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# H BIG SPRING HERALD

**WEDNESDAY**  
JULY 29, 2009  
  
50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

VOLUME 104, NUMBER 203

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## Video helps police nab robbery suspect

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer  
You might say Big Spring Police Det. Mike Perez is good with faces, as the detective's ability to recognize a suspect allegedly involved in an aggravated robbery Tuesday evening led to a quick arrest.

Lorenzo Ferrera Yanez, 35, of Big Spring was arrested Tuesday on a charge of aggravated robbery after officials with the Big Spring Police Department say he held up the Gold Rush discount tobacco store in the 800 block of E. Third Street.

"Officers responded to the Gold Rush in reference to an aggravated robbery at approximately 6:57 p.m.," said Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the BSPD. "Officers learned a male subject had entered the store and immediately point-

ed a handgun at the clerk. "The suspect demanded money and the victim complied. He grabbed an undisclosed amount of cash and fled the scene on foot. The suspect was described as a Hispanic male, about 5'10" tall with a stocky build."

Everett said Det. Perez was called in to investigate the crime, and when he reviewed the store video, he recognized Yanez. "Perez located Yanez about three hours after the robbery."

See **ROBBERY**, Page 14

## City budget gets tentative OK by council

*No tax hike but water and sewer rates to rise*

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer  
Big Spring residents will see increases in their water and sewer bills in the coming year, but not their tax notices, as the Big Spring City Council wrapped up its 2009-2010 budget work sessions Tuesday night with no objections to the proposed fiscal plan.

The council tentatively agreed to move forward with the proposed 2009-2010 budget during the meeting, a budget that will cover cost increases and help boost fund balances with the same \$1.0132 tax rate adopted last year.

However, with a cost hike of approximately 6 percent being passed along to the city by its water supplier — the Colorado River Municipal Water District — City Manager Gary Fuqua said an increase of \$1.75 on the base rate of all city water customers will be necessary to pay for the \$175,000 shortfall.

"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," said Fuqua. "This

See **CITY**, Page 3



## Council mulls \$4.2 million water park to replace pool

SEE STORY, PAGE 3

## HC tax rate to go up 4 cents

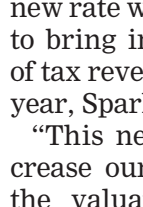
*Preliminary budget OK'd*

**By STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer  
Simple math for government entities crafting a budget is that lower property valuations equal a higher tax rate, and that formula applies to Howard College's impending financial package.

College trustees have given their preliminary OK to a new budget that will include a tax rate almost 4 cents higher than the previous year, but that doesn't mean the college will be raking in extra money as a result. Total property valuations in the junior college district took a \$200 million nosedive this year, which forced officials to increase the tax rate just to collect as much revenue as the previous year, said Dr. Cheryl Sparks, college president.

The proposed new tax rate is 31.6 cents per \$100 valuation, up from 27.8 cents per \$100 valuation in 2008-2009. That new rate will allow the college to bring in the same amount of tax revenue as the previous year, Sparks said. "This new rate will not increase our tax levy, because the valuations we received from the county appraisal district have decreased," Sparks said. "We expected (valuations) to go down, based on

See **COLLEGE**, Page 14



Sparks



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Zane Yeater checks out some items that will be for sale at the Wee Runs Consignment Sale, which will be held today through Friday at the Big Spring Mall. A portion of the sale's proceeds will go to the Relay For Life cancer research fund raiser.

## Consignment sale to benefit Relay For Life

**By STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer  
It's like a flea market in which almost everybody makes money. The Wee Runs Consignment Sale, which begins tonight and runs through Friday at Big Spring Mall, will give area bargain hunters a chance to find some quality children's merchandise while at the same time helping out the local Relay For Life cancer research fund-raiser.

Zane Yeater, who is overseeing the event for the fifth straight year, said she acts as a conduit between seller and buyer.

"It's a community-wide event in which people bring in their items and consign them to us," Yeater said. "After their items are sold, they receive 70 percent of the profit. I then pay off expenses and a portion of what's left goes to the Relay For Life."

See **SALE**, Page 14

See **COLLEGE**, Page 14



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## Obituaries

### Bobby England

RANGER – Bobby England, 81, of Big Spring died Friday, July 24, 2009, at his daughter's residence. Graveside services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 29, 2009, at the Evergreen cemetery under the direction of Edwards Funeral Home in Ranger.

Bobby was born in Ranger June 28, 1928. He married Wanda Jones May 28, 1948. He worked as a dairy farmer, owned the Olden Drive-In and worked for Morgan Buildings and pumper wells. He loved gardening and working in his yard. He served in the Army during World War II.

Survivors include his daughter and son-in-law, Terri and Larry Cate of Big Spring; 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, two sons and parents.  
*Paid obituary*

### Virginia Ann Templeton Martin

Virginia Ann Templeton Martin, 69, of Center Point died at a local hospital Sunday, July 26, 2009. A visitation will be held at the Center Point Baptist Church Wednesday, July 29, 2009, from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. Services will be held following visitation at 6 p.m. A service is also planned at First Christian Church of Big Spring Saturday, Aug. 1, 2009, at 10:30 a.m.

Born in Loraine May 30, 1940, she was the daughter of J.M. and Ovada Templeton. Mrs. Martin was a home economics teacher in the Big Spring area for 28 years and was the department head. She had received her bachelors and masters degrees.

She was very active in the First Christian Church of Big Spring, where she served as a deacon. She was also an organist and pianist there, treasurer and a Sunday school teacher. She married William "Dub" Martin Aug. 24, 1962. She was preceded in death by her parents, and a sister, Mary Rose Bowen.

Survivors include her husband, William F. "Dub" Martin of Center Point; a son, Brigham Alan Martin and wife, Aimee, of Fredericksburg; a daughter, Kathryn Martin of Wiggins, Colo.; three grandchildren; a sister, Dixie Smith of Roscoe; her brother-in-law, Charles Bowen; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Floral arrangements will be accepted, or monetary donations in her name may be made to the American Cancer Society; Center Point Christian Church; or First Christian Church, 910 Goliad, Big Spring 79720.

The family invites you to leave a message or memory at [www.kerrvillefuneralhome.com](http://www.kerrvillefuneralhome.com). Arrangements are under the direction and personal care of Kerrville Funeral Home.

### Elva Chavera

Elva Chavera, 62, of Big Spring died Tuesday, July 28, 2009, at her residence. Services are pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Support Groups

#### TODAY

• 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.

## Police blotter

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

- JASON ORTEGA, 28, of 811 Johnson, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of assault – family violence.
- ROSEANNE ALVARADO, 22, of 811 Johnson, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of assault – family violence.
- ERNEST CLARK, 69, transient, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of criminal trespass.
- CLIFFORD DETIEGE, 46, of 1106 N.W. Seventh St., was arrested Tuesday on a warrant from another agency.
- ROBERT KLOEPFER, 52, of 1724 Purdue, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- DAVID PETREE, 24, of 5709 Cedar Rd. Apt. 3, was arrested Tuesday on five local warrants.
- LORENZO YANEZ, 35, of 211 Channing, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of aggravated robbery.
- THEFT was reported in the 1000 block of Gregg.
- TERRORISTIC THREAT was reported in the 300 block of Third Street.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS was reported in the 2600 block of Gregg Street.
- ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY was reported in the 1000 block of Gregg Street.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 800 block of Johnson.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported: in the 900 block of Gregg Street. in the 1900 block of Highway 87.
- AGGRAVATED ROBBERY was reported in the 800 block of Third Street.
- AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON was reported in the 1100 block of Goliad. According to police officials, no arrests were made and no charges were brought, making the matter an incident report.

## Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 79 inmates at the time of this report.

- JENNIFER JANE BELCHER, 24, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a local warrant.
- ERNEST CLARK, 69, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.
- CLIFFORD DETIEGE, 46, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to appear.
- SHELBY RENE HILL, 30, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a local warrant.
- ROBERT HAROLD KLOEPFER, 52, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- DAVID CHRISTOPHER PETREE, 24, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on three local warrants and charges of failure to appear and possession of a controlled substance.
- ALVARADO VILLAPANDO, 44, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.
- LORENZO FERRERA YANEZ, 35, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of aggravated robbery.

## Fire/EMS

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



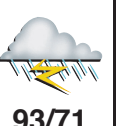
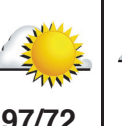

- MEDICAL was reported in the 3800 block of Connally. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Alabama. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 600 block of W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

## Take Note

• The Coahoma High School Alumni Reunion takes place Saturday at the Coahoma Elementary Building. Donuts and coffee will be served as registration takes place from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. There are several individual class reunions scheduled Friday and Saturday nights, and organizers are expecting a good crowd Saturday, including alumni from all across Texas, plus Wyoming, Oklahoma and Arkansas. In keeping with this year's sports theme, former coaches Bernie Hagins, Norman Roberts and Jody Sory will be sharing some of their Coahoma memories.

