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TUESDAY

SEPTEMBER 15, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 244

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Commissioners OK \$14.45 million budget

Law enforcement, raises make up key portion

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Howard County commissioners approved their 2009-2010 budget by a unanimous vote Monday morning following a public hearing on the matter that failed to draw any comments or opposition from local residents.

The budget, which totals \$14.45 million and includes a \$1 million increase over last year's fiscal plan, is based on a proposed tax rate of 55.8656 cents per \$100 valuation, up

slightly from last year's 53.62 cents and well below this year's effective tax rate.

Commissioners reviewed the budget with County Auditor Jackie Olson during the meeting, with Commissioner Jerry Kilgore making the motion to approve the fiscal plan and Commissioner Gary Simer providing the second.

According to Olson, the \$14.45 million budget is made up of 78 percent tax revenues, 8 percent charges for servic-

es, 5 percent license and permit fees and 5 percent fines and fees. Another 4 percent will come from intergovernmental means, as well as interest and other miscellaneous sources, according to the report.

Public safety makes a significant impact in the coming year's budget, according to County Judge Mark Barr, with increases in personnel at the county jail and in the

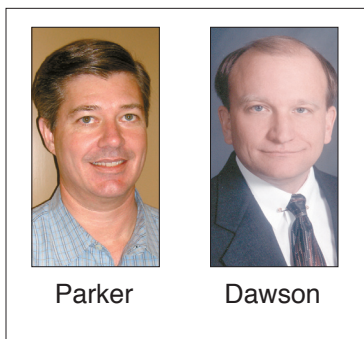
See **BUDGET**, Page 3

Jail fails inspection; officials target issues

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Howard County's jail woes may not have ended with the construction of a new facility, as sheriff's office officials reported Monday the jail failed to meet state requirements during a surprise inspection.

"Last Tuesday we had a surprise jail inspection by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards," said Sheriff Stan Parker. "For the most part it went very well. We did have a few areas of deficiency that we're working on. As far as the building and the structure are concerned, we were in 100 percent compliance. However, we have some pa-



Parker

Dawson

perwork problems that we're going to have to address."

Jail Administrator Mike Dawson began his presentation to the commissioners by discussing some of the areas in which the facility failed to meet state requirements, and ensured the court every effort is being made to correct the problems.

"The commission is required by legislative mandate to do a certain number of surprise inspections," said Dawson. "On the day they appeared (at the county jail) — and I'm not making excuses — I had both of the front-end folks sick, so some of us had to take care of that while we were running around with the commission's inspector, Jimmy Barton.

"The first area of non-compliance had to do with the requirement the facility be inspected annually by a local fire official. On the day of inspection documentation could not be provided to

See **JAIL**, Page 3



Amanda Moreno photo

Sharon Fisher and Bob Slayden are riding across Texas in support of Relay For Life. They are expected to arrive in Big Spring Wednesday on their way to El Paso.

Ridin' for Relay

Friends making their way across Lone Star State to promote cancer awareness

By **AMANDA MORENO**

Special to the Herald

Sharon Fisher and Bob Slayden have combined their love for riding horses and the passion for a good cause, and set off, from Jacksonville, Texas. They are planning on riding to El Paso, in hopes that they can raise awareness of cancer.

"We lost Bob's parents to cancer, and I have a sister that is a survivor of cancer. This is a cause that is very near and dear to our hearts," Sharon Fisher said.

They are also wanting to draw awareness to services provided to cancer victims, the project of raising funds for research, and the services provided by the American

Cancer Society and St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

According to Relay For Life officials, the journey should take about 38 days. They've already visited Waco, Abilene and Sweetwater and should arrive in Big Spring Wednesday evening. They'll then continue on to Midland, Pecos and El Paso.

Slayden and Fisher had been involved in the Highway 69 rides, from Jacksonville, Texas, to Bullard, Texas. They said that they wanted to ride longer and help out a bit more.

They had the idea and originally passed it on to a Cowboy Church, but nothing ever came of it. So, they decided to

See **RIDERS**, Page 3

Organizers say triathlon 'great'

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

They came, they saw, they swam, rode and ran.

Organizers are hailing what they called a highly successful Comanche Warrior Triathlon, which attracted more than 100 participants from across Texas to Comanche Trail Park Saturday.

"Everything went great," Event Coordinator Debbie Wegman said. "We had 107 participants — 61 competing individually and 16 teams — and they had nice things to say about the venue. I thought it was a great success and we're looking for-

"It was a great opportunity for people from other areas to come to Big Spring and see what a great community we have."



Wegman

ward to holding it again next year."

Kelly Brown of Midland won the overall men's title with a time of 1 hour, 15

See **TRIATHLON**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Craig Richardson

Craig Richardson, 50, of Big Spring died Monday, Sept. 14, 2009, in a local hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Support Groups

TODAY

- The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St. Tuesday, Jan. 6, Teen Challenge will be held at The Path. They will present a Rally for Jesus.

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. and closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

- Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

Take Note

- American Legion Post 506 will hold a fish fry from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday at 3203 W. Highway 80. Carry-outs are available. Plates can be delivered from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. by calling 263-2084. Plates are \$10 each.

- 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.

- Coahoma Class of 1999 Reunion will be Sept. 18-19. Contact Latisha Miliken Perry with questions and RSVPs: tish_a_roo@yahoo.com or (512) 947-6680.

- The Ackerly Lunch Bunch will be meeting on Saturday, Sept. 26 at 10 a.m. at the 14th & Main Church of Christ fellowship room, 1401 Main St. in Big Spring. A catered barbecue lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. Everyone is invited. Please RSVP to Betty Pitts at (432) 267-1449.

- 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.

Lottery

The winning numbers in Monday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Two Step" game were:
03-10-11-30, Bonus: 26

The winning numbers in Monday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Pick 3 Night" game were:
5-0-4

The winning numbers in Monday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Daily 4 Night" game were:
1-1-4-0

The winning numbers in Monday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Cash 5" game were:
10-14-25-33-34

Police blotter

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

- JOHN THOMAS MARTINEZ, 23, of 1100 Nolan, was arrested Tuesday on a Howard County warrant.
- UNATTENDED DEATH was reported in the 1200 block of 15th Street.
- THEFT was reported in the 700 block of 18th Street.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS OF A HABITATION/SHELTER CENTER was reported in the 600 block of Bell.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 200 block of Washington.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported: in the 700 block of Third Street. in the 600 block of Bell.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 85 inmates at the time of this report.

- BRYAN HARP, 32, was arrested (arresting agency not provided) Monday on a probation revocation for burglary of a habitation.
- SHAMEKA TANSHEY HOUSTON, 24, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of hindering the apprehension or prosecution of a known felon and resisting arrest, search or transportation.
- JOANIE LEDESMA, 26, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of failure to maintain financial responsibility and failure to appear.
- JOHN THOMAS MARTINEZ, 23, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of allowing a child 4-17 years of age to ride unsecured, failure to maintain financial responsibility (two counts), failure to appear and speeding.
- SHANNON MICHELLE MOORE, 29, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of fraudulent use/possession of identifying information.
- KENNETH DEWAYNE NEWSOME, 17, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a probation revocation for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and contempt charges for possession of marijuana – two ounces or less and evading arrest or detention.
- FABIAN GRADA OCHOA, age not provided, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a probation violation for resisting arrest, search or transportation and charges of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, possession of a controlled substance and theft.
- LINDSEY OLAGUE, 22, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of assault Class C – family violence (intimidation).
- GREGG PHILLIPS, 33, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of assault Class C – family violence (intimidation).

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1200 block of E. 15th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 400 block of E. 16th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Highway 350. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of N. Main Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of N.W. Eighth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of N. Main Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of N. Lamesa Highway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Runnels. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 13400 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to SMMC.

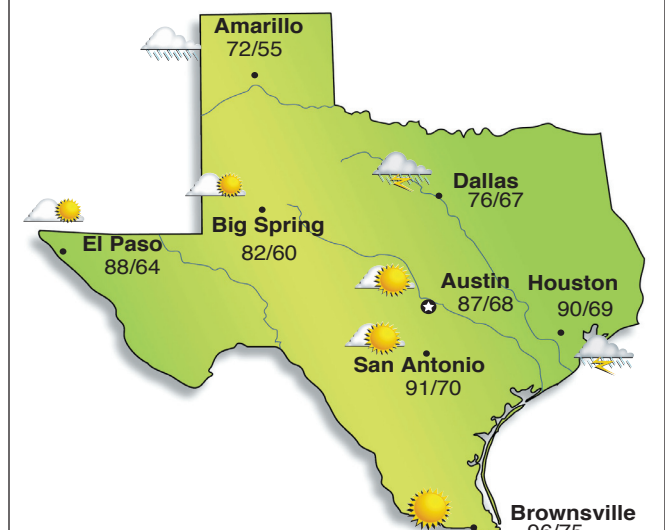
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 9/16	Thu 9/17	Fri 9/18	Sat 9/19	Sun 9/20
82/60 Partly cloudy. High 82F. Winds NNE at 10 to 20 mph.	80/57 Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 50s.	78/57 Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the upper 50s.	79/58 Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the upper 50s.	85/61 Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the low 60s.
Sunrise: 7:31 AM Sunset: 7:50 PM	Sunrise: 7:31 AM Sunset: 7:49 PM	Sunrise: 7:32 AM Sunset: 7:48 PM	Sunrise: 7:33 AM Sunset: 7:46 PM	Sunrise: 7:33 AM Sunset: 7:45 PM

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Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	78	60	pt sunny	Kingsville	95	72	sunny
Amarillo	72	55	rain	Livingston	86	67	t-storm
Austin	87	68	mst sunny	Longview	80	67	rain
Beaumont	86	69	t-storm	Lubbock	78	58	pt sunny
Brownsville	96	75	sunny	Lufkin	83	68	t-storm
Brownwood	82	64	pt sunny	Midland	83	62	t-storm
Corpus Christi	93	73	sunny	Raymondville	98	74	sunny
Corsicana	75	65	t-storm	Rosenberg	90	69	t-storm
Dallas	76	67	t-storm	San Antonio	91	70	mst sunny
Del Rio	93	69	mst sunny	San Marcos	88	68	mst sunny
El Paso	88	64	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	78	67	rain
Fort Stockton	82	60	t-storm	Sweetwater	79	61	pt sunny
Gainesville	74	65	t-storm	Tyler	79	66	rain
Greenville	75	65	t-storm	Weatherford	76	64	t-storm
Houston	90	69	t-storm	Wichita Falls	79	62	t-storm

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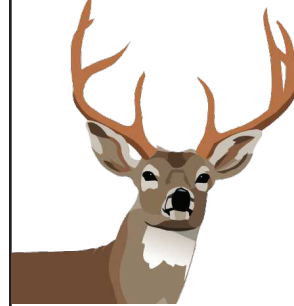
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The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811
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BUDGET

Continued from Page 1

Howard County Sheriff's Office already planned. "Approximately half of the \$1 million increase is for law enforcement, including deputies and jailers. That's where we've directed the majority of our attention this year," said Barr. "This is something the entire court is very concerned about. With the drive-by shootings we've had and the way the city has stepped up their anti-narcotics efforts, there's been a lot more violence. And when you step up these efforts in the city, it spills out into the county. So that's something we've had to adapt to." Another 16 percent is dedicated to judicial matters, with the next largest piece of the fiscal pie coming in the form of road and bridge maintenance. The budget also contains considerable funds for

indigent healthcare and welfare (8 percent), financial administration (5 percent), equipment maintenance (5 percent), capital outlay (5 percent) and debt service (7 percent). The new budget will also provide raises for several key positions within the county government, according to Barr. "There are raises provided for the district clerk (Colleen Barton), county clerk (Donna Wright), the sheriff (Stan Parker), tax assessor and collector (Kathy Sayles) and treasurer (Teresa Thomas)," said Barr. "All of them, except the sheriff, will be receiving a \$3,000 raise to help bring them closer to the state average for counties our size. The sheriff will receive a \$5,000 raise. The majority of the other positions within the county are either at or above the state average." Commissioners are expected to vote on the tax rate during their Sept. 28 meeting.

