

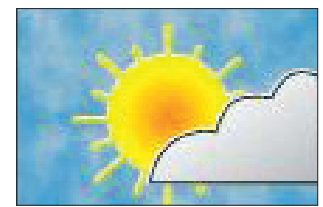
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# THE BIG SPRING HERALD

**WEDNESDAY**  
SEPTEMBER 2, 2009



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## Taxes, pool topics lead to ire

### Council approves budget on first reading

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

The proposed ad valorem tax rate and budget for the coming year survived first reading during Tuesday's night's meeting of the Big Spring City Council, but not without a hail storm of disapproval from several residents, including members of the Concerned Citizens Council.

The council approved first reading of the 2009-2010 budget on a 5-1 vote — with Councilwoman Stephanie Horton dissenting and Councilman Manuel Ramirez Jr. absent. Moments later the council approved its ad valorem tax rate of \$1.0132 per \$100 valuation on an identical vote.

The proposed tax rate — which is 6.246 cents above the effective tax rate, 3.3 cents above the rollback rate and the same rate used during the previous tax season — was agreed on by the council several weeks ago on a 6-1 vote, with Horton opposing then as well. According to City Fi-



**Local resident Tommy Duncan addresses the Big Spring City Council during the group's Tuesday night meeting. Duncan was one of several residents who spoke out against the city's proposed tax rate, which is more than 3 cents above the rollback rate.**

nance Director Peggy Walker, the proposed rate will generate approximately \$300,000 more than the effective tax rate, money the council plans to use to begin design efforts

*"I think pretty much everyone on the Concerned Citizens Council agrees we don't need a \$4.2 million water park, and there's 50 of us."*



—Steve Campbell

of \$1.0132 would be identical to last year's and would help the city raise \$300,000 in seed money for a new pool.

"The average property value in the city is \$41,118, minus \$8,223 for the homestead exemption," Walker explained. "If we use the proposed tax rate, they will be paying 93 cents per month more than if we adopted the effective rate. However, it's important to remember the 93 cents only brings their rate to the same level they paid last year, as long as their valuation did not increase. The tax rate is identical to the one we used last year."

Local resident Tommy Duncan disagreed with Walker's analysis, saying any indication by the council or the city staff the tax rate was not being increased compared to

last year failed to be honest and forthcoming.

"There's a large number of people in Big Spring whose property valuations have increased dramatically over the past few years," said Duncan. "I think the council recognizes that. To say you're maintaining the same tax rate — I know that's a true statement — but you're still garnishing from those people a much larger dollar figure than they paid in previous years. Any way you look at it you're taking from the citizens of Big Spring,

*"The citizens council were the ones that came up with the ADA compliance in the first place. We wouldn't even be looking at this pool if it wasn't for them wanting us to be compliant."*



—Stephanie Horton

the property owners of Big Spring, all these increased revenues you'll see this year, \$300,000 more this year than they paid last year. I submit

See **CITY**, Page 3

## Swine flu: BSISD officials take preventative approach

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Big Spring Independent School District officials say simple precautions can go a long way toward protecting you this flu season.

Despite the scare generated by flu strain H1N1 (also called swine flu), no special precautions are in place at Big Spring schools, nor do there need to be any, officials said.

One case of swine flu has appeared in BSISD prior to the start of this school year. Assistant Superintendent Danny Farrell, who is in charge of flu preparedness for the district, declined to identify the patient, but



Farrell

added the person quickly recovered and no others were infected.

"We had that one case and it left about as fast as it appeared," Farrell said.

Compared to this spring, when the H1N1 scare forced school closures and activity cancellations across the state, a cooler, calmer approach is being recommended this fall. In fact, officials with the Centers for Disease Control are strongly recommending against future school closings, an indication that health care professionals are getting a better handle on how to deal with the ill-

ness.

Farrell said a few simple hygiene steps are very effective in helping to prevent someone from catching the flu.

"Wash your hands regularly for at least 15 seconds and if you have to cough, cough into your shirt sleeve and not your hands, because that helps spread the virus. Also, if you have a fever, we're asking that you stay home for 24 hours and not come to school sick," Farrell said. "It's the same thing you and I were taught 30 years ago."

Other simple steps the district recommends include not touching your eyes, nose or mouth, getting plenty of

rest and avoiding close contact with sick people.

Teachers and school nurses are spreading the word throughout district campuses, teaching children the proper way wash their hands and how to take other simple precautions to keep themselves healthy, Farrell said. Also, a podcast on the home page of the BSISD Web site (www.bsisd.esc18.net) has pertinent information for parents and other family members, he said.

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

## Public school enrollment steady

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Enrollment figures for Howard County public school districts are fairly stable compared to this time last year, officials said.

Big Spring Independent School District enrollment is up about 50 students from this time last year, while Coahoma ISD enrollment is down by about the same number of students. Forsan ISD enrollment,

meanwhile, remains basically unchanged from 2008.

As of Tuesday, BSISD enrollment, by campus is:

- High school — 1,000.
- Junior high — 524.
- Goliad Intermediate — 572.
- Bauer Elementary — 298.
- Kentwood Elementary — 194.
- Marcy Elementary — 512.
- Moss Elementary — 361.
- Washington Elementary — 382.

The district's enrollment total of

3,843 is an increase of 49 students from this time last year, said Jarry Fulgham, administration secretary.

"That (increase) didn't really catch us by surprise — we had some indications it would happen," BSISD Superintendent Steven Saldivar said. "But it's just one of those things that you really don't know what will happen until school starts."

On the down side of the enroll-

See **ENROLL**, Page 3

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## Obituaries

### Marvin Tate

Marvin Tate, 76, of Big Spring died Monday, Aug. 31, 2009, at his residence. Private family memorial services will be held at a later date.

He was born Feb. 25, 1933, in Jones County and married Patricia Smith Dec. 29, 1984, in Big Spring.

Marvin was a member of the United States Army and served during the Korean Conflict from 1950 to 1952. He worked both on shore and off shore drilling.

Survivors include his wife, Pat Tate of Big Spring; six daughters, Kathy Davidson and Sharon Chancy, both of Big Spring, Marie Tate of Chelmsford, England, Sherrie Tate-Hoddy of Felixstowe, England, Connie Hoppenrath of Fredericksburg and Susan Schade of Wharton; one son, John Kelsey of Big Spring; one sister, Aline Gilbert of Big Spring; 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a son, Mike Tate; a brother, Melvin Tate; and a sister, Charlene.

The family suggests memorials to the Big Spring Humane Society, P.O. Box 823, Big Spring 79721-0823; or to Home Hospice, 111 E. 7th St., Suite A, 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

### 'Cactus' Jack Broughton

"Cactus" Jack Broughton, 54, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2009, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

### Daniel Marquez

Daniel Marquez, 73, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2009, in Lubbock. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

### Natalia Martinez

Natalia Martinez, 81, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2009, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of N.W. Fourth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 3200 block of Auburn. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 6100 block of the Interstate Highway 20 N. Service Road. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2700 block of Apache. One person was transported to SMMC.

## Support Groups

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

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

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

## Police blotter

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

- RAMON LOPEZ, 42, of 1804 Runnels, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- JIMMY RAY JOHNSON, 34, of 1104.5 E. 11<sup>th</sup> St., was arrested Tuesday on local warrants.
- RENE MORALES, 47, of 513 N. Fifth St. in Lamesa, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of theft.
- RONNIE BUSSEY, 65, of 516 E. Fifth St. in Odessa, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- GARY ALLYN, 45, of New Mexico, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- UNATTENDED DEATH was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Blvd.
- THEFT was reported:
  - in the 2000 block of Gregg Street.
  - in the 1200 block of 11<sup>th</sup> Place.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported:
  - in the 1100 block of Mullberry.
  - in the 1300 block of Lincoln.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1900 block of Highway 87.

