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 SEPTEMBER 9, 2009

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VOLUME 104, NUMBER 239

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Bells to toll for brethren firefighters

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

As many Americans pause Friday in observance of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack that claimed the lives of nearly 3,000 Americans, Big Spring's firefighters will pay homage to their fallen brethren with a special bell ceremony.

According to Big Spring Fire Marshal Carl Condray, firefighting is a occupation steeped in tradition, with the bell ceremony one of its oldest. "Many years ago, around the time the telegraph was widely used, bells were used to announce fire calls," said Condray. "Using different tones, fire alarm boxes in the community would be activated, and the bells would direct the firefighters where to go. A special bell signal — it would toll five times, in a series of four — was used to announce the death of a fire-

fighter in the line of duty. It's a very old, very solemn tradition among firefighters."

The memorial ceremony is slated for 9:45 a.m. at Big Spring Fire Station 1, located on the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

"It's important that we remember their sacrifices, and this bell ceremony is just one way of doing that."



—Carl Condray, fire marshal

Condray said the first toll of 5-5-5-5 is expected to take place at 9:59 a.m., the time at which the south World Trade Center tower collapsed.

"The second toll, commemorating the collapse of the north tower, will follow shortly after that," said Condray. "Firefighters are very traditional people, and this is something that has been done for a long time. If you've never heard the bell toll like that, it's very haunting."

A total of 411 emergency workers who responded to the scene of the attack in New

See 9-11, Page 3A

WELCOME BACK



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Sylvia Fitzgibbons, second from right, and Linda Burchett, right, serve parents and students during a Welcome Back to School Supper at Kentwood Elementary Tuesday evening.

BSISD trustees to discuss chillin' out

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

Big Spring Independent School District trustees will consider a six-figure overhaul of the high school's air-conditioning system when they hold their monthly meeting at 5:15 p.m. Thursday in the high school board room.

Trustees will decide whether they want to spend \$350,000 to replace the high school's chiller units, which, as the name describes, refrigerates the air that circulates through the air

conditioning unit.

The chiller units have neared the end of their operational lives, Assistant Superintendent Danny Farrell told trustees earlier this month.

The units, which were installed in 1992, have had regular maintenance and repair over the past several years but are no longer cost-effective to maintain, Farrell said. One or both of the units have failed on numerous occasions during the past few years.

"We feel it is time to replace these units," he said. "We hope to do the

work around the Christmas break."

Money for the replacement will come from the school district's reserve funds.

In other business Thursday, trustees will consider:

- A report on the district's Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) performance.
- An agreement with the Texas Cooperative Extension Service to name Howard County extension agents adjunct faculty members.
- Approval of bids for four half-ton

trucks. The purchase of the trucks were approved during recent budget hearings.

- Approval of the annual lease agreement with Greater Opportunities of the Permian Basin to operate the head Start program at the Lakeview campus.
- Policy updates and personnel matters.

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

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Wal-Mart altercation lands three in jail

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

A simple shoplifting arrest took a turn for the worse Tuesday night at the Wal-Mart SuperCenter, as two male suspects and a female suspect were arrested on charges ranging from theft to assault on a public servant.

Joe Cruz Gutierrez, 22, of 805 S. Lancaster, was arrested on charges of theft, assault of a public servant and resisting arrest, search or trans-



Gutierrez A. Juarez J. Juarez
 portation. Also arrested was 20-year-old Andrew Juarez, of 411 Trades, on charges of theft, assault Class C (two counts) and resisting arrest, search

or transportation.

A third arrest was also made during the altercation, as Jenny Juarez, 25, of 701 S. Bell, was taken into custody on charges of disorderly conduct — language and hindering an officer's official duties.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the BSPD, the altercation began just after 8 p.m. when Gutierrez and Juarez

See JAIL, Page 3A

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Getting no respect

Denison fans, state's media should give Steers credit they deserve

Respect is earned, not given. No one is quite sure who coined that often-used phrase, but if you've played sports, then there's a fair chance you've heard a coach utter it during a pep talk. But what happens when an individual or team puts forth the needed effort to earn respect, yet it is not given?



JONATHAN HULL

The Big Spring Steers football team pulled off one of the greatest upsets in program history Friday, taking out the Denison Yellow Jackets, who were ranked No. 4 in the state, 27-21.

Howard County is not ready to pay any homage to the Steers, particularly fans of the team they knocked off Friday.

One has to simply visit the website of Denison's newspaper (www.heralddemocrat.com/hd/Sports/9-6-Denison-Big-Spring) to see how the Yellow Jackets faithful is regarding the Steers' victory.

Or should I call what Big Spring accomplished a gift from Denison?

That's what the residents of the town just north of the Dallas-Fort Worth area would want you to believe.

Nineteen comments have been made about the game story on the Herald Democrat's Web site. While some of the comments were left by individuals from Big Spring, most of them were obviously made by Denison locals.

See **RESPECT**, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

The Big Spring Steers football team celebrates after defeating Andrews to open the 2009 season Aug. 28 at Memorial Stadium. The Steers knocked off the No. 4-ranked Denison Yellow Jackets Friday, but still aren't garnering much respect from Denison fans or the state's sports media.

Lady Steers win one game, drop another

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

Big Spring's Lady Steers retook the volleyball court for the first time in a week after having to cancel a match with Andrews Saturday due to a large number of the team members suffering from the flu.

Big Spring played two matches, winning the first over Sterling City in five sets, 16-25, 25-20, 25-17, 20-25, 16-14.

Perhaps effects of the recent illness starting to sink in during their second match, though, as the Lady Steers fell in straight sets to Midland Christian, 25-22, 25-22, 25-22.

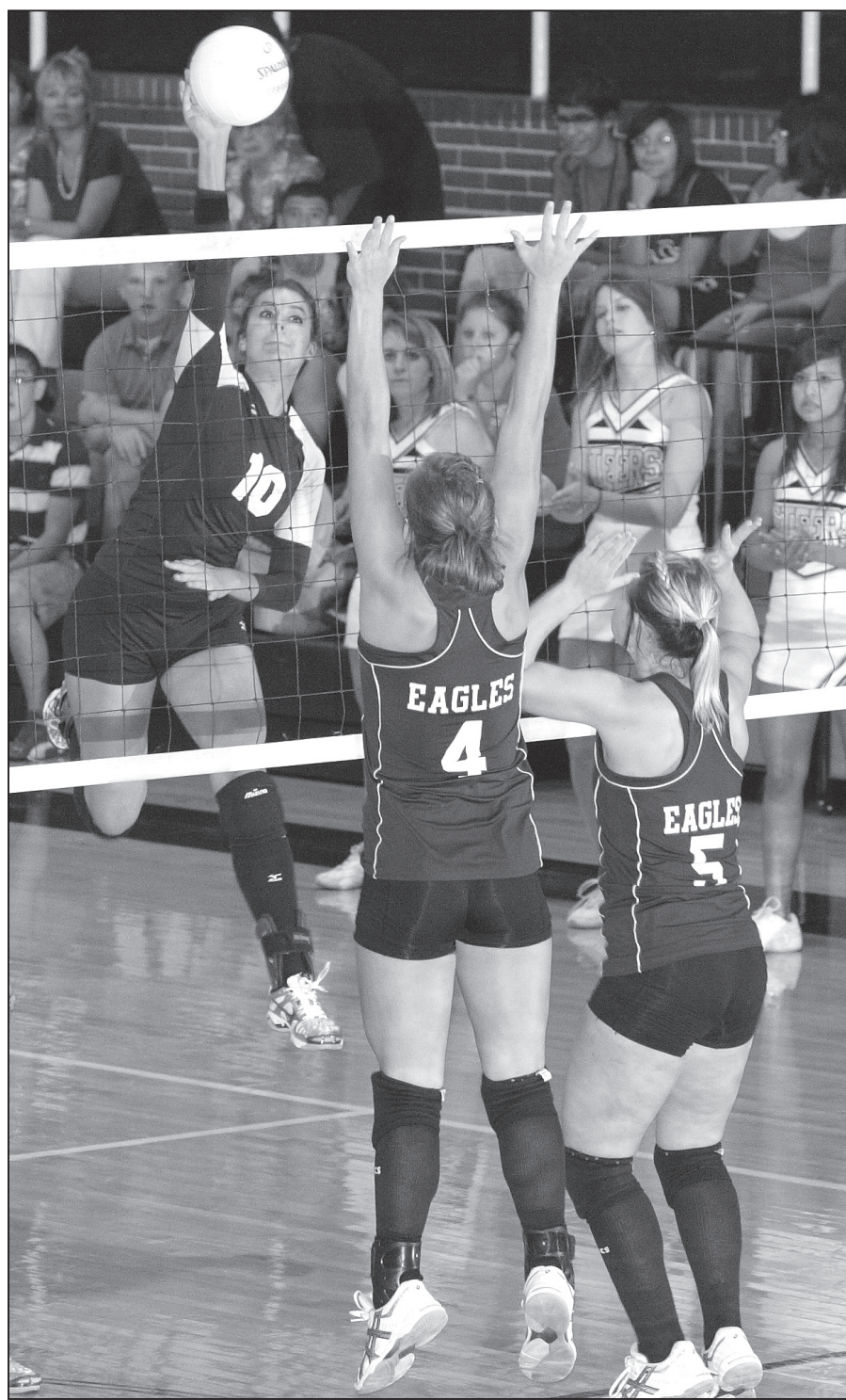
"I think it took everything we had to win the first match because the girls have been sick," said Big Spring Head Coach Lynn Osbourne. "Going into the second match, it didn't seem like the girls had much left. I hate to think they're that out of shape. I'm hoping it has more to do with them being sick. We're going to take precautions and up our conditioning a little more this week."

The Lady Steers got off to a slow start in their match with Sterling City, allowing the Lady Eagles, who are coached by former Big Spring assistant Brooke Sanford, to embark on two separate 6-0 runs. Sterling City cruised to an early 1-0 set advantage with a 25-16 win.

The Lady Steers had a response, using a 4-0 run in a mostly back-and-forth battle to jump out to a 19-15 lead. They eventually won, 25-20, evening the set count.

Big Spring was dominant in the third game, using a 12-2 run to build an 18-8 lead. Sterling City battled back to cut the deficit to 20-14, but the Lady Steers stood strong and won 25-17.

See **LADY STEERS**, Page 8B



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Halee Thomas (10) goes for a kill in a non-district volleyball match against the Sterling City Lady Eagles Tuesday at Steer Gym. The Lady Steers defeated Sterling City in five sets, but later lost to Midland Christian in straight sets.

BYU jumps 11 spots in AP poll

RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer

NEW YORK — BYU barged into the top 10 of The Associated Press college football poll, making the biggest jump of any team from the preseason rankings after scoring the biggest upset of the opening weekend of the regular season.

The Cougars jumped 11 spots to No. 9 in the Top 25 released Tuesday, three days after they stunned Oklahoma 14-13 as three-touchdown underdogs.

Cougars quarterback Max Hall said the victory has energized Provo, Utah, and the BYU campus.

"For the first time there were people at the airport to greet the team. About 2,000 people were out there when we got back," he said. "The overall atmosphere has been really cool and we're enjoying it."

Florida was still an overwhelming No. 1, receiving 56 of 60 first-place votes, two less than last week. Texas held steady at No. 2, with two first-place votes.

USC will be No. 3 when it visits No. 8 Ohio State on Saturday in one of the biggest nonconference games of the season. The Trojans moved up a spot this week and the Buckeyes fell after narrowly escaping with a 31-27 victory against Navy.

No. 4 Alabama moved up one spot after its 34-24 victory against Virginia Tech and persuaded two voters to pick them as the top-ranked team in the country.

No. 5 Oklahoma State moved up four spots after an impressive 24-10 victory against Georgia. The Cowboys have their best ranking since October 1985. The loss dropped the Bulldogs eight spots to No. 21.

No. 6 Mississippi, No. 7 Penn State and No. 10 California round out the top 10.

Oklahoma dropped 10 spots to No. 13 after losing, but all things considered the Sooners are probably feeling much better about their long-term outlook now than they were Saturday night at Dallas Cowboys Stadium.

Oklahoma lost Heisman Trophy winner Sam Bradford to a shoulder injury late in the first half against BYU. He is expected to miss two to four weeks, but will not need surgery and could be back by the time the Sooners play their next big game — against Miami on Oct. 3.

See **POLL**, Page 8B

Rangers sweep doubleheader from Indians

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Texas Rangers' offense limped into a doubleheader against the Cleveland Indians having gone scoreless in 15 straight innings.

The Indians pitching cured that quickly.