JAIL

Continued from Page 1

show the fire hazard inspection checklist was evaluated no less than each calendar quarter. We had two fire extinguishers that didn't have tags on them. When the fire marshal went around, all of them had tags. At that time we made the decision not to take the tags and file them away, and instead left them on the fire extinguishers. I wouldn't doubt that one or two of the inmates took the tags off for one reason or another. So we have two of them missing now, and I will get that corrected. It also notes the fire inspection checklist needs to be evaluated no less than each calendar

quarter, and that's a paperwork issue and we will address it." Another problem, according to Dawson, was making sure the inmates signed a receipt of the jail rules and regulations. "The second problem is the requirement that upon intake, a file on each inmate must be established and the file shall include a list of 15 different things that have to be in the file," said Dawson. "What the commission inspector does is pull 10 files, which he did, and he found several that did not have acknowledgment of the receipt of rules and regulations. The inmates have a set of rules when they come into our facility, and they are posted in each pod, so they are easily

viewable ... but it is required they sign (the acknowledgment) when they come into the jail. That's our error. We're not getting signatures from all of the inmates as they come in, and we're working on that." And while human error was certainly part of the previous problems, Dawson said the next issue on the non-compliance list was strictly an issue with the jail's SMART Public Safety software. "On the day of inspection it was discovered that not all of the inmates were classified, or some of the classifications were being done incorrectly," Dawson told the court. "That's basically keeping our serious offenders — what we call a maximum offender

— from being housed with someone like a 17-year-old brought in on a minor traffic offense. We have a classification system. It's administered electronically with our software system, our SMART Public Safety software. To say the least, we've had issues with our jail management software. Sometimes the staff can enter all of the information in and nothing but zeroes are printed out on the classification page. Unfortunately, I believe four of the 10 he (the inspector) pulled were nothing but zeroes on the classification page. "We've corrected that by following the recommendation of the jail inspector, which is to adopt what's called a de-

cision tree. It's a paper form our staff is now doing. It goes very fast. You fill it out in ink, and we are basically going to do away with the classifications done by the SMART software. That way we'll have a classification sheet that's done by hand, by the staff, and will eliminate these errors in classification and we'll have the form in the file." According to Parker, issues with the classification print-outs isn't the only problems he and his staff have had with the software, which has cost the county slightly more than \$172,000 from its \$11.57 million bond-funded budget. "You're going to run into problems and glitches no matter what software you go with,"

said Parker. "We're working with SMART to resolve these problems. We called them immediately after the problems with the classifications was found, and they are working on it. However, I have to admit the software isn't living up to our expectations. It gets frustrating. We've depended on this software, probably more than we should have, and it bit us in the end."

TRIATHLON

Continued from Page 1

minutes and 16 seconds, while Ashley Messoline of Lubbock was the top female finisher in a time of 1:24:41. The second-annual triathlon (the event was restarted in 2008 after a hiatus of several years) featured a 500-meter swim in Comanche Trail Lake, an 18-mile bicycle ride and a 3-kilometer

run through the park. Wegman said the event attracted athletes from as far away as Houston and McAllen as well as several West Texas cities. "It was a great opportunity for people from other areas to come to Big Spring and see what a great community we have." Preparations for the event began in earnest at the start of the year and have continued non-

stop since then, she added. Unlike last year, the event was a coordinated by local people. "Last year, we had professional race directors from Lubbock come down and show us how to do the event," Wegman said. "This year, we did it all ... We had to come up with all the supplies and equipment we needed. Last year, they brought it all with them." Wegman thanked Race

Director Craig Felty and triathlon committee members Javier Flores, Troy Tompkins, Johnny Moore, Ron Alton, Debye Valverde, Dathan Jones, Vicki Stewart and Somer Gaskins for their efforts this year. The event was sponsored by the Convention and Visitors Bureau, Great Western Dining, KBST, Peyton's Bikes, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Moore Web Develop-

ment, the City of Big Spring, Cornell Corrections, Scenic Mountain Medical Center, Western Bank, The Carpet Store, Drs. Pablo Teveni and Joseph Chavez, Culligan Water and American Limestone.

RIDERS

Continued from Page 1

start planning, and took the trip upon themselves. "This has been three years in the planning and preparation stages," Slayden said. They took off, Sept. 1, from Jacksonville. They will ride to El Paso and trailer their horses back. Along the way back, they will make visits to family members. They are already planning another ride in support of Vietnam veterans. "We aren't sure how far or when we will take this ride, but we know that it's another good cause and we are going to do it," Slayden said. They began their 764-mile journey, with another couple, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Coleman, of Greenville. They had two saddle horses and a team of mules pulling a wagon, from the Tomato Bowl in Jacksonville. They are averaging 18 to 20 miles a day. Despite the rainy weather, the two have not been slowed down. Upon arrival in Sweetwater, they were ahead of schedule and decided to stay for an extra day. "We usually just stop

over for the night and then take off early the next morning, but since we were ahead of schedule we had the privilege of staying and enjoying a little bit of Sweetwater," Fisher said. Fisher said that they are riding through despite some inclement weather. "We have ridden through the rain, with our slickers on. The horses enjoy it because it's cool and not so much heat," Fisher said. Throughout their journey, they have come across numerous survivors and supporters. While riding on the road, they have had people stop and talk to them. "We had one man the other day, little old man who could barely walk, but he came up to us and gave us a donation. We asked him his name and he said 'It doesn't matter, just keep doing what you are doing,'" Fisher said. They are accepting donations for Relay For Life. Donations can also be made at cherokeerelayforlife@yahoo.com. "If this kind of money for research had been around 20 years ago, who knows what the result could have been for Bob's parents or anyone else for that matter," Fisher said. Fisher was a school teacher for 28 years and Slayden was a truck

driver for 42 years. They are encouraging anyone and everyone that wants to join their cause to come along. They are willing to take riders for the whole journey, part of the journey, or even just a small way out of town. Feel free to call Sharon at (903) 894-7047 and leave a message or e-mail at cherokeerelayforlife@yahoo.com

San Angelo man charged with federal firearm offense

Special to the Herald

LUBBOCK — The driver of a vehicle which was stopped by Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) troopers on New Year's Eve, 2008, has been charged in a federal indictment with firearm and firearm-related felony offenses, U.S. Attorney James T. Jacks of the Northern District of Texas, has announced. Dionisio Anibal Saucedo Jr., 21, is charged with one count of aiding and abetting possession of an unregistered, sawed-off, shotgun, and one count of misprision of a felony. Saucedo is currently in state custody on related charges. According to documents filed in court, Dec. 31, 2008, Saucedo was driving on U.S. Highway 87 when he was stopped by a DPS trooper in Eden. Saucedo's passenger, Manuel Alcantar, was being sought in a murder investigation.

During the traffic stop, Saucedo informed the trooper that he and Alcantar did not have any weapons in the vehicle. However, as Saucedo knew, there was a firearm in the vehicle. In fact, Alcantar used that weapon to fire at the DPS trooper, who returned fire, and mortally wounded Alcantar, according to law enforcement officials. The aiding and abetting possession of an unregistered firearm charge against Saucedo carries a maximum statutory sentence of 10 years in prison and \$10,000 fine, upon conviction. The misprision of a felony count carries a maximum statutory sentence of three years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, upon conviction. An indictment is an accusation by a federal grand jury and a defendant is entitled to the presumption of innocence unless proven guilty.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEW

Symphony offering very familiar flavor in Saturday opener

Classical music that most of us are familiar with, but probably aren't really aware of that fact, will be spotlighted, as the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra opens its 2009-2010 concert season schedule with "Classical Music in the Movies."

Maestro John Giordano, the internationally acclaimed conductor and composer, will return to Big Spring as guest conductor for the show.

The setting for the performance is the Big Spring High School Auditorium. Time is 8 p.m.

The concert will begin with the "Overture to the Marriage of Figaro" by Mozart — a piece that has been featured in such films as the "Shawshank Redemption," "Trading Places" and "Shelton Key." Others to be included in the first portion of the concert include "Night on Bare Mountain" by Musorgsky ("Natural Born Killers"), "Clair de Lune" by Debussy ("Ocean's Eleven") and "Finlandia" by Sibelius ("Die Hard II").

The second portion of the concert will open with "Prelude to the Walkurie" by Wagner ("Apocalypse Now"). Others will include "Barber of Seville Overture" by Rossini ("Bugs Bunny," "Robots"), "Blue Danube" by Strauss ("Titanic," "2001 a Space Odyssey," "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory") and "Jupiter" from the seven-movement suite "The Plants" by Holst, which has been in numerous films.

"This will be a great opening concert for the Big Spring Symphony," said Dr. Keith Graumann, the symphony's conductor and music director. "Listeners will recognize many of the pieces played as movie themes, not realizing that the music had been drawn from major orchestral works. And, for non-moviegoers, the evening offers a rich variety of more familiar and not-so-familiar major works."

Season tickets for the symphony's performances are available at the Big Spring Herald, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Western Bank, Faye's Flowers, Blum's Jewelers and the Heritage Museum.

Season tickets are \$50 for adults, \$30 for senior citizens and \$15 for students. Tickets for Saturday's concert will also be available at the door.

For more information, contact the symphony office at 264-7223.

We hope you'll take advantage of what promises to be a very entertaining evening with the Big Spring Symphony and help get the season started in wonderful fashion.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.
- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Business and pleasure, Lord, are a pleasure when we walk with You.

Amen

America understood clunkers

Cash for Clunkers ended with a bang on Aug. 24, finishing a frantic month for dealers and consumers alike. While some of us may be relieved that those commercials are at an end, the program's popularity should have us thrilled. Clunkers proved to be an intriguing government program — one that bodes well for the future of clean cars and clean energy in the U.S.

The Cash for Clunkers program did something other than sell cars: It captured the public's attention in a way that few government programs have. It was widely discussed, drew extensive media coverage, and spurred a quick rush of participation. It successfully labeled once desirable SUVs as low-mileage hogs. The program's unsaid message was out with the old, inefficient thing, in with the new, cleaner one.

The mere inclusion of fuel economy requirements in the program created a discussion at dinner tables and water coolers across the country — was your old vehicle guzzling enough fuel to be a clunker, and how much better did your new vehicle need to be to get a voucher?

American consumers got it. They wanted to save money and reduce our dependence on oil, and when given the opportunity they tended to purchase vehicles

that will do that.

Over a frantic month, consumers were in the driver's seat when it came to making the most out of the program. While the fuel economy requirements allowed consumers to simply replace old guzzlers with marginally more efficient new ones, statistics from the Department of Transportation (DOT) show that consumers did not do that. Although not all sales data is in and there is much analysis still to be done, consumers purchased a vehicle that was, on average, 9.2 miles per gallon better than their trade in vehicle — a 58 percent improvement.

Under Clunkers, most consumers drove gas-guzzling trucks and SUVs onto lots and drove off with much better vehicles, mostly cars. Some 84 percent of trade-ins were trucks and SUVs, while 59 percent of purchased vehicles were cars. So far, the top 10 models traded in were SUVs and trucks; conversely, nine of the 10 best selling models on DOT's lists were cars.

