

**VOLUME 104. NUMBER 263** 

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# ISD election turnout receives an 'F'

#### By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Early voting, which can only be described as extremely light, has ended in the Big Spring Independent School District tax rollback election. Despite a dedicated early voting push, which included branch voting at several BSISD campuses, Fewer than

2 percent of the district's early ballots, County Election Administrator Saundra Bloom said.

Election day is set for Saturday.

Bloom said 252 voters -1.96 percent of the total in the district — voted early in the rollback election.

"That's a very disappoint-12,852 registered voters cast ing total," Bloom said. "I think it's a matter of understanding the issues. Those who have voted understand the issues, while those who don't understand the issues haven't voted."

Voters are being asked to give their approval to a tax rate designed to maximize

"Those who have voted understand the issues, while those who don't understand the issues haven't voted."



-Saundra Bloom, elections administrator

state financial aid to the dis- cally raised its tax rate (for trict, officials said.

Although BSISD techni- See ELECTION, Page 3

# More than 200 anticipated for **Webb Reunion**

#### By BILL McCLELLAN

News Editor

Big Spring will be celebrating its military heritage this weekend during the 2009 Webb Air Force Base Reunion.

More than 200 people are expected to register at the Hangar 25 Air Museum from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday.

Stopilor TRAININ Saturday morning, some reuniongoers will board buses to Midland International Airport for the Commemorative Air Force's annual Air-

1:30 p.m., the group will have a choice of two activities — a Big Spring tour or a wind turbine tour.

That evening, there will be a reunion dinner and dance at Big Spring Country

Club. Guest speaker will be retired Col. Julius Jayroe, who an instrucwas tor pilot with the 3560th Pilot Training Squadron at Webb.

"He's also an author and will be

doing book signings," noted Amy Thomas, Hangar 25 administrative assistant. "We have a very talented bunch of people coming, several of whom are authors."



sho. Those who choose to stay in Big Spring will be treated to a tour of the Big Spring Refinery, followed by lunch at the Heritage Museum. At

See WEBB, Page 3

**HERALD** file photo

Individual visit during a previous Webb Air Force Base Reunion. The 2009 reunion gets under way Friday at Hangar 25 Air Museum.

# Veterans have their own flower power

### Public invited to participate in annual Forget-Me-Not drive Friday and Saturday

#### By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Buy a flower, help a veteran.

This Friday and Saturday, members of the local Disabled American Veterans chapter will hold their annual Forget-Me-Not drive.

Money raised from the drive will go toward financing the local DAV's veteran assistance programs.

"All the money we raise this weekend, 100 percent, will go

toward helping veterans in Highway 87 and FM 700 Friour area," said Ed Meiser, commander of the local DAV post.

DAV members will be stationed at both entrances to the Big Spring Wal-Mart as well as the intersection of

day and Saturday. In addition, members will be at the Big Spring post office Saturday.

There is no set cost for the flowers, Meiser said.

"They are given out in ex-

change for donations," he said. "The donations can be anywhere from a penny to however much people want to give."

The first national DAV For-

See VETERANS, Page 3



#### To reach us:

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.

# Angel Tree applications are going slowly but expected to pick up pace

#### By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

With just two days down in their annual Angel Tree program's application process, officials with the Big Spring Salvation Army say the effort is moving slower than expected.

Paula Lafler, a social worker with the local Salvation Army, said two days into the process the charity has accepted slightly more than 30 applications, less than she had hoped to see early in the effort.

"We have plenty of volunteers helping us with the applications, but we're seeing about the same demand as this point in the process last year. I doubt it will last though. Each year

we tend to start slowly, and toward the end of the application period things pick up quite a bit," Lafler said.

According to Salvation Army officials, the annual program — which provides Christmas gifts for the

See ANGEL, Page 3



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### LOCAL

# **Police blotter**

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

• RONALD HOPE, 37, of 804 W. Interstate Highway 20 Apt. 205, was arrested Tuesday on a local warrant.

arrested Tuesday on six local warrants.

• MARIBEL LUERA, 40, of 500 Lancaster, was arrested Tuesday on charges of public intoxication and failure to identify.

• SANTOS MENDOZA, 47, of 905 N. Gregg St., was arrested Tuesday on charges of driving while license invalid and evading arrest.

• THEFT was reported:

in the 900 block of Willia.

in the 200 block of FM 700.

SEARCH ARREST, OR TRANSPORTATION was reported in the 1000 block of Nolan.

• FAILURE TO IDENTIFY - GIVING FALSE INFORMATION was reported in the 1000 block of Nolan.

• EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION was reported in the 900 block of Gregg Street.

• DEADLY CONDUCT - DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM was reported in the 1200 block of 11<sup>th</sup> place.

• BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported:

in the 1400 block of Park.

in the 1200 block of Runnels.

• ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported:

in the 1900 block of Wasson.

in the 400 block of Bell.

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following activity:

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 88 inmates at the time of this report.

• ALFONSO BACA III, 27, was arrested (arresting • RICKY LOPEZ, 19, of 448 Armstrong Apt. A, was agency not provided) Wednesday on a probation violation for possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

> • DAVID CANALES, 24, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a probation revocation for possession of marijuana - two ounces or less and charges of no proof of liability insurance, no driver's license and issuance of a bad check.

> • JEFFREY CLARK FORSHEE, 50, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

> • RONALD JOE HOPE, 37, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of assault Class C.

> • RICKY RICARDO LOPEZ, 19, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on contempt charges for minor in possession of alcohol, speeding, no driver's license, failure to appear, manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance - more than 4 grams, less than 200 grams and possession of a controlled substance.

> TERRY LOUDERMILL, 52, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of no valid motor vehicle inspection, failure to appear (two counts) and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

> MARIBEL LUERA, 40, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of public intoxication, resisting arrest, search or transportation and failure to identify - giving false information.

> • SANTOS MENDOZA, 47, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of driving while license suspended and evading arrest or detention.

> • OSCAR SAUL PADILLA, 29, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on contempt charges for dis-

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the playing an expired registration and failure to appear.

• ANGEL DEJESUS SALAZAR, 22, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of violation of a promise to appear and speeding.

CHARLES LUTHER USSERY, 54, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• BRENT DAVID WOOD, 22, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

ROCKY ROBLES YANEZ, 27, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

# Fire/EMS

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

 MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of S. Nolan. Service refused.

• TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 1700 block of Douglas. Service refused.

• TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 200 block of Circle. Service refused.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to SMMC. • MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of E

16<sup>th</sup> St. One person was transported to SMMC.

