon has entered "no-moon's land," the space between Capricorn and Aquarius. The "void-of-course" moon is not a rare event, but one full of astrological lore — it's believed that nothing of consequence will happen. One astrologically astute ex-president used this to advantage by holding press conferences during these "void" times.



**HOLIDAY MATHIS**

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You're mature. Your mood is independent of the things that are happening around you. Because of your calm strength, people will gravitate toward you and use you as their rock.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). It doesn't matter what task it is; if you decide to do it, you'll do it. Finding a task that's worthy of you is the real trick. Be extremely judicious about where you put your energy.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Everything has meaning. But sometimes finding the meaning is more work than it's worth. Try not to obsess over the nuances. Take life as it comes and make as few judgments as possible.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Your water-sign intuition is turned up, so you see what's going on even when others think there's not much happening. You'll read between the lines, listen between the words and think between the thoughts.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). The assistance of your guardian angel comes through new sources. You could find guidance in a book, a phone call from a friend or a group of friendly people who support each other in figuring out life's problems.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your low profile gets more attention than someone else's stint in the spotlight. So if you feel someone is honing in on your stage, let them. You shine in your gracious modesty.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Rally the troops. Gather them up and strategize about how

you'll make a big push to the finish line of a project. You can meet impossible deadlines now, with the strength of the collective.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Stray from your familiar clan to have a conversation with someone of a completely different worldview. You still won't agree. You'll have to stretch your mind just to understand — and that's the whole point.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your favorite kind of challenge is an unexpected one. Your superpowers kick in when you're met with surprise difficulties. And the best part is, the right someone will be watching you in action.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's not fair to compare your level of productivity to those around you. In many cases you're capable of more. It's of utmost importance that you try and better your own best.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're not a pack rat, but today you'll notice things worth saving. Maybe they're collectable or perhaps just sentimental. Either way, you'll be glad you preserved them.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You're up to something big and exciting. But beware. Once you start talking about it, you get others involved. They might be jealous or more helpful than you currently need. For now, keep this on the down low.

**ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS:** "I'm an Aquarius born 1/30/78 at 11:52 a.m. My husband is a Sag born 12/19/75 at 6:15 a.m. We were both born in Brooklyn, N.Y. I'm wondering when we should start trying to get pregnant."

I'm more ready than he is ... and I don't want to push him, but I feel my clock ticking. Some days I want a baby so bad, and other days I want to focus on my career. I think I can do both, but I'm scared of not being able to."

Do not ask for whom the biological clock ticks — it ticks for thee! Your husband has social and/or family pressures, but he has no such clock. And lucky you, his Sagittarian sun is tempered by a Cancer moon, so he has a wonderful nesting instinct.

However, that moon aspects Pluto: He's conflicted about having a child, and for deeply personal reasons that aren't easily accessible. Your questions show your exceptional self-awareness.

A counselor might help you sort through the complicated feelings accompanying this decision. Children, when to have them and how they fit into your life, will take precedence for the next three years. July 2009 and January 2010 are key times.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** A talent Virgo people are known for is strictly organizational. Whether alphabetizing a DVD collection or coordinating a community, the size of an effort may vary, but the gratification received seemingly knows no scale for Virgo. Harry Connick Jr. put his organizational talents to use when he formed a music collective to benefit Hurricane Katrina rebuilding efforts.

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DRUGS

Continued from Page 7A

a national health-policy analysis firm.

"It gets to the fundamental question of 'What is insurance?'" he said.

As advances in medicine become ever more costly, insurance that requires heavy cost-sharing from patients for pricey drugs is likely a "microcosm of medicine's future," predicts a commentary in a recent New England Journal of Medicine.

The authors warn: "At some point in our lives, we may all join that small pool of users of high-cost care."

Traci Ohlsen, a nurse, had rheumatoid arthritis

as a child, but the crippling disease was in remission for years. Seven years ago, it came back hard, attacking her back, hips, neck and hands, and producing debilitating fatigue.

She tried several biotech drugs but couldn't tolerate the side effects. Finally, she tried Orencia, given by intravenous infusion in a doctor's office.

Her doctor prescribed three infusions, at \$4,500 each. After two, she began feeling well enough to return to part-time work.

But Ohlsen, 44, of Renton, recently put off the third infusion when her insurer balked. She realized she might already owe \$9,000, she said, and didn't want to add to the tab.

"If I end up having to pay for those last two infusions

**"This is going to go on until the day I die. I'll be this 90-year-old lady fighting for her Copaxone."**

... I would have to file for bankruptcy," she said.

As costly drugs become more commonly prescribed, employers, who buy most private health insurance, are watching warily.

"They want to keep employees and be good employers, but there is a lot of pressure on the cost of health care right now," said Group Health Cooperative spokesman Michael Foley.

Everyone recognizes the ethical dilemma: Do you make the sickest pay the most, or do you require everyone to foot the bill? Will costs raise premiums so much that some employers drop drug coverage or even health insurance itself?

