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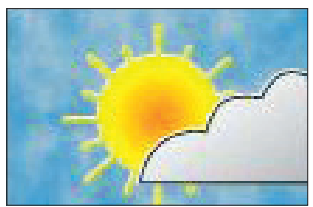

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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**TUESDAY**

**JULY 28, 2009**



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 202

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## 3 injured in shootings, stabbing

*Police say the two acts of violence were apparently unrelated*

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
 Staff Writer

Three Big Spring residents were hospitalized in two separate attacks over the weekend, according to police.

A pair of local residents were injured in a drive-by shooting early Sunday morning in the 1400 block of Tucson, according to law enforcement officials, believed to be

retaliation for a fight earlier in the evening.

A 28-year-old Big Spring man police officials declined to identify was shot in the left thigh, according to Sgt. Tony

Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department.

A second victim — 20-year-old Britnee Rios — was shot twice during the drive-by,

suffering wounds to her right hip and right lower leg, according to police reports.

Both were transferred to the See **VIOLENCE**, Page 3



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

**Big Spring Police Chief Lonnie Smith, right, addresses the Howard County commissioners court Monday morning as County Attorney Joshua Hamby, center, and Sheriff Stan Parker look on. The county approved an agreement between the BSPD and the sheriff's office that will provide animal control services to the county.**

## Under pact, city to supply animal control for county

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
 Staff Writer

An agreement approved Monday morning by Howard County commissioners should help curtail some of the ongoing animal problems outside the city limits, as the local sheriff's office and Big Spring Police Department get ready to work together on the issue.

The inter-local agreement will provide animal control services and crime scene investigation services to the county in return for use of the county jail facility by the municipal police force.

"With this agreement we would extend our animal control services that we provide for the city residents to residents in the cities of

Coahoma and Forsan, as well as the county residents," said Smith. "If they need an animal control officer after hours, they could contact the sheriff's dispatch and they would send someone out to verify the need, and then authorize the call to the animal control officer. It's

See **PACT**, Page 3

## Utility fees to see hike

*City plans to pass CRMWD water rate increase to consumers*

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
 Staff Writer

Big Spring water and sewer customers can expect to see their bills rise during the coming fiscal year, as city officials try to revive a sinking utility fund with hikes in both rates.

"It looks like they (Colorado River Municipal Water District) are going to increase our cost 6 percent, which means about \$175,000," City Manager Gary Fuqua told the council.

"We're looking at passing that cost along because our revenue source will not allow us to absorb it.

"To get that \$175,000 back, we would have to pass it along to our customers. That would be an increase of \$1.75 per month on the base rate of the water utility system, which would bring us \$178,500, which allows us to break even. This rate could fluctuate some, depending on the sale of water. If we have a dry year and buy more water, then it's going to cost us more."

The new budget would also call for an increase of \$1.25 in the base rate for sewer service for residential customers, bringing the total rate to \$13. The increase in the base rate would equal \$125,000. The plan also calls for a 20-cent increase in consumption, bringing that rate to \$1.50, generating \$95,000.

Commercial customers will also see an increase in their sewer rates, with \$3.25

See **FEES**, Page 3



Fuqua

## Osborn hired as financial director for Brownfield ISD

**By STEVE REAGAN**  
 Staff Writer

**FORSAN** — School district officials here hope to have a new elementary principal named by as early as next Monday.

Steve Osborn, who has guided Elbow Elementary for the past several years, announced his resignation effective Aug.

1. He will become financial director for Brownfield Independent School District. Brownfield school trustees hired him during their July 20 meeting.

Osborn has been very active with the school district and community during his time in Elbow. The school earned superior ratings from



Osborn

six years ago after a short ten-

ure as an assistant principal with Big Spring ISD.

He came to Elbow

the Texas Education Agency each year he was at the helm, including an "Exemplary" rating — the highest possible — after the 2007-2008 school year.

He came to Elbow six years ago after a short tenure as an assistant principal with Big Spring ISD.

"But we're also terribly ex-

cited for him," Johnson added.

See **OSBORN**, Page 3



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## Obituaries

### Helen Howton Thweatt

Helen Howton Thweatt, 97, formerly of Luxora, Ark., died Wednesday, July 22, 2009, at a local nursing facility in Abilene. Visitation was at the First Baptist Church in Luxora, Ark., at 2 p.m. Sunday, July 26, followed by the funeral at 3 p.m. Officiating was the Rev. Jackie Wood. Burial is in Violet Cemetery in Osceola, Ark.

Helen was born in Osceola, Ark., July 26, 1911, to Dr. Oleander and Edith Howton. She graduated from Luxora High School, William Woods College and Northwestern University, followed by a short career as an English teacher. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Luxora since 1925 and a Sunday School teacher there for nearly 80 years. She was a charter member of the Luxora Book Club, the Mississippi County Historical and Genealogical Society and the Progressive Club.

Helen is survived by her son, William and wife Wanda Thweatt of Abilene; a daughter, Sandra and Dr. Jim Huston of Midland, formally of Big Spring; a daughter-in-law, Mary Elizabeth Thweatt of Clarksville, Tenn.; 11 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; and six great-great grandchildren.

Helen was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, William Edward Howton; her husband, John Henry Thweatt; a son, John Howton Thweatt; and a great-grandson, Bennet William Huston.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church of Luxora, Ark., 72358, The American Cancer Society, March of Dimes or a charity of your choice.

*Paid obituary*

### Jim Cordes

Jim Cordes, 47, of Big Spring died Sunday, July 26, 2009, at his residence. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 29, 2009, at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Joey Bacon, associate pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, officiating.

Jim was born Aug. 9, 1961, to Barbara and Chester Cordes in Big Spring. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring, having lived in Midland for a short time. He worked as a truck driver until retiring due to ill health.

He is survived by one sister, Jean Thomas; and her husband, Larry Chavis of Temple.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

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

## Take Note

- A benefit fund for stroke victim Rocky Dunlap has been established at Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union, 1110 Benton St. Dunlap has been employed for the past several years as a principal with Big Spring Independent School District.

- The Permian Basin Foundation has awarded West Texas Opportunities funds through the Texas Resources for Iraq Afghanistan Deployment fund. West Texas Opportunities will assist current and former military personnel serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families. Funding will serve Howard, Martin, Andrews, Borden, Dawson, Ector, Fisher, Gaines, Glasscock, Midland, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry and Upton counties. For more information, contact Diana Martinez or Debbie Wilson at 110 Johnson in Big Spring or call (432) 267-9536.

- An account to defray funeral costs for the family of Justin Hernandez has been set up at Western Bank — formerly known as First Bank of West Texas — located on FM 700. Hernandez was killed in a shooting May 29. For more information, contact the bank at 267-1113.

- Baptist Temple will hold Vacation Bible School July 20-24, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., ages 4 through sixth grade.

- Hillcrest Baptist Church will hold Vacation Bible School — Truth Trek — from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. July 26-30 for children in kindergarten through the sixth grade. There will be a kickoff party from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, July 25 with hot dogs, drinks and a big slide. For more information, call 267-1639.

- Road to Recovery, a free service for those in the Big Spring area taking cancer treatments at Allison Cancer in Midland, is still in operation. The coordinator and phone number to call have changed. To get a ride to cancer treatment in Midland, please call Amy Carnes at (432) 334-6121, which is the American Cancer Society office in Odessa. If Amy is out of the office, you may leave your information with Melissa. An alternate number to call is 1-800-ACS-2345, which is the regional patient services offices; they will relay your information to Amy for the local drivers.

## Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity Monday:

- BENITO TORRES, 26, 611 N.E. 10<sup>th</sup>, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- ROSE CUNNINGHAM, 55, 1425 E. Sixth Apt. 21, was arrested on a charge of theft.
- ROBERT MATA, 22, 1511 Johnson, was arrested on two local warrants.
- HAROLD HUMISTON, 33, Richmond, was arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- MEL ALMAZAN, 31, 3607 Dixon, was arrested on a warrant from another agency.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 2500 block of Dow.
- ASSAULT BY THREATS was reported in the 1200 block of Mulberry.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 500 block of 17<sup>th</sup> and the 2500 block of Rebecca.
- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 2600 block of Gregg.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 1100 block of Aylsford.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 800 block of Willia.
- DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED was reported in the 300 block of Gregg.
- THEFT was reported in the 400 block of Birdwell, the 200 block of FM 700 and the 1800 block of FM 700.

## Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity Monday (note: Officials reported 82 prisoners in the county jail):

- MEL ANTHONY ALMAZAN, 31, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a warrant for failure to appear.
- ROSEANNE LESLEY ALVARADO, 23, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of assault Class C/family violence.
- DEBRA AUSBIE, 47, was arrested by deputies on a warrant for failure to appear.
- ROSE SMALE CUNNINGHAM, 55, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of theft over \$50 but less than \$500.
- HAROLD ELDEN HUMISTON, 33, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction.
- JERRY JASON KOLDEN, 37, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- JOHN LEWIS, 17, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- JASON ORTEGA, 28, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of assault Class C/family violence.
- BIANCA CHRISTINE RODRIGUEZ, 19, was arrested by deputies on a charge of criminal mischief over \$50 but less than \$500.

## Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of S. Main. One person was transferred to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported on Val Verde Road. One person was transferred to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of N. Moss Lake Road. One person was transferred to SMMC.

## Support Groups

**TODAY**

- The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St.

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

- Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY**

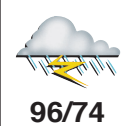

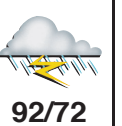
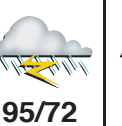

- RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

**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.

## Today's Weather

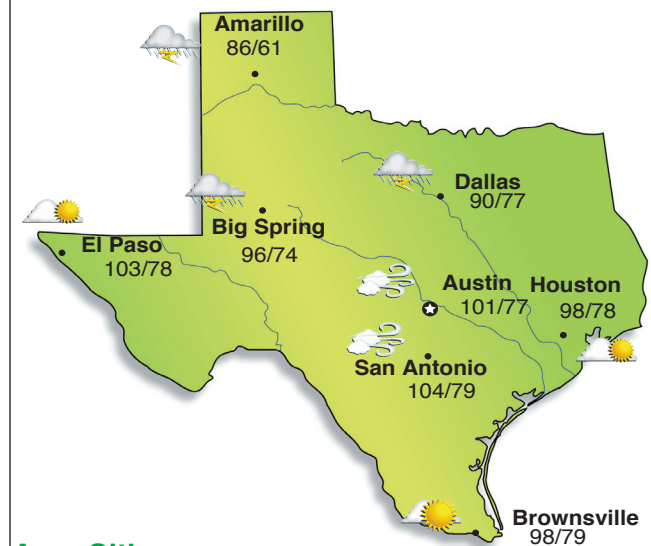
### Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 7/29	Thu 7/30	Fri 7/31	Sat 8/1	Sun 8/2
 <b>96/74</b> Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms possible. High 96F.	 <b>91/69</b> Partly cloudy, chance of a thunderstorm.	 <b>92/72</b> Scattered thunderstorms. High in the low 90s and lows in the low 70s.	 <b>95/72</b> Partly cloudy, chance of a thunderstorm.	 <b>94/72</b> A few thunderstorms possible. High in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.
<b>Sunrise:</b> 6:59 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:45 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:00 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:45 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:00 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:44 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:01 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:43 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:02 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:42 PM



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## Texas At A Glance



### Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	93	75	t-storm	Kingsville	102	79	pt sunny
Amarillo	86	61	t-storm	Livingston	96	76	t-storm
Austin	101	77	windy	Longview	88	77	t-storm
Beaumont	93	78	t-storm	Lubbock	93	68	t-storm
Brownsville	98	79	mst sunny	Lufkin	95	76	t-storm
Brownwood	96	75	t-storm	Midland	99	77	t-storm
Corpus Christi	98	82	windy	Raymondville	103	79	mst sunny
Corsicana	90	76	t-storm	Rosenberg	98	78	pt sunny
Dallas	90	77	t-storm	San Antonio	104	79	windy
Del Rio	104	82	pt sunny	San Marcos	102	77	windy
El Paso	103	78	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	88	77	t-storm
Fort Stockton	98	76	pt sunny	Sweetwater	93	74	t-storm
Gainesville	90	74	t-storm	Tyler	89	76	t-storm
Greenville	88	75	t-storm	Weatherford	92	74	t-storm
Houston	98	78	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	92	72	t-storm

## Bulletin Board

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

**WEDNESDAY**

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Free blood pressure screenings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., provided by InHome Care.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

**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.

**FRIDAY**

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Members bring their own lunch. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.

## Lottery

Results of the Texas Number matching five of five: 0.

Two Step drawing Monday night:  
Winning numbers drawn: 1 - 13 - 14 - 35.  
Bonus Ball: 20.  
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:  
Winning numbers drawn: 19 - 22 - 28 - 30 - 36.

## BIG SPRING HERALD

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## VIOLENCE

Continued from Page 1

emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, where Rios was later taken by helicopter to a medical facility in Lubbock.

According to Everett, the male victim refused to cooperate with law enforcement officials.

Officers responded to the 1400 block of Tucson at approximately 2:57 a.m. Sunday in reference to a report of shots fired," said Everett. "Upon

arrival officers discovered two people had been wounded. EMS responded to the scene and transported both to the emergency room.

"Rios' injuries were serious enough that she was transferred by air evac to Lubbock, while the male subject remained at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Neither suffered life-threatening injuries."

Everett said officers on the scene soon learned the shots — believed to be five in all — were fired from a vehicle traveling through the neighborhood.

"They also learned that the male vic-

tim had been in a fight earlier in the evening, and the shooting may have been retaliation from that incident," said Everett. "

Everett said no other injuries were reported as a result of the drive-by shooting, and no arrests have been made in connection with the shooting at this time.

Another Big Spring man suffered wounds in an unrelated incident during the early morning hours Saturday, according to police records.

Luis Rios III, 24, of Big Spring was stabbed at least three times during a fight reported in the 1400 block of

Bluebird.

"When officers arrived on the scene, the fight had broken up," said Everett. "One of the officers said he had seen several private vehicles headed to the emergency room. Officers responded to the emergency room and found that Rios had been stabbed during the fight."

Everett said Rios was stabbed three times in the left ribcage area.

"His injuries were serious but his condition is stable at this time," he said. "Officers do have leads in the case and the investigation into the incident is ongoing."

## FEES

Continued from Page 1

added to their base rate, bringing it to \$20. The increase is expected to generate \$30,000 in revenues. Commercial customers will also see a 30-cent increase, bringing the consumption charge to \$2, with an estimated increase in revenue of \$100,000.

Fuqua said he hopes the increases will bring the utility fund up from its current level of \$640,610, a balance he described as dismal, at best. The increased revenues are expected to bring the utility fund up to approximately \$995,140, according to fiscal planning for the coming year.

"This is the department that really worries me," said Fuqua. "We've all seen how much it costs just to rehabilitate the equipment at the treatment plants. If something were to fail, we would be looking at some serious

costs, and the fund balance right now couldn't handle it."

The budget — which comes in at \$41 million — would also effectively wipe red ink associated with the Comanche Trail Golf Course and the Municipal Cemetery off the books, allowing both departments a chance to break even.

According to Fuqua, both funds have been operating at a deficit for some time, and while removing their debts from the record simply means shuffling funds without incurring any new debt, it would put them in a similar situation the city placed its service center in years ago.

"If you remember, we did the same thing with the service center some years back. We've tried everything under the sun, and there's just no way to operate the cemetery at anything but a loss," said Fuqua. "With the golf course, we're hoping with time to see it break even, but right now that's just not going to happen.

"The cemetery will cost approximately \$170,000 to operate, and we're expecting revenues to be around \$75,000. It would take a one-time pay-out of \$456,000 to get both out of the red, after which I believe we should look at subsidizing both in the future.

"This is the first year where the budget isn't exactly balanced. However, we're actually \$50,000 in the good if you know where everything is going."

The council also discussed the impending closure of the Municipal Landfill, which Fuqua told the council should be able to operate until approximately 2020. However, according to Assistant City Manager Todd Darden, 10 years isn't all that long when it comes to getting permits to build a new landfill or install new cells in the facility.

"It takes between eight and 10 years to get permitted," said Darden. "There's a facility in Odessa that's 30 years old and still hasn't been permitted."

Fuqua said a permit has al-

ready been issued to build a new cell at the existing landfill, which is expected to cost \$1.7 million. The same construction in 10 years, however, could cost considerably more.

"It costs \$1.7 million right now, regardless of where you put the cell," said Fuqua. "In 10 years, however, I imagine it will cost at least \$2 million. We can do the digging ourselves, but that will require purchasing some new equipment."

The proposed budget also calls for city employees to receive a 3 percent COLA (cost of living adjustment), as well as a 2.5 percent raise for employees who qualify for the merit-based pay raise plan, which would account for 50 percent of all personnel. The increase of pay and benefits is expected to cost \$514,901.

