

## Lady Steers drop season opener

See Page 1B



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# **G SPRING**

**VOLUME 104. NUMBER 215** 

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## WEDNESDAY

AUGUST 12, 2009



50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

# 2 juveniles arrested for arson

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Two juvenile suspects have been arrested in connection with the recent rash of arson attacks in the central portion of Big Spring, and according to local officials, more arrests may be on the way.

Big Spring Fire Marshal

juvenile males have been arrested and charged with ar-

"A joint investigation between the Big Spring Fire Marshal's Office and the Big Spring Police Department Street Crimes Division has resulted in the arrest of two

Carl Condray said today two juvenile males associated with a recent string of suspicious fires in the central part of our city," said Condray. "These fires have been occurring over several months and have resulted in countless damage. The arrest of these individuals may be the first of several as other subjects of

interests are interviewed and the investigation continues." Condray said the arrests

may help clear up more crimes than just the recent arson reports.

"Theses investigative efforts have yielded information that may clear several cases of arson and other related crimes, such as burglary and criminal mischief," said Condray. "Breakthroughs in this case came from the efforts of investigators, but the public — the citizens of Big Spring — played a vital role as well.

See **ARSON**, Page 3A

## FRIENDLY SKIES



Hang gliding pilots are towed into the air Tuesday afternoon during the Big Spring U.S. Hang Gliding Championships, which continues through Saturday at the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark. Pilots from all over the country — and the world — are competing for top honors in the annual event. Launches are expected to take place between 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m., depending on weather conditions.

**HERALD Photos/Thomas Jenkins** 



Trustees to convene Thursday...

# **BSISD** staffing nearly complete

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Big Spring Independent School District's "manhunt" is about over for another year, at least. District trustees are expected to

sign off on the latest round of teacher and staff hirings when they hold their monthly meeting at 5:15 p.m. Thursday in the high school board



teaching staff of around 300 keeps school administrators busy during the summer, but those efforts are about complete, Superintendent Steven Saldivar said. "We're pretty much ful-

Filling vacancies in a

ly staffed now," said Saldivar, adding that the district is still

in need of a counselor and teacher/

coach at the junior high, as well as a science teacher at the high school.

Saldivar expects the district to be fully staffed by the time the school year starts Aug. 24. In other business, trustees will

hear an update on construction projects they recently approved.

The projects — a renovation of the high school roof drainage sys-

See BSISD, Page 3A

# ADA

# City takes steps to bring local law into compliance

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The city of Big Spring took one more step on the road to formulating and implementing its Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) transition plan Tuesday night, approving the first reading of changes that will bring the municipality's subdivision ordinance in line with federal

requirements.

The council presided over by Mayor Pro Tem Stephanie Horton, as Mayor was not in attendance — approved a measure amending city's subdivision ordinance by a unanimous vote following a public hearing on the matter that failed to draw a single



our second phase, which is our structures and buildings throughout the community."

comment from the audience or the council.

According to Assistant City Manager Todd Darden, the changes are part of the city's transition plan to bring its infrastructure into compliance with federal ADA requirements. Efforts to develop the plan began last year after a lawsuit was filed against the municipality for failing to meet ADA standards

See ADA, Page 3A

**Sports** 

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Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Jonathan Hull at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Page 1B Wednesday, August 12, 2009

# duty

## Coach Wade also **D-coordinator**

#### JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

SAN ANTONIO — Wade Phillips noticed one day during training camp that cornerback Terence Newman was doing a good job of using a particular technique to steer receivers off their routes, so Phillips made a point of letting Newman know

Picking up on that is a little thing, really. Something most defensive coordinators would

But it's not the kind of detail that would register with many head coaches — unless that head coach also happened to be the defensive coordinator, as Phillips is for the Dallas Cowboys.

In a league where coaches often serve as their own offensive coordinators, Phillips is the only person this season pulling this kind of double duty.

That's not to say he's the only one doing both jobs. Any head coach who came up as a defensive coordinator is probably calling most of the shots on defense. However, the others have a defensive coordinator, even if it's in name only.

Phillips fully acknowledges he was one of those guys during his first two seasons with the Dallas Cowboys. Brian Stewart was his right-hand man, er, defensive coordinator and pretty much became the scapegoat for the December meltdown that kept the Cowboys out of the playoffs.

Team owner Jerry Jones didn't hire a replacement, making the message clear: It's all on Phillips. This is his defense, his team, and how things work out will determine whether he's back next sea-

And that's fine by him.

"With my expertise, I can help even more by basically doing it myself, along with our coaches on defense," Phillips said. "I just feel like that's a little strength of

Phillips started running defenses in 1981 and his teams consistently have ranked among the league's 10 best.

As a head coach, his career record is 70-49, a .588 winning percentage that's better than predecessor Bill Parcells, Jimmy Johnson and notables such as Chuck Noll, Mike Ditka and Dick Vermeil. However, unlike those Super Bowl-winning coaches, Phillips has never even won a playoff game. He's 0-4 over stops with Denver, Buffalo and Dallas. The only coach to win more regular-season games without a

See **WADE**, Page 6B

# Double Cleveland shuts out Rangers, 5-0

CLEVELAND (AP) — Aaron Laffey has found his comfort zone Progressive Field.

Cleveland's left-hander pitched effectively into the seventh inning to remain undefeated at home, and the Indians beat the Texas Rangers 5-0 Tuesday night.

"Aaron set the tone," manager Eric Wedge said. "He was consistent from inning to inning, aggressive and effi-

Laffey (6-3) allowed six hits and three

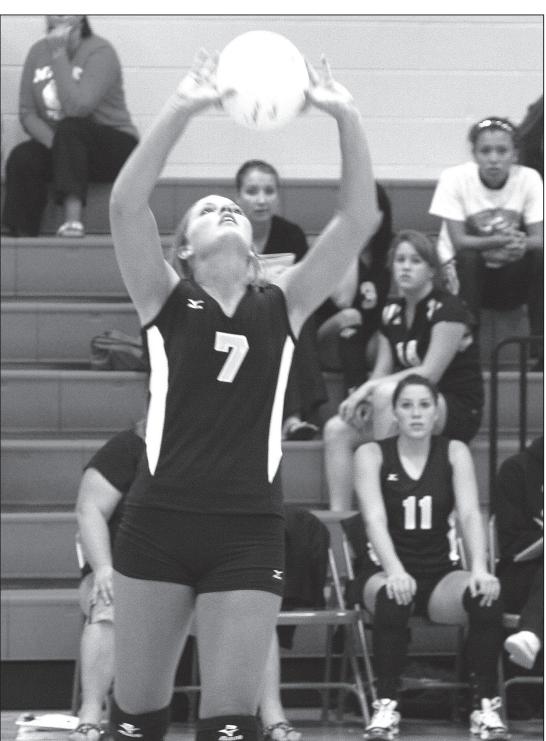
walks in 62-3 innings. He did not allow an earned run for the third time in four starts since July 24 and moved to 4-0 with a 1.59 ERA in five home starts this season.

In his outing six days earlier, Laffey gave up an unearned run in a careerhigh eight innings.