Some insurers argue that requiring patients to pay a percentage keeps the patient's share more proportionate to the drug costs, and therefore more fair — and more tolerable to employers.

"We're trying to make sure that the benefit is kept affordable for the other 1,000 employees in

the company," said Susan Pisano, spokeswoman for America's Health Insurance Plans, an industry group.

That group says doctors sometimes prefer newer drugs even with scant evidence that they work better than older, less-expensive drugs.

In the recent past, most insurance plans covered prescription drugs in three "tiers," requiring flat co-payments ranging from \$5 or \$10 for generics to several times that for brand-name drugs not "preferred" by the insurer.

But that appears to be changing, with Medicare Part D plans, the stand-alone prescription drug plans set up by Congress in 2003, leading the way.

Now, 86 percent of such plans have a "fourth tier" requiring higher cost-sharing — up to 33 percent — for more expensive drugs, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Sometimes injectable biotech drugs are covered under medical benefits because they require doctor visits. That's typically true for the asthma drug Xolair, which can cost \$30,000 a year, and some arthritis biotech drugs.

Insurers say that when there's convincing evidence a drug works better,

it's moved to their "preferred" list.

But insurers can disagree. For example, Tykerb, for advanced breast cancer, is a preferred drug at Premera but not at Regence.

For patients, the rules can get really confusing.

Jeanne Sather, 53, a 10-year cancer survivor in Seattle who lives on Social Security disability payments, recently discovered that her new Medicare Part D plan required her to pay \$1,600 a month for Tykerb.

That would leave her \$900 a month to live on.

"For me, Tykerb is a fabulous drug," Sather said. "... But obviously, I can't pay this."

Escalating cost-sharing tiers for drugs originally were developed to encourage patients to use lower-cost generics or "therapeutically equivalent" brands, noted Claxton, of the Healthcare Marketplace Project.

But, with the development of costly bioengineered drugs, insurers may have found a new use for the tier system.

When patients have no less-expensive choice, Avalere's Mendelson argues, cost tiers simply punish patients instead of encouraging thrifty, healthy behavior.

"These tiering policies

don't accomplish that. They just stick it to the chronically ill."

Many programs exist to help patients with expensive medications, but patients often say they're difficult to negotiate.

Sally Garcia, the MS patient, has struggled to pay for Copaxone, "the only drug that worked for me," for five years.

Off and on, she's received help, but never for long. Last year, she dashed off an anguished letter to government agencies and every politician she could find.

"I ask you, 'How could the wealthiest nation in the world allow their disabled to go without medications specifically designed to promote their quality of life?'" she beseeched them.

For three months, she got help from the National MS Society's local chapter, and she switched plans.

Then, out of the blue, she began getting aid from an organization she says she's never heard of and never contacted.

She's grateful, but she worries the help will vanish as mysteriously as it arrived.

"This is going to go on until the day I die," she predicts. "I'll be this 90-year-old lady fighting for her Copaxone."

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			4	6	7	5		
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2		6						
7	4	5	9					6