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New, Only 19,000 Miles. <u>Was \$17,995</u>	<u>NOW \$15,995</u>	Factury Warranty Remains.	t Value, 20 \$24,995	<b>006 Nissan Sentra 1.8S</b> - Special Edition, Silver With Aluminum <i>Theels</i> , Local Trade In, 73,000 Miles, Economy And Price.
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Only 8,434 Miles-Like New.	ite with white Deather,	Miles. NOW \$	<u>\$17,995</u> Wa	Vas \$16,995 NOW \$15,995
<b>2009 Mercury Grand Marquis-Ultimate</b> - S Leather, 16,438 Miles.	<u>\$21,995</u> Silver With Light Gray	2005 Ford F-250 Pwr Stroke Diesel XLT, FX4, 4X4 S DUTY - Crew Cab, All Power, Excellent Condition, Local	al Trade- 20	<b>004 Nissan Maxima</b> - Solid Black With Gray Leather, Nissan's 4 oor Sports Car,
	\$21,995	In. NOW \$	<u>\$18,995</u>	NOW \$13,995
<b>2009 Ford Edge SEL</b> - Bright Red - Only 2 Crossover SUV.	\$21,139 Miles, Beautiful \$26,995	<b>2004 F250 Crew Cab XLT Powerstroke Diesel</b> - Blue Local One Owner, 92,000 Miles	e/Silver,	<u>10 w \$10,530</u>
2009 Ford Flex SLE - Black With Tan Leathe	er, Third Row Seating,	Local One Owner, 92,000 Miles		004 Nissan Altima SE V-6 - Gold with Black Leather, Sunroof, Only
Rear Air, Only 22,000 Miles On This Beautiful (	Crossover SUV. <u>\$31,995</u>	<u>Was \$18,995</u> NOW \$	<u>\$17,995</u> <sup>56,</sup>	6,000 Miles. NOW \$12,995
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	<u>\$11,995</u>	34,000 One Owner Miles.	<u>\$12,995</u> 20	005 GMC Yukon XL - Beautiful Maroon With Leather, Third Row
		2007 Chevrolet Crew Cab LS 1500 4X2 · V-8, Midnight Blu	luo Local Se	eats, Rear Air, Fully Equipped.
Wheel Base, White With Gray Cloth, Only 78K	MILLOO		iue, notai oc	
		Trade In, Fully Equipped, Only 37,000 Miles.		<u>\$14,995</u> 006 Nissan Pathfinder LE - Black, w/Tan Leather, All Power, One
2000 David D 250 Owen Oak Laviat Damen	<u>\$23,995</u>		<b>\$19,995</b> 20 vter. V-6. Ov	<b>006 Nissan Pathfinder LE</b> - Black, w/Tan Leather, All Power, One Owner, Like New, Only 31,000 Miles.
2006 Ford F-250 Crew Cab Lariat, Powers	<u>\$23,995</u> stroke Diesel, 2WD -	<b>2004 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 L.S. Reg. Cab</b> - Pewt Automatic, A/C, 58K Miles.	<b>\$19,995</b> 20 vter, V-6, Ov Wa	006 Nissan Pathfinder LE - Black, w/Tan Leather, All Power, One
<b>2006 Ford F-250 Crew Cab Lariat, Powers</b> Dark Maroon With Tan Leather, Fully Equipp	<u>\$23,995</u> stroke Diesel, 2WD -	<b>2004 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 L.S. Reg. Cab</b> - Pewt Automatic, A/C, 58K Miles.	\$19,995 vter, V-6, Ov \$11,995	<b>006 Nissan Pathfinder LE</b> - Black, w/Tan Leather, All Power, One Owner, Like New, Only 31,000 Miles.
Dark Maroon With Tan Leather, Fully Equipp 2004 Ford Supercrew F-150 Lariat - 5.4, W	<u>\$23,995</u> stroke Diesel, 2WD - ed, Short Wheel Base. <u>\$24,995</u>	<b>2004 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 L.S. Reg. Cab</b> - Pewt Automatic, A/C, 58K Miles.	\$19,995 vter, V-6, Ov \$11,995 20	006 Nissan Pathfinder LE - Black, w/Tan Leather, All Power, One         0wner, Like New, Only 31,000 Miles.         Vas \$25,995         004 Nissan Murano SE - Black/With Gray Cloth, Only 78,000 Miles,         Come And Drive This Best Selling SUV.
Dark Maroon With Tan Leather, Fully Equipp <b>2004 Ford Supercrew F-150 Lariat</b> - 5.4, W Tan Leather, Local One Owner.	<u>\$23,995</u> stroke Diesel, 2WD - ed, Short Wheel Base. <u>\$24,995</u> hite With Tan Sweep,	2004 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 L.S. Reg. Cab - Pewt         Automatic, A/C, 58K Miles.         Was \$15,995	\$19,995 vter, V-6, Ov <u>W:</u> \$11,995 20 Cc	006 Nissan Pathfinder LE - Black, w/Tan Leather, All Power, One         0wner, Like New, Only 31,000 Miles.         Vas \$25,995         004 Nissan Murano SE - Black/With Gray Cloth, Only 78,000 Miles,         Come And Drive This Best Selling SUV.         NOW \$14,995
Dark Maroon With Tan Leather, Fully Equipp <b>2004 Ford Supercrew F-150 Lariat</b> - 5.4, W Tan Leather, Local One Owner.	<u>\$23,995</u> stroke Diesel, 2WD - ed, Short Wheel Base. <u>\$24,995</u>	<b>2004 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 L.S. Reg. Cab</b> - Pewt Automatic, A/C, 58K Miles.	\$19,995 vter, V-6, Ov (\$11,995 20 Cc 20 Or	006 Nissan Pathfinder LE - Black, w/Tan Leather, All Power, One         0wner, Like New, Only 31,000 Miles.         Vas \$25,995         004 Nissan Murano SE - Black/With Gray Cloth, Only 78,000 Miles,         Now \$14,995         004 Chevrolet Tahoe LT 4X2 - Gray, w/Gray Leather, All Power, One         Owner, Only 60,000 Miles.
Dark Maroon With Tan Leather, Fully Equipp 2004 Ford Supercrew F-150 Lariat - 5.4, W Tan Leather, Local One Owner. <u>SPE</u>	<u>\$23,995</u> stroke Diesel, 2WD - ed, Short Wheel Base. <u>\$24,995</u> hite With Tan Sweep, CCIAL PRICE \$13,995	2004 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 L.S. Reg. Cab - Pewt         Automatic, A/C, 58K Miles.         Was \$15,995         ★ ★ ★ CARS ★ ★ ★	\$19,995 vter, V-6, Ov \$11,995 20 Cc 20 Or	006 Nissan Pathfinder LE - Black, w/Tan Leather, All Power, One         0wner, Like New, Only 31,000 Miles.         Vas \$25,995         004 Nissan Murano SE - Black/With Gray Cloth, Only 78,000 Miles,         Come And Drive This Best Selling SUV.         NOW \$14,995         004 Chevrolet Tahoe LT 4X2 - Gray, w/Gray Leather, All Power,
Dark Maroon With Tan Leather, Fully Equipp <b>2004 Ford Supercrew F-150 Lariat</b> - 5.4, W Tan Leather, Local One Owner.	<u>\$23,995</u> stroke Diesel, 2WD - ed, Short Wheel Base. <u>\$24,995</u> hite With Tan Sweep, CCIAL PRICE \$13,995	2004 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 L.S. Reg. Cab - Pewt         Automatic, A/C, 58K Miles.         Was \$15,995         ★ ★ ★ CARS ★ ★ ★         2006 Saturn ION3 - Silver w/Gray Leather, One Owner, Graver, Make Great First Car, Low Miles.	\$19,995         20           vter, V-6, Wi         0x           \$\$11,995         20           Cc         20           Great Gas         0x           20         20	006 Nissan Pathfinder LE - Black, w/Tan Leather, All Power, One         0wner, Like New, Only 31,000 Miles.         Vas \$25,995         004 Nissan Murano SE - Black/With Gray Cloth, Only 78,000 Miles,         Now \$14,995         004 Chevrolet Tahoe LT 4X2 - Gray, w/Gray Leather, All Power,         One Owner, Only 60,000 Miles.
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Dark Maroon With Tan Leather, Fully Equipp 2004 Ford Supercrew F-150 Lariat - 5.4, W Tan Leather, Local One Owner. SPE 2006 Ford F150 Supercrew Lariat - Whit Owner w/53,000 Miles.	<u>\$23,995</u> stroke Diesel, 2WD - ed, Short Wheel Base. <u>\$24,995</u> hite With Tan Sweep, CIAL PRICE \$13,995 te/Leather, Local One <u>NOW \$19,995</u>	2004 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 L.S. Reg. Cab - Pewt         Automatic, A/C, 58K Miles.         Was \$15,995         ★ ★ ★ CARS ★ ★ ★         2006 Saturn ION3 - Silver w/Gray Leather, One Owner, Graver, Make Great First Car, Low Miles.	\$19,995       20         vter, V-6, 0x       0x         \$\$11,995       20         \$\$200       20         Cc       20         Great Gas       0x         \$\$11,995       20         Streat Gas       20         \$\$11,995       0x	006 Nissan Pathfinder LE - Black, w/Tan Leather, All Power, One         0wner, Like New, Only 31,000 Miles.         Vas \$25,995       NOW \$20,995         004 Nissan Murano SE - Black/With Gray Cloth, Only 78,000 Miles,         Now And Drive This Best Selling SUV.         004 Chevrolet Tahoe LT 4X2 - Gray, w/Gray Leather, All Power,         004 Owner, Only 60,000 Miles.         Vas \$20,995         003 Nissan Xterra SE - Blue, w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, Like New.         Vas \$14,995

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# ELECTION

Continued from Page 1

maintenance and operation purposes), in reality, the district's overall tax rate will remain unchanged — trustees are simply shifting debt service payments over to the maintenance and operation side of the budget in order to take advantage of an opportunity to significantly increase state aid to BSISD.

