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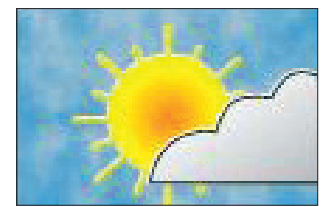
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BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY
 SEPTEMBER 22, 2010



VOLUME 105, NUMBER 248

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Howard County Library Director Hollis McCright sorts through some of the items to be sold during the Friends of the Library's annual book sale, which runs from Friday through Sunday at the library.

Duncan calls for term limits

Appoints committee to plan city charter revisions

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Not unexpectedly, recently-elected Big Spring Mayor Tommy Duncan on Tuesday called for term limits.

Duncan first brought the idea to the council after being elected in May. However, on Tuesday, he began putting his plan into action.

As a result, council members gave the go-ahead to form a committee to review and plan revisions to the municipality's charter, a move that didn't set well with at least one council member.

The council approved the creation of the committee on a 5-1 vote, with District 2 Councilman Manuel Ramirez Jr. dissenting.

Mayor Tommy Duncan said he'd like to see term limits set on the council seats and the mayor's seat.

"There are a couple of things I'd personally like to see put into the charter," Duncan said. "I would like to see term limits initiated on council members. I think it's important council members have the opportunity to serve, then other members of our community have

See **MAYOR**, Page 3

Stabbing inquiry continues

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Police officials say an ongoing feud may have spurred a fight in the 1500 block of Sycamore early Sunday morning that sent four local residents to the hospital emergency room with stab wounds.

Andrew Yanez, 17; Joseph Yanez, 38; Anthony Yanez, 19; and Rene Rodriguez, 22, all of Big Spring, were treated at the Scenic Mountain Medical emergency room shortly after the fight, which was reported to the Big Spring Police Department at approximately 1:51 a.m. Sunday.

"Officers responded to the 1500 block of Sycamore in response to a fight in progress," Tony Everett, public information officer for the BSPD, said. "When officers arrived, the fight was over, so they made contact with subjects at the scene and learned a large fight — involving at least 20 people — had occurred."

Everett said several people had already arrived at the emergency room by this point in

See **STABBING**, Page 3

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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.



Friends of Library sale begins Friday

□ 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

Bookworms — of the figurative variety, at least — will be more than welcome at the Howard County Library this weekend.

The Friends of the Library, a volunteer group that assists in library operations, will hold its annual book sale Friday through Sunday in the library basement.

Hours for the sale will be from 9 a.m. until 5:30 Friday and Saturday

and 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

The group is a non-profit organization which provides supplemental support for the library outside the budget furnished by Howard County.

Friends of the Library uses proceeds from the sale to help fund programs such as the library's summer reading program, as well as to purchase items such as chairs, computer software and book drops.

Hundreds of books have been collected by volunteers, said Gloria Hopkins, Friends of the Library member.

See **LIBRARY**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Don Priddy

Don Priddy, 79, of Weston Lakes, formerly of Big Spring died Monday, Sept. 20, 2010, at his residence. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 24, 2010, at the First Baptist Church Chapel with Dennis Etheredge officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 23, 2010, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

He was born Sept. 28, 1930, in Amherst and married Helen Marie Vaughn on Jan. 21, 1951. He was a graduate of Amherst High School and Texas A&M University, Class of 1953. In 1964, Don took a job with Hesston Corporation as a territory manager and moved to Big Spring, where the family made its home for 44 years. In 2008 they relocated to Fulshear. Don served as a deacon with First Baptist Church and was an active member of the Kiwanis Club.

He is survived by his wife, Helen Priddy of Weston Lakes; three daughters, Druanne Priddy Cotten and husband Kenneth of Corpus Christi, Pam Priddy of Terlingua, and Melinda Priddy Rimer and husband Chip of Weston Lakes; and one son, Ritchie Priddy and wife Tammi of St. Francisville, La.; and nine grandchildren.

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

Cedrick Smithers

Cedric Smithers, 27, of Midland died Sunday, Sept. 19, 2010, in Upton County. Funeral services will be held Thursday, Sept. 23, 2010, at 11 a.m. at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel in Midland. Interment will follow at Serenity Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2010, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

He was born March 25, 1982, in Amarillo. Cedric worked in the oil field for the last four years, recently as a driller.

Survivors include his daughters, Allison Smithers of Midland and Sadie Smithers of Abilene; his parents, Cindy and Richard Walling of Midland; one sister, Jennifer Smithers of Midland; one aunt, Donna Burcham and husband Skip of Big Spring; and his cousins.

Cedric is preceded in death by his grandparents. The family suggests memorials be made to organization of your choice.

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

Lottery

The winning numbers in Tuesday evening's drawing of the "Mega Millions" game were: 03-20-43-47-52, Mega Ball: 26.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 10-14-31-2-3 Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$21,298 Winning ticket purchased in: North Richland Hills.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-2-9-4. Sum It Up: 18.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-5-9. Sum It Up: 14.

Police blotter

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

Note: Arrest and activity information from the police department was not available at press time due to technical issues, according to police dispatch.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 70 inmates at the time of this report.

- JOHNNY RAY VIERA JR., 25, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of driving while license invalid (five counts), speeding, no safety belt, violation of a promise to appear (two counts), failure to maintain financial responsibility and failure to appear.

- DAVID LYNN DOW, 27, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of assault by threat.

- CHRISTOPHER WOOTEN, 49, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- JOSE LUIS OLIVAS, 37, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the Martin County Sheriff's Office on a charge of theft.

- JACKIE RAYMOND MOORE, 22, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of no driver's license, failure to appear in court (six counts) and unrestrained child under four years of age.

- DAVID R. GONZALES, 39, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a Travis County warrant for violation of parole and a charge of failure to identify — giving false information.

- CAROLYN JEAN PERRY, 50, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- DANA LANETTE MAYO, 24, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a warrant for manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance.

Fire/EMS

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

- TRAUMA was reported in the 700 block of N. Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1200 block of Ridgeroad. One person was transported to SMMC.

- TRAUMA was reported in the 1500 block of Johnson. Service refused.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.

- TRAUMA was reported in the 200 block of W. Marcy. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1400 block of Wood. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 2900 block of W. Highway 80. Service refused.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 200 block of Galveston. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 2900 block of Navajo. Service refused.