We estimate that the average consumer who took part in Cash for Clunkers could save 320 gallons of fuel and save \$664 per year at today's gas prices and reduce emissions of carbon dioxide by roughly two tons. When you add it all up, the program could reduce oil consumption by roughly 186 million gallons. With 250 million registered vehicles on the road today, averaging 20.6 mpg and guzzling 142 billion gallons of gas each year, this is a small step down the long road to turning over the fleet. The new fuel economy

standards the Obama administration is expected to propose this month are a much bigger step.

The lessons of the Clunkers program translates well to the push for a clean energy economy in the United States. Americans were keyed into the need to get them off the road and that efficiency matters; we need to seek out clunkers elsewhere. At home this can mean older appliances that guzzle more electricity than efficient newer ones. And then there are those big clunkers like our fleet of aging coal-fired power plants that continue to pump global warming pollution into our atmosphere. Just as we swapped out our cars for better options, it's time to swap out our appliances so we'll use less electricity, and swap out the coal power for clean, renewable energy, too.

Cash for Clunkers showed that consumers understand the benefits of efficient vehicles and want to cut our dependence on oil while saving at the pump.

It's time for consumers to make their opinions known as Congress continues to work on climate and energy legislation.

We're at a crossroads when it comes to curbing climate change and driving our economy in a new direction.

It's time to retire the clunkers and bring on the clean energy economy.

Carl Pope is executive director of the Sierra Club, America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization.



Spanky had grace to go quietly

Will the sex scandal of former GOP Assemblyman Mike Duvall make a difference for the California GOP? In that Duvall — now known as Spanky — had the good sense to resign 15 hours into the scandal, the answer would be: No.

Orange County Republicans are like weeds. Cut off one and another will grow in its place. With any luck, Duvall's replacement will respect the position and not treat the Capitol like a frat house. True, Duvall comes across as another Republican family-values hypocrite — but that's only because he proved to be one. The beefy lawmaker bragged in graphic detail before what he thought was a turned-off Capitol microphone about two affairs — one with a Sacramento lobbyist with business before the energy committee on which he was vice chairman. Insiders, who wouldn't blink at the news of a lawmaker straying outside his marriage vows, were left dumbstruck at the Duvall's barrier-breaking stupidity. The issue isn't that Duvall failed as a role model, because

no one knew who he was until his chatter about spanking and lingerie catapulted Duvall from Sacramento obscurity into the limelight of international scorn.

GOP leaders did not lift a finger to defend Duvall for saying the indefensible. To the contrary, even before Duvall's resignation, Orange County GOP Chairman Scott Baugh called on Duvall to quit.

Why does this keep happening to family-values Republicans? Probably for the same reason it happens to Democrats, like former Sen. John Edwards and former prosecutor and New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer: Because it happens.

And because they get caught. In a sense, Duvall's fall shows how too-big political egos are a problem that takes care of itself. Pols get arrogant, and that means sloppy.

Except, as coming across as a man with too much time on his hands, Duvall's chatter besmirches the work of serious lawmakers. Ditto Sacto lobbyists. Especially female lobbyists, the vast majority of whom get their jobs done despite the grabby presumptions of some members.

After resigning, Duvall released a statement in which he essentially denied that he had an affair. He explained, "My offense was engaging in inappropriate

story-telling, and I regret my language and choice of words."

Hmmm. I do believe he regrets his "choice of words." At least Duvall spared his wife, two children, himself, the Assembly and his party by resigning immediately. By not prolonging the embarrassment, he already has begun his rehabilitation.

Yes, Californians will remember Duvall for his caught-on-tape remarks, but they'll also remember that he chose to exit gracefully.

South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford, another family-values Republican with a girlfriend, would do well to observe and replicate these actions.

South Carolina editorial boards haven't called for Sanford's resignation because he had an affair with an Argentine woman.

They want him out because he was caught telling too many stories, starting with one about a solo hike on the Appalachian Trail that never happened.

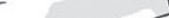
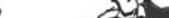
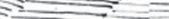
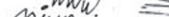
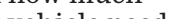
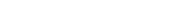
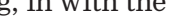
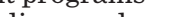
But they also want him out, I suspect, because Sanford talked too much.

American voters can forgive many things, but they want to be spared the details.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsanders@schronicle.com
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CARL POPE



Bird Poop:

Great horned owl survives oilfield blowout

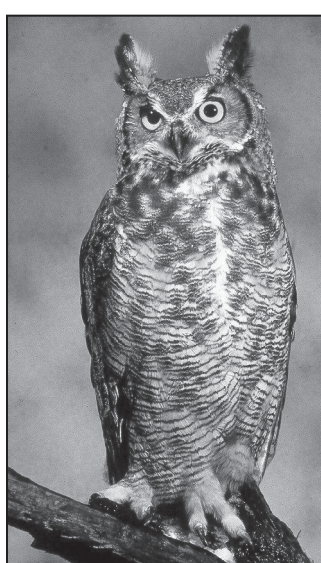
The directions were given to the game warden, "Just go to the rock house and head west." Before dawn, an oil company employee had called him about a blowout.

Arriving at the unit, the officer gathered information, and said he would return during the morning to walk and drive the surrounding terrain.

As he ate breakfast, his phone rang. Driving into town, a county resident had found an owl standing in the middle of the two-lane road he had earlier traveled. After advising her to notify us, he promptly called to make us aware of the situation.

After agreeing to meet the woman, we anticipated a messy ordeal. We weren't disappointed. Coated with brine and crude, a great horned owl amply filled the cardboard box she had provided. Glaring up at us with its large, yellow eyes, the raptor popped its beak in warning.

"Not far from where it happened," said the woman, who had seen the numerous vehicles and the game warden's truck parked near the "No Trespassing" signs of the oil company. Guessing the owl might have been in the



Courtesy photo

An aggressive raptor, the great horned owl searches for rabbits, rats, mice, skunks, raccoons, snakes and even porcupines.

mesquites near by, she was shocked to see its matted feathers and helpless state.

Once home, we decided to take the owl to the Eos Wildlife Sanctuary in Midland. Since Midge Erskine was more knowledgeable on bathing and caring for victims of oil field incidents, we knew getting immediate attention was vital.

At her home, she began the tedious Blue Dawn ritual of soaping and rinsing the large, powerful bird. With her husband, Woody, she managed to clean the salty, greasy coating that covered its four-foot wingspan. Fortunately, when the well had blown, the down-hole substance had shot upward and rained down on the outer surface of the owl's wings, back and tail.

Since the product had not penetrated through the layers of feathers to the skin, Midge felt the bird had a chance to recover. Not finding evidence of oil in its mouth or eyes, she was relieved at its good fortune.

A few weeks later, while delivering other birds to the sanctuary, we saw the great horned perched in an outside facility. It was hard to believe it was the same bird.

As it once again stared stoically at, through, and beyond us, we were pleased with its transformation. With its tawny-gray facial disks ampli-

fying its yellow eyes, its black bill reminded us of the wounds it could inflict.

Widely spaced ear tufts (horns) were raised and notable. Mottled brown above, and heavily barred below, the bird of prey puffed its white throat feathers with a familiar warning. "Hoo, hoo, hoo, hoo," was repeated threateningly. With the first weeks of September we often remember that owl and Rock House road.

Although we have retired since that accident occurred, not much else has changed. Patterson Farms is still a welcome site among

the cotton acreage and fallow fields. The five-mile drive to the end of the road still offers a chance of seeing migrating kettles of hawks as they glide toward the south. The seasoned travelers and their young are nature's grand display of flight.

The rise at the end of the road, and the dirt roads that wind into the brush and mesquite still warn of hazards.

The area is special to us because the clumsy-looking appearance of an owl in the middle of the road alerted a passing motorist. Setting out on a journey it could not anticipate, the great horned owl had gained its eventual freedom on strong, silent wings.

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



BEBE McCASLAND

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.

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The Magic Number Is 13

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ K 10 3
♥ Q 8 4
♦ K 7 2
♣ K 8 5 3

WEST
♠ 9
♥ A J 10 9 7 5 2
♦ 10
♣ 7 6 4 2

EAST
♠ Q 8 7 6 4 2
♥ 3
♦ Q 9 6 5 4 3
♣ —

SOUTH
♠ A J 5
♥ K 6
♦ A J 8
♣ A Q J 10 9

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♣ 3 ♥ 3 NT Pass
6 ♣

Opening lead — ace of hearts.

One way to try to change a mediocre bridge player into a good one is to convince him that learning to reason things out is far more important in the long run than expending energy on trying to master complex bidding conventions, or fancy plays that come up once in a blue moon.

Take this case where South is in six clubs. West leads the ace of hearts, East following suit, and continues with the jack of hearts, East discarding a diamond as South wins

the trick with the king.

Declarer can count 11 tricks at this point and sees that he can score a 12th by taking a successful finesse in either spades or diamonds. But if that is as far as his thinking goes, he is not trying hard enough. The fact is that declarer is sure to make the slam if he plays correctly, and he does not have to subject himself to the element of chance usually associated with a finesse.

At trick two, South learns that West started with seven hearts, and he also learns at the same time — from East's failure to ruff the second heart lead — that West was dealt all four missing clubs. Eleven of West's 13 cards are thus accounted for, and declarer's only remaining task is to find out how many spades and/or diamonds West holds.

Accordingly, South plays four rounds of trumps and then cashes dummy's king of diamonds. After West follows suit, declarer next plays dummy's king of spades. When West follows suit again, the picture of his original hand is complete. He obviously started with seven hearts, four clubs, one spade and one diamond.

The rest of the play is easy enough. Declarer cashes dummy's queen of hearts, discarding either a spade or a diamond, and takes a finesse in the other suit, knowing for certain that it will succeed.

Tomorrow: A psychological ploy.

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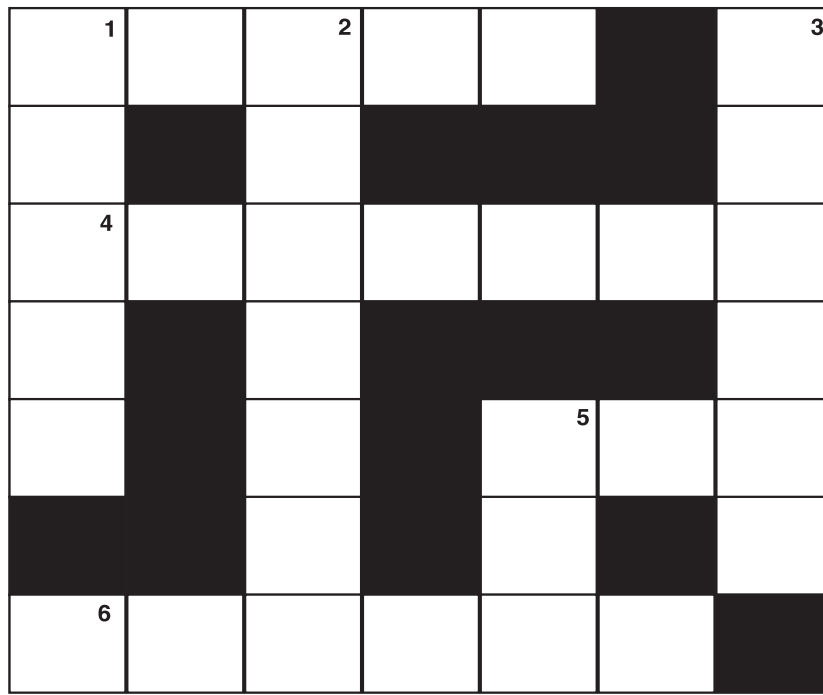
ALON USA

Mike Thomas,
Attorney At Law

Troy Tompkins,
CMFC Financial Planner
The Prudential Insurance
Company Of America



Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. Magnificent
- 4. One who has fun
- 5. Enjoyment
- 6. Evening meal

DOWN

- 1. Above average
- 2. Break off
- 3. Father or mother
- 5. Amount to pay

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1775: ETHAN ALLEN WAS CAPTURED BY THE BRITISH.
- 1957: THE "LITTLE ROCK NINE" PROTESTED RACIAL SEGREGATION BY ATTENDING AN ALL-WHITE HIGH SCHOOL IN ARKANSAS.
- 2003: A SUMMER HEAT WAVE IN FRANCE IS BLAMED FOR THE DEATHS OF MORE THAN 14,000.