## Sheriff

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 75 inmates at the time of this report.
- GARY DUANE ALLYN, 45, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- RONNIE GENE BUSSEY, 65, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- JAIME JARAMILLO, 31, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of failure to identify – giving false information.
- JIMMY RAY JOHNSON, 34, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of open container and cruelty to non-livestock animals – failure to provide.
- JOHN PAUL JONES, 41, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of no driver's license and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- RAMON LOPEZ, 42, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
- RENE STURGEON MORALES, 47, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.
- CODY JAMES NALL, 25, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of parole revocation for possession of marijuana – two ounces or less and probation violation for possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.
- RAYMOND ANTHONY VARGAS, 21, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of probation violation for possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

## Take Note

• Bring joy and kindness to others by becoming a Compass Hospice volunteer. Help those at the end of life's journey. Make a difference in someone's life. Call 263-5999 to begin your journey.

• All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue has an account set up with Big Spring Salvage at 3608 N. Hwy. 87 for all types of metals and aluminum cans. Please tell them that your donations are for All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is also still taking weight circles off of all Purina brand dog foods. Send your Purina Weight Circles, to A.C.S. & R. at P.O. 871, Coahoma 79511. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is still accepting old and used cell phones and ink jet cartridges, for drop off locations in Big Spring and Coahoma, Call Melanie at 267-7387.

• New Life Ministries Church of God In Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information.

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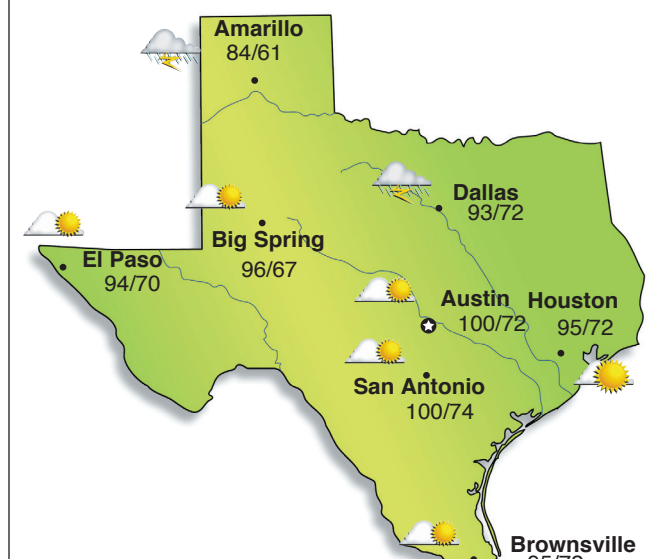
## Today's Weather

### Local 5-Day Forecast

Thu 9/3	Fri 9/4	Sat 9/5	Sun 9/6	Mon 9/7
<b>96/67</b> Intervals of clouds and sunshine. Hot. High 96F. Winds S at 10 to 15 mph.	<b>93/66</b> Partly cloudy with a stray thunderstorm.	<b>84/65</b> Scattered thunderstorms possible.	<b>87/66</b> Slight chance of a thunderstorm.	<b>91/68</b> Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the upper 60s.
<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:23 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:07 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:23 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:06 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:24 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:05 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:24 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:03 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:25 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:02 PM

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## Texas At A Glance



## Lottery

The winning numbers in Tuesday evening's drawing of the Georgia Lottery's Mega Millions game were: 02-09-28-51-53, Mega Ball: 19

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5 - 8 - 1 - 5. Sum It Up: 19.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 2 - 8 - 10 - 23 - 37. Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 7 - 3 - 1. Sum It Up: 11.

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**CITY**

Continued from Page 1

to you that's a substantial increase for a lot of people that can't afford that.

"I don't question the integrity of any member of this council or any of the managers, I hope you understand that. But I'd encourage each of you to be as honest and forthcoming as you can with the entire public, and instead of repeating we're going to maintain the current property tax rate, use the true term and say you plan to increase property taxes by \$300,000 this year."

Also speaking out against the tax rate during the public hearing was local resident and Concerned Citizen Council member Rita Brown, who chided the council for not scaling down the \$4.2 million pool design the council

has discussed, but made no formal attempt to adopt.

"Why are we looking at building a \$4.2 million pool?" Brown asked the council, reading from a prepared statement. "I'm not against a pool for the kids, but why does the only choice have to be a \$4.2 million pool? Can it not be scaled down to something more affordable for our citizens?"

Fellow citizen council member Steve Campbell also spoke against the implementation of the proposed tax rate.

"I think pretty much everyone on the Concerned Citizens Council agrees we don't need a \$4.2 million water park, and there's 50 of us," said Campbell, who went on to read a statement written by Shannon Thomason, chairman of the Concerned Citizens Council, also opposing the as-yet un-

approved multi-million dollar pool.

Mayor Russ McEwen said he felt allegations the council and city administration have been less-than-forthcoming on the issue were a fallacy.

"One of the things that has been alluded to tonight is that there hasn't been transparency in what we (the council) have presented," said McEwen. "We absolutely have been transparent, by law and by the fact that we want everyone to understand what the effective rate is, what the rollback rate is and what we're proposing in this budget. Even to the point there have been advertisements in the *Big Spring Herald* indicating that. If someone has not heard that, I apologize, but the case is we've tried to do that."

According to McEwen, preliminary estimates on rehabilitating the existing pool were low, leaving city officials to ponder whether it's feasible to repair or renovate a facility that is already 80 years old.

"For the average home owner in the city of Big Spring, the difference between the rate we're proposing to set and the rollback rate would amount to 93 cents per month," said McEwen. "I would also like to point out this city council has continued to pass a homestead exemption that is the maximum allowed by law — 20 percent — every single year, and I see no reason we won't continue to do that. We've tried to protect the homeowners. The other thing that has entered into this discussion, and I know not everyone has been privy to all of the discussions, but we've gotten new estimates for the rehab of the pool and they were much higher than

our initial estimates. We have an 80-year-old pool, and that 80-year-old pool is in dire need of some changes, and until you start getting into something like that you really don't know how much the cost is going to be... and one of the things the citizens have implored us to do is to comply with ADA regulations.

"The rehab of the pool would call for the expenditure of more than \$1 million. At that point you have to question whether or not you should put that kind of money into an 80-year-old pool. I think there have been legitimate concerns voiced tonight as to the level or type of pool we should build for our kids. I can only speak for myself when I say I know the socioeconomic nature of our community and I would like to provide for those kids their trip to Disneyland, or their trip to Schlitterbahn because there are many children in our community who can't afford to leave town. I talked to County Judge (Mark) Barr today, and he told me the bottom line on some of this is we can either provide something kids can go and get into for \$2 to \$3 a day, or he's going to see them in his court, and the cost of that is far greater."

Councilwoman Stephanie Horton chided the Concerned Citizen Council for its opposition of both the proposed tax rate and a new municipal swimming pool, saying it's time for the council to take a stand on the issue.

"The citizens council were the ones that came up with the ADA compliance in the first place. We wouldn't even be looking at this pool if it wasn't for them wanting us to be compliant,"

said Horton. "Now, we take a step to be compliant and then the citizens council has some more to say. One of the things that I heard from one of them is that this is a retirement city. I'm sorry, but we all have kids, and the first thing they want to do is get away from Big Spring. And it's because we don't have anything here. And not only are we going to do something for the kids — and I know the kids that I sit here and represent need this place, they can't run all over to all these different water parks — but we start to do something for them and it's something else (from the citizens council).

"When are they going to stand behind something for our kids? We tried once to build a youth center on the north side and we couldn't even get that. There's always a group that comes up with a complaint to stop something for these kids. We do have kids in this town. I don't care if you say it isn't that many kids, but that pool had to turn down kids because there wasn't enough room in the pool and there weren't enough lifeguards to cover them ... Now we're trying to do something about all of that. We have to take a stand for our kids and I think that's what the council needs to do. It's our kids' turn."

McEwen urged local residents to understand no formal decision on the size or cost of a new swimming pool has been made, and the money raised by the proposed tax levy would only represent seed money for the project, a project he believes will make Big Spring a better place to live.

"As people come to look at us to relocate

businesses or to move to our community, they are looking for a progressive community," said McEwen. "And I feel very strongly that this type of swimming pool is something we can show off. People will see, as they go into our park, a progressive community trying to do the best they can for the youth in their community. Quite frankly, I'm proud to put this type of pool forward for our community so we can provide for our children."

The council is expected to consider final reading of the proposed tax rate during its Sept. 22 meeting. However, the battle may not end there, as Thomason and members of the citizens council have already announced they will begin a petition to force a rollback election if it passes final approval.