Support Groups

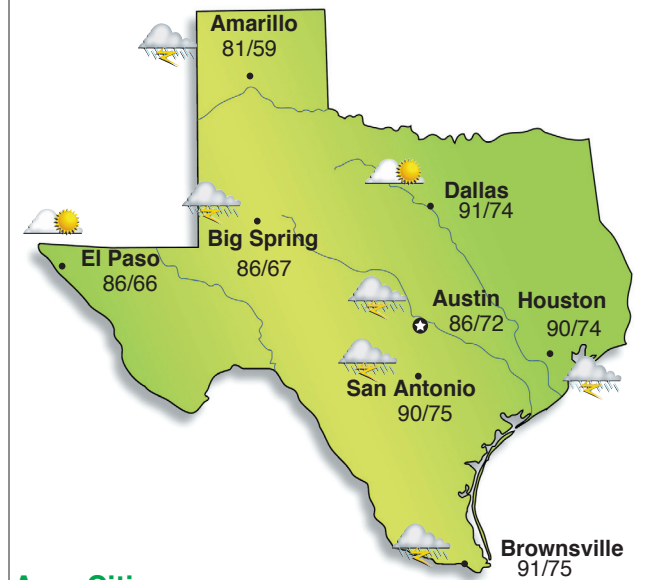
WEDNESDAY
• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Thu 9/23	Fri 9/24	Sat 9/25	Sun 9/26	Mon 9/27
86/67	82/64	78/62	79/60	82/59
Cloudy in the morning with isolated thunderstorms developing later in the d.	Slight chance of a thunderstorm.	A few thunderstorms possible.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the low 60s.	Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 50s.
Sunrise: 7:35 AM Sunset: 7:41 PM	Sunrise: 7:35 AM Sunset: 7:40 PM	Sunrise: 7:36 AM Sunset: 7:39 PM	Sunrise: 7:37 AM Sunset: 7:37 PM	Sunrise: 7:37 AM Sunset: 7:36 PM

Texas At A Glance



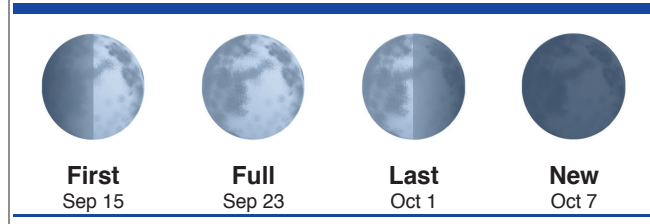
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	88	71	windy	Kingsville	91	75	t-storm
Amarillo	81	59	t-storm	Livingston	92	70	pt sunny
Austin	86	72	t-storm	Longview	92	73	pt sunny
Beaumont	90	73	t-storm	Lubbock	83	63	t-storm
Brownsville	91	75	t-storm	Lufkin	92	72	pt sunny
Brownwood	90	71	windy	Midland	88	68	t-storm
Corpus Christi	88	76	t-storm	Raymondville	93	73	t-storm
Corsicana	90	71	pt sunny	Rosenberg	90	73	t-storm
Dallas	91	74	pt sunny	San Antonio	90	75	t-storm
Del Rio	91	73	pt sunny	San Marcos	88	73	t-storm
El Paso	86	66	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	92	73	pt sunny
Fort Stockton	84	68	t-storm	Sweetwater	87	69	windy
Gainesville	88	73	pt sunny	Tyler	91	71	pt sunny
Greenville	90	72	pt sunny	Weatherford	89	71	pt sunny
Houston	90	74	t-storm	Wichita Falls	89	71	windy

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	91	66	mst sunny	Minneapolis	72	55	rain
Boston	73	59	pt sunny	New York	81	69	pt sunny
Chicago	89	69	cloudy	Phoenix	90	70	sunny
Dallas	91	74	pt sunny	San Francisco	70	57	mst sunny
Denver	76	49	mst sunny	Seattle	58	55	rain
Houston	90	74	t-storm	St. Louis	90	73	pt sunny
Los Angeles	75	57	pt sunny	Washington, DC	92	73	mst sunny
Miami	85	79	t-storm				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Thu 9/23	Fri 9/24	Sat 9/25	Sun 9/26	Mon 9/27
7	9	9	8	8
High	Very High	Very High	Very High	Very High

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, 0 with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

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City council approves budget, tax rate

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council gave final approval of its fiscal plan and tax levy for 2010-2011 Tuesday night, bringing the government body's budgetary season to a close.

The council — with Councilwoman Stephanie Horton absent — voted unanimously to approve both items during Tuesday evening's meeting, giving the go-ahead for a shoe-string budget for the coming year that includes a slight cut in the tax rate.

The 2010-2011 plan is based on a tax rate of 99.95 cents per \$100 valuation — down 1.34743 cents from the current tax rate of \$1.01 — a decrease Mayor Tommy Duncan said the city administration worked diligently to achieve without a decrease in services offered to local residents.

"Obviously, 1.3 cents off the tax rate isn't going to have a large impact on taxpayers'

bills," Duncan said. "However, I feel like we're turning the corner and taking a step in the right direction. We can't keep leaning on the taxpayers every time the city needs something. We have to be responsible stewards of their money, and that means spending it cautiously."

According to City Finance Director Peggy Walker, the decrease will translate into a slight decrease in property taxpayers' bills if their property value did not go up.

And while the 2010-11 budget allows for nearly no fiscal wiggle room, the plan is still rather ambitious, officials say, factoring in a number of improvements to the municipality — not the least of which is \$500,000 earmarked for renovations at the municipal auditorium to bring the facility into ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance. According to City Manager Gary Fuqua, the money will

come from the city's Conventions and Visitors Bureau's motel tax fund.

The proposed budget also provides for a sludge removal belt press and related equipment for the city's water treatment facility, a project estimated to cost approximately \$1.1 million. City officials said the addition will hopefully help the city avoid problems with the municipal water's turbidity similar to those experienced earlier in 2010.

The city administration was also able to factor in a pay raise for municipal employees, and an increase in funding for the narcotics task force developed by the Big Spring Police Department during the 2007-2008 budget session, as the 7.321 cents from the tax rate currently devoted to the program is increased to 9.15 cents.

The proposed budget also provides \$382,000 for a landfill

compacting tractor. The purchase includes a \$115,000 buy-back option after five years, according to Fuqua, and will help extend the life of the existing landfill facility for an additional two years.

The fiscal plan includes \$1.6 million currently earmarked for renovations to the Troy Hogue Law Enforcement Center, according to Fuqua, who said city officials are looking at a number of options to revamp its police station.

Not all of the decisions Tuesday night favored local residents' wallets, as the council also approved an increase in the city's water rates to cover a 8.5 percent increase currently being handed down by its supplier, the Colorado River Municipal Water District.

The increase is based on a new tiered rate system the council began developing several months ago during budget work sessions, a sys-

tem city officials said will be more fair to residential customers.

According to Walker, the new system divides its customers — residential and commercial — into different tiers based on the size and cost of the water meter, which determines the customer's demand on the water system.

"This allows us to cover the 8.5 percent increase from CRMWD without increasing anyone's base rate," Walker told the council. "The way the new system works, a normal residential home that consumes approximately 5,000 gallons of water each month will see a 50-cent increase in their bill. Higher demand homes — such as residents that do more laundry or water their grass more often, using around 10,000 gallons — will see more of an increase, but in that case we're only looking at \$1 over what they are paying now."

MAYOR

Continued from Page 1

the chance to come in and provide their expertise.

"What I'd like to see is a term limit imposed on the mayor starting this past May, and term limits imposed on the council members the next election after that charter amendment. That way every council member sitting on the council now will have a full two-term opportunity to serve. After a council person or a mayor serves two terms, if they sit out two terms they will be eligible to run again and serve two more terms."

Duncan said he'd also like to see changes to the way initiatives and referendums are handled by the municipality.

"One of the things I'd like to see in the char-

ter is an initiative and referendum in order to allow the citizens of Big Spring easier access to a more active role within the government," he said. "I think there are a lot of varied ways initiatives and referendums can be placed in the charter, and the city attorney has been looking at other cities and is drafting some language that would be a starting point we can look at in a work session sometime in the near future."