WHAT DAY DO AMERICANS
CELEBRATE AND REMEMBER
GRANDPARENTS?

ANSWER: NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS DAY



SENIOR

of a more advanced
age

Answers:
ACROSS
1. grand 4. enjoyer 5. fun 6. dinner
DOWN
1. great 2. adjourn 3. parent 5. fee

How they
SAY that in...

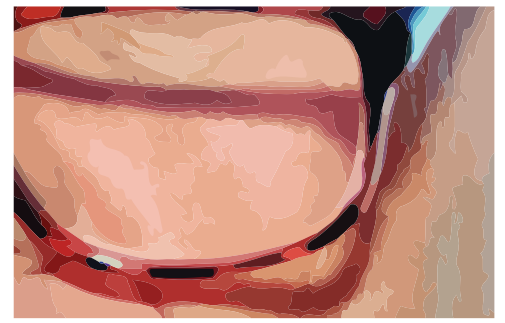
- ENGLISH:** Day
- SPANISH:** Día
- ITALIAN:** Giorno
- FRENCH:** Jour
- GERMAN:** Tag

Did you
KNOW!



MANY GRANDPARENTS
PITCH IN AND HELP
TO RAISE THEIR
GRANDCHILDREN.

GET THE
PICTURE?



Can you guess what
the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: EYEGLASSES

SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

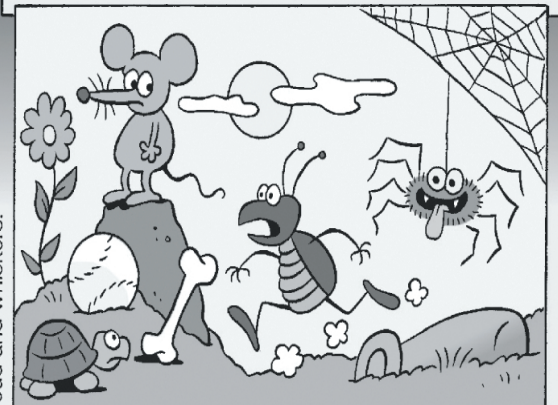
BY BOB WEBER JR.

The balloon salesman says Slick Smitty's nephew snipped his balloon strings five minutes ago. He demands Smitty pay for the lost balloons. But Smitty insists his nephew is innocent and claims he's been watching him play on the slide for the past hour. Why does Slylock Fox doubt Smitty's story?

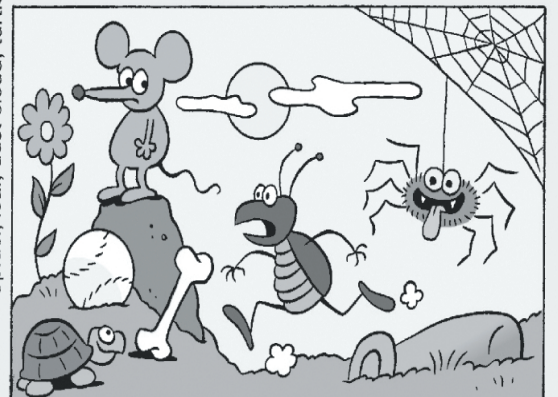
Solution -- As the radio weather report states, the sun is shining bright, with record-breaking heat. The metal slide is extremely hot. Slylock doubts the nephew would be playing on it, especially with short pants.



Find six differences between these panels.

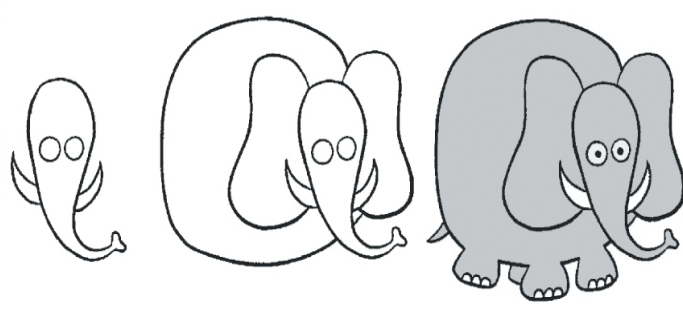


www.kidcartoonists.com

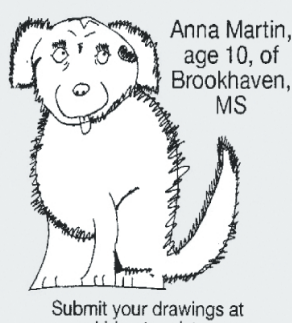


The fourth Find the six differences collection is here. Send \$4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to Six Differences No. 4, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

HOW TO DRAW an elephant



YOUR DRAWING



Anna Martin,
age 10, of
Brookhaven,
MS

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www.kidcartoonists.com

The fastest-running
bird in the world
is the ...

- a) roadrunner
- b) ostrich
- c) penguin
- d) kiwi
- e) swift

Answer -- b)

News in brief

Obama to talk with autoworkers in Ohio, AFL-CIO convention attendees in Pa.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Going before groups of autoworkers and union members, President Barack Obama is trying Tuesday to assure blue-collar audiences that the economy is coming back — and that his administration deserves credit for saving some of their jobs.

Obama is scheduled to meet with workers at the General Motors Lordstown assembly plant near Youngstown, Ohio, where GM recently was able to start a second production line because of demand prompted by the federal Cash for Clunkers program.

Later, the president addresses the AFL-CIO convention in Pittsburgh, where he will urge the nation's largest labor union to support his health care overhaul.

"We didn't come here (to Washington) just to respond to crises; we came here to address America's prosperity in the future, and I think that's what he'll outline," White House spokesman Robert Gibbs told reporters Monday, previewing the president's message.

Obama planed to leave Washington early Tuesday morning for a quick trip to the Lordstown plant, in the economically depressed Mahoning Valley in northeastern Ohio. He is expected to tell a crowd of GM workers that Washington programs are putting workers back on the job.

Support from both parties in doubt as negotiators wrap up Senate proposal

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus has been trying for months to write a health care bill that could win Republican support. If he succeeds he may find it's fellow Democrats he has to worry about.

Baucus, D-Mont., said Monday that "we're getting very close" to finalizing sweeping health legislation to enact President Barack Obama's priorities of extending coverage to most of the 50 million uninsured and holding down spiraling health care costs.

Following weeks of closed-door negotiations

with two other Democratic senators and three Republicans, Baucus plans to unveil his bill Wednesday, and he hopes Republicans are with him. Such a bargain could mark a turning point for Obama's top domestic priority.

At the same time, Baucus said the bipartisan talks could continue even as his Finance panel begins its formal bill-drafting and voting session next week. The negotiators meet again Tuesday.

"It's not just tomorrow or the next day," said Baucus. "We're going to keep working."

White House postponing fight over more troops for Afghanistan war

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration is holding off major decisions that could put its military forces on a firmer war footing in Afghanistan even as doubts grow about whether the United States can win there.

Many military and diplomatic leaders have urged President Barack Obama to send thousands more Marines, soldiers and pilots to try to reverse Afghanistan's crumbling security situation.

But White House spokesman Robert Gibbs has said no decision about adding troops is expected for "weeks and weeks," following what he described as intensive evaluation. The troop decision will be a first indicator of whether Obama intends to double down in Afghanistan, becoming a wartime president in earnest.

Leading Democrats in Congress have signaled they do not support a troop increase now, and maybe not at all. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, has the unhappy task of telling the Senate Armed Services Committee on Tuesday why the United States should stay the course and commit to what he calls a "properly resourced counterinsurgency effort."

Mullen's long-scheduled nomination hearing for a second term as the president's chief military adviser will be chaired by Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., who warned the White House last week not to push for a big troop increase. He wants the Pentagon to focus on quicker training for Afghan security forces instead.

Conn. police appear to be closing in on suspect in killing of Yale grad student

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — The discovery of a Yale University graduate student whose body was stuffed in the wall of a medical research building brought a painful end to the search for a woman who vanished days before she was to wed her college sweetheart.

Now, investigators appear to be closer to determining who killed 24-year-old Annie Le in a heavily secured building accessible only to students and university employees.

New Haven police officer Joe Avery, the department's spokesman, said police believe no other student is involved in the death, but would not respond to questions about the alleged involvement of others.

"We're not believing it's a random act, that's all I'm giving you right now," said Avery, who also denied reports Monday that police had a suspect in custody.

Several news organizations reported that police were interviewing a possible suspect who failed a polygraph test and has defensive wounds on his body. Avery denied those reports.

Patrick Swayze dies at 57

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Patrick Swayze personified a particular kind of masculine grace both on and off screen, from his roles in films like "Dirty Dancing" and "Ghost" to the way he carried himself in his long fight with pancreatic cancer.

Swayze died from the illness on Monday in Los Angeles, his publicist said. He was 57.

"Patrick Swayze passed away peacefully today with family at his side after facing the challenges of his illness for the last 20 months," Annett Wolf said in a statement Monday evening. She declined to give details.

Fans of the actor were saddened to learn in March 2008 that Swayze was suffering from an especially deadly form of cancer. He continued working despite the diagnosis, putting together a memoir with his wife and shooting "The Beast," an A&E drama series.

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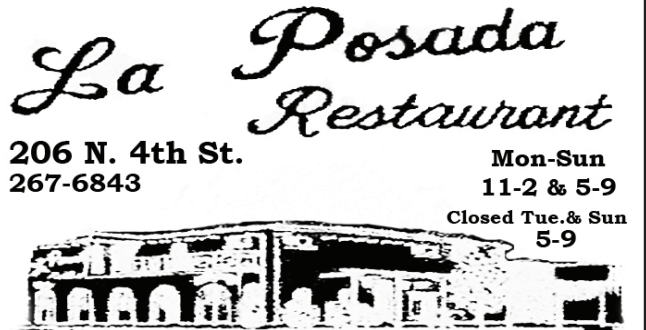
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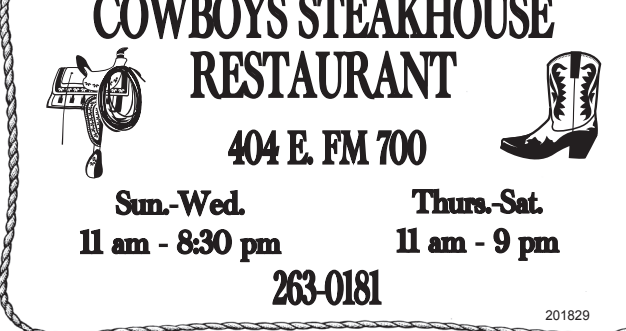


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Steers gain 16 points in latest AP poll

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

The Big Spring Steers are gaining the respect of more sportswriters across the state.

The Steers received an increase of 16 more points in this week's Associated Press Texas high school football poll. The 20 overall votes are nine shy of placing the Steers in the Top 10, but does leave them tied with Brenham for second most points attributed to a team not among the first 10.

Schertz Steele is ranked 10th, receiving 29 points. Denton Ryan has the top tally among teams not in the Top

10 with 26.