City officials said overtime expenditures continue to be a problem, with the municipality having spent more than \$900,000 during 2008-2009, with \$721,900 expected in 2009-2010. Fuqua attributed

the cost to understaffing, specifically in emergency services.

"Fire and EMS accounted for 41.75 percent of the overtime paid, while the police department accounted for 23.77 percent, which is the vast majority," said Fuqua. "For the first time in a very long time, the fire department was recently fully staffed. Two days later, however, someone left and we faced the same problems."

Despite the obvious bumps and bruises as the result of a topsy-turvy economy, Fuqua said Monday night he believes the budget work session is going well.

"I feel like it's going very well. The council is very open and we're looking at all of the bond projects we're currently doing, and some new projects, such as the swimming pool for next year," said Fuqua. "I'm very impressed the council is looking at raises for our people. I think they deserve it and so much more. I feel like we're off to a good start."

## PACT

Continued from Page 1

the same system we use in the city limits after hours, and with the officer or deputy verifying the need for animal control we're able to keep a handle on our expended overtime.

"We're also asking the cities of Coahoma and Forsan to adopt what ordinances they can that are similar to ours (in Big Spring) so there's a level of uniformity to enforcement. The other thing we're asking has to do with the Texas Rabies Control Act, and that it be honored county-wide."

Smith said the agreement is expected to fuel some expansion in the local animal control office, as well.

"We're talking about adding another animal warden and a kennel person," said Smith. "That way the kennel would basically be able to stay open eight hours a day. Animal control wardens are out picking

up, whether it's in Coahoma, the county or the city, and they go by and drop off (the animals) and the kennel person would take care of it and the wardens would go back to answering calls.

"Right now, at least one of them has to be there two hours a day — once in the morning and once in the evening — to clean and take care of the animals, and if someone wants to redeem or adopt an animal, we have to try to get the kennel opened up so they can see them. By having a kennel person there during the day, it will free up the wardens to work together and get these calls taken care of. For a lot of these animals, it's going to take more than just one person."

Smith said animal control laws and ordinances will be taken care of by the animal control wardens much the same way they are handled within the city limits.

"In the city, if an animal control warden goes

out and finds a violation, and he's trying to take some form of action and there's a conflict, they are instructed to back up and contact a city officer," said Smith. "The officer will go over and listen to the problem and explain the situation to the person. We've heard stories about an animal warden arresting someone and things like that, but that's not true. They don't arrest people, they issue citations. If the person refuses to sign the citation a police officer or deputy would be there to explain the ramifications of not signing the agreement and then they would take action based on them being a law enforcement officer."

Sheriff Stan Parker gave the agreement his stamp of approval, saying the animal problem in the county — especially the problems with stray animals in Coahoma and Sand Springs — is growing with each passing day.

"I think this agreement is a good agree-

ment. We have a lot of animal problems in the county right now — specifically in the city of Coahoma — that need to be addressed," said Parker. "They are just begging for animal services. Also, having access to the crime scene investigation is very good for us. We have a lot of need for that, and based on what we're trading out for the jail, we're going to come out on the better end of this."

Not everyone in attendance of Monday's meeting felt the agreement will solve — or come close to solving — the animal problems in the county.

Local animal expert Melanie Gambrell, who has served on the city of Big Spring's animal control committee in the past, said she has her doubts when it comes to the city's ability to service the entire county.

"We not only have problems with pets, but we also have problems with loose livestock," said Gambrell. "A lot of

the time deputies have to go out and get goats off the highway and cattle off the highway. Will animal control be handling the loose livestock as well?"

"I know much of the time in the city we're shorthanded when it comes to animal control. We have a hard time maintaining enough staff to serve just the city (of Big Spring). What's this going to do for the county residents? Who gets top priority if we get calls in the city and calls in the county? How is that going to be handled? What I'd like to see is the new grant writer to look for funding to put a county animal control officer in place to work along with the city animal control. We have a large county with a big animal control problem. I'm afraid the county residents are going to

get the short end of the stick."

Smith said the animal control wardens will assist the sheriff's office in dealing with loose livestock.

## OSBORN

Continued from Page 1

ed. "This is a great opportunity for him and we wish him the best."

Osborn also has been active in his church and with rodeo and other civic activities during his time in Howard County, Johnson said.

Immediately after Osborn announced his resignation, he and Johnson met with the Elbow staff and formed a search committee, consisting of Johnson,

four teachers and an instructional aide, to find a replacement. After a round of interviews, a finalist for the position has emerged.

"We have a name ready to go to the school board," Johnson said. "We hope to have a special board meeting as early as next Monday."

Johnson would not disclose the finalist's name, but said the person was "someone the committee was very comfortable with."

A reception in Osborn's honor will be held from 5 p.m. to 6

p.m. Aug. 6 at the Elbow campus. The public is invited.

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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

## OUR VIEW

# Library needs our donations for book sale

The call for help has gone out from the Friends of the Library, as they seek donations of books in good condition for their annual book sale in September.

Friends of the Library is a non-profit organization that provides supplemental support for the Howard County Library, giving the facility resources outside the budget provided by county commissioners.

That financial support is perhaps more important now than ever before in the wake of the county's budget cutting measures that have reduced in a smaller budget for the library.

The Friends of the Library has helped financially support the library's summer reading program for children in addition to other projects. However, that kind of support that depends on the generosity of Howard Countians.

If you have books you can donate to the organization's sale, simply go by the Howard County Library and leave them during regular business hours, Monday through Friday. And if at all possible, it would help if donors box their books.

Howard County Librarian Hollis McCright said the group is looking for "nice, used books." That means books being donated need to be in good condition. What's more, the organization is asking that people not donate Reader's Digest condensed books, National Geographics or other magazines.

In addition, anyone wishing to join the Friends of the Library — dues are just \$5 a year. Meetings are held at noon on the fourth Thursday of each month.

For more information about the book sale or any of the library's programs, call 264-2260.

This year's book sale will be held the weekend of Sept. 18-20 in the library's basement and we hope readers will take that opportunity to add to their personal libraries.

They'll not only be enriching their lives, but the lives of others as well.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

## LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- 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.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- 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

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

# 40 years later, we still must reach

On July 20, Texans, Americans and the world at large celebrated the 40th anniversary of the first manned spaceflight to touch down on the Moon.

"Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed."

When astronaut Neil Armstrong spoke those iconic words, he stunned rapt television viewers across our globe while also underscoring that Americans — and Texans in particular — are proud that NASA calls Houston home.

The Apollo program brought us the first photographs of a distant Earth seen from a new perspective, as well as formidable advancements in technology and medicine.

The Apollo anniversary is a reminder that we can overcome challenges and achieve great things. The Senate recently confirmed former astronaut Charles Bolden Jr., as NASA administrator. He has a daunting task ahead of him, as we all await the outcome of the White House-ordered review of the nation's human spaceflight programs, to help us determine the best path forward and to ensure we have the resources to support long term goals.

Our nation faces a possible five-year gap in the ability to put humans in space. This would occur between the planned retirement of the space shuttle program next year and the

earliest possible inauguration of the new Ares rocket and Orion crew capsule in 2015. Such a gap would greatly hinder American scientific research on the International Space Station because it would limit access; to reach the ISS, American astronauts would need to travel on foreign spacecraft, including those from Russia and possibly even China.

I am deeply concerned by our dependence on foreign spacecraft, but even more so by the impact that a five-year gap would have on the creative scientists and engineers who support our manned space programs. The potential loss of their skills during the transition has long-term implications for our state and our nation.

NASA partners with 63 universities and educational centers in Texas to provide new opportunities for medical research and technology. NASA's 50-year tradition of scientific innovation makes it essential to our national defense. Space-based technology plays a preeminent role in modern warfare and intelligence gathering, for example.

NASA's contributions affect ordinary Americans in our day-to-day lives. They include polymer fabrics that protect firefighters and members of the military from extreme temperatures; breakthrough medical technologies such as CAT scans and MRI machines; GPS technology; the satellite telecommunications network; memory foam; space blankets; shock-absorbing padding in football helmets; and advances in weather forecasting, robotics, electronics and search-and-rescue technology.

President John F. Kennedy, whose vision spurred the Apollo missions, once spoke at Rice University and asked, "Why, some say, the moon? Why choose this as our goal? ... Why does Rice play Texas? ... We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills." In the same spirit, I believe now is the time for America to renew its commitment to the scientific research embodied by NASA, the International Space Station and a mission to Mars. Exploration, innovation and discovery are part of the very fiber of our American identity.