According to the Texas Comptroller's Office, the group would have to collect petition signatures from no less than 10 percent of the registered voters in the city, and submit that petition within 90 days of the adoption of the tax rate.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)

**sudoku**

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

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

**ENROLL**

Continued from Page 1

ment news, BSISD continues to be squeezed for space in the elementary grades, where a state-mandated student/teacher ration of 22-to-1 has classroom space at a premium.

"We may have one (empty) room out of all our elementaries. We're pretty well maxed out," Saldivar said. "But we have contingency plans in place ... we've got some wiggle room at the elementary level."

Coahoma ISD reports an enrollment total of 781 students, down 51 from this time last year, Administration Secretary Judy Dobbs said. Enrollment by campus is:

- High school — 239 (compared to 246 in 2008).
- Junior high — 118 (compared to 130 in 2008).
- Elementary — 424 (compared to 456 in 2008).

Part of the decrease in enrollment was planned, Superintendent Randy Brown said.

"We were running about 21 to 22 students per class last year at the elementary school, so we made an effort to reduce the number of transfers we accepted so we could get those numbers down to about 18 or 19 students per class," Brown said. "The numbers are going to fluctuate throughout the school year, but we

feel good about where they are right now."

Compared to Big Spring and Coahoma, Forsan ISD figures are virtually unchanged, up two students from last year for a total enrollment of 695 students.

FISD enrollment by campus is:

- Junior high/high school — 370 (compared to 348 in 2008).
- Elbow Elementary — 325 (compared to 345 last year).

"We don't want to be any bigger than that," FISD Superintendent Randy Johnson said. "We believe our strength lies in small classes and more person-

alized instruction. At the same time, we don't want to get too small, because that would impact the amount of state funding we receive."

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at [reporter@bigspringherald.com](mailto:reporter@bigspringherald.com)

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<b>Colors of the Northeast Niagara Falls Foliage Tour</b> October 6 - 18, 2009 <i>Departing Big Spring and Abilene</i>	<b>Panama Canal Cruise</b> February 17 - 28, 2010 (Fly) <i>Departing Abilene</i>
<b>Washington, DC</b> October 20 - 30, 2009 <i>Departing Big Spring and Abilene</i>	<b>Azaleas and Dogwoods Tyler and Palestine</b> March 23 - 25, 2010 <i>Departing Big Spring and Abilene</i>
<b>Branson Christmas</b> November 16 - 21, 2009 <i>Departing Big Spring and Abilene</i>	<b>Georgia's Southern Charm</b> April 6 - 16, 2010 <i>Departing Big Spring and Abilene</i>

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# EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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## OTHER VIEWS

# Spectacle in Iran is an affront and deserves scorn

A courtroom spectacle worthy of the Spanish Inquisition or the regime of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin has been center stage recently in Tehran, the capital of Iran. It is a mockery of justice that must not go unremarked.

Nor should reports of the torture of imprisoned reformers and the secret burial of bodies, lately circulating on dissident Web sites, escape notice in the democratic West. Coming in the early days of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, these acts of brazen criminality by the Tehran government seem heedlessly shameful.

The reluctant star of the cleric regime's show trial has been Saeed Hajjarian, a hero of the country's reform movement who was shot in the head during an assassination attempt in 2000. He is one of more than 100 reformers who have been paraded into the Tehran courtroom this past month and forced to confess their "crimes" against the regime. The "crimes" were chiefly plotting against the incumbent regime, led by hard-line Islamic clerics.

Hajjarian confessed to spreading "Marxist thought" in his opposition to the fundamentalist Islamic regime in control of Iran. He apologized for "grave mistakes" and "incorrect analysis" that formed the basis for his opposition to the regime. Those words have the chilling flavor of confessions forced out of political prisoners by Stalin's henchmen.

Meanwhile, the accusations of torture circulating on the Internet appear to confirm popular suspicions in Iran that President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's victory in recent elections was utterly fraudulent. Reformers also dispute government claims that deaths in post-electoral violence numbered less than 30, contending the number is closer to 70.

The irony of Iran's struggle with Islamic fundamentalism is that the Iranian expatriate community, including thousands in this country, is well educated and wealthy. It is a resource capable of helping the country to enter a vastly different future than the Islamic clerics imagine.

Both the political trials and the alleged incidents of torture are an affront to democracy and decency.

They deserve the world's attention and a full measure of global scorn.

THE CHRONICLE  
HOUSTON

## HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

## LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.

- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we concentrate our energies on You, Lord, and Your love.

Amen

# Stand against federal land grab

Baseball is a game of inches. If the placement of a pitch is even slightly off, it could mean the difference between a home run and a strikeout. Similarly, writing laws requires precision. The smallest modification in the wording of a bill can alter the entire meaning of the legislation and change its impact on communities and taxpayers.

The Clean Water Restoration Act is a critical piece of legislation that hinges entirely on one word: "navigable." In 1985, this sweeping law was enacted to keep our nation's navigable waters — those used for commerce or transportation — free from pollution and safe for use. To date, waters falling under Environmental Protection Agency jurisdiction as prescribed by the original Clean Water Act have included permanent, standing or continuously flowing waters, such as oceans, rivers and lakes.

However, Congress is debating a bill that would strike that key word, "navigable," from the law. Of the 2,308 words in the legislation, "navigable" is the most consequential one. If the bill governs navigable waters, then we have good policy that protects

the clean water that we all value and is critical to the livelihood of millions of America's farms and ranches. But taking out that word turns good policy into the largest federal land grab in our nation's history.

By striking the limitation to navigable waters, virtually all water would fall under government control. That means streams, creek beds and drainage ditches on the Nolan Ryan family ranch — and every other ranch or farm in the country — would be regulated by the government.

This is an egregious infringement of private-property rights, and it interferes with the property management and business operations of our thriving agriculture industry.

It defies common sense for farmers and ranchers to have to apply for a permit with the EPA to access their own water, on their own land for their own personal use.

Farmers and ranchers must be good stewards of the environment because they strive to produce a more abundant and affordable supply of food for Americans and consumers around the world. They must preserve the land, while simultaneously dealing with unpredictable weather patterns, such as the dangerous drought conditions currently facing much of Texas.

Furthermore, expanding the reach of the government compromises the strong partnership that currently exists between federal, state and local entities. For nearly 25 years, all levels of government have efficiently worked together to protect millions of miles of rivers, streams,

lakes, wetlands, ponds and estuaries.

But if the federal government seizes control of "intrastate waters," rather than "navigable waters," as some in Congress aim to do, local communities will also find themselves under the thumb of bureaucracy. This will remove the flexibility of states, cities and counties for efficient planning. They will be forced to answer to the federal government for land- and water-use decisions that are best made at the state and local level.

Texans have always taken great pride in cultivating and preserving our land. We are committed to the conservation of our nation's rich resources, including every precious drop of water on every farm and ranch in Texas. After all, water is the lifeblood of these industries.

Americans will not take kindly to the government exerting control over that land. The proposed expansion of the Clean Water Restoration Act is just another form of abusing private-property rights, and we intend to do everything in our power to prevent this bill from becoming law.

For the agriculture industry, the removal of that one word, "navigable," will change the game in a devastating way. Just like that unfortunate pitch to Daryl Strawberry at the bottom of the fifth inning of Game 5 of the 1986 National League Championship Series was just an inch off.

*Kay Bailey Hutchison is the senior U.S. senator from Texas. Nolan Ryan is a Hall of Fame pitcher and cattle rancher from Georgetown.*

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President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

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U.S. Senator  
703 Hart Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: 202-224-5922

• **JOHN CORNYN**  
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517 Hart Office Building

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Phone: 202-224-2934

• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**  
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19th Cong. District  
1510 Scurry  
Big Spring  
Phone: (432) 264-0722

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Governor  
State Capitol, Room 2S.1  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, 78711  
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Texas 85th District  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, 78768  
Phone: (432) 213-2897 or  
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# To get focused, go fishing!

Fishing may be one of those universal sports and hobbies. In fact, fishing resonates with so many people that fishing metaphors abound in all aspects of our lives.