The Steers have more than twice the points of district rivals Frenship (5) and Abilene Cooper (3) combined. Both Frenship and Cooper suffered losses this weekend. Frenship fell to Abilene Wylie — ranked fifth in Class 3A — 21-7, while Cooper was downed by crosstown rival Abilene High, 49-37.

Having Cooper and Frenship take on its first losses of the season probably contributed to the increase of votes for the Steers. Also, Big Spring's prolific offensive numbers, scoring 55 points in a win over Pampa, might have also drawn the attention of many

voters.

It's the second consecutive week the Steers have had ballots with their name on it casted. Last week, following a 27-21 victory over then No. 4 Denison, the Steers received four points.

Denison, despite losing to the Steers, was given seven points. However, the Yellow Jackets also saw a dip in its tally, receiving a single point in this week's poll. Denison defeated Wichita Falls 33-14 last week.

The Steers host Andrews at 7:30 p.m. Friday as apart of Big Spring High's annual homecoming celebration.

Associated Press Texas high school Class 4A poll				
School	Rec	Pts	Prv	
1. Longview	3-0	247	1	
2. Lake Travis	3-0	216	2	
3. Denton Guyer	3-0	209	3	
4. Hewitt Midway	3-0	149	6	
5. Ennis	2-0	132	8	
6. Sulphur Springs	3-0	125	10	
7. Waxahachie	2-0	66	-	
8. Angleton	3-0	53	-	
9. Highland Park	2-1	35	4	
10. Schertz Steele	2-1	29	5	

Others receiving votes: Denton Ryan 26, Big Spring 20, Brenham 20, Aledo 13, Austin Travis 9, Lake Dallas 7, Wolfforth Frenship 5, Everman 4, Hutto 4, Friendswood 3, Abilene Cooper 3, Vidor 2, CC Calallen 2, Lumberton 1, Killeen 1, Denison 1.

Bothered, not worried Cowboys want to sharpen defense

JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — Bradie James and Ken Hamlin were so upset with the way the Dallas Cowboys' defense played in the opener against Tampa Bay that they had trouble sleeping.

Keith Brooking was so angry that he showed up to work early Monday and watched the game film by himself to get a head-start on cleaning up the problems, many of which were self-inflicted.

"It wasn't anything they were doing to us," Brooking said. "We just have to be more disciplined."

Instead of lining up in their base defense and daring the Buccaneers to beat them, the Cowboys came out trying to force big plays — and wound up preventing themselves from making the routine ones.

Tampa Bay ran right through some gaping holes, piling up the yards while keeping the score tight most of the first half. Then Dallas went back to basics and slowed the Buccaneers long enough for Tony Romo and the offense to send the Cowboys rolling



AP photo/Chris O'Meara

Tampa Bay Buccaneers running back Derrick Ward (28) hurdles Dallas Cowboys cornerback Mike Jenkins (21) during the third quarter of an NFL game Sunday in Tampa, Fla.

See COWBOYS, Page 13

Despite deaths, schools resist changing heat guidelines

PAUL J. WEBER

Associated Press Writer

SAN ANTONIO — A leading researcher says at least three teenage football players died as school practices started up this summer, fatalities which followed new health warnings to coaches about the risks of heat stroke.

Autopsy results are not complete yet, and three deaths is about average for the sport in most years. But athletic trainers who urged high school coaches in June to adopt tougher safety guidelines for football practice were deeply concerned nonetheless.

Several coaches at top prep programs contacted by The Associated Press said they hadn't heard of the recommendations or followed them.

Some called the guidelines, which included no two-a-days during the first week of practice, too restrictive.

"What about all those who get to the ER and are lucky enough to get saved? We want to stop it before it gets to that point," said David Csillan, a New Jersey high school trainer who co-authored the June report by the National Athletic Trainers' Association.

As this football season gets into full swing, a former Kentucky high school coach is standing trial in a player's on-field death. David Jason Stinson is charged with reckless homicide in the death of a 15-year-old Pleasure Ridge Park High School student who collapsed last year at practice. Stinson has pleaded not guilty.

Players in Maryland and Texas, along with another Kentucky student, have died following football practices this year, said Dr. Fred Mueller, director of the National Center for Catastrophic Sports Injury Research at the University of North Carolina.

None of the deaths have been confirmed as heat-related, but each has heightened awareness about heat illness. The first was a 16-year-old in

See HEAT, Page 13

No. 2 Texas gets crack at revenge against Tech

JIM VERTUNO

AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN — While thousands stormed the field to celebrate, Colt McCoy stood on the sideline in stunned silence.

The Texas quarterback had rallied the Longhorns into the lead, then watched as Texas Tech drove to Michael Crabtree's winning touchdown catch with 1 second left on the biggest play of the 2008 season.

Now the Red Raiders (2-0) are coming to Austin and revenge is the buzzword of the week, even if the second-ranked Longhorns (2-0) are publicly trying to avoid it.

"They got us," McCoy said Monday.

"I was just in shock," he said. "That's one of the greatest plays that's ever happened. ... The hardest part is you what you did in that game: The offense

goes down and scores right at the end of the game and we think we've got it won. That's what makes it so hard."

Crabtree's touchdown will go down as one of the most heartbreaking in Longhorns history. Not only for the loss, but the domino effect that followed.

The loss ultimately forced a three-way tie in the Big 12 South, bumping the Longhorns out of a chance to play for the Big 12 title. That honor went to Oklahoma, a team Texas beat on the field. Without a chance to play Missouri — another team Texas beat — they were out of the BCS title game.

By extension, it probably also cost McCoy a chance to win the Heisman Trophy. He was runner-up to Oklahoma's Sam Bradford.

But for everything Texas lost in that 1 second in Lubbock, Longhorns coach

Mack Brown says he won't talk about "revenge" with this team.

"Some people use it but it's not my personality. Revenge is fine if that helps. We tell the players to figure out what turns you on, what excites you. We don't care," Brown said.

McCoy said he's focused not on revenge but trying to win every game this season.

"I've never been a revenge-type guy," McCoy said.

Texas Tech coach Mike Leach seemed unconcerned about whatever may be motivating Texas this week. The Red Raiders can expect 100,000 Texas fans to be thinking revenge the entire night, especially after seeing highlights of Crabtree's TD catch all week.

"It's hard to sustain (revenge) for an

See REVENGE, Page 13

Sports in brief

Sands has strong showing in first cross country meet

The Sands High School cross country team competed in its first meet Saturday. Sands had 18 individuals competing in five different competitive groups at the Slaton Run in the Canyon, ranging from junior high to high school.

The junior varsity boys finished second with Brian Moore placing highest at 14th. The JV girls won their race, led by Meagan Yarbrough, who finished fifth, and Jennifer Gomez, who was 11th.

The only varsity runner was Morgan Yarbrough, who finished 12th in the girls race.

Other results were:

Junior high girls - 13. Stefanie Diaz; 54. Marisol Munoz; 56. Elizabeth Martinez.

Junior high boys - 37. Will McMorris; 42. Austin

Blount.

JV girls - 5. Meagan Yarbrough; 11. Jennifer Gomez; 19. Lani Robles; 21. Angelica Diaz; 28. Alex Robles; 31. Callie McMorris.

JV boys - 14. Brian Moore; 18. A.J. Hernandez; 26. Reuben McMorris; 28. Sean Blaggrave; 38. Jordan Cuellar.

Varsity girls - 12. Morgan Yarbrough.

Big Spring Quarterback Club meeting at ATC Monday

The Big Spring Steers Quarterback Club is meeting 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.

Former Steer Valle now 2-for-2 in college career

Former Big Spring High cross country runner Jordan Valle, who won a Class 4A state title in 2008, is now 2-for-2 in his college career at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

Valle, who was named co-Southland Conference runner of the week, won an impromptu meet at Central Park in College Station. He finished with a time of 21:25, leading the Islanders to a third-place overall finish.

"Jordan looked really good today considering the running conditions and I am proud of what he accomplished today. Other guys also ran well with how wet the course was this morning," said coach Shawn Flanagan.

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Legals

NOTICE OF TAX RATIFICATION ELECTION

To the Registered Voters of Big Spring Independent School District:

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Trustees of Big Spring Independent School District has ordered election to be held on October 10, 2009, for the purpose of conducting a tax rate ratification (rollback) election. Specifically, the following proposition will be on the ballot:

PROPOSITION

----FOR)])])])])]
----AGAINST)])])])])])])])])])])]
APPROVING THE AD VALOREM TAX RATE OF \$1.1990 PER \$100 VALUATION IN BIG SPRING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE CURRENT YEAR, A RATE THAT IS \$.0795 HIGHER PER \$100 VALUATION THAN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ROLLBACK TAX RATE.
Voting on election day will take place at the polling place listed below, which will be open from 7:00a.m. to 7:00p.m. on October 10, 2009.

Election Day Polling Place:
Big Spring High School Library
708 E. 11th Pl.
Big Spring, TX 79720

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each week-day Howard County Courthouse, 300 Main St., 3rd Floor, Big Spring, TX 79720, between the hours of 8:00a.m. and 5:00p.m. beginning on September 23, 2009, and ending on October 6, 2009. Early voting by personal appearance will not take place on Saturdays, Sundays, and legal state holidays. Additional early voting will be held at the following locations, dates and times:

LOCATION	DATES	TIMES
Marcy Elementary School Foyer	2101 Wasson Rd. Big Spring, TX 79720-4612	September 28, 2009 5:00pm-8:00p.m.
Goliad Intermediate School Library	2000 Goliad St. Big Spring, TX 79720-2608	September 29, 2009 5:00p.m.-8:00p.m.
Washington Elementary School Cafeteria	1201 N. Birdwell Lane Big Spring, TX 79720-0213	October 1, 2009 5:00p.m.-8:00p.m.
Big Spring High School Library	707 E. 11th Pl. Big Spring, TX 79720-4648	October 5, 2009 5:00p.m.-8:00p.m.
Moss Elementary School Library	3200 Fordham Ave Big Spring, TX 79720-3531	October 6, 2009

5:00p.m.-8:00p.m.
Big Spring Junior High School
Library
610 E. 6th St
Big Spring, TX 79720
October 6, 2009
5:00p.m.-8:00p.m.
Applications for ballots by mail shall be mailed to:
Saundra Bloom
Early Voting Clerk
PO Box 1069
Big Spring, TX 79721

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on October 2, 2009.
Issued this 4th day of August, 2009.
By: Debbie Green
Secretary,
Big Spring ISD Board of Trustees

A VISO DE ELECCIONES PARA LA RATIFICACION DE IMPUESTOS

A los votantes registrados del Distrito escolar independiente de Big Spring:

Por la presente se comunica que el Consejo de administracion del Distrito escolar independiente de Big Spring ha ordenado la celebracion de elecciones el dia 10 de octubre de 2009, con el proposito de llevar a cabo elecciones para la ratificacion de impuestos (rollback). Especificamente, la siguiente propuesta aparecera impresa en las boletas electorales.

PROPUESTA

----A FAVOR)])])])])]
----EN CONTRA)])])])])])])])])])])]
APROBAR LA TASA IMPOSITIVA AD VALOREM DE \$1.1990 POR CADA \$100 DE VALORACION EN EL DISTRITO ESCOLAR INDEPENDIENTE DE BIG SPRING PARA EL ANO EN CURSO, UNA TASA QUE ES \$.0795 MAS ELEVADA POR CADA \$100 DE VALORACION QUE LA TSA IMPOSITIVA ACTUALIZADA (ROLLBACK) DEL DISTRITO ESCOLAR.

