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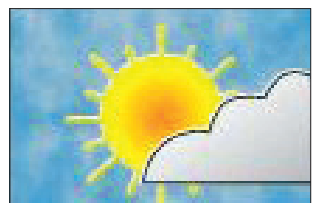


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# H BIG SPRING HERALD

**TUESDAY**

**AUGUST 4, 2009**



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 208

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## BSFD officials say house fire was no accident

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Big Spring Fire Marshal Carl Condray said a report of arson early Saturday morning resulted in only minor damages to a home in the 1000 block of Nolan.

Condray said firefighters were on the scene shortly after 12:13 a.m. following a report of a structure fire at the residence.

"Firefighters found a small fire outside the home's crawl space access," said Condray. "The fire appears to have been set using mostly trash gathered outside the back of the home, on the alley side. The suspects piled the trash up near the crawl space access and lit it on fire, causing a great deal of smoke to travel underneath the home, moving up through penetrations in the home's floor, such as electrical outlets and such."

Condray said firefighters quickly ruled out any electrical involvement in the fire. "They had to open a wall up

*"Some neighbors said they saw some kids in the area about the same time the fire was set, and that's a common thread among the previous arson reports. Other than that, however, it's hard to say if they are related or not."*



Condray

to make sure, but they were able to rule out electrical problems very quickly," said Condray. "Anytime you have a fire or smoke in a home's crawl space area, the smoke will seep out into the home through any kind of penetration in the floor, and vents and electrical outlets are the

See **ARSON**, Page 3

## TWO-A-DAYS BEGIN



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull  
**Big Spring Steers quarterback Tyler Tannehill prepares to throw a pass during a Steers football practice today. Big Spring, along with other schools across the state, began two-a-day practices Monday in preparation for the 2009 season.**

## Bill Read recalled as friend, leader of Coahoma

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

COAHOMA — Bill Read is being remembered not only as a long-time community and civic leader in Coahoma, but also as a great friend.

Read, 82, who served this community as mayor, a business leader and in several other capacities for many years, died at Scenic Mountain Medical Center of complications from heart disease Saturday.

He was recalled this morning as someone who worked tirelessly for the community.

"This community lost a great person," Howard County Justice of the Peace Quail Dobbs said from his Coahoma office. "He did so much for Coahoma



Read

See **READ**, Page 3

## Christian bands to Rock the Desert this weekend

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Christian rock bands from all over the nation will once again converge on a small patch of desert in Midland this Friday and Saturday, as 2009's Rock the Desert: Exemplify prepares to get under way.

Friday night, the concert's

main stage will close with San Diego, Calif., multi-genre act Switchfoot. The band first gained mainstream recognition after the inclusion of four of their songs in the 2002 movie "A Walk to Remember." This recognition led to their major label debut, The Beautiful Letdown, which was released in 2003. It went

on to sell more than 2.6 million copies and produced the band's best-known singles, "Meant to Live" and "Dare You to Move."

Friday's music will start off on the concert's main stage at 3:15 p.m. with Stellar Kart; Needtobreathe at 4:30 p.m.; Disciple at 5:45 p.m.; speaker Casey Cease at 6:45 p.m.; Kut-

less at 7:15 p.m.; Anberlin at 8:45 p.m.; and Switchfoot at 10:15 p.m.

There will also be several acts featured in the concert's Teen Tent, including The Letter Black at 6 p.m.; Esterlyn at 7 p.m.; Blue Tree at 8:30 p.m.; and Jon Foreman at 11:45 p.m.

Gates open Friday at 3 p.m.

with the National Anthem and welcoming ceremony, with games available from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Saturday's music will begin on the main stage with Word Records National Talent Search winner Joshua Bramos at 12:55 p.m.; Manic

See **BANDS**, Page 3

### INDEX

Comics	11
Classified	8-9
Features	5
Obituaries	2
Opinion	4
Sports	7,12

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## Glider pilots set to converge on Big Spring, expect ideal weather

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

While many of the pilots planning to participate in the U.S. Hang Gliding Championship will arrive in Big Spring by cars and vans, a few may be coming by way of, well, hang gliders.

Terry Wofford, chairman of the local hang gliding committee that works with the competition's organizers, said many of the competing pilots in this year's championship — slated for Aug. 9-15 at the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark — will be coming to Big Spring from a meet in Zapata, where they are hoping to break world records in the sport.

"They recently set a world record in Zapata, and from what I'm hearing now, that's going to be one of their goals this year, as well," said Wofford. "There's a chance a few of them may actually be hang gliding in from Zapata as part of that effort, which is really amazing. There's no guarantees, mind you, but

See **GLIDER**, Page 3



HERALD file photo

**A hang glider soars above Big Spring. This year's competition will start Sunday.**

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# Big Spring man's death an apparent suicide

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
 Staff Writer

A Big Spring man was found dead at a farm south of Knott Sunday evening after hanging himself, according to local law enforcement officials.

Robert L. 'Bobby' Beall, 55, was pronounced dead by Howard County Justice of the Peace Quail Dobbs shortly after his body was found by a family member at a farm in the northern part of the county.

According to Dobbs, Beall's death appears to be a suicide, but he won't make a final ruling on the incident until an autopsy is completed.

"You really hate to order an autopsy in a case like this because the family has already been through so much, and no one wants to have that done to their loved one," said Dobbs. "How-

ever, we have to be sure as to the cause of death, and I won't make a final ruling in the case until the autopsy results are in."

Dobbs said Beall's body was discovered by his wife, who went looking for him when he failed to return home.

"She went looking for her husband around 11 p.m. because she was worried," said Dobbs. "She went out to the farm where the family keeps their workshop."

"The sheriff's office was notified and I was called out to pronounce the death. There doesn't appear to be any foul play involved."

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park, Big Spring.

# BANDS

Continued from Page 1

Drive at 1:30 p.m.; Breaking the Silence at 3 p.m.; Le Crae at 4 p.m.; 33 Miles at 5:30 p.m.; speaker Casey Cease at 6:45 p.m.; Leeland at 7:15 p.m.; Chris Tomlin at 8:45 p.m.; and Toby Mac at 10:15 p.m.