Duncan said he has been going over the charter with City Attorney Linda Sjogren in an attempt to identify necessary changes to the governing document.

"I have been looking over the current city charter and discussing it with City Attorney Linda Sjogren," Duncan told the council. "She indicated there are some things within the charter that are outdated and

need to be brought up to current legal standards of the state."

Sjogren said she's found a number of articles in the charter that contradict existing state laws.

"These are just a few of the things I've found, so there are probably more," Sjogren said. "One of the problems is with a provision we have that are set at 30 days and state law requires six months. I understand City Finance Director Peggy Walker has a problem with the way the depository contract has to be renewed every year, and that's a burden for the city. Most of them are just little housekeeping errors, and there are probably others. I'll be looking over it (the charter), as will the council members, before we hold a work session to address them."

Named to the commit-

tee Tuesday night were Duncan, Sjogren, City Finance Director Peggy Walker, council members Gloria McDonald and Craig Olson, former mayor and local business owner Tim Blackshear, and Linda Fernandez.

Duncan said the committee would be asked to begin working on the issues he has already identified, as well as any other items identified later in the process.

However, Ramirez said the way in which the committee was being hand-picked by Duncan to examine concerns the mayor first brought to the council was something he wasn't comfortable with.

"I don't know how to put this delicately, but since this is your (Duncan) idea and you're handpicking the committee, people might think..." Ramirez said, trailing off at the end.

"Well, they may," Duncan said. "It was my idea, but I did have a large amount of input from other people in selecting the committee. And I think if you look across the names on that committee you'll see there is not, I mean they are from all walks of life. I would ask the committee to start with my draft of what I'm proposing for term limits, as well as initiative and referendum, and go out from there."

"Just as a matter of record," Councilman Terry Hansen asked, "if one of us wanted to have input to the committee, is that allowed?"

Duncan said it was not only allowed, but encouraged.

"Absolutely, and not only to council members, but to anyone within the city or community," Duncan said. "I would encourage them, if they have in-

put, to contact one of the committee members."

Any changes to the municipal charter must first be approved by city voters, according to officials, with an election tentatively planned for May 2011.

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

LIBRARY

Continued from Page 1

"We have at least 1,200 books and we have a lot of audio CDs and movies as well," Hopkins said. "The majority of the books are fiction, but we do have some reference and self-help titles, too. We have a little bit of

everything."

Library Director Hollis McCright said the volunteer group has given the library a helping hand on a variety of projects in recent months.

"The Friends of the Library assists us in putting on and staffing the summer reading program, they purchase supplies, audio books

... this past year, they purchased some very colorful rugs for the children's room in the library. They also furnish the library with a photocopier for people to use."

"This is our major fund-raiser of the year," Hopkins added. "All of the funds go to help the library in areas where the county can't provide

funds."

Hopkins estimated that the book sale raised more than \$1,500 last year.

For more information on the book sale, contact the library at 264-2260.

Contact Staff Writer



STABBING

Continued from Page 1

the investigation.

"Officers responded to the emergency room and found four subjects suffering from stab wounds," Everett said. "Andrew Yanez, Joseph Yanez and Rene Rodriguez were all treated and released. Anthony Yanez was admitted to the hospital.

"The cause of the fight appears to be an ongoing feud. Rodriguez was arrested upon his release based on witness statements that he had stabbed one of the other victims. Rodriguez refused to cooperate with the investigation and wouldn't say who had stabbed him."

According to Everett, hospitalized with a stab wound to his back.

Rodriguez, whose address at the time of his arrest was 820 State St., was arrested and charged with aggravated assault with a

deadly weapon. He was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD and later released on \$5,000 bond. The investigation into the incident is ongoing, according to Everett.

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

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Services continuing nightly at 7:00 p.m. through Thursday, September 23rd.
Evangelist **Dr. Darrell Robinson**, native of Big Spring, author, and international missionary, will be preaching the services. **Tim Ballard**, deacon, music leader, and soloists will be leading the praise and worship.
Central is located south of Big Spring. Take the Garden City Highway 33 off 87 south. Take a right at FM 818 to Nichols Road (at Elbow Elementary School), then turn left on Nichols Road. The church is just across the street from the playground of the school.
Please join us for these special services. **We will also have a pizza supper and special time for youth at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday night.** Dr. Robinson will speak briefly to the youth just before the evening services.
You may call pastor John McCullough for additional information as needed.
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Why not check this out?

At the county library

On your mark, get ready, go! The Annual Friends of the Library Book Sale will begin Friday at 9 a.m. 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. There are also lots of books on cassette. If anyone would like to purchase a favorite book on cassette, now is the time.

Books on CD that are available: Sandra Brown's "Smash Cut" (AUCD F BRO S); "Sacred Hearts" (AUCD F DUN S), by Sarah Duntant; Robert B. Parker's "Brimstone" (AUCD F PAR R); and quite a few more.

Anna Quindlen is a highly regarded au-

thor. In her previous books, she has written of the "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 gruesome deaths are what you like to read, have at it.

Marie Bostwick's "A Single Thread" (F BOS M) is the story of Evelyn Dixon's wake up 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

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. The book starts fast and only gains momentum. The twists and turns are so unpredictable, 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 cookbooks in, really almost too many to list. Here are a few: "Mom's Secret Recipe File" (641.5 HYP B), edited by Chris 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 10 to 6, Monday through Friday and Saturday, 10 until 2. 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.

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.



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Cyber Bullying

Dig Deeper

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5963 La Place Court Ste. 309 Carlsbad, CA 92008 Tel: (760) 603-7911 www.isafe.org

Beware of the Cyber Bully

The iSAFE America research team has discovered a disturbing trend—cyber bullying has affected more than half the students surveyed, on both sides of the issue. Their latest assessments surveyed more than 1500 students ranging from fourth to eighth grade across the country. They found out:

- 58% of kids admit someone has said mean or hurtful things to them online
- 53% of kids admit having said something mean or hurtful things to another online
- 42% of kids have been bullied while online

The tradition of home as a

refuge from bullies on the school playground is over. The Internet is the new playground, and there are no off hours. The popularity of instant messaging, e-mail, webpages, and blogging means kids are a target 24 hours per day, seven days a week. Even worse, iSAFE found out 58 percent of kids have not told their parents or any adult about something mean or hurtful that had happened to them online.

Teachers and school officials need to be aware of the rising trend of cyber bullying as incidents online are brought onto school grounds.

iSAFE offers these tips to share with students who are being cyber bullied:

- Tell a trusted adult and

keep telling them until they take action.

- Never open, read or respond to messages from cyber bullies.
- If it is school related, tell your school. All schools have bullying solutions.
- Do not erase the messages. They may be needed to take action.
- If bullied through chat or IM, the bully can often be blocked.
- If you are threatened with harm, call the police.

Above all, students are the cure to the cyber bullying epidemic. By speaking out and telling adults they can stop bullying online and make the Internet experience a more positive one.

Cyber Bullying: Breaking It Down

Cyber Bullying is verbal harassment that occurs during online activities.