By artificially zeroing out the district's debt service tax rate and raising the maintenance and operation tax rate at the same time, trustees can realize a net increase in revenue of up to \$1 million in 2009-2010.

The election ballot, however, is causing confusion with some voters, officials said.

Because the district has to account for debt service payments in case voters reject the new tax rate, the proposed rate, as it appears on the ballot, is \$1.1995 per \$100 valuation, a significant increase from the current rate of \$1.1195.

Sandra Waggoner, chief financial officer for BSISD, said recently that 8 cents of the proposed rate will be erased if voters approve the measure.

"The school board has already taken that action - the motionhas already been made and is in the official minutes," Waggoner said. "So, we're not just asking voters to trust us. If it passes, we will drop 8 cents from the tax rate."

In reality, the overall tax rate will be unchanged, regardless of voter action, she added.

"The tax rate will be the same either way," Waggoner said. "If (the new rate) passes, we'll get extra money from the state. If it doesn't pass, that 8 cents will go back into (debt service). But either way, the tax rate will remain the same."

On election day Saturday, ballots can be cast from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the Big Spring High School cafeteria, Bloom said.

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

LOCAL

### **WEBB**

Continued from Page 1

The reunion will end with a continental breakfast Sunday at Hangar 25.

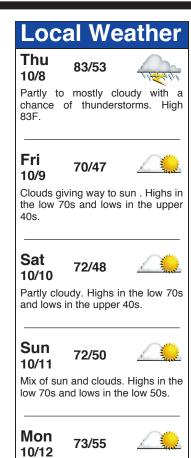
Other highlights of the event will include a golf tournament and a brief "air show" provided by noted pilot Jan Collmer, who will be stopping by before the Airsho in Midland.

"The Webb Reunion keeps alive our rich military heritage, contributions and sacrifices Big Spring has made over the years," said Debbie Wegman, city of Big Spring, Convention & Visitors Bureau. "From 1942 to 1977, Webb Air Force Base trained thousands of Airmen serving in World War II, Korean War and the Vietnam War. The reunion honors those who served, those who gave their lives and the community that supported them."

Beginning in 1942, the air base - then known as the Big Spring Army Air Field — began its mission training aviation cadets as high-altitude precision bombardiers. In 1952, it was re-commissioned Webb Air Force Base, honoring Big Spring-native 1st Lt. James L. Webb, who was killed-in-action off the coast of Japan in 1949. The based was deactivated in 1977.

For more information about the 2009 Webb Air Force Base Reunion, visit www.hangar25airmuseum.com or call 264-1999.

assis-



Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 50s. 2009 American Profile Hometown Conte

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### VETERANS

Continued from Page 1

get-Me-Not drive was held in 1926 to help veterans disabled in World War I. Today, money raised in the program

of veteran-assistance programs across the country. Meiser said local money funds a variety of

helps finance a variety

projects. "Among other things,

we use a portion of the

### ANGEL

Continued from Page 1

children of area low income families struggling through the holidays — has been a huge success in years past.

"The Angel Tree program has helped so many families that are struggling just to make ends meet," said Lafler. "It's a sad thing to think about, to realize a lot of these children wouldn't otherwise have had a single present under the Christmas tree come the holiday. And with the economy still struggling, especially out there in West Texas, we're expecting the demand to be just as high or higher than last

money to provide finanpenses, as well as a list of what their children might want for Christ-

mas, including clothes sizes and shoe sizes.

"The picture ID has to be a state issued ID, not the kind you can get at certain convenience stores. Also, they need to be sure to bring either the social security card itself, or a print out from the Social Security Office. It has to appear on something official, even DHS (Department of Health Services) records."

Lafler said one new addition to the application process this year will be a requirement for birth certificates for the children.

"That's really the only change from last year's application process. she said.

week, from Oct. 12 until Oct. 16," she said. "All they have to do is come by the office between 9 a.m. and noon, or 1 p.m. and 3 p.m."

cial help to veterans in

the form of help with

rent and utilities and

sometimes even food for

the families," he said.

come across some furni-

ture to help the veterans

we'll

"Occasionally,

with."

said Lafler Angel Trees will be set up at several different locations in the city, allowing holiday shoppers to choose angel cards from the branches and pur-

chase the presents listed on the card.

Other programs pro-

vided locally include

tance for veterans who

must seek out-of-town

treatment and monthly

birthday parties for res-

idents at the Texas State

Veterans Home, Meiser

transportation

"The plan, as of right now, is to have the trees located at the same places as last year," said lafler. "However, we really haven't gotten that far yet, so there could be some minor changes. As soon as we have that part of the program solidified, we'll get the

said. For more information, contact Meiser at 213-2154.

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

word out to the public." For more informa-

tion on the Angel Tree program, call 267-8239 or stop by the Salvation Army office at 811 W Fifth St.

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

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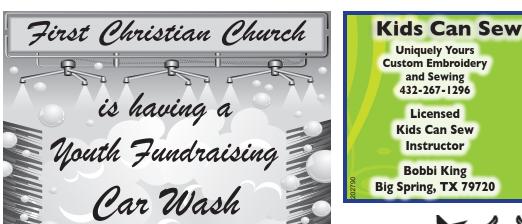
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year."

The application process is simple, according to Lafler, and for some area children it could be the difference between waking up with gifts under the tree Christmas morning and waking up to nothing.

"They need to come in and bring a picture ID for all of the adults. social security cards for all of the household members living there, birth certificates for children 12 and under and proof of income," said Lafler. "That means check stubs from work, food stamps, AFDC, TANIF, HUD or any of those types of income. They need to bring those in with them, because we do verify them. They also need to bring in a copy of all of their ex-

Lafler said area families wanting to apply for assistance through the Angel Tree program can do so through Friday, beginning each day at 9 a.m.

"We'll also accept applications the following

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# **O**PINION

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Publisher

John A. Moseley Managing Editor

**Bill McClellan** News Editor

### **OUR VIEW**

# Don't forget we like your letters to us

n keeping with this being National Newspaper Week, we here at the Herald want to take this opportunity to remind our readers that we welcome your letters to the editor and want to publish them in the paper.

On an almost daily basis, you can find our policies concerning letters to the editor located on our "Opinion" page, but here is a reminder:

While it is not an absolute requirement, as evidenced by a number of recent submissions that we've printed, we ask that letters be limited to no more than 300 words. Letters are printed on an "as space is available basis," and longer letters are more difficult to find space for publication.

Letters must be signed and include a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address, for verification purposes. Anonymous or unsigned letters, or those that do not include a telephone number or street address, will not be considered for publication.

Letters determined to be libelous or slanderous will also not be printed.

We do reserve the right to edit letters for style and clarity and we also reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period for each author.

Unfortunately, the limited size of our staff makes it impossible for us to acknowledge the receipt of letters.

And, as one might expect, letters submitted from those living in our readership area will receive priority.

# Knock, knock: Census workers or is there an immigration raid?

ust when we thought things would be a little different under the Obama administration — because we were promised so much "change" — we realize that we are getting more of the same. On some issues with which we expected

clear improvement, things are actually getting worse.

On two issues of particular importance to the nation's 45 million Latinos — immigration reform and census participation — the Obama administration

clearly has failed

to live up to the expectations of many of the Latino voters who sent them to the White House last November.