Saturday Teen Tent acts include speaker Casey Cease at 3:30 p.m.; Big Spring's own Crim-

son Soul at 5 p.m.; Le Crae at 6:30 p.m.; and Manic Drive at 8:30 p.m.

Gates open Saturday at 10 a.m., with games open from 1 p.m. until 9 p.m.

The festival, which is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> year, will once again be held at the Rock the Desert concert grounds, located at 2000 North FM 1788 in Odessa. Call (432) 697-4548 for more information.

# GLIDER

Continued from Page 1

there's certainly a chance we might see some gliders in the air as early as Aug. 7 or 8 if the weather cooperates."

Wofford said competition officials are expecting between 40 and 50 pilots to make the trip to Big Spring to be part of the annual contest, which will kick off with a special dinner for the participants Saturday, Aug. 8.

"We've reserved the Dora Roberts Community Center for the welcoming dinner Aug. 8," said Wofford. "We're really looking forward to working with them again this year."

Pitting the best and brightest wind-riders around the nation — and a few from foreign countries — against the West Texas sky, the annual championship has become something of a tradition in the Crossroads area, and according to event coordinator David Glover, it's that love for the sport and the men and women that pilot the gliders that keeps them coming back.

"We keep coming back because of the great people in Big Spring and the wonderful airport facilities," said Glover. "However, we have to admit it's especially the hang gliding weather conditions we love here."

According to Glover, it's the overall consistency of the weather in Big Spring that offers hang glider pilots some of the best flying in the world.

"The consistency of the conditions here means we can fly everyday," said Glover. "We're not winded or weathered out. The sun hits the ground and the ground heats up, so thermal

# READ

Continued from Page 1

... He was kind of 'Mr. Coahoma.' When you think of Bill Read, you think of Coahoma."

Read and his family moved to Coahoma in 1961 when he helped establish Coahoma State Bank, where he served as president and chairman of the board until his retirement in 1992.

After leaving the bank, he remained active in the community, serving on the city council, then as mayor for 16 years, as well as being involved in a wide range of civic organizations.

During this time as mayor, he helped obtain federal and state funds that improved the infrastructure of the city,

including a new water tower. In addition, he was instrumental in acquiring funds for a community housing development which resulted in the replacement of 19 older houses in Coahoma.

His civic contributions include being a long-time Lion's Club member and officer, president of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, serving on the Coahoma Independent School District board of trustees and as a board member of Christian Homes of Abilene and numerous other boards and committees.

In addition, he was an active in the Coahoma Rural Community College Initiative community development program.

# ARSON

Continued from Page 1

most common."

The fire caused minimal damage, according to Condray.

"There was very little damage from the fire itself. However, the smoke damage, along with the damage to the wall that had to be opened up and some water damage, would put the loss at around \$3,000," he said.

Saturday's fire is the first in approximately two weeks since a rash of arson attacks sent damages in the same area of the city rocketing into the thousands of dollars. With arson at-

tacks reported in the 700 block of S. Johnson, 800 block of Runnels and the corresponding area of Goliad reported in early and mid-July, Condray said it's unclear at this time of Saturday's fire is connected.

"Some neighbors said they saw some kids in the area about the same time the fire was set, and that's a common thread among the previous arson reports," said Condray. "Other than that, however, it's hard to say if they are related or not. The homeowner said there has been damage to his property in the past, so it may be a situation where the same people are target-

ing the home again.

"I would encourage anyone who sees something suspicious to report it. Even if it's just someone walking down the street at an odd time in the night, it could help us catch the person or people who are responsible. That's the only way we're going to catch these people."

Anyone with information regarding this or any other crime is encouraged to contact Big Spring Crimestoppers at 263-TIPS (8177) or 264-TIPS, the Big Spring Fire Marshal's Office at 264-2305 or the Big Spring Police Department at 264-2550.

hang glides has to be a daredevil," said Glover. "In actuality, no one wants to get hurt. There are a few guys that fly in such a way they probably will get hurt sooner or later, but everyone wants to go up, fly safely and land safely so they can have some water or beer and see their family when it's done."

"There are very few adrenaline junkies in this sport. There are housewives, engineers, brick layers, insurance agents and real estate guys. It's really the whole gamut."

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

Among his many friends was former Howard County commissioner and retired farmer Jack Buchanan, who served in the Lion's Club with Read for many years.

"My wife and I went on a trip to Alaska with him and (Read's wife) Darlene. That was a good trip," Buchanan said. "I consider him my best friend and it's hard to find a friend like that. And of course, he just did so much for Coahoma."

Buchanan's sister, retired teacher Loma Jean Wynn, also fondly recalled Read.

"He was a dear, dear friend of ours," Wynn said. "I taught both of his daughters in school and one of his daughters and my daughter became best friends.

"He was a great, great leader for this community and his church," Wynn added. "As mayor, he did so many good things for Coahoma."

Read is survived by his wife, Darlene, son Eddie, daughters Misha and Lori, five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services for Read will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday at the 14<sup>th</sup> and Main Church of Christ in Big Spring. Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234.

## MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288  
 Roger Lee Edwards, 53, died Thursday. A Memorial Service will be at 3 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Coahoma Cemetery.  
 Barry Speaker, 62, died Friday. Private family services will be held at a later date.  
 Maxine DeFlitch, 72, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.  
 Armando Franco, Jr., 53, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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# EDITORIAL

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-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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**Bill McClellan**  
News Editor

## OUR VIEW

# We should all be proud of our schools' ratings

It's called making the grade, and all of the Crossroads area's school districts did just that when the Texas Education Agency released its most recent accountability ratings.

Big Spring ISD, which was rated Academically Acceptable overall, was led by Kentwood Elementary's Exemplary rating, the highest possible. In addition, Moss, Marcy and Washington elementaries earned Recognized status, while Big Spring High School was moved back up to the Acceptable rating, joining Goliad Middle School and Bauer Elementary.