Rookie Julio Borbon homered twice in the first game and Marlon Byrd set a franchise record with seven hits in the doubleheader to

help Texas complete the two-game sweep over Cleveland on Tuesday night.

Texas won the first game 11-9 and the nightcap 10-5 to pull within two games of Boston for the AL wild card. The Rangers came to Cleveland having dropped two straight to the last-place Baltimore Orioles over the weekend.

"It's pretty good to get back on

track and win some ballgames," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "Our bats woke up a little bit today."

Texas' Chris Davis went 3 for 4 in the nightcap, including a three-run homer. Byrd raised his average 10 points in the two games to .286 while setting a club record for most hits

See **RANGERS**, Page 8B

Sports in brief

Big Spring Tennis Boosters holding meeting Thursday

The Big Spring High School Tennis Boosters are meeting at 5:45 p.m. Thursday at the Figure 7 Tennis Center in Comanche Trail Park.

All parents of current junior high or high school tennis players are encouraged to attend.

Big Spring Quarterback Club meeting at ATC Monday

The Big Spring Steers Quarterback Club is meet-

ing at 7 p.m. Monday at the Athletic Training Center.

All parents of junior high and high school football players are encouraged to attend.

For more info, call Denise Carillo at 816-1685.

Big Spring Chicano Golf Association hosting tourney to benefit church

The Big Spring Chicano Golf Association will be hosting a tournament to benefit Holy Trinity Church Sunday at Comanche Trail Golf Course.

Registration is set for 9:30 a.m. Sunday with a

shotgun start slated for 10 a.m.

Cost is \$20 a man, including cart. Private carts are welcome. The format is a 4-man scramble.

For more information, call Tommy Billalba at 816-1091 or Sammy Reyna at 816-1693 or 267-5627.

Local man hit hole-in-one Monday

Anthony Almanza hit his first ever hole-in-one Monday, aching Hole 15 with an 8-iron. Lucan Lopez witnessed the feat.

Obituaries

Melissa Flores

Melissa Flores, 39, of Watauga, Texas, formerly of Big Spring died Saturday, Sept. 5, 2009, at her residence. Funeral services were at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Mona Lue Tonn, of Spring Tabernacle, officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

She was born Aug. 28, 1970, in Waco. She grew up in Temple and Houston, and lived in Big Spring from 1993 until 2006. She attended A&M University. She was a Christian and a homemaker.

She is survived by two sons, Sean Michael Poffenbarger of Anahiem, Calif., and Joshua Daniel Brown of Big Spring; parents, Elma and Alex A. Flores Sr. of Big Spring; one sister, Erin Beth Skillett and her husband Kenneth of Flower Mound; one brother, Alex Flores Jr. of Lubbock; two nieces, Elizabeth Erin Skillett and Sarah Marie Skillett; and a number of aunts, uncles and cousins.

Pallbearers will be Esequiel Vales Jr., Alex Flores Jr., J.W. Feemster, Tommy Billalba, Olga Billalba and Nora Valles. Honorary pallbearers will be Sean Michael Poffenbarger and Joshua Daniel Brown.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersand-smith.com

Paid obituary

Marsha Lynn Domino

Marsha Lynn Domino, 48, died Saturday, Sept. 5, 2009. She was born Oct. 25, 1960, in Big Spring.

She moved to La Porte in 2005 to support the raising of her nieces and nephews.

She is survived by her parents, Tommy and Jessie Domino; a brother, Mike Domino; three sisters, Michele Hurrington, Belinda Evans and Diandra Domino; five nieces and one nephew; two grand nieces and two grand nephews; and a host of family members and friends.

A memorial service will be held Thursday, Sept. 10, 2009, at 11 a.m. at Paul Lee Funeral Home, 201 S. 3rd St. in LaPorte.

Rogelio Perches

Rogelio Perches, 38, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Vigil services will be held Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be held at 1:30 p.m. Thursday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Burial will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

He was born Feb. 5, 1971, to Prestina and Andres Perches in Big Spring. He was a lifetime resident of Howard County. He lived for a short time in Roswell, N.M., where he worked for KRDD radio station as a disc jockey.

He was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

He is survived by his father, Andres Perches; his wife Gloria of Knott; a nephew and numerous aunts and uncles.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Prestina Herrera Perches; and a brother, Andres Reyes Perches Jr.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersand-smith.com

Take Note

- United Way for Big Spring and Howard County Dine-Out Restaurant for the week is Domino's Pizza. Domino's will donate 50 cents for every pizza sold Friday. Next week's restaurant will be Cowboy's Steakhouse.

- Robert Diaz is a lifelong Big Spring citizen and longtime city of Big Spring employee. Robert and Yvonne have four children and are raising four of their grandchildren. Robert has been on dialysis for about two years and is in need of a kidney transplant. Roberts's wife, Yvonne is a match and they have been able to start the process due to the kindness and generosity of friends, family and Big Spring citizens. They are still in need due to all the fees that they will incur from the transplant. Anyone wishing to make a donation can do that at Citizens Credit Union, account 932728. All donations are appreciated.

- DAV Chapter 47 will sponsor the third annual 9/11 Memorial at the Mall at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11 in front of the yellow ribbons at the Big Spring Mall. For more information, call Mike Tarpley, DAV junior vice commander at (432) 556-2227.

- The Big Spring Band Boosters will meet at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 14 in the high school band hall. The meeting is open to all parents of high school and junior high school band students.

- Marcy House will be hosting the first Dementia Support Group meeting Sept. 29. Kim York, RN, will be presenting a presentation on the different types of dementia and its progression. Brenda Hamm, a licensed social-worker, will be on hand to help with and support that may be needed by the patient or the family. Refreshments will be served. Marcy House is located at 2301 Wasson Rd. in Big Spring. For more information, call 268-9041.

- The Permian Basin Foundation has awarded WestTexasOpportunities Inc. \$130,000 through the Texas Resources for Iraq Afghanistan Deployment fund. WTO will assist current and former military personnel serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families. Funding will serve Howard, Martin, Andrews, Borden, Dawson, Ector, Fisher, Gaines, Glasscock, Midland, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry and Upton counties. For more information, contact Diana Martinez or Debbie Wilson at 110 Johnson in Big Spring or call (432) 267-9536.

- HATS (Hope After The Sadness), an American Cancer Society Resource Room is available at First Methodist Church. This center provides information and valuable resources for those affected by cancer. This HATS ministry, established in memory of the late Rev. Dr Shane Brue, maintains a room with free hats, wigs and head coverings available for check-out by those dealing with hair loss due to cancer treatment. Other services and resources are also available. Contact the "Hat Lady," Marci Lykken at 267-2915.

- Road to Recovery, sponsored by the American Cancer

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Police blotter

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

- JAMERE COOPER, 21, of 1211 Wood, was arrested Tuesday on a local warrant.
- RICKY GREEN, 47, transient, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of criminal trespass.
- LAKESHA WILLIAMS, 32, transient, was arrested Tuesday on a Midland County warrant.
- JOE CRUZ GUTIERREZ, 22, of 805 S. Lancaster, was arrested Tuesday on charges of theft, assault of a public servant and resisting arrest, search or transportation.
- ANDREW JUAREZ, 20, of 411 Trades, was arrested Tuesday on charges of theft, assault Class C (two counts) and resisting arrest, search or transportation.
- JENNY JUAREZ, 25, of 701 S. Bell, was arrested Tuesday on charges of disorderly conduct - language and hindering officer's official duties.
- THEFT was reported in the 100 block of 18th Street.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS was reported in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 700 block of 14th Street.
- ASSAULT OF A PUBLIC SERVANT was reported in the 200 block of FM 700.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1900 block of Highway 87.

Sheriff

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

Note - An arrest log for the corresponding times was not available at press time.

Fire/EMS

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

- TRAUMA was reported in the 700 block of W. 18th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1200 block of Jeffery. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3300 block of W. Highway 80. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of S. Gregg Street. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1300 block of Interstate Highway 20. 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 1400 block of E. Sixth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 700 block of N.W. Eighth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Thu 9/10	Fri 9/11	Sat 9/12	Sun 9/13	Mon 9/14
84/66 Variable clouds with scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly in the aft.	83/64 Scattered thunderstorms possible.	77/61 A few thunderstorms possible.	80/59 Partly cloudy, chance of a thunderstorm.	85/63 Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the low 60s.
Sunrise: 7:27 AM Sunset: 7:58 PM	Sunrise: 7:28 AM Sunset: 7:57 PM	Sunrise: 7:28 AM Sunset: 7:56 PM	Sunrise: 7:29 AM Sunset: 7:54 PM	Sunrise: 7:29 AM Sunset: 7:53 PM

American Profile We Celebrate Hometown Life
Stories for and about hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.

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.

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267-7424

RESPECT

Continued from Page 1B

A quick disclaimer: Not all of the comments left were derogatory of Big Spring. In fact, there is more slander being directed toward the Denison coaches than at the Steers. Still, a lack of respect for what Big Spring achieved Friday is alarming.

Denison fans are quick to point out everything the Yellow Jackets did wrong, yet no mention of what Big Spring did right is made.

Instead, bad play calling by Denison coach Cody White, a lack of desire shown by star running back D.J. Jones and inconsistent play by quarterback Jordan Taylor are what Denison fans are blaming for the loss.

Love makes us blind and there are plenty of shortsighted and irrational Denison zealots right now.

Here's how one individual, whose signature reads "Baffled at lack of heart", chimed in about Friday's fantastic game:

"This team has been told over and over how good (it is). No. 4 in the state? They couldn't go beat a better than average football team. They are nowhere near No. 4. It was more than bad coaching. Too many players not stepping up. You have supposedly the 16th best back in the country and he gets 89 yards? Gimme a break. You think Big Spring was good? Wait until we play McKinney. They would have beaten Denison by 30 with that performance on Friday."

Big Spring is "a better than average football team." Can you say bulletin board material?

He or she couldn't possibly acknowledge the Steers and just call them "good." Heck, I'd settle for the term "solid."

One irate fan with the handle

MadJacket said, "Denison is the laughing stock of Texas high school football."

Really? Because they lost to a team Dave Campbell's Football Magazine declared was one of five darkhorses to watch out for in Class 4A?

Needless to say, these Denison fans are so blind they're living in darkness. That's sad, too, because those guys missed a great game Friday night.

The Denison fans aren't the only ones slow to give Big Spring respect.

Even the story itself seems to regard the Steers with low esteem. Nowhere in it does Denison's coach pay homage to Big Spring's efforts. Maybe he did say it and the reporter decided not to use the quote. Or maybe the reporter didn't ask the question.

Instead, Coach White puts the blame for the loss on himself. No worries, coach. There were some other contributing factors.

The Associated Press' Top 10 polls were released Tuesday afternoon. I have been asked by numerous individuals in town about whether or not the Steers would be ranked this week.

After thinking about the question for a couple days, I decided I expected Big Spring to receive some vote, but the Steers probably wouldn't break into the Top 10 yet.

Still, the rankings caught me off guard. The Steers did garner some votes — four to be exact. What I couldn't believe is it was three fewer than what Denison received.

Rankings are overrated, but it's hard to ponder how some of the sportswriters in this state could see the score that had Big Spring beating the Jackets and not place the Steers in front of them.

It's simply ignorance. It's a case of writers from other regions in the state not realizing how talented the 2009 version of the Steers are.

Pollsters vote teams in by looking at last year's record, how many players the team is returning and past reputation.

It's the reputation part currently holding Big Spring back and the win over Denison didn't have the ramifications on the state many thought it might.

Right now, it's just a fluke win. Although, I'm still trying to figure out why it's being called an upset when the Steers came close to knocking off the Jackets a year ago in Denison. It took a long touchdown run by Jones in the final minute for Denison to earn a 44-37 victory.

That's right. Denison earned that win in 2008. Just like the Steers were deserving of their victory.

What occurred Friday night was a great football game. It was the type of game that those in attendance will talk about for decades.

Denison does have one of the best running backs in the country in D.J. Jones. How about some credit to the Big Spring defense for hemming him in and forcing him to be indecisive when choosing a running lane? That's why he couldn't eclipse 100 yards rushing.

Jordan Taylor is a fantastic dual-threat quarterback. The knee injury he suffered in Denison's second scrimmage against Rockwall didn't take away from his elusiveness.

Yes. He threw three interceptions. He also had Big Spring defenders routinely applying pressure to him in the pocket and wasn't exactly passing in ideal situations.

His final interception of the night came on a fourth and 21 situation. There aren't any plays in the play-book for that circumstance.