The resurgent Indians improved to 13-6 since losing 21 of 28 from June 15 to July 19. Texas came in tied with Boston for the wild card lead in the AL, but fell to 3-5 in August.

"Obviously, we're a completely different ballclub," Wedge said of the Indians, who dealt away several veterans for young, low-cost prospects just before the trading deadline. "But the kids are fun to watch, hungry and learning. They take pride in trying to win as many games as possible.'

Dustin Nippert (3-1) struck out a career-high 10 over six innings for Texas — a dominating performance except for the third inning, when Cleveland's first five batters scored.



**HERALD photo/Tony Claxton** 

Big Spring's Cerbi Ritchey sets the ball during non-district volleyball action in Sweetwater Tuesday. The Lady Steers opened the 2009 season with a straight-sets loss to Sweetwater's Lady Mustangs.

# **BSHS** drops opener

#### By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

SWEETWATER — Physically, the Big Spring Lady Steers were just as good as the Sweetwater Lady Mustangs in the 2009 season opening volleyball match Tuesday night.

It was the mental aspect of the game that haunted the Lady

Big Spring started the season with a straight-sets loss at Sweetwater, 25-20, 25-17, 25-14.

New Lady Steers Head Coach Lynn Osbourne came into the match with Sweetwater hoping to get a grasp on a preferred rotation as well as improve on the team's passing and transition game. After the match, Osbourne was still left with many ques-

"It was really hard to tell in this game. To me, it looked like a major mental loss," said Osbourne. "They're doing a great job in practice, but they're just not carrying that into the game. I saw a little bit I can build off of and I'll probably make a lineup change. It's really hard to tell a lot, though, cause we didn't play

See LADY STEERS, Page 6B

## Marlins rally to beat Astros, 9-8, for 5th straight win

#### **ANTONIO GONZALEZ**

Associated Press Writer

MIAMI — Just before the bottom of the 11th inning, Cody Ross turned to teammate Dan Uggla on the bench and gave him a few choice words.

"This is the inning," Ross said he told him. "I feel it. I usually don't say stuff like that."

Uggla did his part to make the prediction come true, hitting a game-ending RBI single that gave the Florida Marlins a come-from-behind, 9-8 victory over the Houston Astros Tuesday night for their fifth straight win.

Chris Coghlan started the inning with a walk off Wesley Wright (2-2), then Nick Johnson walked. After Hanley Ramirez and Jorge Cantu struck out, John Baker walked to load

Alberto Arias entered in relief, and Uggla lined a single through the left side of the infield.

He was mobbed by teammates just after touching first, ducking to the ground to lessen the blows in the dogpile celebration.

The Marlins didn't waste this opportunity after blowing a chance in the 10th, when Jeremy Hermida was thrown out at the plate by Jeff Keppinger. Brian Sanches (3-1) pitched

the 10th to get the win. The Marlins had come back from a five-run deficit to take the lead before Geoff Blum's RBI double in the ninth

off Leo Nunez tied it. Nunez recovered to get Hunter Pence to ground into an inning-ending double play with runners on first and third.

## Sports in brief

#### Coahoma Bulldogs host Post in scrimmage to raise funds for THSCA

The Coahoma Bulldogs football team will be doing more than just getting ready for the upcoming season when they host the Post Antelopes in a scrimmage Saturday.

The two teams are also playing to raise money for the Texas High School Coaches Association's benevolence fund. The fund was created to assist Texas high school athletes and coaches with special needs or hardships.

To date, 130 schools have participated in the program and have raised more than \$45,000.

The junior varsity squads will scrimmage at 10 a.m. Saturday with the varsity to take the field at 11 a.m. Donations will be accepted at the gate.

#### Crossroads Youth Football signups slated for this month

The Crossroads Youth Football Association has begun signups for football players and cheerleaders at the Big Spring Mall.

Registration is scheduled for Saturday and then again Aug. 22 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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.

#### Coahoma flag football league holding signups this month

The Coahoma NFL Flag Football League will hold signups on every Saturday for the rest of August from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day at the Coahoma Community Center.

This if for children ages 9-11 as of Sept. 1 in Coahoma, Big Spring, Forsan and all surrounding areas. It is a co-ed league and both boys and girls are encouraged to register.

Cost is \$45 per child and includes an NFL jersey. There will be no fundraiser.

Call 213-4193 with any questions.

#### **Big Spring Youth Soccer Association** registration continues all week

Registration for the Big Spring Youth Soccer Association will continue throughout the week — Monday through Friday — from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. each day. The final day to sign up is Saturday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Cost for registration is \$65 for the first child and \$5 less for each additional child. The cost includes the full uniform.

Boys and girls who are between the ages 4-11 are eligible to play.

For more information, call Isaac Miramontes at 935-9056.

#### **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 Saturday and Sunday 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

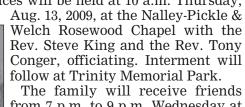
For more information, or to enter a team, call the

pro shop at 267-5354.

## **Obituaries**

#### James Beeson

James Beeson, 56, of Big Spring, died Sunday, Aug. 9, 2009, while vacationing in Ruidoso, N.M. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday,



from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home. He was born Jan. 8, 1953, in

Louisiana and married Cheryl Susan Lewis on Dec. 31, 1981, in Big

He moved to Crane from Louisiana and then to Big Spring. He had worked as a diesel mechanic and had also driven a truck for Western Container and currently for Wal-Mart. He was a member of Birdwell Lane Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Cheryl Beeson of Big Spring; three daughters, Cheree Reagan and husband Brian of Big Spring, Candra Conger and husband Tony of Odessa and Amy Beeson Louisiana; two sons, Brent Newton and wife Tammy of Big Spring and Scott Beeson of Louisiana; three grandsons and seven granddaughters; his parents, Alton and Eula Beeson; his in-laws, Milton "Rip" and Juanita Lewis of Big Spring; three brothers; one sister: his sister-in-law and brother-in-law. Lea and Pat Grav of Midland: and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by one brother, Dennis Beeson: one sister-in-law. Janell Williams: two great-nephews, Dalton Lee Harbour and Brad Davis Williams; and a great-niece, Peyton Renee

The family suggests memorials to the Birdwell Lane Baptist Church Youth Fund, 1512 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, 79720.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www. npwelch.com

Paid obituary

## Francene Minchew

Francene Minchew, 74, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2009, at her residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Police blotter

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

- STEPHANIE GALAN, 21, of 601 Caylor, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of theft. • THEFT was reported in the 1200 block of
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the
- 1900 block of Highway 87.
- AGGRAVATED ASSAULT was reported in the 1100 block of Goliad.

