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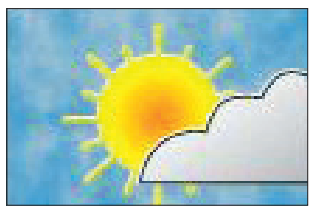
Lady Steers win big
Page 7



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BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 16, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 245

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Survey says ... FISD can be more green

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

FORSAN — Just like everyone else, the school district here is looking for ways to save money on utility bills. Forsan Independent School District officials are in the process of hiring engineer-

ing consultants to formulate ways to help make the district's infrastructure more energy efficient.

Officials with the State Energy Conservation Office recently conducted an "energy audit" of district buildings in hopes of finding cost-saving

procedures at FISD, Superintendent Randy Johnson said.

"They did a survey at the end of last school year," Johnson said. "The engineers reviewed their findings with the board and gave us some very specific data about how much money we could save if

we adopt some of their measures.

Some of these measures, such as installing more energy efficient light bulbs throughout the district, will cost the district more than \$100,000 to implement but would eventually result in

savings, Johnson noted.

"There will be an investment up front," he said, "but these measures should pay for themselves within seven years."

The district is in negotiation. See **FISD**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

What used to be the track at Blankenship Field is now a small mountain of debris after workers ripped up the old surface and foundation Tuesday morning. Construction on a new track is scheduled to begin soon.

Symphony season set for kickoff

By **BILL McCLELLAN**
News Editor

John Giordano will be the guest speaker for the Big Spring Symphony Association's 2009-2010 season kickoff dinner Thursday at Big Spring Country Club.



Giordano

Giordano, who will also conduct Saturday's "Symphonic Classics in the Movies" concert at Big Spring High School auditorium, is familiar to the local symphony scene.

"Maestro Giordano has had a very colorful and interesting career, working with many of the world's premier orchestras and artists," said Dr. Keith Graumann, conductor and music director of the Big Spring Symphony. "It's always wonderful to have him in Big Spring."

Thursday's dinner will get under way at

See **DINNER**, Page 3

Time running out for fair queen entries

What: Howard County Fair Queen contest entries.

When: The deadline to enter is Oct. 1.

How: Obtain forms at Posy Cotton Office, Howard County Extension Office or online at www.howardcountyfairoftexas.com.

By **JOHN A. MOSELEY**
Managing Editor

With the deadline for entries fast approaching, Howard County Fair officials say there is still time for girls interested in the Howard County Fair Queen's Pageant to get their contestant entries submitted.

The pageant will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1, under the entertainment tent on the fairgrounds. Contestants should arrive at 5 p.m. and be

attired in an evening gown.

"There's still time, but the deadline is one week from today (Sept. 23)," said Nancy Howard, who along with Janiece Barnes, serves as both a pageant coordinator and a fair board director. "But it is important to note that each club, both social and fraternal; religious groups; businesses; and civic and school organization from Howard County and our adjoining counties is allowed one contestant."

Although the contestant

doesn't need to be a member of the sponsoring organization, Howard added, she must be a resident of Howard County or an adjoining county. She must also be enrolled in an area high school, college or SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf, as well as single and never have been married or had children.

Each sponsoring organization is required to pay to contestant's \$35 entry fees and the sponsor's fee must accompany the entry.

Entry forms can be picked up at the Posy Cotton Office or Howard County Extension Office. They can also be downloaded from the fair's Web site at www.howardcountyfairoftexas.com. Entries must be turned in no later than 5 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23, at the Extension office in the basement of the Howard County Courthouse.

Contestants will be graded by a panel of judges on poise,

See **ENTRIES**, Page 3

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www.bigspringherald.com

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Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. Sunday.

Friends of the Libray's annual book sale is coming up and your donations are appreciated. See Page 16.



Reid to be honored as Veteran of Month

Hangar 25 Air Museum has announced that Carl Dale Reid is the museum's Veteran of the Month for September.

A reception in his honor will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday in the museum's Briefing Room. The public is encouraged to attend.

Reid served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was a gunner stationed in Hawaii and Okinawa. He earned Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbons, the Good Conduct Medal and a Victory Medal.

For more information on Thursday's reception, the Veteran of the Month program or Hangar 25 Air Museum call 264-1999.



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Obituaries

Craig Richardson

Craig Richardson, 50, of Big Spring died Monday, Sept. 14, 2009, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Sept. 18, 2009, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Michael Willard, pastor of Cornerstone Covenant Church, officiating.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

He was born Aug. 18, 1959, in San Bernadino, Calif., and attended Big Spring High School. He had worked in the oilfield for 35 years for various companies.

Survivors include his daughter, Chelsea Lee Richardson of Big Spring; three grandchildren, and several aunts and uncles.

He was preceded in death by his parents, C.L. "Chuck" and Dorothy Richardson.

The family suggests memorials be made to Cossacks Bikes for Tykes, 1610 N. Birdwell Lane, Big Spring 79720.

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

James N. Burns

James N. Burns, 72, of Ackerly died Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009, in a Brownfield hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

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.

The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglect children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. CASA currently has 10 active volunteers to serve the 55 plus children of Howard County in foster care. A class is forming in Howard County and 20 volunteers are needed. For more information on becoming a CASA volunteer, please contact Robyn LaForge at (432) 683-1114.

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

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

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Police blotter

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

- JOANIE LEDESMA, 26, of 818 W. Eighth St., was arrested Tuesday on 23 local warrants.
- JOHNNY TREVINO JR., 19, of 3607 Hamilton, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of theft – more than \$50, less than \$500.
- THEFT was reported in the 700 block of 11th Place.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS OF A HABITATION/SHELTER CENTER was reported in the 2500 block of Dow.
- ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY was reported: in the 2500 block of Langley. in the 600 block of Sixth Street.

Sheriff

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 87 inmates at the time of this report.
- JOE MORRIS HAYS, 53, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction.
 - SAMUEL HERNANDEZ, 55, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
 - JOANIE LEDESMA, 26, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of failure to maintain financial responsibility (three counts), failure to maintain financial responsibility – second offense, no valid inspection certificate, failure to appear (eight counts), no driver's license (three counts), unrestrained child under the age of 5 years, junk vehicle (three counts) and theft.
 - ROBERTO DUTCHOVER PEREZ, 23, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on contempt charges for no safety belt and failure to appear, and charges of abandoning/endangering a child – criminal negligence.
 - JOHNNY RICHARD REYES, 22, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of contempt of court.
 - NATHAN PRECOTT RICHARDSON, 20, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of assault Class C – family violence.
 - JOHNNY TREVINO, 19, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.
 - NICK RODRIGUEZ VALENCIA, 26, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of abandoning/endangering a child – criminal negligence (two counts).
 - JIMMY WILLIS, 39, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of harassment.

Fire/EMS

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

- TRAUMA was reported in the 3200 block of Avenue C. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1200 block of Rannels. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of Dallas. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 900 block of Grafa. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore. Service refused.

Support Groups

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

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

Do you have an Athlete that deserves recognition?

Put Them In The Big Spring Herald Sports Recognition Section

that publishes
Sunday, Sept. 27th & Sunday, Oct. 4th.
Deadline Sept. 21, 2009

The Cost Is Only \$30 for both days
Bring a color photo, name of player, jersey # and school



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or email to:
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Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Thu 9/17	Fri 9/18	Sat 9/19	Sun 9/20	Mon 9/21
81/58 A few clouds from time to time. High 81F. Winds NNE at 10 to 20 mph.	79/57 Mix of sun and clouds. High in the upper 70s and lows in the upper 50s.	81/59 Mix of sun and clouds. High in the upper 80s and lows in the upper 50s.	87/63 A few clouds. High in the upper 80s and lows in the low 60s.	86/60 Mostly sunny. High in the mid 80s and lows in the low 60s.
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	Sunrise: 7:34 AM Sunset: 7:44 PM

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

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abiene	79	61	pt sunny	Kingsville	95	71	mst sunny
Amarillo	73	53	cloudy	Livingston	85	68	t-storm
Austin	84	67	pt sunny	Longview	81	68	rain
Beaumont	88	69	t-storm	Lubbock	77	54	pt sunny
Brownsville	94	73	mst sunny	Lufkin	84	69	t-storm
Brownwood	80	64	t-storm	Midland	81	60	mst sunny
Corpus Christi	92	72	mst sunny	Raymondville	97	74	mst sunny
Corsicana	77	66	rain	Rosenberg	87	69	pt sunny
Dallas	78	68	rain	San Antonio	89	69	pt sunny
Del Rio	91	68	mst sunny	San Marcos	85	68	pt sunny
El Paso	76	61	t-storm	Sulphur Springs	80	67	rain
Fort Stockton	80	59	t-storm	Sweetwater	79	60	pt sunny
Gainesville	80	66	rain	Tyler	81	67	t-storm
Greenville	78	65	rain	Weatherford	80	65	t-storm
Houston	87	70	t-storm	Wichita Falls	83	64	rain

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Lottery


The winning numbers from Tuesday's Mega Millions drawing were: 29, 30, 32, 35 and 41. The Mega Ball number was 39.

The winning numbers in Tuesday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Daily 4Night" game were: 2-3-1-3.

The winning numbers in Tuesday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Cash 5" game were: 06-27-28-30-37.

The winning numbers in Tuesday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Pick 3 Night" game were: 7-6-3.

Big Spring Symphony
presents
"Symphonic Classics in the Movies"



Guest Conductor:
Maestro John Giordano



Music Director & Conductor
Keith Graumann

Big Spring Symphony Assoc. Annual Meeting & Season Ticket Kickoff Dinner, Sept. 17th at The Big Spring Country Club, 6:00 p.m. RSVP 263-9885

Coming Soon to the Big Spring High School

PREMIERES: Saturday, Sept. 19th
WHEN: 8:00 p.m.
WHERE: Big Spring High School Auditorium
707 E. 11th Place

(432) 264-7223
www.bigspringsymphony.com
graumann@suddenlink.net

TICKET OUTLETS: Big Spring Chamber, Big Spring Herald, Blum's Jewelry, Faye's Flowers, Heritage Museum, Western Bank (all branches)



VETERANS FAMILIES FUND



Courtesy photo

David Lee, shown with his wife, Michelle, and daughters Kaedyn, left, and Kyndal, recently received a check for \$500 from the Veterans Families Fund, money donated by Big Spring area residents to help assist families of service personnel who are deployed overseas. Lee received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army in August, shortly after he returned from a year-long tour in Kuwait and Iraq. Donations to the Veterans Families Fund can be made at the Wood Forest National Bank at the Big Spring Wal-Mart Supercenter, 201 W. Marcy Dr. The account number is 5901848.

Fair quilt tickets are still available

Special to the Herald

Those have never seen a Howard County Fair Quilt, have missed a handmade work of art.

Each year, members of the Howard County Fair Board of Directors — assisted by volunteers from the community — spend literally hundreds of hours cross stitching blocks for the quilt of the year. After all the stitching is finished, volunteers join the cross stitched blocks together, in preparation for the final stage of quilting.

This year's quilt is a trellis, complete with hummingbirds, flowers and butterflies. Karen Oliver obtained the pattern, separated the individual block sections, and prepared the packets including needles, thread, frames to hold the squares during stitching, and sewed the completed squares together. Oliver also provided detailed instruction on cross stitch techniques, from beginner to advanced level.

Geraldine Posey spent many hours putting the quilt in the frames and setting the quilting pattern. It took the efforts of 40 women from Howard County, with assistance of two women from out of state, to cross stitch the 70 individual squares and finish the quilt. The quilting stage alone required eight days. Thousands of hours later, the finished quilt is breathtaking, according to organizers.

An opportunity to own the quilt is made possible by purchasing tickets.

Tickets for this quilt are \$1 each or six for \$5, and are available now from any fair board member. Winner of the 2009 Howard County Fair Quilt will be announced Oct. 3. It is not necessary to be present to win.

All proceeds from sale of quilt tickets go to defray expenses of the annual Howard County Fair, which will be held Sept. 30-Oct. 3.

The quilt is on display at Wells Fargo Bank.

DINNER

Continued from Page 1

6 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per person, payable to the Big Spring Symphony Association. Tea, coffee and water will be provided. Adult beverages will also be available.

To RSVP, contact Suzanne Markwell at (432) 268-9335.