You may say that you are trying to land a job — and you're casting your line into the big job market. Or your best friend assures you there are plenty of other fish in the sea when your marriage ends. You may tell a brother to drop you a line. Or you say you hit a snag in trying to get approved for a credit card. You exclaim you got a bite when a business responds to your resume and application. Or that you're trying to lure and reel in possible buyers for the car you have for sale. And perhaps your mom says your new boyfriend is a good catch.

I guess we're people who like to talk fish!

What is it about fishing that is so very appealing to so many?

My husband and I recently returned from a trout fishing trip in Colorado. And I must say that few things are more relaxing than sitting beneath an evergreen tree on the bank of a crystal clear mountain lake. The stress of everyday life dissipates to the inconsequential detail it really is. Indeed, there's something about fishing from a quiet shore and breathing serene, fresh air that clears the mind and soothes the soul.

I'm intrigued by the intensity of focus that trout fishing required of me. It captured my entire attention as I baited my

hook and cast my line into the lake. I was spellbound as I gazed into the sunny water waiting for my bopper to move and anticipating the bump of a fish taking my bait.

This was no idle time as my daughter thinks — she's never been mountain lake fishing. There was purpose, vision, determination and expectation. At the day's end after our catch limit was reached and fish were cleaned and cooked, I was ready to rest up for the next day to do it all again.

Before leaving home for our fishing excursion, I had some trepidation about being in a remote area with little to no phone service, nor Internet service. I worried that I would feel disconnected from all that I love. But once I began fishing, I thought of little else.

This mental state of mind is a far cry from my day-to-day experience when home. My normal day involves lots of multi-tasking and many times where I feel like my attention is scattered or over-extended. It's not easy for anything to get my complete focus. And this is sometimes frustrating when I really want to give my total attention to a task at hand.

So now that I'm back home, I'm wondering what it was about fishing that was so all-consuming. And I'm wondering how I can give that kind of focus to other endeavors and interests at home.

While it is true that on my mountaintop, there were no interruptions — so there were no other choices than my single task of catching fish. At home there are many decisions and choices to be made. And they do sometimes seem to be in competition with each other for my

attention.

But the truth is that regardless of the number of items on our to-do list each day, we can only give one thing — or person — our full attention in any given moment.

What a revelation this is for me! I can only imagine how the quality of my projects or time shared with loved ones can improve by understanding that each requires and deserves my full attention in each moment. And it is possible to give my full attention as I take one moment at a time and give my all to that moment.

I also can't help but think about Peter's pronouncement, "I go a-fishing," during those days following Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. (John 21:3) I'm sure there was a lot to absorb mentally as Peter tried to understand spiritually the significance of what he had just witnessed. Maybe he needed to get away for a little while.

There is something about fishing that allows us to take a timeout from thinking about our troubles and big decisions — even when we don't get a bite. Inevitably, a fresh perspective comes into view when I return home after such a break.

So, my friends, focus on one moment of your life at a time — give your whole attention to it. And when you feel the need for a break, go fishing and see what new point of view you have when you return.

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



KAY  
BAILEY  
HUTCHISON



NOLAN  
RYAN



ANNETTE  
BRIDGES



# Why not check this out at the library?

The library will close at 3 pm on Friday, Sept. 4 for the Labor Day holiday. We will reopen the following Tuesday and, beginning Saturday, Sept. 12, the library will be open from 10 until 2.

I am writing this on Aug. 24 and the news that Michael Jackson's death was ruled a homicide was just released.

According to MSNBC, "a search warrant affidavit revealed that Jackson had lethal levels of the powerful anesthetic propofol was in his system when he died in his rented Los Angeles mansion on June 25".

The library has a new book titled "Michael Jackson: Conspiracy" (364.153 JON A) by Aphrodite Jones. Enough said.

We also have a discography of Jackson's musical works: "Michael Jackson: For the Record" (B JAC M) compiled by Chris Cadman and Craig Halstead and it is a listing of everything that Jackson either wrote or sung.

There are also a few album covers that are interesting to see how Jackson's looks have changed over the years.

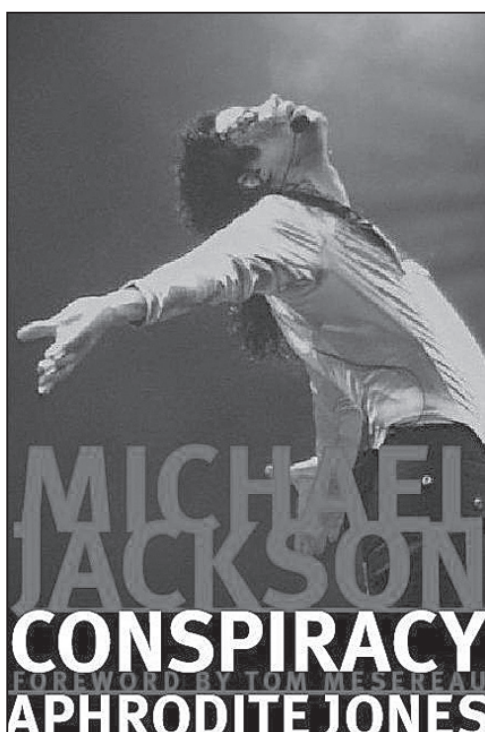
In a review from Booklist

by Roland Green comes a very readable history of the First Yale Air Unit. This book describes a flying club of well-off undergraduates whose money helped buy flying lessons and planes, enabling them to transform themselves into a group of trained military pilots who actually served with distinction in World War I in both the navy and the air service.

First, however, they had to survive their instructors (including Frenchmen), their training planes and the weather in the U.S and then Europe, all before getting within sight of the Germans.

Among those who didn't return was Kenneth MacLeish, brother of the poet Archibald; among those who survived was Robert Lovett, eventually President Truman's secretary of defense.

Others served further in World War II, and even those who never again climbed into a cockpit became an influential constituency for air power in business, the professions, politics, and academia. "The Millionaires' Unit" (940.499 WOR M) by Marc Wortman was researched thoroughly and written clearly, thereby enhancing our knowledge of aviation history, Yale, and



World War I. For further information on the air war in World War II, check out "The Few: The American Knights of the Air" (940.544 KER A) by Alex Kershaw.

This is the story of Americans who defied the "neutral" stance and endangered their citizenship of the U.S. and joined England's Royal Air Force to fight against the Germans.

Now for some fiction: "Coiled in the Heart" by Scott Elliott has published a wonderful book about conflicts of people, young and old, parents and children, children and children, and man and woman. His

descriptions of the places and characters of his book are detailed and wonderful and keep the reader in "visual" contact with the story. The emotions of the characters and the subtle twists of fate are very believable by the reader. This is a wonderful read. It is a great change from the standard and mostly predictable books that are now being published and affords the reader with an enjoyable story and time spent with the characters. Review from Amazon.Com.

"Out to Pasture (But Not Over the Hill)" (F WIL E) is written by 85-year-old Effie Leland Wilder.

It is a gentle book of reminiscence, life in an assisted living facility and dealing gracefully with the inevitable aging of both mind and body. This was a personal journal, born from hearing a fellow resident Gusta who was planning her own funeral, down to the food that will be served!

Gusta wasn't about to have her daughter-in-law's potted meat pate make the funeral goers sorry they came! Kind of made me feel sorry for the daughter-in-law! A sweet book.

Joseph Finder has written "Killer Instinct", "High Crimes" (Ashley Judd/

Morgan Freeman movie" and his newest one out is "Vanished" (F FIN J).

Laura and her husband Roger are out to dinner, when she is brutally mugged and Roger is apparently kidnapped.

Their son, Gabe, puts in a call to Roger's brother Nick - a special investigator for a mysterious company.

Is that enough intrigue for you? It will keep you guessing

More fiction, just titles: Mariah Stewart's "Final Truth"; "Bone Lake" by Drusilla Campbell; "Heart of the Assassin" by Robert Ferrigno; and for the romance readers, we have "Edge" by Catherine Coulter.

Books in Large Print that are available are "About That Man" by Sherryll Woods; "The Penny Pinchers Club" by Sarah Strohmeyer and "Betrayals" by Carla Neggers.