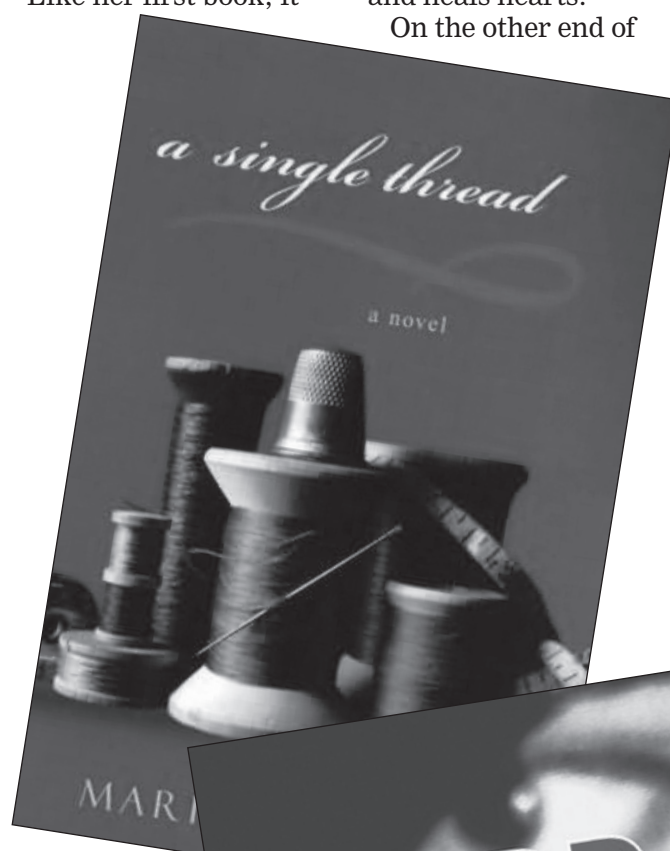
Cyber Bullying can take many forms. These are a few:

- A threatening e-mail
- Nasty instant messaging session
- Repeated notes sent to the cell phone
- A website set up to mock others
- "Borrowing" someone's screen name and pretending to be them while posting a message.
- Forwarding supposedly private messages, pictures, or video to others.

Contact:

Victim Services
263-3312

212264



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



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News in brief

After 6 months, health care law not a winner for nervous Dems, White House giving it a boost

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama once told Democratic lawmakers they'd be proud to campaign on historic health care legislation. Six months later, the only Democrats running ads about it are the ones who voted "no."

Now, with crucial midterm elections approaching, the White House is preparing to use the law's six-month anniversary to reintroduce it to skeptical voters and trumpet new reforms that are taking effect, such as new coverage for preventive care and young adults and a ban on canceling insurance for someone who falls ill.

Democrats are packaging the provisions, which kick in Thursday, as a "Patient's Bill of Rights," and Obama is advertising them Wednesday at an event in Virginia with beneficiaries.

Even supporters acknowledge there's probably not enough time to turn around public opinion on the health care issue before November elections that are expected to punish Democrats. But in a campaign season dominated by jobs and the economy, Democrats hope to remind voters of some tangible benefits the health care overhaul will bring and move to undercut GOP arguments against it.

"When people better understand the Affordable Care Act, they'll understand, I think, that this isn't something being done to them but is something that's really going to be valuable to them," Obama told community and religious leaders on a conference call Tuesday in which he urged them to spread the word. "The debate in Washington is over. The Affordable Care Act is now law."

Commonwealth Games official: Games' chief rushing to Delhi for emergency visit amid problems

NEW DELHI (AP) — The Commonwealth Games chief rushed to New Delhi seeking emergency talks with the prime minister over India's chaotic preparations, as two world champion competitors withdrew and England warned that problems with the athletes' village have left the sporting event on a "knife-edge."

No national teams have yet pulled out, but Scotland announced Wednesday it would delay its travel to the Indian capital, where the athletes' village — said to be incomplete and soiled with human excrement — was supposed to open Thursday.

Indian officials insisted that facilities would be ready and immaculate for the Oct. 3 games opening despite wide-ranging concerns about unfinished buildings construction collapses and an outbreak of dengue fever.

The Games, which bring together more than 7,000 athletes from the 71 countries and territories from the former British empire every four years, was supposed to showcase India as an emerging power in the international community. Instead, it has become a major embarrassment.

The city has had seven years to prepare, though very little work was done until 2008. New Delhi has been a frenzy of activity in recent weeks, as it struggles to meet the deadline — only adding to concern that haste could lead to shortcuts in construction of key facilities.

Weighed down by a struggling economy, Obama seeks to remind the world of busy foreign agenda

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumed by concerns at home, President Barack Obama turns back to the world stage this week, hoping to remind anyone

listening of his efforts to reshape the image and diplomacy of the United States. Yet even this moment is shadowed by economic woes.

Obama's trip to the United Nations in New York, which begins Wednesday afternoon, does not offer the sense of anticipation that came with his first presidential address to the General Assembly last September. That event was about defining his new brand of U.S. engagement; this one is more about defending it.

In his centerpiece speech to world leaders Thursday, Obama is expected to describe what he sees as clear progress since he took office — a "cover the waterfront" reminder, as one aide put it, of how the U.S. has ditched unilateral leadership and worked with the world over the last 20 months. He is less likely to unveil anything significantly new as he is to recount the international efforts to keep Iran in line, slow the spread of nuclear weapons and revive plodding economies.

The president will also devote critical time to the African nation of Sudan, a political tinderbox, and to his relationship with leaders in Asia. On Wednesday, in his only official first-day business at the U.N., Obama will offer his vision of U.S. aid to impoverished parts of the world, speaking at an anti-poverty conference.

More broadly, this is Obama's best chance in quite some time to grab the world's attention and pull together all the episodic pieces of his international agenda.

Obama, Dems push issues, intensify efforts to get core backers fired up for elections

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats desperately need other Democrats — to vote.

With midterm elections in just six weeks — and Republicans fired up and ready to go — Democratic leaders are pushing issues that resonate with their constituencies, from trying to repeal the ban on gays serving openly in the military to allowing thousands of young illegal immigrants who attend college or join the military to become legal U.S. residents.

Democrats also have expressed outrage over Republican-aligned, big-money shadow groups. And they're intensifying efforts to reach out to their core backers.

"This is the time that counts," an equally fired-up President Barack Obama told Democratic donors Monday in Philadelphia as he harkened back to the energy in his 2008 campaign. "I want all of you to remind yourselves why you got involved and why you care deeply and not lose heart. But gird yourself for a battle that's worth fighting."

Two days earlier, Obama urged the Congressional Black Caucus to redouble its efforts: "I need everybody here to go back to your neighborhoods, to go back to your workplaces, to go to the churches and go to the barbershops and go to the beauty shops. And tell them we've got more work to do."

Woman on track to be first female executed in Va. in nearly a century as high court clears way

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — A woman convicted of two hired killings is scheduled to die by injection Thursday and become the first woman put to death in Virginia in nearly a century, after the U.S. Su-

preme Court refused to block her execution.

Teresa Lewis, 41, was sentenced to death for providing sex and money to two men to kill her husband and stepson in October 2002 so she could collect on a quarter-million dollar insurance pay out. The nation's high court refused Tuesday to intervene.