The prowess, imagination and courage embodied by America's aviation community have inspired the world for over a century. In only 70 years between 1899 and 1969, American ingenuity propelled us from the early exuberance over the Wright brothers' biplane gliders, to the wonder of Charles Lindbergh's first solo transatlantic flight, and to the astonishment of an American flag on the Moon. As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 spaceflight, let us thank NASA for its extraordinary contributions to our state and our country, and let us strengthen it as it continues to reach for the stars.

*Kay Bailey Hutchison is the senior U.S. Senator from Texas and is the ranking member on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.*



# Let's try a little compassion

Again and again we read in the Bible that Jesus was "moved with compassion." And his compassion was always followed by his healing the sick and feeding the hungry. He even taught about the need for compassion in many of the parables and stories he told to his followers.

In fact, compassion is considered by all of the major religious traditions as among the greatest of virtues.

More than empathy, compassion is defined as the feeling that gives rise to an active desire to alleviate another's suffering. Mercy and tenderness are among its synonyms while cruelty and indifference are its opposite.

I can't help but wonder what a little compassion could do for our troubled and weary world — in negotiations, interrogations, debates and discussions.

As we see the suffering of others and our hearts ache for their pain, do we wish we could help in some way? Making a difference in someone's life does not necessarily require lots of money or time.

I can certainly attest that the compassionate understanding and kindness shown to me when I have failed or made mistakes, encouraged my growth and eventual successes throughout my life. Our words can have a powerful impact on friend or foe.

It's helpful to remember that we are all in the same boat sharing this human experience. We are never alone. And others have undoubtedly walked in our shoes before. We're not the only ones who have made the very same mistake or used bad judgment.

Yet have you found it easy to show compassion toward a friend or family member — or even a stranger — who's having a tough time but you get angry or frustrated with yourself when your own life falls short of your ideals?

Perhaps you need a big dose of self-compassion.

Things will not always go the way we want them to. We need to learn to give the same comfort and care to ourselves that we would give to others. Showing compassion and understanding when confronted with personal failings will help us put our mistakes into a larger life perspective — a more balanced, objective point of view — and encourage our progress.

But let's be clear about what self-compassion is not.

Self-compassion is not self-pity! It serves no good purpose to get lost in our emotional drama or immerse ourselves into a problem.

Self-compassion is not self-indulgence! There is nothing beneficial about indulging in unhealthy rewards or habits.

And self-compassion is not self-condemnation! Judging and criticizing ourselves for inequities or shortcomings keeps our attention and focus on the negative or buried in the past.

With compassion for ourselves when we have missteps, we inspire and prompt wiser steps that move us forward and closer to reaching our potential. We are better equipped and able to keep a clear eye on our goals.

A baby learning to walk doesn't think twice about attempting to walk again after she falls down. And that baby will likely fall many times before she masters walking. But she doesn't stop with walking. After she learns to walk, she tries running, then skipping, and then jumping. Before walking, she scooted, crawled and probably even climbed.

The idea is that we keep moving, learning, progressing, mastering new skills, gaining new insights and knowledge along the way. Yes, we may fall sometimes. It may take us a while to learn and get where we want to go. But we never stop trying.

Compassion will keep us moving onward and forward.

So give yourself a hug when you need one. And pat yourself on the back and say everything will be OK.

Be like the baby who doesn't think twice about her fall. Keep on keeping on.

So the next time you're feeling down on yourself, try a little compassion.

*Annette Bridges is a freelance writer who lives in North Texas. Her columns are published weekly on United Press International's ReligionAndSpirituality.com and numerous newspapers. Send her an e-mail at annettebridges@gmail.com.*



KAY  
BAILEY  
HUTCHISON



ANNETTE  
BRIDGES



# Bird Poop: Wary Samaritan's effort can't save hawk's life

His day's work in the oil field completed, the man drove the lonely miles to his home in the east part of the county. The monotony of the two-lane road edged in withered grasses was suddenly broken by a dark brown figure seen ahead on the asphalt.

As his pickup came to a stop, William thought it might be a hawk. Walking toward the bird, he wondered if it would take flight. Upright, the raptor, with head bowed, didn't move.

Sensing a motorist could have hit the hawk, the man placed his hands on either side of its wings. Although startled, the bird gave little resistance as William carried it to his truck.

"Ma'am," said the caller, "those folks at Parks & Wildlife told me to call you." Having introduced himself, he stressed that as soon as the bird recovered, he wanted to keep it.

Explaining as briefly as possible the regulations regarding this migratory bird, I added, "It's not my bird to keep either. William, you need to let me help the hawk so that it has a chance to get well and return to nature."

Wanting to know the specie he had, I asked about the bird's color and markings. "Golden," was his only reply. "It's sitting in my lap right now. It's so pretty," he continued.

From that information, I knew immediately the hawk's condition was perilous. No healthy raptor would willingly be handled or agree to such closeness with a human being.

"William, I have to be in Sterling City to pick up some hawks. After I make arrangements for someone else to get the bird, I'll call you back." Hesitant to turn the hawk over to anyone but me, he finally agreed to a transfer.

When I called Parks & Wildlife to see if any of their game wardens could assist, one of the receptionists said she had no officers readily available. After answering numerous calls and issuing licenses to hunters and fishermen throughout the day, she offered to meet William after work and take the bird. "By the way," she offered, "he has given the hawk a name."

Calling William, I stressed that the employee would be wearing a Parks & Wildlife shirt and carrying identification. "Are you sure she's OK?" he asked. Once again, I assured him I would be getting his bird, only somewhat later.

At the convenience store on the south side of town, the employee

waited for the man and his hawk. Turning into the parking lot from the Garden City Highway, a pickup slowed, then stopped. The cars following close behind snaked out of the property and across the road.

"You supposed to meet me?" asked William. The receptionist calmly answered that she was from Parks & Wildlife. Even after noticing her shirt and slowly reading her identification card, he was uneasy.

By this time, those following his truck had found parking spaces. From each car and truck came interested friends and neighbors. "It was a caravan," she told me much later.

As she talked with the people and William, she realized their concern for the raptor was genuine. When presented with the carrier holding the hawk, she was horrified by the bird's condition, and thought it might already be dead. Telling the group that we would do everything we could for the hawk, she watched as William and his entourage left for their drive home.

Having seen numerous birds of prey and watched as we examined them, the employee easily recognized the severity of the hawk's condition. Not long after we returned from Sterling City, she called. "You don't need to come this evening," she said. Her voice reflected the sadness in the bird's plight. "From all the birds I've seen you handle, I can tell you this one isn't going to make it through the night. It's hurt too bad."

Early the next morning, she called to say the hawk had died during the night. From her description, the raptor was one of our summer visitors, a Swainson's hawk.

A medium sized bird of prey, it had dark clove-colored upperparts. With sunlight on those feathers, it would have appeared "golden." A white chin and upper throat, the broad bib of dark cinnamon and barred flanks and sides were positive markings of its specie.

Then our conversation turned to William and his friends. They reminded her of the days when her husband had been in the Air Force and stationed in Kentucky. The mountain people were quite different from the locals in their thoughts and handling of issues. Their desire to live in the hills and be independent was paramount. Her encounter with the hawk and William brought back forgotten memories.

Expressing that we all have different opportunities, with our lives influenced by using or ignoring them, I had found William to be a compassionate individual. His following, by her description, was sympathetic and supportive. Finally, she asked that I wait a day before calling him. "I don't think he could take it right



BEBE  
MCCASLAND



Courtesy photo

Since a Swainson's hawk hunts for grasshoppers, rabbits, ground squirrels, mice and snakes, it may be seen on the ground after seizing its prey. Using its 4-foot wing span, the bird will take flight and carry its catch to a safe perch.

now."

The next evening when I called him, he seemed surprisingly resigned to the hawk's fate. "You knew he was badly hurt, didn't you William." Agreeing, he said, "I wish I had a picture of Fred and me for my wallet. Could you take a picture of him for me?"

Telling him that by federal law we have to follow procedures for

handling the death of any protected bird, I added that a photo might get creased in his billfold and over time would tear. His memories, however, would always be with him. To that he replied, "Say a little prayer for Fred and me. I know I'll see him again."

*Bebe McCasland is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.*

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There are 4 things different between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?



Answers: 1. missing rake 2. watering pail is larger 3. tree is smaller 4. box is missing from wheelbarrow

**THIS DAY IN...**



**HISTORY**

- 1890: ARTIST VINCENT VAN GOGH DIED .
- 1958: THE CONGRESSIONAL ACT THAT CREATED NASA WAS SIGNED BY PRESIDENT EISENHOWER AND AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS.
- 1981: PRINCE CHARLES OF BRITAIN MARRIED LADY DIANA SPENCER.