Season tickets will be offered at the

dinner, as will sponsorships.

The theme of this year's concert series is "Moving On."

Additional performances will be "A Symphonic Christmas" Dec. 19 at Trinity Baptist Church, "Symphony in Motion" Feb. 20 in the high school auditorium and "Symphony Pops Extravaganza" March 27 at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, featuring entertainer and song writer Paul Williams.

ENTRIES

Continued from Page 1

personality and questions asked by the emcee. All contestants must attend the fair at least three

or four nights and the Fair Queen must attend the Kountry Kids Contest to award trophies Saturday morning.

Prizes for the pageant are \$600 in scholarships to Howard College with the queen receiving a

\$300 scholarship. The first runner-up receives a \$200 scholarship, while the second runner-up's scholarship will be \$100. Miss Congeniality, who is selected by vote of the contestants, will receive a gift.

BSHS speech and debate team places 2nd in Odessa

Special to the Herald

The Big Spring High School speech and debate team placed second at the Odessa High School Speech and Debate Tournament this past weekend.

Youth and numbers were the order of the day for the team, under the direction of Clint and Jennifer Adams.

"This was one of the largest groups that we have ever taken to the first tournament of the year" Jennifer Adams said. "We had 26 students traveling with us, but only nine of them have ever been to a tournament before. When these new students get some experience, we will quickly turn these seconds into firsts."

Clint Adams added, "Our upperclassmen really stepped up for us this past weekend. This is exciting when you stop and consider that we only have four seniors on the team."

A National Speech Tournament qualifier last year, junior Jessica Ru-

bio brought home a first-place trophy in Foreign Extemporaneous Speaking as well as a fifth-place finish in Student Congress. She also placed third in Cross-Examination Debate with her new partner, Shermila Kher.

Fellow nationals qualifier Danielle Freeman placed sixth in United States Extemporaneous speaking as well as bringing home a second-place finish with fellow senior Andrew Lewis. Lewis outdid his partner a bit by placing third in United States Extemp.

Big Spring dominated the relatively new form of debate called Public Forum. The team of Opal Gonzales and Shawn Adams placed first by beating fellow Steers David Rios and Seth Pearson. Tying for third were the teams of John Loveless and Josh Smith, and Sarah Will and Marissa Zavala.

BSHS hosts its own tournament Oct. 30-31. Any help the community can give would be greatly appreciated, Clint Adams said.



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler
Maegan Blocker was named Grady High School homecoming queen during festivities Friday evening. She is escorted by her father, Koy Blocker.

FISD

Continued from Page 1

tion with the Round Rock engineering firm of Energy Systems Associates to implement those recommendations.

Saving energy costs have been an ongoing concern for FISD officials, starting with an audit of the district in 1997.

Those efforts are beginning to show results, Johnson said.

"We had our first en-

ergy audit in 1997," he said. "Compared to then ... we've found that both our campuses have realized some savings."

Officials hope to have a contract with ESA finalized in time for the October trustee meeting, Johnson said.

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

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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

Bill McClellan
News Editor

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

OUR VIEW

Memory Walk needs our all; money, effort

It's still a matter of taking one step at a time. That's the way the local chapter of the Alzheimer's Association is doing its part in the fight against Alzheimer's, as it makes final preparations for the annual Memory Walk on Saturday.

The lion's share of the money raised by the annual event stays where its needed most — right here at home. It helps the families dealing with the disease and offers education and group services they need.

That's why organizers have set a fund-raising goal of \$12,500.

"The money we raise each year stays right here in Howard County," said Nancy Jones, coordinator of the event for the Alzheimer's Association. "But money isn't the end-all, be-all of the Memory Walk or the Alzheimer's Association. We also want to increase awareness ... that's just as important as raising funds."

A percentage of the money raised will also go to research.

That percentage is important, because recent progress in research on Alzheimer's shows just how much can be accomplished with the money raised.

There are a lot of new drugs that are used to treat Alzheimer's, including different drugs for the different phases of the disease. Plus, researchers have also been able to identify some of the genetics that factor in the disease, which also promises new avenues for treatment.

Those who want to participate in the Memory Walk can sign up until the very last moment.

Registration is set for 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the Alice Haynes Pavillion in Comanche Trail Park, right behind the Kids' Zone playground. The walk gets under way at 9 a.m.

And don't worry if you feel you can't walk an entire mile or two. While many will be walking the main courses, Jones said that doesn't mean anyone has to walk any particular distance.

More importantly, you can offer a financial pledge to someone already registered to walk.

Remember, it's all for a good cause. We should give it our complete support.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we give You, Lord, our concerns and thanks for all our blessings.

Amen

Tax policy — true test of society

U.S. tax policy has more loopholes than the Alamo. Not only that, but (you'll be startled to hear) almost all those loopholes favor the wealthy. Who'd have guessed?

Take the capital gains and dividend taxes — they're only about half the top rate levied on regular income. And just who benefits from this largesse? Well, 28 percent of that saving goes to the top 0.01 percent of all taxpayers. That's the top 1/100th of one percent. Sure, this could be a great economic stimulus if those folks all suffered from Imelda Marcos Syndrome and used their savings to buy shoes. Unfortunately they just salt it away.

Nor do the rich have to pay Social Security tax on all their earnings the way the rest of us do. They're capped at around \$100,000. Just removing that cap would cure most of what ails Social Security today.

Then there are the hedge funds. Here in Connecticut, hedge fund capital of the world, we ordinary citizens are miffed that our clever neighbors pay only 15 percent (the capital gains rate), on their "earnings." What

a rip off! And whatever happened to the old capital gains rate of 20 percent? Well, President G.W. Bush got Congress to lower it in order to stimulate the economy. Heckuva job, George.

Yet another gift to the rich is the mortgage interest deduction on your W-2 form. It was sold as an aid to purchasing a home for marginal buyers by giving them a tax break. So who ended up getting the biggest break? Mansion owners.

As the press is careful to note, some of these gifts to the wealthy, the ones included in Bush's 2003 cornucopia to the prosperous, will expire at the end of 2010. Dandy, but Obama campaigned on ending them now.

That promise is fast disappearing.

Congress does not seem up to grappling with taxes in addition to health care and climate change. Indeed Congress does not seem up to grappling with much.

Politically you would think that senators and representatives might be eager to make the rich pay their fair share. They are relatively few in number, after all, and forcing them to pony up would mean more revenue to help attend to the needs of the many. But the rich aren't dumb. They donate a sliver of their stash to congressional campaigns to help lawmakers get reelected. Until we achieve

campaign finance reform, as Connecticut has done, our gold-plated tax laws are unlikely to improve very much.

Of course it's also prudent for compliant congressmen to come up with some sort of policy rationale to use as a fig leaf for obscuring these greed-based tax rates. The one best accepted by the press is that raising taxes on the wealthy would restrain investment.

The media has readily swallowed that stinker although little evidence to support it is ever produced. What really happens is that given an extra windfall, the rich mostly buy up more securities, along with a cute little getaway on St. Kitts.

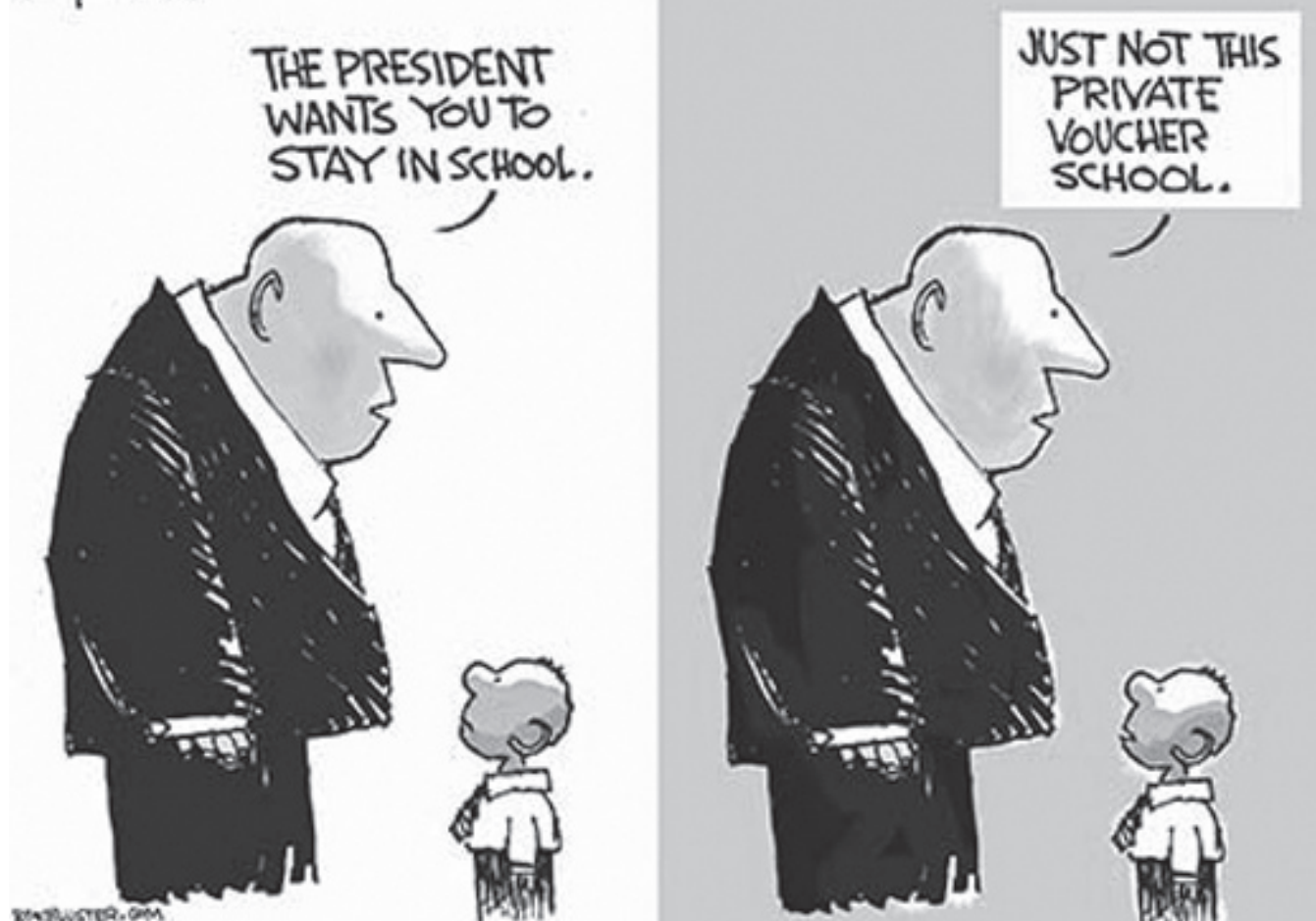
Actually it's the poor who recycle windfalls back into the economy. They can't afford stocks, bonds, or options.

Thus, American disparity of income and wealth continues to grow. This despite the blessed experiences of Japan, Norway and Sweden, countries with much less inequality, which show that sharing the wealth reduces the incidence of criminal, educational, medical and mental problems.

But then again, without such problems what would we columnists have to write about?

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

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YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

Big Spring has a treasure that I am not sure we truly appreciate. Big Spring has a symphony orchestra. Big Spring, a small city of only 25,000 people, has a real live symphony orchestra. No other city this small in this state, and probably very few anywhere, have a symphony orchestra. But Big Spring has a symphony orchestra. And more than that, it is not just a symphony orchestra; it is an outstanding symphony orchestra. The musicians are not amateurs, but are paid professionals who come from miles around simply to play in this symphony. The conductor is a well trained and experienced conductor who could have gone far in the music world, but chose, instead, to come back home and lead the symphony in his hometown, so that even in this small town, we could have some of the same cultural advantages as they have in places like Boston, New York or Philadelphia. This is amazing. It is something which makes our community unique and of which every citizen of this town should be very proud.

It is apparent, however, that many in our community either do not know what a treasure we have in the Big Spring Symphony or simply do not care. At too many of the concerts, there are far too many empty seats. Big Springers can attend a real live symphony orchestra by an outstanding symphony orchestra without going to Dallas, or Lubbock, or even Midland. All they have to do is drive

down the street and buy a ticket and they are there. But far too many of us fail to take advantage of this unique cultural opportunity which, because of this treasure we have in the Big Spring Symphony is available to us right here at home, and for only a fraction of what it would cost at some larger city.