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of Morrison. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of 15<sup>th</sup> Street and Virginia. Two people were transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of 17th Street and Gregg. Service
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of S. Gregg Street. One person was transported to

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## **Sheriff**

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 86 inmates at the time of this

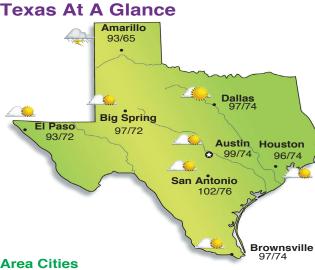
- TANDI JO BARBEE, 26, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of failure to identify as a fugitive from justice. CARLOS BARRIGA, 34, was arrested Tuesday
- by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated - second offense. • PEDRO CHAVARRIA, 39, was arrested Tuesday
- by the HCSO on charges of theft and burglary of a • JAMES ERNEST GARCIA, 20, was arrested
- Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of failure to maintain financial responsibility. LAQUITA LASHAY GRAY, 30, was transferred
- to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of credit/debit card abuse (two counts). JOE EPIFANIO GUZMAN, 21, was arrested
- Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less. • JESSE RODRIGUEZ LOPEZ, 41, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of forgery of a
- financial instrument. MICHAEL SHANE MATHIS, 18, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of evading arrest/ detention with a vehicle, failure to appear and held
- for the Texas Youth Commission. • AMBER RENEE RAMIREZ, 25, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a revocation of probation for driving while intoxicated.
- CHRISTOPHER VIERA, 22, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of bail jumping failure to appear (two counts).
- RICKY JAY WHITE, 21, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft.

For more, log on at www.bigspringherald.com

# Today's Weather **Local 5-Day Forecast**

8/17 97/72 96/73 93/74 94/72 94/71 Isolated Intervals of Times of sur Partly artly cloudy clouds and and clouds. cloudy thunderwith a stray chance of a thunder-Highs in the mid 90s and storms. Highs in the storm. lows in the low 70s. mid 90s and lows in the low 70s. storm. Sunrise: Sunrise: Sunrise: Sunrise: Sunrise: 7:09 AM **Sunset:** 8:32 PM 7:10 AM **Sunset:** 8:31 PM 7:10 AM **Sunset:** 8:30 PM 7:11 AM Sunset: 8:29 PM Sunset: 8:28 PM

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makes a nasty landing at the airpark during the Big Spring U.S. Nationals Tuesday. At left, Gene Simpkins was recently honored as Hangar 25 Air Museum's Veteran of the Month for July. And below, rain stikes a puddle of water along a residential street Tuesday in Big Spring. **Courtesy photos** 

AROUND TOWN — Above, a hang glider pilot



## Briefs

#### Airline passenger stranding gets the attention Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — The overnight stranding of 47 airline passengers on an airport tarmac in Minnesota has grabbed the attention of the Obama administration and Congress. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said the de-

partment's general counsel is investigating whether

any laws were violated during the incident, which began last Friday when Continental Express Flight 2816 left Houston at 9:23 p.m. It didn't arrive at its destination in Minneapolis until after 11 a.m. Sat-In between, the small airliner spent nearly seven hours sitting on a tarmac in Rochester, Minn.,

where it had been diverted because of thunderstorms, before passengers were allowed to go inside an airport terminal. Two and a half hours after disembarking, passengers reboarded the same plane and were flown to Minneapolis.

#### Report: Officials see rise in militia groups across the country WASHINGTON (AP) — Militia groups with gripes

against the government are regrouping across the country and could grow rapidly, according to an organization that tracks such trends. The stress of a poor economy and a liberal ad-

ministration led by a black president are among

the causes for the recent rise, the report from the Southern Poverty Law Center says. Conspiracy theories about a secret Mexican plan to reclaim the Southwest are also growing amid the public debate about illegal immigration. Bart McEntire, a special agent with the Bureau

of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, told SPLC researchers that this is the most growth he's seen in more than a decade.

"All it's lacking is a spark," McEntire said in the It's reminiscent of what was seen in the 1990s —

right-wing militias, people ideologically against paying taxes and so-called "sovereign citizens" are popping up in large numbers, according to the report to be released Wednesday. The SPLC is a nonprofit civil rights group that, among other activities, investigates hate groups.

## **ARSON**

Continued from Page 1A

"I just want to express my deepest appreciation to the citizens of this community, the Big Spring Fire Department, and especially to the Street Crimes Division and other officers of the Big Spring Police Department."

Recent arson reports include attacks in the 1600 block of Third Street and 1400 block of W. Second Street last week, as well as damages to a home in the 1000 block of Nolan Aug. 1.

Condray said monetary damages from the arson re-

ports have not yet been totaled, but the amount does little to reflect the danger the alleged fire bugs placed local residents and firefighters in with their acts. "Any one of these fires

could have easily resulted in a loss of life," said Condray. "It could be the life of someone who lives at the home,

or even the men and women that are fighting these fires. There's really no way to quantify those kinds of risks and damages." The fire department has also

someone who lives next door,

investigated arson attacks reported in the 700 block of S. Johnson, 800 block of Runnels and the corresponding area of

tion.

Goliad in early and mid-July.

Condray declined to release the names of the alleged arsonist, citing their age as the reason.

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

#### ADA

Continued from Page 1A

in a number of different areas, including the Municipal Auditorium, City Hall and many of the city's sidewalks and curb ramps. "The transition plan

— as it relates to sidewalks or curbs and gutters — is pretty well complete," said Darden. "In the future we're hoping to be able to budget funds to keep upgrading our alleys and curb

cuts, where they are necessary, especially for pedestrian traffic. Now we're trying to put the finishing touches on our second phase, which is our structures and buildings throughout the community. We're trying to come up with a plan we can bring back to the city council so they can hopefully adopt it.' Darden said the new

ordinances will require new developers, as well property owners planning any substantial renovations, to meet ADA requirements.

comes in and develops land that's never been developed, they will have to comply with ADA sidewalks, curb cuts and those things." said Darden. "They can still try to get variances if they feel the contiguous property leads nowhere, but that's a decision for future planning and zoning meetings or city council meetings. Also, any remodeling efforts that affect a certain

percentage of the property will be required to "Anytime someone comply with the new law." Darden said the public

> hearing was necessary because the changes would impact the entire city. Also during Tuesday's

> meeting, the council approved a zone change for a piece of property located on W. Highway 80. According to city of-

> ficials, the property described as a 5.9-acre tract within Section 32,

originally designated as residential, but some years back the tract's owner converted it to both a residence and a business, calling for a commercial designa-

Block 33, T-1-N — was

cil the property has since been sold, and the new owners need it to be zoned as residential for the purposes of a home loan. He also confirmed the new owners reportedly have no plans to operate a business from

Darden told the coun-

the location.

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

#### **MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME** & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288 Francene Minchew, 74, Wednesday Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

#### BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

tem, resurfacing of the Blankenship Field track, emergency repairs to the archway at Marcy Elementary and construction of a modular addition to the administration building — are being financed by \$3 million received from the Texas Education Agency as compensation for misfiguring past state aid. The Marcy project

is basically complete, while the modular addition to the administration building is expected to arrive today, Saldivar said. The other projects are still in the planning stage, although bids for the track resurfacing are expected to be opened Friday.

Total cost for the projects is expected to be \$1.75 million, with the balance of the \$3 million going into district reserve funds, officials Also Thursday, trust-

ees will consider: Agreements with

Coahoma and Forsan ISDs to provide disciplinary alternative education services for those districts during the coming school year, as well as a similar agreement with Coahoma to provide construction technology instruction to CISD students this year.