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ANSWER: TRUE

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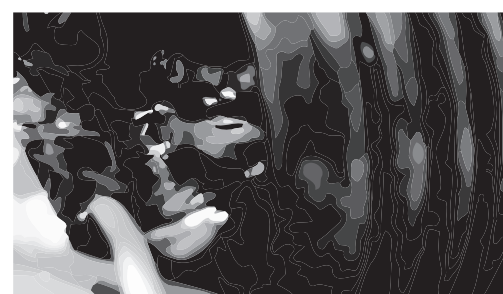
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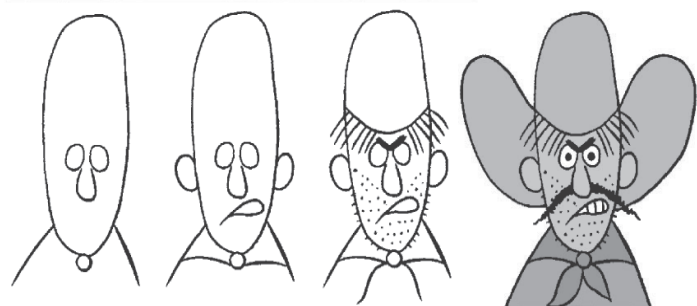
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Answer -- Pencil, tree stump, feather, tongue, branch and bush.

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- a) 0 pounds
- b) 67 pounds
- c) 255 pounds
- d) 800 pounds

Answer -- b) The force of gravity on the moon is only one sixth as strong as gravity on Earth.

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# Ferguson feeling good after battles with cancer

**NOAH TRISTER**  
AP Sports Writer

LITTLE ROCK, Ark — Dressed in a collared shirt and shorts, Joe Ferguson walked easily across the room, then treated himself to a bite to eat before a celebrity golf event.

Forget golf. Right now, the former quarterback looks strong enough to step on the football field and throw a few long passes.

It's hard to believe this is the same person who was fighting for his life early last year. After bouts with lymphoma and leukemia, generating support from fans all over the world, Ferguson is feeling good these days and is almost casual when discussing his health.

"It was kind of strange, because I never thought I was as sick as I was," Ferguson said Monday. "They kept saying it was pretty bad and pretty serious, but I never felt like it myself. I never got as worried as some other people did."

Ferguson was a third-round draft

pick in 1973 out of Arkansas and went on to play 12 years with the Buffalo Bills. In 2005, he was diagnosed with Burkitt's lymphoma, an aggressive form of cancer.

Ferguson underwent chemotherapy, and he says that treatment led to another problem: leukemia. He was diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia about a year and a half ago and was treated at the intensive care unit at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

With a weakened immune system, Ferguson also fought pneumonia, but all the while, he expected to pull through.

"I didn't feel great, don't get me wrong, but I never thought I was close to not being around," Ferguson said.

Eventually, Ferguson started regaining strength. He says the biggest breakthrough came when his appetite returned and he could start eating better. Now 59, he says the leukemia is

See **FERGUSON**, Page 12



AP photo/Danny Johnston

Former Buffalo Bills quarterback Joe Ferguson is interviewed at Chena Country Club in Little Rock, Ark., Monday. Ferguson has battled lymphoma and leukemia in recent years, but he's recovering well.



AP photo/L.M. Otero

Texas Rangers' David Murphy slides safely into home plate as Detroit Tigers catcher Gerald Laird makes the tag during the sixth inning of a baseball game in Arlington Monday. Murphy scored on a double by Hank Blalock.

# Hunter, Cruz lift Rangers over Tigers

**The Associated Press**

Finally, the Texas Rangers own a victory over the Detroit Tigers.

Rookie Tommy Hunter pitched seven innings, Nelson Cruz and Michael Young homered, and the Rangers knocked off the AL Central-leading Tigers 5-2 on Monday night.

The Rangers had dropped the first six meetings with the Tigers this season — four by two runs or less — to fall to 3-14 against them over the last three years.

Hunter (3-1) ended that streak, pitching Texas to its seventh win in eight games.

"We respect that they're a good team, but those games are over," Young said.

Curtis Granderson hit Hunter's second pitch into the right-field seats for his 20th homer of the season and 19th leading

off a game. Hunter didn't give up another run, allowing five hits in his sixth major league start.

"The important thing was, it didn't shake Tommy up," Rangers manager Ron Washington said.

Detroit had a chance to break the game open in the fifth, but the Tigers left the bases loaded without scoring. Hunter struck out Miguel Cabrera with a high fastball to end the threat and keep the Rangers within a run.

"That fifth inning was huge," Washington said. "After that we just took the ballgame over. We made things happen. When you're in that situation when it looks like you're about to get blown out and all of a sudden the pitcher steps up and does what Tommy did,

See **AL**, Page 12

# Michael Vick has a plan, and so far it's working

To hear Roger Goodell tell it, the decision to conditionally reinstate Michael Vick to the NFL came only after much soul searching and consultations with everyone from Vick's third grade teacher to the guy who gas-ses up his Range Rover.

Even then, Goodell said he didn't finally make up his mind until Sunday, which seems somewhat surprising because there were a number of media reports filed well before that predicting the commissioner would do pret-



TIM DAHLBERG

ty close to what he ended up doing.

Then again, it wasn't all that tough to figure out. Goodell may fancy himself as a disciplinarian, but there wasn't a lot of upside to keeping Vick out of the league when even the PETA types had quieted down and the growing consensus seemed to be that Vick had already paid a heavy price for his crimes.

The initial reaction to Goodell's move on Monday confirmed that. No one was screaming — at least too loudly — that Vick should be put in a pit with dogs who still hold a grudge, and the heads of two animal rights groups reacted by saying little more than they hoped Vick would continue seeing the error of his ways.

Even PETA seemed to realize this is good news for, which is good news for any NFL club still wary about the ramifications of signing Vick. Instead of holding a protest march in front of NFL headquarters, the activist group put out a statement saying it would simply continue to "watch him like a hawk."

That, of course, was all part of the master plan crafted by Vick's advisers long before he got out of prison in Kansas. Vick began by co-opting the animal groups by promising to work on anti-dogfighting efforts even as he resurrected his football career, and he and his people seem to have worked every angle just right to convince Goodell that he is truly a changed man.

Time has been on Vick's side, too. It's been more than two years since we learned about the horrific things that happened at the Bad Newz Kennels, and the images that so sickened animal lovers across America are no longer nearly so vivid in our minds.

The dogs have also all moved on, for the most part. Vick paid nearly \$1 million for the continuing care of the survivors, and some have even gone on to cushy lives as family pets.

As for the others? Well, dead dogs tell no tales.

Just for the record, I was one of those who thought Vick's crimes — and no matter what you think of Vick they are vicious, despicable crimes — should keep him both out of society and out of

football for a long time. I had read all the grisly details of how dogs were detailed and killed in the name of sport, and was especially troubled by the statement of an informer who said Vick and his buddies sometimes put family pets in with the fighting dogs just to see them slaughtered.

But we live in a society where second chances are almost a birthright and, no matter how heinous Vick's actions were, it's hard to argue against giving him one. He's done all the right things since being locked up, and seems to have replaced the people who formerly rode with him with a solid group of advisers and mentors such as former

See **VICK**, Page 12

## Sports in brief

### Two-a-days practice schedule for BSHS volleyball and football announced

Two-a-days for all Big Spring High School volleyball and football players — from incoming freshmen to seniors — are set to begin Monday.

Volleyball practices will last through Aug. 6 and will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day.

All practices will be in the Big Spring Junior High gyms.

The week will end in the Lady Steers first scrim-

mage Aug. 7 in Big Spring. First game of the season is Aug. 11 at Sweetwater.

The first week of football two-a-days will take place from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. from Aug. 3 through Aug. 7 at the Athletic Training Center. The schedule for the second week of practices is to be determined.

The Steers play their first scrimmage Aug. 15 against Monahans in Big Spring.

Any student entering the ninth or 11th grades

must have a new physical to participate in any sports at BSHS.

### BSHS football season tickets now on sale at athletics office

Season tickets for the upcoming 2009 Big Spring High School football season go on sale for

See **BRIEFS**, Page 12



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with homehealth experience helpful but not needed to join our dynamic team of health-care professionals. We are a locally owned company who cares about our clients and our employees!