Without more local support, I fear the symphony cannot continue indefinitely. As is true with many other things, if we do not use it we will lose it. And this would be a terrible shame. Not only would it deprive the people of Big Spring of a cultural opportunity that people living in most cities of this size simply do not have, but it would also deprive the city of Big Spring of a unique talking point in order to induce businesses or retirees to come to Big Spring rather than some other town which does not have such cultural opportunities. It would be counterproductive to the efforts to grow the size and vitality of this community. Letting the symphony go because we simply do not support it would be extremely shortsighted. If the people of Big Spring really knew how much the symphony means to this city, every concert would be full.

The first symphony concert of this year will be held at the Big Spring High School auditorium Saturday at 8 p.m. You can purchase tickets at the door. If you are already familiar with the Big Spring Symphony, I am sure that I do not have to beg you to come to

a concert. If you are one who has never been, I urge you to come check it out. If you ever played in a school band, or sang in a church choir, or listened to the Boston Pops or some other symphony on the radio or watched it on TV, or have any interest in symphony music, there is no question that you will have a very enjoyable evening.

If you are one of those who thinks that the height of culture consists of beer and country music or rock and roll and whatever you take with that, I urge you, if you have any pride at all in the city of Big Spring, please come and attend the concert to support the symphony, even if just for the sake of showing your support for this unique institution in our town. You just might like it. You might even want to come back.

If you are already familiar with the symphony and know how good it is, you can help by buying a season ticket, and if you can, buy season tickets for the members of your family and for friends who might be interested but might not be able to afford them. This helps the symphony to have some idea of what it is going to have during the year, and is very beneficial.

While symphony tickets do cost a little money, the tickets here are only a fraction of the cost of the tickets even in a place like Lubbock, much less places like Dallas, Houston or Philadelphia or New York, where such things

See **LETTERS**, Page 5

Texas news in brief

Proposed EZ Match lottery game under fire

AUSTIN (AP) — A proposed EZ Match lottery game in Texas would be one step closer to drawing the state into slot machine games, critics say. Gov. Rick Perry years ago supported having slot machines at racetracks to help fund public schools but has since emphasized his opposition to gambling expansion.

“The governor does not support any expansion of gaming and this appears to be an expansion,” Perry spokeswoman Allison Castle said.

The Houston Chronicle and the San Antonio Express-News reported Wednesday that the proposed game would involve players giving their money to a retail clerk, who would provide an instant ticket printed by a lottery terminal.

The Texas Lottery Commission could take up the proposal by Oct. 2.

“It’s just like a scratch game, only you don’t scratch the latex,” commission spokesman Bobby Heith said. “There’s no buttons. There’s no spinning wheels. There’s no levers. You can only get the ticket through a clerk-assisted transaction at a lottery retailer.”

Commission attorney Pete Wassdorf has said the only similarity to a video lottery is that the ticket “is purchased from an electronic machine, but the dissimilarities far exceed that.”

Houston teen seeks to end probation over death

HOUSTON (AP) — Attorneys for a Houston teenager serving five years of probation over a 2006 gang fight death want her punishment to end early.

A hearing is set for Thursday in the case of 19-year-old Ashley Benton.

The Houston Chronicle reports Benton could be freed of court-imposed restrictions after serving nearly two years of deferred adjudication probation.

Benton pleaded guilty to aggravated assault with a deadly weapon in December 2007 after her murder trial over the death of Gabriel Granillo ended with a hung jury. Benton told authorities that Granillo had swung a baseball bat at her and she stabbed him in self defense.

Elderly Tivoli man killed by bees

TIVOLI (AP) — An elderly man from Tivoli died after being attacked by a swarm of bees while mowing the lawn of an abandoned house near his home.

Justice of the Peace Lorraine Lopez identified the victim of Tuesday afternoon’s attack as 81-year-old Amador Villarreal. Lopez says Villarreal died after being stung on his head and upper body.

Refugio County Sheriff Robert Bolcik said a crew would be dispatched to kill the insects believed to be so-called Africanized bees.

Tivoli is about 60 miles northeast of Corpus Christi.

Man condemned for drug dealer’s slaying set to die

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Convicted killer Stephen Moody says he’s ready to die for gunning down a Houston drug dealer during a robbery 18 years ago.

The 52-year-old Moody’s lethal injection was scheduled for Wednesday evening in Huntsville and would make him the 17th Texas prisoner put to death this year. The total is the highest in the nation.

Moody was condemned for the October 1991 shot-

gun death of 28-year-old Joseph Hall outside Hall’s home.

Moody told The Associated Press in a recent interview on death row that it was just supposed to be a robbery but Hall began resisting.

Austin man accused of shooting at workers

AUSTIN (AP) — An 85-year-old man is in the Travis County Jail accused of shooting at seven workers who were clearing brush near his property.

An affidavit says none of the Piatra Inc. workers were injured, but some of the rounds struck near them Sunday. They had been hired by the city of Austin to help clear brush Sunday.

Henry Ralph Schots thought they were trespassing and allegedly fired eight shots from a .22-caliber semi-automatic handgun toward the brush.

The workers called police who arrested Schots.

Schots was in the Travis County Jail Tuesday night, charged with seven felony counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Former police chief arrested

ARLINGTON (AP) — A former Texas police chief is behind bars charged with seven felony counts, including possession or promotion of child pornography, promotion of prostitution and engaging in organized crime.

Michael Meissner was arrested Monday in Arlington and is being held at the Dallas County Jail under a \$1.5 million bail. Attempts by The Associated Press Tuesday to reach the jail to determine if he has an attorney were not immediately successful.

Meissner is accused of committing the crimes in Dallas and Tarrant counties.

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4

are truly expensive. You will find that the cost of entertainment at a symphony concert does not substantially exceed the cost of any other type of entertainment that you might desire, and most people can afford it.

Let’s support our symphony. Let’s see a full house at the first concert and at every concert this year.

Attendance, however, is just a starting point.

It costs money to maintain a symphony orchestra, even when the conductor is paid a very minimal salary and there are no other salaries for staff, and expenses are held to a minimum, as is in the case with our local symphony. Because the board, as a matter of policy, desires to keep the cost of tickets low enough so people in Big Spring can easily afford to take advantage of the cultural opportunities

of attending symphony concerts, even if we had larger attendance, the price of tickets would not be enough to maintain the symphony.

The conductor’s salary, inadequate as it is, still must be paid.

The musicians must be paid. Guest artists must be paid if we are going to have the quality of concerts that the board desires to make available to the people of Big Spring.

Music has to be obtained. Special lighting has to be paid for.

And then there is advertising, without which no symphony concert could be successful. All these things cost money.

This year, however, there is an even greater need, because the Big Spring City Auditorium, where the symphony has traditionally played all of its concerts, and which was made available to the symphony by the city of Big Spring free of charge, has been, hopefully only temporarily, closed and will

not be available for concerts by the symphony during this season. The symphony has therefore been required to find other venues, some of which charge a substantial amount for their use.

These amounts are added on top of the expenses that the symphony customarily has had to incur, and make it mandatory that more money be raised this year than in the past. For this additional money, the symphony relies on donations from individuals residing in our city and from businesses located in our city. Without those donations, the symphony could not have survived and would not be here

today. Without continued gifts, the symphony will not survive in the future. I therefore urge everyone who has pride in the city of Big Spring, everyone who believes that it is a good thing to have a cultural opportunity such as the symphony in Big Spring, and everyone who recognizes what a treasure our symphony is and wants to keep it around for the future, to please consider a gift to the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra this year.

If you have been giving in the past, please consider increasing your gift a little bit to cover the increased expenses which will result from the fact that the symphony no longer

can play in the city auditorium, at least for the time being.

Without your support, the symphony would not be here. Without your continued support, the symphony cannot stay here. If you appreciate the symphony, please do whatever you can to help us keep it here. If you have not made a gift to the symphony in the past, and would like to join your fellow citizens in supporting this unique treasure, you can send a check to Big Spring Symphony Association, P.O. Box 682, Big Spring 79721.

As one who loves my city and who is proud of this unique treasure in the form of the Big Spring Symphony Or-

chestra that we have here, and believes that it is something this is very important for our city to keep, I urge you to send a gift in as large amount as you feel you can afford to help support this unique institution that helps set our city apart from others of this size elsewhere.

Our symphony is a treasure — a real, bright and shining treasure that is unique and sets our community apart from others of the same size. Please let’s appreciate it. Please let’s support it. Please let’s keep it.

JOHN T. FERGUSON
BIG SPRING

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

PROPOSITION 1

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

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

PROPOSITION 2

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

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

PROPOSITION 3

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

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

PROPOSITION 4

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

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

PROPOSITION 5

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

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

PROPOSITION 6

HJR 116 would amend the constitu-

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

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

PROPOSITION 7

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

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

PROPOSITION 8

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

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

PROPOSITION 9

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

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

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

PROPOSITION 10

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

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

PROPOSITION 11

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

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

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In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



National Park quizz

Each year, nearly 275 million people experience the grandeur of America’s 58 national parks. Yet, how much do you know about them? Take our trivia challenge and find out. Plus, teen driver safety and sloppy joes.

American Profile

sudoku

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

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A Psychological Ploy

East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH			
♠	10 9 8 2		
♥	6		
♦	Q J 7 5		
♣	K J 10 4		
WEST		EAST	
♠	K 7	♠	5 4
♥	A 9 4 2	♥	K Q J 10 8 7 5 3
♦	K 10 8 6 3 2	♦	A 9
♣	9	♣	7
SOUTH			
♠	A Q J 6 3		
♥	—		
♦	4		
♣	A Q 8 6 5 3 2		

The bidding:
East 4♥ South 4♠ West 5♥ North 5♣
Opening lead — nine of clubs.

Dear Mr. Becker: A great many people simply don't understand the psychological factors of the game. I know what I'm talking about because I have been playing rubber bridge for years with some friends, and I am far and away the biggest winner in the game.

However, this is not because I play better than the others — as a matter of fact, they all bid and play their cards better than I do.

Where I have a big edge is when it comes to psychology. For instance, the other night I won a 3,300-point rubber — the very first one we

played. My partner and I didn't have the cards to win by such an amount, and to be perfectly frank about it, we should actually have lost the rubber.

It was the psychology, though, that did it, and this hand is what got us started. We got to five spades, and West led his singleton club.

I won with the king, noting that with neither opponent able to give the other a club ruff, the contract was now assured. I then led a spade and finessed. West took the king and made a good play by leading a low heart away from his ace in the hope that East could win and return a club.

East got pretty mad when he saw the heart lead because he wanted a club return also. When he played the ten of hearts, I let him win the trick by discarding a diamond.

This was the key play of the hand, and if you don't understand why, you are missing the whole point. East laid down the ace of diamonds, which I ruffed, and I then claimed the balance, making five.

You never heard such a ruckus as now took place. East and West accused each other of all kinds of stupidity for failing to return a club. Neither of them had noticed my seven-card club suit.

Their heated exchanges went on for a long time, and from then on they were easy pigeons. Cordially yours, John Dough

Tomorrow: Defensive card-reading.

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News in brief

Chance for bipartisan deal on healthcare bill dims

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Max Baucus' decision to release his long-awaited health care overhaul bill with no Republicans on board dims the chances for a bipartisan compromise on President Barack Obama's top domestic priority.

The Senate Finance Committee chairman insisted Tuesday that he'll keep negotiating with the three Republicans and two fellow Democrats who've been in closed-door talks with him for months on the bill he was to reveal Wednesday. Baucus, D-Mont., said he hopes that by the time the committee votes on the bill, as early as next week, Republicans will be there.

But for now, despite numerous gestures to Republicans, Baucus has fallen short in his quest to assemble a coalition of senators from both parties behind his proposal. Obama also hoped for bipartisan support behind plans for reshaping the nation's \$2.5 trillion health care system to hold down costs and cover the uninsured.

"The door's always open — always hoping that somebody, all six, will be on the bill," Baucus told reporters Tuesday evening after the latest meeting of his so-called Gang of Six senators. "We're just going to keep the door open, keep working, keep discussing."