Big Spring also wore down Denison's vaunted duo on the defensive line — Jaqwaylin Arps and Jimmay Mundine, who have both verbally committed to play football at Kansas University starting next

The Associated Press Class 4A state poll

School	Rec	Pts	Prv
1. Longview (22)	2-0	247	1
2. Lake Travis (3)	2-0	225	2
3. Denton Guyer	2-0	187	3
4. Highland Park	2-0	150	5
5. Schertz Steele	2-0	140	6
6. Hewitt Midway	2-0	101	7
7. Aleo	2-0	100	8
8. Ennis	2-0	70	9
9. Frenship	2-0	49	10
10. Sulphur Springs	2-0	29	-

Others receiving votes: Brenham 22, Waxahachie 12, Angleton 12, Abilene Cooper 11, Denison 7, Friendswood 5, Denton Ryan 4, Big Spring 4.

fall.

Arps and Mundine, who play both offense and defense, could hardly stand up straight late in the game as the Steers utilized a power run game and wore them down.

Here's an innovative theory about the game of football. The team with the fewest turnovers and penalties will win 90 percent of the time.

Big Spring had no turnovers and just three penalties for 20 yards Friday night. Denison turned the ball over three times and were guilty of 10 penalties for 91 yards. Two of those penalties helped sustain Big Spring scoring drives.

Sure, Denison made mistakes. Give credit to Big Spring for keeping its miscues to a minimum and making sure the mishaps it did have didn't cost them dearly. That's a needed step for a good team to become a special one.

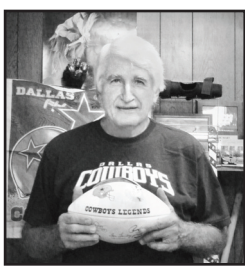
This lack of respect issue isn't all bad, though. It definitely keeps things in perspective for the Steers. There's still work left to do.

Credit should be given where credit is due. The Steers deserve more than being called a fluke.

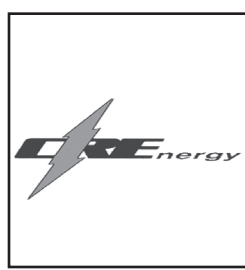
Pigskin Pics Football Contest



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Blum's Jewelers

- 1. Big Spring
- 2. Seagraves
- 3. Colorado City
- 4. Garden City
- 5. Irion County
- 6. Sands
- 7. Borden County
- 8. New Home
- 9. Texas Tech
- 10. TCU

- 1. Big Spring
- 2. Coahoma
- 3. Stanton
- 4. Garden City
- 5. Forsan
- 6. Sands
- 7. Borden County
- 8. Grady
- 9. Texas Tech
- 10. TCU

- 1. Pampa
- 2. Coahoma
- 3. Stanton
- 4. Robert Lee
- 5. Forsan
- 6. Sands
- 7. Borden County
- 8. Grady
- 9. Texas Tech
- 10. TCU

- 1. Big Spring
- 2. Coahoma
- 3. Stanton
- 4. Garden City
- 5. Forsan
- 6. Sands
- 7. Borden County
- 8. Grady
- 9. Texas Tech
- 10. TCU

- 1. Big Spring
- 2. Coahoma
- 3. Stanton
- 4. Garden City
- 5. Forsan
- 6. Sands
- 7. Borden County
- 8. Grady
- 9. Texas Tech
- 10. TCU

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

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Tie Breaker - Circle the winner and note total points scored

Cowboys vs. Tampa Bay

Total Points _____

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SONIC
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5. Forsan vs. Irion County
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(Closed Sundays)
LET'S PLAY SOME FOOTBALL!!!
8. Grady vs. New Home

2. Coahoma vs. Seagraves
Cap Rock Energy
9. Texas Tech vs. Rice
6. Sands vs. Trent
(432) 756-3381

News in brief

Obama speech to Congress tries to build momentum for health overhaul

WASHINGTON (AP) — Reaching for a game-changer, President Barack Obama is beset by conflicting goals in a prime-time address Wednesday expected to detail just how he wants to expand health care coverage and lower medical costs while signaling to a deeply divided Congress that he's ready to deal.

And show the public he's in control. Even as Obama prepared to speak to lawmakers and a live television audience, the leader of the influential Senate Finance Committee raced to broker a bipartisan agreement on the president's top domestic priority.

The White House set a high bar for the rare presidential address to a joint session of Congress, acknowledging the huge stakes and creating big expectations about the level of specificity Obama would provide. The president has stressed repeatedly the broad goals for the sweeping health care overhaul he seeks, but has left the details to lawmakers. Through a hot summer of angry debate, he lost his grip on the process.

Aiming to reclaim it at a pivotal moment and open a final push for a bill, Obama said, "We do intend to get something done this year."

Kidnapped reporter freed in raid in Afghanistan; British commando killed

KABUL (AP) — British commandos freed a New York Times reporter early Wednesday from Taliban captors who kidnapped him over the weekend in northern Afghanistan, but one of the troops and a Times translator were killed in the rescue.

Reporter Stephen Farrell was taken hostage along with his translator in the northern province of Kunduz on Saturday. German commanders had ordered U.S. jets to drop bombs on two hijacked fuel tankers, causing a number of civilian casualties, and reporters traveled to the area to cover the story.

Two military officials told The Associated Press that one British commando died during the early morning raid. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the death had not been officially announced.

The Times reported that Farrell's Afghan translator, Sultan Munadi, also was killed.

Afghan officials over the weekend said about 70 people died when U.S. jets dropped two bombs on the tankers, ignit-

ing them in a massive explosion. There were reports that villagers who had come to collect fuel from the tankers were among the dead, and Farrell wanted to interview villagers.

For sale: Luxury duplex where Madoff fraud came crashing down

NEW YORK (AP) — It's where Bernard Madoff broke down and confessed to his massive fraud, frantically wrote checks for millions of dollars as the scheme unraveled and appeared in a bathrobe to greet the FBI agents who arrested him.

Soon the world will see whether Madoff's luxury penthouse apartment — perhaps the only former crime scene featuring four fireplaces, a wraparound terrace and closet space galore — also will hit the jackpot on the Manhattan real estate market.

The U.S. Marshals Service plans to put the 4,000-square-foot duplex in a 12-story doorman building on the Upper East Side up for sale this week, betting that exclusivity outweighs notoriety.

Madoff "is behind bars," said deputy U.S. Marshal Roland Ubaldo during a tour offered Tuesday to The Associated Press. "We believe the cloud has passed."

The marshals also gave the AP a look inside the disgraced financier's 8,700-square-foot, Mexican-tiled estate in Palm Beach, Fla., a yacht and two smaller boats docked in Ft. Lauderdale — property it hopes to sell off to raise tens of millions of dollars to help reimburse victims.

Prices for the New York and Florida home won't be set until brokers are selected later this week. His seaside beach house on southeastern Long Island was listed last week for \$8.75 million.

Hurricane Fred quickly strengthens to a Category 2 storm over the Atlantic Ocean

MIAMI (AP) — Hurricane Fred has quickly strengthened to a Category 2 storm in the Atlantic and forecasters say it could become a major hurricane later in the day.

Fred's maximum sustained winds have increased to near 105 mph (165 kph) early Wednesday. The National Hurricane Center in Miami says Fred could become a Category 3 storm later Wednesday but is expected to start weakening Thursday.

Fred is centered about 500 miles (805 kilometers) west-southwest of the southernmost Cape Verde Islands and moving west-northwest near 13 mph (20 kph).

Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Linda is drifting slowly far out over the Pacific with maximum sustained winds near 65

mph (100 kph).

Gates partners with MTV, other Viacom networks to air education message

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Students who might be too glued to their televisions to keep up with homework are going to find channels like MTV, Comedy Central and Nickelodeon prodding them to get on task and graduate.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is partnering with Viacom Inc.'s television networks, education leaders and celebrities to launch an awareness campaign to reduce the number of dropouts. The foundation, started by Microsoft Corp. co-founder Bill Gates and his wife, has invested more than \$2 billion in educational programs since 2000.

"People should understand how the system is falling short today and how it really contradicts our commitment to equal opportunity," Gates told The Associated Press. "If we don't change it now, it will hurt the future of the country as a whole."

Only one-third of American high school students graduate with the skills necessary to succeed in college and the nation's workplaces, he said.

"All too often, the value and benefit of education are not real enough to kids," said Tony Miller, deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Education. Charities and industry won't have to go it alone; about \$100 billion of the federal stimulus package is dedicated to improvements in education, said Miller.

Crews hope for calm wind as they plan backfires to keep LA blaze from spreading

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Crews hope favorable weather conditions will allow the setting of backfires to destroy fuels that would help spread a 2-week-old deadly wildfire that is still burning unchecked deep into the forest above Los Angeles.

Unpredictable winds delayed backfiring plans Monday and Tuesday, and crews would reassess the conditions Wednesday, incident commander Mike Dietrich said.

Two weeks after the arson fire was ignited on a lonely stretch of mountain highway, the blaze was 60 percent contained after blackening 160,357 acres, or 250 square miles, of Angeles National Forest. Two Los Angeles County firefighters were killed Aug. 30 when flames overran their truck and they plunged off a mountain road.

Firefighters remain focused on the fire's eastern flank in the San Gabriel Wilderness. Officials said fire activity is diminishing but the flames flare up at night.

"Either the winds were not right out on the line or they may have been what they call squirrelly, not predictable, and the people out there in charge of them just did not feel comfortable."

Lottery

Here are the winning numbers selected Tuesday night in the Mega Millions lottery: 4-10-18-28-50; Mega Ball: 35.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 13 - 14 - 18 - 34 - 35.

Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$23,151.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-9-2-5. Sum It Up: 22.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-3-1. Sum It Up: 4.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Melissa Flores, 39, died Saturday. Funeral Services were at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Rogelio Perches, 38, died Tuesday. Vigil services will be held Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 1:30 p.m. Thursday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Burial will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

9-11

Continued from Page 1A

York died as they attempted to rescue people and fight fires. According to reports following the attack, the New York City Fire Department lost 341 firefighters and two paramedics. The New York City Police Department lost 23 officers, while the Port Authority Police Department lost 37 officers. Eight additional EMTs and para-

medics from private EMS units were also killed.

There were a total of 2,993 deaths, including the 19 hijackers: 246 on the four planes — from which there were no survivors — 2,603 in New York City in the towers and on the ground, and 125 at the Pentagon. An additional 24 people remain listed as missing.

All of the deaths in the attacks were civilians except for 55 military personnel killed at the Pentagon. More than 90

countries lost citizens in the attacks on the World Trade Center.

Condray said a brief ceremony will follow the bells, including the playing of "Taps" and the lowering of flags to half-staff.

"Firefighters tend to hold on to things," said Condray. "The things we see, we don't often externalize them. You have to deal with these things on an immediate basis, and they aren't things you can tell your wife or kids, so we tend

to hold them inside.

"A lot of progress has been made as a result of what happened, but there's still a lot of hurt and grief surrounding it. There are still a lot of spouses and children left behind, and that's something firefighters feel, even today."

Condray said the public is invited to the ceremony.

"A lot of time has passed since the 9-11 attacks," he said. "However, I knew some of the firefighters who lost

their lives that day, and it's not something people in this profession take lightly. It's important that we remember their sacrifices, and this bell ceremony is just one way of doing that."

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

JAIL

Continued from Page 1A

ez were caught shoplifting by store employees. "The Wal-Mart employees detained the two suspects until the police arrived," said Everett. "At that time, the officer attempted to take the pair into custody and they began fighting — kicking and hitting — striking the officer and store employees."

Everett said during the struggle, Jenny Juarez tried to stop the

officer from taking the two would-be thieves to jail, earning her a spot in the back of a police vehicle.

"Any time you impede a police officer who is trying to do his duty, that's a crime," said Everett. "At that point, she was taken into custody, along with the male suspects."

No serious injuries were sustained in the scuffle, according to Everett, but comments from Gutierrez to the officer certainly made matters more tense.

"He told the officer

when he saw him on the street, he was dead," said Everett, paraphrasing the statement to leave out obscenities. "Not really the smartest thing to tell a police officer, at the very least."

All three suspects

were still in the custody of the Howard County Jail at mid-morning today.

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

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EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEW

NIE program still needing readers' help

The *Big Spring Herald's* Newspapers In Education program once again is setting its sights on trying to reach as many students as possible this year.

That's a lofty goal, but there are plenty of reasons to have such high ambitions for our NIE program — primary among them, of course, is our belief that newspapers can be an important tool teachers have at their disposal.

As always, however, we still need help.

Simply put, placing newspapers in classrooms isn't something we can handle alone. Furthermore, it's not something just two or three businesses can handle. We need all of Howard County's help.

In other words, it's going to take a lot of us pitching in to make the NIE program truly effective.