"I view these agreements as all of us working together," Saldivar said. "It's all Howard County and we all have the same goal — to provide good education for

to having more collaborative efforts with Coahoma and Forsan in the future." Approval of the

our kids. I look forward

teacher appraisal calen-Superintendent per-

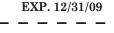
formance goals.

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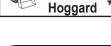
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Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated

**Ron Midkiff** 

Publisher

John A. Moseley Managing Editor

**Bill McClellan** News Editor

### Our View

# **Farmers Market** provides great local produce

e hope you are taking advantage of the West Texas Producers and Farmers Market, going on through October at the Heart of the City Park each Tuesday and Saturday.

It's a great place to get some home-grown produce such as tomatoes, squash, okra, peppers, black-eyed peas, canteloupe and watermelon... Did we mention watermel-

Vendors quite often also offer eggs, honey, jams, jellies, fruits and pecans.

And from time to time, vendors offer baked goods, soft drinks and even novel-

The farmers market was started a few years ago and has been a success, although organizers hope to see an increase in the number of producers. So do we.

Producers begin setting up between 7 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. adjacent to the park, located at Scurry and Third in downtown Big Spring. The market is usually open until near noon but customers are advised to 703 Hart Office Building arrive early for the best selections.

One member of our editorial board went by around 10:30 a.m. one Saturday with his sights set or getting a yellow-meated watermelon. He managed to do so, but got the last one the grower had left. He says he'll go earlier next time.

The farmers market is a great way to give Crossroads area producers and gardeners a place to sell their goods and customers the unique experience of shopping outdoors and selecting the freshest, "home grown" vegetables and other products.

That, as they say, is a win-win situation. It certainly is in our book.

Be sure and check it out this Saturday.

## How to contact us

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinons. In order that we might better serve your needs, we

- offer several ways in which you may contact us: In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331 By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
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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 focus on our relationships with You, Lord, and our loved ones.

**Conservatives repel Latino voters** 

he feeling is hard to explain. Ethnic pride is like intense love something you just can't put into words. You have to feel it to understand it.

This is why, in the U.S. Hispanic community

in ways that are incomprehensible to many non-Latino Americans Justice Sonia Sotomayor's rise to the U.S. Supreme Court is not seen as just one woman's achievement. It is the triumph



**P**EREZ

munity. Instead of "she did it," all over the country, most of the nation's 45 million Latinos are telling themselves, "We did it!" To us, the first Hispanic on the

Supreme Court is the culmination of a long-fought struggle for community empowerment. It is due recognition that Latinos have a lot to contribute to this great nation — as we have for centuries, since before we were even a nation.

Of course, there are exceptions. Some Latinos are prouder of being Republicans than Hispanic. And because they tend to repeat the same anti-immigrant hatred spewed by some GOP leaders, to them, Sotomayor is a "wise Latina" who practices reverse discrimination and who probably will rule unfairly in favor of liberal minorities. They tell you, "Yeah, it's good that she is a Latina, but she's too liberal for my taste." Ethnic pride is secondary to them.

Of course, these are a minute minority of Latinos, people

much further to the right than even the lone Latino Republican in the Senate, Florida's Mel Martinez, who expressed pride in Sotomayor's nomination and voted to confirm her. But these extreme right-wing Latinos are out there, and they often are used by conservative politicians trying to justify their racist attitudes. Such politicians claim that they have Latino constituents who feel the same way. Nevertheless, to the over-

whelming majority of Latinos, not only in this country but also throughout the world, Sotomayor's Senate confirmation has elicited that ethnic feeling that words can't describe, the one felt by most members of the African diaspora when Obama was elected to become our first African-American president. Those politicians who fail to

see Sotomayor's significance to Latinos are either totally insensitive to the value of ethnic pride or purposely choosing to favor that so-called Republican conservative base that is assumed to be anti-immigrant.

Frankly, the only thing they are doing is shooting themselves in the foot, alienating themselves from a voting bloc that could swing many elections for decades to come.

Instead of looking for ways to cure the widespread xenophobia among Republican conservatives so that Latinos feel welcomed by their party, they promote fear of foreigners, try to demean the ethnic pride that Sotomayor gives to Latinos, and repel Hispanic voters.

Sotomayor's confirmation, by a 68-31 margin, will not go unnoticed. The consequences in future elections will be huge.

Latinos will not forget that it was Obama who nominated her and Democrats who supported her or that only nine Republican senators voted to confirm her. They will not forget how she was hounded — over her remarks about her ethnicity — by some Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The Democrat who chairs that committee, Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, explained it quite eloquently on the Senate floor. "Judge Sotomayor's career and judicial record demonstrates that she has always followed the rule of law," Leahy said. "Attempts at distorting that record by suggesting that her ethnicity or heritage will be the driving force in her decisions as a justice of the Supreme Court are demeaning to women and all communities of color."

Among those who turned their backs on Sotomayor and her historic achievement for all Latinos was Sen. John McCain, who flirts with Latinos and tries to defend their civil rights but then always caves in to the so-called conservative base — sometimes within a period of only hours. One day last week, McCain was on a Spanish-language TV network talking about the huge ground Republicans have lost among Latino voters, and the next day, he was on the Senate floor voting against Sotomayor and surely losing the respect of many Latinos who voted for him

over Obama last November. Perhaps even our "moderate amigo" McCain just doesn't get it. For most Latinos, when he voted against Sotomayor, he voted against all of us.

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# Really, shut up and stand aside?

he hubris, arrogance and deceit of President Barack Obama and the Democratic leadership are breathtaking. In their maniacal frenzy to assume control over every aspect of our lives

through socialized medicine, they are behaving like the thuggish autocrats they have proved themselves to be.

The jig is up on their designs, evidenced by the very contents of the health bill they're promotpublic awareness



**D**AVID

Our self-styled bipartisan president is telling his critics to shut up, while his partners in crime, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and her colleagues, are calling them un-American and Nazis.

Understand this: The people who are showing up in droves with righteous anger befitting a body politic steeped in a unique liberty tradition are exercising the very type of bottom-up citizen protest and government watchdogging our Founding · Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a Fathers envisioned. They are not the artificially driven "AstroTurf" phonies the Democrats are depicting them to be. No, such activities are the province of Alinsky/Obama-type "street organizers" and union thugs enlisted by the administration to discredit these legitimate pro-It wasn't enough for Pelosi to

call us Nazis. She also co-wrote, with House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, an op-ed in USA Today calling us un-American and projecting her own nefarious tactics onto her opposition.

Pelosi and Hoyer accuse the protesters of engaging in "an Amen ugly campaign ... not merely to misrepresent the health insurance reform legislation, but to disrupt public meetings and prevent members of Congress and constituents from conducting a civil dialogue."

They say: "The first fact is that health insurance reform will mean more patient choice. It will allow every American who likes his or her current plan to keep it. And it will free doctors and patients to make the health decisions that make the most sense, not the most profits for insurance companies."

How can these government propaganda ministers sleep at night? They are the ones misrepresenting the legislation and closing their meetings to genuine dissent.

In the first place, it is not "health insurance reform." It is an effort to fundamentally transform the entire health care industry and how decisions are made. Their recent move to euphemize this monstrosity as "insurance reform" is part of their strategy to demonize insurance companies in their ruthless quest to shove this down our throats.