Many of the details in the Baucus' bill were already known. Unlike more liberal versions passed by three committees in the House and by the Senate's Health Committee, it shunned liberals' call for the government to sell insurance and relied instead on co-ops to offer coverage in competition with private industry.

Police seek DNA, other evidence from research assistant

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — Police have taken a Yale University animal research technician into custody to collect DNA samples and searched his apartment for evidence that might link him to the death of a graduate student who worked in the same lab.

More than 20 police officers and FBI agents searched the apartment of 24-year-old Raymond Clark III Tuesday night and led him away from his neighbors leaned over the building's iron railing and cheered.

New Haven Police Chief James Lewis described Clark as a person of interest, not a suspect, in the death of Annie Le. The 24-year-old graduate student's body was found stuffed behind a wall in a campus research building Sunday, the day she was to be married.

Police said Clark would be released after they obtain evidence they need from him and his Middletown apartment. Investigators are hoping to figure out within days whether Clark can be ruled out as the killer.

Lewis said police were hoping to compare DNA taken from Clark's hair, fingernails and saliva to more than 150 pieces of evidence collected from the crime scene.

Inflation expected to have remained in check

WASHINGTON (AP) — A report due out Wednesday is expected to show that inflation remained in check last month, as the weak economy prevents retailers and manufacturers from raising prices.

The report comes after the Commerce Department said Tuesday that retail sales jumped in August by the largest amount in more than three years. Labor Department data also showed that excluding volatile energy and food costs, core inflation posted a modest 0.2 percent increase, as measured by the Producer Price Index.

Still, economists warn that as long as credit stays tight and jobs remain scarce, Americans probably aren't ready to spend in force again.

The Consumer Price Index is forecast to have

increased by 0.3 percent in August, after remaining flat in July, according to economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters. Excluding volatile food and energy prices, economists expect only a 0.1 percent rise.

Analysts expect the CPI to fall by 1.7 percent compared with a year ago, mostly due to lower oil and gas prices. That follows a 12-month drop of 2.1 percent in July, the steepest in nearly six decades. Excluding food and energy, prices are forecast to have risen 1.4 percent in the 12 months ending in August.

Japan's new leader says he wants to build trust relationship with Obama

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's new prime minister says he wants to build a relationship of trust with President Barack Obama, but has no intention to back down on plans to push for a review of the U.S. military presence here.

Yukio Hatoyama also said he wants to see quick improvements in Japan's struggling economy.

Hatoyama has said he wants to build a foreign policy that will put Tokyo on a more equal footing with Washington. He is also seeking closer ties with Asian neighbors, particularly China.

Speaking at a press conference after he was elected prime minister Wednesday, he said: "I would like to build a relationship of trust with President Obama. In order to deepen our trust, it would be most important for us to exchange views frankly. That's the first step."

Astronomers find first rocky planet outside solar system

WASHINGTON (AP) — Astronomers have finally found a place outside our solar system where there's a firm place to stand — if only it weren't so broiling hot.

As scientists search the skies for life elsewhere, they have found more than 300 planets outside our solar system. But they all have been gas balls or can't be proven to be solid. Now a team of European astronomers has confirmed the first rocky extrasolar planet.

Scientists have long figured that if life begins on a planet, it needs a solid surface to rest on, so finding one elsewhere is a big deal.

"We basically live on a rock ourselves," said co-discoverer Artie Hatzes, director of the Thuringer observatory in Germany. "It's as close to something like the Earth that we've found so far. It's just a little too close to its sun."

So close that its surface temperature is more than 3,600 degrees Fahrenheit, too toasty to sustain life. It circles its star in just 20 hours, zipping around at 466,000 mph. By comparison, Mercury, the planet nearest our sun, completes its solar orbit in 88 days.

U.S. envoy fails to wrest Israel concession on settlements

JERUSALEM (AP) — Washington's special envoy to the Mideast on Wednesday wrapped up his second meeting this week with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu without reaching an agreement on curtailing Israeli settlement construction.

U.S. official George Mitchell will sit down with Netanyahu for a third time on Friday, Netanyahu's office said in a statement. Mitchell made no comment after Wednesday's meeting.

The U.S. has a lot on the line, having reached out very publicly to the Arab and Muslim world and taken an uncharacteristically tough stand against Israeli construction in the West Bank and east Jerusalem.

Washington is also working against time: the Obama administration hopes to bring Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas together in New York next week as a prelude to renewed peacemaking. That could be difficult without some headway on the controversial settlements.

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GENERAL SURGEON

Cougars look ahead to Red Raiders

KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — It's been 18 long years since the Houston Cougars were ranked and they are enjoying it.

Houston cracked the AP Top 25 this week at No. 21 after knocking off then-No. 5 Oklahoma State 45-35. They get an off week to enjoy the success, though they'll need the extra prep time: They get the high-octane offense of Texas Tech on Sept. 26.

Coach Kevin Sumlin gave his team a few days to soak in the win. But said

Tuesday was the last day they'd talk about it as they shift their focus to the Red Raiders, who face No. 2 Texas Saturday.

The Cougars were last ranked by the AP on Sept. 15, 1991 with David Klingler at quarterback and John Jenkins as coach. To find their last win over a top-five opponent one has to go all the way back to Nov. 10, 1984, when Houston beat No. 3 Texas 29-15 in Austin.

Sumlin has no problem with people throwing those kinds of numbers and facts at him, but he's far too busy right now to sit back and ponder the histori-

cal significance of any of them.

"We'll think about that when it's over with," he said.

He did acknowledge that it's nice to see his team getting some national exposure.

"Whenever there's success that's going to happen," he said. "Just like there was some things that happened last year that were firsts, there will continue to be firsts if we do what we're supposed to do, what we want to do."

The players are clearly excited,

See **COUGARS**, Page 9

Tech still gunning

Potts has TTU offense posting typical numbers

BETSY BLANEY

Associated Press Writer

LUBBOCK — Taylor Potts has thrown for 861 yards and nine touchdowns in two games — more than anyone in college football so far this season.

Nothing new for Texas Tech, of course, but this gunslinger is new.

The junior quarterback is 6-feet-5 and 215 pounds, yet quiet and almost demure off the field. All that changes at game time.

"When the lights came on and it was time to go to work he was pretty intense," recalled Steve Warren, his high school coach in Abilene. "He was great at it."

It looks like he still is.

Potts will need every bit of that intensity when the Red Raiders travel to No. 2 Texas on Saturday night. Tech has lost the past four games in Austin — and this one has a big subplot.

The Longhorns will be seeking revenge after Texas Tech stunned them 39-33 last year, beating the nation's top-ranked team on a final-second touchdown in Lubbock. Texas fans, and players, believe the loss cost them a shot at a national championship run.

Potts grew up about 25 miles from Texas quarterback Colt McCoy's hometown of Tuscola but the two never played against each other in high school. Their schools were in different classifications — Potts played at a larger school than McCoy, who was a year ahead of Potts.

Texas Tech coach Mike Leach is a fan of Potts' leadership style, going so far earlier this season as to compare his swagger to that of John Wayne.

"I think he does a good job as far as leading the group, and I think (is) steadily improving, from the experience standpoint," Leach said. "He's picked it up pretty fast."

Warren remembers Potts' short memory. He shrugs off the good and the bad in equal measure. The two spoke after Potts' debut as a starter this season, a 38-13 win over North

See **TECH**, Page 9

Lady Steers run away from Miles

Herald Staff Report

MILES — Big Spring's Lady Steers are rolling on the volleyball court.

The Lady Steers won for the fourth time in their last five matches Tuesday, defeating Miles in four sets.

The win improves the Lady Steers' record to 9-15 on the season, but Tuesday's victory was a pivotal one, according to Big Spring Head Coach Lynn Osbourne.

"I personally don't believe we had a turnaround until last night. I think we finally played to our potential last night," said Osbourne. "We had a really good pregame and were more prepared to play. There was more focus on getting into the game in the locker room, before we even went out for warmups. It made a big difference."

The Lady Steers claimed the first set 25-19 before losing their only game of the match in Set 2, 25-17.

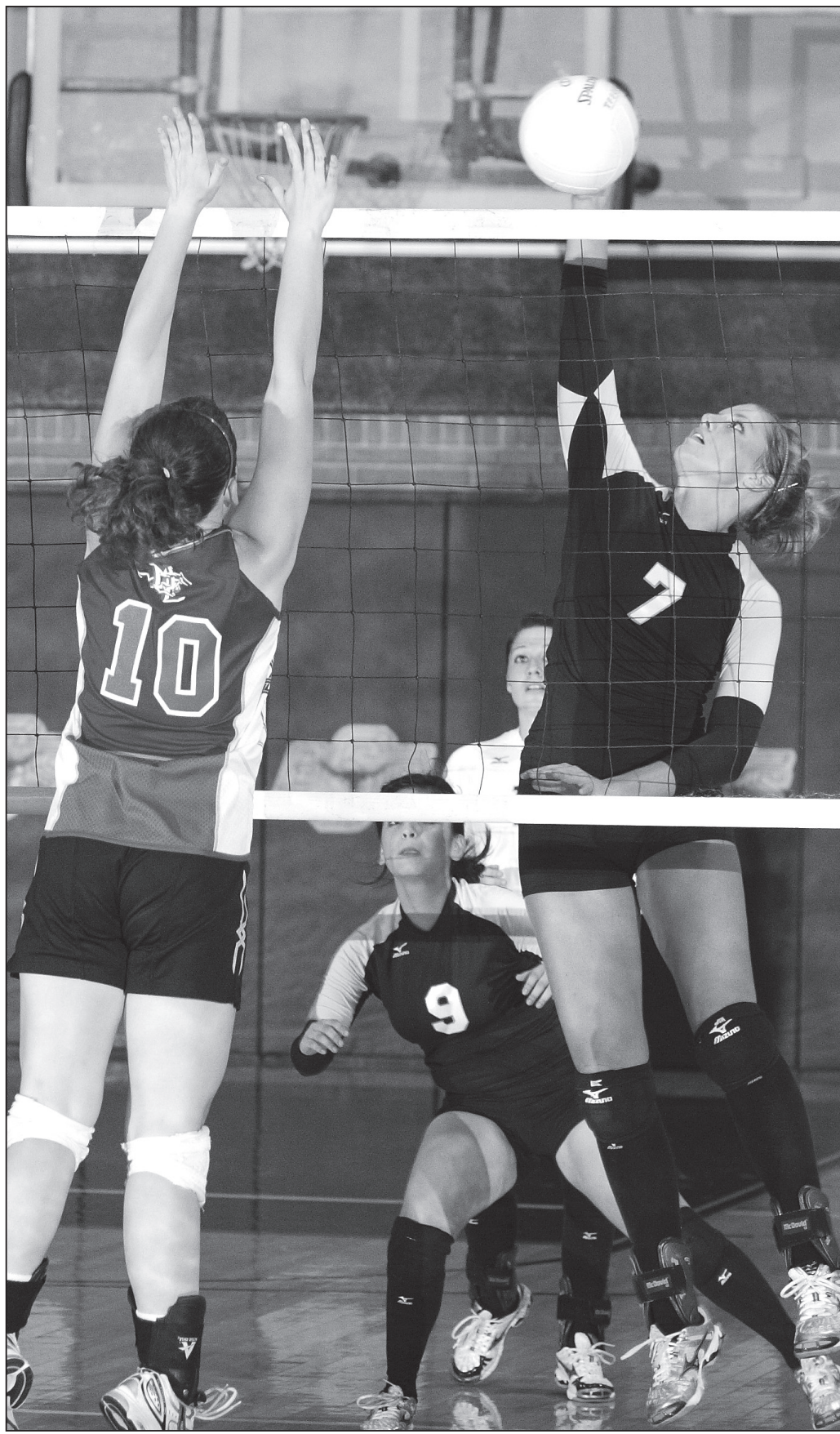
Big Spring rallied from the loss, delivering its most dominant performance in the third set, 25-14.

"The group we had on the court in the third set had a great chemistry," said Osbourne. "I've been trying to find the right groups for certain situations. Certain players have better chemistry with each other. The one we had in the third set worked very well together."

While finishing off an opponent has been a problem for the Lady Steers in the past, they were able to drive the nail into Miles' coffin in the fourth game, winning 25-21.