## Today's Weather

### Local 5-Day Forecast

Thu 7/30	Fri 7/31	Sat 8/1	Sun 8/2	Mon 8/3
 <b>89/68</b> Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms possible. High 89F.	 <b>81/72</b> Scattered thunderstorms possible.	 <b>93/71</b> Partly cloudy with a stray thunderstorm.	 <b>97/72</b> A few clouds. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the low 70s.	 <b>93/70</b> Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the low 70s.
<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	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:02 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:41 PM



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## Texas At A Glance



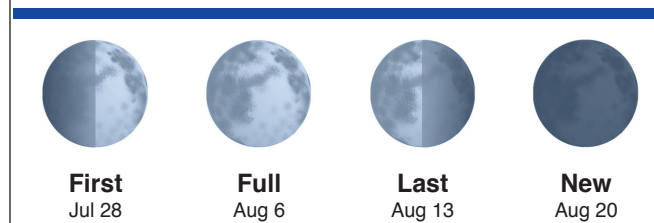
### Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	87	69	t-storm
Amarillo	74	58	t-storm
Austin	102	77	windy
Beaumont	92	78	t-storm
Brownsville	99	78	pt sunny
Brownwood	93	71	t-storm
Corpus Christi	99	81	mst sunny
Corsicana	88	72	t-storm
Dallas	88	73	rain
Del Rio	103	82	pt sunny
El Paso	100	73	pt sunny
Fort Stockton	97	72	t-storm
Gainesville	84	69	rain
Greenville	82	70	t-storm
Houston	98	78	windy
Kingsville	103	79	mst sunny
Livingston	97	76	t-storm
Longview	86	73	t-storm
Lubbock	80	63	t-storm
Lufkin	95	77	t-storm
Midland	91	71	t-storm
Raymondville	104	79	pt sunny
Rosenberg	98	78	windy
San Antonio	104	79	pt sunny
San Marcos	103	78	windy
Sulphur Springs	81	71	t-storm
Sweetwater	85	67	t-storm
Tyler	87	72	t-storm
Weatherford	90	70	t-storm
Wichita Falls	85	65	t-storm

### National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	82	69	t-storm
Boston	81	68	t-storm
Chicago	79	58	t-storm
Dallas	88	73	rain
Denver	67	51	rain
Houston	98	78	windy
Los Angeles	79	62	pt sunny
Miami	91	80	pt sunny
Minneapolis	68	54	rain
New York	84	71	t-storm
Phoenix	103	81	mst sunny
San Francisco	72	54	pt sunny
Seattle	96	64	sunny
St. Louis	79	62	t-storm
Washington, DC	91	75	pt sunny

### Moon Phases



### UV Index

Thu 7/30	Fri 7/31	Sat 8/1	Sun 8/2	Mon 8/3
<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
Extreme	Very High	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

## Lottery

The winning numbers from Tuesday's Mega Millions drawing were: 4, 17, 24, 25 and 48. The Mega Ball number was 34.

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Tuesday by the Texas Lottery: 9 - 15 - 19 - 30 - 33.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8 - 9 - 3 - 2. Sum It Up: 22.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6 - 2 - 5. Sum It Up: 13.

## BIG SPRING HERALD

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# Council mulls \$4.2 million water park to replace pool

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

Big Spring City Council agreed Tuesday to move forward with plans for a new municipal swimming pool, but the availability of contractors will most likely put a new facility out of reach for next year's hot-weather season.

City Manager Gary Fuqua and Assistant City Manager Todd Darden presented the council with a conceptual drawing of a new \$4.2 million facility during the meeting, a plan that goes well beyond the mental imagery aroused by the term "swimming pool."

"To simply call it a swimming pool is a bit of a misnomer," said Darden. "The days of rectangular pools are pretty much gone, unless you're building one for competitive swimming. The pools being built these days better resemble water parks and other commercial facilities."

The aquatics park would house a swimming pool, but the conceptual drawing also made room for a shallow swimming area dedicated solely to children, including a number of splash toys, as well as a lazy river around approximately one-half of the park.

Mayor Russ McEwen spoke very highly of the design, saying a swimming pool for Big Spring's youth is nothing short of a necessity.

"For a lot of kids in Big Spring, this is what recreation they have during the summer," said McEwen. "They don't get to take trips to Schlitterbahn or to Dallas. I would absolutely love to be able to give our youth something like this."

The council gave the order not to open the swimming pool at the end of the school year in May after city officials learned the facility failed to meet federal requirements laid out in the Virginia Graeme Baker Act, which requires public swimming pools to have measures in place to prevent drain entrapment, a situation where a swimmer becomes trapped by the suction force of a pool drain.

Councilwoman Gloria McDonald supported moving forward with the process, but warned against getting in too big of a hurry.

"I really like the idea, but at the same time I don't want us to just go along with the first drawing we see," McDonald told the council. "I'd like to see what else is out there."

McDonald also said she'd like to see some consideration given to the prior pool's demographics when planning a new facility.

"We don't want to end up in a situation where our kiddie pool isn't big enough and our swimming pool is too big," said McDonald. "We can look at the demographics from our previous pool to get a better idea how this should be divided up. However, we also have to keep in mind some groups may not have been using the



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

**Big Spring Councilwoman Jo Ann Staulcup, right, Mayor Russ McEwen and Debbie Wegman, director of the Conventions and Visitors Bureau, look over a proposed design for a new municipal swimming pool during Tuesday night's meeting of the city council.**

old pool because it didn't meet their needs, so demographics aren't everything in a situation like this."

The new pool would be able to serve 500 swimmers at a time, according to city officials, while the city's existing swimming pool only averaged approximately 300 patrons.

"We want to plan for the future," said Fuqua. "And plan-

ing for growth in the city is a big part of that. We've had the existing pool since it was constructed sometime in the 1930s, and we would be expecting a new pool to last us a very long time as well."

Darden said the likelihood of being able to have a new pool facility up and running in time for next year's swimming season was "not ideal,"

due mainly to the short time span and the availability of qualified contractors.

While the council seemed impressed with the concept drawing and all the added features of the new pool, the \$4.2 million price tag met with little to no response.

"I think what we need to do is plan a work session to go over this once the budget is completed," said McEwen.

Also during Tuesday's council meeting, McEwen introduced an idea to the group concerning this year's closure of the Municipal Auditorium due to its inability to meet requirements set by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

"If a private entity wanted to lease the auditorium on a long-term basis and make the repairs necessary to make it ADA compliant, would we be willing to go that route?" McEwen asked the council. "We could give the private entity a list of dates for symphony performances, dance recitals and school district functions where we would have the facility, and they could use it the rest of the time. There's been a lot of privatization lately, although I'm not sure there's been a situation like this one."

Councilwoman Stephanie Horton said she would support the idea as long as the private entity agreed to repair the ADA deficiencies on a set schedule. The rest of the council agreed to consider the idea, with no action taken on the matter during the meeting.

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

## CITY

Continued from Page 1

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 council also gave a quiet nod to increases in sewer rates, with revenues from the increases set to be used to replenish a city utility fund that has been declining for several years.

If approved in the coming months, residential customers can expect to see an increase of \$1.25 in the base rate for sewer service, 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 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 hates to see rates increase, especially in tough economic times, but warned taking no action to replenish the city's utility fund — which is currently \$640,610, much lower than the staff-recommended \$2.5 million — could spell disaster.

"It's like Councilwoman Gloria McDonald said during the session, we have to tackle this problem with the fund balance a little at

a time," said Fuqua. "We're not at a point where they are an emergency. We're watching the fund balances and we're not going to panic, but it's something that has to be addressed."

"It's a lot like the maintenance on your home or property and your bank account. Your bank account is getting a little low and you know you're going to have to repaint the house in a few years, so you know you need to start saving up a little money, and that's what we're looking at doing. We're just trying to prepare ourselves in case of an emergency, and I really feel like we did that tonight."

No one on the council spoke against the rate increase, although Councilman Manuel Ramirez Jr. did say, "I don't like to see any increases, but if we have to have it in the fund balance..." letting his voice trail away.

The \$41 million budget, if it receives final approval from the council in the next two months, would also eliminate some red tape from municipal books, as the council also gave the go-ahead to subsidize two problematic departments — the city's cemetery and Comanche Trail Golf Course.

Fuqua said both departments have ended up in the red for the

past several years, asking the council to approve a one-time payout of \$456,000 to shore up both departments, with subsidies the most likely source of a long-term answer to their fiscal woes.

"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," he told the council, which accepted the idea with no one speaking out against it.

Fuqua said he's very pleased with the proposed budget and the council's willingness to move forward with it, calling it a testament to the hard work of the city's staff.

"I would say the staff has put many hours into this budget, but it's been more like days," said Fuqua. "The council has been very open. You only see one part of the process here tonight. I assure you the council members do their research and call us throughout the day to ask questions, and they look at the facts and the figures. It's because everyone has really done their homework we've been able to move through this so quickly."

Mayor Russ McEwen also expressed his approval of the fiscal plan.

"I feel like we've done our job again. It's not an

easy task, but as long as expenses are going up we're going to have to tweak things. It's just the nature of the beast," said McEwen. "You hate to go up on any fees whatsoever, but the fact of the matter is if you have fuel costs and you're having to look at what we're going to have to do — which is build new landfills — then we really don't have any choice in them. We have to make sure we comply with state and federal regulations. They are expensive, but it's just not an option not to comply with them."

The fact Big Spring has been able to move forward with several bond-supported projects and other initiatives during times of economic upheaval is something McEwen said the citizens of the city can be proud of.

"Sales tax has kept

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pace, and it is a significant source of income to the city," he said. "And we're seeing a fall-off in that right now. We don't know exactly where it's going so we're trying to do what we can. But I feel like we've done a good job. The staff has been able to come up with cost saving institutions and I think we're doing things efficiently, and we don't try to do everything, but I feel like the projects we're working on are important to the quality of life in Big Spring."

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

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# EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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Publisher

**Bill McClellan**  
News Editor

**John A. Moseley**  
Managing Editor

## OUR VIEW

# Caution is still needed when it comes to fires

Fire officials still aren't asking county commissioners for a burn ban, thanks to weather that has produced more rainfall for this area than usual, meaning there's reduced risk of wildfires in the area.