The bill would not allow Americans to keep their plans.

It would crowd out and eventually eliminate private care; enormously reduce choice, as well as the quantity and quality of care; and be a fiscal nightmare, as verified by Congressional Budget Office projections. Worst of all, it would further destroy our liberties.

And by Obama's own words, it would decrease doctors' prerogatives over the type of care they provide. He admits he'd control doctors by making their "bundled payments" conditional on their meeting quality standards imposed by an omniscient, omnipotent government, not doctors and their patients.

Pelosi and Hoyer's most laughable claim is that their plan "will stand up to any and all critics."

If that's so, why don't they tell the truth about what's in the

bill and truly answer legitimate questions and concerns about it instead of resorting to name calling and intimidation? If that's so, why is Obama sending out his hired mouthpiece, Linda Douglass, to deny what Obama most clearly said? She protests that his statements promoting a single-payer system were taken out of context and then gives us absolutely no evidence they were. We are just supposed to

disbelieve our lying eyes and It's also disingenuous to argue that in any event, Obama's earlier statements are irrelevant because he says he does not favor a single-payer system today and would protect our right to private care. Again, we have the bill itself, which would phase out private care — mandatorily - so the denials are self-evident

Obama isn't delegating all the dirty work to his surrogates. Our pseudo-cool leader himself has become conspicuously unglued. About opponents of his outlandishly reckless agenda, he said that he doesn't "want the folks who created the mess to do a lot of talking"; he wants "them just to get out of the way so (Democrats) can clean up the mess." He went on, "I don't mind cleaning up after them, but don't do a lot of talking."

He obviously thinks that he has the unilateral right as president, with 53 percent of the vote, to use our money to impoverish and enslave us and destroy our health care and that we have no right even to object. We only get to speak every two years.

Well, this president — with a faux-messianic wind boomeranging in his face — has now met his match: an increasingly informed, vigilant, politically engaged and liberty-loving citizenry. And none too soon.

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney.

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#### Tomorrow's Horoscope

You The effects of a recent aspect between Mars and Saturn have had many feeling unresolved and to complete projects, neatly wrap up issues and accurately define relationships. The input is vour Taurus moon lends an appreciated. earthy stability to the

happenings of the day and a feeling everything moving toward sensible

**ARIES** HOLIDAY (March 21-19). **MATHIS** April The only

anxious

that

is

conclusion.

one limiting your experience is you. Since you'll likely get exactly what you expect, it wouldn't hurt to raise your expectations. Want more, ask for more and accept more.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Being turned down for anything whatsoever will be lucky for you. You're learning not to give up — ever. You'll have a flash of insight this afternoon that helps you walk right through a previously closed door.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've got money on your mind. If you had twice as much of it, it wouldn't double your joy. Twice as much creativity, however, will make you both wealthy and happy.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). In order to feed your soul, you have to know what kind of food it requires. You'll get a better idea about that as you hear suggestions this afternoon that stimulate your "appetite."

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22).

deserve. Nip a problem in the bud. Make sure you're being listened to and heard. Go where best

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Push against your perceived limits. Make mistakes, and when you do, be proud of yourself. If you're not failing at something, you're not operating at full capacity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're not timid about romance. You have a solid instinct about what others might enjoy what they are looking for. Act on your social whims. Your invitations will be well received.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You've done a few things in your life that you didn't enjoy at the time, but somehow sensed that you should do them anyway. That's how a person builds character. Good things come to you because of who you are.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're one of a kind. You think you can't possibly be that unique, but you are. You're seeing the world differently than anyone else is seeing it. If someone says it can't be done, take that as your invitation to do it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You could use a few new helpers. There's more work to do around the house than you can handle and that is even of your work truer situation. Affirm that you'll attract only the best and brightest.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-

Don't settle for less than kinds of chaos: the kind the quality of attention you can control (and you do so very well) and the kind you can't (no matter how hard you may try). You'll recognize difference and walk away from the second kind.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You've been there for yourself all sometimes as a friend and other times as an enemy. Get back on friendly terms yourself now with a little sweet talk in the mirror and at least one other gesture of kindness.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (AUGUST 12). Your influence over your world increases with each day. Now through the end of September brings many exercises that help you to There's a fun twist in the plot of your personal life December. March in brings moves and/or an improved living arrangement. Cancer and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 18, 4, 33 and 27.

#### **ASTROLOGICAL**

Pisces. My girlfriend, a Capricorn, broke up with me in May. Even though I had girlfriends before her, she was my first real love and we together almost two years. In a matter of weeks, we will start going to the same college again. If I see her, I'm going to get that rush of feelings all over again. Except they'll be tainted by rage because she cheated on me and she has another boyfriend already. I just don't see how I'll be able to concentrate on my knowing that classes

deserve respect. Feb. 18). There are two somewhere on campus, she's hanging out with another guy. Should I move schools?"

No, you shouldn't move schools, Pisces. Ruled by Neptune, the planet of imagination, you often let yours get the best of you. That's why you need to face your girlfriend and her new boyfriend and deflate this overblown fantasy. You're making too much of things. You'll emotionally mature when you come to terms with the fact that relationships don't always work out, and obsessing won't get you anywhere. Take hold of yourself. Force yourself to date other girls until you actually have fun doing so again.

**CELEBRITY** 

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# Why not check this out? at the library

It didn't take long for a biography of Michael Jackson to come out. "Unmasked: The Final Years of Michael Jackson" (B JAC M) is by Ian Halperin and from the various reviews that I have read, it is a mishmash of uncorroborated allegations. Read at your own risk.

While this is relatively "old" (pub-



**McC**right

lished in 1996), "The Backyard Stonebuilder" (690.89 LON C) by Charles Long has some excellent illustrations of projects that a talented amateur could do. From rock flower bed edgings to stairs and ovens and floors, there is sure to be a project worth doing. Better Homes and

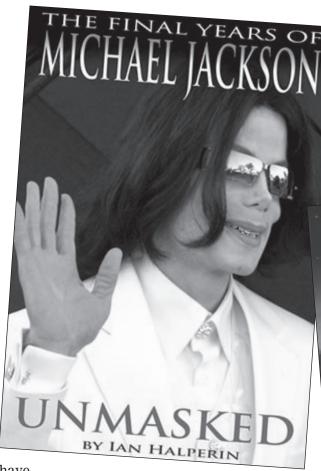
Gardens always comes

out with some absolutely beautiful books. One of their latest is "Home Landscaping: Plants, Projects, and Ideas For Your Yard" (635.9 BET H). However, the projects always seem better suited to an area that gets more rain than we do. You can adapt the gazebos, patio plantings and plants to our harsh West Texas terrain. Then you can also use Emily Phillips' "Decorative Accents for the Garden" (745.5 PHI E) for neat, cute painted flower pots, benches, fences and signs for your garden. And I may just make some of them!

From Amy K. Brown, comes a guidebook on "Backroads and Byways of Texas" (917.640 BRO A). Divided into areas, you can easily find a day trip whether you live in Big Spring or Houston. One particular trail is to take U.S. 281 from Fort Worth to San Antonio. You can tour some very interesting small towns on this road. Plus, it can also be a good alternative to I-35, traveling from San Antonio to Austin.