Our website is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us. Howard County Library hours are 9 to 6, Monday to Friday and beginning Sept. 12, is open on Saturday, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The Internet/Video room closes 1/2 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, email Johnny at hcr1ref@hotmail.com

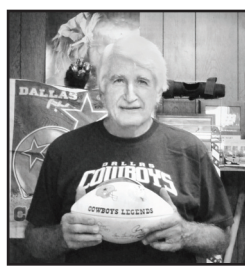


HOLLIS MCCRIGHT

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9. Texas Tech
10. Texas A&M

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7. Sands
8. Colorado City
9. Texas Tech
10. New Mexico

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2. Coahoma
3. Garden City
4. Stanton
5. Borden County
6. Grady
7. Sands
8. Colorado City
9. Texas Tech
10. New Mexico

1. Big Spring
2. Coahoma
3. Garden City
4. Stanton
5. Borden County
6. Grady
7. Sands
8. Colorado City
9. Texas Tech
10. Texas A&M

## Enter To Win \$50 At These Participating Merchants

**Rules:** Find this week's games in the merchants' ads on this page. Choose the teams you think will win. Clip and fill in the official entry blank on this page with your team choice. The entry with the most correct picks will win \$50. You must be 18 to enter. Only official entry forms accepted. In the event of a tie, the tie breaker will determine the winner. Guess the winner and the combined scores for the total points. Decisions of the judges are final. Employees and families of employees of *The Big Spring Herald* are ineligible. All entries must be received at one of the participating merchants by 1 p.m. Friday of the week played. Winners will be announced in the *Big Spring Herald* the Wednesday following the games.

### Pigskin Picks Entry Form

**Team**

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2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

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### Hawks softball starts fall season today

By CINDY SMITH  
Special to the Herald

If you're hoping to catch some Hawks "Fall Ball" out on the softball field, today and Sept. 9 will be the only two opportunities you get here in Big Spring. With an active fall schedule, the Hawks softball team is only playing two home games this year in the fall pre-season. Today, the ladies welcome the Ranger Junior College Lady Rangers to town for a 1 p.m. doubleheader showdown on Foundation Field. Sept. 9, the Cisco Junior College Lady Wranglers will

make their way to Foundation Field for a doubleheader, beginning again with Game 1 at 1 p.m. Head Coach Kelly Raines is excited about this year's lineup and the fall season. "We're looking forward to working hard in our fall season and playing some tough ball," said Raines. "We have some returners and some new kids coming in and I am confident that this team can get the job done and put together an impressive season." There is no charge for admission. Any changes in the schedule, including weather delays, will be posted on the Hawks athletic Web site at www.hchawk.com. Please check this site for updates.

### Hard to accept

How Colt made me a Texas fan

Anyone who knows me also knows of my distaste for the Texas Longhorns. I had them shoved down my throat for far too long and I couldn't take it anymore. I began to loathe the team a majority of Texans swear by. That all changed sometime last week. In a matter of 10 minutes, I became a Longhorns fan for at least one



JONATHAN HULL



AP photo/Harry Cabluck  
Texas senior quarterback Colt McCoy, foreground, looks back after outdistancing the defense during the team practice session Aug. 12 in Austin. McCoy's actions off the field has recently cause Herald Sports Editor Jonathan Hull to become a Texas Longhorns fan.

season. I blame ESPN the Magazine. The Mag did an article on Colt McCoy in a recent college football preview issue. I groaned as I saw the cover with McCoy's smiling mug on it. I knew I was in for another Longhorns love fest from the media. I dreaded it so much that I put off reading the story for several days as I generally work my way through an entire ESPN the Magazine, which has surpassed Sports Illustrated by far as the best sports mag available. After reading everything else I cared to, I sighed heavily and began to read Colt's story. The results shocked even me.

See COLT, Page 12

### Not just for NFL

High school sports combines expanding

JEFF LATZKE  
AP Sports Writer

NORMAN, Okla. — As his son ran through drills alongside his high school peers, Ken McCarthy sat in a lawn chair — video camera in hand — and assessed how 15-year-old Corbin was stacking up. The young running back from Norco, Calif., is hoping to get noticed by the likes of Southern California, Notre Dame or Oklahoma — while Dad has the Ivy League in mind. "These are supposedly the best of the best," said McCarthy, who brought his son to the Oklahoma Sooners' practice facility this summer for the National Underclassmen Combine's Ultimate Top 100 Prospect Camp. Pride, dreams of landing a lucrative scholarship, simple desire to make a good college football team — all of these reasons have contributed to dramatic growth in high school football combines. Many prep football players — at least 20,000 this year alone — signed up to run the 40-yard dash and pump iron, just like the wannabe pros do in Indianapolis before the NFL draft. Stats get collected for coaches to eyeball. While the NFL combine is a pipeline to the pros, the high school versions haven't yet solidified themselves as valuable resources for college coaches. But there are deep-pocketed organizations involved, from Nike to Under Armour, and plans to add more combines next year. Former Connecticut linebacker David Schuman started National Underclassmen with one modest camp in New Jersey in 2005, attracting 141 kids, including Florida cornerback Joe Haden and Virginia Tech quarterback Tyrod Taylor. About 800 kids attended his five camps the next year and that kept multiplying to 17,000 kids at 51 camps this year. From there, the best players advance to a Top 100 regional camp and then to the Ultimate camp that was in Oklahoma. "Our goal as an organization is to have as many kids play college football and get an education using that process as possible. It doesn't matter whether they go Division I or Division III to us," Schuman said. Nike also runs a series of combines and Under Armour, which got into the business two years ago, offered 22

See COMBINES, Page 11

### Homers help Rangers take doubleheader from Toronto

STEPHEN HAWKINS  
AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON — With two smooth swings, Josh Hamilton snapped out of his extended power drought. Now, the slugger's re-emergence could be even more important to the Texas Rangers as they chase the AL wild card. Hamilton homered twice after going 23 games and 99 at-bats without a long ball, leading Texas past the Toronto Blue Jays 5-2 on Tuesday night for a doubleheader sweep tainted by All-Star third baseman Michael Young's injury. Chris Davis, who had a tiebreaking, two-run single to help the Rangers win the opener by the same 5-2 score, added an solo homer in the nightcap along with an infield single that got David Murphy home from second base. The Rangers gained a half-game in the wild-card race, moving within 3½ of Boston. The Red Sox won 8-4 at Tampa Bay, which dropped 2½ games behind Texas and six behind Boston. An MRI is scheduled Wednesday for Young, who strained his left hamstring running out a grounder in the third inning of the nightcap. He immediately knew something was wrong, pulling up just after crossing first base. "It was a little bit of a shock," Young said. "At this time of the season, miss-

ing one pitch kills me." Young is the longest-tenured Rangers player. He's in his ninth season and has never reached the playoffs with Texas. The Rangers said Young would be re-evaluated after they receive test results. It was unclear how long he might be out. "I'm optimistic," Young said. "I'll be really aggressive with my treatment and try to get back on the field as quickly as possible. Apart from that, I don't have too many answers right now." Hamilton hadn't homered since Aug. 7 until a 435-foot drive over the Rangers' bullpen in right-center on the first pitch of the fourth. An inning later, Hamilton pulled a two-run shot down the right-field line. "I certainly hope that it got him locked in," manager Ron Washington said. Hamilton had a sense of humor about his drought. "I was hoping I remembered how to jog around the bases. ... There was a sense of relief," said Hamilton, who has been on the disabled list twice this season and has 10 homers. "I was glad I proved myself, that I've still got game pop instead of just batting practice pop." Brandon McCarthy (6-2) pitched into the seventh inning in his first start since June 4. The right-hander was

See RANGERS, Page 12



AP photo/Tony Gutierrez  
Texas Rangers outfielder Josh Hamilton smiles as he walks off the field following the end of the Rangers second game of an AL baseball doubleheader against the Toronto Blue Jays Tuesday in Arlington. Hamilton had two home runs in the second game helping the Rangers to a 5-2 win. They won the first game by the same score.



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### Announcements

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### Garage Sales

**2 FAMILY Yard Sale:** 3915 Dixon, Saturday 8-5. Clothing, shoes, purses, deco. items, jewelry, furniture, appliances, dishes, kitchen items and lots more. Cold drinks.