La votacion el dia de las elecciones se llevara a cabo en el centro electoral abajo escrito, que estara abierto desde las 7:00 de la manana hasta las 7:00 de la tarde el 10 de octubre de 2009.

centro electoral el dia de las elecciones:

Big Spring High School Library
(Biblioteca de la escuela secundaria)
708 E. 11th Pl.
Big Spring, TX 79720

La votacion adelantada en persona se llevara a cabo de lunes a viernes, en el Juzgado del Condado de Howard, 300 Main St., tercer piso, Big Spring, TX 79720, entre las 8:00 de la manana y las 5:00 de la tarde, a partir del 23 de septiembre de 2009 y terminando el 6 de octubre de 2009. La votacion adelantada en persona no tendra lugar los sabados, domingos o dias festivos estatales legales.

Ademas, la votacion adelantada se celebrara en los siguientes lugares en las fechas y horarios indicados:

LUGAR FECHA HORARIO
Marcy Elementary School
Foyer
(Vestibulo e la escuela primaria Marcy)
2101 Wasson Rd
Big Spring, TX 79720-4612
28 de septiembre de 2009
De 5:00 de la tarde a 8:00 de la tarde
Goliad Intermediate School
Library
(Biblioteca de la escuela intermedia Goliad)
2000 Goliad St
Big Spring, TX 79720-2608
29 de septiembre de 2009
De 5:00 de la tarde a 8:00 de la tarde
Washington Elementary School
Cafeteria
(Cafeteria de la escuela primaria Washington)
1201 N. Birdwell Lane
Big Spring, TX 79720-0213
1 de octubre de 2009
De 5:00 de la tarde a 8:00 de la tarde
Big Spring High School
Library
(Biblioteca de la escuela secundaria de Big Spring)
707 E. 11th Pl
Big Spring, TX 79720-4648
5 de octubre de 2009
De 5:00 de la tarde a 8:00 de la tarde
Moss Elementary School
Library
(Biblioteca de la escuela primaria Moss)
3200 Fordham Ave.
Big Spring, TX 79720-3531
6 de octubre de 2009
De 5:00 de la tarde a 8:00 de la tarde
Big Spring Junior High School
Library
(Biblioteca de la escuela secundaria de Big Spring)
610 E. 6th St
Big Spring, TX 79721
6 de octubre de 2009
De 5:00 de la tarde a 8:00 de la tarde

Las solicitudes de boletas para votar por correo se deben enviar a:
Saundra Bloom
Early Voting Clerk
PO Box 1069
Big Spring, TX 79721

Las solicitudes de boletas para votar por correo se deben recibir antes del cierre comercial el dia 2 de octubre de 2009.
Hecho publico este dia 4 de agosto de 2009
Por: Debbie Green
ecretario,
Consejo de administracion del Distrito escolar independiente de Big Spring
#6266 September 15, 2009

Neptune is a higher octave of Venus. While Venus rules romantic love, Neptune rules agape love, compassion and philanthropy. The opposition between Venus and Neptune is exact today, and our loving feelings will have a wide range. You might go from feeling platonic, parental, peaceful and passionate — all within the span of a few hours.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You've let yourself get away with a few small infractions of your own rules. But if you don't abide by your code, you're not being who you want to be. It's time to crack down.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You have the talent of an actor. You are able to change something about yourself in order to fit the role you want. The question remains: Is this opportunity worth the effort it will take for you to do so?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your impressions vary from those of a close friend. In fact, your friend has such a vastly different opinion that you'll wonder if you are witnessing the same thing at all. You will be richer for understanding this other point of view.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You extend your hospitality, talent and effort to a person who interests

Tomorrow's Horoscope

you. At the time, you may not be sure why you are moved to do this, but go forward anyway. The new connections you make will be lucky.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll be the exception to a rule. This requires someone to go out on a limb for you. This person will be willing to do so again if you are appreciative. A written note will be your most gracious response.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You want the people around you to behave in a certain way. Even though you know you cannot control them, there is a way you can influence them. You'll make yourself into the standard you want others to follow.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You play to win, and win you will. Unfortunately, there is no time for gloating. Get right back in the game and play again. After you've won three in a row, you can afford to take a break.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). A light and breezy attitude will allow you great flexibility. Stay cheerful, and you'll be ready for anything and everything that happens. Evening brings a special creative spark.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). This is a fine time to take in your favorite media — shows, books, songs and whatever strikes your fancy. While you enjoy a story or some other artistic expression, your energy will get recharged.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You are wise to gather different opinions on an issue. Intelligent insights will be of interest, but it's your talks with silly people that will truly delight you, or at the very least give you fodder for a rambling fantasy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have all the facts already, but they are like a puzzle that doesn't make sense until you rearrange the pieces. Tonight you will start to see the correct order — the real truth of the matter.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Long ago you put in many hours of practice on a subject, and now you will put your expertise to practical use. You have no idea what you can do. You only learn after you've already done it.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 15). You get serious about attaining a certain goal, but you never lose your sense of humor this

year. Now through October you'll expand your knowledge and become a respected expert. The levity with which you approach relationships will bring about hilarious scenarios and spur-of-the-moment fun. Sagittarius and Capricorn people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 10, 33, 23 and 17.

How To Work This Mercury Retrograde (Instead of Letting it Work You.) Part Five:

Mercury is transiting retrograde through the sign that rules relationships, Libra. The mischievous planet promises to stir things up in our personal lives, but his aim isn't really to cause trouble. Through all the miscommunication and disconnection, Mercury retrogrades can teach us how to communicate and connect.

SAGITTARIUS: One relationship in particular will have your attention through the next two weeks. Things are not what they used to be in this connection. If you focus on what you're not getting, you'll only have more to complain about. Instead, use this transit to get focused on what you want your relationships to be like, and start creating it.

CAPRICORN: In some cases, the formalities around a relationship have kept you from expressing your wishes. The social mask you've worn has been appropriate until now, but things have changed. This Mercury retrograde is inviting you, little by little, to let down your guard. Instead of worrying about whether your actions will please the other person, ask yourself what you want. When you follow your bliss, it might not work out, but you'll be happier for being authentically you.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: **Prince Harry** is a committed military man who has been honored with a medal for his service in the frontlines of the Afghan war. This remarkable Virgo was born under a grounded Taurus moon. His natal Mars, the warrior planet, is in Sagittarius, a passionate, worldly and adventurous station. His natal Venus in Libra bodes well for attracting harmonious and balanced relationships.

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Legals

NOTICE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF HOWARD, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that a SPECIAL meeting of the Howard County Commissioner's Court will be held on the 28th day of September, 2009, at 10:00 A.M. in the Commissioners Courtroom, second floor, Howard County Courthouse, 300 Main St., Big Spring, Texas at which time the following subjects will be discussed.

1. PUBLIC HEARING- re: SB1685, District Clerk Technology Fund
 2. Adjourned
- Dated this the 31st day of August, 2009
Mark Barr
County Judge, Howard County
ATTEST:
Colleen Barton
District Clerk, Howard County
#6267 September 15, 2009

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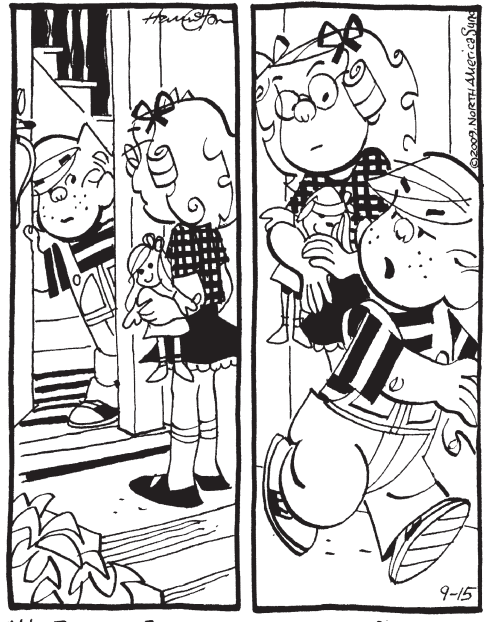
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5:PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias CBS	News NBC	Raymond Friends	Scrivner Uri Harel	BBC Business	Cash Cab	Astronaut Farmer, Bruce Dern	UFC Un-leashed	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Suite Life	Horn Interrupt	SportsCenter
6:PM	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Gancho	Two Men	News CBS	12 Cora-zones	News NBC	Seinfeld	Dr. Young Harris	News-Lehrer Made	Cash Cab	UFC Un-leashed	Bones			Wizards of Waverly Place	E:60	NFL Live
7:PM	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Nombre-Amor	More to Love	Entertain NCIS	Más Sabe el Diabolo	The Biggest Loser	Seinfeld	Upd Fam. Guy	Nova (DVS)	Swords: Life Made	Movie: Raising Helen, Joan Cusack	Surviving Disaster	Bones	Movie: The Salon, Darrin Dewitt Henson	Movie: Gotta Kick It Up	E:60	World Series
8:PM	Shaq Vs.	Shaq Vs.	Mañana es		(:01) Big Brother 11	Pobres		Upd Fam. Guy	Light of the Southwest	Retirement Revolution	Swords: Life	Movie: Ocean's Twelve, Matt Damon	Surviving Disaster	Bones	Movie: Half Baked, Jim Breuer	Phineas Montana	E:60	World Series
9:PM	Primetime	Primetime	Aquí y Ahora	Simpsons Friends		Victorinos	The Jay Leno Show	Office		P.O.V.	The Colony	Movie: Ocean's Twelve, Matt Damon	Surviving Disaster	Hawthorne	Frankie W. Williams	Wizards of Waverly Place	NFL's Greatest Game	Baseball Tonight
10:PM	News Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	TMZ	News Late Show	Noticias Decisiones	News Tonight Show	Sex & Decisions	Ministerio-Vida	BBC T. Smiley	Swords: Life	Movie: CSI: Crime Scn	Surviving Disaster	Saving Grace	W. Williams	Wizards of Waverly Place	Super Bwl	SportsCenter
11:PM	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Jimmy Kimmel Live	El Grito de México	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones	Late Night-Jim	Movie: The Great Outdoors	Upd Church	Light of the Southwest	The Colony	Mad Men	Amazing Video	Saving Grace	Kim	Replace World Series	NASCAR	SportsCenter
12:AM	News Paid	News Paid	Mujer...	Güereja	RENO 911	Paid	Pelicula:	Poker After Dark	Harvey		A Haunting	Movie: Disorderly	Disorderly	Cold Case	W. Williams	Emperor Dragon	World Series	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



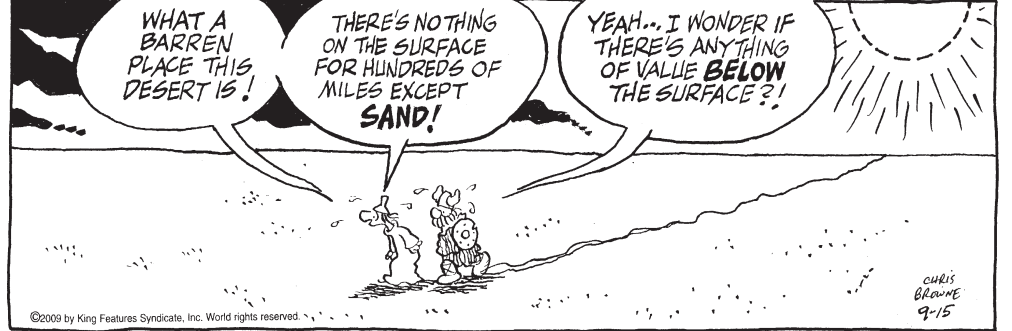
"Hi, Dennis. I came over to play."
"Okay... let's get it over with!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

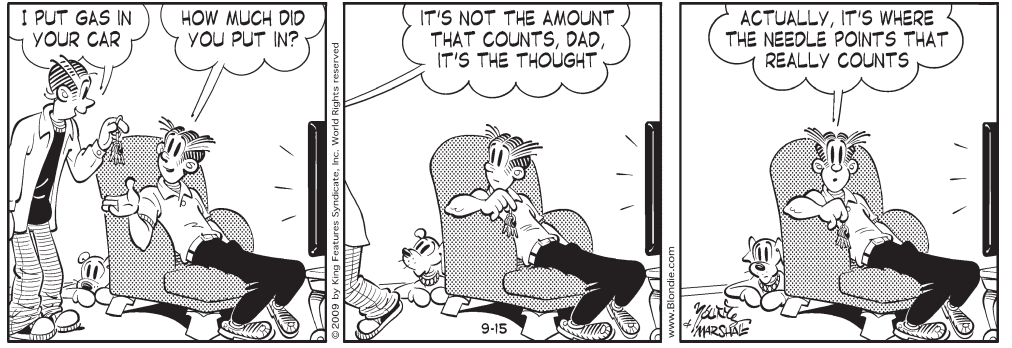


"But the ceiling's clean!"