Two of the three women on the court, Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor, voted to stop the execution. The court did not otherwise comment on its order.

The court's decision followed Gov. Bob McDonnell's refusal to reconsider a clemency request, which he rejected Friday.

Entrapment likely an issue for prosecutors as they try man suspected of bomb plot in Chicago

CHICAGO (AP) — As prosecutors take up the challenge of trying to convict a man arrested in an alleged bomb plot in Chicago, they may have to show the suspect wasn't egged on by an informant or undercover FBI agents into a crime he didn't initially intend to commit.

Sami Samir Hassoun, 22, was arrested Sunday after he placed a backpack authorities say he thought contained a bomb near Chicago's Wrigley Field. The fake but ominous-looking device — a paint can fitted with blasting caps and a timer — was given to him by an FBI undercover agent.

Hassoun's attorney, Myron Auerbach, said Tuesday he needed to study the case further before deciding on a defense strategy. But he left open the possibility of citing entrapment.

"My client didn't bring anything of his own making to the incident. Things were given to him," he said.

UN anti-poverty goals get financial pledges, but no certainty that 2015 targets will be met

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — A three-day summit to push global leaders to meet U.N. goals to significantly reduce poverty by 2015 wraps up Wednesday with new financial pledges from countries but no certainty there will be enough money and political commitment to meet the targets.

With many countries under financial pressure from the effects of the global economic crisis as well as rising food and energy prices, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has repeatedly urged governments not to abandon the 1 billion people living on less than \$1.25 a day.

Britain's Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg, in prepared remarks for delivery at the Millennium Development Goals summit Wednesday, urged other countries to show the same resolve as Britain in meeting their aid commitments.

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News in brief

Ike-damaged schools want insurance help

GALVESTON, Texas (AP) — Some Hurricane Ike-battered school districts want state help in paying their higher insurance premiums.

School district officials in Galveston County have had discussions with state Reps. Craig Eiland of Galveston and Larry Taylor of Friendswood.

Eiland says the state should incorporate higher insurance premiums for school districts along the Gulf Coast when calculating school funding.

The Galveston County Daily News reports Clear Creek's premiums jumped 230 percent in 2006, the year after Katrina and Rita stormed ashore.

Hurricane Ike walloped the Galveston area on Sept. 13, 2008.

The Galveston Independent School District will spend \$1.8 million on insurance this year. Finance director David Dworsky says premiums increased 40 percent after Ike.

Texas ER docs face board certified dispute

HOUSTON (AP) — Emergency room doctors in Texas face questions over letting the public know their qualifications.

The Houston Chronicle reported Wednesday that the issue is over the training that emergency physicians

need to advertise as board certified.

The American Board of Medical Specialties is a 76-year-old association that in 1988 began requiring emergency doctors do a specialized three-year residency.

The Texas Medical Board next month is scheduled to consider a rule change regarding an alternative association, the American Board of Physician Specialties, that does not require doctors to complete an ER residency. The group instead allows substituting five years of ER practice.

Dr. Angela Gardner, president of the American College of Emergency Physicians, says a lot of states will be watching what happens in Texas.

Mob beats 2 alleged kidnapers to death

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP) — Mexican authorities say a mob has beaten two alleged kidnapers to death in the northern border state of Chihuahua.

Chihuahua state prosecutors' spokesman Arturo Sandoval says dozens of angry people in the town of Asencion beat the two men Tuesday until federal police intervened.

Sandoval says officers put the men in their patrol car but the crowd blocked them from leaving and the men died of their wounds inside the car.

Residents shouted at the federal of-

ficers and held signs that read "We are tired, fed up with kidnappings, no more kidnappings in Asencion."

Local state lawmaker Alejandro Lebaron says the two men and three others are suspected in the kidnapping of a 17-year-old girl from Asencion.

Jury convicts man of raping girl who later died

HOUSTON (AP) — A jury has found a Houston-area man guilty of raping his girlfriend's 4-year-old daughter shortly before her death last year.

The panel deliberated 3½ hours Tuesday before convicting 28-year-old Lucas Coe of Spring of super aggravated sexual assault of a child.

Prosecutors tell the Houston Chronicle they didn't charge Coe in the girl's death because the elevated assault charge could lead to a stiffer sentence. He faces up to life in prison in the penalty phase, which begins Wednesday.

Coe's lawyers argued that the girl suffered vaginal trauma from a straddle fall.

An autopsy found that Emma Thompson had a severed pancreas and fractured skull. Her mother, Abigail Young, is serving 20 years in prison for injury to a child by omission.

BP: 2 Texas City plant workers suffer burns

HOUSTON (AP) — A BP spokesman says two workers at the company's Texas City refinery have been hospitalized after suffering steam burns.

Refinery spokesman Michael Marr said the accident happened about 4 p.m. Tuesday. He told the Houston Chronicle he had no other details on how the injuries occurred. He said BP PLC is reviewing the accident.

Texas City Fire Chief Brud Gorman said the more seriously injured worker suffered burns to his torso, left arm and left leg. His condition wasn't immediately available.

BP's Texas City refinery was the site of a 2005 blast that killed 15 workers and injured 170.

The refinery is under investigation for an apparent 41-day benzene release that coincided with BP's involvement in the Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

Body of Texas man recovered as rain eases

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Storms partly fueled by Hurricane Karl finally began weakening along the Texas coast on Tuesday after dumping more than 10 inches of rain, and authorities found the body of driver who had been swept away by floods.

Widespread flooding closed schools and forced families into shelters, but forecasters said the lingering showers shouldn't be as severe. "The worst is over," National Weather Service meteorologist Matt Grantham said.

Corpus Christi police found the body of Kelechi Kinsley Nwogu, 36,

who authorities said had dialed 911 on Monday after driving into Oso Creek, which had swelled to record levels after three days of relentless rain. The call got dropped before the driver was found.

Earlier this month, flooding caused by remnants of Tropical Storm Hermine killed at least eight people, including seven in Texas. Gov. Rick Perry on Tuesday requested a disaster declaration for 13 counties hit hardest by Hermine, saying the storm caused more than \$2.9 million in damage.

Drenching storms that began Saturday caused problems up and down the Texas coast. Pressure from heavy rains on an aging sewer system in Corpus Christi led to more than 100,000 gallons of raw sewage overflowing from a manhole, while emergency teams went door-to-door in some neighborhoods near the Mexico border that were under 2 to 3 feet of water.

FBI: Fort Bliss gunman was retired Army sergeant

FORT BLISS (AP) — The FBI is investigating why a retired Army sergeant walked into a Fort Bliss convenience store and shot two employees, one fatally, before he was gunned down by responding officers, the agency said Tuesday.

It was unclear whether Steven Kropf, 63, of El Paso, had any relationship with either victim, the FBI said in a statement. The agency described the Monday shooting at the West Texas Army post as an isolated incident and said it was investigating a possible motive.

FBI officials did not return calls to The Associated Press.

Authorities believe Kropf walked into the store about 3 p.m. and shot Bettina Maria Goins, who was pronounced dead at the military hospital, and another woman, who remained hospitalized Tuesday, the FBI said in its statement. Both women were civilian employees of the Army & Air Force Exchange Service, which runs merchandise operations for the military, including fast-food restaurants and convenience stores.