Remember, sometimes we get books only in large print and not the regular print, so be sure and check the Large Print section in the New Book binder. Lisa Gardner has written "The Neighbor" (LP M GAR L), a story about a young mother who disappears from her Boston home, leaving her 4-year-old daughter as the only witness. The husband is acting strangely, so you know something is off.

For you James Lee Burke fans, we



a Large Print edition of his "Rain Gods" (LP M BUR J). This is column: new territory for Burke. Hackber-Do not rry Holland is sheriff of a tiny Texas review town near the Mexican border. When cook-Holland finds nine illegal aliens buried in a shallow grave behind a church, he realizes that he must settle the past for the final time.

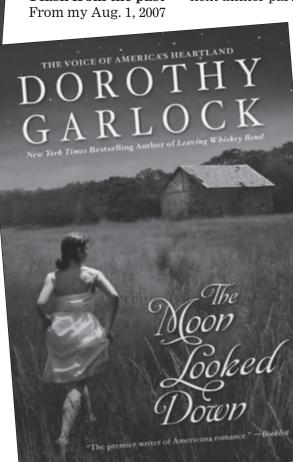
Dorothy Garlock's "The Moon Looked Down" (LP F GAR D) is set in Illinois in the late 1930s. Sophie Heller and her family came from Germany before the war broke out and yet they are still perceived as an enemy. Support comes from an unlikely source for Sophie and her family, and in the end, romance will

Sophie Kinsella has written "Twenties Girl" (LP F KIN S), the story of a ghost and her granddaughter. Sparks will fly and compromises are made in this witty, lighthearted

Daniel Silva writes some riveting stories that involve Gabriel Allon. a mostly full-time art restorer and at other times, Mossad agent. In "The Defector," (LP F SIL S) Allon and his wife Chiara are in Umbria, Italy, where Gabriel is working on restoring an altarpiece. His world is thrown into chaos, when a Russian

intelligence officer disappears from his home in London. It is now a race to find, Grigori Bulganov alive before arms dealer Ivan Kharkov disposes of him.

Flash from the past



books just before you leave for lunch! You will play havoc

with your stomach to say nothing of the fact that the food you read about certainly will not be what you have

From the people who brought you the Food Network, comes Cat Cora's cookbook, "Cooking from the Hip" (641.597 COR C). I know that How-

ard County is the hotbed of nouvelle cuisine and everyone will enjoy sake margaritas, Chocolate Budino, and of course, Greek Lamb and Olive Burgers. Now to another cookbook, "Eating Royally: Recipes & Remembrances from a Palace Kitchen" (641.509 MCG D) by Darren McGrady (Diana's private chef). For your next dinner party, no doubt Eggs

> along with Curried Salmon Kedgeree. Both books have interesting stories along with food facts. After all that, check out "The South Beach Diet: Taste of Summer Cookbook" (641.563 AGA A) to get back into shape. Even though I make fun of the recipes, there are many that will fit into anyone's taste

Drumkilbo will

be on the menu,

or lifestyle. 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. We are closed Saturdays during August. The Internet/Video room closes one-half hour before closing. The library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260. If you need to renew or request a book, e-mail Johnny at hcrlref@hotmail.com

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	:PM	News	Jeopardy!	Gancho	Two Men	News	12 Cora-	News	Seinfeld	Mark	News-Lehrer	MythBusters	Russo	Return of the Jedi, Carrie	Bones	Live	Wizards	NFL Live	MLB Base-
b	:30	Entertain	Fortune	1	Two Men	Entertain	zones	Millionaire	Seinfeld	Swallow	1			Fisher			Montana	Interrupt	ball: Teams
_	:PM	Be a Mil-	Be a Mil-	Nombre	House	Christine			Payne	Israel	Time Team	MythBusters		1 101101	Bones	Movie: 3	An Extremely	Softball: Big	TBA.
	:30	lionaire	lionaire	Amor		Gary	Diablo	Phrases	Payne	House	America		for Justice,			Strikes,	Goofy Movie	League Final	
0	:PM	Wipeout	Wipeout	Mañana es	Moment-	Criminal	Pobres	America-Tal-	Browns	Light of the		Man vs. Wild	Jerry Orbach	Movie: Star	Leverage	Faizon Love		Teams - TBA.	
Ø	:30				Truth	Minds		ent	Browns	Southwest	the Ice			Wars VI:			Montana	IDA.	
_	:PM	Primetime:	Primetime:	Don Fran-	TMZ	CSI: NY	Victorinos	The Philan-	Payne	]	Wide Angle	Verminators	Movie: Bat-	Return of the Jedi, Carrie	Dark Blue	Game	Wizards	World Series	
9	:30	Crime	Crime	cisco	Raymond			thropist	Payne	]			man Begins,	Fisher		Game	Montana		Tonight
40	:PM	News	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticiero	News	Payne	Israel	Charlie Rose	MythBusters	Liam Neeson		Leverage	W. Williams	Suite Life	World Series	SportsCenter
10	:30	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	King-Hill	Late Show	¡Al Rojo Vivo!	Tonight Show	Payne	Dr. Young							So Raven		
4.4	:PM	Insider	Jimmy Kim-	La Escuelita	Law Order:				Sex &	CCM	BBC	Man vs. Wild	]	Madden	Dark Blue	Movie	Life De	SportsNation 5 1 2 1	Baseball
	:30	Jimmy Kim-	mel Live	VIP	CI	Late Late	Decisiones	Late Night-	Sex &	Israel	Smiley			MAN			Cory		NFL Live
10	:AM	mel Live	Extra	Contra	RENO 911	Show	de	Jim	Movie: A	Israel	(Off Air)	Verminators	Movie: Star	Amazing	CSI: NY		Replace	NASCAR	SportsCenter
12	:30	News	Paid	Viento	Paid	Insider	Pagado	News	Night at the	Sanchez			Trek: Nem-	Video			Kim	X Games	
4	:AM	Work	Paid	Mujer	Friends	Entertain	Pagado	Poker After	Roxbury	Light of the		Warriors	esis, Brent Spiner	Disorderly	Cold Case		Emperor		SportsCenter
	:30	Paid	Paid	Güereja	Paid	Paid	Rosas	Dark	Bloopers	Southwest			Opinion	Con.		The Deal	Dragon	X Games	

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"My mattress has a flat!"

THE BEEF.



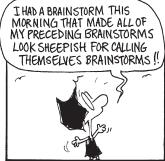
WIZARD OF ID



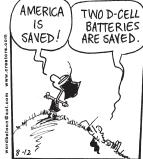




**AGNES** 







## HI AND LOIS





#### THE OTHER COAST





#### **SNUFFY SMITH**



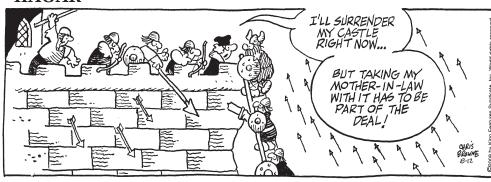


#### BEETLE BAILEY





#### **HAGAR**



#### BLONDIE







## This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 12, the 224th day of 2009. There are 141 days left in the year.