Big Spring's only Unacceptable rating was given to Big Spring Junior High School, which, despite improving in almost all areas, still must improve to reach Acceptable status.

Elsewhere, when the ratings were released Friday afternoon, area school districts received solid rankings.

The Sands and Grady school districts can take a well-deserved bow after having earned Exemplary ratings, as does the Glasscock County ISD, which was Recognized for a second straight year, with both the elementary and secondary campuses being rated Exemplary.

In addition, the Coahoma, Forsan and Stanton school districts were rated Academically Acceptable.

What that means, of course, is none of our children are forced to attend schools in sub-par districts.

It also means the public school teachers, administrators and staff throughout our area are doing a good job and not wasting our tax dollars.

To our way of thinking, that should put a smile on virtually everyone's face.

And we can't help but agree with Coahoma ISD Superintendent Randy Brown, who said his district's rating was not the result of "anything specific we did; it's just a result of hard work on the part of students, staff and parents."

Thus, we believe the ratings received by all of the Crossroads' public schools are cause for us to collectively celebrate.

While we here at the Herald are no where close to changing our minds concerning our belief that state law has put public schools in the business of teaching children to take a standardized test rather than truly educating them, we continue to be pleased that, at least by state standards, all of our schools pass muster.

We should all be exceedingly proud of the teachers, staff and students at our public schools. Collectively, they have clearly worked hard to live up to the requirements that have continued to increase in difficulty during the past few years.

In other words, they've all done very well and we encourage them to keep up the good work.

## LETTER POLICIES

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- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
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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

May we meet aggravation and criticism, Lord, with Your love and forgiveness.

Amen

# Bringing broadband to rural Texas

Today, driven by the incredible pace of innovation and the pressures of global commerce, demand for broadband, or high speed Internet access, is sweeping the nation and changing the way we live. Small businesses that once relied solely on walk-up business and local customers may now offer their goods and services in the worldwide marketplace through the Internet. Students whose learning opportunities were once confined to their local schools and libraries today can access information from all over the world. Families once separated from loved ones by hundreds or thousands of miles can stay connected through the many communication portals available online. And, communities that previously lacked critical specialty care and diagnostic services can now access these services through telemedicine made possible by advanced communications networks.

Unfortunately, too many of our communities and small businesses still lack access to broadband infrastructure, and many that have access do not subscribe to the services that are offered. In both cases, communities lacking adequate broadband availability face the prospect of lagging behind other areas in education, economic growth and even health care delivery. Rural communities are particularly susceptible to falling into the technology gap because broadband infrastructure simply doesn't reach them. This has serious ramifications for Texas, which is 80 percent rural.

In Congress, there is a bipartisan consensus that we must encourage nationwide broadband deployment. But, exactly how we implement this remains a point of contention. Recently, the Obama administration com-

mitted more than \$7 billion in taxpayer funding for the deployment of broadband services to areas of the country lacking basic infrastructure. Yet, this money was put forward without a completed comprehensive map of broadband availability and before the Federal Communications Commission established a national broadband strategy. So much of the money allocated through these grants will be awarded before we know where the funds are needed most.

There is a role for public resources in bringing broadband to our unserved communities, but requiring additional taxpayer funding without a plan is the wrong approach. With that said, the stimulus funding has been allotted. This taxpayer investment will be maximized if grants are directed to unserved areas and focus on infrastructure for anchor institutions like schools, hospitals and libraries that can function as access points for many who currently lack broadband access. Doing so will make the stimulus funding for broadband an effective down payment on this national priority, which, moving forward, must be guided by a careful strategy.

Looking ahead, Congress must establish a comprehensive plan with three key components. First, we must complete a national broadband map so we can target and prioritize our efforts. Second, we must encourage broadband deployment in unserved areas and enhance existing broadband services through additional investment. To be successful, we must engage the private sector through investment incentives. Finally, we need to improve broadband adoption in communities across the country because of the power of this technology to expand education, improve health care delivery and open global markets for small and businesses.

To help implement this strategy, I recently introduced the Connecting America Act. This legislation is designed to stimulate investment and economic

development activity over the next five years. The legislation would create limited duration tax credits that will encourage companies to make investments that they might otherwise delay due to the economic downturn. Targeted incentives will provide companies immediate access to capital and encourage broadband investment to maintain and improve infrastructure where we need it most. The bill would also create a technology-neutral bond program that will allow communities, rather than Washington bureaucrats, to raise funds for construction, assess their own infrastructure needs and adopt the broadband technologies that are most appropriate. Under the legislation, we would also reform and streamline the numerous federal programs supporting broadband to focus the funding in a coordinated manner.

For many, broadband may be as familiar a technology as cable television. Others may not be aware of the advantages high-speed Internet service offers. It can place adults in a virtual classroom and allow them to get a college or graduate degree from their own homes. It gives physicians and hospitals instant access to medical records and enables remote diagnostic medicine, which can help enhance health care delivery in rural areas. It can allow a rancher in West Texas to sell every head of cattle in an online auction, expanding the reach of his business and raising his earning potential without the need to leave his ranch.

More than any other technology this century, broadband has the potential to truly transform our lives. We cannot leave half of America behind in the process. We must work now and work smart to deploy broadband from coast to coast.

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



**KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**

## ADDRESSES

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• **BARACK OBAMA**  
President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

• **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**  
U.S. Senator  
703 Hart Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: 202-224-5922

• **JOHN CORNYN**  
U.S. Senator  
517 Hart Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: 202-224-2934

• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**  
U.S. Representative  
19th Cong. District  
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Big Spring  
Phone: (432) 264-0722

### STATE GOVERNMENT

• **RICK PERRY**  
Governor  
State Capitol, Room 2S.1  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, 78711  
Phone: (512) 463-2000

• **JOE HEFLIN**  
State Representative  
Texas 85th District  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, 78768  
Phone: (432) 213-2897  
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• **KEL SELIGER**  
State Senator  
Texas 31st District  
401 Austin, Suite 101  
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# Colonialism, 21st century-style

So here's how it works. When Spain finally gave up Paraguay, much of the crown's farmland went over to the new government, which in turn rented it out to the peasants who had long worked the soil. Subsistence farming, with a little left over to sell.