Goins, 44, worked at another Fort Bliss store and was at that particular convenience store to pick up more Halloween candy, her daughter told the El Paso Times. Maria-Laura Nasti said her mother was an innocent bystander.

"He took her away from us. It was senseless," Nasti said.

At a news conference Tuesday, post commander Maj. Gen. Dana Pittard said the post was safe.

"Fort Bliss is still, and remains still, one of the safest installations in the country," he said, adding that officials plan to "take a good look" at the private weapons policy at Fort Bliss.

The shooting came nearly 11 months after 13 people were killed in a shooting rampage at Fort Hood in central Texas near Killeen.

Maj. Nidal Hasan, an Army psy-

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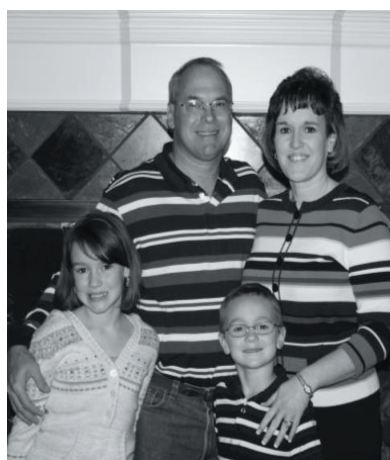
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Marj Carpenter will not be able to speak at the event due to circumstances beyond her control.

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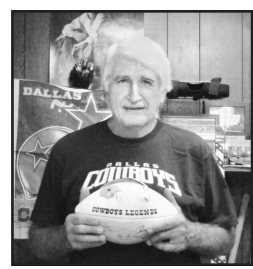
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8. New England
9. New Orleans
10. Baltimore



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10. Baltimore



Blissful
1. Big Spring
2. Coahoma
3. Forsan
4. Garden City
5. Grady
6. Sands
7. Texas Longhorns
8. New England
9. New Orleans
10. Baltimore



Walmart
1. Big Spring
2. Coahoma
3. Forsan
4. Garden City
5. Grady
6. Sands
7. Texas Longhorns
8. New England
9. New Orleans
10. Baltimore



Bowl-A-Rama
1. Big Spring
2. Coahoma
3. Forsan
4. Garden City
5. Grady
6. Sands
7. Texas Longhorns
8. Buffalo
9. Atlanta
10. Cleveland



Sonic Drive In
1. Big Spring
2. Coahoma
3. Forsan
4. Garden City
5. Grady
6. Sands
7. Texas Longhorns
8. New England
9. Atlanta
10. Baltimore

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

Pigskin Picks Entry Form

Team

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

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Passing attack concerns Steers

Ritchey hopes to get more airtime in, see improvement Friday



HERALD Photo/Tony Claxton

Steers quarterback DaVonte Anderson stiff arms a Monahans player Friday. Big Spring hopes to correct its recent woes in the passing game as the season continues.

BY ADAM COLEMAN

Sports Editor

Big Spring head coach Phillip Ritchey doesn't want anyone getting comfortable with the Steers' ability to run the ball.

Sooner or later, a receiver making a 10-yard catch on a slant route is going to have to be as common as the tailbacks dragging tacklers for 10 yards.

"We've got to run better routes," Ritchey said. "We've got to read the coverages better. We've got to get the ball out on time. Protection has got to be there. We're really been focusing on the entire passing game — 29 yards two weeks ago, 19 yards this week.

"I don't know if embarrassing is the right word, but it's unacceptable for a high school varsity team."

The Steers haven't had any problems running the ball on anyone and the lack of a passing game hasn't necessarily doomed their season, either.

But with district play two weeks away and after accumulating 29 yards through the air against Plainview, followed by 19 against Monahans, it's become a concern for Ritchey.

Against Plainview in the 42-14 win, tailbacks Pete Chavarria and Michael Oliva and quarterback DaVonte Anderson carried the team by running through and past defenders. The three completed passes for 29 yards didn't seem like much of an issue.

But in the 33-12 loss to Monahans, Ritchey said there were a few situations where the passing attack could have helped. He pointed out a second and 16 where the Steers couldn't complete a pass on a curl route, and while the ball may have been a little bit high, plays like that are key.

It's situations like that second and 16 that expose the Steers' main

problem on offense.

When the Steers are forced to throw the ball, Ritchey said things usually don't end up well. However, when they throw at will, the passing attack tends to be successful.

So now the Steers are trying to do the latter and considering word is getting around on how good the tailbacks are, that might work.

"We're going to be a better passing team when we don't have to and they think we're going to run it," Ritchey said. "Because now, everybody's looking for us to run and if we can have a good enough fake and get out and get good routes and get it works off on time, that's when it works its best."

The goal for the next two games — against Midland Christian and Greenwood — will be make the passing game relevant. Ritchey said he hopes to get 15 to 20 passes in Friday. The season-high for pass attempts is 14 against Frenship and the most passing yards is 98 against Fort Stockton.

But what has been the main problem with the passing game?

Ritchey said everything has to be in-sync for the passing game and Anderson echoes the coach's pleas. The senior quarterback said timing and route running are two most ailing things.

"It wasn't really the defense," Anderson said, referring to the Monahans game. "It's just a lack of reps in practice. We had a good week of practice Monday and Tuesday. It's been looking pretty good this week, so I think it's going to look pretty good on Friday."

Receiver Mike Menefield, who has proved to be a big-play threat, said he is glad the tailbacks have done so well to start the season.

But a passing attack coupled with what Chavarria, Lukas Falcon and Oliva have done could torch defenses, and that will help against

See STEERS, Page 13

Lady Steers rolling

BSHS gets sweep against Pecos

BY ADAM COLEMAN

Sports Editor

Bridgette Tuitt saw everything she needed to see on Tuesday in order to believe the Lady Steers volleyball team has turned the corner.

"I think our team's come a long way," she said. "We've had our ups and downs, but we're a driven team. We're going to go for everything. We're going to take it to the top this year. We're going to bust our butts in practice. That's what we've already been doing."

It's hard not to believe her after a 3-0 victory over Pecos Tuesday in Steer Gym, 25-17, 25-17, 25-19.

The win is the third in four matches for the Lady Steers and it's also the third sweep in four matches. It seems like the Lady Steers are peaking at the right time, too. They open District 5-3A play at Sweetwater Saturday.

"They seem to just look like a different team," head coach Lynn Osborne said. "They looked like a completely different team. They had their mind made up

"We're going to have to play like that. We're going to have to play with that high intensity."

Lynn Osborne,
BSHS volleyball head coach

and they went after it. They never got in a hole like we've been doing all year long. They just played with much more intensity. They looked like they were having a really good time out there.

"And that's something that we haven't been doing."

There wasn't an abundance of kills in this match, yet Osborne was ecstatic about the win. Taylor Seaton had a team-high eight kills, Tuitt had six and Desiree Anderson and Diamond Mayes had four apiece.

Credit Pecos' defense for preventing the Lady Steers from having a player hit double-digit kills. Osborne said Pecos was excellent on the digs, no matter how hard the Lady Steers hit the ball. But persistence proved its worth and Big Spring prevailed.