But wait a minute! This is West Texas and it is summer, so it is important to realize that the officials say there's only reduced danger.

More than a month ago, Howard County Volunteer Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan said wildfire danger in Howard County was at a four-year low at the moment and that's pretty much held true since then.

But Sullivan is well aware that it only takes a few days for that to change here in West Texas with normally hot, dry and somewhat windy conditions predominating during the summer.

And with conditions like those, any fire that gets out of hand could wind up being a catastrophic wildfire.

We've noted that before in this space, but we think it warrants repeating.

We only have to remember a couple of years ago when grassfires turned into far-ranging wildfires. And sadly, those fires only needed a small spark to create disastrous damage.

While fall has always been wildfire season in West Texas, thanks to dying vegetation and brisk winds, there's no question that we must be vigilant all the time.

As Sullivan noted in June, "The stuff out there will still burn, make no mistake about that. It's just not as bad as it's been in the past."

At the time, he noted that we were "sitting at a moderate to high risk factor," and that "it could get worse pretty quick." That's still the case today.

Texas Forest Service officials are always reminding us that we all need to use extreme caution when it comes to any outdoor burning.

Approximately 90 percent of the wildfires they see are caused by people.

We should all remain vigilant, because here in dry and windy West Texas, it only takes a spark or two to create a serious problem. Simply riding on the rim of a flat tire or pitching a cigarette butt out the window of one's vehicle is enough to create a potential catastrophe.

Sullivan also issued a warning to those who break the law or are careless. "Regardless of whether there's a burn ban in place or not, we're operating on a zero-tolerance basis when it comes to fire," he said. "If your mistake results in the loss of someone else's property, you're looking at a charge of reckless endangerment and a \$500 fine."

It's just a reminder, but when it comes to fire in this country, you really can't be too safe.

## LETTER POLICIES

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- 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

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Dear Lord, Your love is a must-have for our life.

Amen

# The giant still is sleeping

For U.S. politicians who may be weighing the significance of the Hispanic vote in future elections, the writing is on the wall: Although Latinos clearly swung several key states for Barack Obama in 2008, you haven't seen nada yet.

The so-called Latino "electoral sleeping giant" has not fully awakened yet. And when that giant finally decides to get up and stretch out, all glass ceilings may be broken.

With irrefutable figures, a new report by the National Institute for Latino Policy shows that in future elections, Latinos will be a much more powerful voting bloc.

"The Latino vote is clearly the vote of the future," said Angelo Falcon, president of the New York-based institute. He conducted an analysis of recently released Census Bureau statistics on voting and registration in the November 2008 elections.

By breaking down Census Bureau statistics to see how Latinos voted, Falcon found that while the growth in the number of Hispanic voters has been "impressive," the potential for further growth is even more awesome.

"This so-called 'electoral sleeping giant' is yet to be fully awakened," Falcon concluded, as he explained that while 9.7 million Latinos voted in the November elections, there were nearly 2 million others who were registered to vote and never went to the polls.

And because the "Latino get-out-the-vote mobilization fell short of registration efforts,"

Falcon found that Latinos represented 7.4 percent of all voters, far short of the 9 to 10 percent share that some had predicted before the election.

"There is a consistent 10 percentage point gap between registration and voting percentages of eligible Latino voters in 2004 and 2008 that points to the potential growth of this Latino vote if fully mobilized," Falcon said.

While 2 million un-cast votes seems like a huge loss, there is even greater potential among Latinos who are eligible to vote and have not registered. Falcon found that of the 19.5 million Latinos who were U.S. citizens and 18 or older, only 59.4 percent were registered to vote last year, and only 49.9 percent actually voted.

Yet despite these "lags in participation rates," Falcon noted that because of the dramatic growth of the Latino population, the growth in the number of Latino voters was nevertheless quite impressive.

Some 2.2 million more Latinos voted in 2008 than in 2004. That's a growth rate of 28.4 percent, Falcon said, compared with a 2.8 percent growth rate for non-Latino voters.

Falcon broke down not only the way the different Latino subgroups turned out to vote but also the rate of growth between 2004 and 2008 for some of these subgroups. And his findings should be studied by politicians who still believe they can ignore the issues of concern to Latinos.

Analyzing the Census Bureau's November 2008 Current Population Survey, Falcon found that in the presidential election, Mexicans were the majority of Latino voters (53.3 percent), followed by Puerto Ricans (14.4 percent), Central/South Americans (1.3 percent) and Cubans (1.1 per-

cent). But he also found trends that could signal some significant shifts in that breakdown, because the largest increases in Latino voters between 2004 and 2008 came from Central/South Americans (49.2 percent), followed by Cubans (36.8 percent), Puerto Ricans (35.3 percent) and Mexicans (23.6 percent).

If they keep ignoring these figures and trends, politicians will be in deep trouble among Latino voters.

"We are not going away, and the politicians who keep ignoring the Latino community will be doing it at their own peril," Falcon told me Monday.

Falcon said that while the sleeping giant is not fully awakened, the alarm clock could go off at any moment, especially because there are many issues that are quite poignant for Latinos nowadays. He said there are many "political land mines" that could trigger strong reactions in the Hispanic community — or at least among some Latino subgroups.

"It is clear that the Republican Party, as (it takes) positions of special interest to the Latino voters, like the confirmation of Judge Sonia Sotomayor for the Supreme Court, comprehensive immigration reform, the political status of Puerto Rico, and others, needs to understand this reality," Falcon said.

But Falcon is an equal-opportunity critic.

He said the Democrats "need to understand that continuing to take Latinos for granted by excluding them from leadership positions and not addressing their issues with any urgency could be the factors that fully awaken this 'electoral sleeping giant.'"

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# Help wanted? Not often enough!

I got my first job when I was 15. Before that, I baby-sat, did piece work for a leather company that didn't care how old you were and worked at a dusty day camp.

The Pewter Pot Muffin Shop in Salem, Mass., was a major step up: 99 cents an hour plus tips could add up to three or four dollars an hour, far more than my sister made scooping ice cream at Friendly's. And our uniforms were better: Short black skirts, white shirts and lace-up red vests beat beige one-pieces and hairnets any day.

By the time I went to college, my sister had joined me at the Pewter Pot. Over the next few years, she and I worked at Pewter Pots all over the Boston area. When I was old enough, I switched from serving coffee to serving drinks, and ended up working my way through law school as the bartender and night manager of Mahoney's in Somerville, Mass.

I have never been unemployed in my life. Not even for a day. I've never even taken more than two weeks off. In the past, when people would complain that it was impossible to find a job, I would just roll my eyes. It was

never impossible for me to find a job.

I'm not saying they were all great jobs. No, indeed. When I came home from the Pewter Pot at the end of my first eight-hour shift, having spent every minute of those eight hours on my feet, my father told me something that I have repeated many times since: There's a reason they call it "work."

Work, most of the time, is work — not fun. My worst job was counting candy, cupcakes and cigarettes for a vending company. I lived in a basement apartment, and our office was in the basement of Sears. I had to be at work at 7 in the morning, made less than everyone else and, to add insult to injury, had to keep track of every cupcake I ate so I could adjust the count accordingly.

The point is, I have always had a job, usually more than one, and had no sympathy for those who couldn't find one.

Until now. I have never seen or lived through anything quite like this. There are no jobs for lawyers or waitresses, for painters or salespeople. There are literally no jobs to be had.

The kids came home from college this summer, good kids who work every summer and count on it to pay their bills during the year. There were no jobs to be

had. No barista jobs. No salesgirl jobs.

My nephew's girlfriend is a hardworking young woman who has never been unemployed a day in her life. She waitresses and is really good at it — experienced, knowledgeable, flexible, smart, reliable. But she's new to town, hoping to go to community college in the fall, so she goes out every day with resumes and smiles — and no one is hiring. It's not that they are hiring someone else. They just aren't hiring.

I am usually the fount of advice for my friends and my friends' friends about getting a job. Do this, do that, don't be so picky, go here, get on the bus, be flexible, send more resumes, call, network. ... I always have ideas.

I have no ideas. Don't get me wrong. There are other problems. But if you don't have a job, it's hard to worry about them — or to do anything other than just worry. Good jobs at good wages are the building blocks for everything else, and right now, we don't have enough of them.

I'm not sure folks in Washington quite grasp that. But if they don't, they're likely to find out the next time ballots get handed around.

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# PARENT'S CORNER

There is a word we hear little about but is recognized within a phrase. The word is aphorism, which is a short, pointed sentence expressing a wise or clever observation or a general truth. Let me share of a few aphorisms with you and see if you have ever heard any of them.



DARRELL RYAN

The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow. Money will buy a fine dog, but only kindness will make him wag his tail. If you don't have a sense of humor, you probably don't have any sense at all. Seat belts are not as confining as wheelchairs. A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.

How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night? Business conventions are important because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without. Why is it that at a class reunion you feel younger than everyone else looks? Scratch a cat and you will have a permanent job. No one has more driving ambition than the boy who wants to buy a car.

There are no new sins; the old ones just get more publicity. There are worse things than getting a call for a wrong number at 4 a.m.; it could be a right number. No one ever says 'It's only a game' when their team is winning. I've reached the age where the happy hour is a nap. Be careful reading the fine print; there's no way you're going to like it. The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.

Do you realize that in about 40 years, we'll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos? (And rap music will be the Golden Oldies!) Money can't buy happiness, but somehow it's more comfortable to cry in a Corvette than in a Yugo. After 50, if you don't wake up aching in every joint, you are probably dead!