Later, enter the World Bank, no fan of peasants. It pressured Paraguay to sell off that land to big investors for production of export crops. And so it was done. The investors brought in transgenic seeds and heavy equipment, reducing the need for peasants altogether, and hired private mercenaries to drive them off the land. The police and army helped out as needed whenever the natives got restless, and sometimes just for sport. Gen. Alfredo Stroessner, Paraguay's iconic dictator for 35 years, simultaneously maintained a reign of terror, torture and death that the country is still recovering from.

Not surprisingly he and his predecessors and successors were, and are, ably assisted by the United States. We train the uniformed thugs in repressive tactics at our School of the Americas in Georgia, cleverly renamed the "Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation," and send soldiers, trainers and spies to Paraguay as needed. We have also constructed and mothballed a huge airbase there to be ready just in

case southern South America somehow gets out of hand. And since there conveniently happens to be a mosque just over the border in Brazil, we are already grooming the press with hints that this region looks like a coming hotspot for Muslim terrorists. Got to keep planning ahead if we're going to maintain world control.

Nor is all this military empire stuff just for fun. We also have real financial interests to protect. The chief export crop that the World Bank encourages is soybeans. The soil there is immensely hospitable to them, and little Paraguay is now the world's fourth-largest exporter. And wouldn't you know that by chance the bionic seeds that produce all that soy come from our very own hallowed Monsanto, as does the potent Roundup herbicide that those seeds are carefully bred to tolerate.

Likewise the main buyers for the soy are American agribusiness giants Cargill and Archer Daniels Midland. They peddle the beans around the globe as cattle feed, and they have successfully persuaded the Paraguayan government not to significantly tax them. This is not hard to do since that country's congress is a cesspool of conflicts of interest.

Meanwhile the agricultural system itself has proved remarkably efficient at disposing of the inconvenient small farms that remain. The Roundup-style herbicide used on the big spreads kills everything but the soy, and since much of it is sprayed by plane, the wind wafts it outside the plantations, ruining the

small farmers' crops and poisoning their water, children and hormones. This in time forces them to go away and be impoverished someplace else, such as the cities or neighboring Argentina or Brazil. The World Bank's long-range goal is to lower the rural segment of the population from its traditional 37 percent down to 15 percent, though without suggesting any place for all those folks to go.

This long-distance gringo imperialism has understandably irked neighboring Brazil. It is also big and strong and wants in on some of the action. To that end it has supported its own major investors in buying up a gradually growing share of Paraguay's plantations, thus increasing the already tense relations between those two countries. It's bad enough to be oppressed by the remote United States, but by your own neighbor is worse, especially when you can't even beat them at soccer.

Hope did flame for a while last year with the election of leftist president Fernando Lugo, but while he does seem worthy, the malevolent real power still lies with the congress and the big investors.

This allows the United States to stay in the shadows while its multinationals prosper. Repressive police and rampant corruption make our job easier, along with the criminalization of any serious social movements. Who said colonialism was dead?

*Columnist William A. Collins is a former state representative and a former mayor of Norwalk, Conn.*



**WILLIAM A. COLLINS**

Bird Poop:

# American kestrel released at SWCID

After unloading his tools and greeting the other workmen, the carpenter entered the two-storied frame building. Abandoned and almost forgotten after the air base closed, the structure would require extensive renovation before being used as part of the expanding campus for the Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf.

With every step he took up the stairs came the smell of dust and the past. Soon the tradesman would don his mask for yet another day of ripping damaged sheetrock off the walls. Opening the windows for the cool morning breeze was impossible. Years of paint had sealed them shut, and contributed to the insufferable, predictable heat of July afternoons.

As the carpenter walked down the narrow hall that halved the upper portion, a blurred image flashed past the side of his head. Startled, he turned in time to notice the swift movement of a small bird as it dove into one of the rooms.

Quietly approaching the doorway, he saw the colorful hawk-like being perched on a windowsill. After searching each individual pane for an exit, the bird took flight and buzzed the man's head again as it left the room.

Down the hall and disappearing into another room flew the winged creature. Looking into the empty room, the man saw the bird execute the same desperate attempt to leave the building and return to the sky.

With no doors on or in the structure, the bird had been allowed an entry into a maze of rooms with no

apparent exit. As its frustration grew, it struggled against every window in search of freedom.

After several failed attempts at ushering the fast moving flyer from the second story to the first floor, the man sensed that he needed to get help. Otherwise, he and his men would do more harm than good in trying to get the bird out of the building.

"Mehan Hall," said the caller. Explaining the plight of the trapped bird, the representative for SWCID gave the location and seemed relieved to know we would come.

Greeting us with a welcoming handshake, the carpenter led us upstairs. After checking each room while trying to find the bird, we knew we needed a lot of luck. Since there were no doors, the unexpected visitor could fly from room to room with ease.

As we approached the last room, I could hear the bird hitting the panes of glass. "Do you need any help?" offered the carpenter. Thanking him, we indicated it might take us a while. He could help more by keeping everyone away from the area.

Cautiously glancing around the doorjamb, we saw the blue-gray on the wings and rufous tail of a male, American kestrel. Although it was the smallest of the falcons found in North America, it compensated with agility and speed.

Blocked in its first attempt to fly through the doorway, the raptor flew back and forth from one end of the room to the other. With a sudden, erratic maneuver, it managed to dip slightly below one of our nets and leave the room.

Finding it pressed against a window in another room, we again experienced its evasiveness. However, we could tell it was beginning to tire from its morning experience.



Courtesy photo

The American kestrel may be found as far north as southern Alaska and Nova Scotia. Its range extends south through the United States into Mexico, Central America and South America.

Patiently, we allowed it to fly within the room, land and then evade our nets. Each time we seemed to get a little closer to success. With Art at the door and me at the window, we stood still and waited.

Weary and stressed by its efforts to escape, the kestrel flew to the windowsill. Trying to look through the dingy glass, the bird paused for a moment. With our hand net used for fishing, I was able to press the raptor against the pane.