Several years ago, 50 teachers signed up for the program and we delivered more than 1,000 newspapers to classrooms each Tuesday. Sadly, there were not enough sponsors to keep the program operating through the end of that school year and the program was even cancelled one year.

We find this unacceptable. And we aren't willing to let that happen again. While the program has been scaled down considerably, we're still interested in making sure the paper is something young people read and teachers can use.

That's why requests for sponsorships have been sent to Big Spring and Howard County businesses.

We're hoping the community supports this effort, because we need all the help we can get.

We've made a decision here at the *Herald* that regardless of what financial support we receive from the community, we're going to provide teachers with newspapers for use in the classroom. But we, like any other business, have limited resources.

In other words, even the smallest of donations are appreciated.

Those interested in contributing to the program at any level can contact Circulation Manager Robert Smith, who coordinates the project, by calling 263-7331, ext. 244. He can also be contacted for more information by e-mail at circulation@big-springherald.com.

Teachers wanting to use the newspaper as a teaching tool in their classrooms should also contact Smith.

While we freely admit we want young people to become newspaper readers, enhancing our business in the future, our commitment to the NIE program is much more than just trying to create future subscribers.

We are convinced newspaper readers are the best-informed segment of our society. By helping create a life-long habit of newspaper reading through NIE, we help make sure that tomorrow's citizens are both well educated and well informed. Please help us make that a reality.

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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

With You, Lord, we can rest easy.

Amen

Cell phones will report world

Imagine a world in which millions of people, armed with mobile devices and a desire to directly participate in the health management of our planet, provide real-time information about rainfall, temperature, wind, ground conditions, vegetation and other phenomena. All would be integrated with authoritative information such as that from NOAA and Internet portals like Google Earth. In most cases, the information will be basic and not require special training to obtain.



PHIL SMITH

The data will be uploaded using cell phones, laptops and smart appliances via wireless or fixed transmitters. The information will be gathered and processed by data management vendors for distribution, providing constantly updated services related to weather, traffic, disaster management and biosphere conditions.

We can all become field reporters and digital first responders. Our relationship with the planet will become closer, and the result will be a safer, more secure and sustainable world. This is the essence of community remote sensing.

Today earth satellites and aircraft observe and sample the environment from a distance for purposes of meteorology, climatology, intelligence gathering, land management, disaster mitigation and other applications. Think of this as the "top-down" approach.

Community remote sensing is

a citizen-based augmentation to these traditional — a "bottom-up" data gathering effort enabled by "citizen-scientists." People worldwide can be citizen-scientists: contributing remotely sensed data about immediate surroundings using sensors like mobile phone cameras or audio recorders enhancing top-down data by adding related information; and applying and sharing the resulting knowledge across community groups.

Data gathered from these top-down and bottom-up approaches can be used by non-governmental organizations, government agencies, relief centers, first responders and data product vendors worldwide.

Community remote sensing has a more intimate connection with human and environmental security than aerial or spaceborne imagery.

Human security is composed of economic, health, personal, food, community and political security.

Environmental security is concerned with human and natural impacts to the biosphere that can pose threats to societies. Thus local sensing can add millions of inputs to our overall understanding of these two fields, often in real-time, increasing knowledge about the world and our relationship to it.

It can also play a critical role in capacity-building, a type of assistance usually provided to developing countries via non-profit organizations designed to help address human and environmental security problems. When combined with top-down information gathered from satellites and aircraft, a much more comprehensive picture emerges enabling more effective and ef-

ficient capacity-building.

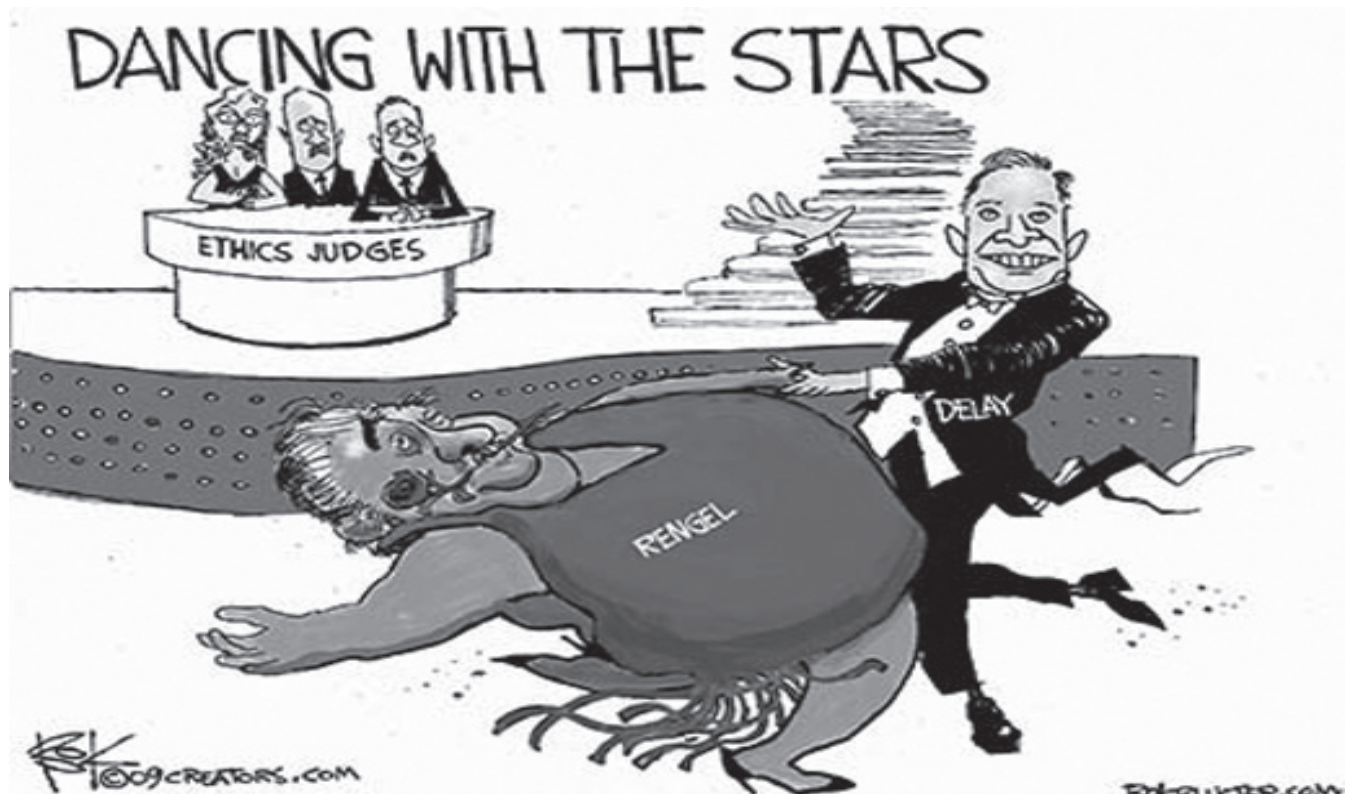
A data-gathering effort like this is only possible now that we have access to a wide assortment of mobile devices, powerful personal computers and the Internet. For example, it is anticipated that over half of the world's population will have mobile phones within five years. Millions of people worldwide can contribute basic data using these technologies to augment the hundreds of aircraft and satellites gathering data from above, all combined to produce a high-fidelity, multi-layered, real-time map of our activities and Earth.

The synthesis of this data would more effectively capture the organic relationship we have with our planet, making us better environmental stewards and, on occasion, active participants in disaster relief.

Bill Gail, director of strategic development at Microsoft's Virtual Earth, and a leader of a year-long effort to promote community remote sensing, put it this way, "Our knowledge of Earth, and the use of that knowledge to enhance societal security and prosperity, will be vastly improved as a result."

Community remote sensing can connect people from all over the world in a way that leverages their desire to actively contribute to the welfare of their families, communities, nation and, ultimately, the planet. The benefits of this kind of collaboration cannot be overstated.

Phil Smith is communications director of the Secure World Foundation based in Colorado. The foundation works with partners worldwide in an effort to promote cooperative solutions to space security problems.



War is just isn't middle school

At long last the Army is going to do something to prepare soldiers for war — mentally. Up to now the best the Army could do for soldiers who broke down under the stress of combat was to advise them to "get a grip" or "act like a man," even if they were women. Soldiers who broke down, the thinking went, were sissies. Real men (and women) just sucked it up and got on with the business at hand.



DONALD KAUL

In response to an alarming rise in suicides and cases of post-traumatic stress disorder in the military, however, the Army has decided that all 1.1 million of its troops should take training in "emotional resiliency."

The training, according to *The New York Times*, is to be based on techniques tested "in middle schools." This is where the Army and I part company (and not for the first time). I know that middle school is no picnic, but can we really equate its stresses to the stresses of war?

The method seeks to disabuse students of "common habits of thinking and flawed beliefs" that can lead to anger and frustration. *The Times* lists "the tendency to assume the worst will happen" as a flawed belief that needs fixing.

It would seem to me that has

things exactly backwards. The problem with war isn't that we expect it to be worse than it turns out to be, it's that it's so much worse than we imagine.

Countries, and the United States in particular, typically enter a war in high spirits. We're convinced that God is on our side and that He will deliver us a quick victory. All our troops are heroes; all the enemies villains. Our losses will be modest and worth the cost, for our cause is just. All countries believe that going into war.

It's after the war drags on a while and the casualties mount and its origins become obscure that disillusionment sets in. Despair soon follows and with it, suicides and breakdowns among veterans.

Soldiers need training to prepare them for what war really is, which is what Union General William Tecumseh Sherman said it was — hell. Speaking to a crowd of some 10,000 in Ohio in 1880, long after the Civil War, he said: "There's many a boy here today who looks on war as all glory but boys, it is all hell."

War films seldom provide a reliable picture of war — they lean too heavily on the glory myth — but a recent one is among the exceptions. It's "The Hurt Locker," directed by a woman, Kathryn Bigelow.

It tells the story of an American bomb removal squad in Iraq. Each day they stand at the ready until they get the call that an unexploded mine or bomb or a suspicious-looking pile of rub-

ble has been discovered. Then they go out and defuse it or are killed trying. In the meantime they watch the rooftops for snipers.

It's a remarkable film. It literally puts you in the helmets of these men as they pass through the streets of Baghdad, not knowing friend from enemy, always an instant from disaster. The film goes on high tension at the very first frame and continues that way for an hour-and-a-half.

If "Apocalypse Now" captured the madness of the Vietnam War (and I think it did) then "The Hurt Locker" captures the chaos — moral, physical, psychological — that is Iraq.

It's a war that makes mockery of our claims of noble intentions.

As Sherman said in letters written shortly after his war was over: "War is cruelty, and you cannot refine it...its glory is all moonshine...tis only those who have never heard a shot, never heard the shriek and groans of the wounded and lacerated...that cry aloud for more blood, more vengeance, more desolation."

Maybe the Army should give its troops a course in Sherman and let it go at that. At least they wouldn't be disillusioned when they met the real thing.

Donald Kaul is a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning Washington correspondent who, by his own account, is right more than he's wrong. E-mail him at dkaul2@earthlink.net

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PIZZA INN

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QUALITY CONTROL earn up to \$15 per hour, Evaluate Retail Stores. Training provided. Call 800-775-9738.

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202190

Birrell honored for longtime service to ACS

By **NANCY KOGER**

Special to the Herald

A Certificate of Appreciation is small compensation for 17 years of dedication, but Bill Birrell accepted the framed document from American Cancer Society Board President Sherry Hodnett with the grace he has shown in all his volunteer efforts.

Last month, Birrell announced his retirement as chair of Prostate Cancer Awareness on the Howard County Board, and in so doing left a history of community service.

Birrell, a survivor of prostate cancer, was always glad to speak to any group about the value of early detection. He said that he had a prostate cancer screening back in the early 1990s "because the doctors were doing it for free." At the time, he was in good health as far as he knew. He reiterates, "That unquestionably saved my life."

Being the only male member of the local board, Birrell good-naturedly contended with all the female board members at their monthly meetings. He always worked

in the ACS booth at the annual health fair, sharing his knowledge with anyone who came in.

In addition to serving on the ACS board, Birrell drove cancer patients back and forth to treatment in Midland for more than 20 years as part of the Road to Recovery program. He can relate the history of the Allison Cancer Center, having been associated with that facility for so many years. He has also driven for Mobile Meals locally. He has enjoyed all of his volunteer experiences.

"I've met a lot of wonderful people that way," he said.

Many Big Spring residents may remember Birrell as an announcer and radio ad salesman on the former station KHEM. He came to Big Spring as an insurance salesman from Waco by way of Lubbock. Dissatisfied with the insurance job here, he answered an ad for a salesman with station owner Bob Bradbury.