**3602 CALVIN St.,** Saturday 7am-? Men- women- boy-girls and baby clothing, video games and many more items.

**YARD SALE:** 1405 E 18th St., Sat. 8-? Sleeper sofa, furniture, gas stove, womens 3x clothing, nice drapes, unpainted pecan-shell resin figurines, TVs, burritos and much, much more.

### Help Wanted

**AUTOMOTIVE PAINTERS** Helper. Must be Dependable. Experience Required. Competitive Pay. Apply in person, Pat Gray Body Works 8am-5pm M-F, 700 North Owens, Big Spring, TX

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**Legals**

**NOTICE**  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF HOWARD, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that a SPECIAL meeting of the Howard County Commissioner's Court will be held on the 14th day of September, 2009, at 10:00 A.M. in the Commissioners Courtroom, second floor, Howard County Courthouse, 300 Main St., Big Spring, Texas at which time the following subjects will be discussed.

1. PUBLIC HEARING- re: SB1685, District Clerk Technology Fund
2. Adjourned  
Dated this the 31st day of August, 2009  
Mark Barr  
County Judge, Howard County  
ATTEST:  
Colleen Barton  
District Clerk, Howard County  
#6250 September 2, 2009

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**Legals**

**City of Big Spring Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals**  
The City of Big Spring Zoning Board of Adjustments will hold a meeting on Wednesday, September 16, 2009 at 5:30 pm in the City Council Chambers, located at 307 E. 4th Street Big Spring, Texas to consider the following:  
Suzanne Hedges, LT 2 BK 1 of Buckner Place Addition, Located at 1403 Lincoln, is requesting a variance for a front & side yard setback for a carport.  
Christina Valenzuela, LTS 11 & 12 BK 8 of Wrights Airport Addition, Located at 1320 Mobile, is requesting a variance for a mobile home permit.  
#6242 August 30, 2009 and September 2, 2009

**Legals**

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION (AVISO DE ELECCION ESPECIAL)**

To the registered voters of Forsan ISD, Texas:  
(a los votantes registrados del Distrito Escolar de Forsan, Texas)  
Notice is hereby given that the polling places listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., on September 29, 2009, for voting in a special election Wealth Equalization Election  
(Notifiquese, por las presente, que las casillas electorales sitados abajo se abriran desde las 7:00 a.m. hasta las 7:00 p.m. el 29 de Septiembre 2009 para votar en La Eleccion Especial para Eleccion de igualdad de Riqueza)  
LOCATION(S) OF POLLING PLACES  
(DIRECCION(ES) DE LAS CASILLAS ELECTORALES)  
Forsan Junior/Senior High School, Forsan, Texas  
Elbow Elementary School, Elbow, Texas

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at:  
(La votacion adelantada en persona se llevara a cabo de lunes a viernes en):  
Howard County Courthouse, 3rd floor, Big Spring, Texas (Howard County Courthouse, 3rd piso, Big Spring, Texas)  
between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. beginning on September 14, 2009  
(entre las 8 de la manana y las 5 de la tarde empezando el 14 de septiembre, 2009, and ending September 25, 2009, (y terminando el 25 de setiembre, 2009)

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:  
(Las solicitudes para boletas que se votaran adelantada por correo deberan enviarse a):  
Saundra Bloom  
PO Box 1069  
Big Spring, Texas 79721

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on:  
(Las solicitudes para boletas que se votaran adelantada por correo deberan recibirse para el fin de las horas de negocio el):  
September 22, 2009  
(22 de Septiembre, 2009)  
Issued this the 17th day of August (Emitada este dia 17 de agosto)  
#6253 September 2, 2009

**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

The Virgo sun can be a caring friend, but she's no pushover. This week, she behaves more like a tough coach or a physical trainer, encouraging us to work a little bit harder and put ourselves out there more. The Aquarius moon adds a novel touch. We might not even notice how much we're sweating as we chase after a bit of fun.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You'll be knocked out of your routine. The changes have your internal compass whirling, unsure of which way is north. That's what makes this a perfect time to institute a new rule or begin a fresh habit.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You're not trying to please others by being overly cheerful. That's just the way you feel. It's easy for you to look on the bright side now, and your sunny disposition is a gift to everyone around you.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You've set your sights on a goal that is not as easy to reach as you thought it would be. Any adversity that comes up will strengthen you and give you the stamina to journey on.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). You simply cannot stand by and watch people sleepwalk through life. You stir up a commotion. The racket you make will startle others awake. Some will be grateful to you once they've stabilized.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). There is no need to grapple with the odds. Statistics can never prove what will happen in any particular case. Believe in yourself and your dreams enough to know with certainty that you will succeed.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Slippery slopes are not reserved for negativity. Positive momentum can also happen in a manner that feels much like barely controlled falling. One kind move begins an avalanche.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Keep trying to tackle a persistent problem. You'll be near the one who holds the key. Choose your moments carefully, and use them well. The perfect question will finally penetrate the heart of the matter.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Any time spent in passing judgment will only drain your energy. Seek to experience life first-hand, and avoid forming opinions about anything you haven't personally been involved with.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Diplomacy has its time and place, but you're back to calling things how you see them — no frills, no filter. This makes life simple for now. And if you hurt feelings along the way, they will mend quickly.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Are you in a position that allows you to socialize the day away? If not, whatever time you can spare for keeping up with personal phone calls, e-mails and letters will be well spent.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's challenging to fit a new relationship into your life. You have to like a person quite a lot in order to facilitate a deeper connection. Scheduling and proximity will be the main issues to figure out.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). It doesn't make sense anymore to pursue a certain endeavor, at least not in the manner you've been approaching it. Everything is cyclical. Drop this course of action and a new idea will be born.

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5:PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Raymond	Cortes	BBC	Cash Cab	Dragonheart, Pete Postlethwaite	CSI: Crime Son	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas	Scoreboard	SportsCenter
6:PM :30	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Gancho	Two Men	News CBS	12 Cora-zones	News NBC	Friends	Harris	Business	Cash Cab	News-Lehrer	CSI: Crime Son	Bones		Wizards	Tennis: U.S. Open	MLB Base-ball: Teams TBA.
7:PM :30	Wipeout	Wipeout	Nombre-Amor	You Can Dance	Entertain	Christine Preview	Más Sabe el Diabolo	Millionaire	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Swallow	American Masters	MythBusters	Movie: Star-gate, Jaye Davidson	CSI: Crime Son	Bones	Movie: Boyz N the Hood	Movie: The Thirteenth Year
8:PM :30	(:02) Crash Course	(:02) Crash Course	Mañana es	(7:58) Glee	Criminal Minds	Pobres	America-Tal-ent	Payne	Browns	Light of the Southwest	Payne	Parks	Man vs. Wild	UFC Un-leashed	Leverage		Phineas	
9:PM :30	Primetime: Crime	Primetime: Crime	Don Fran-cisco	TMZ	CSI: NY	Victorinos	Law & Order: SVU	Payne	Payne		Payne	Wide Angle	Man vs. Wild	Surviving Disaster	Dark Blue	Tiny-Toya	Wizards	
10:PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Impacto	Raymond	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Payne	Payne	Upd	Charlie Rose	MythBusters	UFC Un-leashed	Leverage	W. Williams	Suite Life	SportsCenter	
11:PM :30	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Escuelita VIP	Cl	Late Late Show	Decisiones de	Late Night-Jim	Sex & Israel	Israel	Upd	BBC	Man vs. Wild	CSI: Crime Son	Dark Blue	Movie: Boyz N the Hood	Life De	NFL Live	
12:AM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Contra Viento	RENO 911	Insider	Pagado	News NBC	Sanchez	Sanchez	Light of the Southwest	(Off Air)	Man vs. Wild	Amazing Video	CSI: NY		Replac	Baseball	SportsCenter
1:AM :30	Work Paid	Work Paid	Mujer...	Friends	Entertain	Pagado	Poker After Dark					Man vs. Wild	Disorderly Con.	Cold Case	W. Williams	Emperor	World Series	SportsCenter

### DENNIS THE MENACE

9-2

"DENNIS HAS BEEN WATCHING TOO MANY DETECTIVE SHOWS. HE THINKS HUMPTY DUMPTY MAY HAVE BEEN PUSHED!"

### THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

9-2

"I don't know. I'm only half done."

### HAGAR

9-2

### BC

9-2

### BLONDIE

9-2

### WIZARD OF ID

9-2

### AGNES

9-2

### HI AND LOIS

9-2

### THE OTHER COAST

9-2

### FLY BAR

9-2

### SNUFFY SMITH

9-2

### BEETLE BAILEY

9-2

### BLONDIE

9-2

### This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, September 2, the 245th day of 2009. There are 120 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

- In 1666, Great Fire of London burns for five days, nearly destroying the city, including St. Paul's Cathedral, but claims few lives.
- In 1773, Warren Hastings, first British governor general of India, forms alliance with state of Oudh for campaign against the Mahrathas.
- In 1807, The British navy shells Copenhagen to force Denmark to surrender its fleet.
- In 1866, Crete, after long discontent with Turkish authority, revolts and merges with Greece.
- In 1898, British forces under Horatio Kitchener defeat the Khalifa's army at Omdurman, Sudan. The young Winston Churchill takes part in a cavalry charge.
- In 1935, A hurricane slams into the Florida Keys, claiming 423 lives.
- In 1945, Independent Vietnam Republic is proclaimed by Ho Chi Minh, who becomes president.
- In 1970, The U.S. announces cutbacks in fighting strength in Saigon as North Vietnamese and Vietcong forces continue on the offensive.
- In 1976, Riot police battle 3,000 mixed-race and black student demonstrators in Cape Town, in the first unrest to reach the white area of a South African city.
- In 1980, Members of the October First Revolutionary Anti-Fascist Group ambushed the car of Gen. Enrique Briz Armengol, killing him as he was being driven to work in Barcelona, Spain.
- In 1985, A U.S.-French expedition locates the Titanic wreckage, about 900 kilometers (560 miles) off Newfoundland, Canada, where the ship sank in 1912 after hitting an iceberg on its maiden voyage, killing some 1,500 people.
- In 1990, Saudi defense minister says his country cannot be used as jumping-off point for attack on Iraq.
- In 1997, The Dow Jones Industrial stock averages scores its biggest point gain in history to that date, rising 257.36 at the New York Stock Exchange.
- In 2002, The Sudanese government suspends peace talks with the country's main rebel group, the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, or SPLA, after rebels seize the strategic town of Torit.
- In 2003, The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, votes to apply retroactively a recent Supreme Court decision on death-penalty sentencing procedures, over-turning more than 100 death sentences in Arizona, Idaho and Montana.

### Newsday Crossword

WHAT'S THE MATTER by Fred Piscop  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

- 1 Coffee, slangily
- 5 Advise strongly
- 9 Card suit
- 14 Wax-coated cheese
- 15 \_\_\_ contendere (courtroom phrase)
- 16 Vietnam's capital
- 17 Base to build on
- 20 Compass term
- 21 "Am I the problem here?"
- 22 Look at
- 23 Annual basketball tourney
- 24 Fifty-fifty
- 25 \_\_\_ for the course
- 26 Gung-ho
- 27 Become more mature
- 30 Lilliputian
- 33 Poker player's assent
- 34 At any time
- 35 Laundry-room bottle
- 38 Reunion invitee
- 39 Arm bone
- 40 Be in accord
- 41 Potpie spheroid
- 42 Beseeched
- 43 Braying beast
- 44 Buddies
- 45 Fly ball's path
- 46 "Tiny" Cratchit
- 49 Take sides against
- 52 Reason for some trips
- 54 Result of a '70s shortage

**DOWN**

- 1 Is facetious
- 2 Really like
- 3 Prize highly
- 4 Female friend, in France
- 5 Picket-sign word
- 6 Pigeon's perch
- 7 Excess supply
- 8 Long, long time
- 9 Ran after
- 10 What Caesar spoke
- 11 ICU part
- 12 Explosion sound
- 13 Trig function
- 18 Alaska's \_\_\_ National Park
- 19 Heavenly
- 24 Musical set in Argentina
- 25 Jack Horner's prize
- 26 Make changes to
- 27 State as fact
- 28 Heredity unit
- 29 Art Deco master
- 30 Sharp rebuke
- 31 Race distance
- 32 Water color
- 33 Does nothing
- 34 Soufflé needs
- 36 Keir of 2001: ...
- 37 Rogue
- 42 Patisserie purchase
- 43 Sporting venues
- 44 Tough problem
- 45 Lacking company
- 46 Guitarist's gizmo
- 47 Singer Cara
- 48 In disarray
- 49 Fairy-tale villain
- 50 Annoyance
- 51 Futrue summons
- 52 Freshener scent
- 53 Riverbed buildup
- 55 Bar bill

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# Cowboys rookie Buehler not a typical kicker

**JAIME ARON**

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — David Buehler is on the Dallas Cowboys for one reason: to boom kickoffs deep enough not to be returned.

Funny thing is, Buehler likes it when his kicks are returned because it means he gets to run around and hit people.

Buehler is the rare kicker who seeks

contact, making him more of a “special teams guy” than a “kickoff specialist.” If you need proof, ask the defensive back he beat in a 50-yard dash during training camp or the beefy first-round draft picks he out-lifted at the scouting combine.

Or just look for No. 18 barreling down the field on other coverage units. He’s been working on them all and already has three tackles this

preseason, one on a kickoff and two on punts.

“He’s made more tackles than anybody we’ve had so far,” coach Wade Phillips said Tuesday.

This 6-foot-2, 228-pound Buehler breaks the mold of the typical kicker because he started out as a position player. He was a goal-line tailback, safety and special teams guy who also happened to kick off while playing in

junior college. That versatility and athleticism earned him a scholarship to Southern Cal.

One look at his booming kickoffs and Trojans coaches turned him into a specialist.

He dabbled with covering kicks as a sophomore, then strictly kicked off and kicked field goals as a junior

See **BUEHLER**, Page 12

## COMBINES

Continued from Page 6

football combines last year, with 300 to 400 players attending each one. Senior vice president Steve Battista said there’s been enough interest that Under Armour is considering holding 30 to 50 next year.

“I think for many athletes, one of their primary goals for themselves is actually to see how they measure up across the country and see if they can get noticed,” Battista said. “This is certainly a way to do that, there’s no doubt.”

Once McCarthy factored in airfare, a hotel room and other travel expenses, he figured he’d end up spending about \$2,000 for the trip to Oklahoma from Southern California.

He’d already spent another \$3,000 for a scouting service to help drum up colleges’ interest in Corbin, a sophomore who’s already made varsity.

“I don’t believe this is going to get him recruited,” McCarthy said. “I think this is going to give him a taste of the best athletes out there and where he has to be in order to rate.”

College coaches aren’t allowed to attend the combines because of an NCAA rule created last year, so they can only get information that is provided to them.

That’s problematic for coaches like Oklahoma’s Bob Stoops, who says he only believes what he sees with his own eyes. He has had plenty of experience with players who don’t run nearly as fast as advertised — whether it’s by their father or a combine operator.

“We realize that going in, so we pay very little attention to them,” Stoops said. “We still trust what we see when we evaluate, when we go places, when we see them practice.”

Colorado coach Dan Hawkins said he likes the opportunity for young athletes to develop, yet he wonders about parents spending money on the combines and the

youngsters working hard over and over again.

“It can become a very arduous physical task as well as financial task,” Hawkins said.

Part of the appeal of the combines is their connection to Internet-based recruiting services. Rivals.com is a sponsor of Schuman’s combines and uses them as a basis for its ratings. ESPN is tied in to the Nike combines.

“People think that it’s like this huge moneymaker but it really isn’t,” Schuman said.

Schuman said he has 10 full-time employees and another 10 who help on the road during combine season. He has tried to extend the reach across the country.

“It makes it a situation where anybody gets a chance to show what they can do, regardless of the high school that they go to. I think that’s one of the nice things about it,” Schuman said.

“They know what high school you went to, but they don’t know until they’ve seen you perform.”