Quickly, Art crossed the room and kept the net in place. Protesting with shrill screams of "killy, killy, killy," the falcon warned of what might come next.

Slipping my gloved hand underneath the rim of the net, I felt its long, curved talons through the leather. Even for a small bird, its grip was threatening and painful. It took both of us to loosen its hold without hurting its feet.

Its blue-gray crown capped with deep cinnamon, and its white cheeks adorned with two black stripes, were outstanding in coloration. The falcon's rust colored back was barred with black, while its tail ended in a wide black band tipped in white.

Checking each wing, we saw the usual blue-gray lead to its blackish

primaries. In contrast to its bold upper coloring, its belly and sides, spotted with black, were a pale buff with a tinge of light cinnamon.

After confirming that none of the workmen had seen the kestrel in any part of the building the previous day, we walked to a grassy expanse of the campus. As I opened my hand, the falcon immediately rose upward with quick beats of its long, narrow wings.

Recognizing its territory, the raptor flew with renewed vigor. Soon it would hover as it hunted for large insects in the grasslands adjacent to the buildings.

With the fall semester, some of the students would probably notice this falcon perched on utility lines. Pumping its tail as it maintained its balance, it would be watching for mice and sparrows as the first cold announcement of winter arrived.

Although the men and women would not hear its shrill call as they crossed the campus, they would benefit from its ability to thin the insect and rodent populations that frequent any community.

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



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**Vision Word Find**

Just in time for Child Vision & Learning Month, see how many related words you can find and circle in the puzzle.

CARE	EXAM	IMPORTANT
CHILD	EYE	OPTOMETRIST
CONTACTS	GLASSES	VISION
CORNEA	HEALTH	YOUTH

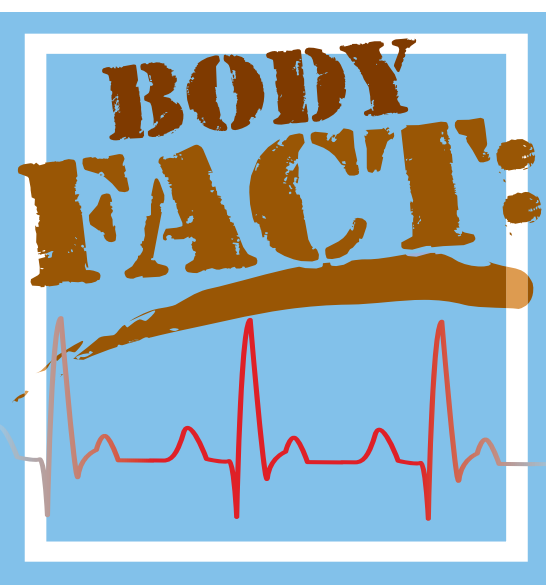
T P H X D D V H Q S T C  
 C S U T Q M E F T E T O  
 A N I M U A P C T R N R  
 V B K R L O A C R A A N  
 E Y E T T T Y E J C T E  
 M B H M N E U N I Y R A  
 B F A O B V M K W L O I  
 H X C W J I I O A G P X  
 E G L A S S E S T Q M K  
 K A D L I H C D I P I T  
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**THIS DAY IN...**



**HISTORY**

- 1789: CONGRESS ESTABLISHED THE U.S. WAR DEPARTMENT.
- 1987: LYNNE COX WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO SWIM TO RUSSIA FROM THE UNITED STATES.
- 2007: BARRY BONDS SURPASSES THE HOME-RUN RECORD OF HANK AARON. SOME DISCREDIT THE RECORD DUE TO BONDS' ALLEGED USE OF STEROIDS.



WHAT ARE THE SECOND MOST COMPLEX ORGANS A PERSON POSSESSES AFTER THE BRAIN?

ANSWER: THE EYES

**Vision Scramble**

Unscramble the words to complete the sentences.

1. Everyone should go for a vision **X M E A**.
2. **C T T A C R A A S** are a condition where the lenses of the eye turn opaque.
3. 20/20 means perfect **S E T Y H E I G**.
4. **S H L S A E** keep dirt and debris out of the eyes.

Answers: 1. exam 2. cataracts 3. eyesight 4. lashes



**VISION**

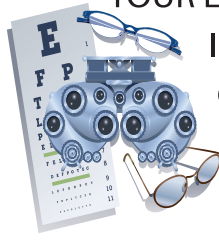
the state of being able to see

*How they SAY that in...*

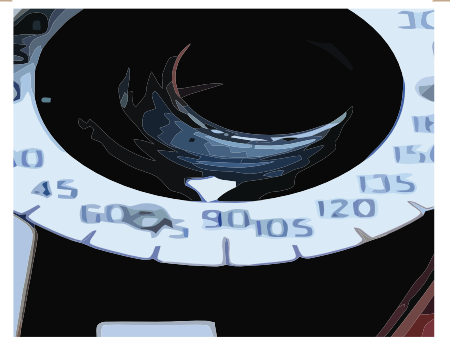
- ENGLISH:** Child
- SPANISH:** Niño
- ITALIAN:** Bambino
- FRENCH:** Enfant
- GERMAN:** Kind

**Did You Know?**

THE EYES PROCESS MORE THAN 24 MILLION IMAGES IN YOUR LIFETIME. SO IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO TAKE CARE OF THEM.