Bradbury hired him, saying, "If you can sell insurance, you can sell radio ads, and you have a voice; I can



Courtesy photo

Sherry Hodnett, president of the local American Cancer Society Board, presents a certificate of appreciation to Bill Birrell, who is retiring as Prostate Cancer Awareness chair after serving for 17 years.

train you in the radio business." Birrell had a gospel music show and sometimes sang along with the music.

"Wild Bill," as he was sometimes called, is the only survivor of that radio station.

At age 87, Bill Birrell feels that it's time for him to leave the ACS Board. With his knowledge and experience, he is virtually irreplaceable, but he is happy to hear that the Prostate Cancer Awareness

chair will be filled by Brian Jensen.

Birrell has given all the board members and volunteers an admirable example to follow.

Hurry, the 2009 Season ends Sept 13th!

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Mr. Netanyahu's Offer (II)

Are the objections of the Palestinians justified?

In our previous *hasbarah message* (#117, "Mr. Netanyahu's Offer [I]"), we told of the Netanyahu's government's willingness to allow a Palestinian state to arise alongside Israel in Judea/Samaria (the "West Bank") and in Gaza. Not surprisingly, he attached certain conditions to this offer, all of which the Palestinians totally rejected. The objections that we discussed previously referred to the "settlements," the demilitarization of the new state, and the "return of the refugees."

What are the facts?

In addition to those conditions mentioned above, Mr. Netanyahu's offer of a state for the Palestinians in the "West Bank" and in Gaza included two further requirements: One, that Jerusalem remain the undivided capital of Israel and two, that the Arabs recognize Israel to be the Jewish state.

An Undivided Jerusalem. Before the end of the 1967 Six-Day War, during which the Israel defense forces reconquered Jerusalem from the Jordanians, claims to Jerusalem being a Muslim city were rarely if ever asserted. Jerusalem had always been a city in which many religions and nationalities lived side-by-side. It was only after the old city was back in Jewish hands that the Muslim Arabs declared their desire to wage "jihad" (holy war) to bring the city into Arab possession.

The notion to call Jerusalem an Islamic holy city has only come about in modern times, especially after the Arabs lost the city to Israel in the Six-Day War. It has now gained currency by dint of constant repetition. Basis of the claim is that Jerusalem does indeed contain an Islamic holy site, the Temple Mount, sacred to both Muslims and Jews. But Jerusalem has for centuries been the capital of the Jewish people and has been the capital of Israel since its founding. It is mentioned hundreds of times in the Bible. There is not a single mention of it in the Koran.

Israel is the State of the Jews. Mr. Netanyahu insists that Israel be recognized as the Jewish state. But such recognition is obviously only a formality. Israel was established as the Jewish state by the Balfour Declaration, by the League of Nations, by the United Nations, by the consensus of the world, and by the facts on the ground. The reason that the Muslims do not wish to recognize Israel as a Jewish state is that it would supposedly prejudice the rights of the Muslims and perhaps members of other religions who live in Israel. But that is nonsense. Regardless of what it is called, everybody understands that Israel is indeed the State of the Jews, and so do the over 1 million (approximately 20% of Israel's population) Muslims that live in Israel as full citizens, with all the rights and privileges of their Jewish fellow citizens. Nobody seems to object that, for instance, Iran designates itself as an "Islamic Republic." For the Muslim world to recognize Israel as the State of the Jews would simply be recognizing reality.

It has to be clear to every student of modern history that the Palestinians, if that were their real goal, could have had their own state since at least 1937, following the Peel Report. There have been many opportunities since. The most important of those was the 1948 decision of the United Nations to partition the country west of the Jordan River into a Muslim and a Jewish state. The Jews eagerly accepted the proposal, which the Arabs utterly rejected and instead invaded the nascent state of Israel with the armies of five of their countries. There have been many other opportunities since, all of which the Muslims have rejected. One must come to the unhappy conclusion that to create a state is not the ultimate goal of the Palestinians. The ultimate goal always has been and continues to be the destruction of the state of Israel.

Mr. Netanyahu's offer of allowing a Palestinian state to be created and to exist along Israel is a most generous offer. No parallel can be found in the annals of world history. It is abundantly clear that the "conditions" accompanying Mr. Netanyahu's offer are more than reasonable. Surely, after decades of open hostilities and the recent bitter example of Gaza, it should go without saying that the newly formed state should be totally and reliably demilitarized. It should be clear that the "settlements" – about 300,000 Jews in a sea of over 3 million Arabs – cannot be an obstacle to peace, since the over 1 million Arabs living in Israel are not considered a problem. It should be clear that the "refugees," which have swelled from the original 650,000 to allegedly more than 5 million, should be settled in the newly to be formed state of Palestine.

Jerusalem has been the center of Jewish life and Jewish yearning for over 3,000 years. There is no reason why it should not remain the undivided capital of Israel. And, of course, Israel is a Jewish state. Everybody understands that, whether the Muslims do or do not wish to accept it. Here is another chance for the Palestinians to have their own country and to live in peace and in prosperity alongside Israel. But chances are overwhelming that, once again, they will reject the outstretched hand that is being offered.

"Here is another chance for the Palestinians to have their own country... Chances are overwhelming that, once again, they will reject the outstretched hand..."

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 P.O. Box 590359 ■ San Francisco, CA 94159
 Gerardo Joffe, President

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10 A.M. Sermon **TRUTH: The Reality of it**
 (this will discuss the idea of the existence of absolute truth)

5 P.M. Sermon **TRUTH: The Importance of it**
 (we'll discuss the difference between truth, opinion & error)

September 14

7 P.M. Sermon **TRUTH: The Possession of it**
 (this will be about interpreting Scripture)

September 15

7 P.M. Sermon **TRUTH: The Cost of it**
 (this will center on the need to be genuine truth seekers)

September 16

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sudoku

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

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

Contact the Herald at 263-7331

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

It Only Hurts for a Minute

West dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 7 4
♥ K 10 5 3
♦ 10 9 3 2
♣ A 5 4

WEST
♠ K 9 2
♥ A J 9 6 4
♦ A
♣ Q 9 6 2

EAST
♠ 3
♥ Q 8 7 2
♦ 8 6 5 4
♣ K 10 8 7

SOUTH
♠ A Q J 10 8 6 5
♥ —
♦ K Q J 7
♣ J 3

The bidding:
West North East South
1♥ Pass 2♥ 4♠

Opening lead — ace of diamonds.

Assume you reach four spades on the bidding shown and West leads the ace of diamonds. West then shifts to a low club. How would you play the hand?

When the deal occurred in a duplicate game, every declarer put up the ace of clubs, after which the play varied. Most Souths, fully aware of the danger of a diamond ruff, refused to try a spade finesse. Instead, they next led a spade to the ace and returned the spade ten.

Alert defense now defeated the

Tomorrow: That old black magic.

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contract. West took the ten of spades with the king and led a club to East's king. East then returned a diamond, ruffed by West to put South down one.

At a few tables, however, the contract was made. The declarers at these tables realized that only a diamond ruff could stop them from scoring 10 tricks, and they took the necessary step to circumvent the ruff.

After winning the ace of clubs at trick two, they next led the king of hearts from dummy! When East followed low, the jack of clubs was discarded, declarer thus exchanging a sure club loser for a nonexistent heart loser.

This maneuver had the desired effect. West took the king of hearts with the ace, but could no longer reach East's hand to obtain the killing diamond ruff. When East returned a club to East's king, declarer ruffed and played trumps, eventually scoring six spades, three diamonds and the ace of clubs to make his contract.

The loser-on-loser play utilized by the successful declarers is sometimes called a "scissors coup" because of the way it severs communications between the defenders. It is not a particularly difficult play to execute; all you have to do is think of it.

Why not check this out?

Find it at the Howard County Library

The library will be open Saturday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Debbie Macomber continues her Blossom Street series with "Twenty Wishes" (F MAC D). Anne Marie is a widow who owns a popular book store. She has formed a "club" of sorts with other women who have been recently widowed. On Valentine's day, the club meets for bubble wrap and champagne to celebrate. What, pray tell, shall they celebrate? Each woman makes a list of 20 wishes — things they want to do, learn, accomplish. One chooses to learn French, another negotiates and buys a new car, another wants to meet a new love. This is a story of what happens during their year of "Twenty Wishes."



HOLLIS
McCRIGHT

Scott Turow's newest is "Personal Injuries" (F TUR S). Robbie Feaver is a successful personal injury lawyer. However, his wife has an incurable disease and he bribes judges. Sounds good, no? Robbie is apprehended bribing/passing money and in return for leniency, he agrees to wear a "wire" in order to ferret out other dishonest judges. The story takes place in Kindle County, the site of several of Turow's books, and you will find names from prior stories. There is usually a twist in Scott's writings — what will it be?

Another excellent writer of thrillers is Erica Spindler. In "Break Neck" (F SPI E), there is a remorseless killer of innocent, clean-cut victims. Each victim has no dark secrets, no obvious faults and yet, is murdered. Detective Riggio and Lundgren are called to solve the string of murders before the list becomes too long.

Published by the Texas A&M University Press is "Flash

Floods in Texas" (551.489 BUR J) by Jonathan Burnett. Burnett notes in his acknowledgements that he could not have written this book without immense assistance from many people and other sources. Libraries, museums, historical commissions — the list goes on as primary and secondary research sources. The first flood he recounts is the Austin flood of 1900 and ends with the Guadalupe River Flooding in 2002. On a personal note, I was driving my sister to San Antonio via Highway 281 on a sunny afternoon and crossed the bridge over the Guadalupe in July 2002. If you look on page 293, photographs show that the water was about 10 feet below the bridge and within a few minutes of us crossing the bridge, it was closed to auto traffic. You will see the horrific damage that occurs when water goes out of control. An excellent book to have on hand.

Another neat non-fiction book is "The Amazing Book of Useless Information" (031.02 BOT N) compiled by Noel Botham and The Useless Information Society. Here are some facts to tempt you: Nabisco sells at least 6 billion Oreo cookies a year; the first Oreo appeared in 1931. The Japanese word for carrot is ninjin. So a ninja is someone who eats carrots? Earth is the only planet not named after a god. And for the finale: All 13 minerals necessary for human life can be found in alcoholic beverages.

Now how about a book on four-letter words? Check out Michelle Arnot's "Four-Letter Words and Other Secrets of a Crossword Insider" (793.732 ARN M).

Football season is in full swing! How about checking out "Tiki: The Game and Beyond;" "The Bus: My Life In and Out of a Helmet," by Jerome Bettis; and "Inside the Helmet: Life as a Sunday Afternoon Warrior," by Michael Strahan.

And who won't remember that memorable song "I'm Back

in the Saddle Again" sung by Gene Autry? "Public Cowboy No. 1: The Life and Times of Gene Autry" by Holly George-Warren is the latest biography of the singing cowboy and owner of the Los Angeles Angels.

Meticulously researched, it is an excellent biography of Autry.

"Leading Ladies: American Trailblazers" (920.720 HUT K) by Kay Bailey Hutchison has been received by the library. Following her first book, "American Heroines," she continues to celebrate female accomplishments from all walks of life. Mrs. Hutchison writes of women who served in the military, as First Ladies, women who fought for both gender and civil rights, scientists and social workers. While she doesn't break new ground on these remarkable women, the compilation of information makes it work.

You may recognize some previous reviews. The holiday weekend has thrown me off schedule and so I went back to 2008 and early 2009 to remind you of some excellent books that we have on the shelves.

If you are interested in our book club that meets the first Monday of each month, please give me a call. We just finished reading the biography of Harper Lee, "Mockingbird" (B LEE H) and "To Kill a Mockingbird" (F LEE H), her only published book. Both are very remarkable books.

Our Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us. Howard County Library hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday and is open Saturday, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The Internet/Video room shuts its doors 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 hcrhref@hotmail.com

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Brief Explanatory Statements of Proposed Constitutional Amendments Special Election November 3, 2009

PROPOSITION 1

HJR 132 would amend the constitution to authorize the legislature to allow a municipality or a county to issue bonds and notes to finance the purchase of buffer areas or open spaces adjacent to military installations. The buffer areas would be used to prevent encroachment or to construct roadways, utilities, or other infrastructure to protect or promote the mission of the military installation. The municipality or county may pledge increases in ad valorem tax revenues for repayment of the bonds or notes.

The proposed amendment would appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the financing, including through tax increment financing, of the acquisition by municipalities and counties of buffer areas or open spaces adjacent to a military installation for the prevention of encroachment or for the construction of roadways, utilities, or other infrastructure to protect or promote the mission of the military installation."