"The girls are starting to understand they can win. Just having that belief made the difference in finishing that game," said Osbourne. "I think the girls are starting to understand momentum better. They realize when they've lost the momentum and understand what they have to do in order to get it back."

Cerbi Ritchey led the Lady Steers with 17 assists, while placing 100



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Cerbi Ritchey (7) attempts to spike the ball past a Midland Christian player as teammates Tiffany Garcia (9) and Valerie Ross look on during a non-district volleyball match Sept. 8 at Steer Gym.

See **LADY STEERS**, Page 9

A's deliver another blow to Rangers' playoff chances with 6-1 victory

STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON — A bad combination for the Texas Rangers at the worst time.

"We're not scoring runs and we're giving up runs," manager Ron Washington said. "It is an awful time for it to happen."

The Texas Rangers' largest deficit from a playoff spot grew even larger Tuesday night after a 6-1 loss to the last-place Oakland Athletics.

David Murphy's leadoff homer in the fourth snapped the Rangers' 22-inning scoreless streak, which included consecutive shutout losses in only the same homestand for only the second time in 16 seasons at Rangers Ballpark. But they were down 4-1 and didn't score again while losing for the fourth time in five games — all at home.

"We haven't showed much of anything the last few games," Murphy said. "You can give up and throw in the towel or keep

fighting and show the character that we've showed all year."

With 18 games left, the Rangers are 5½ games behind AL wild-card leader Boston and trail the AL West-leading Los Angeles Angels by six games.

The Red Sox beat the Angels 4-1 on Tuesday night in the opener of a three-game series at Fenway Park. The Angels play in Texas this weekend.

Rajai Davis scored the first run then matched a career best with four RBIs for the A's, who have won seven of nine games.

"You have to believe you're going to produce every game and help the team win," said Davis, who is 23 of 56 (.411) with 12 runs and seven stolen bases in 13 games this month. "I need to keep doing exactly what I've been doing, and even more. Once you find something that works, you want to stick with it."

Davis, who finished with three hits, put the A's ahead to stay when

Michael Young returns to Texas lineup for 1 at-bat

STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON — Michael Young figured he waited long enough to return to the Texas Rangers lineup. It took only one at-bat for him to determine that he came back too soon.

Young, who had missed two weeks because of a strained left hamstring, was in the lineup against Oakland as the designated hitter Tuesday night. The All-Star third baseman pulled himself after he flied out in the first inning, when he fouled off three of the eight pitches he faced.

See **YOUNG**, Page 8



AP photo

Texas Rangers right fielder Nelson Cruz reacts to striking out against Oakland Athletics relief pitcher Brad Ziegler in the seventh inning of a baseball game in Arlington Tuesday. The Athletics won 6-1.

See **RANGERS**, Page 8

RANGERS

Continued from Page 7

he reached on a fielder's choice in the first, stole his 37th base and went to third on catcher Ivan Rodriguez's throwing error before scoring on Ryan Sweeney's groundout. Davis drew a bases-loaded walk off Brandon McCarthy (7-3) the following inning.

Craig Breslow (7-7), the second of six Oakland pitchers, worked two scoreless innings after starter Edgar Gonzalez allowed the Nos. 8 and 9 hitters to reach base starting the fifth.

Michael Young returned to the Texas lineup as the designated hitter

after missing two weeks because of a strained left hamstring, but left after he flied out his only at-bat. The All-Star third baseman fouled off three of his eight pitches, then pulled himself out of the game.

"I felt great in batting practice, ran around great, and then the second pitch he threw me, I got off balance, landed on my front side a little too hard and it just grabbed," Young said. "I didn't want to make it worse. I've been making too much progress."

Young said it was unlikely he would play Wednesday, but could return this weekend against the Angels, the series he had targeted for his return since he got hurt running out a grounder Sept. 1.

Davis added a two-run single in the fourth and a run-scoring single in the sixth. Davis was caught stealing after a leadoff single in the eighth.

McCarthy, who had won his two previous starts after nearly three months on the disabled list (stress fracture in right shoulder blade), gave up four runs while pitching into the fourth.

Rangers hard-throwing rookie Neftali Feliz struck out the last three batters with the bases loaded in the sixth, after giving up two runs on a leadoff triple, two walks (one with the bases loaded), a hit batsman and Davis' single. Feliz had allowed only two runs over 23 2-3 innings his first 13 major league appearances.

NOTES: Oakland's Jack Cust struck out four times, taking over the AL lead with 166. Tampa Bay's Carlos Pena had 163 strikeouts before season-ending surgery for two broken fingers last week. ... Elvis Andrus went 0 for 2 with two walks, ending his Rangers' rookie record 16-game hitting streak. ... Texas went 25 consecutive innings without a run in September 2004, when they were last in playoff contention. The team record of 28 was set in 1972. ... Boston's victory officially eliminated Oakland from postseason contention. It came in the 144th game, one later than last season, which was the earliest elimination for the A's since 1997. ... The Rangers had three errors.

YOUNG

Continued from Page 7

"I felt great in batting practice, ran around great, and then the second pitch he threw me, I got off-balance, landed on my front side a little too hard and it just grabbed," Young said after the Rangers' 6-1 loss. "I didn't want to make it worse. I've been making too much progress. But nothing got worse. I just wasn't ready."

Young said it was unlikely that he would play in the series finale against the Athletics on Wednesday, which precedes an off day for the sliding Rangers. He instead planned to "have a good workout."

Young got hurt running out a grounder on Sept. 1, and had repeatedly said since then that this weekend's series against the Los Angeles Angels was his target date for returning.

Instead, with Texas facing its largest deficit for a playoff spot all season, Young tested himself by running the bases about four hours before Tuesday night's game.

The Rangers have lost four of five, all at home, to fall 5½ games behind wild-card leader Boston. They are still six behind AL West-leading Los Angeles, which lost to the Red Sox on Tuesday night.

"It's tough but there's not much I can do about it. We'll stick together as a team and try to battle our way out of it," Young said. "I knew I wasn't 100 percent, but I thought I could DH and play. It's not a big deal, nothing got worse, but I wasn't ready."

Young said before the game that he woke up Tuesday and wanted to play if he felt OK.

Manager Ron Washington said the Rangers were taking no chances.

"His leg got tired," Washington said. "He did a lot today and it just got tired. We didn't want to push it."

Young's return was expected to be a huge boost for the Rangers, who are trying to end a 10-year playoff drought.

"A day without him is enough," Marlon Byrd said. "To have him back, hopefully he goes out there and gives us the spark we need. ... We need all the help we can get, and we need wins. Michael in the lineup gives us a better chance."

Before sitting out 11 games, Young had never missed more than two consecutive games since becoming a full-time player in 2001. He played 155 games last season despite breaking a finger on each hand and straining his groin.

Young was still hitting .322 after his only at-bat. That was fifth in the American League, a spot higher than when he got hurt.

All-Star slugger Josh Hamilton, who missed his 11th consecutive game because of a pinched nerve in his back, hit off a tee and took some swings at some soft-tossed balls

Tuesday. The Rangers aren't sure when he will return.

"We'll see how his back reacts to torque," Washington said. "It would be nice if he walked in here tomorrow and said he'd be ready to go."

The Rangers pushed struggling right-hander Kevin Millwood's next scheduled start back to early next week instead of this weekend against the Angels.

Millwood (10-10) is 2-5 with a 6.29 ERA his past 12 starts after allowing five runs over 3 2-3 innings Saturday against Seattle. Washington said Millwood, who is only 4 1-3 innings shy of the 180 he needs to guarantee a \$12 million contract for next season, will work with pitching coach Mike Maddux to fix a mechanical flaw.

Millwood explained that he has been "too upright" on the mound.

Rookie right-hander Tommy Hunter (8-3) starts Friday against the Angels, before Scott Feldman (16-5) and rookie left-hander Derek Holland (7-11) take their turns.

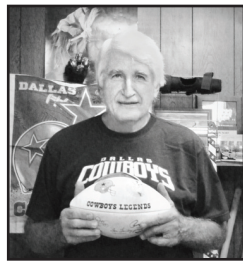
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Eagles add Vick to 53-man team roster, release Baskett

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Michael Vick can throw passes to his teammates instead of ball boys. The Philadelphia Eagles elevated Vick to the team's 53-man roster Tuesday, a move that allows the quarterback to practice with the team. Wide receiver Hank Baskett was released to make room for Vick, who is eligible to play Sept. 27 against the Kansas City Chiefs. Vick will begin

practicing with the team Wednesday, though he cannot play in Sunday's home opener against the New Orleans Saints. Vick was suspended for the first two regular-season games as the final league penalty for his role in running a dogfighting ring. Kevin Kolb is expected to take the snaps with the starters Wednesday because Donovan McNabb has a cracked rib. Jeff Garcia was signed to

back up Kolb in case McNabb can't play. Vick was brought in to give the Eagles another dimension on offense. He ran Philadelphia's version of the wildcat offense and took some snaps as a traditional QB under center in two preseason games. The Eagles were heavily criticized by animal rights activists for signing Vick less than a month after he fin-

ished serving 18 months in federal prison. Dozens of protesters voiced their outrage outside the team's practice facility the day after Vick was signed, and many fans threatened to give up their tickets. A month later, Vick's jersey is the fourth-highest seller in the NFL behind Brett Favre, Jay Cutler and

See **VICK**, Page 10

LADY STEERS

Continued from Page 7
percent of her serves in play. Callie Shafer had 13 assists. Desiree Anderson produced the most kills with 11 and also had six digs, four aces and three blocks. Bridgette Tuitt made the most of her opportunities at the net, converting nine kills. Tuitt had a 53 percent kill rating. Halee Thomas also had nine kills. The Lady Steers have just two matches remaining before they open

District 4-4A play. They'll face Snyder at noon Saturday before hosting their final home game of the non-district season at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday when Denver City pays a visit to Steer Gym. Osbourne says there are still some steps the Lady Steers need to take before entering league play. "One of the things that will be key for us to master is the front row game. We have to take on more responsibility on defense and getting to free balls," she said. "We're also going to have to hit more efficiently. We've got to cut down on our hitting errors. We're going to make a big push on working on both of those areas before

we start district. It's going to be key for us to compete with the tougher teams we'll face." The Lady Steers open 4-4A play at 1 p.m. Sept. 26 on the road at Wolfforth to take on Frenship, which hasn't lost a district match in three seasons. NOTES: Big Spring's junior varsity squad made it a clean sweep of Miles Tuesday, winning two matches in straight sets. The JV won the first game, 25-9, 25-14, and the second, 25-11, 25-14. Carson Reibe led with nine assists total in the two games. Clara Benavides had six aces in the first game and had five digs in Game 2. Kim Gonzales had seven digs in the

second game. Gabby Fiero was the top point scorer for the JV, totaling seven kills in the two games. Big Spring had 20 aces in its two matches. The JV has won its last eight games. The freshman team played at Snyder Tuesday, falling in three sets, 25-18, 22-25, 25-21.

Big Spring d. Miles 25-19, 17-25, 25-14, 25-21
Lady Steers top players
Cerbi Ritchey - 17 assists, 5 kills, 2 blocks 100 percent serving; Callie Shafer - 13 assists, 2 digs, 2 aces; Desiree Anderson - 11 kills, 3 blocks, 6 digs, 4 aces; Bridgette Tuitt - 9 kills; Halee Thomas - 9 kills, 3 blocks, 3 aces.

COUGARS

Continued from Page 7
talking about the reaction around campus and their inboxes overflowing with congratulatory text messages. It's a good feeling, but they know that they'll have to stay focused to beat Texas Tech. "Everybody is starting to recognize us a little bit," cornerback Jamal Robinson said. "But if we lose next week that recognition that we've been having means absolutely nothing." The buzz surrounding the Cougars is new to a team that plays in a state where football is king but where the focus over recent years has been mostly on Big 12 schools Texas, Texas Tech and Texas A&M. "There's a lot of people excited about football around here now," said quarterback Case Keenum, who grew up watching the Red Raiders. "Texas people are always in love with football during football season, but to see a lot of people excited about Cougar football is neat."