**GET THE PICTURE?**

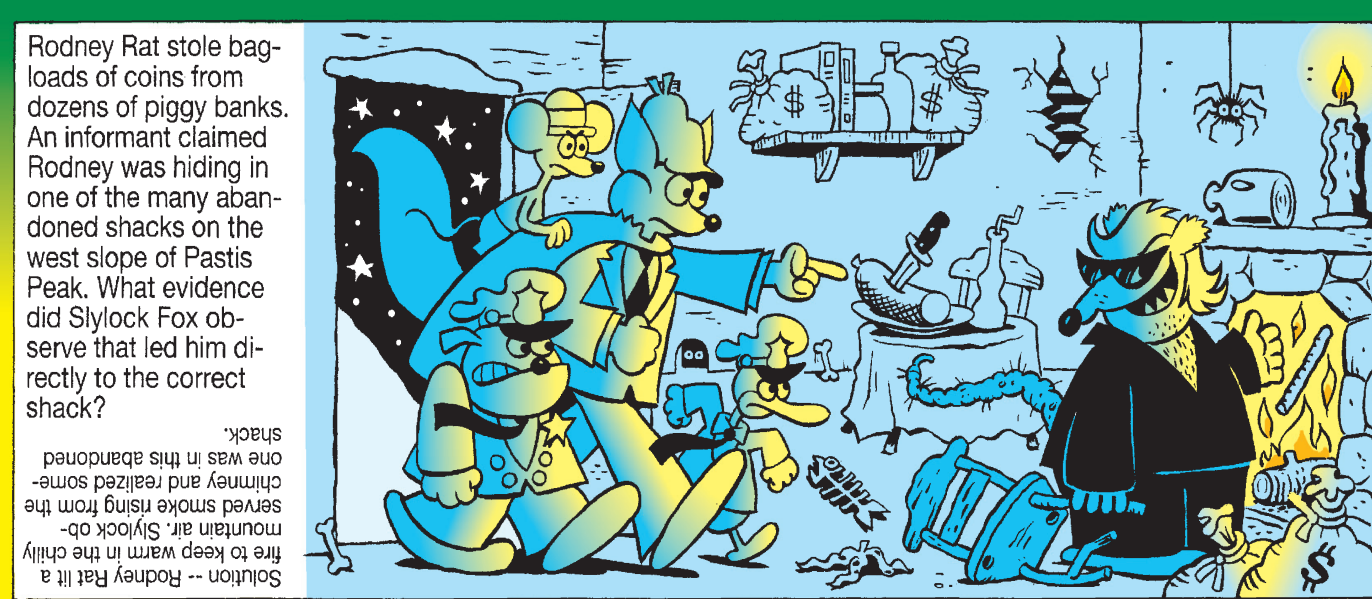


Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: EYE EXAM MACHINE

**SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS**

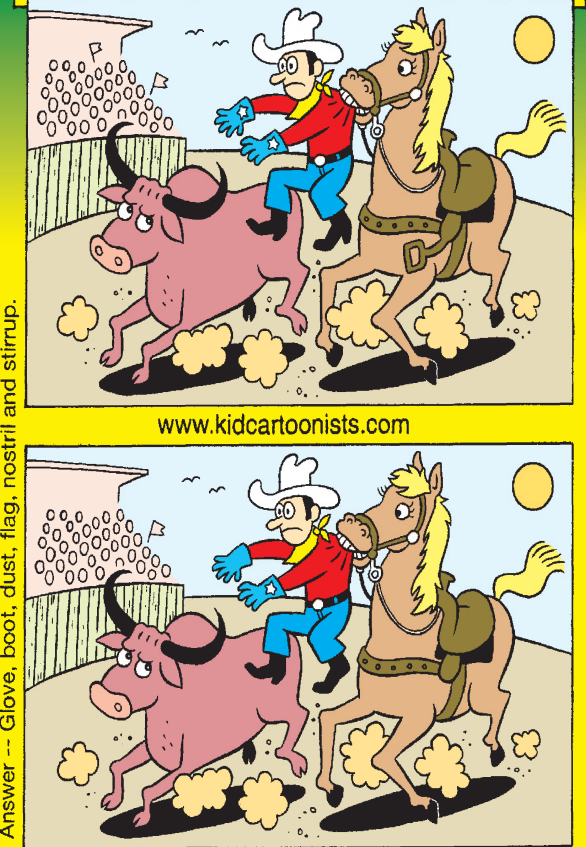
**BY BOB WEBER JR.**



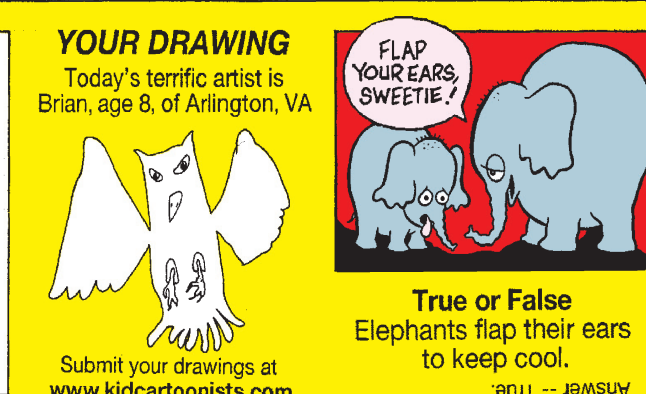
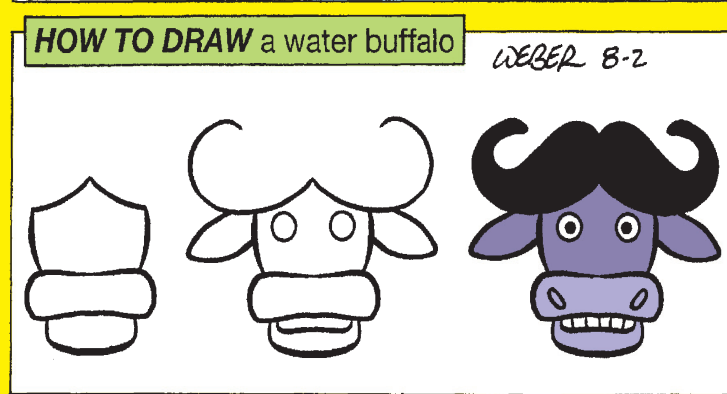
Rodney Rat stole bag-loads of coins from dozens of piggy banks. An informant claimed Rodney was hiding in one of the many abandoned shacks on the west slope of Pastis Peak. What evidence did Slylock Fox observe that led him directly to the correct shack?

Solution -- Rodney Rat lit a fire to keep warm in the chilly mountain air. Slylock observed smoke rising from the chimney and realized someone was in this abandoned shack.