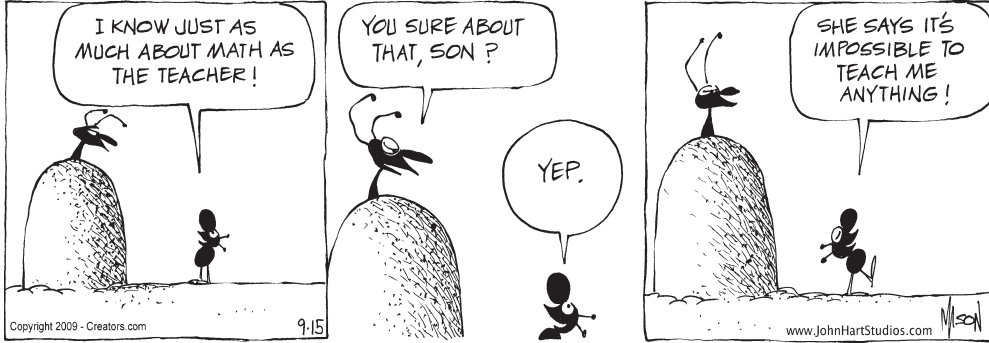
HAGAR



BLONDIE



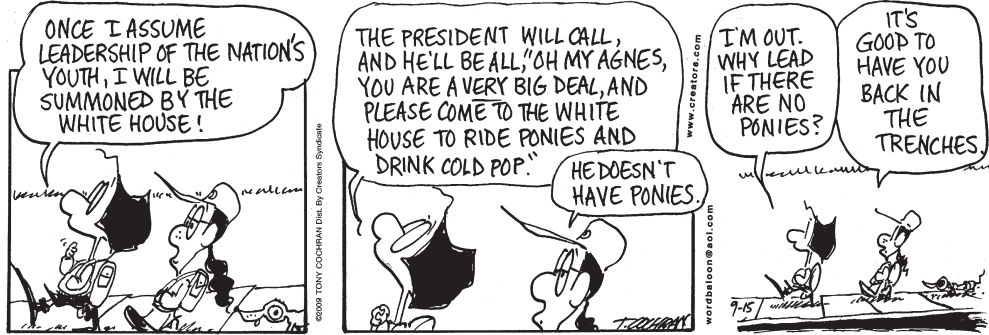
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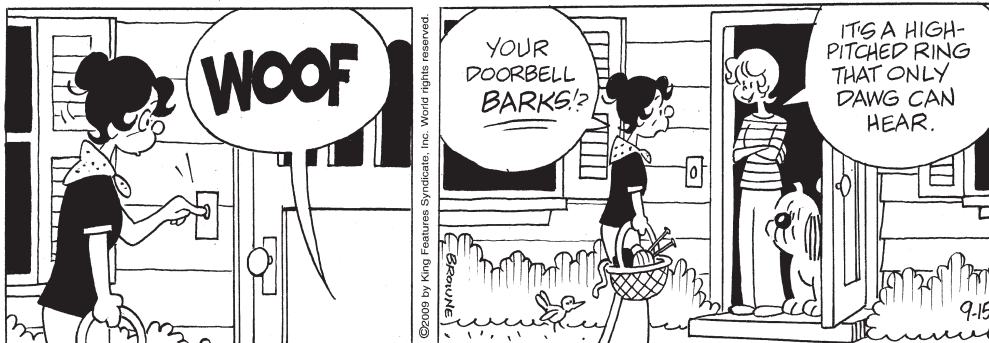
WIZARD OF ID



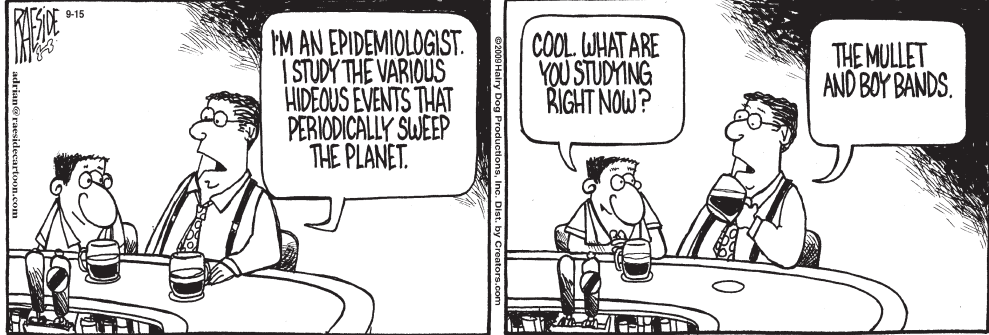
AGNES



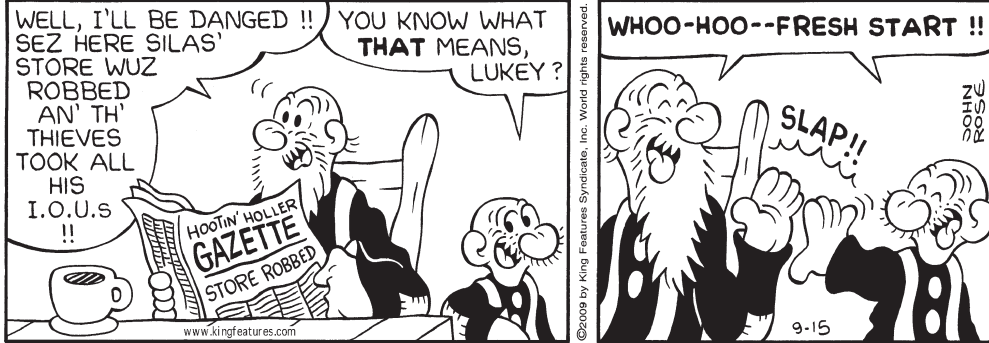
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 15, the 258th day of 2009. There are 107 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 15, 1959, Nikita Khrushchev became the first Soviet head of state to visit the United States as he arrived at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington, where he was greeted by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. The two leaders then met at the White House; a joint communique afterward described the talks as "friendly and frank."

On this date: In 1776, British forces occupied New York City during the American Revolution.

In 1789, the U.S. Department of Foreign Affairs was renamed the Department of State.

In 1807, former Vice President Aaron Burr was acquitted of a misdemeanor charge two weeks after he was found not guilty of treason.

In 1821, the Kingdom of

Guatemala proclaimed its independence from Spain.

In 1857, William Howard Taft — who served as president of the United States and as U.S. chief justice — was born in Cincinnati.

In 1935, the Nuremberg Laws deprived German Jews of their citizenship.

In 1940, during the Battle of Britain in World War II, the tide turned as the Luftwaffe sustained heavy losses inflicted by the Royal Air Force.

In 1949, "The Lone Ranger" premiered on ABC television with Clayton Moore as the masked hero and Jay Silverheels as Tonto.

In 1963, four black girls were killed when a bomb went off during Sunday services at the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala. (Three Ku Klux Klansmen were eventually convicted for their roles in the blast.)

In 1982, Iran's former foreign minister, Sadegh Ghotbzadeh, was executed after he was convicted of plotting against the government.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-director Jackie Cooper is 87. Actor Forrest Compton is 84. Comedian Norm Crosby is 82.

Actor Henry Darrow is 76. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Gaylord Perry is 71. Football Hall-of-Famer Merlin Olsen is 69. Opera singer Jessye Norman is 64. Writer-director Ron Shelton is 64. Actor Tommy Lee Jones is 63. Movie director Oliver Stone is 63. Rock musician Mitch Dorge (Crash Test Dummies) is 49. Football Hall-of-Famer Dan Marino is 48. Actor Danny Nucci is 41. Rap DJ Kay Gee is 40. Actor Josh Charles is 38. Singer Ivette Sosa (Eben's Crush) is 33. Britain's Prince Henry of Wales is 25.

Thought for Today: "Somewhere the Sky touches the Earth, and the name of that place is the End." — African saying.

Answer to previous puzzle

ATLAS	OKAY	LOB
LEASE	PILOT	ECO
PACKAGETOUR	TAR	
RESTON	TRESTLE	
	EASE	AHEAD
GOCART	RAFTER	
ORALS	TRIES	HMO
WERE	BOARD	BEAU
NOD	RUNNY	GRANT
	HEADED	HORDES
SOLD	SEAS	
WALKUPS	MISSED	
AND	BILLCLINTON	
TOE	SNIPE	PATIO
SER	APSE	SPENT

Newsday Crossword

GAMES FOR TWO by Billie Truitt

Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 66 Potter's material | 11 Part of the eye | 40 Unaided sight |
| 1 Box-office draw | 67 Give away a secret | 12 Heap | 41 Strong glue |
| 5 Monastery members | 68 Rustic stopovers | 13 Pepper's partner | 42 Skirt's edge |
| 10 "My ___ are sealed" | 69 Voice quality | 21 Intense anger | 47 Dog chain |
| 14 Melody | 70 Large gathering | 22 Elementary company | 49 Undecided, on a TV schedule |
| 15 Just right | 71 Hand over | 27 Botch | 50 Frantic |
| 16 Diva's solo | | 28 Mine product | 52 Be untruthful with |
| 17 Egg on | | 30 Scrapes by, with "out" | 54 Make amends |
| 18 Hokey | | 31 Nothing more than | 55 In good condition |
| 19 Run-of-the-___ (ordinary) | | 32 Otherwise | 56 Of few words |
| 20 Two-person table game | | 33 Type of electrical adapter | 57 Religious offshoot |
| 22 Come at from all sides | | 34 "Off with you!" | 58 Angelic ring |
| 23 Scornful look | | 35 Metric weight, for short | 59 Strong ___ ox |
| 24 Bowl of greens | | 37 High card | 61 Rooster's cry |
| 26 Floor model | | | 62 Take care of |
| 29 "See if I care!" | | | 64 Pampering initials |
| 33 Inquire | | | |
| 36 Historical period | | | |
| 38 Five-cent piece | | | |
| 39 Two-person board game | | | |
| 43 Swim back and forth | | | |
| 44 Snaky fish | | | |
| 45 Observe | | | |
| 46 Backyard barbecue | | | |
| 48 Legend | | | |
| 51 Throw out | | | |
| 53 Wild animal | | | |
| 57 Like a tree-lined street | | | |
| 60 Two-person pencil-and-paper game | | | |
| 63 Lighten, as a burden | | | |
| 64 Over yonder | | | |
| 65 Take the show on the road | | | |

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REVENGE

Continued from Page 8

entire 60 minutes out there," Leach said. "At some point you got to worry about doing your job and playing well."