Always be yourself because the people who matter don't mind, and the ones who mind, don't matter. No answer is also an answer. The good-looking person may just be good in the face. It's easy to be brave from a great distance. Some people are smart but they are not wise. The more you ask how far you have to go the longer the journey seems to be. And the one I like the best is that the soul would have no rainbows if the eyes had no tears.

Now you can say you've had your aphorism for the day.

Darrell Ryan is the director of federal programs for Big Spring Independent School District.

# Why not check this out? At the library

A neat book has just come in on animals. The idea that species other than human are able to think, solve problems and share new behaviors has long fascinated scientists. Dr. Sally Boyesen has written "The Smartest Animals on the Planet" (591.513 BOY S) and she has explored and researched this subject with a variety of animals. This volume, however, has focused on specific individual animals — chimpanzees, horses, crows, rats, etc. — and she demonstrates how each animal can apparently mimic human behavior. This is a fascinating book and well worth looking at.



HOLLIS MCCRIGHT

In a review from Publisher's Weekly comes the story of a young smalltime crook with a meticulous eye for artistic detail and an addiction to the thrill of crime. Millions in high-quality phony bills are crafted in Jason Kersten's account of counterfeiter Art Williams Jr. Born in 1972 and abandoned by his father to poverty, the gritty gangs of Chicago and a mentally ill mother, Williams slid into an underworld of theft and violence before a bohemian money crafter introduced him to counterfeiting. With swagger, ingenuity and a devoted wife, Williams produced millions of dollars worth of uncannily accurate bills for 14 years, until the Secret Service caught up with him.

As Kersten narrates this story, he ably weaves the minuscule details of currency security with colorful portraits of underworld characters like a Chinese mob leader known as the Horse and tales of giddy shopping sprees fueled by sex,

fake bills, even mischievous masquerades as priests. Illustrating Williams not only as a delinquent genius but a sensitive young man seeking paternal love and aesthetic validation, Kersten configures a rollicking and captivating look into a compelling criminal mind. The book is "The Art of Making Money: The Story of a Master Counterfeiter" (364.133 KER J) and can be found in the true crime area.

Are you interested in building your own Web site? Check out "The Quick and Easy Web Site," (658.872 PET P) written by Paula Peters. It takes you from the initial idea, purchasing a domain name and on to the end product. It looks to be pretty simple.

A couple of AUCDs have been processed. The first is non-fiction and is the story of how Napoleon's army was defeated by a tiny microbe (I have reviewed this book in a prior column). The title is "The Illustrious Dead" (AUCD 940.274 TAL S) by Stephen Talty. The second comes from Donis Casey (He grew up in a small town in Oklahoma) and the title is "The Sky Took Him" (AUCD F CAS D). Alafair and her family are gathered for the death of her brother-in-law in 1915 Enid, Okla. However, nephew-in-law Kenneth is missing and powerful bad guy Buck Collins is involved. I have not read any of Casey's print items and so do not know how she writes, but I have asked Martha to order some.

I just skimmed "Dogged Pursuit: My Year of Competing Dusty, the Least Likely Agility Dog" (636.708 ROD R) written by Richard Rodi and it reads very well! An urban intellectual and a scruffy, disobedient Sheltie team up

to conquer the canine agility pro-circuit in this hysterical account of the quest for glory in the competitive dog world. A cousin to the popular best-in-breed show, agility competitions resemble doggie boot camp: dogs scamper across teeter-totters, jump tires and scoot down tunnels — without leashed guidance

an American Small Town" (362.299 RED N) by Nick Reding; and "Down Around Midnight: Memoir of Crash and Survival" (920.936 SAB R) by Robert Sabbag.

Some new fiction is available, too: a new thriller from Greg Hurwitz, "Trust No One." Nick Horrigan has built a new life for himself after being on the run for 17 years for apparently murdering his step-father. But life is never as it seems, and events overtake him.

Hurwitz is an excellent writer; the library has a couple of his prior books as well.

Edited by Clive Cussler, "Thriller 2" (F CUS C) is a collection of short stories from all the big names — Jon Land, Lisa Jackson, Ridley Pearson, Carla Neggers.

Each story is original and meticulously written to squeeze the breath out of you!

A rather peculiar book, "Roastbeef's Promise" (F JER D) written by David Jerome, is the story of a son who fulfills his father's last request. Jim "Roastbeef" Hume is determined to fulfill his father's desire that some of his ashes be "spread or sprinkled" in each of the 48 contiguous states. In honoring that request, Roastbeef will run into some mighty funny and strange situations.

Our Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us. Howard County Library hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and is closed Saturdays through August. The Internet/Video room closes one-half hour before closing.

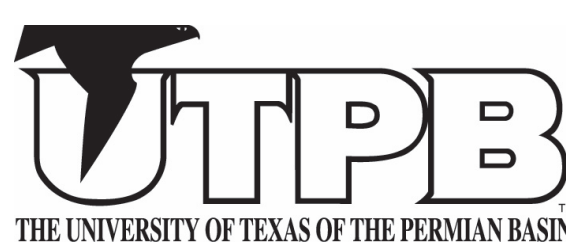
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from a human.

Taking home ribbons requires a focused handler and a cooperative dog. Robert Rodi is a self-proclaimed Blue-stater who prefers fine wine and Italian literature (in Italian) to SUVs and suburban sprawl. His dog Dusty's scrawny build and skittish personality make him an unnatural competitor. Nevertheless, Rodi recounts a year filled with victories, failures and hysterical personalities, and the loving bond between one man and his bug-eyed dog.

More non-fiction titles: Suzanne Simons' "Master of War: Blackwater USA's Erik Prince and the Business of War" (956.704 SIM S); "Methland: Death and Life of



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## Annie's Mailbox <sup>®</sup>



KATHY MITCHELL  
MARCY SUGAR

**Dear Annie:** Several years ago, my younger brother, "Ben," and his wife asked my husband and me to be the guardians of their new baby and any future children. They liked the way we were raising our own kids and felt comfortable having us raise theirs if something were to happen to them. We happily agreed.

It is now eight years later, and I have two wonderful teenagers who will soon be leaving the nest.

Ben's two children are ill-behaved, and we do not enjoy being around them. Their parents are very permissive, and as a result, the kids are bratty. I find that I enjoy the freedom that has come with our boys getting older, and neither my husband nor I want to take care of these young children if my brother and his wife were to pass away. I don't want to be parenting teenagers when I am 60.

Should I tell my brother I no longer want to be a guardian or just hope that nothing ever happens to them?

I worry it would cause hard feelings with his wife since she doesn't get along with members of her own family, and I don't know who else they would ask.

My husband thinks I should let it go because the chances of something tragic happening are slim. What do you say? — *Soon-To-Be Empty Nester*

**Dear Soon:** You should tell them. Simply say, "We have been honored to be your children's guardians, but we are not sure it's the best choice now. Our children are nearly grown, and we don't

think we'd do such a great job raising youngsters anymore.

You might want to ask someone else — if not a family member, perhaps a friend with children the same age."

Of course, if they don't want to change guardians, please reconsider your objections. If the worst happens, those children will need someone like you.

**Dear Annie:** I've been married 10 years, have two wonderful children and love my husband very much. He is a good man.

However, he never compliments me. I am told often by other people how beautiful I am inside and out, and that I am in great shape, but I will never hear those sweet words from my husband.

I have asked him why he can't compliment me, and he doesn't respond. I often tell him how good he looks. I wish he would do the same. — *Tired of Waiting for Kind Words*

**Dear Tired:** Some men simply don't know how to do this. You could help by adding some humor — next time you are dressed up, say emphatically, "My goodness, Mary, you look wonderful!" and then thank him for the sweet compliment.

After a few of those, he may feel more comfortable saying the same words. But even if he doesn't, remember that actions speak louder. If he shows you he loves you, compliments are nice, but irrelevant. Don't invite resentment into your marriage.

**Dear Annie:** I just started reading your column since I only recently began receiving the newspaper. I feel compelled to respond to "Concerned Grandpa in Indy," whose grandchildren are encouraged to climb on the kitchen counters.

My two older children (ages 5 and 3) have been permitted to sit on my island countertop to "help" prepare meals.

Both my husband and my mother warned me that someone was going to fall — and someone did.

My 3-year-old toppled backward off the counter. We are lucky she only broke her arm, but we spent six hours in the emergency room and had to return the next day for surgery.

All the pain and suffering my precious daughter experienced (not to mention the worry and a big fat hospital bill since we are uninsured) could easily have been prevented.

Indy Grandpa, please stick to your guns! — *Sarasota Mom*

**Dear Mom:** We're glad your daughter is OK, and we appreciate the warning from someone who understands the problem. (And thank you, by the way, for subscribing to your local newspaper.)

**Dear Annie:** My 14-year-old daughter, "Sara," thinks she's in love with a controlling boyfriend who is two years older.

In the past six months, she's become a different child. She recently informed me that she and the boyfriend are having sex.

Sara has a wonderful group of girlfriends who are equally concerned, but most have given up on her.

They told me they are not allowed to hang out with Sara anymore. The Boyfriend tells her who her friends can be, where she can go and when, which, by the way, is apparently never.

Sara stays in her room when she's not with The Boyfriend.

I've tried talking to her, insisting that she get out more, but she only wants to be with him and begs me to drive her to his house.

I've said he can come to our home, but he won't. He claims we hate him, so he hates us, too. I've recently even received notes from him, accusing me of not loving Sara as much as he does. He says I am a horrible mother.

The more I try to keep him away, the more she clings to him. Sara says his family loves her and wants her to live with them.

When a friend died recently, Sara began seeing a counselor and I have updated him about these new developments. But I'm concerned she will persuade the counselor that we are just too strict. What can I do? — *Worried Mom*

**Dear Mom:** A boy who convinces his girlfriend that her family doesn't treat her right, then isolates her from her friends and controls her activities is a potential abuser.