PROPOSITION 2

HJR 36 would amend the constitution to authorize the legislature to provide for the taxation of a residence homestead solely on the basis of the property's value as a residence homestead, regardless of whether the property may have a higher value if it were used for other purposes.

The proposed amendment would appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the ad valorem taxation of a residence homestead solely on the basis of the property's value as a residence homestead."

PROPOSITION 3

HJR 36 would amend the constitution to require the legislature to provide for the administration and enforcement of uniform standards and procedures for appraisal of property for ad valorem tax purposes.

The proposed amendment would appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment providing for uniform standards and procedures for the appraisal of property for ad valorem tax purposes."

PROPOSITION 4

HJR 14 would amend the constitution to establish the national research university fund to provide a source of funding that will enable emerging research universities in this state to develop into major research universities. The amendment would require the legislature to dedicate state revenue to the fund and to transfer the balance of the existing higher education fund to the national research university fund. This amendment would further require the legislature to establish the criteria by which a state university may become eligible to receive and use distributions from the fund.

The proposed amendment would appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment establishing the national research university fund to enable emerging research universities in this state to achieve national prominence as major research universities and transferring the balance of the higher education fund to the national research university fund."

PROPOSITION 5

HJR 36 would amend the constitution to authorize the legislature to allow for a single appraisal review board for two or more adjoining appraisal entities that elect to provide for consolidated reviews of tax appraisals.

The proposed amendment would appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to authorize a single board of equalization for two or more adjoining appraisal entities that elect to provide for consolidated equalizations."

PROPOSITION 6

HJR 116 would amend the constitu-

tion to authorize the Veterans' Land Board to issue general obligation bonds, subject to certain constitutional limits, for the purpose of selling land and providing home or land mortgage loans to veterans of the state.

The proposed amendment would appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the Veterans' Land Board to issue general obligation bonds in amounts equal to or less than amounts previously authorized."

PROPOSITION 7

HJR 127 would amend the constitution to allow an officer or enlisted member of the Texas State Guard or other state militia or military force to hold other civil offices.

The proposed amendment would appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to allow an officer or enlisted member of the Texas State Guard or other state militia or military force to hold other civil offices."

PROPOSITION 8

HJR 7 would amend the constitution to authorize the state to contribute money, property, and other resources for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of veterans' hospitals in this state.

The proposed amendment would appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the state to contribute money, property, and other resources for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of veterans' hospitals in this state."

PROPOSITION 9

HJR 102 would define what is a state-owned public beach. The public, individually and collectively, would have an unrestricted right to use and a right of ingress to and egress from a public beach. The amendment would authorize the legislature to enact laws to protect these rights.

The proposed amendment would appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to protect the right of the public, individually and collectively, to access and use

the public beaches bordering the seaward shore of the Gulf of Mexico."

PROPOSITION 10

HJR 85 would amend the constitution to authorize the legislature to provide that members of the governing board of an emergency services district may serve terms not to exceed four years.

The proposed amendment would appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to provide that elected members of the governing boards of emergency services districts may serve terms not to exceed four years."

PROPOSITION 11

HJR 14 would amend the constitution to provide that the taking of private property for public use ("eminent domain") is authorized only if it is for the ownership, use, and enjoyment of the property by the State, its political subdivisions, the public at large, or by entities granted the power of eminent domain, or for the removal of urban blight. The amendment would prohibit the taking of private property for transfer to a private entity for the purpose of economic development or to increase tax revenues. The amendment would also limit the legislature's authority to grant the power of eminent domain in the future unless it is approved by a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to each house.

The proposed amendment would appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to prohibit the taking, damaging, or destroying of private property for public use unless the action is for the ownership, use, and enjoyment of the property by the State, a political subdivision of the State, the public at large, or entities granted the power of eminent domain under law or for the elimination of urban blight on a particular parcel of property, but not for certain economic development or enhancement of tax revenue purposes, and to limit the legislature's authority to grant the power of eminent domain to an entity."

Published by Secretary of State Hope Andrade, www.sos.state.tx.us, 1-800-252-VOTE (8683).

In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



No time to retire

There are an estimated 96,000 centenarians in the United States according to the U.S. Census Bureau. And although they are 100 years old or older, a growing number still choose working over retirement. Plus, early West crossroads and make-ahead gumbo.

American Profile

Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Taurus moon is a brilliant teammate to the Virgo sun. Both bode well for maximum efficiency with an emphasis on elegance. Focus your energy on getting where you want to go in high style, and these two cosmic influences will help you pull together your resources, regardless of whatever surprise Mercury retrograde throws into the mix.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). As the first sign of the zodiac, you've always had beginner's luck. You'll find a new game and learn quickly how to win at it. Work toward becoming the expert whom others can rely on.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You have a terrific amount of drive. Stay on your own track, though, or you might overwhelm or intimidate those around you who are moving at a much slower pace. After

all, you're not out to make anyone feel inferior.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're not afraid that your dreams are too grandiose. With your monster-sized talent, you should be dreaming big. Just be careful who you tell. Better yet, keep it to yourself. The proof will be in the doing.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A careful analysis of your time will benefit you. What are you doing to reach your goals and objectives? How many hours are you devoting to your development? Consider dropping an activity that's not paying off.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You will be involved with the creation of a truly innovative work. Use your life experiences to create your art, but don't be too literal. In the end, it will be your showmanship that really enralls the audience.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Just because something looks hard doesn't mean you shouldn't go forward with it. Looks

will be deceiving. What appears to be a hassle will be surprisingly simple.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). People are trying to figure you out. Perhaps you're being sized up for a job or special role. You'll be asked tricky questions and will make a strong impression when you answer simply, directly and truthfully.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll find that the old way of accomplishing a task isn't working. You need some new ideas. Your brainstorming might not make sense at first, but keep going with them. The creative process is often unbridled.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll be put in charge of a privileged set. Don't spoil them as others do, but treat them fairly and help them develop an awareness of their many endowments and how lucky they are to have them.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Others think you're being hard on yourself, but what they don't understand is that this is an effective way of

getting results. You know yourself better than anyone. Keep those standards high.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You set a tone and an example for others to follow. So don't be surprised when they do! Their mimicry is a form of flattery. Tonight, a Virgo adds lovely order to your world.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A missed opportunity is nothing to lament. See it instead as a turning point. Now you know more about what you want and how to prepare yourself for the next chance to come along — and come it will.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 9). You see something beautiful in the people you meet this year, and will be pleased with the surprises that new relationships bring to your life. Your social skills will help you to gain prominence in an exciting arena. November brings a windfall — save it. There will be happy news for your family in January. Aries and Cancer people adore you. Lucky numbers

are: 26, 44, 3, 10 and 50.

How To Work This Mercury Retrograde (Instead Of Letting It Work You.) This Mercury retrograde in Libra focuses our attention on relationships, how we communicate with others and what we wish to achieve through the connection. As the planet of communication appears to be going backward, we will have the chance to review recent history and see it in a new light. How will you make the most of this introspective and retrospective planetary influence?

ARIES: Pare down your needs of others. You are fiercely independent by nature, but lately you may have sensed that you have grown to rely on certain individuals to a greater degree. Between now and Sept. 29, take steps to return to your usual state of self-sufficiency.

TAURUS: Give 10 percent more. Though you already feel like you're at your limit of what you can give to others, try to give more anyway. More

understanding, tolerance, affection, attention and maybe more material or financial assistance, too. Small efforts will change you forever. You'll be amazed at how relationships blossom and at the breadth of your own soul by the end of this month.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Could it be that multimedia mogul Adam Sandler is actually shy? With five luminaries in Virgo, his natal chart indicates that he's a thoughtful, careful, introverted perfectionist who loves hard work. His characterizations allow him to connect with others even when he's feeling shy. This natural comedian grossed box office millions and then decided to become a filmmaker himself. If you would like to write to *Holiday Mathis*, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the *Holiday Mathis* page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail.

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Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE OF TEST OF AUTOMATIC TABULATING EQUIPMENT

Notice is hereby given that the automatic tabulating equipment that will be used in the FORSAN ISD WEALTH EQUALIZATION Election held on SEPTEMBER 29, 2009 will be tested on SEPTEMBER 11, 2009 at 2:00 P.M. at HOWARD COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE to ascertain that it will accurately count the votes cast for all offices and on all measures.

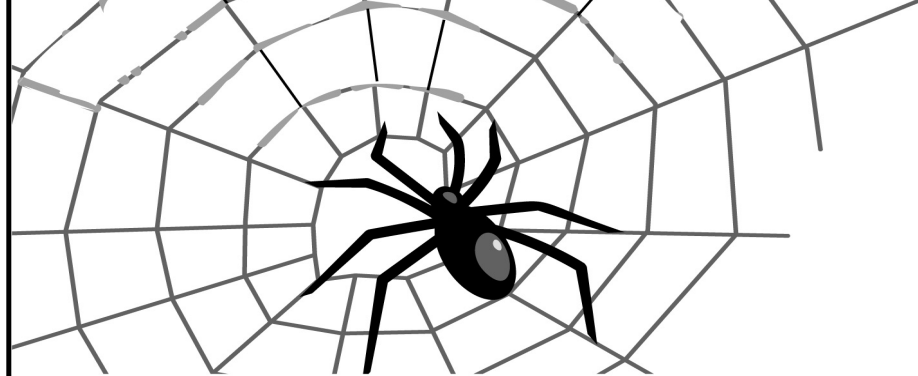
Sandra Bloom
Signature of Officer
AVISO PUBLICO DE PROBAR EL EQUIPO PARA TABULAR AUTOMATICAMENTE
Por lo presente se da aviso que el equipo para tabular automaticamente que se usara en la Eleccion FORSAN ISD RIQUEZA DE ESTABILIZACION que se llevara a cabo el 29 DE SEPTIEMBRE 2009 se probara el 11 SEPTIEMBRE, 2009 a las 2:00 P.M. en HOWARD OFICINA ELECTORAL DE CONDADO para deteminar si el equipo contara con exactitud los votos para todos los puestos oficiales y sobre todos los proyectos de ley.
Saundra Bloom
Firma del/dela Oficial
#6262 September 9, 2009

The Spider

During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper.

One day, he received a letter from a subscriber stating that he had found a spider in his paper and asked if this was an omen of good or bad luck.

Twain replied, "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good nor bad luck. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever after."



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Annie's Mailbox[®]

Hard-headed, stubborn sister

Dear Annie: My older sister, "Daisy," and I have always had a relationship full of conflict. She is hard-headed and stubborn.

My mom and stepdad recently left me in charge of the house while they were out of town for a month. Daisy no longer lives here. She was never allowed to have boys in her room, yet the first night my parents were gone, Daisy called and informed me that she would be staying overnight and bringing her beau.

When I told her I didn't like this, she said she only feels comfortable in the house when our stepfather isn't around (he's relatively new to the family) and then accused me of "being on their side." She's been here several times during the month and has been completely disrespectful instead of appreciative that I'm doing her a favor by letting her come over.

Annie, I hate how my sister splits the family apart. It's been like this ever since my father died. I want to talk to my mom about it when she gets back, but I'm not sure if I should get in the middle of Daisy's problems, and if so, do I leave out the part about her staying here with her boyfriend? — Butting Heads in Ohio

Dear Ohio: It's always OK to talk to your mother about your feelings. As for the house-sitting, if you knew Mom would not approve of Daisy staying in the house with her boyfriend, you should have told Daisy "no."

We understand how difficult it can be when your sister doesn't respect your authority, and there is nothing wrong with telling Mom what happened while she was away. If she plans another vacation, ask her how she wants you to handle the situation with Daisy.

Deceived 30 years ago

Dear Annie: I'm a 61-year-old man, married for 42 years, with a great family. I thought I had it all. Recently, my wife told me about an affair she had 30 years ago with one of our close friends. I remem-

ber being suspicious at the time and asking her about it. Of course, she lied then.

I don't think I can forgive her or forget. The man has passed away, but I feel as if I lost the last 30 years of my life. Please help me. — Deceived

Dear Deceived: It sounds as if your wife has been feeling guilty for 30 years and thought it was safe to unburden herself. Unfortunately, what was old news to her is brand new to you. Not only are you feeling an acute sense of betrayal, but it alters your perception of the past 30 years.

Please give your wife the opportunity to earn your forgiveness. Get into counseling together and see if you can salvage a 42-year marriage.

Reading something into it

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Louisville," who was offended by her child-free married friend who states that she feels lucky not to have kids whenever she hears about problems others are having with their children.

I am a child-free person who understands where the friend is coming from, although I also remember my mother saying how lucky she felt to have my sister and me when she heard about someone else's children getting into trouble.