Those two issues came together last week, when Obama's Commerce Department said it would not ask Obama's Homeland Security Department to halt immigration raids during the period when federal workers will be knocking on doors to conduct the 2010 census, starting April 1.

This is change, but it's for the worse.

During the 2000 census, many illegal immigrants were able to shed their fears and participate because immigration raids had been informally suspended, at the request of Census Bureau officials, to encourage participation among inner-city minorities and members of other hard-tocount communities.

Yet 10 years later, under a "liberal" president who promised so much change to Latinos, a Commerce Department spokesman told The Associated Press that

"neither the Commerce Department nor the Census Bureau will ask DHS to refrain from exercising their lawful authority" to conduct immigration raids.

That is the response that could be expected from a Republican administration.

In fact, the idea of calling off the raids in 2010 already had been rejected, when it was presented to the Bush administration two years ago. But coming from the Obama administration, it felt like a low blow.

Like a broken record, current Census Bureau officials keep claiming that they are committed to getting an accurate count of all U.S. residents — legal and illegal.

But they sure don't act like it, not when they think they can do it in spite of the continuation of immigration raids.

Since the president took office. Latino leaders have been urging him to call off the immigration raids, period.

Because Obama promised to promote comprehensive immigration reform that includes a legalization plan for undocumented immigrants, these leaders have been telling the president that calling off the raids would be a good first step toward demonstrating that his promises are real.

Yet the thought that his Census Bureau will not even do what the bureau did under the Clinton administration, the unwillingness to ask for even just a freeze on the raids, speaks volumes about the political capital the president obviously is unwilling to spend to repay the Latinos who elected him.

Whatever happened to "Si, se puede — Yes, we can!"?

Unfortunately, many of the Latino leaders who should be

blasting the president for allowing things to get even worse for undocumented immigrants were Obama's surrogates during his campaign for president. Because they asked Latinos to vote for Obama, now they find it hard to admit that the president is not "doing the right thing" for their community.

In fact, they find it much easier to criticize the Rev. Miguel Rivera, one of few Latino leaders who have had the guts to assert some pressure on the Obama administration and the Democratic majority in the U.S. Congress. Rivera, who leads the National Coalition of Latino Clergy and Christian Leaders, has called on undocumented immigrants to boycott the census until the Democrats deliver on their promise to pass comprehensive immigration reform legislation. On Saturday, Oct. 10, Rivera will lead a prayer rally for immigration reform in Manhattan's Battery Park.

Of course, boycotting the census would be counterproductive, not only for undocumented immigrants but also for all U.S. residents. Because census data is used to determine the distribution of nearly \$450 billion in federal aid to local communities, cities with large illegal immigrant populations could stand to lose significant funding.

It's a crazy idea, an act of desperation, but it displays the kind of courage sorely lacked by those Latino leaders who remain deeply entrenched with the president and unwilling to admit that on the crucial issues of immigration reform and census participation, Obama has failed them.

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MIGUEL PEREZ

There are a number of ways to submit letters. They can be mailed to: Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring 79721. Or they can be hand delivered to our offices at 710 Scurry St. during normal business hours Monday through Friday.

We also encourage readers to submit letters via e-mail at editor@bigspringherald.com or to jmoseley@crcom.net.

The thing to remember is that the Big Spring Herald is your community newspaper and we want to provide you with a forum to express your views.

So, keep letting us hear from you.

## 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.

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Sign your letter.

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· Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

# A SMALL PRAYER

#### by K. Rae Anderson

When we see the worst, You see what's best. May we trust You, Lord.

NEWSPAPERS; THE WORLD (AND BEYOND) AT YOUR DOORSTEP-YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW!

# Second city becomes fourth city

•f you want to understand why some conservatives were gleeful over Chicago's fourth-place finish in its bid to host the 2016 Summer Olympic Games — after President Obama and the first lady flew to Copenha-

gen to pitch the American city to the International Olympic Committee — consider this quote in the New York Times from Anita DeFrantz, an IOC member from the United States: "I hate the fact people were here. and then our country got treated that way."

These elegant people? So the

other folks who didn't win for

You see in that sentence all the

presumption of Obama and his

dential campaign reveled in the

argument that the cosmopolitan

Obama would boost America's

image abroad. Alas, the Copen-

hagen experience suggests that

international types may have

fuzzy feelings about the United

political base. The 2008 presi-

their cities are what? Slobs?



DEBRA **S**AUNDERS

America will reap tangible benefits. And unlike a beauty contest, the IOC losers can't even bring home a Miss Congeniality prize.

The Drudge Report cribbed this headline after the news that Chicago placed fourth out of four cities in the running: "The Ego Has Landed: World Rejects Obama." Sure, that verdict is hyperbolic, but Drudge hit on the self-conceit that preceded this fiasco.

Before Chicago got voted off the island, senior White House adviser Valerie Jarrett explained the purpose of the Copenhagen trek to ABC News, thus: "So many of them (the IOC members) said they're not just selecting a city.

They are selecting people because this is really about relationships."

That quote may explain why both Obamas talked so much about themselves — Mrs. O used the word "I" some 20 times in her brief, largely autobiographical remarks — when they were supposed to be selling the Windy City as an Olympics venue.

Only now do they see: The IOC wasn't looking for relationships, but a great location. Besides, there's a certain congruity in Obama's Chicago losing to Rio de Janeiro. As one who has extolled "the burdens of global

citizenship," Obama of all people should be thrilled that South America now can stage its first Olympics.

You just know that if George W. Bush had lobbied in person to win the Games for a Texas city and lost, his critics would have been unapologetic in their joy over his failure to deliver. They'd be bashing his intelligence, his motives and probably Texas.

Of course, it was easy to kick Bush because so many people did it.

But now that Obama is in the Oval Office, erstwhile Bush bashers want everyone to be a cheerleader.

New York Times columnist Paul Krugman, for example, has discovered "the politics of spite' — and not after looking in the mirror.

After eight years of watching some on the left root for defeat in Iraq and snicker at every international slight against Bush, I must admit it is rather special that the left has discovered patriotism — to such an extent that there now is a duty to root for Chicago to host the Games.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com. COPYRIGHT 2009 CREATORS SYNDICATE

States post-Dubya — but that Amen doesn't necessarily mean that



5

# FIRE PREVENTION WEEK **OCTOBER 4-10**



**During Fire Prevention Week, we'd like to thank our local** firefighters and our Volunteer firefighters for their hard work, bravery and dedication to saving lives. Their tireless efforts make our community a safer place to live.

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Mark Hargrove, FF **Trey Harrell, FF** Raymond Hofnett, FF



### LOCAL

tech specialist to weave an

# Why not check this out? At the library

nn Rule is known for her true crime books. She has written more than 20 books (no, the library does not have all of them) and has many more in the works. Her latest, "Too Late to Say Good-

bye" (364.152 RUL A), is the story of Jenn Corbin and her "suicide." Ann has interviewed many people with connections to Jenn's death. Now read the book to see

what really

6

Hollis

**McCright** 

happened. In a review by Gilbert Taylor in Booklist, is this positive portrayal of the controversial Aaron Burr (1756-1836): Nancy Isenberg departs from all previous biographers, deploring their lack of basic research. Although she acknowledges that studying Burr is hampered by the loss of his papers in a shipwreck, Isenberg more than compensates by tapping negative publicity disseminated by Burr's political enemies. Comparing their scurrilous reports

with private descriptions of Burr as cultured, well-liked and progressive for the times (Isenberg approves him as a "feminist"), the author argues that Burr's reputation was marred not by genuine defects of character but by political competition. And she details the three episodes on which opinion of Burr rises and falls: his tie with Jefferson for the presidency in the 1800 election, his 1804 duel with Hamilton, and his 1807 treason trial. Making a strong case for revising received wisdom about Burr, Isenberg significantly contributes to the history of the early republic. You may find "Fallen Founder: The Life of Aaron Burr" (B BUR A) in the Biography section.