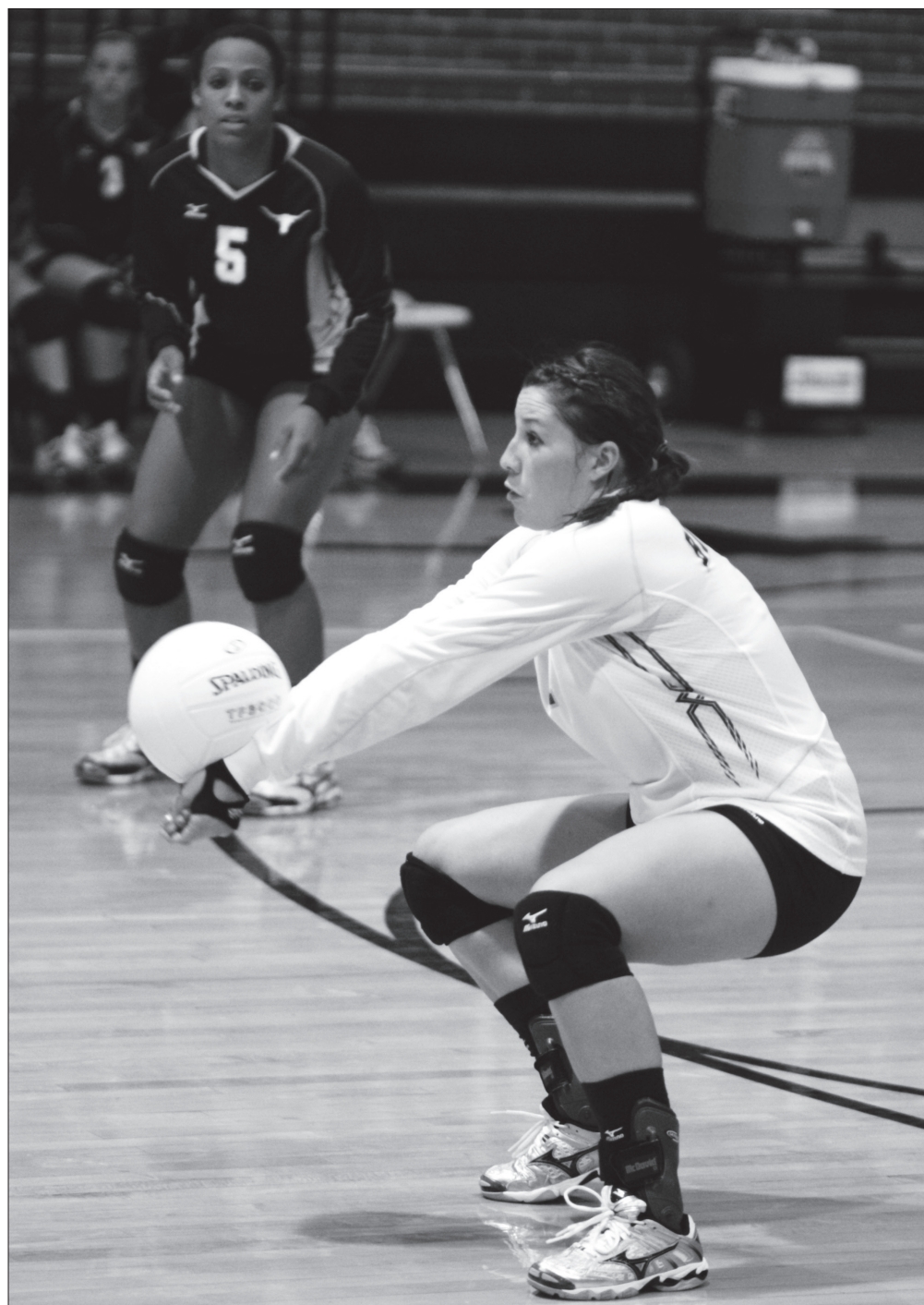
Outside the fact district play begins this

weekend, the win is a little more significant, considering it put Big Spring back at .500 (14-14) and it followed a tough loss in four games at Andrews. Osborne said it looked like her players weren't mentally strong in that match, where they loss Game 4 25-9.

But on Tuesday, Osborne said Seaton, Anderson and Tuitt impressed, and Seaton is leading the way as district play arrives. Osborne said she is glad to see the consistent energy and intensity come from Seaton on a daily basis and hopes it carries into district. As far as the offense as a whole is concerned, Osborne said the Lady Steers haven't had too many problems getting kills and that's good news at this point in the season.

Defensively, the Lady Steers are turning the

See SWEEP, Page 13



HERALD Photo/Tony Claxton

The Lady Steers' libero Valerie Ross prepares to pass the ball in their 3-0 sweep against Pecos Tuesday. The sweep is the third in four matches for the Lady Steers.

Sports in brief

Big Spring Quarterback Club

The club meets every Monday at 7 p.m. All parents of football players 7th through 12th grade are encouraged to attend. For more information, call

Denise Carrillo at 816-1685.

Cavern City Tennis Tournament

This tournament is set for 8 a.m. Saturday in

Carlsbad, N.M. Entry fee is \$15 for singles players and \$20 for doubles.

The deadline to enter is at 6 p.m. today and UTSA membership is required. Call 575-887-1980 for more information.

TV schedule table with columns for station, time, and program name. Includes stations like KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, etc.

Comic strip: DENNIS THE MENACE. Dennis is in a kitchen, looking at a newspaper and duct tape. He says 'I'M GONNA NEED ALL OF OUR DUCT TAPE!'.

Comic strip: THE FAMILY CIRCUS. A girl is reading a book. A speech bubble says 'If you read me this bedtime story, I promise to stay awake.'

Comic strip: HAGAR. Hagar is on a hill with a large group of people. A speech bubble says 'HAGAR, WHY CAN'T WE ALL JUST GET ALONG?!'.

Comic strip: BLONDIE. Blondie is in bed talking to a dog. Speech bubbles include 'I WONDER IF COOKIE'S HOME YET?', 'SHE CAME HOME AROUND ELEVEN', 'YOU WERE ASLEEP... HOW WOULD YOU KNOW?', 'I'M A MOTHER', and 'HOW DID YOU HEAR ME TALKING?'.

Comic strip: BC. A man is talking to a parrot. A speech bubble says 'I CALL IT A "BIRDCATCHER."'

Comic strip: WIZARD OF ID. A wizard is talking to a woman. A speech bubble says 'I SAID I WANTED A PARAKEET!'.

This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 22, the 265th day of 2010. There are 100 days left in the year. Autumn arrives at 11:09 p.m. EDT. Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 22, 1776, during the Revolutionary War, Capt. Nathan Hale, 21, was hanged as a spy by the British in New York.

Comic strip: AGNES. Agnes is talking to a man. A speech bubble says 'HEH, AGNES! I NEED SILENCE, PLEASE.'

Comic strip: HI AND LOIS. Lois is talking to Clark. A speech bubble says 'THIS IS MY QUIET TIME TO TAKE EMOTIONAL INVENTORY.'