Louisville's friend may not be trying to reassure herself that she made the right decision not to have children (an idea I find somewhat offensive because it implies that anyone who chooses not to have children regrets it or must justify it).

She may simply be grateful not to have those complications in her life. Of course, if she states it too often, I agree someone should speak up, as it can get annoying. But "Louisville" sounds a bit oversensitive and might consider why she is so offended. — Hobart, Ind.

Dear Hobart: You seem to be reading a great deal into this. We don't believe "Louisville" is oversensitive. Any comment repeated ad nauseam is irritating. Any comment that implicitly criticizes you can be offensive. If someone does this repeatedly, we have to wonder why.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

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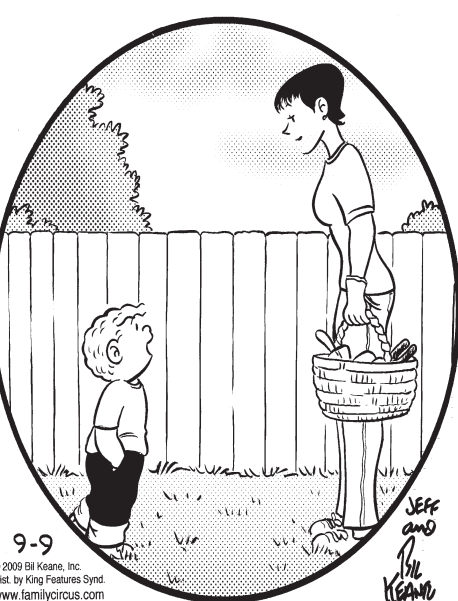
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Lopez Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Raymond Friends	Cortes Harris	BBC Business	Cash Cab Cash Cab	League, Corbin Bernsen	CSI: Crime Scn	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Suite Life	Scoreboard	SportsCenter
6:PM :30	News Entertain	Jeopardy! Fortune	Gancho	Two Men Two Men	News Entertain	12 Cora-zones	Millionaire	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Mark Swallow	News-Lehrer	MythBusters	CSI: Crime Scn	Bones		Wizards of Waverly Place	Tennis: U.S. Open - Men's and Women's and Women's at New York Quarterfinals	MLB Baseball: Tampa Bay Rays at New York Yankees.	
7:PM :30	Wipeout	Wipeout	Nombre-Amor	You Can Dance	Christine Gary	Pre Game	TRI	America-Tal-ent Payne	Upd House	Families Stand	MythBusters	Movie: End of Days, Kevin Pollak	CSI: Crime Scn	Bones	Movie: Beauty Shop, Andie MacDowell			
8:PM :30	(:02) Crash Course	(:02) Crash Course	Mañana es	Glee	Criminal Minds	Fútbol	America-Tal-ent Browns	Law & Order: SVU Payne	Light of the Southwest	Including Samuel	Man vs. Wild		Knockouts 5	Leverage	Game			
9:PM :30	Primetime: Crime	Primetime: Crime	Don Francisco	Simpsons Friends	CSI: NY		Law & Order: SVU Payne			Wide Angle	Man vs. Wild	(:45) Movie: Reign of Fire	Ult. Knockouts	Dark Blue	Game			
10:PM :30	News Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	Raymond	News TMZ	Late Show	Noticias Decisions	News Tonight Show	Tyler Perry	Charlie Rose	MythBusters		Ult. Knockouts	Leverage	W. Williams	Wizards of Waverly Place	SportsCenter	
11:PM :30	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Escuelita VIP	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisions	Decisions	Late Night-Jim	Sex & Sex & Israel	BBC	Man vs. Wild		CSI: Crime Scn	Dark Blue	Movie: Dough Boys, Maurice McRae	Life De	NFL Live	
12:AM :30	News Profits	Paid	Torrente, un Torbel	King-Hill	Insider	Pagado	Pagado	News Poker After Dark	Movie: Clue-less, Brittany Murphy	Smiley (Off Air)	Man vs. Wild	(:45) Movie: End of Days, Kevin Pollak	Amazing Video	CSI: NY	Replace Kim	Cory	NASCAR	
1:AM :30	Wall St	Paid	Güereja	RENO 911	Paid	Pelicula: Na-			Sanchez	A Haunting			Disorderly Con.	Cold Case	Played	Emperor Dragon	College Foot-	

DENNIS THE MENACE



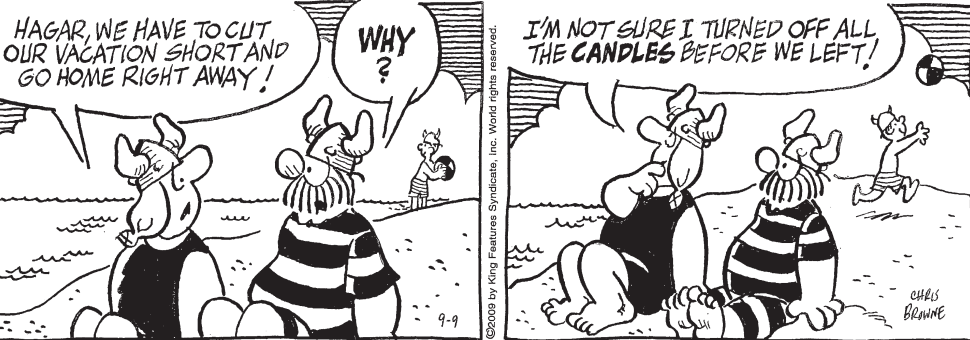
"MARGARET THINKS SHE'S SO SMART JUST BECAUSE SHE GOT ALL A'S ON HER REPORT CARD."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

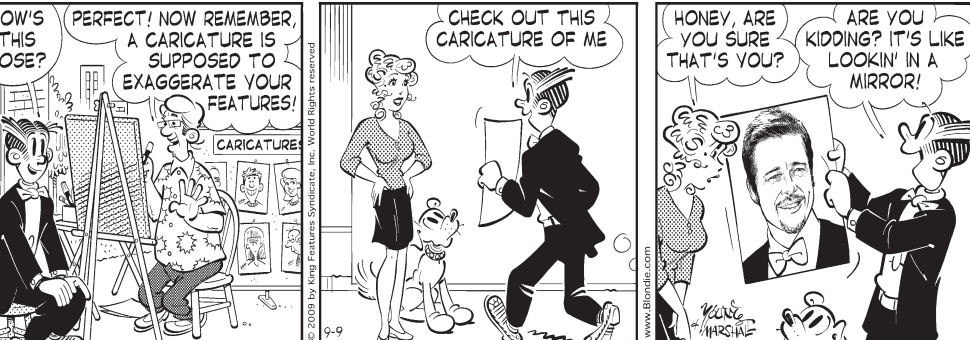


"Are the WEEDS greener on the other side of the fence, too?"

HAGAR



BLONDIE



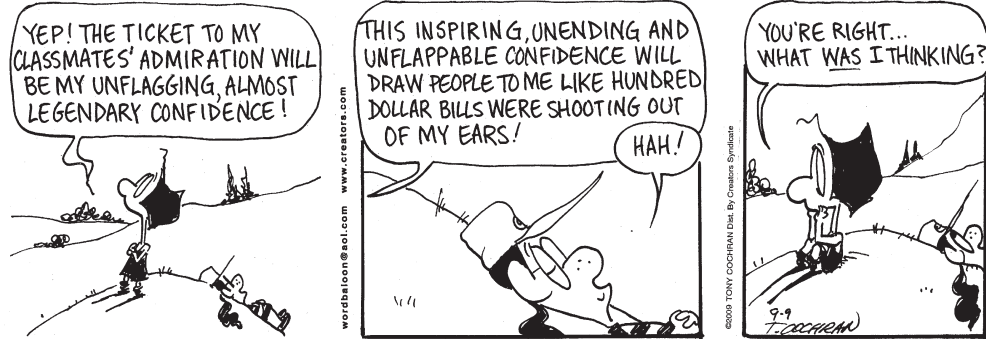
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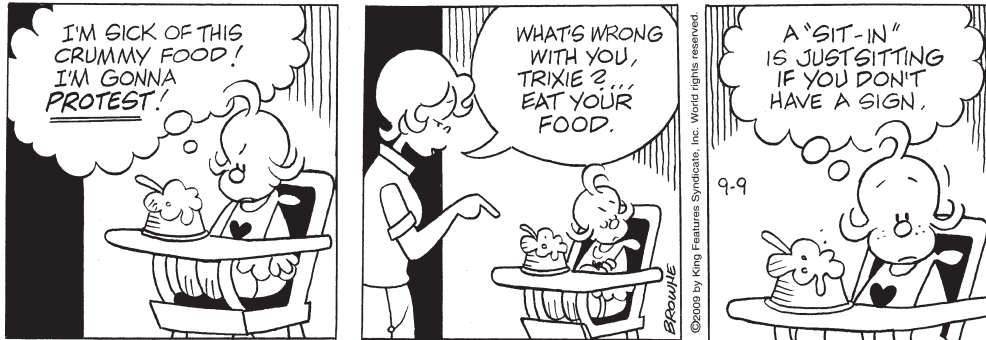
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AGNES



HI AND LOIS



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This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 9, the 252nd day of 2009. There are 113 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 9, 1776, the second Continental Congress made the term "United States" official, replacing "United Colonies."

On this date:

In 1830, Charles Durant flew a balloon from New York City across the Hudson River to Perth Amboy, N.J.

In 1850, California became the 31st state of the union.

In 1893, Frances Cleveland, wife of President Grover Cleveland, gave birth to a daughter, Esther, in the White House; it was the first time a president's child was born in the executive mansion.

In 1919, some 1,100 members of Boston's 1,500-man police force went on strike, plunging the city into chaos. (The strike was broken by Massachusetts Gov. Calvin Coolidge, who brought in replacement officers.)

In 1926, the National Broadcasting Co. (NBC) was incorporated by the Radio Corp. of America.

In 1948, the People's Democratic Republic of Korea (North Korea) was declared.

In 1956, Elvis Presley made the first of three appearances on "The Ed Sullivan Show."

In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed into law the first civil rights bill to pass Congress since Reconstruction.

In 1971, prisoners seized control of the maximum-security Attica Correctional Facility near Buffalo, N.Y., beginning a siege that ended up claiming 43 lives.

In 1976, Communist Chinese leader Mao Zedong died in Beijing at age 82.

One year ago: Afghanistan. Asif Ali Zardari, the widower of assassinated former Pakistani leader Benazir Bhutto, took office as Pakistan's president.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Cliff Robertson is 86. Actor Topol is 74. R&B singer Luther Simmons is 67. Singer Inez Foy is 67. Singer Dee Dee Sharp is 64. Rock singer-musician Doug Ingle is 63. Country

singer Freddy Weller is 62. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Joe Theismann is 60. Actor Tom Wopat is 58. Musician-producer Dave Stewart is 57. Actor Hugh Grant is 49. Actor Adam Sandler is 43. Actor David Bennent is 43. Rock singer Paul Durham (Black Lab) is 41. Model Rachel Hunter is 40. Actor Goran Visnjic is 37. Latin singer Maria Rita is 32. Actress Michelle Williams is 29.

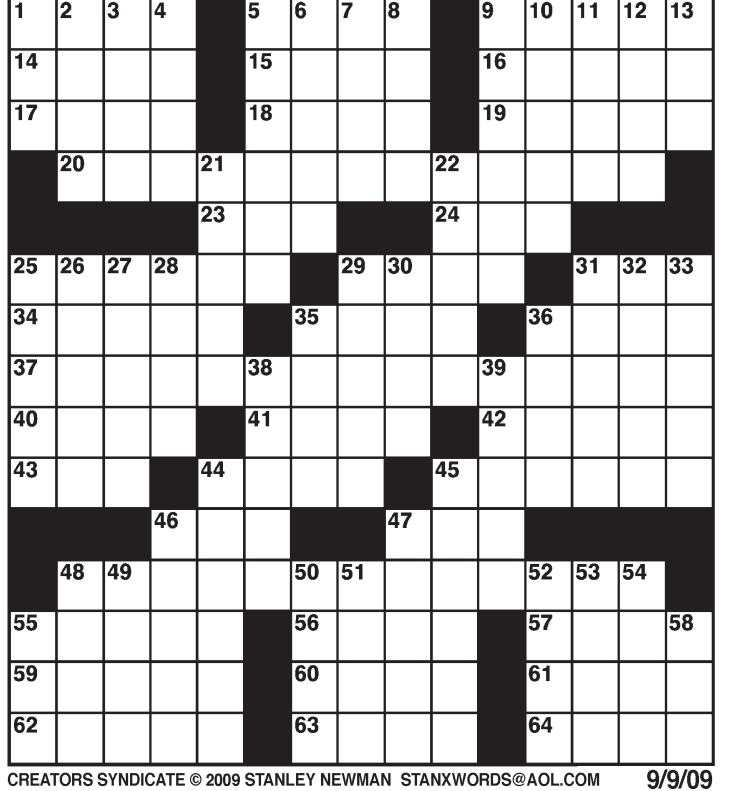
Thought for Today: "Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off the goal." —Hannah More, English author and social reformer (1745-1833).