Have you watched the series "The Hoarders" on TLC? It is absolutely amazing. The amount of stuff that is worthless to many means so much to a person. If you are interested in bringing order to your home, check out "Cut the Clutter and Stow the Stuff" (648.8 BAI L), edited by Lori Baird. In it you discover strategies to select what needs to be kept. find "hidden" storage areas and much more.

More non-fiction to check out: "Real Age: Are You as Young as You Can Be?" (613.043 ROI M) by Michael F. Roizen; "Ghost Hunters Guidebook" (133.1 TAY T), by Troy Taylor; "How to Think Like a Horse" (636.1 HIL C), by Cherry Hill and

A True Story

of Murder

and Betrayal

"The Complete Book of Soft Furnishings' (746.9)GAT D), by Dorothy Gates.

Now for some fiction. Ridley Pearson is a very wellknown writer. If you check the online catalog, you will find dozens of his books. In

"Killer Summer" (F PEA R), Sun Valley sheriff Walt Fleming must ensure that a wine auction goes off without a hitch. The world's elite wine connoisseurs have descended to taste and bid on the world's best wines. But not all is as it seems. Walt is

pulled in a dozen different directions to try and solve the case. Walt is a neat character.

Amanda Quick is back with "The River Knows" (F QUI A). Anthony Stalbridge's fi-

ancé committed suicide by throwing herself in the Thames River. Or did she? He is determined to discover the role that Mr. Hastings played in her death. His partner in crime

speak),

(so to

Louisa Bryce, is also seeking to unmask Mr. Hastings. Her role is deliciously murky; sparks fly between the two and all will live happily ever after!

Breath You Take

Now for a rollicking sea story. Larry Bond uses his experience as an intelligence officer and antisubmarine

exciting story. Jerry Mitchell is the navigation officer on the submarine USS Seawolf. While on a recon voyage to the Barents Sea to watch the Russian subs train, the Seawolf is ambushed by a Russian attack sub. Captain Aleksey Petrov harasses with fast close passes and the two subs collide. The Russian sub sinks to the sea floor. Now the Russians are mad and not amenable to the American's explanation. Neither do they seem interested in saving the crippled sub. You will have to read the book to find out more. The title is "Cold Choices" (F BON L) and may be found in the Fiction shelves.

Selected by the Today Show staff, "Paradise Alley" (F BAK K) by Kevin Baker concerns a tumultuous moment in the record of the Civil War: the 1863 New York riots that followed President Lincoln's decision to create a draft. Baker refers to the street violence as one of the worst instances of civic unrest in American history. Yet one can't tell a compelling story with simple

See LIBRARY, Page 7



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# LOCAL/STATE

# Man gets life for killing 3 in Texas farmhouse

LUBBOCK (AP) - A Texas jury spared a Missouri man the death penalty Tuesday, sentencing him to life in prison without parole for the 2005 slavings of a pregnant woman, her husband and son inside their farmhouse.

Levi King, 27, pleaded guilty last month to killing Michell Conrad, 35, her husband Brian Conrad, 31, and her 14-year-old son, Zach Doan. Michell Conrad was six months pregnant.

The Lubbock County jury had to answer two questions in order to give King the death penalty: Was he a continuing threat to society? Did mitigating circumstances exist that warranted mercy?

Jurors were only able to answer yes to the first and were unable to answer the second, making the life sentence automatic.

"We're gratified the system worked like we wanted it to," said defense attorney Maxwell Peck III.

Prosecutor Lynn Switzer declined to comment on the sentence.

During nearly a month of testimony in the sentencing phase of the trial, prosecutors presented photographs showing the three family members' bullet-ridden bodies lying in or near their beds and played audio from the 911 call made by the sole survivor, Robin Doan, who was 10 years old at the time of the killings.



AP file photo

In this June 2009 file photo, Levi King, right, is escorted from the Gray County Courthouse following a pre-trial hearing in Pampa. A Texas jury spared King the death penalty and sentenced him to life in prison without parole Tuesday for killing a pregnant woman, her husband and her son.

The girl called authorities after King left the family's farmhouse near Pampa and could be heard sobbing as she told the dispatcher: "I want my mommy."

The now 14-year-old testified that she awoke to her mother's screams the night

the killer go from one room to another, shooting her family members.

After the verdict, Robin Doan told King she forgives him. She also said she felt guilty about not being able to save her family, *The Pampa* 

of Sept. 30, 2005, and heard News reported. "Why did God pick me to be here and not them?" she said.

> The court-appointed attorney had told jurors King grew up in poverty in Missouri and was emotionally neglected by both parents, who used drugs regularly.

LIBRARY

Continued from Page 6

pronouncements. Baker gives us a handful of characters — fictional, yet emblematic — who lead readers through the dense weave of class, race, ambition, gender politics and violence in mid-19th-century America. More importantly, Baker has that rare gift of establishing crucial links between the past and the present, of helping a reader understand that we live with the consequences of history. A hugely ambitious project, Baker wrestles with his responsibility to the overall vision as well as to many, many outstanding moments, and for the most part he gets the balance right. This review is written by Tom Keogh for Amazon. Com

Our Web site is www. howard-county.lib.tx.us. Howard County Library hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. Saturday. The Internet/Video room closes one-half hour before closing. The library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260. If you need to renew or request a book, e-mail Johnny at hcrlref@hotmail.com

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- 1. Big Spring
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- 3. Garden City
- 4. Coahoma
- 5. Lenorah Grady
- 6. Borden County
- 7. Texas Tech
- 8. TCU
- 9. Dallas

#### **Pigskin Picks Entry Form Participating Merchants** Rules: Find this week's games in the merchants' ads on this page. Choose the Team teams you think will win. Clip and fill in the official entry blank on this page Name with your team choice. The entry with the most correct picks will win \$50. You must be 18 to enter. Only official entry forms accepted. In the event of a Address tie, the tie breaker will determine the winner. Guess the winner and the combined scores for the total points. Decisions of the judges are final. Employees Phone Number and families of employees of The Big Spring Herald are ineligible. All entries Tie Breaker - Circle the winner and must be received at one of the participating merchants by 1 p.m. Friday of the note total points scored week played. Winners will be announced in the Big Spring Herald the Wednesday following the games. Texas A&M vs. Oklahoma State Total Points 3. Garden City vs. Sterling City KHHAR H • Week #6 ~ \$50 **Big Spring vs. Frenship** ONE BEAUTIFUL PLACE 4. Coahoma **Iewelers** vs. Jim Ned **PIGSKIN WINNER ENTRY** 8. TCU vs. Save money. Live better. Air Force Generations of West Texas Jewelers Dropped off at 201 West Marcy With Over 50 Years of Experience WALMART Big Spring, TX 79720 432-267-3363 Big Spring Mall (432) 267-6335 E ENTER THE PIGSKIN CONTEST TO WIN YOUR \$50 2. Stanton vs. Forsan **Bargain** 9. Dallas vs. Kansas City eray **Discount Foods** America's 7. Texas Tech vs. Kansas State Drive-In. HAPPY HOUR 403 Runnels, Big Spring, TX Half Priced Soft Drinks Monday-Friday 2:00-4:00 PM Open Mon.-Sat. 9 am - 6:30 pm Sonic #1 1200 Gregg • 263-6790 Sonic #2 601 E. FM 700 • 263-2700 rah Grady (Closed Sundays) 6. Borden County vs. s. Aspermount **Buena Vista**

# Sports

BIG HERALD

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

Page 8 Wednesday, October 7, 2009

# HC men's and women's rodeo teams place third at FPC

#### By CINDY SMITH

#### Special to the Herald

PERRYTON — The Howard College men's and women's rodeo teams found success at the Frank Phillips College Rodeo in Perryton this last weekend as the men had a second

straight third-place finish and the women split the third-place slot.