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Attn: Maxine Roberts, RN

**InHome Care, Inc.**  
**1104 Scurry**  
**Big Spring, Tx**  
**79720**

**Help Wanted**

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Position available for college graduate specializing in consumer finance & counseling  
**Excellent Compensation, Benefits and 401(k)**  
Send resume to:

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EARN \$12-\$14 PER HOUR DELIVERING PIZZA'S. \$100 HIRING BONUS. MUST BE 18YRS. OLD WITH CLEAN DRIVING RECORD. ALSO TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT POSITIONS. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG. NO PHONE CALLS.

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**NEW AD**

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**Pets**

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**Freebies**

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**103 THOMAS-** 3 Bedroom 2 bath, CH/A., garage. \$550.00 month, \$475.00 deposit. Call 432-263-3375 or 816-6992.

**1220 EAST** 16th Place. 3 Bedroom 2 bath. New paint and carpet. \$700. Month + deposit. No HUD. No Bills Paid. Call (432)267-2296.

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**Real Estate for Sale**

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**NEW AD**

**HOUSE FOR Sale** By Owner 2203 Morrison, 3 bdrm, 1 bath, big back yard. \$40's. No owner finance. Call (432)466-4140 or (432)466-4139.

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**LARGE HOME** 2601 Dow 5 bdrm, master suite, 2 bath, office, over 2300 sq feet, CH/A, large utility room, fenced yard. Asking \$75k. Call (432)270-1144.

**Real Estate for Sale**

**OWNER FINANCE!!!** No closing costs! TruStar RE has helped thousands of families begin living their dream. Call for listings in your area! Call Milton (806)790-0827.

**MUST SELL**

**Well kept 3/2 home,** desirable neighborhood (I-20/Baylor).

1800 sf w/2 car garage. Rent to own w/decent credit. Loan is assumable. Email mom2monkeysla@yahoo.com

**NEWLY RENOVATED** 4004 Parkway, 3 Bdrm, 2 bath. Call for info. 432-212-3646.

**OWNER FINANCE,** \$3,950.00 down, \$535.78 month. 1403 Tucson in Big Spring. Call agent 432-270-4271.

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Venus in Gemini takes issue with Uranus in Pisces, causing interference in many people's love lives. The static could be caused by miscommunication, unforeseen events that throw a wrench in the action or a simple case of cross-purposes. Whatever the problem, it blows over quickly. Believe in your love and you'll withstand this minor test.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You express yourself beautifully, especially on topics you really believe in. You could be asked to do some public speaking or to represent someone who has trouble communicating.  
**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You thought you were clear on certain boundaries, but someone is not observing your rules. When this person

**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

keeps pushing for you to do what you really don't want to do, you'll find a creative way out.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You're not trying to impress anyone. You're just doing what you do and if others appreciate you, well, you're not going to discourage them. You'll touch someone through the mastery of your work.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). It's good to be aware of other people's agendas, though don't spend too much energy trying to cater to them. Once the person you are dealing with feels acknowledged, he will be more flexible.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You're in no mood to do the things you are supposed to do. You need to feel like everything in your life is your choice. Of course that's true, but some days you feel it more than others. You'll be as happy as you are free.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're not likely to put yourself out just to earn dollars. Money is not the end-all-be-all; rather it's a vehicle to getting what you really want. Quality time with the people you love will make you feel rich.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Glamour, hospitality and charm may not be essential for your happiness, but you sure slip into a wonderful mood when these elements are present in your surroundings.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If you're a little short-tempered now, it's not your fault. Too much time spent in one area of life would make anyone feel irritable. Strive for a better balance between work and family life and you will be very content indeed.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You need the solace of silence. Don't push yourself mentally to come up with

breakthrough ideas or be incredibly creative. Just enjoy being in the quiet. You deserve the break.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's a jungle out there today. Luckily, you have a bit of the Tarzan spirit in you and will be ready to maneuver the wildest encounters. In fact, it's just the kind of challenge you enjoy.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Check back with your written success plan to make sure you're on track with your goals. And if you don't have your goals written down, this is the day to start taking your dreams more seriously.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Those who are less experienced than you will get their chance to catch up. Let the situation develop without getting involved, even if it's a bit uncomfortable for you to do so.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (JULY 28). Your clever mind and quick wit keep you at the top of the popularity list this year. Loved ones require your tenderness, too. Relationships unfold sweetly through August. September, a competitive instinct kicks in to help you vault over the obstacles to wealth. November features a move or a job change. Sagittarius and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 1, 44, 21 and 17.

**ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS:** "My best friend and I are no longer speaking. I'm a Leo and she's a Capricorn. The worst part is that this whole fight was over something so dumb. I couldn't make one of her parties. It wasn't even an important celebration like a birthday or something. I gave her plenty of notice, too. But one thing leads to another and before I knew it, we were yelling at each other. I miss her

and my kids want to play with her kids. Even so, I think she's controlling and mean to have let things get so out of hand over something so dumb. What do you think?"

Sometimes when the sun is careening through your part of the zodiac, it lights a few fuses along the way. My sense is that this friendship no longer fits the new you who is coming into being over the next few weeks. Leo, you need your friendships to be unrelentingly supportive, not unrelentingly selfish. Friends should be understanding and true friends do not try to hold you to social engagements that you cannot or don't want to make. You're ready for a more mature and less needy connection.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** The front man of the quintessential rock band the Rolling Stones is a Leo through and through. The iconic Mick Jagger has his natal sun, Mercury, Jupiter and Pluto in the sign of the entertainer and this fire-sign powerhouse continues to be an explosive personality onstage and off. Moon and Mars in earthy Taurus lend sensuality and an innate sense of rhythm.

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

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**Legals**

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Advertisement for Sealed Proposal  
The Howard County Junior College District is now accepting proposals for the following:  
**RFP# 09-014 Residence Hall Security Systems**  
Documents may be obtained from Jason Mims, Director of Business Services, Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432) 264-5167. Sealed proposals will be accepted through 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 18, 2009, in the Practical Arts Building, room 105 A, Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, at which time they will be read into record. Vendors are instructed that a formal opening will not occur. The college will negotiate with qualified vendors concerning the bids submitted. The final determination of bid award will be made at a future board meeting. All questions should be directed to Jason Mims, Director of Business Services, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, e-mail [jmims@howardcollege.edu](mailto:jmims@howardcollege.edu), (432)264-5167. Howard County Junior College District reserves the right to reject any and all bids. #6202 July 26 & 28, 2009

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	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:30 PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticiero	News NBC	Raymond Friends	Scrivner Uri Harel	BBC Business	Deadliest Catch	Movie: Missing in Action 2: The Beginning	CSI: NY	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Suite Life	Horn Interrupt	SportsCenter
6:30 PM	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Gancho	Two Men	News CBS	12 Cora-zones	News NBC	Seinfeld	Dr. Young Harris	News-Lehrer	Deadliest Catch	CSI: Crime Scn	Bones			Wizards NFL Live	E:60	
7:30 PM	The Superstars	The Superstars	Nombre Amor	Hell's Kitchen	NCIS	Más Sabe el Diabolo	America-Talent	Fam. Guy	Israel	Nova (DVS)	Deadliest Catch	Movie: Out for Justice, Jerry Orbach	CSI: Crime Scn	Bones	Movie: The Cookout, Jennifer Lewis	Movie: Herbie: Fully Loaded	Basketball: Mercury at Sun	World Series
8:30 PM	Better Off	Better Off	Aquí y Ahora	TMZ	Medium	Victorinos	Law & Order: SVU	Office	Israel	P.O.V.	(01) The Colony	Movie: Clear and Present Danger, Anne Archer	Ways Die	HawthoRNe	College	Wizards	FIVB Volleyball: World League	Baseball Tonight
9:30 PM	The Bachelor	The Bachelor	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Seinfeld	Israel		Deadliest Catch	MAN	HawthoRNe	BET Awards '09	Suite Life	Strongest	Baseball Tonight	
10:30 PM	Nightline	Nightline	La Casa de la Risa	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones de	Late Night-Jim	Sex & Sex	Ministerio-Vida	BBC	Deadliest Catch	MAN	HawthoRNe	College	Life De	NASCAR	Baseball	
11:30 PM	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Extra	Contra Viento	RENO 911	Insider	Pagado	News	Movie: Boat Trip, Roselyn Sanchez	Israel	(Off Air)	The Colony	Movie: The Package, Tommy Lee Jones	Amazing Video	Cold Case	College	Replace	World Series	SportsCenter
12:30 AM	News ABC	News ABC	Mujer...	Friends	Entertain	Pagado	Poker After Dark	Light of the Southwest	Israel		One Way Out	Disorderly Con.	Cold Case	The Deal	Emperor Dragon	X Games	SportsCenter	

### DENNIS THE MENACE

7-28

"THAT WAS THE FIRST WORD I LEARNED!"

### THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

7-28

"Which is this, Daddy — a woods, a forest or a jungle?"

### HAGAR

7-28

WOULD YOU MIND IF I GO UP FIRST?

I HAVE TO DELIVER THIS PIZZA WHILE IT'S HOT!!

### BC

7-28

WHAT A LOVELY SUMMER DAY. COOL BREEZE, BUSTLING BIRDS, WARM SUN ON MY BACK —

...JUST THE SORT OF DAY WHERE LIFE'S PROBLEMS SEEM TO MELT AWAY...

I WISH IT WOULD RAIN.

### WIZARD OF ID

7-28

...DO YOU THINK HE'LL TRY ANY TIME SOON?

SPOOK HASN'T TRIED TO ESCAPE LATELY...

I DOUBT IT

I THINK HE'S WAITING FOR THE JOB MARKET TO IMPROVE

### AGNES

7-28

TROUT, DO YOU THINK MY NOSE IS TOO BIG?

TOO BIG FOR WHAT?

IS IT IN BALANCE WITH THE REST OF MY FACE?

UM... MAYBE YOUR FACE WILL GET BIGGER.

HOW BIG WOULD IT HAVE TO GET?

YOU MAY HAVE TO SHORE UP THAT SKINNY NECK WITH SOME ANGLE IRON.

### HI AND LOIS

7-28

I FINALLY TOLD MY HUSBAND WE NEED TO HAVE A TALK.

WHAT DID HE SAY?

"I'LL HAVE MY PEOPLE GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR PEOPLE"

I SEE YOUR PROBLEM.

### THE OTHER COAST

7-28

WHEN BEARS BECOME HABITUATED TO HUMAN FOOD:

I'M SORRY, WE'RE FULL TONIGHT, YOU SHOULD HAVE MADE A RESERVATION.

### SNUFFY SMITH

7-28

DON'TCHA EVER GIT BORED WIF DOIN' NUTHIN', SNUFFY?

NO SIR, I NEVER DO !!

THAT'S AMAZIN' !!

THANKEE, PARSON, BUT I CAN'T TAKE NO CREDIT !!

I RECKON IT'S A GIFT FROM ABOVE !!

### BEEBLE BAILEY

7-28

I PERSONALLY FEEL WE SHOULD ADOPT MY PLAN HERE...

...BUT IT'S NOT JUST MY OPINION

IT ISN'T?

NO, IT'S ALSO YOURS!

### BLONDIE

7-28

LISTEN, GUYS, FOR THE RECORD, I KNOW THAT IT'S BEEN EXACTLY 10 DAYS SINCE I'VE BEEN ON TIME

C'MON! ISN'T ANYBODY GOING TO CONGRATULATE ME FOR AT LEAST KEEPING TRACK?!

## This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, July 28, the 209th day of 2009. There are 156 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 28, 1609, the English ship Sea Venture, commanded by Admiral Sir George Somers, ran ashore on Bermuda during nearly foundering at sea during a storm. The 140 or so passengers and crew, originally bound for the Jamestown settlement in Virginia, founded a colony on the island.

On this date:

In 1540, King Henry VIII's chief minister, Thomas Cromwell, was executed, the same day Henry married his fifth wife, Catherine Howard.

In 1821, Peru declared its independence from Spain.

In 1914, World War I began as Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.

In 1929, Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis was born in Southampton, N.Y.

In 1932, federal troops forcibly dispersed the so-called "Bonus Army" of World War I veterans who had gathered in Washington to demand money they weren't scheduled to receive until 1945.

In 1945, a U.S. Army bomber crashed into the 79th floor of New York's Empire State Building, killing 14 people. The U.S. Senate ratified the United Nations Charter by a vote of 89-2.

In 1959, in preparation for statehood, Hawaiians voted to send the first Chinese-American, Republican Hiram L. Fong, to the U.S. Senate and the first Japanese-American, Democrat Daniel K. Inouye, to the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson announced he was increasing the number of American troops in South Vietnam from 75,000 to 125,000 "almost immediately."

In 1977, Roy Wilkins turned over leadership of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to Benjamin L. Hooks.

In 2002, nine coal miners trapped in the flooded Quecreek Mine in Somerset, Pa., were rescued after 77 hours under-

ground.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Andrew V. McLaglen is 89. Actor Darryl Hickman is 78. Ballet dancer-choreographer Jacques d'Amboise is 75. Art critic Robert Hughes is 71. The former president of Peru, Alberto Fujimori, is 71. Musical conductor Riccardo Muti is 68. Former Sen. Bill Bradley, D-N.J., is 66. "Garfield" creator Jim Davis is 64. Singer Jonathan Edwards is 63. Actress Linda Kelsey is 63. TV producer Dick Ebersol is 62. Actress Sally Struthers is 61. Rock musician Simon Kirke (Bad Company) is 60. Rock musician Steve Morse (Deep Purple) is 55. Broadcast journalist Scott Pelley is 52.

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Answer to previous puzzle

CAST	STRUT	CHAT
ONCE	TEASE	RILE
STAR	EMCEE	ETTE
TERMPAPER	BACON	
IRKED	MESH	
TASTES	MIDEAST	
RITES	TAILS	RYE
ISR	GRILL	IRS
ALE	SNORE	HADIT
LETSEAT	SAMEAS	
CRAW	STENO	
ABHOR	TOURGUIDE	
COOP	BRUTE	NOEL
TRUE	BISON	TWAS
SETS	SPARE	SALE

## Newsday Crossword

## OVER YOUR HEAD

by Sally R. Stein  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Worship from \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5 Don't throw out \_\_\_\_\_
  - 9 Muscle soreness
  - 13 Prince of India
  - 14 Wheel-connecting bar
  - 15 Rings around castles
  - 17 Absolute ruler
  - 18 Hatchling's home
  - 19 Gives off
  - 20 Attendance-taking response
  - 21 Special Forces soldier
  - 23 Minor quarrel
  - 25 Evil
  - 26 Aircraft that hovers
  - 29 Bar code: Abbr.
  - 31 Fraction of a foot
  - 35 Rainy mo.
  - 36 Rope loop
  - 38 Egypt's capital
  - 39 Minor obsession
  - 42 Literary surprise
  - 43 Game fish
  - 44 Electrified fish
  - 45 Siestas
  - 46 Distress signal
  - 47 In an affectionate way
  - 49 W. Hemisphere alliance
  - 51 Throw out, as a fishing line
  - 52 Flue protector
  - 57 Unruly groups
  - 61 Prima \_\_\_\_\_ (diva)
  - 62 An additional amount
  - 63 Where Cleveland is
- DOWN**
- 64 \_\_\_\_\_ boom (16 Down sound)
  - 65 Machine parts
  - 66 Blizzard, essentially
  - 67 HS junior's exam
  - 68 Frequently
  - 69 Soft throw
  - 9 One-celled creature
  - 10 Joke teller
  - 11 Wig material
  - 12 Diminutive suffix
  - 16 Former fast flier: Abbr.
  - 22 "Peacock" network
  - 24 Minimal money
  - 26 Cruise-ship room
  - 27 Musical drama
  - 28 Hospital area, for short
  - 29 Computer owners
  - 30 Mexican money
  - 32 Forty-\_\_\_\_\_ (Gold Rush prospector)
  - 33 Angler's basket
  - 34 In an angry way
  - 37 Not fooled by
  - 38 Pigeon coops
  - 40 Sleeplessness
  - 41 Hungary's capital
  - 46 Compass pt. opposite NNW
  - 48 No more than
  - 50 Put on \_\_\_\_\_ (pretend)
  - 51 Ship's freight
  - 52 S&L investments
  - 53 Earring shape
  - 54 Rural hotels
  - 55 Gym locale: Abbr.
  - 56 Warmer than chilly
  - 58 Cry of dread
  - 59 Life stories, for short
  - 60 Female pigs

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13				14				15			16		
17				18				19					
20				21				22					
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52	53	54				55	56			57	58	59	60
61						62				63			
64						65				66			
			67			68				69			

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# 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.

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

## AL

Continued from Page 7

it definitely gives you some encouragement.”

C.J. Wilson pitched the ninth for his 11th save in 13 chances, finishing it off in a light rain.

Young has three consecutive three-hit games for the first time in his career and the fourth time in the majors this season, first in the AL.