Brown says he's seen enough of Crabtree's catch and won't watch last season's game again. He watched the tape the morning after "three or four

times," but can't stomach it any more.

"If I get home and it's on (ESPN) Classic, I won't turn it on," Brown said. "I move forward. You can't lay and wallow in it."

Texas went into Lubbock ranked No. 1 and quickly found itself down 19-0.

The Longhorns took a 33-32 lead behind two touchdown passes from McCoy to Malcolm Williams and Vondrell McGee's 4-yard touchdown run with 1:29 to play.

The Red Raiders marched down the field and Texas had a chance to wrap it up when freshman safety Blake Gideon dropped what should have been an interception off a tipped ball.

One play later, Crabtree scooted into the end zone, sending Tech fans onto the field not once, but twice.

The first time they did it without realizing there was still 1 second on the clock. After game officials restored order, the crowd flooded the field again when the game was finally

over.

Tech couldn't keep it rolling. A tough game the next week against Baylor was followed by a blowout loss at Oklahoma. Then came a bowl game loss to Mississippi.

Meanwhile, Texas has kept a low burn simmering for its chance at revenge, even if they don't want to call it that.

"A new year, a new team," linebacker Sergio Kindle said. "Hopefully, we'll come out with a different outcome."

HEAT

Continued from Page 8

Germantown, Md., who died four days after collapsing during voluntary workouts in July.

A Kentucky player later that month became disoriented during practice and later died, though school officials have said heat was not a factor. Temperatures were in the 70s at the time.

Most recent was a 13-year-old found dead in Vernon, Texas, the morning after his middle school's first football practice last month. Area temperatures during the Aug. 24 practice soared high as 105 degrees.

Brent Shinn McGhee had epilepsy, but his father has said he believes the sweltering heat played a role in his

son's death. School officials in Vernon, a small town along the Oklahoma state line, have defended the safety measures used by their coaches.

"Putting kids through this to win a football game," Brock McGhee said. "It makes no sense."

At least 39 players have died from heat-related causes since 1995, not counting the three deaths this year, according to Mueller. Most of those cases happened in early August.

Heat safety is preached every pre-season by sports medicine experts. But many high school coaches remain reluctant to change how they practice, and bristle at the inference that their players are in danger.

"Sometimes people think coaches are totally stupid when it comes to this stuff," Katy (Texas) High School coach Gary Joseph last month. "We're

not going to do anything to endanger these kids."

In Peoria, Ariz., Centennial High School coach Richard Taylor said he hadn't seen the NATA recommendations before his team began practicing but was interested. Taylor said he wanted to make sure the school was doing the right thing, and added that most of his players get acclimated to the heat during informal summer workouts.

NATA seized on the Stinson's criminal charges in Kentucky this summer when it recommended that high school football teams take longer breaks, along with the prohibition on two-a-days during the first week of workouts.

The report focused on the first two weeks of practice in August, and the guidelines are similar to what the NCAA already enforces.

Some high school coaches dismissed the proposals as unnecessarily restrictive. Others stood by their safeguards.

"Our training staff is constantly looking at the best methods to make sure our players are taken care of the best way possible," said George Smith, football coach and athletic director at St. Thomas Aquinas in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Resisting change is common, said Dr. Michael Bergeron, director of the National Institute for Athletic Health & Performance. His survey of 540 high school programs in 2005 found that very few coaches were willing to make major adjustments to their practice regiments.

"They say, quite frankly, 'We're going to do what we're going to do,'" Bergeron said. "It's really tough changing their minds."

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 8

toward a 34-21 victory.

Winning made the defensive lapses easier to tolerate. Still, veterans like James, Hamlin and Brooking realize Dallas got away with one this time.

Consider: Dallas allowed 450 yards, its most in 36 games and the most the Cowboys gave up and still won in 52 games, according to STATS Inc. They didn't have a sack, despite having led the league last season. They didn't have a turnover, despite lots of fumbles and interceptions. And, perhaps most damning, it all came against an offense breaking in a new quarterback and a coordinator on the job only 10 days.

In his first game since adding defensive coordinator duties to his role as head coach, Wade Phillips opened the game with a lot of movement and shifting by defensive linemen and by calling a lot of run blitzes. He didn't want to merely stop the Bucs, he wanted to slam them.

"We wanted to be aggressive," Phillips said.

But the plan backfired.

Sometimes it was because the plays were poorly executed. Sometimes it was because the Bucs' offense called the perfect play to beat it. And, sometimes, both things happened.

Byron Leftwich, Cadillac Williams and the Bucs went 60 yards in nine plays on their first series, then had a field goal try blocked. They were even better on their next drive, covering 78 yards in 11 plays to score a touchdown and go ahead.

"We were like, 'Wow, what's going on?'" James said.

After Tampa Bay covered 34 yards on its next drive, James and Brooking realized something had to change.

"Bradie and Keith, veteran linebackers, they notice things real fast, and as soon as we got to the sideline they were letting the coaches know, 'Listen, we just need to line up head-to-head,'" defensive lineman Marcus Spears said. "And when we

made that adjustment it was a good thing for us."

The Bucs had just two first downs on their next five series. The Cowboys came out of that stretch leading 20-7.

"We just played ball and we were able to kind of control the run again," James said. "We made the plays when it counted."

Although this is a new season, some of these concerns aren't all that new.

In the final two games of last season, Dallas allowed 265 yards rushing and 388 total yards in a loss against Baltimore, then allowed 137 yards rushing and 303 total yards in a loss at Philadelphia.

Tampa Bay kept the trend going with 174 yards rushing. And, up next, the Cowboys will have to face the New York Giants and a running game led by burly back Brandon Jacobs.

James is looking forward to the challenge — and the lack of surprises. After all, Jacobs and the Giants are familiar foes so, unlike the Bucs, they have a better idea of what is coming and how to stop it.

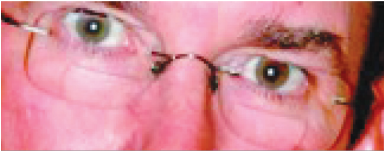
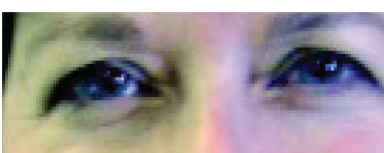



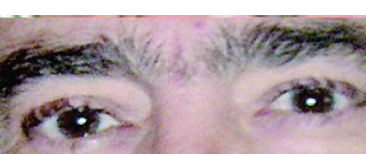
"We won't reinvent the wheel," James said. "We've just got to go out and play good defense, corral and populate the ball. ... This is a copycat league. I'm sure they will try to do a couple of things the Bucs did. But the Giants are the Giants. They're going to do what they know how to do, and they're going to do it real well. It's up to us to match their intensity and outplay them."

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Can you guess who these six pair of eyes belong to?

Contest will run in The Big Spring Herald Tuesday and Friday for the next two weeks. To enter, write your guesses down and turn them in at The Herald office at 710 Scurry St. The winner will receive a free three month subscription of The Big Spring Herald, dinner for two at Brenda's BBQ & More and Cowboy's Steakhouse.

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Texans need offense on track

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston's formerly high-powered offense was nowhere to be found in the season opener. They'd better figure things out before their trip to Tennessee.

On Monday, with the Titans looming, coach Gary Kubiak continued to shoulder most of the blame for the 24-7 loss to the Jets. He said he saw confusion among some veteran offensive linemen, players who have spent more time together than almost anyone on the team.

"When there's confusion going on with those guys ... that's telling you that you're doing something wrong," Kubiak said. "So we've got to take a hard look at ourselves as coaches and make sure that we don't have these players confused. I'm seeing some mistakes from those guys that I haven't seen in the past."

Houston's offense ranked third in the NFL last season with more than 382 yards a game. On Sunday, it managed just 183.

Players and coaches said getting behind early put them in a situation where they had to abandon the running game and pass too much, making it easier for the Jets to contain the offense.

"We played a game totally out of whack as far as throwing it and running it," Kubiak said. "That's not us. This team can't win that way. We got behind and started throwing it every down. We're not going to win football games that way."

Another problem was Andre Johnson, who led the NFL with 1,575 yards receiving last season, finishing with four receptions for 35 yards. Quarterback Matt Schaub said the Jets were double teaming Johnson most of the day, but didn't use that as an excuse. When that happens, he said, other players should be open to help Houston's offense go.

That didn't happen with Andre' Davis, who was

filling in at the second receiver spot for the injured Kevin Walter, managing just three receptions for 14 yards.

A major issue is the health of Schaub, who has missed five games in each of his first two seasons in Houston. He sprained his ankle two weeks ago against the Vikings and didn't look like himself against the Jets.

"He could do enough for us to win," Kubiak said. "He was obviously not 100 percent, but he was close. He could play the position. I wouldn't put him out there if I didn't think he could do the things that we have to do to win."

The Texans should get a boost this week with the return of Walter, the team's second-leading receiver a year ago who hasn't practiced since injuring his hamstring two weeks ago. Davis could sit out against the Titans after suffering a concussion late in Sunday's loss.

Johnson couldn't explain why the Texans struggled so much in their opener after playing so well late last season. He just wanted to talk about what they can do to move past such a disappointing performance.

"Just go win a game," he said. "Plain and simple. There's no reason to talk about it. You just have to go win a game."

NOTES: Kubiak discussed CB Dunta Robinson wearing shoes he had made with the words 'pay me Rick,' for GM Rick Smith during Sunday's game. Robinson remains miffed about no long-term contract with the team despite signing his franchise tender more than a week ago. "I found out after the game," Kubiak said. "I didn't know anything about it. I'm disappointed, but it's been dealt with as a football team and it's been dealt with as an organization." He said there would be no suspension or fine for the action.

A's drill Rangers

ARLINGTON (AP) — Brett Tomko earned his 100th major league victory in style.

The right-hander pitched a five-hitter for his milestone win and the Oakland Athletics dealt a blow to Texas' playoff hopes, routing the Rangers 9-0 on Monday night.

"If you're going to do it, do it the right way," said Tomko, who threw 114 pitches in his second career shutout. "That makes it more memorable."

Released by the New York Yankees on July 29, Tomko (5-3) struck out three and didn't walk a batter in his 13th career complete game. He outpitched Scott Feldman, snapping the right-hander's seven-game winning streak.

Tomko retired the first two batters in the ninth inning before Julio Borbon singled to left. The 36-year-old journeyman finished things off by retiring Elvis Andrus on a grounder to shortstop.

"We were going to let him go," Oakland manager Bob Geren said. "Obviously, his pitch count wasn't high. We were going to give him every opportunity to finish as long as the game wasn't in jeopardy."

The Rangers have lost three of their first four on a nine-game homestand, falling 4½ games behind Boston for the AL wild card. It's the farthest Texas has been out of a playoff spot all season.

Texas was shut out for the second consecutive game and has not scored in 19 innings.

"It's frustrating," Ian Kinsler said. "We didn't have a good night. We've had a rough couple games."

Mavericks keep Singleton, release Buckner

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Mavericks are keeping forward James Singleton and getting rid of guard Greg Buckner.

Singleton, a restricted free agent, looked around but decided to stick with Dallas since he already has a year invested with coach Rick Carlisle and his system. The 6-foot-8 Singleton showed his versatility by playing every position but point guard last season.

Buckner's departure was no surprise.

A 1998 draftee who already has had two stints with the Mavs, Buckner arrived as part of the four-team trade that brought Shawn Marion to Dallas in July. The Mavericks were hoping to use his buy-out-friendly contract (due only \$1 million on a \$4 million deal) as part of a trade, but let him go Monday so he can have time to get invited to another team's training camp.



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