For the Hawks, bareback rider A.J. St. Goddard took the lead once again as he managed a 71-point ride in the first round and came back in the shortgo with a 78-point ride,

de.

enough to bring home the third in the

average.

Payton Norell, and his partner Stewart Kinley of New Mexico Junior College, went into the short-go in the sixth-place slot with a 7.5 time. The short-go was a little tougher on the duo as they clocked in at 16.3, but it was still enough to secure the fourthplace finish.

Team ropers Jason Schaffer and Cullen Teller paired up for a 7.3 time in the long-go and a 28.8 in the shortgo, nailing down the fifth-place slot in the average for the Hawks. Steer wrestler Rhett Anderson was sitting in third-place in the long-go after a 5.1 run, but couldn't get it done in the short-go and dropped out of placement for the average.

The Lady Hawks were right on point with four ladies coming back for the

short-go round.

Knox

After their first shot in breakaway roping, Kady Knox and Lauren White were splitting the fourth spot with a

2.9 run. After the short-go, Kady Knox pulled ahead with a 3.6 time and secured her second-place finish in the average. White, who ran a 12.8 in the short-go, finished in fourth place in the average.

The goat tying shortgo also saw two Lady

Hawks in the final round. Newcomer Rylee Lamson clocked an 8.5 run on her first attempt and went into the short-go splitting fourth place. However, a 20.4 run in the short-go threw her out of the running for a spot in the average.

That left it up to Maegan Hillhouse who was just behind Lamson as she clocked in with an 8.6 time on her first try. She fared better in the shortgo with a 9.1 time, enough to bring home the sixth-place finish in the average for the Lady Hawks.

"We broke several barriers in the short round and although it didn't take us out of it, it definitely didn't help us out any," said Head Coach Greg Kernick. "Other than that, we had another strong showing and I'm pleased."

Next up for the Hawk Rodeo Teams is the Vernon College Rodeo as the team travels to Vernon Thursday through Saturday.

# Cooper tops Lady Steers in three sets

#### By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

ABILENE — Big Spring's first-year volleyball coach Lynn Osborne felt going into the District 4-4A season that Abilene Cooper would be the team to beat.

The Lady Cougars showed why Osborne made that assumption Tuesday night with a straight sets victory over the Lady Steers in Abilene.

Cooper dominated from the start, leading 17-3 at one point in the opening set. The Lady Cougars won the first game 25-9 and were just as dominant in the second set, winning 25-12.

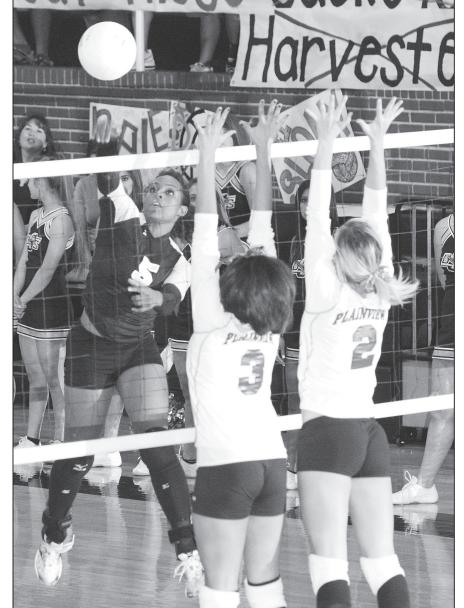
The Lady Steers finally put up a fight in the third game, jumping out to a 3-1 advantage. It was Big Spring's first lead of the

See **LADY STEERS**, Page 13

District 4-4A volleyball standings

Team

Dist. Overall





SANTA CLARA, Calif. — The San Francisco 49ers and wide receiver Michael Crabtree have agreed to a six-year contract after several months of difficult negotiations.

Team spokesman Bob Lange confirmed the deal in a text message to The Associated Press early Wednesday. Terms were not disclosed.

The former Texas Tech star is the only draft pick who had yet to sign.

Crabtree could provide the gamebreaking wide receiver threat the 49ers have been lacking, assuming he can quickly learn the offense after missing all of training camp. The 10th pick overall, he also sat out offseason minicamps and organized team activities while recovering from a foot injury, but was a regular presence at the team's training facility.

The 22-year-old Crabtree and his agent, Eugene Parker, sat down with three top 49ers officials Tuesday in an attempt to work through his contract impasse. Crabtree had balked at a longstanding offer of approximately five years and \$20 million with a reported \$16 million guaranteed, instead seeking money comparable to higher draft picks. Coach Mike Singletary acknowledged last month that the 49ers discussed changing their offer to Crabtree, and team president Jed York said in mid-September that the



Frenship	3-0	15-12	
Plainview	2-1	23-13	
Cooper	2-1	18-13	
Big Spring	1-3	10-20	
Lake View	0-3	9-21	
Tuesday's resu	ilts: Fre	enship	def.
Plainview, 25-20, 2	5-18, 25	-21; <b>Ab</b>	ilene
Cooper def. Big	Spring,	25-9, 2	5-12,
25-17; (non-distric	t) Pecos	s def.	Lake
View, 25-18, 25-16,	25-17.		



**HERALD** photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Desiree Anderson (left) spikes the ball past two Plainview blockers during a District 4-4A volleyball match at Steer Gym Sept. 29. The Lady Steers fell to 1-3 in district play Tuesday with a straight sets loss to Abilene Cooper.

See CRABTREE, Page 13

## Rangers insist Hicks' plans not changing

#### STEPHEN HAWKINS

#### AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON — Hall of Fame pitcher and team president Nolan Ryan could become part of the future ownership of the Texas Rangers, and financially strapped owner Tom Hicks could still have a significant stake in the team despite taking bids from prospective buyers.

All of that is still to be resolved and the timeframe is unclear. But Ryan and general manager Jon Daniels said Tuesday they don't expect the uncertainty to affect team operations heading into the offseason after just the second winning record (87-75) since Texas last made the playoffs 10 years ago.

"Our approach will be the same as we have past offseasons," Ryan said. "I feel like the budget will be close, if not the same, as it was last year. ... We'll determine what areas that we need to address if we can to improve the ball club. That will be our approach, as it is each year at this time."

Hicks Sports Group in April defaulted on \$525 million in loans tied to the Rangers and the NHL's Dallas Stars. Hicks said it was an intentional move to force lenders to renegotiate. A month later, Hicks said he was willing to sell controlling interest in the Rangers, the team he bought in 1998 for \$250 million. Forbes valued the team this year at \$405 million, 15th among the 30 major league teams. He has said he will maintain primary ownership of the hockey team.

Ryan said it was hard to predict when the ownership issue might be resolved.

"I think Tom's working really hard to reduce some of his debt," Ryan said. "Tom is in the mindset that he would like to get that resolved as soon as possible. But what timeframe that will be, I don't know. I think he is of the mindset that when it is resolved, he'll still be in position of ownership here."

Hicks, who didn't attend the annual season-ending news conference, has repeatedly refused to comment on the status of negotiations with prospective buyers.

Asked by e-mail about Ryan's comments, Hicks replied: "Sounds like he was his normal straight talking self. I don't have anything to add."

Ryan said he has not been involved with Hicks' negotiations and that it was too early to predict he would get to have partial ownership in the team.

"But I feel like from conversations I've had with Tom, that there probably will be an opportunity for me to get involved," said Ryan, who was hired by Hicks as team president in February 2008.

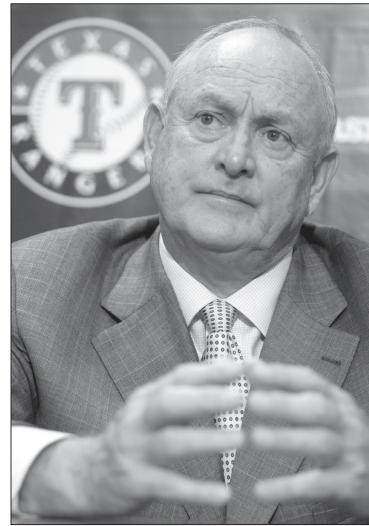
Ryan and Daniels both said they expect no significant change in the operation budget from last winter.