Many young girls mistake possessiveness and jealousy for love. A competent counselor will recognize this pattern, and you should call and make sure he understands the reasons behind your concerns.

In the meantime, tell Sara every day that you love her, that she's a smart, capable, terrific person, and that you will always be there when she needs you.

**Dear Annie:** I read the letter from "Walking on Eggshells," who is dating a woman whose grown daughters refuse to accept him.

My first husband died after 46 years of a very happy marriage. When I married "Dan," my grown son and daughter were suspicious.

My son ran a credit check on him even though Dan had twice as much money as I did. My daughter attended our wedding unwillingly and left immediately after the ceremony. Their paternal grandparents were very rude to us.

I told all of them that if they didn't start showing respect to my husband, they would never see me again. That threat stopped the nastiness. When they finally got to know my darling, they realized what a wonderful person he was. "Walking's" girlfriend must insist, as I did, that this man deserves their respect if they value their mother's happiness. — *Boston*

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# FALL SPORTS PREVIEW



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### Jones expects Cowboys to be as good as new stadium

JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

LIENAS THE \$1.15 billion stadium the Dallas Cowboys are moving into is "one of the greatest venues that sports has ever seen."

He also believes this year's team "will play to the level of the new stadium."

Hmm. Put the two thoughts together and Jones seems to have pretty lofty expectations.

OK, so maybe he's not saying the 2009 Cowboys will be among the greatest clubs sports has ever seen. But he is counting on them to end a stretch of 12 straight seasons without a post-season victory, the longest dry spell in club history.

"Our team is very capable of being a playoff-winning team," Jones said Tuesday. "We're very capable of that."

Jones' comments came during his annual "state of the Cowboys" news conference on the eve of training camp. The team will get to work Wednesday morning.

"We're ready," coach Wade Phillips

said, slapping a table for emphasis.

During the hourlong talk, Jones repeatedly brought up how strongly he supports Phillips, even mentioning it twice during his opening statement. Yet Phillips is in the final guaranteed season of the contract he signed when he replaced Bill Parcells in 2006. Asked why Phillips is in that precarious position despite having so much support, Jones said, "It's just not an issue."

Even less of an issue, Jones and Phillips made clear, is the team's support of quarterback Tony Romo.

The bosses couldn't say enough good things about their highest-paid and highest-profile employee. They answered questions about Romo's leadership, conditioning, work ethic and protection of the football before those questions were even asked.

"You're seeing a more seasoned individual than you were talking with three years ago," Jones said. "I know he's had a lot of criticism, and I know he knows it."

Romo is under the microscope for many reasons. It started with the Cowboys going 1-3 at the end of last

season, costing them a playoff spot, and grew over an offseason that Jones said was all about making the team more "Romo-friendly," leading to moves that included the release of star receiver Terrell Owens.

It's also led to the theory that Romo is without any excuses, an idea that irked Jones.

"To make that valid, you have to assume he had a lot of excuses before," Jones said. "I just don't think that's the right way to describe what we've done personnel-wise or what we've emphasized in the offseason."

Jones also reiterated that T.O. had to go to make way for Roy Williams and other young, emerging receivers.

In fact, Jones summed up this team as being like those receivers — a work in progress that should get better as the season goes along.

"I think we've got a chance to have a really, really top team. We have that chance," Jones said. "The definition of the talent level is there to really excel. But will it remain there? Will

See JONES, Pg. 8



AP photo/Eric Gray

Dallas Cowboys head coach Wade Phillips, left, looks on as owner Jerry Jones, right, answers a question during a news conference in San Antonio Tuesday. The Cowboys are scheduled to begin summer practices today at the Alamodome.

### Rangers bullpen big in win over Tigers



AP photo/Tom Pennington

Texas Rangers Ian Kinsler beats the throw to Detroit Tigers third baseman Brandon Inge after hitting a two run triple during the inning in Arlington Tuesday.

ARLINGTON (AP) — The Texas Rangers got a tag-team effort from their bullpen.

Doug Mathis came out of the bullpen to give Texas four innings in an emergency spot start, and four other relievers shut out Detroit on one hit the rest of the way as the Rangers beat the Tigers 7-3 on Tuesday night.

Ex-Tiger Jason Grilli (1-1) pitched two perfect innings of relief with three strikeouts to pick up the decision.

"If we continue to develop our roles as we have, I put our bullpen against anyone in the big leagues," Grilli said. "I think we thrive on that fact. Pitching and defense is what matters and we've been doing that well and I think our offense thrives off of that."

Normally a long reliever, Mathis made his second start of the season and sixth of his career for Texas in place of Vicente Padilla, still weak from swine flu and scratched from the start about 3 1-2 hours prior to gametime.

Mathis allowed three runs and six hits in four innings. Grilli, Eddie Guardado, Darren O'Day and Guillermo Moscoso went the rest of the way, with Texas retiring 15 straight from the fourth through the eighth.

"It shows what character we have out there," Guardado said. "We needed everyone to step up. We all did our part and contributed to this win."

Ian Kinsler drove in three runs, and rookie Elvis Andrus homered and had three hits for the Rangers.

Kinsler, who was in a huge funk at the plate that shrunk his batting average from .272 to .242, highlighted a four-run second with a two-run triple. Kinsler began the night with 16 hits in his previous 103 at-bats.

Kinsler left the game before the seventh with a mildly strained left hamstring and will be evaluated on Wednesday.

Taken the Rangers have taken two straight from the Tigers after dropping the previous seven meetings and have won eight of nine overall.

Detroit is 4-8 since the All-Star break and its sputtering offense has scored three runs or less eight times in that span. The Tigers have lost three straight and seven in a row on the road.

Mathis had been tough out of the bullpen, pitching 17 scoreless innings in relief since he was recalled from Triple-A Oklahoma City on June 3.

But Detroit ended Mathis' consecutive scoreless innings streak at 18 with a three-run second on Ramon Santiago's RBI double and Dusty Ryan's two-run single.

Texas answered with a four-run second off rookie Luke French — all with two out — on Andrus' run-scoring single, Kinsler's two-run triple and Michael

See RANGERS, Pg. 8

### Oswalt hurting, so Astros' offense takes over for win

CHICAGO (AP) — With ace Roy Oswalt's status uncertain because of an injury, Miguel Tejada and the Houston Astros found the joy in their decisive victory over the rival Cubs.

Geoff Blum hit a tiebreaking homer in the seventh inning and Tejada connected and had a season-high five RBIs, helping the Astros overcome an early exit for Oswalt because of a strained back to beat Chicago 11-6 on Tuesday night.

Jeff Keppinger had four hits and drove in three runs as the Astros snapped the Cubs five-game winning streak and ended their own three-game losing streak.

"To lose him (Oswalt) at this point of the year is not a good idea. Everybody is crossing their fingers that he will be OK in a

couple of days," said Tejada.

Oswalt pitched a scoreless first inning then struck out the first two batters he faced in the second. After forcing a 1-1 pitch to Alfonso Soriano, catcher Ivan Rodriguez noticed something was wrong with Oswalt and met with him on the mound. He then waved for Astros manager Cecil Cooper and a team trainer. Oswalt has a strained lower back.

Moments later, Cooper called left-handed reliever Wesley Wright to replace Oswalt, who left with the Astros leading 1-0.

Oswalt said he felt pain in his back in the last inning he worked in his last start against the Cardinals on July 22. He then experienced pain in a bullpen session two days later, but still felt he could make Tuesday's start

against the Cubs.

"I know I shouldn't blow it all the way out. It was not to the point that I could have thrown knuckleballs to make it through one or two innings," said Oswalt, who is flying to Houston on Wednesday. Oswalt was unsure if he will be getting an MRI on his back.

Oswalt had won his three previous decisions and was 4-1 with a 2.40 ERA in his last eight starts.

After the game, Wright was rushed to Northwestern Hospital by ambulance after experiencing discomfort in an area around his appendix.

Aramis Ramirez hit a three-run homer for the Cubs, which dropped a half game behind St. Louis in the NL Central.

See ASTROS, Pg. 8

### Sports in brief

#### Two-a-days practice schedule for BSBS 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 scrimmage 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 BSBS.

#### BSBS 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 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.

#### Big Spring Tennis Camp begins Monday at Figure 7

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.

# Brett Favre says no to a comeback with the Vikings

**JON KRAWCZYNSKI**

AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS — The purple No. 4 jerseys with "FAVRE" on the back were already in heavy circulation around the Twin Cities and it seemed almost inevitable that Brett Favre would end his second retirement to join the Minnesota Vikings.

Then Favre dropped the news that surprised many — inside the organization and out — when he called Vikings coach Brad Childress on Tuesday to tell him he was staying retired and would not be joining the Vikings for training camp.

"The writing on the wall was, as long as his arm was healthy he was going to play," Vikings linebacker Ben Leber said. "I thought it was just a contractual deal that was taking so long and I really expected him to be at camp. So I was really surprised."

Now the Vikings are left to pick up the pieces after their summer-long courtship of the future Hall of Fame quarterback ended with a phone call just two days before players are required to report to training camp in Mankato.

"It was the hardest decision I've ever made," Favre told ESPN. "I didn't feel like physically I could play at a level

that was acceptable. I would like to thank everyone, including the Packers, Jets and Vikings — but, most importantly, the fans."

Set to turn 40 in October, Favre told Childress that he didn't think his body could withstand a 19th season in the NFL. This after he retired for a second time, was granted his release from the New York Jets and had surgery to alleviate a torn biceps in his throwing arm, presumably to get him ready for one last run at a title.