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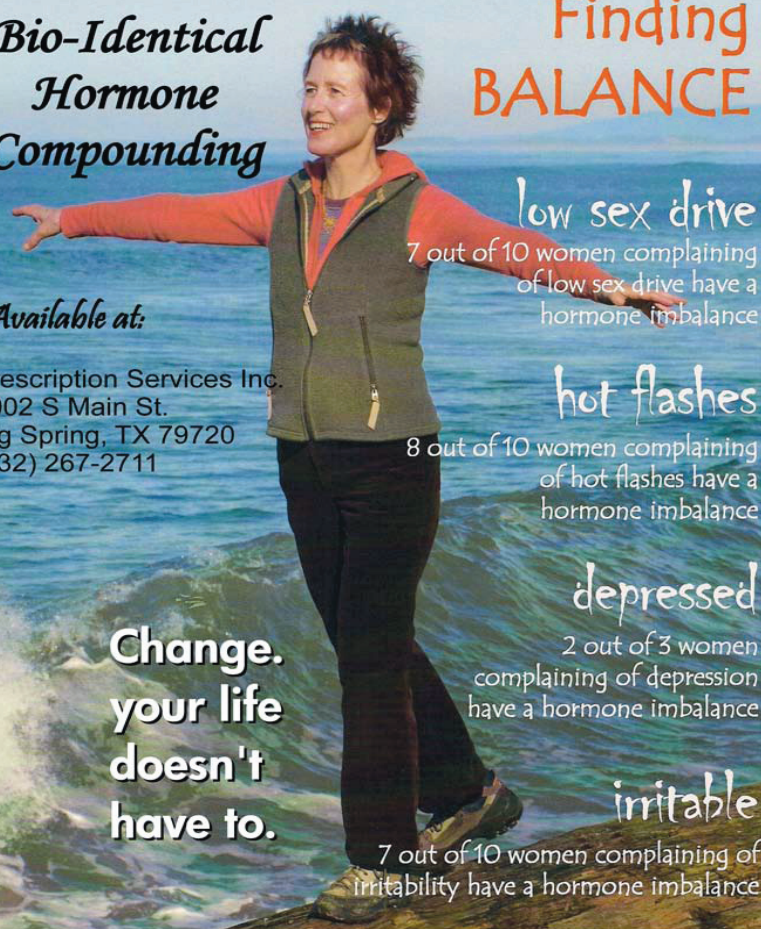
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## COLT

Continued from Page 6

It wasn't a Texas Longhorns love fest. Instead, it was a tribute to an absolutely amazing individual. I already liked McCoy. I've written two columns in the past two years defending him. I tried to vindicate him during his tough sophomore season and I petitioned for him to be given the Heisman last season. I did all of this with the Longhorns being

a team I despise greatly. Only the Nebraska Cornhuskers have drawn more disparagement from me in this decade. You will not hear such negativity about Texas football from me this season. To all who have heard me trash and root against the Longhorns, it will not transpire this year. Except, of course, when they play my beloved Colorado Buffaloes. Even then, I won't mind the obvious loss too much at all. While Tim Tebow receives much of

## RANGERS

Continued from Page 6

activated from the 60-day disabled list (stress fracture in right shoulder blade) and allowed one run and three hits in 6 1-3 innings. He was pulled after Lyle Overbay's RBI double.

Frank Francisco saved both games, giving him 21 in 24 chances.

"It was a long day, especially when you don't score runs," said Blue Jays manager Cito Gaston, whose team won the series opener 18-10. "You score 'em while you can. You can't split 'em up."

Both homers by Hamilton came off rookie left-hander Brian Tallet (5-9).

"The second one wasn't a bad pitch, a fastball in. He just put a great swing on it," Tallet said.

Davis hit a two-out grounder in the fourth to first baseman Overbay, then beat Tallet to the bag for an infield single. Murphy never stopped running to score from second.

Davis' 17th homer made it 5-0 in the sixth.

Ian Kinsler hit a lead-off homer in the opener, and the game was tied 1-all with two outs in the fourth when Davis singled home two runs with a grounder that skipped under Overbay's glove.

Dustin Nippert (5-2) allowed two runs over

six innings before hard-throwing rookie Neftali Feliz struck out four in two perfect innings.

Three of the punchouts by Feliz were called third strikes with off-speed pitches, the last on Aaron Hill.

After a 97 mph fastball whizzed by Hill's head, and he fell to the ground getting out of the way, Feliz snapped off a 79 mph breaking ball to freeze him for strike three.

"It's unbelievable. I was sitting on the training room table watching it," Nippert said. "It's unreal, his stuff. I've never seen anything like it. It's a lot of fun to

watch."

Feliz has 26 strikeouts and one walk in 11 appearances spanning 19 2-3 innings since being promoted to the majors Aug. 2. The 21-year-old right-hander had a major league-best 0.51 ERA in August, and is now at 0.46.

Kinsler's seventh lead-off homer this season and 12th of his career, both Rangers records, came on the third pitch from rookie left-hander Marc Rzepczynski (2-4).

Rzepczynski struck out a career-high nine in six innings, but also allowed eight hits.

Adam Lind homered and scored both Toronto

## BUEHLER

Continued from Page 11

and senior. It wasn't until the pre-draft scouting combine that he really got to show off.

Lumped in with other kickers, punters and deep snappers, he entered the weight room as the tight ends were finishing up. About 80 of the 100 scouts in the room walked out.

Those who remained could hardly believe what they saw.

This kicker bench pressed 225 pounds 25 times, more than some offensive linemen that were taken in the first round and more than USC teammate Rey Mauluga, a linebacker. Buehler got more bragging rights when his time in the 40-yard dash was faster than USC linebackers Brian Cushing and Clay Matthews.

The Cowboys were among those watching and loved every bit of it.

and then leading a paramedic unit more than 500 yards to the man over West Texas terrain with bare feet.

and the media's love and adoration for the type of human being he is, Colt deserves the same type of acclaim and admiration for the life he lives off the field. Just ask the people in the Peruvian village where he went on a mission trip. Ask them why they pool their money together to rent a motorcycle and have one person drive to the next town over just to find out the outcome of each Texas game. That way he or she can report back to the rest of the village how McCoy and the Longhorns performed.

Ask the seventh grader with cancer who McCoy goes out of his way to visit as often as possible.

Ask the man whose life McCoy helped save by swimming 300 yards

Dallas was in dire need of a kickoff guy after going all of 2008 without a touchback. It was only the 10th time that's happened in the NFL since 1991, which is as far back as such records go, according to STATS LLC.

Only the 2001 Colts and 1995 Oilers were worse than the Cowboys' 0-for-75 mark. And the short kicks helped opponents have an average starting field position of the 29.3 yard line.

USC, meanwhile, got 48 touchbacks on Buehler's 88 kickoffs last season. Add in the strength and speed he showed at the combine and it's no wonder the Cowboys made him the first kicker taken in the draft. The surprise is that they waited until their third pick of the fifth round, 172nd overall.

Dallas took Buehler strictly for kickoffs, with reliable Nick Folk still handling field goals. Buehler hopes to eventually have both jobs, but for now he's comfortable with a different kind of double duty, kicking off and working with other coverage units.

All of this has led me to becoming a converted Longhorns fan for one season. I can't guarantee you I will stick with the 'Horns after this season.

But for 2009, I can't cheer against Colt. I'm now incapable of doing so. I want him to win it all.

That's right. I'm pulling for the Longhorns to win the Red River Rivalry, a Big 12 title and a BCS Championship in 2009.

For one season, I'll say it. I know I'm going to ridiculed by Longhorns fans and haters alike, but I'll say it... Hook 'em 'Horns!

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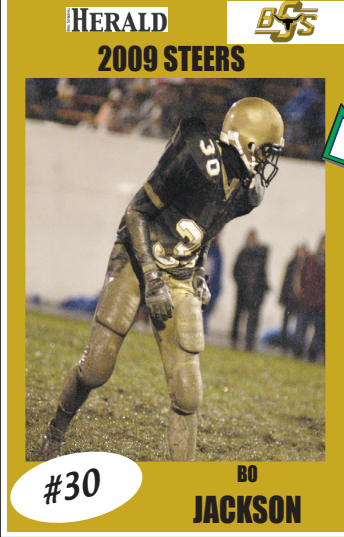
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