Highlight Today's History:

On Aug. 12, 1909, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, home to the Indianapolis 500, first opened.

On this date:

In 1859, poet and English professor Katharine Lee Bates, who wrote the words to "America the Beautiful," was born in Falmouth, Mass.

In 1867, President Andrew Johnson sparked a move to impeach him as he defied Congress by suspending Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton.

In 1898, fighting in the Spanish-American War came

In 1944, during World War II, Joseph P. Kennedy Jr., eldest son of Joseph and Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, was killed with his co-pilot when their explosives-laden Navy plane blew up over England. In 1953, the Soviet Union con-

ducted a secret test of its first hydrogen bomb. In 1960, the first balloon satellite — the Echo 1 — was

launched by the United States from Cape Canaveral. In 1962, one day after launching Andrian Nikolayev into orbit, the Soviet Union also

sent up cosmonaut Pavel

Popovich; both men landed safely Aug. 15. In 1978, Pope Paul VI, who had died Aug. 6 at age 80, was buried in St. Peter's Basilica.

In 1981, IBM introduced its first personal computer, the model 5150.

In 1985, the world's worst single-aircraft disaster occurred as a crippled Japan Air Lines Boeing 747 on a domestic flight crashed into a mountain, killing 520 people.

Today's Birthdays: Former Senator Dale Bumpers, D-Ark., is 84. Actor George Hamilton is 70. Actress Dana Ivey is 68. Actress Jennifer Warren is 68. Rock singer-musician Mark Knopfler (Dire Straits) is 60. Singer Kid Creole is 59. Jazz musician Pat Metheny is 55. Actor Sam J. Jones is 55. Actor Bruce Greenwood is 53. Country

singer Danny Shirley is 53. Pop musician Roy Hay (Culture Club) is 48. Rapper Sir Mix-A-Lot is 46. Actor Peter Krause is 44. Tennis player Pete Sampras is 38. Actor-comedian Michael Ian Black is 38. Actress Rebecca Gayheart is 38. Actor Casey Affleck is 34. Former NBA allstar Antoine Walker is 33. Former New York Giants wide receiver Plaxico Burress is 32. Canada women's hockey star Hayley Wickenheiser is 31. Actress Maggie Lawson is 29. Actress Dominique Swain is 29. Actress Imani Hakim ("Everybody Hates Chris") is

Thought for Today: "Wisdom is born, stupidity is learned." Russian proverb.

Answer to previous puzzle

TIMID TILLS ANON HORSESHO

## **Newsday Crossword**

#### **ACROSS**

- 1 "Your majesty!"
- explorer
- 14 Influence with
- smooth talk
- 17 No longer
- current
- 20 Short-legged
- 21 Votes in
- 28 Mineral quest
- **30** River blocker
- 35 Jr. high
- preceder 37 Health-club
- amenity
- 39 Annual gift
- **43** Graph or vision
- opener **45** Public TV's lack
- 46 Half of hex-
- 48 Publishing
- execs.
- part

- **54** Unenthusiastic assent
- **61** Michael J. Fox
- of Capri
- **66** Mechanical man

#### WHAT TIME IS IT? by Betty Keller Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

#### **68** Health clubs 69 Mickey Mouse

neighbor

**DOWN** 

2 Teeny bit

1 Strike defier

**5** Bone-weary

Jima

**8** Figure out

10 Records on

the VCR

model

12 Home in a

**13** Aardvark

14

snacks

hemlock

**11** Colorful Apple

**9** "Do unto

7 Arctic assistant

3 Stadium cheers

- 5 Dora's fellowand Daffy Duck **70** Knight's
- **10** Fey of *30 Rock*
- **15** Young hooting
- bird
- 16 Prayer ender

- hound
- **22** High-school math
- **24** Mex. women
- 25 Smidgen
- 29 Egyptian snake
- 33 Succulent skin soother

- **42** Oahu neighbor
- starter 44 Use a letter

- **50** Get an eyeful 51 Hammerhead
- **52** Percussion
- instrument
- **57** 42 Across hellos
- sci-fi film
- 67 Stare at

- **18** Fictional detective Wolfe
- 19 Pass by, as
- time 23 Transparent
- dessert
- 24 Had a taste of 25 Slavic coffee
- cake 4 Aren't imaginary
  - 26 Trojan War epic
  - 27 Bagel shape
  - **30** Sword fights 31 Photographer
  - Leibovitz **32** Dull snapshot
  - finish 34 When a flt. is
  - due
  - **36** Stare at
  - 38 Long-eared equine

15

40 Premium fuel, for short

- - 41 Second versions of stories
  - 47 Acapulco, e.g. 49 Star Trek
  - navigator 51 Chinese dogs,
  - briefly 53 Engine
  - **54** Wading bird 55 Sound
  - frightened 56 Bruins sch.
  - 58 Les Misérables author
  - 59 Folk singer Guthrie
  - 60 Search out **62** As well
  - **63** Curb Your Enthusiasm
  - channel **64** Extremely long
  - time

8/12/09

10 | 11 | 12 | 13

16

17 18 19 20 22 23 24 29 25 | 26 | 27 30 |31 |32 28 33 34 36 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 48 46 47 49 52 53 54 55 56 58 59 60 62 | 63 65 66 67 68 69 70

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## News in brief

#### Taiwan police still trying to estimate toll in village mudslide following typhoon

CISHAN, Taiwan (AP) — Police said Wednesday that there is no way to know for sure how many people remain buried in the catastrophic mudslide that struck a remote mountain village in Taiwan over the weekend when a typhoon lashed the

Survivors fear that hundreds are dead in the southern village of Shiao Lin, and Cishan police chief Lee Chin-lung said efforts to pluck survivors from the village were continuing for a fourth day.

The doomed community of Shiao Lin and its densely foliated surroundings were buried under tons of mud Sunday morning after torrential rain spawned by Typhoon Morakot unleashed the heaviest flooding Taiwan has seen in 50 years.

Morakot, which means "emerald" in the Thai language, struck the Philippines, Taiwan and China and left at least 93 people dead, most of them in Taiwan.

It dumped as much as 80 inches (two meters) of rain on the island before moving on to China, where authorities evacuated 1.5 million people and some 10,000 homes were destroyed.

#### Obama takes on role of fact-checker as he pushes for health care overhaul in West

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama

is turning his eyes West and hitting the Web as he steps up his counteroffensive against critics of a proposed health care overhaul.

Obama assailed "wild misrepresentations" of his health care plan Tuesday during a town hall-style meeting in Portsmouth, N.H., taking on the role of fact-checker-in-chief for his top domestic priority. It's a strategy he will employ at two more town halls this week in Montana and Colorado, and on the White House Web site.

To that end, the Obama-aligned Democratic National Committee is running health care overhaul ads nationally on cable channels and in spots the president will visit, joining a chorus of ads that has become a cacophony over a problem that has vexed Washington for decades.

On the other side, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce was joining the fray Wednesday, beginning to air 30-second spots in about 20 states criticizing the Democratic proposal to offer optional government health coverage, according to R. Bruce Josten, executive vice president of the nation's largest business group.