But after two months of throwing to kids at Oak Grove High School in Mississippi, and a few interviews that seemed to indicate he was leaning to-

ward joining the Vikings, Favre came to the conclusion that he just doesn't have it in him.

"I had to be careful not to commit for the wrong reasons," Favre said. "They were telling me, 'You went through all this, you had the surgery and you've got to finish it off.' But I have legitimate reasons for my decision. I'm 39 with a lot of sacks to my name."

In the end, the player who set nearly every significant passing record the NFL has during 16 brilliant seasons with the rival Green Bay Packers managed to hand the Vikings one more loss.

## ASTROS

Continued from Pg. 7

Blum broke a 6-all tie in the seventh with a two-out solo home run off Angel Guzman (2-2). The Astros added on in the eighth inning. With runners on first and second, Keppinger hit a two-

run triple to center off Cubs reliever Aaron Heilman. Then Tejada followed with an RBI single.

Astros reliever Jeff Fulchino (4-3) pitched three innings to earn the win. He allowed three runs on three hits.

"Fulchino stepped up big time for us and you can just go down the list," Cooper said. "Keppinger and Tejada definitely teamed up."

## RANGERS

Continued from Pg. 7

Young's RBI double.

"The kiss of death was when we scored three and come right back out and give 'em four," Tigers manager Jim Leyland said. "That pretty much

sums it up."

Kinsler's sacrifice fly in the fourth and slumping Josh Hamilton's RBI single in the fifth ended an 0-for-17 slide to make it 6-3.

Leyland continues to be mystified by his team's lack of offense.

Detroit's team batting average of .255 is tied for 11th in the American League.

## JONES

Continued from Pg. 7

the all-important preparation and the all-important getting the most out of the talent happen? That's what we're going to push for."

Other noteworthy comments:

- Special teams work is be-

ing moved to the start of every practice, partly as a consideration to the unit's coach, Joe DeCamillis, who still wears a neck brace because of injuries sustained when the team's indoor practice facility collapsed. The change also is to emphasize the team's renewed commitment to special teams.

- Phillips wants the running game to get back into the top 10, so that, too, will be empha-

sized more in practice.

• Extension talks for linebacker DeMarcus Ware remain a top priority and "our hope would be that we would get something done," vice president Stephen Jones said. "With someone the caliber of DeMarcus and the professional that he is, I think he can, from what I've seen, compartmentalize what he's dealing with in terms of his business both on and off the field. I feel

comfortable he'll be just fine with that."

• Phillips on his contract status: "I don't worry about my job. I worry about the job I'm doing. ... It's how good of a job I'm doing for Jerry, how good of a job I'm doing getting this football team ready to play and then playing and doing well this season."

- Jones continues to say he has no interest in Michael Vick as a quarterback, add-

ing that he does think Vick will return to the NFL. After dealing with Adam "Pacman" Jones last season, Jones knows the conditions set by commissioner Roger Goodell's will be strict. "Boy, there's not much give," he said.

- The roster is almost complete. Three draft picks signed Tuesday, leaving three unsigned. Dallas also waived receiver Travis Wilson.

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Roofs, Room Additions, Ceramic Tile, Fences, Painting  
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**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 mom2monkeys@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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134K, new tires, power windows,  
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Excellent Condition, lots of miles left.  
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NEW AD

**98 BUICK** LeSabre Limited,  
One Owner, Non-smoker, No  
Damage, Extra Clean.  
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Legals

NOTICE OF UNSAFE BUILDINGS  
STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF HOWARD  
BAA MEETING  
AUGUST 12, 2009

- 1- Riley Rivera, 702 S. Bell St, Big Spring, TX 79720, Lots 11 & 12 Block 1, J.T. Price Addition, also known as 1218 W. 3rd St.
- 2- Riley Rivera, 702 S. Bell St, Big Spring, TX 79720, Lots 11 & 12 Block 1, J.T. Price Addition, also known as 1220 W. 3rd St.
- 3- Rene Beserra, 3511 Lake Lane, Odessa, TX 79764-6828, LT 13 BK 1, J.T. Price Addition, also known as 1222 W. 3rd St
- 4- Managed Care L.C. dba Big Spring Care L.C. c/o Harold Stewart, President/CEO, 3126 Thomasville Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32308-7918, 4.14 acres out of a 6.05 ac. Tract of Land out of and part of SW/4 of Section No. Forty-Four (44) and SE/4 of Section No. Forty-Three (43), in Block No. Thirty-Two (32), Township one North (T1N), T&P Ry Co Survey in Howard County, Texas, also known as 901 Goliad St
- 5- Vijaichand Sardarmal Sand, 1901 Southbrook Dr., Wylie, TX 75098, Two Tracts out of SW/4 Section No. Thirty-Three (33), Township One North (T-1-N), T&P Ry Co Survey in Howard County, Texas, also known as 3500 W. Hwy 80.

Dear Property owner (s):

Current Tax records of the City of Big Spring indicate that you are the owner of the property at, the above street address. This structure is in violation of section 115.1 of the International Building Code and the following detailed report documents the condition which have rendered the structure unsafe to with: Dilapidated, sub-standard structure, plumbing and electrical do not meet the City Code of Ordinances. Windows missing or broken out. Building has been vandalized and poses a potential Health hazard to the public. Structures cannot be secured to keep out transients or children.

Therefore, by the authority invested in my office by the Big Spring Code, I have declared this structure or portions thereof unsafe, dilapidated substandard or unfit for human habitation, and have determined it or portions thereof poses a hazard to public health, safety, and public welfare.

The International Building Code, Section 115.01 provides that all structures or existing equipment that are or hereafter become unsafe, insanitary or deficient because of inadequate means of egress facilities, inadequate light and ventilation, or which constitute a fire hazard, or are otherwise dangerous to human life or the public welfare, or that involve illegal or improper occupancy or inadequate maintenance, shall be deemed an unsafe condition. Unsafe structures shall be taken down and removed or made safe, as the building official deems necessary and as provided for in this section. A vacant structure that is not secured against entry shall be deemed un-

safe.

"You are hereby notified that a hearing will be held before the MEP + Board of Adjustment and appeals of the City of Big Spring, Texas, at 307 E. 4th on the 12th day of August, 2009 at 5:30pm. The purpose of the hearing is to make a final determination as to whether the structure described is in violation of the Structural Standards Code of the City of Big Spring, Texas. You may be present at the hearing and may be, but need not be, represented by legal counsel. You may present any relevant evidence and will be given full opportunity to cross-examine all witnesses testifying against you. You may request the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, documents or other things by filing an affidavit thereof with the MEP Board of Adjustment and Appeals. At the time of the hearing, you (whether you be the owner, lien holder, or mortgagee) will be required to submit at the hearing proof of the scope of any work that may be required to comply with the Code and the time it will take to reasonably perform the work. In the event you seek to obtain more than thirty (30) days to complete the project, you will be required to reasonably establish that the work cannot be completed within thirty (30) days. In the event you seek to obtain more than ninety (90) days to complete the work, you will be required to submit a detailed plan and time schedule for the work at the hearing and establish that the work cannot be completed within ninety (90) days.

Following the hearing the Board of Adjustment and Appeals may issue an order requiring the vacation, relocation of occupants, securing, repair (with or without vacation), removal, or demolition of the structure if the MEP Board of Adjustment and Appeals finds that any of the following conditions exist:

- (1) The structure in question is dilapidated, substandard, or unfit for human habitation; and a hazard to the public health, safety, and welfare;
  - (2) The structure is unoccupied by its owners, or other invitees and is unsecured from unauthorized entry to the extent that is could be entered or used by vagrants or other uninvited persons as a place of harborage or could be entered or used by children;
  - (3) If boarded up, fenced or otherwise secured in any manner, the building constitutes a danger even though secured from entry; or the means used to secure the building are inadequate to prevent unauthorized entry or use of building in the manner described in (B) above;
  - (4) Following entry of the order, any person affected by the order may appeal, the order to the State District Court for relief within thirty (30) days, and upon failure to do so within such period of time, the order shall become final.
- Kenny H., Davis  
Building Official  
#6208 July 29 and August 2, 2009

BUY•SELL•TRADE  
In the  
Big Spring Herald Classifieds  
263-7331

Tomorrow's Horoscope

It's all about the art of love now. The sun traverses Leo, the sign that rules the heart, and Venus chimes in with her own romantic notions. The Scorpio moon highlights the more mysterious aspects of amore that can't be advised or studied and must be lived to be understood. Apply your individuality and creativity to elevate relationships.