Sumlin is focused on what his team is doing, not what people are saying about it. He raved about the maturity the Cougars from Conference USA showed in coming back to win after the Cowboys erased a big deficit with 21 unanswered points. In 2008, the Cougars led Oklahoma State early, but couldn't recover after the Cowboys went on a scoring run and eventually got a 56-37 win. "Saturday's game was a huge barometer for me as a coach to handle that situation," he said. "Last year, we didn't handle it. We could have thrown down our chips in the third quarter very easily with the crowd screaming as we gave up a punt return in a play that seemed like nine missed tackles ... for our guys to come back and score, be scored on and score again and just keep fighting, I thought it was great." The Cougars are likely in for another shootout when they host Tech in a nationally televised game next Saturday. Houston and Tech employ two of the most potent passing attacks in the country. Tech's Taylor Potts ranks first in NCAA with more than 430 yards passing a game and Keenum is fifth with just more than 362 yards.

Running back Bryce Beall, who had a rushing and receiving touchdown against the Cowboys, is looking forward to the challenge of facing the Red Raiders. "Playing another Big 12 team could help move us up higher in the polls, but we just have to go out every week and play the same way," he said. "We don't care who the team is, we're going to respect them, we're just not going to fear them."

TECH

Continued from Page 7
Dakota during which he threw three interceptions — one more than he'd thrown in two years as backup to Graham Harrell. Potts asked Warren's advice. "Throw it to the open guy," Warren replied. "I think he's really good at" keeping things in perspective, Warren said of his former player. "He makes really good decisions." Potts didn't play in last year's win over Texas. It was his second season spent pacing the sidelines as he awaited his shot at leading Texas Tech, which for eight of the past nine years had quarterbacks lead the nation in passing in Leach's spread offense. The waiting was probably hard for Potts, whose mother said he's never been a good spectator. But Leach didn't leave him languishing without feedback. "There was respect from him," Potts said before the season (Leach did not make Potts available to reporters this week). "He offered up confidence to me. He said good things to me, encouraging things. He kept my spirits up." Potts has little interest in statistics but knows big numbers come with Texas Tech's dizzying aerial barrage. "I've only been one to care about wins," he said. "I think if you win 12 ball games they're going to be more praising of your 12 wins than they are your 5,000 yards passing or something like that."

Warren helped Potts understand that a strong, accurate arm isn't all a quarterback needs. He also needs touch. So far this season, Potts has completed 67 percent of his passes (70 of 105). Will Muschamp, Texas' defensive coordinator, anticipates his secondary will be challenged. "He's got arm talent," Muschamp said. "He can make all the throws. Arm talent is what jumps out at you on the film." That talent sat behind Harrell, only the second three-year starter since Leach arrived in 2000. Harrell threw for 5,111 yards last season, becoming the first college player to break the 5,000-yard mark twice. Texas coach Mack Brown said Leach must be a good salesman. "They do a great job of convincing quarterbacks to come and sit," he said. "They all have confidence. Mike does a really smart thing. Most of those guys have been in the system for a really long time, so (the offense) doesn't drop off." Cathy Potts said her son is highly competitive but not "in an obnoxious way." He enjoys golf, hunting and fishing, and in high school played basketball, football and baseball, the latter of which fostered aspirations to play professionally. It wasn't until his sophomore year that he settled on football. "There's not anything he doesn't like to do and in most things he does them very well," she said. And Warren had a word of caution for the Longhorns: "If Texas focuses on revenge then Taylor will have a huge day."

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Eager Titans ready to bounce back vs. Texans

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The Tennessee Titans had a rare couple of days off to stew over their season-opening overtime loss. It made for a long weekend. Not the nice weather in Nashville or the time off to make a quick trip out of town helped ease the blow of the Titans' 13-10 loss to Pittsburgh in OT on Thursday. No, the bad taste lingered until the team hit the field Monday for a light workout and officially started focusing on the Houston Texans.

"It was a tough weekend," receiver Justin Gage said. Gage called it a good learning experience for the entire team after a lengthy list of mistakes in the opener. It also offered a nice chance to heal up. "But as far as just getting that bad taste out of your mouth, you have to sit back and linger and watch all the other games played and pretty much wait a couple days before you get back on the field. "It's definitely something I feel that we've learned from as a team and now we can move forward,"

Gage said. Coach Jeff Fisher approached the weekend as a mini-bye for a team that had played four road games out of six counting the preseason already. Tennessee hosts Houston (0-1) on Sunday in a rare home game for a team playing four out of its first six on the road. Injured players like tight end Bo Scaife, who had an MRI on his left knee and will be day to day, and rookie tight end Jared Cook, who missed the opener as he recovers from a sore foot, had to stick around for treatment. But Fisher put the team through a short session Monday.

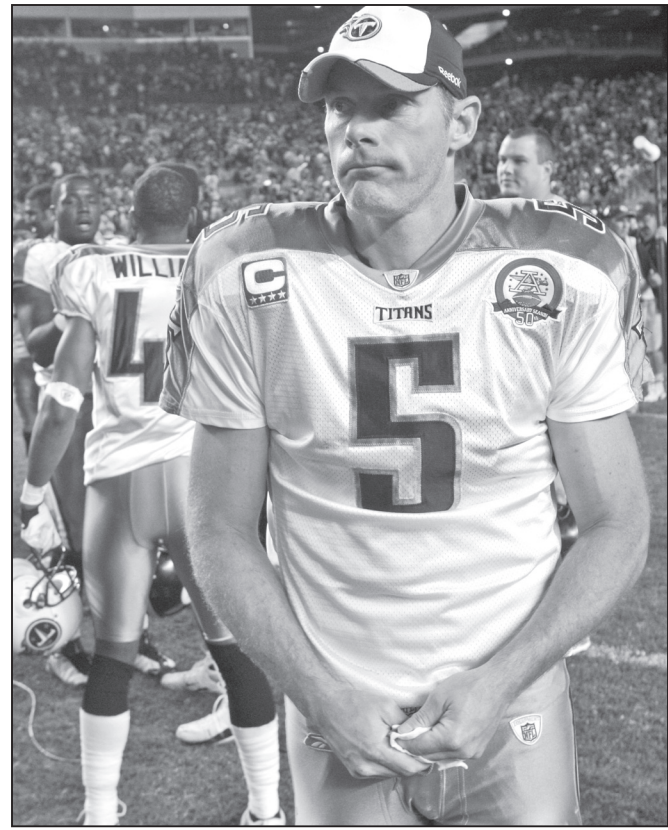
"It looks like everybody's doing well," Fisher said. The team that started 10-0 in 2008 and led the AFC South wire-to-wire now has a new challenge: Not starting 0-2, something the Titans haven't done since an 0-5 start to the 2006 season. "All our focus is on winning the game. It's not on losing the game," Fisher said. "Our attention is to play better than we played last week. If we can do that, we'll have a good chance to

win." Fisher did admit to a sense of urgency because Sunday's opponent is a division rival. He said he knows the Texans also will be frustrated after a 24-7 loss to the New York Jets.

"They're really no different than we are. Everyone wants to get off to a fast start," Fisher said. Tennessee leads the all-time series with the team that replaced it in Houston 11-3 and have lost only once on the Titans' home field.

But the Texans pulled out a 13-12 win last Dec. 14 that delayed the Titans from clinching home-field advantage through the playoffs by a week. Tennessee hasn't lost two straight to Houston since the 2004 season when the Texans swept a team that finished 5-11.

Gage said that loss does stick in the Titans' heads. "Being a division game or a rival team, anytime you lose those games it hurts," he said. "Knowing this is our first chance since then to actually get to play those guys and get a little revenge you can call it."



AP photo
Tennessee Titans quarterback Kerry Collins (5) walks off the field after a 13-10 overtime loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers in a NFL game Thursday at Heinz Field in Pittsburgh.

VICK

Continued from Page 9

Troy Polamalu. The league rankings are based on the sales period from

April 1 to Aug. 28, so Vick — and Favre, for that matter — had plenty of catching up to do since both joined their teams last month.

Vick hasn't played in a regular-season game since Dec. 31, 2006, when he was with the Atlanta Falcons. It's highly unlikely he would have start-

ed even if he were eligible to play this week. Eagles coach Andy Reid has maintained all along that Kolb is McNabb's backup.

Baskett was one of seven receivers the Eagles carried on their 53-man roster through Week 1.

He became expendable after

Philadelphia selected Jeremy Maclin in the first round of April's draft and added Brandon Gibson in the sixth round.

Baskett had 72 catches for 1,052 yards and six touchdowns in 48 games with the Eagles.

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2 FAMILY sale, 1801 Hamilton. Saturday only 7-? Furniture, appliances, scrubs, womens & kids clothes and shoes, toys, electronics, 36" Tv and lots of miscellaneous.

GARAGE SALE, 2807 Navajo. Friday & Saturday, 8:00-12:00. Furniture, girls clothes 12 and under, babyboy clothes, homeschool material, lots of miscellaneous,

SEVERAL FAMILIES. 3101 Navajo, Thursday & Friday 8am-2pm. Antique five piece table and china hutch, dinning table w/6 chairs, head board, bed frame, night stand, chairs, bedding, dishes, Christmas items, old and new stuff, fax machine and misc. items.

TALL CITY TRADE DAYS Saturday Sept. 19th 9am-6pm Sunday Sept. 20th, 1- 5pm 621 West Wall - Downtown Midland, Tx

Antiques, collectibles, vintage items, purses, jewelry, outdoor items, shabby chic, tools and much more. Food vendors: turkey legs, roasted corn, sausage on stix, hamburgers. Don't miss it. More info call (432)631-0626. or www.tcemidland.com

Help Wanted

SIMMEDIATE OPENINGS Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home Currently hiring the following positions: Certified Medication Aide 2 - 10 Also, Weekend/PRN Certified Medication Aide

Salary Based On Length of Licensure/Certification 1809 N. Hwy 87 Big Spring, Texas 79720 (432)268-8387 (432)268-1987 (Fax) "Equal Opportunity Employer" badominguez@sears-method-ist.com

BUFFALO COUNTRY FINA taking applications for Sales Clerk all shifts. Experience preferred but will train. Apply at 4911 South Hwy 87. No Phone Calls.

CITY OF BIG SPRING Police Officer (Certified & Non-Certified) Animal Control Kennel Worker Animal Control Officer Utility Service Worker Code Enforcement Officer Temporary Plant Operator Part-Time General Worker Communications Officer CVB Administrative Assistant For more information go to www.mybigspring.com or call (432)264-2346

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PIZZA INN TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT POSITIONS. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG. NO PHONE CALLS.

Help Wanted

JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER-AIDE Needed. Will be responsible for organizing and coordinating Community Service for juveniles on supervision (formal or deferred prosecution). Locate work sites and purchase all equipment that is needed or required. Juvenile Probation Officer Aide will inform juveniles of dates, times and transportation if necessary, and keep up with all juveniles community service hours. High School Diploma or GED, No Criminal Record. Apply in person at Workforce. Please bring drivers license, and social security card.

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LOOKING FOR a rock solid company to grow and retire with? Blue Bell Creameries is accepting applications for a full time Route Salesperson in the Big Spring Area. Route Sales Experience and Commercial Drivers License helpful. Good driving record required. Job will require physically working with Ice Cream Products in a cold environment. Blue Bell is a market leading company with a 102 year proven history. Competitive Salary + benefits. Never had a lay off! Apply in person: 401 East Interstate 20.

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THE COLORADO River Municipal Water District, regional raw water supplier for the Permian Basin, is accepting applications for following position:

Operations maintenance Technician - Responsible for maintaining the District's raw water pipelines, pump stations, and wells in the Big Spring area. Entry to Intermediate level position. CRMWD is an equal opportunity employer. Benefits include health insurance, retirement plans, and sick, vacation and holiday leave.

Applications are required and are available at the District's office, 400 E. 24TH Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, by calling (432) 267-6341 or crmwd.org

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Lost and Found

FAMILY DOG: Lost Blue Heeler, black & white. Lost Monday September 14th in the vicinity of Trinity Baptist Church. Reward - call #816-5279

Miscellaneous

A WATERBED mattress? King or California king pillow top. BRAND NEW!! Shouldn't need box springs. \$245. 806-549-3110.

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1110 DOGWOOD (FISD), 3 Bdrm, 1 bath, CH/A. \$500.00 month, \$500.00 deposit. Call (432)816-5570.