**Find six differences between these panels.**



Answer -- Glove, boot, dust, flag, nostril and stirrup.



## A's rally in 9th to top Rangers

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Pinch hitter Rajai Davis tripled down the right field line to drive in two runs and lift the Oakland Athletics to a 3-2 victory over the Texas Rangers on Monday night.

C.J. Wilson (4-5) blew his third save in 16 chances after allowing singles to Jack Cust, Tommy Everidge and Mark Ellis, before Davis' triple.

Mike Wuertz (6-1) pitched 1 1-3 innings to win the game.

Marlon Byrd drove in a run and Hank Blalock scored the game's first run on a double play for the Rangers.

A's starter Brett Anderson gave up six hits over 7 2-3 innings with eight strikeouts and three walks.

See **RANGERS**, Page 12



AP photo  
Texas Rangers right fielder Nelson Cruz, third from left, is assisted off the field by a trainer and teammate Michael Young, second from left, at the end of an AL baseball game against the Oakland Athletics on Monday in Oakland, Calif. Cruz was injured while fielding a game-winning hit by the A's Rajai Davis. Oakland scored three runs in the bottom of the ninth for a 3-2 win. Also pictured is Rangers manager Ron Washington, left, and players Josh Hamilton and Hank Blalock.

## Back to work



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Big Spring High School senior Matt Ritchey (right) goes through a drill conducted by Coach Mitch Woodard at a Steers football practice today. High school football and volleyball teams across the state began two-a-day practices Monday in preparation for the 2009 season. The Steers will have their first action against another team Aug. 15, when they host Monahans in a scrimmage.

## Williams ready to replace T.O.

By **JAIME ARON**

AP Sports Writer

SAN ANTONIO — Day by day, kid by kid, Roy Williams is doing his best to replace Terrell Owens as the most popular receiver on the Dallas Cowboys.

Every afternoon of training camp, Williams plucks a youngster out of the stands to be his water boy (or girl) for the rest of the workout. They get to hang out on the field of the Alamo dome for about an hour, dwarfed by all the huge guys and loving every second.

"It's a non-paying position," Williams says, smiling,

"but you've got first dibs on getting an autograph."

Although Williams did the same thing in Detroit, continuing the tradition here shows how comfortable he is in his new role as the No. 1 receiver. It's a good sign for the Cowboys considering how much they are relying on him now that T.O. is gone.

Team owner Jerry Jones pointed out again at the start of camp that "the decision to move on without Terrell was almost totally made" to get more out of Williams.

See **WILLIAMS**, Page 12

## Grand jury indicts Plax

By **KAREN MATTHEWS**

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Former New York Giants star Dexter Jackson was indicted by a grand jury on weapons charges for shooting himself in the thigh at a Manhattan nightclub and faces a minimum prison sentence of 3 1/2 years if convicted, prosecutors announced Monday.

The indictment charged the 31-year-old Burress with two counts of criminal pos-

session of a weapon and one count of reckless endangerment, Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau said.

"The grand jury applied the law to the facts of this case," Morgenthau said. He said the accidental shooting at the Latin Quarter nightclub on Nov. 29 was treated "like any similar case against any other defendant."

See **PLAX**, Page 12

## Sports in brief

### Memorabilia from Howard College baseball's "Best Season Ever" available

Howard College had an unforgettable historic season in 2009 as the Hawks captured their second NJCAA National Championship in record-breaking fashion. Howard finished the season 63-1, which is the best mark a championship team has had at any level of collegiate baseball.

Howard College is now offering the public a chance to have a piece of the "Best Season Ever" by offering numerous memorabilia items for sale.

Here's a list of items available:

- Four autographed team pictures from Howard's Breast Cancer Awareness Day. Photos are 5x8 and cost \$50 each.
- Three formal 8x10 autographed team photos for \$40 each.
- Two formal 5x8 autographed team photos for \$30 each.
- 19 packs of JUCO World Series trading cards, individually autographed by the players and coaches. These are exclusive packs and cost \$20 each.
- 20 2009 commemorative JUCO World Series posters autographed by the Hawks. Posters are 18x24 and cost \$50 each.
- 48 NJCAA National Championship game balls in mint condition and autographed by the Hawks. \$50 each.
- One autographed Louisville Slugger wooden bat signed by the team. \$200.
- One autographed Louisville Slugger Omaha Edition aluminum bat. \$200.
- 14 New Era 5950 white Howard game hats autographed by the team. \$50 each.
- Two autographed white Howard College game jerseys. These are full-sleeve jerseys that serve as the primary home uniform of the Hawks. \$300.
- 26 autographed white Howard College white al-

ternate home jerseys easy for framing. \$200.

• Six special edition Howard College alternate red jerseys with black sleeves autographed by the team. These are high-grade mesh jerseys with a full script HOWARD on the front and 2009 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS in the script tail. \$300 each.

For availability, ordering or information, call Head Coach Britt Smith at 264-5041 or e-mail him at bsmith@howardcollege.edu

### Crossroads Youth Football signups slated for this month

The Crossroads Youth Football Association will begin signups for football players and cheerleaders Saturday at the Big Spring Mall.

Registration is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on each signup day. The other days to register will be Aug. 15 and Aug. 22.

Late registration for football only will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 29.

For more information, call Jeff Vidal at 816-6871.

### Two-a-days practices for BSHS volleyball and football under way

Two-a-days for all Big Spring High School volleyball and football players — from incoming freshmen to seniors — began today.

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

All practices will be in the junior high gyms.

The week will end in the Lady Steers first scrimmage Friday in Big Spring. First game of the season is Aug. 11 at Sweetwater.

The first week of football two-a-days were held 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. today. They continue through Friday at the Athletic Training Center. The schedule for the second week of practices is not yet set.

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 sport at BSHS.

### BSHS football season tickets going on sale at ATC offices

Season tickets for the upcoming 2009 Big Spring High School football season are now on sale for previous season ticket holders through Friday.

The general public can then begin purchasing season tickets Monday 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 more information, call Kay Cook at 264-3661.