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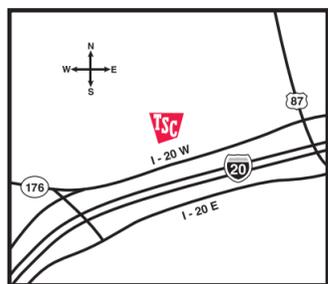
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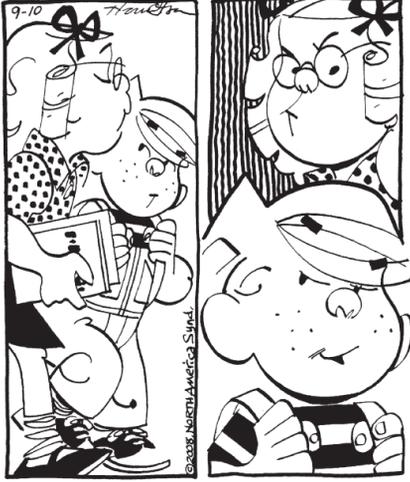
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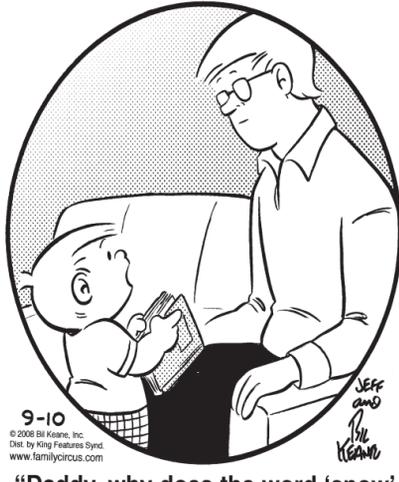
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5 :PM	News	News	Locura	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	Friends	Cortes	News	Cash Cab	Magnificent Seven, Steve McQueen	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards	Horn	SportsCenter	
6 :PM	ABC	ABC	Noticiero	Lopez	CBS	Noticiero	NBC	Raymond	Israel	Business	Cash Cab	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	Suite Life	Interrupt	Footbal	MLB	
7 :PM	Entertain	Jeopardy!	Enemiga	Two Men	Entertain	12 Corazonas	Millionaire	Raymond	Hagee	Made	Made	Movie: Midway, James Coburn	Law & Order	Blk Car Some	Movie: Twitches Too	Soccer	Baseball: Teams to Be Announced.	
8 :PM	Billy Graham Special	Billy Graham Special	Diablo-Guapones	Bones	American Dog	El Juramento	Fam. Guy	Israel	Natural-Chickn	NextWorld	Great Performances	UFC Un-leashed	Law & Order	Movie: Hustle & Flow, Taryn Manning	Wizards	Movie: Kick-ling It	Baseball Tonight	
9 :PM	Supernanny	Supernanny	Fuego en la Sangre	'Til Death Do Not	Criminal Minds	Doña Barbara	Payne	Payne	Light of the Southwest	Man vs. Wild	Encore	UFC Un-leashed	Movie: A Time to Kill, Matthew McConaughey	Wizards	Life De	SportsCenter		
10 :PM	Primetime	Primetime	Don Francisco	TMZ	CSI: NY	Sin Senos	Law Order: CI	Payne	Friends	Israel	Charlie Rose	MANswers	Movie: Hustle & Flow, Taryn Manning	Comic	Montana	Baseball		
11 :PM	Nightline	Nightline	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Friends	Dr. Young	Made	Made	Movie: Letters From Iwo Jima, Tsuyoshi Ihara	Star Trek: Voyager	Without a Trace	Kim	College Football: Teams to Be Announced		
12 :AM	Insider	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Hora de la Risa	Cl	Late Late Show	Decisiones	Late Night	Sex & Scott	Smiley	NextWorld	Smiley	CSI: Crime Scn	Without a Trace	Without a Trace	Without a Trace	Without a Trace	SportsCenter	
1 :AM	Paid	Paid	Amarte-Pecado	RENO 911	Insider	Programa Pagado	News	News	News	News	Man vs. Wild	Movie: The Longest Day, Howard W. French	Without a Trace	Without a Trace	Without a Trace	Without a Trace	SportsCenter	

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BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 10, the 254th day of 2008. There are 112 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 10, 1608, John Smith was elected president of the Jamestown colony council in Virginia.

On this date:

In 1813, an American naval force commanded by Oliver H. Perry defeated the British in the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812.

In 1846, Elias Howe received a patent for his sewing machine.

In 1935, Sen. Huey P. Long, "The Kingfish" of Louisiana politics, died in Baton Rouge two days after being shot.

In 1939, Canada declared war on Nazi Germany.

In 1945, Vidkun Quisling was sentenced to death in Norway for collaborating with the Nazis (he was executed by firing squad in October 1945).

In 1948, American-born Mildred Gillars, accused of being Nazi wartime radio broadcaster "Axis Sally," was indicted in Washington

for treason. (She was later convicted, and served 12 years in prison.)

In 1963, 20 black students entered Alabama public schools following a standoff between federal authorities and Gov. George C. Wallace.

In 1977, convicted murderer Hamida Djandoubi, a Tunisian immigrant, became the last person to date to be executed by the guillotine in France.

In 1983, John Vorster, prime minister of white-ruled South Africa from 1966 to 1978, died in Cape Town at age 67.

In 1987, Pope John Paul II arrived in Miami, where he was welcomed by President Reagan as he began a 10-day tour of the United States.

One year ago: Gen. David Petraeus, the top American commander in Iraq, told Congress he envisioned the withdrawal of roughly 30,000 troops by the summer of 2008, saying the surge in troops had met its military objectives "in large measure."

Today's Birthdays: Golfer Arnold Palmer is 79. Actor Philip Baker Hall is 77. Country singer Tommy Overstreet is 71. Actor Greg Kinnear is 69. Jazz vibraphonist Roy Ayers is 68. Singer Danny Hutton (Three Dog Night) is 66. Singer Jose Feliciano is 63. Actor Tom Ligon is 63. Actress Judy Geeson is 60. Rock musician Joe

Answer to previous puzzle

PEAR	CAPS	SCAB
LURE	ABLE	ALLOT
ARMS	NOEL	TEASE
YOYO	OVAL	OFFICE
	NOPE	NOS
CANARY	LIAR	PUP
ARENA	TONI	LENO
CIRCLE	OFF	FRIENDS
HAVE	VETO	CANES
ESE	MESS	SEVERE
	OER	SIDE
ROUND	TRIPS	SAPS
OWNED	ALOT	OSLO
METAL	MIKE	UPON
SOME	PEER	TSPS

Newsday Crossword SECOND TO NONE by David W. Cromer Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

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