#### U.S. Marines storm into strategic Taliban-held town in southern Afghanistan

DAHANEH, Afghanistan (AP) — Helicopterborne U.S. Marines backed by Harrier jets stormed into a strategic Taliban-held town in southern Afghanistan before dawn Wednesday, battling to

veri70nwireless

gain control of the area ahead of next week's presidential elections.

Associated Press journalists traveling with the first wave said Marines were met with small arms, mortar and rocket propelled grenade fire as they flew in helicopters over Taliban lines and dropped into the town. Fighting was still under way hours later, with U.S. Marine Harrier jets streaking overhead and dropping flares in a show of force.

Other Marines met heavy resistance as they fought to seize control of the mountains surrounding Dahaneh in the southern province of Helmand. Another convoy of Marines rolled into the town despite roadside bomb attacks and gunfire.

It was the first time NATO troops had entered Dahaneh, which has been under Taliban control for years. Casualty figures were unavailable due to security restrictions.

#### Transcript, e-mails point to Rove's role in firing of New Mexico U.S. attorney

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. attorney in Albuquerque, N.M., didn't see enough evidence when asked to prosecute some voter fraud cases in

In Washington, however, then-White House political adviser Karl Rove was getting a different message and acting on it.

Transcripts of closed-door congressional testimony indicate that Rove played a central role in the ouster of David Iglesias, who was one of nine federal prosecutors fired in a series of politically tinged dismissals in 2006.

Harriet Miers, then White House counsel, said in testimony June 15 to House Judiciary Committee investigators that Rove was "very agitated" over Iglesias "and wanted something done about it."

#### Secretary of State Hillary Clinton presses Nigeria on corruption, sectarian violence

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is in the Nigerian capital pressing the government of Africa's most populous nation to curb widespread corruption and enact democratic reforms.

Clinton is meeting Wednesday with Nigerian officials to urge the major oil-producing nation, known as one of the most corrupt countries in Africa, to do more to tackle graft. She'll also meet religious leaders to discuss recent violence, sparked by the killing of the head of an Islamist sect, that left more than 700 people dead in the mainly Muslim north.

Nigeria is the fifth country Clinton has visited so far on a seven-nation tour of Africa aimed at promoting development and good governance.

She will travel next to Liberia and Cape

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# In Sunday's Big Spring Herald

**207 Goliad** 



## Kings of the road

Joey and Trent Hemphill are no strangers to customized tour buses. Since 1989, the former gospel singers have furnished these rolling hotel suites to entertainers, athletes, and even presidents. Plus, Wilder days and fruit pies.

**American Profile** 

#### LADY STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

as well as we could."

The Lady Steers got off to slow starts in all three sets and rarely found the ability to rally back. The brightest moment for Big Spring came in the first set when it cut a 12-point 16-4 deficit to five at

Sweetwater held the Lady Steers off in the end and took the first match, 25-20. That was the closest the Lady Steers would play the Lady Mustangs down the stretch of a game as slow starts in sets 2 and 3 kept Big Spring from contending for the



#### A Neat Swindle essentially a tossup. If West has the

North dealer. North-South vulnerable. NORTH **♠** K J 8 5 **♥**∫9643 **SOUTH** ♠ A Q 10 6 3 2 ♥ 5 The bidding: West North East South 1 NT Pass

Opening lead — king of hearts.

This deal occurred many years ago in a national pair championship. The South player who bid the hand as shown certainly vindicated his optimistic leap to slam by a rather ingenious succession of plays. When dummy came down, South

saw that the slam was in the bag if he could avoid losing two club tricks. Looking at all four hands, it's easy to see that the winning play is to lead a club toward dummy at some point and, if West follows low, play the

But with the East-West hands concealed, how to play the clubs is play is to lead to dummy's jack. With this crucial guess looming on the horizon, South decided he

queen and East the ace, the winning

could add greatly to his chances by laying a trap for West. After winning the heart lead, he cashed the A-K of trumps and continued with four rounds of diamonds, carefully discarding dummy's last heart on his last diamond.

The heart discard did not in itself increase the number of tricks declarer could take, but it planted the seed firmly in West's mind that South had started with two hearts and that the heart discard from dummy was vital Since declarer was known at this

point to have started with six spades, four diamonds and presumably two hearts, he could have only one club. Consequently, when South next led the club eight, West rushed up with the ace, thereby relieving declarer of the guess. The specter of losing his ace and allowing South to make seven - an important consideration at matchpoint scoring had done West in.

When the hand was over and West saw how neatly he had been swindled, he could not help but feel a sneaking admiration for the way South had duped him, and congratu-

**Tomorrow:** Partnership defense. ©2009 King Features Syndicate Inc

Halee Thomas led the Lady Steers with eight kills, four blocks and an ace. Macy Graves and Cerbi Ritchey each had 11 assists each.

Osbourne noted there were some bright spots for the team, but also says there's no obvious answer to solving the lack of mental discipline other than just trying to work through it and build confi-

"I'm just glad this is happening now and not in district. We've got some time to work through it," said Osbourne. "The mental part of the game is what all coaches are trying to figure out the cure for. If you can ever figure out that part, then you can be a very rich person. It's something we'll have to work through."

The Lady Steers travel to Monahans Thursday to take part in the Sandhills Tournament. The tourney provides Osbourne with an opportunity to see which players work best together against solid

'We'll be facing some very strong teams in Monahans. I want to nail down my rotation there so we can start working on becoming a better passing team."

# sudoku

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

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

#### **WADE**

Continued from Page 1B

single playoff win is Jim Mora (125-106, 0-6).

Phillips is 22-10 (and 0-1) in two seasons with the Cowboys, with the defense ranking ninth in 2007 and eighth last year. They were No. 13 in the final season under Parcells.

The biggest changes are that Phillips runs more meetings, scripts out the defensive practices and spends most of practices watching the defense. He insists he hasn't cut out or cut short anything he used to do when he was strictly the head coach. It's also worth noting that the offense already was mostly the domain of coordinator Jason Garrett, the highest-paid assistant in the NFL, and that he has no concerns about first-year special-teams coach Joe DeCamillis because they worked together in Atlanta and Denver.

Players have gotten used to the fact their head coach is now in their defensive meetings. They've come to like it, too, knowing that they are taking orders directly from the boss.

How Phillips handles game days might take some figuring out. But, hey, that's what the preseason is for, with the first test run coming Thursday night in Oakland.

Phillips doesn't think it will be a big deal. He's already connected to all the defensive coaches on the headset and they'll talk about things as the game unfolds. Having spent 32 of the last 33 years on the sideline, and most of those as a defensive coordinator or a head coach, he expects to be prepared for every situation before it happens.

"You can talk to defensive coaches and get things done while you're in the process of making decisions, too," Phillips said.

And, if he needs a boost, he has two former NFL defensive coordinators on his staff in secondary coach Dave Campo and line coach Todd Grantham, plus a former college defensive coordinator in linebackers coach Reggie Herring.

"He's not going to be able to do every little thing defensively because the game's going to be going on, and he knows that," said Campo. "I can promise you he trusts us."



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