### BSCC schedules Over 80 Scramble to benefit Big Spring Shrine Club

The Big Spring Country Club will have an Over 80 Scramble, meaning the combined ages of each two-person team must be 80 or older, Aug. 15-16, to benefit the Big Spring Shrine Club.

Entry fees are \$60 per player, plus golf cart rental. Private carts are welcomed, however.

Entry fees include barbecue on the course both days.

Practice rounds are available Friday.

Play will begin with a shotgun start on both days, and the field will be flighted by first-round scores. The number of flights will depend on the number of entries.

For more information, or to enter a team, call the pro shop at 267-5354.





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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Capricorn moon goes void of course. What seems important early on will, as the day progresses, appear to be the product of overthinking. There's also a tendency to judge things too harshly. So when you're tempted to toss your work out to start anew, carefully set it aside instead. Wait until evening when you can make a better decision.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). The world seems like more of an emotional place. What you see will move you — make you laugh, cry or shout. And it gets more complex, colorful and interesting as the day progresses.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You dearly love a certain needy person, and yet you won't have the time to lavish attention on this person today. Once you return to focusing on your own plan, you'll return to feeling calm and in control.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You've no shortage of ideas about how to fill up your time. You also have a knack for finding the most exciting hot spots around. Invite a Libra or Pisces to share in your adventures.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). You will be increasingly aware of the way you talk to yourself in your mind. Your reactions to mistakes will be softer. You'll find that you can be honest with yourself without being critical.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll be among serious people. This is your

opportunity to show off. Come up with the ideas and go for it. Everyone will be entertained by your spontaneous sense of fun.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You phrase things in a way that makes yourself and others feel fantastic. You'll say the perfect thing in just the right tone. This occurrence is even sweeter because your message is appreciated.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You don't have to talk about yourself or what you've been up to. Your manners will tell the world where you are from and where you are going. You don't mind when others sum you up because you have much to be proud of.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll enjoy your work and have an easy time getting along with others. There's hardly a person around you can't find some-

thing nice to say about. That's why when it's time to team up, you'll be at the top of everyone's list.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Call the person who can calm you down whether or not you think you need calming. You do, by the way. Get connected to those who care about you and you'll suddenly be grounded and ready for action.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Life is out there for you on a beautiful display, but it's not going to serve itself to you. You have to be the one to reach out and take it. So drum up a little more grit and moxie. Take it you will.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You've a remarkable ability for winning people over. You have a fan who is willing to give what you ask. In fact, this person will be made happy by

your mere request. So ask!

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Being complimented will feel wonderful, even if you have to compliment yourself. It might come to that, as you will probably be working with younger or more inexperienced people who don't understand your greatness.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (AUGUST 4)**. Vitality increases this year. You'll spiff up your image, impress your loved ones and attract new friends. Shockingly good news comes in September. An effort to bring family together heals your heart in December. In the new year, you'll shift your perspective on work and suddenly make much more money in less time. Capricorn and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 41, 38, 4, 44 and 16.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Happy birthday to President Barack Obama, a Leo with natal Mercury and Uranus also in the sign of the charismatic cat. The fiery Leo energy in Obama's chart is balanced by a grounded Taurus moon and Mars in hard-working, humble Virgo. Virgo energy is all about efficiency and service. Other Leo presidents include: Benjamin Harrison, Herbert Hoover and Bill Clinton.

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Annie's Mailbox



KATHY MITCHELL  
MARCY SUGAR

divorced him. Eight years have passed since then, and this man is now a teacher at the same school where my wife works. Two friends independently told me they saw my wife kissing this man and watched the two of them walk into the washroom together. When I confronted my wife, she confessed to the kissing but said they never had sex. I find that hard to believe. I no longer trust my wife and get very angry when I'm near her. I want a divorce, but I grew up without a father and would hate to leave my 14-year-old because I worry what will happen to him. My wife insists there is nothing going on, yet refuses to transfer to another school. She doesn't want a divorce. Please give me some advice.—*Saskatchewan, Canada*

**Dear Canada:** Get counseling immediately, and tell your wife if she wants to save the marriage, she must go with you. She is behaving foolishly and disrespectfully and either doesn't recognize how damaging that is or doesn't care. We are astonished this man was given another teaching position, and if their affair (or whatever it is) becomes known to the administration, they could both be fired. One of them has to leave the school or your marriage is over.

**Dear Annie:** My boyfriend and I just bought our first home. It's the first time we will be living independently since college. We'd like to have a housewarming party, but I don't want our friends or family members to feel obligated to bring gifts when we just

want to celebrate our new home with them. However, knowing our friends, some of them will insist on bringing gifts anyway. My boyfriend and I work at a well-known retail chain and get sizable discounts. Is there a polite way to suggest that if they insist on bringing something, gift cards to our store would be appreciated? — *New Homeowners*

**Dear New:** Yes and no. You cannot put it in an invitation. If someone asks, you can reiterate that no gift is necessary or expected, but if they insist, you can recommend the gift cards. You also can inform one or two close friends or family members of your preference, and they can pass the word.

**Dear Annie:** My heart goes out to "Wish I Could Turn Back Time

in N.J.," the mother of the paralyzed teen. As a person with a spinal cord injury, I offer the following suggestions: Contact the New Jersey Statewide Independent Living Council ([njsilc.org](http://njsilc.org)) for a list of independent living centers in the area. All states have centers for independent living (CILs) that receive federal funding and are mandated to provide four core services, including peer support, skills training, information and referral, and advocacy. Her CIL should also be able to help find respite care and may be able to provide assistance in getting family counseling. If her son is not already working with the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation to assist in his education and employment opportunities, he needs to get in

touch soon. She should encourage her son to become as independent as possible, while planning for when she is no longer able to take care of him. A visit with an attorney who specializes in estate planning for parents of special needs children would be helpful. — *Hot Wheels Grandma in Missouri*

**Dear Hot Wheels:** Thanks so much for your valuable information. We hope she and her son follow through.

*Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, long-time editors of the Annie Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611.*

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