Answer to previous puzzle

DATA	WRAP	DONT
OVER	HALO	SILOS
NINE	APES	USEUP
ESTABLISH	ICONS	
LED	UNO	
STAGES	MINGVA	
OHWO	BOND	ETAS
LEAN	CURIO	ROUT
ERIE	PSST	HENCE
SETADATE	REDEYE	
SIS	EEE	
HASTE	MISPLACED	
ALERT	ELSE	TORO
IDEAS	GLEN	ORAL
LADY	ASST	PEST

Newsday Crossword THROUGH THE RANKS by Norma Steinberg Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Algebra or geometry | 1 Glove-compartment item |
| 5 Actor Sharif | 2 Experts |
| 9 ___ buddies (close friends) | 3 "... of ___ I sing" |
| 14 Pine (for) | 4 Munich mister |
| 15 Israeli dance | 5 "Goodness me!" |
| 16 Madonna film role | 6 Tropical eel |
| 17 Jury member | 7 Elvis ___ Presley |
| 18 Plummet | 8 More than attentive |
| 19 Puts an end to | 9 Running late |
| 20 Scheming sitcom soldier | 10 Egglike shapes |
| 23 Sunbeam | 11 Lustrous fabric |
| 24 OR workers | 12 Beetle Bailey pooch |
| 25 Spider-Man's secret identity | 13 More: Sp. |
| 29 Not much | 21 Garbo's first name |
| 31 Weave's partner | 22 Muscular strength |
| 34 Anticipate | 25 Harness-race horse |
| 35 Aspen forecast | 26 Cognizant (of) |
| 36 Incompetent one | 27 Quick |
| 37 Longtime kids' TV host | 28 Airborne toy |
| 40 Pennsylvania city | 29 Bracelet site, sometimes |
| 41 Gelatin shaper | 30 Bumpy amphibian |
| 42 Me, Myself & ___ (Carrey film) | 31 Ready to go home |
| 43 Blushing | 32 Atmospheric layer |
| 44 Actress Neuwirth | 33 Showed displeasure |
| 45 Came to earth | 35 Elitist |
| 46 St. with a panhandle | |
| 47 Chip off the old block | |
| 48 M*A*S*H commander | |
| 55 General Powell | |
| 56 Pinnacle | |
| 57 Beasts of burden | |
| 59 Pushed for | |
| 60 Memo heading | |



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**Some say they're inspired
by president's TV address**

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — On the very first day of the school year, 12-year-old Mileena Rodriguez was reminded by President Barack Obama himself that hard work can take you places.

Mileena listened to Obama's plea to study hard and stay in school Tuesday, watching along with several of her classmates at Thurgood Marshall Elementary School and students across the country. For all the hubbub among adults over the back-to-school speech, many youngsters took the president's message to heart.

"He said that we're the future, and he's right," said Mileena, who wants to be a forensic scientist. "That's a president telling you, 'I care about you getting your education.' Just imagine what kids like us can do if we actually listen."

Schoolchildren from coast to coast watched on classroom TVs and computer screens. Others did not hear

the message at all, either because their parents pulled them from class or their schools refused to carry the speech over complaints from conservative groups.

In his speech, which aired on C-SPAN and the White House Web site, Obama used examples from his own life to urge students to study hard.

"The truth is, being successful is hard. You won't love every subject you study.

"You won't click with every teacher. Not every homework assignment will seem completely relevant to your life right this minute. And you won't necessarily succeed at everything the first time you try," Obama said.

Other presidents, including Republicans Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, delivered similar speeches to students, but some conservatives accused Obama of trying to promote his policies.

Obama space panel says return to moon a no-go

WASHINGTON (AP) — A White House panel of independent space experts says NASA's return-to-the-moon plan just won't fly.

The problem is money. The expert panel estimates it would cost about \$3 billion a year beyond NASA's current \$18 billion annual budget.

"Under the budget that was proposed, exploration beyond Earth is not viable," panel member Edward Crawley, a professor of aeronautics at MIT, told The Associated Press Tuesday.

The report gives options to

President Barack Obama, but said NASA's current plans have to change. Five years ago, then-President George W. Bush proposed returning astronauts to the moon by 2020. To pay for it, he planned on retiring the shuttle next year and shutting down the international space station in 2015.

All those deadlines have to change, the panel said. Space exploration would work better by including other countries and private for-profit firms, the panel concluded.

The panel had previously

estimated that the current plan would cost \$100 billion in spending to 2020.

Former NASA associate administrator Alan Stern said the report showed the harsh facts that NASA's space plans had "a mismatch between resources and rhetoric." Now, he said, Obama faces a choice of "essentially abandoning human spaceflight" or paying the extra money.

The panel, chaired by retired Lockheed Martin CEO Norman Augustine, includes executives, scientists and ex-

astronauts. It posted a summary report Tuesday on both White House and NASA web sites.

NASA can't get beyond low-Earth orbit without spending more, but space travel with astronauts is important, the panel found. That will cost an extra \$3 billion a year and is "unquestionably worth it," Crawley said.

The question is where to go.

The Bush plan was to go to the moon, which would serve as a training ground for flights to Mars. The

Augustine panel agreed Mars is the ultimate goal, but said going to the moon first is only one option and not the preferred one.

Instead, the panel emphasized what it called a "flexible path" of exploring near-Earth objects such as asteroids, the moons of Mars, and then landing on the moon after other exploration.

The panel also said the space shuttle should continue flying until early 2011 to finish all its space station work and that it can't realistically retire by Oct. 1, 2010.

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POLL

Continued from Page 1B

BYU is no stranger to the top 10. The Cougars were ranked as high as eighth last season. But BYU stumbled in its biggest games, suffering lopsided losses to Mountain West Conference rivals TCU and Utah, then losing to Arizona in the Las Vegas Bowl.

"Our football team, we have three goals ... winning a conference championship, winning the state championship and going to a bowl game and winning it. We didn't do any of them," Hall said during a conference call with reporters. "Even though we won 10 games, we were upset with the way it ended."

BYU coach Bronco Mendenhall

said the Oklahoma victory should give a boost to the whole Mountain West Conference, which has been fighting for more access to the Bowl Championship Series.

"I do think that the game and how we played helped our conference, helped our team and helped the exposure of the fight that we're all kind of engaged in as our league is trying to gain credibility," Mendenhall said.

BYU travels to New Orleans to face Tulane on Saturday before playing their first home game on Sept. 19 against Florida State, one of three teams to fall out of the rankings this week.

Oregon and Iowa also fell out. Moving into the Top 25 were Miami, Cincinnati and Missouri.

LSU was No. 11 and No. 12 Boise State moved up two spots after beating Oregon 19-8 on Thursday.

Virginia Tech's opening loss dropped the Hokies seven spots to No. 14.

No. 15 Georgia Tech, was followed by TCU and Utah.

Notre Dame's 35-0 victory against Nevada helped the Fighting Irish climb five spots to No. 18.

North Carolina was No. 19 and Miami moved into the poll at No. 20 after a thrilling 38-34 victory Monday night against Florida State in Tallahassee.

The final five were Georgia, Nebraska, Cincinnati, Kansas and Missouri.

The Big 12 has six ranked teams, most of any conference.

Cincinnati, the defending Big East champions, is the first team from the conference to be ranked this season. The Bearcats started their season Monday with a 47-15 road victory against Big East rival Rutgers.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

in a doubleheader. He went 4 for 4 in the first game, including the home run, and 3 for 5 in the nightcap.

Indians starter Aaron Laffey (7-5) lasted just 3 1-3 innings in the nightcap, equaling the shortest start of his career.

He was charged with seven runs and 12 hits.

Brandon McCarthy (7-2) started the second game and didn't allow a hit until the fourth, but tired quickly. He was making his second start after spending three months on the disabled list with a stress fracture in his right shoulder blade. McCarthy was charged with five runs in 6 1-3 innings, allowing a solo homer to Kelly Shoppach in the fifth and a two-run blast to Asdrubal Cabrera in the sixth.

LADY STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

With a chance to put the match away, the Lady Steers couldn't deliver the match-ending blow, allowing Sterling City to claim the fourth set. A 6-0 run put Sterling City ahead 11-6, but Big Spring pulled within 1, 13-12, courtesy of a 6-2 rally.

The Lady Eagles took a time out and responded with a 10-2 run, pulling ahead 22-14. The Lady Steers didn't go away quietly, rallying to within three points, 23-20.

However, a service error put the Lady Eagles within a point of claiming the fourth set and the Lady Steers couldn't receive Sterling City's ensuing serve cleanly, forcing the match into a fifth and decisive game.

The Lady Steers fell behind early and Sterling City had the win within its grasp with an 11-8 advantage. A 5-2 Lady Steers run tied the game at

13-all and the Lady Steers were able to ride that momentum to a 16-14 win.

Macy Graves led the Lady Steers with nine kills and seven blocks in the match. Desiree Anderson and Halee Thomas each had seven kills apiece as did sophomore Bridgette Tuitt, who was playing her first varsity match of the season.

"Bringing Bridgette up to varsity gave us a lot more power on the front line," said Osbourne. "Bridgette started strong. She had a lull in the middle of the match, but I was very pleased with her performance overall with her first game on varsity."

Osbourne was forced to make a change at the libero position between Sets 1 and 2, giving junior Valerie Ross the important defensive duties in place of senior Sloan Davis, who was still recovering from the flu.

Ross responded to the opportunity by leading the Lady Steers with 17 digs.

"Sloan has been really sick. She was the last one to get the flu and she's still fairly weak," said Osbourne. "I decided to make the change to Valerie. It worked very well for us tonight. It's something I might look to do throughout the rest of the season."

Cerbi Ritchey set up 31 of the Lady Steers 46 total kills.

Against Midland Christian, the Lady Steers appeared to be on the verge of running away from the Lady Mustangs. However, they couldn't consistently sustain significant runs, allowing Midland Christian to stay close and pull out narrow victories in each set.

"I don't think we dug down and made a decision to win that match," said Osbourne. "I believe we

had the ability to dominate Midland Christian. We just didn't make the decision to do it."

Tuitt led the Lady Steers in the match with seven kills. Graves had five kills as well as Big Spring's only three blocks of the game.

Ross led with nine digs with Ritchey getting the assist 21 on the Lady Steers 29 total kills.

Regardless of the outcome against Midland Christian, Osbourne is confident the Lady Steers are on the verge of turning the corner as they have won two of their last three games.

"I really believe we're very close to seeing the start of our peak," said Osbourne. "I'm hoping it will happen in the next week or so because we're about to go into district."

The Lady Steers are back in action at 11 a.m. Saturday with a match at Midland Greenwood.

Big Spring d. Sterling City
16-25, 25-20, 25-17, 20-25, 16-14

Big Spring stats

Kills (46): Macy Graves 9, Desiree Anderson 7, Bridgette Tuitt 7, Halee Thomas 7, Taylor Seaton 6, Cerbi Ritchey 5, Callie Shafer 2, Belle Feaster 2, Valerie Ross 1.

Digs (40): Ross 17, Selena Gonzales 7, Sloan Davis 6, Katelyn Villanueva 2, Anderson 2, Shafer 2, Thomas 2, Tuitt 1, Ritchey 1.

Aces (5): Anderson 2, Ross 2, Ritchey 1.

Blocks (15): Graves 7, Ritchey 3, Thomas 3, Seaton 1, Tuitt 1. Assists (40): Ritchey 31, Shafer 9.

Midland Christian d. Big Spring
25-22, 25-22, 25-22

Big Spring stats

Kills (29): Bridgette Tuitt 7, Macy Graves 5, Taylor Seaton 4, Cerbi Ritchey 3, Halee Thomas 3, Desiree Anderson 3, Selena Gonzales 1, Callie Shafer 1, Valerie Ross 1, Belle Feaster 1.

Digs (33): Ross 9, Tiffany Garcia 7, Anderson 4, Graves 4, Sloan Davis 3, Gonzales 3, Shafer 2, Thomas 1.

Aces (5): Anderson 3, Ross 2.

Blocks (3): Graves 3.

Assists (23): Ritchey 21, Shafer 2.

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