Granderson had three hits for the Tigers, 4-7 since the All-Star break.

Armando Galarraga (5-9) won in his first two career starts against Texas, but did not fare as well the third time around, allowing four runs and six hits in seven innings. Galarraga was a Rangers farmhand before he was traded to Detroit in February 2008.

“I thought Galarraga pitched a good enough ballgame to win at the major league level,” Tigers manager Jim Leyland said. “To hold ‘em to four runs in this

ballpark, that’s not bad.”

Detroit has scored three runs or less in eight of its last 11 games and is 11th in the league with a team batting average of .256, hardly the kind of production the Tigers expected from a lineup loaded with proven big-league hitters.

“We should have a great offense,” Detroit’s Clete Thomas said. “Our pitchers are pitching their butts off. We’re putting a lot of pressure on ourselves to get the job done.”

### Red Sox 8, Athletics 3

Josh Beckett became the American League’s first 12-game winner and Boston snapped out of a slump with 14 hits.

Beckett (12-4) struck out 10 before leaving after Scott Hairston’s leadoff triple in the eighth, and the bullpen extended its streak to 24 scoreless innings since the All-Star break.

Dustin Pedroia homered and drove in two runs and Jacoby Ellsbury had three hits

for the Red Sox, who entered with just 25 runs and a .215 batting average in their nine games since the break.

They roughed up Trevor Cahill (6-9) and led 6-0 through five innings before the visiting Athletics got to Beckett.

### Yankees 11, Rays 4

A.J. Burnett pitched seven sharp innings and Nick Swisher homered from both sides of the plate for New York.

The AL East leaders improved to 10-1 since the All-Star break, with Burnett (10-4) winning his fifth straight decision.

Robinson Cano and Johnny Damon also went deep for the Yankees, and Alex Rodriguez contributed a two-run double on his 34th birthday.

Cano had a RBI triple in the second inning, then led off the sixth with his 15th homer.

### Twins 4, White Sox 3

Michael Cuddyer’s

two-run homer in the sixth inning pushed Minnesota’s record back to even and sent Chicago to yet another defeat at the Metrodome.

John Danks (8-7) allowed two earned runs and six hits over seven innings after missing his last start due to a finger blister, but that wasn’t enough to keep the Sox from their 12th loss in the last 14 games.

### Indians 8, Angels 6

Victor Martinez hit a three-run homer off All-Star closer Brian Fuentes in the ninth inning, helping the short-handed Indians rally for the win.

Jhonny Peralta had four hits and followed Martinez’s shot with another homer off Fuentes (1-3), who leads the majors with 30 saves.

Cleveland played without manager Eric Wedge and reliever Winston Abreu after both were suspended for Abreu’s plunking of Seattle’s Jack Hannahan last weekend.



By Steve Becker

## Disposing of a Hot Potato

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

<b>NORTH</b>			
♠	6 5		
♥	1 8		
♦	8 6 4 3 2		
♣	A K 9 8		
<b>WEST</b>			
♠	K Q 9		
♥	10 9 7 2		
♦	A		
♣	10 7 4 3 2		
<b>EAST</b>			
♠	J 8 7 3 2		
♥	6 4 3		
♦	9 7		
♣	Q J 6		
<b>SOUTH</b>			
♠	A 10 4		
♥	A K Q 5		
♦	K Q J 10 5		
♣	5		

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1♥ Pass 2♦ Pass  
2♥ Pass 3♦ Pass  
4NT Pass 5♦ Pass  
6♦

Opening lead — king of spades.  
This deal occurred in a pair game many years ago, and to their credit, most of the North-South players reached six diamonds on bidding similar to that shown. However, some of the declarers, to their discredit, then proceeded to go down in the slam due to careless play.

The opening lead was invariably the king of spades, taken by the ace. This gave declarer no option as to how to begin — he had to dispose of dummy’s spade loser before tackling trumps. Accordingly, he cashed the J-A-K of hearts right away, discarding

dummy’s spade loser on the third round.

Having gotten over that hurdle, some declarers now turned their attention to the trump suit, losing the king to West’s ace. West thereupon returned his fourth heart, and East overruled dummy with the nine as South helplessly followed suit.

Those declarers who failed to make the slam were undeniably unlucky to go down on this line of play. The only combination of cards that could defeat them was for either defender to hold the singleton ace of diamonds as well as the only missing heart.

Nevertheless, the fact remains that these Souths overlooked a very simple play that would have protected them against this contingency.

The declarers who succeeded in making the slam foresaw the danger presented by the missing nine of diamonds, and took a precautionary step designed to neutralize that threat. Instead of leading a trump at trick five, they first cashed the A-K of clubs and discarded the queen of hearts on the second club!

This left the defense helpless. West won the ace of diamonds on the next trick, but a heart return was now futile because South had no more hearts. Any other return was equally ineffective, and the upshot was that all the declarers who spotted the way to improve their chances wound up making the slam.

Tomorrow: Topsy-turvy.

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## FERGUSON

Continued from Page 7

in remission. He and his wife, Sandy, live in northwest Arkansas, not far from where he played college football for the Razorbacks.

Frank Broyles, who coached Ferguson at Arkansas, was also on hand Monday at the Pat

Summerall Celebrity Classic in western Little Rock. Broyles is impressed with his former quarterback’s progress.

“He has done the things you need to do when you have an illness,” Broyles said. “He’s gone to doctors, he’s taken the treatment, and he’s done everything they’ve asked him to do and he’s improved dramatically. We’re excited and

pleased about that.”

Along the way, Ferguson heard from well wishers all over the world, including many Bills and Razorbacks fans.

“A kid in Iraq saying, ‘You were my hero.’ I mean, how do you take that?” Sandy Ferguson said. “He had a lot of people praying for him. It was overwhelming. ... We’re very thankful.”

Now Ferguson is looking forward to watching the Razorbacks this season — and trying to maintain his improved health.

“I’ve been getting checkups every three months, and my blood count’s staying good and all that,” he said. “Trying to eat better and exercise and do the right things. We’re doing fine.”

## VICK

Continued from Page 7

Indianapolis coach Tony Dungy that he can seek counsel from.

For some people, that won’t be good enough. For some people, nothing will ever be good enough.

But Goodell promised

to make a decision when Vick’s sentence was up, and he didn’t waste a lot of time doing it. What he came up with was a well-conceived plan for reinstatement that relies heavily on the good intentions of both Vick and the people around him, putting the onus on the former star quarterback to prove himself every day.

If Vick does what he promises, he likely has a career in the NFL once again. If he doesn’t, there’s always that \$10-an-hour construction job to fall back on.

The speculation now shifts to which teams might want Vick and the baggage that he still brings.

Some have already said they’re not interested, but good quarterbacks are always in short supply in the NFL.

And, suddenly, a Vick signing does not look nearly as risky, public relations-wise, as it might have before.

What may scare teams away more than the idea of a dog killer behind center is the idea Vick may not be

the quarterback he once was. He’s a running quarterback who lost two years of his prime, and teams might just want to wait until he proves he still has his legs in, say the new UFL, before making a move.

Indeed, Vick’s future remains uncertain, despite Goodell’s ruling. A lot of things still have to happen before he takes a snap in the NFL again, and there’s no guarantee he’ll be successful along the way.

At least for now, though, everything is going exactly to plan.

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at [tdahlberg\(at\)ap.org](mailto:tdahlberg(at)ap.org)

\*\*\*\*\*  
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 For More Info Call (325) 573-2323 or (325) 573-2777  
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## BRIEFS

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previous season ticket holders today and will remain available through Aug. 6.

The general public can then begin purchasing

season tickets Aug. 3 through Aug. 12.

Cost is \$30 for a total of six home games. Tickets can be purchased from Kay Cook at the Athletic Training Center from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday during the dates allotted for sales.

For more information, call Kay Cook at 264-3661.

## BSHS Tennis Camp to begin Monday

Big Spring High School Tennis Coach Dana Jones is teaming with Big Spring Junior High Tennis Coach Jason Fisher and Certified Tennis Instructor Ted Olesen to host the Big Spring Tennis Camp beginning Monday and continuing through Aug. 7 at Figure 7 Tennis Center in Comanche Trail Park.

Instruction begins daily at 8 a.m. and concludes at noon. Cost is \$65. Interested participants can register the first morning of the camp. All ability levels are welcome.

**TA \$2.00 Off Any Buffet Exp. 8/31/2009**

**It's Not Homestyle If You Can't Get Seconds**

**Thursday Night Buffet**  
**All You Can Eat Steak & Shrimp**  
**FOR \$11.99**

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