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1408 EAST 6th Street- rear. Remodeled 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Stove/Fridge furnished, hardwood floors and carport. \$650 month, \$400 deposit. Call (432)816-1746.

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As Venus flirts with Neptune from across the sky, there will be some tension in our personal lives. During this planetary opposition, it's not so clear how to categorize our feelings for one another, let alone how to show them. When in doubt, go with Neptune's inclination toward a higher love, and all things will work out as they should.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You don't have to invent anything. Just follow the directions. If you're unsure about whether or not the directions are right, assume they are and follow them. Be methodical, and you will get the result you desire.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll give your environment a good scrubbing, both literally and figuratively. Whether you are cleaning up situations or surfaces, you get to the bottom of things and then bask in the gleaming satisfaction.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You know what you want, and you talk about it to people who seem interested. This brings about a wonderful stroke of luck. Note: To get the true value of this good fortune, you must share it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There will be a trial having to do with a miscommunication. You will learn to be more specific in your requests. This is all preparation to

Tomorrow's Horoscope

ready you for the ultimate challenge — finally getting what you want.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The teacher is equal to the student — they are two parts of the same process, and you will be involved in both sides of it today. You will learn as you teach, and you will teach as you learn.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's nowhere to hide. You'll be telegraphing your thoughts today, and they come through loud and clear. It benefits you to highlight your flaws. There is a hidden strength inside the quality you have been seeing as a deficit.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A playful character re-enters your world with fresh material. Be entertained, even if it means letting your guard down. You can always resume serious business when the party is over.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll spend hours on a lonely job, but this is a small price to pay for the great rewards that are coming to you in the future. Make friends with your work. Keep your mind on the dream.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're on the verge of an exciting breakthrough in your personal life. You're learning more specifically who you are. As you explore the truth about yourself, you'll see the truth in other people.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When a fine thing happens, make sure it's not a one-time occurrence. Observe exactly what you did to attract this bit of fortune so that you can repeat

your actions and get more.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You will be lucky when you dare to step into a new arena. Your innocence puts you in a prime position: You won't know what can be done, and you won't know what can't be done.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Seductive promises dangle in the balance. If it doesn't have to do with hard work and honest effort, it's not true. Be vigilant in your focus. Ward off dalliances that will waste your time.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 16). You will stop and enjoy your share of happiness this year, which makes you wealthy in every way that counts. You'll be involved in a lucky financial exchange in October. Take a vacation, or "stay-cation," in November — the break will be romantic. A childhood vision of yourself becomes real in March. Aquarius and Taurus people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 2, 53, 31 and 18.

NEW MOON RITUALS: Friday, Sept. 18, brings the new moon in Virgo, one of the most productive moons of the year. This is the perfect start date to launch an organizational, fitness or life makeover project. Create a ritual to celebrate your new beginning and to energize your endeavor and give it the best chance of succeeding.

Air signs: (Gemini, Libra, Aquarius) Those born under the air element respond beautifully to breathing exercises. With a pen, divide a piece of notebook paper into two columns.

Label one side "in" and one side "out." On the "in" side, list the behaviors, habits, things and people you will be adding to your world. On the "out" side, list what you will leave behind in order to make room for the new. Then quietly sit and consciously breathe in an item from your "in" list and out an item from your "out" list. Work through the whole list and repeat.

Water signs: (Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces) Have you ever tossed coins into a wishing well? This works like magic for water signs. You can vary the ritual by wishing on pebbles and then throwing them into the sea, a lake or a fountain.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Happy 17th birthday to teen idol Nick Jonas. This Virgo has been a professional for a decade, and though he has accomplished a great deal already, his natal chart indicates an entertainment mogul in the making. Earth signs dominate his horoscope, showing the strength, stamina and cool reserve needed to become a major player in the future of the entertainment industry.

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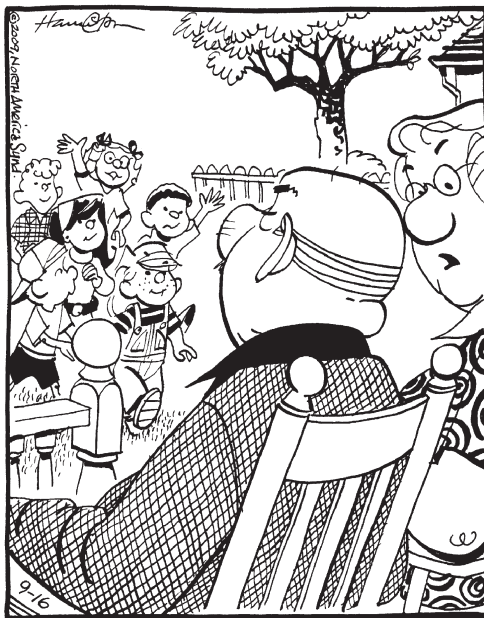
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5:PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Raymond	Cortes	BBC	Cash Cab	Twelve, Matt Damon	UFC's Ultimate 100	Seconds, Giovanni Ribisi	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas	Horn	SportsCenter
6:PM :30	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Gancho	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Friends	Harris	Business	Cash Cab	UFC's Ultimate 100	UFC's Ultimate 100	Movie: Con Air, John Malkovich	Wizards of Waverly Place	Phineas	Interrupt	MLB Baseball: Angels at Red Sox
7:PM :30	Wipeout	Wipeout	Nombre-Amor	You Can Dance	Entertain	Christine Gary	Más Sabe el Diabolo	Seinfeld	Swallow	News-Lehrer	MythBusters	UFC Fight Night	UFC Fight Night	Movie: Deep Cover, Victoria Dillard	Wizards of Waverly Place	Phineas	Football	NFL Live
8:PM :30	(:02) Crash Course	(:02) Crash Course	Mañana es	Glee	Criminal Minds	Pobres		Payne	House	Live From Lincoln Center	MythBusters	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild
9:PM :30	Primitime: Crime	Primitime: Crime	Don Francisco	Simpsons Friends	CSI: NY	Victorinos	The Jay Leno Show	Payne	Payne	Great Performances	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild
10:PM :30	News	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticiero	News	Payne	Upd	Parks	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters
11:PM :30	Insider	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Casa de la Risa	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones	Late Night-Jim	Payne	Dr. Young	BBC	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild
12:AM :30	Work	Paid	Torrente, un Torbel	King-Hill	Insider	Pagado	News	Sanchez	Sanchez	Light of the Southwest	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild
1:AM :30	Paid	Paid	Güereja	RENO 911	Paid	Rosas	Poker After Dark	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest	A Haunting	A Haunting	A Haunting	A Haunting	A Haunting	A Haunting	A Haunting	A Haunting

DENNIS THE MENACE



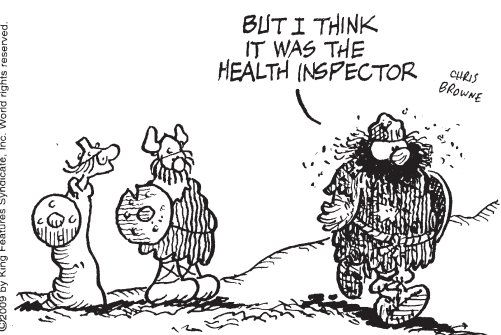
THEY'RE HIS FRIENDS, GEORGE... NOT HIS ACCOMPLICES!

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

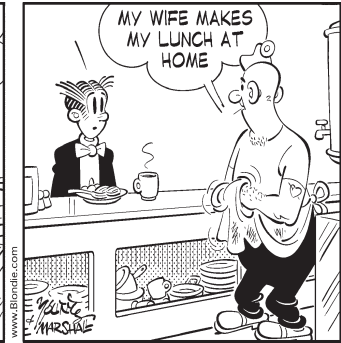


"Shouldn't we give these back to the chickens so they can recycle them?"

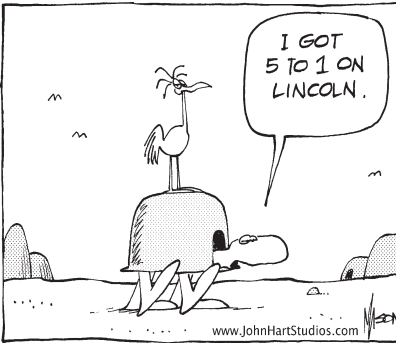
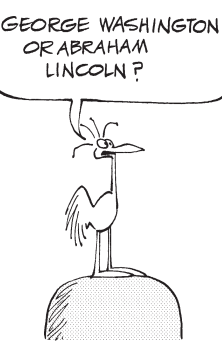
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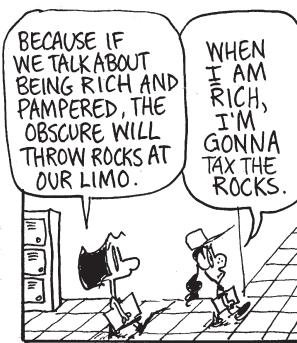
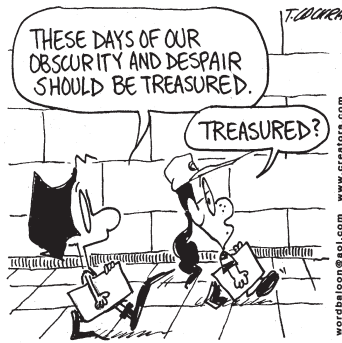
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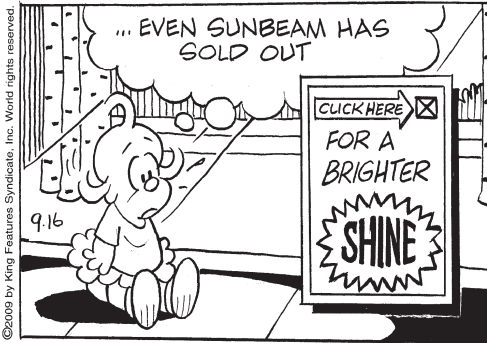
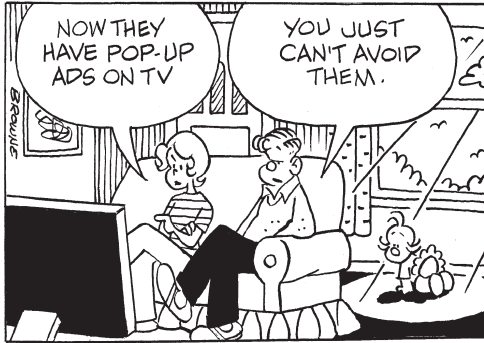
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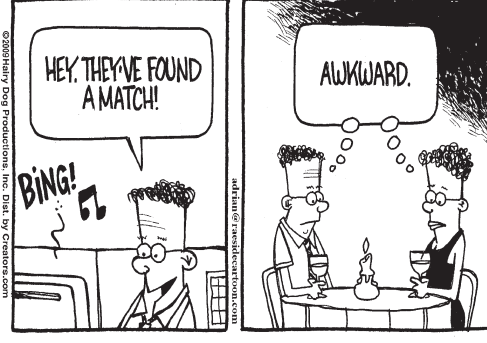
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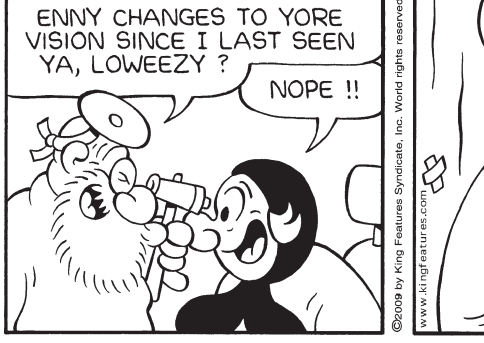
HI AND LOIS



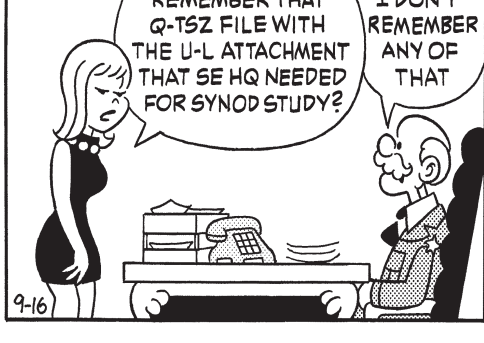
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 16, the 259th day of 2009. There are 106 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 16, 1919, the American Legion received a national charter from Congress.