Among the offseason decisions to be made are whether to re-sign free agents including outfielder Marlon Byrd, who led the team in RBIs (89) and games played (146), catcher Ivan Rodriguez and infielder Omar Vizquel.

Slugger Josh Hamilton, coming off an injury-plagued season, closer Frankie Francisco, right-hander Scott Feldman (a 17-game winner) and left-handed reliever C.J. Wilson are among players eligible for salary arbitration.

The Rangers finished the season with one more win than Minnesota and Detroit, the AL Central teams who played a one-game tiebreaker Tuesday for the division title and final playoff spot. Their last

See **RANGERS**, Page 13



AP photo/Donna McWilliam

Texas Rangers president Nolan Ryan speaks at a press conference Tuesday in Arlington. Ryan doesn't expect the team owner's effort to sell at least part of the baseball team to have any adverse effect on offseason plans.

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Forsan ISD will hold a public meeting at the beginning of their regular Board Meeting at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, October 19, 2009, at the Administration Office located at 411 W. 6th Street in Forsan, Texas. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Forsan ISD's FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) rating. #6297 October 7 & 8, 2009

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Mercury and Saturn form a conjunction, making it difficult to forget those things we said

we would do but haven't yet. Promises you make to yourself should be given even greater pri-

ority than the others, though usually those are

the first to slip away. Guilt or shame is unnecessary. Simply renew your commitment to keeping your word.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You expect

South dealer.

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West

Pass

Pass Opening lead — four of spades. yourself to be perpetually charming and witty. However, you don't have to be "on" all the time. In fact, today's low-key moments will be exactly the ones that could make someone fall in love with you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your business head is tightly buckled on. Though you think of yourself as an innovator, you would also be wise to investigate the options that are already tested and working well for others.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Unfortunately, there is no dress rehearsal for this show called life. However, the situation you encounter today will certainly warm you

Tomorrow's Horoscope up for the next scene, where the stakes you'll be playing for will be much higher.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Our favorite things define us. Reconnect with your essence by making a list of things you love: movies, songs, activities. Not only will you find a renewed sense of self, but you'll remember again why you love who you are.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Your flair is irresistible. Expect copycats. Make sure the example you set is an excellent one that you don't mind others following. Tonight, if there's a way to get around red tape, your connections will help you find it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A charitable impulse from someone in your circle opens an unexpected door for you. Travel is imminent. Buckle your seatbelt, and pick out a new pair of sunglasses.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You've often told yourself that several people you know would make good characters in a book. And today you might also notice what a fantastic protagonist you make. People naturally cheer for you.

SCORPIO (Oct.24-Nov. 21). An overbearing individual may be complicating your life. You've been telling yourself it's not such a big deal, but now it's time to sort it out. You dislike confrontation, though a conversation might be necessary here.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It is incredibly lucky to spend time with children now, of the young or the old variety. Silliness and laughter will provide just the nourishing boost to your life force that will keep you humming along in the days to come.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Another per-

son's disorganized ways birth? She is never far will affect you. You might be returning items they left at your house or scrambling to help them get things together at the last minute. Be compassionate, and think of this as charity work.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The people around you are maturing, and so are you. Friends support one another to a greater degree. The pettiness and jealousy you might have dealt with in the past now gives way to a sincerely encouraging spirit.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Though someone likes you very much and will offer a focused attention that is difficult to resist, this is no time to let one person monopolize you. Diversify. You benefit from collecting many different opinions and influences now.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 7). Your ability to rule your world increases this year as you do what it takes to become stronger. This month brings a new wave of emotional toughness. You take hold of your mind and train yourself to think like a winner. A mentor will help you achieve your goals more quickly. November and May are so romantic. Scorpio and Taurus people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 40, 21, 5 and 28.

VENUS, IF YOU WILL: In astrology, Venus is the diva ruler of all things glamorous, sensual, gorgeous and She's poetic. the romance queen, the empress of aesthetics and the head mistress of the school of seduction. Her position in your natal chart indicates your manner, style and approach to that fourletter word: LOVE. Do you know where Venus was on your date of from the sun, either in your sun sign or in one or two of the signs preceding or following your birth. For exact details, consult your local astrologer, look it up in an astrology book or try an online chart generator.

If your Venus is in ARIES: You are likely a prime candidate for love at first sight. You are passionate and in touch with your romantic thoughts and impulses. You are also confident follow enough to through with them some of the time. However, if you discover that a person is not who you thought they were, you fall out of love just as quickly. You are not one to linger or vacillate when a relationship is clearly not working out. You prefer tidy endings. You are admired for your straightforward approach in love.

CELEBRITY **PROFILES:** Simon Cowell is often accused of being heartless, though his natal chart reveals him to be quite simply pragmatic. His natal sun, Mercury and Mars are all in the relationship-oriented sign of Libra, which suggests that he does his best to make sure his business and personal partnerships are peaceful. His outspoken Sagittarius moon spurs him to say what others might think but wouldn't utter.

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The Power of Reason hearts, so he cashed the A-K, crossed to the ace of diamonds and conceded the ten of hearts to West's queen.

By Steve Becker

spade at this point to establish their suit, hoping to regain the lead later on. But this particular West had been paying close attention to the proceedings and knew that a spade return offered no hope of defeating

West arrived at this conclusion from two different directions. First. he could see that declarer had nine sure tricks — two spades, three hearts and four diamonds - as soon as he regained the lead.

Second, South had already shown up with the A-Q of spades and A-K of hearts to account for his opening bid, and was also known to hold the jack of diamonds (East had already played his only diamond).

at most 14 points, so he couldn't hold any high cards in clubs. If he did (in which case he had made an error earlier in the bidding), three notrump could not be beaten.

of clubs, and when the smoke cleared, the contract was down two. Some might call West's play daring, but we would say he had no choice under the circumstances.

Tomorrow: South neglects to shift gears. ©2009 King Features Syndicate Inc

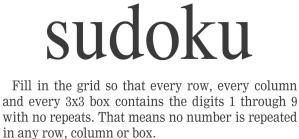
Many defenders would return a

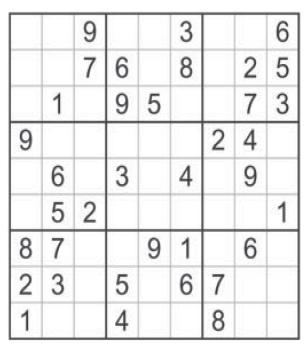
the contract.

His one-notrump rebid indicated

6

West therefore shifted to the king







HOLIDAY MATHIS

Contract 🛓

EAST

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winners at this point - two spades,

two hearts and four diamonds. The

only possible source of a ninth was in

ily be considered a dangerous play.

3 NT

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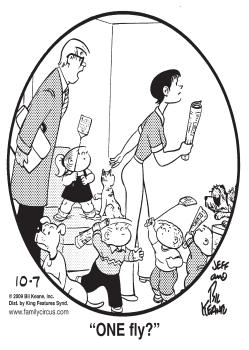
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# This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Oct. 7, the 280th day of 2009. There are

85 days left in the year. Highlight Today's in History:

On Oct. 7, 1929, former Interior Secretary Albert B. Fall, one of the main figures of the Teapot Dome scandal, went on trial in Washington, D.C., charged with accepting a bribe from oil tycoon Edward L. Doheny. (Fall was convicted and sentenced to a year in prison and fined \$100,000; he ended up serving nine months. Ironically, Doheny was acquitted at trial of offering the bribe that Fall was convicted of accepting.)

On this date: In 1777, the second Battle of Saratoga began during the American Revolution. (British

forces under Gen. John Burgoyne surrendered 10 days later.) 1858, the fifth debate In

Stephen Douglas took place in Galesburg. In 1949, the Republic of East

Germany was formed. In 1959, singer-actor Mario

Lanza died in Rome at age 38. In 1960, Democratic presidential candidate John F.