HOLIDAY  
MATHIS

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). It's apparent that people trust you. You'll be given work that requires you to be highly responsible, organized and alert. You handle it all and remain calm, cool and collected.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You're so able that people think they ought to rely on you for everything they need. Say "no" often. Take measures to protect yourself from stress. You'll have an awesome day if you do only what you really want to do.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Your powers of observation are even sharper than usual. You'll notice straight away what's wrong with a situation. But don't mention that — at least not until you've pointed out what's right with it.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). You might not agree with the way things are being done around you. The system may not allow for truly genuine interactions. But at least the artificial constraints keep everyone in line. For now, it's best to observe the rules.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You don't need assertiveness training courses — in fact, you could probably teach

them if you wanted to. And yet there's someone who makes you feel shy. You'll benefit from reaching out and being friendlier to this person.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll get the opportunity to sort out a messy part of an otherwise good relationship. As you approach this puzzle, try not to take any detail out of context. Stand back and look at the real issues.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You know what's next for you, but you don't want to tell anyone else. It's nice to have a secret. And you really don't want to open your life up for potential criticism by people who simply wouldn't understand.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's nothing that will make you feel better than bringing others up. Compliment the important people in your life and do something just to please them. And if you can make them laugh, you'll be in a heavenly mood all day.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Once you put your mind to it, you can do anything. But putting your mind to it requires certain steps, too. Somewhere in your schedule, plan for a quiet block of time for doing nothing but thinking.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You recognize a bad idea when it comes along, but that doesn't always stop you from pursuing it. Maybe you need proof that something won't work, or more likely you see the potential for some unbridled fun in the process.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have the best attitude around for riding out this inspired, creative day. You're up for almost anything and you're willing to adjust your expectations as

things unfold.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Your beliefs about money may be keeping you from taking action to make your wishes come true. What you dream about isn't going to be as expensive as you think. But not going for it will cost you a piece of your soul.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (JULY 29). You see the future with hope and enthusiasm and will create your vision on a daily basis. A fun addition to your social life will make the summer sparkle. Through the fall, your life is enhanced by people who communicate well. Fascinating adventures begin with the respectful and non-defensive exchange of ideas. Scorpio and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 18, 19, 32, 50 and 16.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Leo is the sign of children. When Leo performers become mothers, their art becomes even deeper and more powerful. For country music superstar Martina McBride, this is clearly illustrated in songs like "In My Daughter's Eyes" — a tearjerker for mothers and daughters alike. McBride, who has three daughters with husband John McBride, has her Venus, Mars and Jupiter in Cancer, the sign of mothers.

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).

2009

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5:PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Raymond	Cortes	BBC Business	Cash Cab	Movie: Out for Justice, Jerry Orbach	CSI: NY	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas	Horn	SportsCenter
6:PM	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Gancho	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Friends	Harris	News-Lehrer	Cash Cab	CSI: Crime Scn	Bones	Bones	Movie: Lean on Me, Beverly Todd	Wiz Deck	Interrup	MLB Baseball
7:PM	Wipeout	Wipeout	Nombre Amor	Two Men	Entertain	Más Sabe el Diabolo	America-Talent	Seinfeld	Mark	Swallow	Made	Movie: Training Day, Scott Glenn	CSI: Crime Scn	Bones	Movie: Daddnapped	Suite Life Montana	NFL Live World Series	World Series
8:PM	Survived-Game	Survived-Game	Mañana es	Two Men	Entertain	Más Sabe el Diabolo	America-Talent	Payne	House	Ext. Loggers	Ext. Loggers	UFC Fight Night	Leverage	Leverage	Movie: Daddnapped	Jonas	MLS Soccer: All Star Game	Baseball Tonight
9:PM	Primetype: Crime	Primetype: Crime	Don Francisco	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Payne	Dr. Young	Charlie Rose	Ext. Loggers	Movie: The Game, Deborah Kara Unger	Dark Blue	Harlem	Wizards	Suite Life So Raven	Baseball Tonight	
10:PM	News	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Payne	Dr. Young	Charlie Rose	Ext. Loggers	CSI: Crime Scn	Dark Blue	Harlem	Wizards	Suite Life So Raven	Baseball Tonight	
11:PM	Insider	Jimmy Kim-mel Live	La Casa de la Risa	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones de	Late Night-Jim	Sex & Israel	Israel	BBC	Ext. Loggers	Amazing Video	Law & Order	Movie	Life De	NASCAR	Baseball	
12:AM	Work	Work	Mujer...	Friends	Entertain	Pagado	News	Israel	Israel	Smiley (Off Air)	Verminators	Disorderly Con.	Law & Order	Movie	Cory	X-Games Classix	NFL Live	
1:AM	Work	Work	Güereja	Friends	Entertain	Pagado	News	Israel	Israel	Smiley (Off Air)	Verminators	Disorderly Con.	Law & Order	Movie	Replace	X-Games Classix	NFL Live	

### DENNIS THE MENACE

7-29

"I AM NOT A POOR SPORT! I JUST LIKE TO WIN!"

### THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

7-29

"I'll take that. It's our first-aid equipment!"

### HAGAR

7-29

MY FRIEND HAS A COMPLAINT ABOUT THE SUIT OF ARMOR YOU SOLD HIM!

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

ARROWS

### BC

7-29

I HAVE DETERMINED THAT 1 OUT OF EVERY 5 ADULT MALES SUFFERS FROM CHRONIC STUPIDITY.

... AS SUCH, FOUR OUT OF FIVE ARE LIKELY TO REGARD THE FIFTH AS NOTHING MORE THAN A CASUAL ANNOYANCE.

THAT REMINDS ME, YOU THREE STILL ON FOR POKER TONIGHT?

### BLONDIE

7-29

OKAY, LISTEN UP FOLKS! HERE'S THE DEAL IN A NUTSHELL...

EITHER WORK LIKE FANATICS FROM NOW ON, OR YOU'RE HISTORY!!

WHAM!

THE BOSS HAS BEEN WATCHING HIS STUPID MOTIVATIONAL DVDS AGAIN!!

### WIZARD OF ID

7-29

HOW ABOUT A KISS FOR GOOD LUCK BEFORE YOUR JOUSTING COMPETITION?

GOOD IDEA!

SMACK!

### AGNES

7-29

THIS SUMMER I'M GOING TO TRAIN LESTER

YOU GONNA TEACH HIM TO BEG, PLAY DEAD AND FETCH?

GOOD HEAVENS, NO! I'M NOT HIS GRANDMA.

I WAS THINKING CHECKERS OR SCRAPBOOKING.

GO WITH SCRAPBOOKING. HE CHEATS AT BOARD GAMES.

### HI AND LOIS

7-29

I FEEL SO LISTLESS AND TIRED...

I DON'T SEEM TO HAVE THE ENERGY TO DO ANYTHING...

IT'S A BUMMER GETTING OLD.

### THE OTHER COAST

7-29

SO, HAVE YOU FOUND A PUBLISHER YET FOR YOUR NOVEL?

I'M CLOSE. I ONLY GOT TWO REJECTION LETTERS IN THE MAIL THIS MONTH!

...THE REST OF THEM ARRIVE BY EMAIL.

Dear Sir, Thank you for sending us your novel. It is the most vile, hideous piece of writing we have ever

### SNUFFY SMITH

7-29

LEMME GUESS-- YA BOTH RAN INTO DOORS !!

MATTER'A FACT WE DID, DOC !!

ALBIE AN' ALVIN DORR !!

### BEEBLE BAILEY

7-29

I GOT YOU A PRESENT

OH!! I KNOW WHAT COMES IN A BOX THIS SMALL!

TRY IT ON

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN WHAT YOU WOULD PUT IN A SMALL BOX

### This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, July 29, the 210th day of 2009. There are 155 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 29, 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act, creating NASA.

On this date:

In 1030, the patron saint of Norway, King Olaf II, was killed in battle.

In 1588, the English attacked the Spanish Armada in the Battle of Gravelines, resulting in an English victory.

In 1890, artist Vincent van Gogh, 37, died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in Auvers-sur-Oise, France.

In 1900, Italian King Humbert I was assassinated by an anarchist; he was succeeded by his son, Victor Emmanuel III.

In 1914, transcontinental telephone service began with the first test phone conversation between New York and San Francisco.

### JEWELRY SHOP

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

66 Casino game

67 Give 10%

68 Things to connect

12 Fairy-tale brute

13 Go parasailing

18 Debate topics

22 Comfy shoe

24 On a shuttle, maybe

25 Crime-lab procedure

26 Fox comedy show

27 Hole-making tool

28 Prefix with bar or therm

29 Was audibly pleased

30 Bakery worker

31 Like a yenta

32 "Jabberwocky" starter

33 Big-eared hopper

38 Roth plan

39 Filling to the brim

42 "Decide already!"

45 Gave extra help to

47 Taker of vows

48 Coffee-break sweet

51 Berth place

52 In mothballs

53 Author Didion

54 Braxton or Morrison

55 Take one's leave

57 Metric prefix

58 Monogram part: Abbr.

59 Gets mellow

61 Belfry denizen

62 Bridal bio word

### Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

1 Swipe

5 Abs exercise

10 Sci-fi vehicles

14 Baseball great Berra

15 Half-witted

16 \_\_ stick (hopping toy)

17 Pie maker's implement

19 Scarlett's home

20 BMW rivals

21 Ballpark fig.

22 Long-distance runner

23 Egyptian goddess

25 Weimaraner or Pomeranian

26 The Appalachians, e.g.

32 Macbeth and Macduff

34 Part of N. Amer.

35 Mexican snack

36 Glob of gum

37 Water faucets

40 Males

41 Pseudo-cultured

43 YOU \_\_ HERE

44 Hash house

46 Poker variety

49 Seek damages

50 Keep \_\_ (persist)

51 Mustard style

54 Till bill

56 Motorola competitor

60 Aroma

61 Sparring spot

63 Family

64 Ouzo flavoring

65 Nobelist Wiesel

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17			18						19			
20				21				22				
		23	24			25						
		26				27	28			29	30	31
32	33					34			35			
36			37	38				39		40		
41		42	43			44		45				
46			47			48						
		49				50						
51	52	53			54	55		56		57	58	59
60					61			62				
63					64					65		
66					67					68		

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2009 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 7/29/09

# News in brief

## Texas ranchers eligible for drought help

LUBBOCK (AP) — The drought-stricken Texas cattle industry is partnering with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help ranchers improve sun-baked, parched grasslands.

The Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association announced Tuesday that ranchers in 78 counties in Central and South Texas will receive priority to utilize the Grassland Reserve Program.

The program compensates landowners in those counties for deferring cattle grazing until grassland conditions improve. Ranchers affected by salt-water intrusion from Hurricane Ike last year and wildfires in North Texas earlier this year also are eligible.