On this date: In 1498, Tomas de Torquemada, notorious for his role in the Spanish Inquisition, died in Avila, Spain.

In 1810, Mexico began its successful revolt against Spanish rule.

In 1893, more than 100,000 settlers swarmed onto a section of land in Oklahoma known as the "Cherokee Strip."

In 1908, General Motors Corp. was founded in Flint, Mich., by William C. Durant.

In 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law the Selective Training and Service Act, which set up the first peacetime military draft in U.S. history. Samuel T.

Rayburn of Texas was elected Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1966, the Metropolitan Opera officially opened its new opera house at New York's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts with the world premiere of Samuel Barber's "Antony and Cleopatra." (There had been a student matinee performance of "La Fanciulla del West" on April 11 to test the theater's sound quality.)

In 1968, Republican presidential nominee Richard Nixon exclaimed, "Sock it to ME!" in a taped bit that aired on the NBC-TV comedy program "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In."

In 1977, Maria Callas, the American-born prima donna famed for her lyric soprano and fiery temperament, died in Paris at age 53.

In 1982, the massacre of hundreds of Palestinian men, women and children by Israeli-allied Lebanese militiamen began in west Beirut's Sabra and Chatilla refugee camps.

In 1988, Hurricane Gilbert slammed into the Mexico coast for the second time in three days.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Janis Paige is 87. Actress

Lauren Bacall is 85. Blues singer/guitarist B.B. King is 84. Clergyman-author the Rev. Robert H. Schuller is 83. Actor Peter Falk is 82. Actress Anne Francis is 79. Actor George Chakiris is 77. Movie director Jim McBride is 68. Actress Linda Miller is 67. R&B singer Betty Kelly (Martha & the Vandellas) is 65. Musician Kenney Jones (Small Faces; Faces; The Who) is 61. Actress Susan Ruttan is 61. Rock musician Ron Blair (Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers; Mudcrutch) is 61. Actor Ed Begley Jr. is 60. Country singer David Bellamy (The Bellamy Brothers) is 59. Country singer-songwriter Phil Lee is 58. Actor-comedian Lenny Clarke is 56.

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Answer to previous puzzle

STAR	MONKS	LIPS
TUNE	IDEAL	ARIA
URGE	CORNY	MILL
BILLIARDS	BESET	
SNEER	SALAD	
DEMO	SOSUEME	
ASK	ERA	NICKEL
CHINESE	CHECKERS	
DOLANS	EEL	SEE
LOOKOUT	MYTH	
EXPUL	BEAST	
SHADY	TICTACTOE	
EASE	THERE	TOUR
CLAY	LETON	INNS
STONE	CROWD	CEDE

Newsday Crossword

THE CANDY MAN by Lonnie Burton
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 Western plateau
- 5 Take ___ at (try)
- 10 Give off
- 14 Test type
- 15 Ringo of rock
- 16 Workbench device
- 17 Candy man of film
- 19 Singer Fitzgerald
- 20 Gross minus expenses
- 21 Lubricates
- 22 Plenty of nothing?
- 24 Dictatorial boss
- 25 Would-be legislation
- 26 Put on a spool
- 29 Goes back and forth
- 32 College residences
- 33 Lasting mark
- 34 Chimney residue
- 36 Hold like a 16 Across
- 37 Fissionable material
- 38 Undeniable
- 39 Actress Thompson
- 40 Makes off-limits
- 41 Emulates Daffy Duck
- 42 Spend excessively
- 44 Beyond reproach
- 45 Andy Griffith Show son
- 46 Loitered, with "out"
- 47 Cookie nut
- 50 Piquancy
- 51 Hit-show letters
- 54 Thailand, formerly
- 55 See 10 Down
- 58 Whole bunch
- 59 Make happy
- 60 Mideast canal
- 61 Arizona city
- 62 One who challenges
- 63 Data, for short
- DOWN
- 1 Manicured, as a lawn
- 2 A Great Lake
- 3 Common condiment
- 4 Nothing alternative
- 5 Caught in an eddy
- 6 Took without permission
- 7 Brown shades
- 8 Ancient animal refuge
- 9 Barbecue grills
- 10 With 55 Across, candy made by
- 17 Across
- 11 Venus de ___
- 12 Spot in the ocean
- 13 Herbal beverages
- 18 Hindu meditators
- 23 Chicago railways
- 24 Assistant to 17 Across
- 25 Main roof supports
- 26 Border
- 27 Typical results
- 28 Press into folds
- 29 Teacake
- 30 Not as well
- 31 First courses
- 33 Tour de France part
- 35 Try out
- 37 Not full-length
- 41 Vowel sound in "boat"
- 43 It merged with the WB
- 44 Orion, e.g.
- 46 Heedless speed
- 47 Pale
- 48 In ___ of (instead of)
- 49 Polite term of address
- 50 Ski lift
- 51 Like cotton candy
- 52 Coral pasta
- 53 Ricelike pasta
- 56 Slangy suffix
- 57 Trident-shaped letter

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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61						62						63	

The room Obama can't do without

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sure, the West Wing gets the glory. But the East Room gets the action.

Indispensable, yet overshadowed by more famous rooms like the Oval Office, the roomy space at the end of the White House's first floor is more than a hub of activity. It's the most important all-purpose room in America. And has been for more than two centuries.

Consider that in President Barack Obama's first two months in office, this was just a slice of his East Room lineup: two news conferences, two policy summits, four signings of bills and orders, a Cabinet announcement, a dinner for lawmakers, a reception for governors, a speech for mayors, an online town hall and a performance by Stevie Wonder.

Oh, and a conga line. By now Obama and his wife, Michelle, have used the chandelied room more than 60 times for a remarkably diverse string of events. Like that stretch in May when the room held a naturalization ceremony, a Cinco De Mayo celebration, a poetry slam and the introduction of a Supreme Court nominee.

The first occupant of the not-really-finished White House set the anything-goes tone in 1800. First lady Abigail Adams, wife of President John Adams, ended up hanging out laundry in this room built to host elegant public gatherings because she had no other good options.

If the White House has

one room to count on, this is it.

Union troops encamped here. The Civil Rights Act was born here. Gerald Ford ended the "long national nightmare" here as he succeeded Richard Nixon after Watergate.

The Cold War even did some of its thawing here, when Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev signed a disarmament deal.

Today's East Room visitors stand where Abraham Lincoln's son Tad played with his pet goats, Teddy Roosevelt arranged a wrestling match for his guests, Susan Ford held her senior prom and Amy Carter roller-skated.

This is where presidents party: Reagan once cut in when his wife, Nancy, was dancing with Frank Sinatra.

This has been a room of opera, poetry, jazz, rock, country music, ballet and Shakespeare. And it has marked moments of national sorrow. Seven presidents have lain in state in the East Room, including John F. Kennedy.

"It is just massively important, as far as I'm concerned, to the history of the country," said Gary Walters, who worked at the White House for more than 30 years, including two decades as the mansion's chief usher. "The more I think about it, the more spectacular the activities that have taken place in that room."

Why the East Room? Well, where else?

In a building with more than 130 rooms, none is as big and flex-

ible as this one — at nearly 80 feet long and 40 feet wide, it's almost the size of a high school basketball court. For a gathering of notable size, the gold-and-white East Room often is the only option, especially if dicey weather rules out the Rose Garden.

"The fact that it's large, and usually empty, makes it so practical," said White House curator William Allman. "It doesn't need to be reconfigured. It's already waiting to be configured."

History will show that the East Room is the place where Barack Obama loosened restrictions on embryonic stem cell research, expanded health coverage for poor children, launched his first efforts to limit greenhouse gases, and signed legislation to help workers sue for pay discrimination. With some rearranging, the Obama White House also has used the East Room for black-tie entertainment.

It came in handy when Obama invited Democratic and Republican lawmakers for legislative schmoozing and a dinner of steelhead salmon and couscous. "It's hard to move around out there sometimes," he told his guests, "so I've got to bring the world to me."

With all of the White House's demands for hosting and toasting, the place might well be sunk without the East Room. The Obamas have put it to use again and again as they try to keep their pledge to make the executive mansion more open to the public.



AP file photo
In this March 24 file photo, President Barack Obama speaks during a news conference in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

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Why not check this out at the library?

On your mark, get ready, GO! The Annual Friends of the Library Book Sale will begin at 9 a.m. Friday. The sale will be downstairs in the basement; you may enter the door to the far right of the entrance and either use the elevator or stairs to access the basement.

The citizens of Howard County have been most generous with their donations. There are dozens of excellent quality hardback books and lots of paperback. Johnny has weeded the children's non-fiction area of old and dated materials and there is quite a bit available.

The Library is phasing out all books on cassette. If anyone would like to purchase a favorite book on cassette, now is the time. They are being sold at a cost of 50 cents per cassette tape; as an example - if the book has 10 cassettes, then the cost is \$5.00. All VHS videos are going away also. In fact all of them will be in the book sale.

New Books on CD that have come in: Sandra Brown's "Smash Cut" (AUCD F BRO S); "Sacred Hearts" (AUCD F DUN S) by Sarah Dunant; Robert B. Parker's "Brimstone" (AUCD F PAR R) and quite a few more. Please check the

New Book Binder for a complete list.

Anna Quindlen is a highly regarded author. In her previous books, she has written about "blue collar" neighborhoods and in "Blessings" (F QUI A) she has ventured into another milieu. Skip Cuddy, handyman to Lydia Blessing, clandestinely cares for an abandoned baby for four months before being discovered. Cuddy has never known the love and support of a mother and father and he is determined to give what he never had. First published in 2004, "Blessings" still has a lot to say.

R.L. Stine has written for the juvenile market for quite a long time. In "Superstitious" (F STI R) he has entered the world of the adult reader. However, it is the same old stuff, just like the 56 juvenile and young adult books he has written. If horror, macabre happenings and gruesomely detailed deaths are what you like to read, have at it.

Marie Bostwick in "A Single Thread" (F BRO M) is the story of Evelyn Dixon's wakeup call. The abrupt ending of her marriage in Fort Worth forced Evelyn to get busy and chase her dream of opening a quilt shop. While driving through New Bern, Conn., it only takes her a day for her to find her new home.

Opening the shop was easy, starting a new life is something else.

"A Thread of Truth" also by Bostwick, is the second

installment of her New England quilters series. Like her first book, it speaks of the unbreakable thread of friendship and faith.

"The Crowning Glory of Calla Lily Ponder" (F WEL R) by Rebecca Wells is reminiscent of her Ya-Ya Sister series, but is a stand-alone book. Calla Lily lives in La Luna along the banks of a river of the same name. Calla bursts into glory as a force of nature as sweet and pretty as her namesake flower. Her first love breaks her heart and Calla flees to New Orleans to recover. Alas, running away doesn't really solve things. Come check out Wells' book to see how the power of love helps and heals hearts.

On the other end of the spectrum, is Sandra Brown's newest "Smash Cut" (F BRO S). The book moves along at a blinding pace and only gains momentum. The twist and turns are so unpredictable that you cannot see them coming.

For instance: Creighton Wheeler is the primary suspect, yet has an alibi for the night of the crime. But if he is not guilty, then why did the family rush and hire the best defense lawyer in the business? And what role did Julie Rutledge truly play in all this? If you enjoy this book, then check out "Smoke Screen."

We have lots of new cookbooks, really almost too many to list, but here are a few of them: "Mom's Secret Recipe File" (641.5 HYP B) edited by Chris



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Joann Staulcup organizes books that will be for sale this weekend at the annual Friends of the Library Book Sale.

Styler; "Best Recipes from the Backs of Boxes, Bottles and Jars" (641.5 DYE C) by Ceil Dyer; "Treats for Diabetics" (641.563 FIN M) from Mary Jane Finsand and from Kathleen Daelmans, "Cooking Thin with Chef Kathleen" (613.25 DAE K). Please check the New Book Binder at the front desk for more titles. As Julia would say, Bon Appetit!

Our website is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us. Howard County Library hours are 9 to 6, Monday to Friday and is open on Saturday, 10 until 2. The Internet/Video room closes ½ hour before closing. The Library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260. If you need to renew or request a book, email Johnny at hcrhref@hotmail.com

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