Kennedy and Republican opponent Richard M. Nixon held their second televised debate, in Washington, D.C.

In 1979, Pope John Paul II concluded his weeklong tour of the United States with a Mass on the Washington Mall.

In 1985, Palestinian gunmen hijacked the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro in the Mediterranean. (The hijackers, who killed an elderly Jewish American tourist, Leon Klinghoffer, surrendered two days after taking over the ship.)

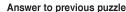
In 1989, Hungary's Communist Party renounced Marxism in favor of democratic socialism during a party congress in Budapest.

In 1991, University of Oklahoma law professor Anita Hill publicly accused Supreme Court nominee Clarence denied Hill's allegations.

In 1998, Matthew Shepard, a gay college student at the University of Wyoming, was beaten, robbed and left tied to a wooden fence post outside of Laramie; he died five days later. (Russell Henderson and Aaron McKinney are serving life sentences for Shepard's murder.)

Today's Birthdays: Singer Al Martino is 82. Retired South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu is 78. Comedian Joy Behar ("The View") is 67. Former National Security Council aide Oliver North is 66. Rock musician Kevin Godley (10cc) is 64. Actress Jill Larson ("All My Children") is 62. Country singer Kieran Kane is 60.

<sup>®</sup> 2009 The Associated Press.





AT AN END by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman

#### **HI AND LOIS**



#### THE OTHER COAST



#### **SNUFFY SMITH**





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#### **Newsday Crossword**

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# Jets acquire WR Edwards from Browns

NEW YORK (AP) — Cleveland Browns coach Eric Mangini has dumped dissatisfied wide receiver Braylon Edwards off on his former team.

Mangini Edwards, a former firstround pick whose troubles have matched his immense talent, to the New York Jets on Wednesday. The trade involves wide receiver Chansi Stuckey, linebacker Jason Trusnik and undisclosed draft choices.

Edwards, in his fifth season, has 10 receptions for 139 yards but was held to no catches for the first time in his career in the winless Browns' 23-20 overtime loss to Cincinnati on Sunday. His best season came in 2007, when he had 80 catches for 1,289 yards and 16 touchdowns.

The former Michigan star and former Pro Bowler comes to the Jets with his share of off-field issues. The NFL is investigating

whether he violated the league's conduct policy following accusations he assaulted a man at a nightclub on Monday.

Edwards allegedly promoter punched sent Edward Givens, a friend of NBA star LeBron James, following an argument in downtown Cleveland.

Although Edwards hasn't been charged with a crime, the league's conduct policy states that discipline may be imposed for "the use or threat of violence."

Mangini said the decision to deal Edwards was not a direct result of the altercation. He said Edwards did not ask to be dealt.

Edwards is the second big-play offensive weapon traded by Mangini, who sent tight end Kellen Winslow to Tampa Bay in February for draft picks.

The Jets, off to a 3-1 start, had been looking to replace Laveranues Coles in the starting lineup since allowing

him to become a free agent in the offseason. They looked into former Giants star Plaxico Burress' legal status before the draft, and were mentioned in possible trade talks with Denver's Brandon Marshall.

San Francisco also filed tampering charges against the Jets in September, claiming New York was looking into wide receiver Michael Crabtree, the 49ers' top draft pick. The league is still looking into those charges.

Edwards has been involved in other offfield incidents. In March, he was partying with suspended Browns wide receiver Donte Stallworth in Miami the night Stallworth later drove drunk and killed a pedestrian. Edwards was not with Stallworth at the time.

November, Last Edwards was fined \$150 and given 30 hours of community service after he was found guilty of driving 120

mph.

It's the second major trade the Jets have made with the Browns and Mangini. On the first day of the draft in April, New York acquired the fifth overall pick from Cleveland to select Sanchez for its first-round pick, its second-rounder (No. 52), and defensive end Kenyon Coleman, safety Abram Elam and quarterback Brett Ratliff.

Stuckey, who won the No. 2 receiver spot opposite Cotchery out of training camp, has 11 catches for 120 yards and a touchdown. He was a seventh-round draft pick out of Clemson in 2007, but missed his first season with a foot injury. Stuckey had 32 receptions last season, catching three touchdown passes.

Continued from Page 8

**CRABTREE** 

team hoped for a face-to-face meeting with Crabtree but hadn't heard back from his representatives.

That meeting finally happened Tuesday at an undisclosed spot in the Bay Area away from the team's Santa Clara headquarters. Crabtree and Parker were joined by York, vice president of football operations Paraag Marathe and general manager Scot McCloughan.

It's not common for a player to join such contract talks.

Singletary, whose team leads the NFC West and at 3-1 is off to its best start since 2002, said Monday he would welcome Crabtree whenever he shows up..

The 49ers must sign Crabtree by Nov. 17 for him to remain eligible to play this season. The team would have a seven-week window before the 2010 draft to trade Crabtree if he did not sign.





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**Courtesy photo** 

Months of hard work and training paid off for three Howard County educators Saturday as they competed in the Crossroads Marathon in Odessa. Pictured above (from left) Forsan ISD teacher Zane Yeater, Coahoma ISD educators Odis Franklin and Joyce Baumann and Katherine Najar, a Midland ISD employee. Yeater, Franklin and Baumann have been training with Najar for two years and completed the marathon together Saturday.

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### LADY STEERS

#### Continued from Page 8

match. Cooper responded with a 6-0 rally, taking a 7-3 advantage.

Big Spring fought back and regained the lead at 10-9. With the score tied at 13, Cooper won 12 of the next 16 points on its way to a match-clinching 25-17 win. The final set featured four lead changes and six ties before Cooper finally pulled away.

Cooper was led by Samantha Koss, who had 11 kills, while Ellie Harp contributed 10 kills. Chelsea Crank had seven kills with many of her points coming on over sets by the Lady Steers.

Harp and Kelsey Hundt had 11 assists apiece.

Sophomore Cerbi Ritchey led the Lady Steers with six kills, eight assists and four blocks. Macy Graves had four kills, while Callie Shafer chipped in six assists. Valerie Ross had a team-high 14 digs with Sloan Davis registering seven digs.

The Lady Steers fall to 10-20 overall with a 1-3 mark in district play. They remain in fourth place in the league — a game ahead of San Angelo Lake View, which the Lady Steers defeated in four sets Saturday.

Cooper (18-13, 2-1) is in a tie for second place in the district with Plainview (23-13, 2-1), while Frenship's Lady Tigers (15-12, 3-0), who defeated Plainview in straight sets Tuesday and haven't lost a district match since 2005, sits alone atop the league.

Big Spring has a bye Saturday and gets back into action at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday with a trip to Plainview. The Lady Bulldogs defeated Big Spring in straight sets Sept. 29 at Steer Gym. Plainview had won 10 straight before falling to Frenship.

#### Abilene Cooper d. Big Spring 25-9, 25-12, 25-17

Lady Steers stat leaders Kills: Cerbi Ritchey 6, Macy Graves 4. Assists: Ritchey 8, Callie Shafer 6. Digs: Valerie Ross 14, Sloan Davis 7. Blocks: Ritchey 4.

### RANGERS

Continued from Page 8

"We feel this is a step-

ultimately get where we

want to get," Daniels

said. "The positives this

year were numerous,

none as important as

changing the perception

of the organization

internally and external-

ly, as far as there was

titles.

this idea that we couldn't pitch here. This team has showed we can."

Even with rookies Derek Holland and Tommy Hunter becomwinning season had ing mainstays in the been 2004, five years rotation, Texas had a after winning the last of 4.38 ERA, its lowest their three AL West since 1993, a year before Rangers Ballpark opened. That was 0.99 ping stone year for us to lower than last season,

> majors. Ryan said Neftali Feliz, the 21-year-old right-hander with a 100 mph fastball, will likely get the opportunity in spring training to be in the starting rotation.

the best increase in the



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