## Fire closes Amarillo water park

AMARILLO (AP) — A fire at a water park in Amarillo destroyed parts of a building and forced swimsuit-wearing patrons to evacuate.

Splash Amarillo president Paul Johnson said he did not expect the entertainment complex to be open Wednesday.

No injuries were reported in Tuesday afternoon's fire. No damage estimate was immediately available.

Investigators will try to determine the cause of the blaze. Johnson said a mechanical room near the restrooms could be to blame.

The water park features slides, a wave pool, an arcade, volleyball courts and a refreshment area.

## Oil drops below \$66

VIENNA (AP) — Oil prices fell below \$66 a barrel Wednesday as weak U.S. economic data, including a drop in durable goods orders and consumer confidence, suggested demand would remain weak.

Rising U.S. oil inventories and sliding stock markets also weighed on crude prices.

Benchmark crude for September delivery was down \$1.54 to \$65.69 a barrel by afternoon in European electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Tuesday, the contract fell \$1.15 to settle at \$67.23.

"In familiar fashion, the decline occurred in line

with losses on Wall Street and a strengthening dollar," Vienna's JBC Energy noted. Traders look to U.S. stocks and the American currency for direction, buying into crude as a hedge against dollar weakness and selling as the greenback strengthens.

Oil fell against a backdrop of new economic data showing continued weakness in the U.S. economy, with orders to U.S. factories for big-ticket durable goods plunging in June by 2.5 percent, the largest amount in five months.

The figure was much larger than the 0.6 percent decline economists had expected and was the biggest setback since a 7.8 percent fall in January.

Much of the weakness reflected a 38.5 percent decline in orders for commercial aircraft, an industry that has been hurt by the global recession, which has crimped air travel and triggered some airlines to cancel existing orders for planes.

## San Antonio considers closing 21 schools

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — More than 20 public schools in San Antonio may close under a plan that could save the city's shrinking school district as much as \$40 million a year.

The San Antonio Independent School District has experienced declining enrollment for 40 years. About 55,000 students attend public schools in the nation's seventh-largest city.

The San Antonio Express-News reported Wednesday that closing 21 schools is the most dramatic of three plans put forth by an advisory committee. Eight public meetings are planned for August and September to discuss the proposals.

The proposed closures would take place over a decade, with the first coming no earlier than 2010.

## Man accused of theft from dead woman

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A judge in San Antonio says a lawyer will be appointed for a man accused of stealing \$60,000 from the account of a woman dead since 1994.

Kevin Mathis, formerly with Investment Professionals Inc., was released Tuesday on an unsecured bond.

Mathis is charged with four counts of mail fraud.

An indictment alleges Mathis managed an account belonging to Dominga G. Flores, who died Sept. 10, 1994. He allegedly in 2006 secured and began using a debit card in her name, having the financial statements mailed to a post office box he opened.

## Stop yields \$60,000 in drug cash

TYLER (AP) — A traffic stop in the Tyler area led to the arrest of two brothers and the seizure of \$60,000 in alleged drug money.

Smith County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Bobby Garmon says a deputy stopped a westbound truck on Interstate 20 after witnessing a possible traffic violation.

Garmon told the Tyler Morning Telegraph that the cash was in a sealed plastic container in a hidden compartment of the sleeper cab.

Garmon described the funds as "drug money" and said a narcotics-sniffing dog helped locate the cash during Monday night's stop.

Garmon said the brothers, from Florida, were in custody facing money laundering charges. Names of the pair were not immediately released.

## Grandmother drowns in creek

KOUNTZE (AP) — A grandmother drowned in Village Creek trying to help one of her grandchildren who appeared to be in distress in the water.

The Hardin County Sheriff's Office identified the victim as 52-year-old Connie Porche Thornton, of Starks, La.

KFDM-TV reported that the grandchildren were not injured.

The drowning happened Tuesday about one mile from the creek near the Highway 327 bridge in between Silsbee and Kountze.

# 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.

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

# Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

## Topsy-Turvy

North dealer.  
Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ 8 7 5  
♥ A 9 2  
♦ Q 8 4  
♣ A K 8 2

**WEST**  
♠ J 10 9 3  
♥ 7 5  
♦ A 6 3  
♣ J 9 5 4

**EAST**  
♠ K Q 2  
♥ 6 4  
♦ K 10 9 7 2  
♣ Q 7 3

**SOUTH**  
♠ A 6 4  
♥ K Q J 10 8 3  
♦ J 5  
♣ 10 6

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1 ♣ 1 ♦ 1 ♥ Pass  
1 NT Pass 4 ♥

Opening lead — ace of diamonds.  
**There are times** when signals can have the reverse of their usual meaning. All it takes to decipher them is an alert partner and some straightforward logic. For example, take this deal where West led the ace of diamonds against four hearts.

**East couldn't tell** whether West had led from A-x, in which case he wanted the suit continued in order to give West a ruff, or whether West had led from A-x-x, in which case East would prefer a spade shift before dummy's queen of diamonds became established as a trick.

**Quite correctly, though,** East

requested a continuation of the suit by playing the ten, on which South contributed the five.

**West now donned** his thinking cap. He realized that declarer had the jack of diamonds and that a diamond continuation could easily prove costly. He knew this because East would have signaled with the jack had he held the K-J-10, so East's play of the ten denied possession of the jack.

**Accordingly,** West switched to the spade jack, East playing the two and South the four. Ordinarily, the meaning of the deuce would be to stop playing the suit, but here East felt he couldn't spare a higher card.

**When declarer ducked,** West continued with the three, knowing full well that East had started with precisely the K-Q-2 and South the A-6-4. East could not have the K-Q-6-2, since he would have signaled with the six with that holding. Furthermore, West's lead of the three — his fourth-best spade — simultaneously told East that declarer had exactly three spades.

**The effect** of all these informative signals was that South eventually lost two spades and two diamonds to go down one. Had West unthinkingly led a second diamond at trick two in obedience to East's ten play, or had he discontinued spades after East's deuce play, declarer would have made the contract easily.

Tomorrow: Oops!

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COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1

what was going on with the economy and what we'd been hearing from the appraisal office."

However, a marked increase in state aid this year will help Howard more than weather the decrease in valuations — the college will receive almost \$900,000 more in state aid this season.

Because of that increased state aid, the college district will be able to slightly increase its expenditures this year, Sparks said.

"We've tried to consider the instructional needs of

our students throughout the district when figuring in the extra revenue," Sparks said. "In particular, we are looking at targeting our dual-credit instruction (which allows high school students to take HC courses), our nursing program, developmental studies and tutorial services, which assist students having trouble with their college courses and our fine arts department, in particular the music program."

College trustees will formally adopt the new budget and tax rate at their Aug. 24 meeting.

In addition to the budget and tax rate, trustees also are taking a long look at renovating the men's and

women's dormitories in the near future.

Sparks said trustees are considering the issuance of revenue bonds to cover necessary upgrades to the dormitory infrastructure — plumbing, electrical and heating and air-conditioning systems.

Unlike voter-approved bonds, revenue bonds would be repaid through student fees and other related costs, Sparks said.

The dormitories were constructed in the late 1950s with wings being added in the 1980s, Sparks noted.

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

Terror arrests spur warning to police about U.S. extremists getting training, coming home

WASHINGTON (AP) — Antiterrorism officials are increasingly concerned about American-bred extremists who travel abroad for terror training and then return home, sometimes quietly recruiting followers over the years.

Federal authorities have issued a bulletin to law enforcement agencies around the country on the heels of the arrest Monday in North Carolina of a man whose devotion to the cause of violent jihad allegedly began 20 years ago.

The internal bulletin — reviewed by The Associated Press — says the FBI and the Homeland Security Department are very worried about the danger posed by little-noticed Americans traveling abroad to learn terrorism techniques, then coming back to the United States, where they may be dormant for long periods of time while they look for followers to recruit for future attacks.

On Monday, the FBI arrested Daniel Patrick Boyd, 39, charging he was the ringleader of a group of aspiring international terrorists.

The charges "underscore our ongoing concerns about individuals returning to the United States after training or fighting on behalf of extremists overseas," said Justice Department spokesman Richard Kolko.

SALE

Continued from Page 1

Sale hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. today through Friday, she said.

Yeater said she came up

with the idea of the consignment sale after attending a Bible study entitled "Conquering Debt God's Way."

"If you help lots of people, you'll be blessed both spiritually and financially," she said.

"I help people sell things they

no longer need ... and in return, people know that whatever they buy here is something that is of good quality at an inexpensive price."

A wide variety of children's items are for sale, ranging from clothing to toys to sport-

ing goods to video equipment.

This is the sixth year Yeater has hosted a consignment sale at the mall. Past charities that have benefited include CASA of West Texas, the Methodist Children's Home and Big

Spring State Hospital.

For more information, call 264-0588.

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

ROBBERY

Continued from Page 1

bery at his residence in the 500 block of State, which is in close proximity to the scene of the robbery," said Everett. "He was arrested and taken to the police department, where he was charged with aggravated robbery."

According to police records, Yanez was taken into custody at approximately 10:30 p.m. at the BSPD law enforcement center, located in the 400 block of Fourth Street.

A search of Yanez's State Street home yielded possible evidence in the case, but no cash, according to Everett.

"A search of the residence revealed an Airsoft pistol hidden in the crawl space," said Everett. "The pistol may have been used in the robbery. However, the money taken from the store was not recovered. Yanez is currently being held at the Howard County Jail awaiting arraignment."

No injuries were reported as a result of the robbery or arrest, according to Everett.

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

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