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS: 1 Vivien of Gone With the Wind, 6 Nobel physicist Niels, 10 Aardvark's lunch, 14 Any Elvis tune, now, 15 Pennsylvania port, 16 Prefix for legal Mrs. Doubtfire star, 19 October birthstone, 20 Iditarod toiler, 21 Mechanic's gear, 23 Matures, as wine, 25 "Elder" Roman naturalist, 26 Mosaic patterns, 30 Urban bird, 33 Skeddaddles, 34 Words you sing, 35 Fishing pole, 38 Oz creator, 39 Typesetting measures, 40 Cannoneer's command, 41 Remind too often, 42 Any Bryn Mawr graduate, 43 Spicy Chinese cuisine, 44 Big Apple neighborhood, 46 Feeling excitement, 47 Words on a spine, 49 Hefty slice, 51 gland (cortisol producer), 54 Sources of wisdom.

Comic strip: THE OTHER COAST. A man is talking to a woman. A speech bubble says 'MISTER WATSON, COME HERE.'

Comic strip: SNUFFY SMITH. Snuffy is talking to a woman. A speech bubble says 'ELVINEY, YORE HAIR'S CURLY !! DID LUREN GIVE YA A PERMANENT ?'

Crossword grid with numbered starting points for clues.

Comic strip: BEETLE BAILEY. Beetle Bailey is talking to a woman. A speech bubble says 'FORGET IT! I COULD NEVER AFFORD THAT!'.

Comic strip: AGNES. Agnes is talking to a man. A speech bubble says 'BUT I SHORE HOPE IT AIN'T !!'

Comic strip: BEETLE BAILEY. Beetle Bailey is talking to a woman. A speech bubble says '"SARGE INSURANCE" IS VERY EXPENSIVE!'.

Comic strip: HI AND LOIS. Lois is talking to Clark. A speech bubble says 'HAPPY HOLIDAYS!'

Answer to previous puzzle: CLASP EGGS CLAP, LITER VARY HALO, AFIRE EWES EMITS, WETBLANKET SPOT, SIP STEMS, ADS MPS MESHED, TAP LADS SEEME, STICKYSITUATION, EERIE SPAS STS, ASEVER RUT TEE, INEPT ARC, BAWL DRYCLEANER, ALAI RIPE ANODE, SODA EDEN TANGS, SEEN WEST SLEET

IN THE ARENA by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- 10 NASA moon program, 11 Place-setting piece, 12 Bridal attire, 13 Like bar snacks, 18 Obscures, with "up", 22 Oil nations' grp., 24 Surveillance stuff, 26 Library ID, 27 March Madness org., 28 Sitcom feature, 29 Dough dispenser, 31 Member of 22 Down, 32 USO show attendees, 34 Mixologist's fruit, 36 Requiring talking, 37 Say "it ain't so", 39 Office seeker, 40 Partner of games, 42 Small songbird, 43 Tailgate-party cooker, 45 Puts on notice, 46 Sour-tasting, 47 Take a nibble of, 48 Worth a 10, maybe, 50 Actress Lindsay, 52 From square one, 53 Musical Minnelli, 55 Fountain toss-in, 56 Pulmonary organ, 57 Therefore, 58 Editor's "leave it", 61 Sound from a junkyard dog.

Vick to start at QB for Eagles

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Michael Vick earned himself a starting job by being — of all things — a pocket passer.

Vick will take over as the Philadelphia Eagles' No. 1 quarterback, coach Andy Reid said Tuesday, a day after he announced he would go back to Kevin Kolb.

"When someone is playing at the level Michael Vick is playing, you have to give him an opportunity," Reid said. "This isn't about Kevin Kolb's play. You're talking about Michael Vick as one of the best quarterbacks in the NFL right now."

Vick is considered the greatest scrambling quarterback in NFL history, but he won the job over Kolb by demonstrating he no longer has a run-first mentality.

Kolb missed the last six quarters because of a concussion, and Vick played well in

"When someone is playing at the level Michael Vick is playing, you have to give him an opportunity. This isn't about Kevin Kolb's play."

Andy Reid,
Eagles head coach

his absence. Kolb was cleared to practice and was expected to run the first-team offense on Wednesday.

"Kevin is fine. It's not an injury-related issue," Reid said. "It's not about judging him. He's going to be a championship-caliber quarterback."

Vick threw for 175 yards and one touchdown and ran for 103 yards in a 27-20 season-opening loss to Green Bay. He had 284 yards passing and two TDs in a 35-32 win at Detroit on Sunday.

Kolb started two games in his first three seasons before he became the team's No. 1 quarterback after Donovan McNabb was traded to Wash-

ington. Kolb struggled in the first half against the Packers in the season opener, but he became the first QB in league history to throw for 300 yards in his first two career starts last year.

Though the Eagles have been grooming Kolb to be the starter since drafting him in the second round in 2007, Vick forced Reid to make a difficult decision by playing better than he did when he was a superstar in Atlanta.

"Michael did an exceptional job and my job is to evaluate the players," Reid said. "It's my obligation to make the proper decision."

Vick's start against the Li-

ons was his first in nearly four years. A three-time Pro Bowl pick during six seasons with the Falcons, Vick missed two seasons while serving an 18-month sentence in federal prison for his role in a dog-fighting operation.

He signed a two-year contract with the Eagles before last season, then played sparingly behind McNabb and Kolb.

Vick has completed 63.8 percent of his passes and has posted consecutive games with a passer rating above 100 for only the second time in his career.

"His accelerated play was brilliant," Reid said. "This

is what I think is right. He's back and maybe even a little better."

The knock on Vick used to be that he moved too quickly through his reads and took off running. He clearly benefited from watching McNabb operate the offense last year, and has excellent teachers in Reid and offensive coordinator Marty Mornhinweg. Vick proved against the Lions that he can be effective in the pocket. Despite getting sacked six times and being under constant pressure, he scrambled enough to buy time and find open receivers.

Given Philadelphia's struggles on the offensive line, Vick's speed and quickness is vital. Kolb has a quick release and can escape pressure, but few quarterbacks have are as elusive than Vick.

In 2006, Vick set a record for QBs with 1,039 yards rushing.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 13

just four hits and struck out 10 in seven strong innings. The Texas right-hander had won his past two starts after a nine-game winless streak, but his teammates never reached third base against Santana.

"No, I'm not frustrated," Lewis said. "What are we, seven, eight games (ahead) still? We've just got to get this thing clinched. I think it's coming down (to the wire), and we're maybe putting a little bit too much stress on ourselves to try to clinch

and get it done instead of just playing the way we've been playing the last week-and-a-half leading up to the last couple of games."

The Rangers still are in good shape to clinch their first AL West title since 1999, even if it takes a few days more than they hoped. Texas' lead over second-place Oakland, which beat Chicago 7-2, slipped to seven games, and its magic number stayed at six.

"(Lewis) pitched extremely well, once again," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "We've just got to put a couple of runs across the plate when

we get a chance, and everything else will take care of itself. We just needed runs tonight. We certainly got the pitching out of Colby. He was extremely good tonight."

Santana had won 16 games twice previously in a career spent entirely with the Angels, but the Dominican right-hander is having perhaps his best season.

Santana faced the minimum 13 batters through 4 1-3 innings, giving up a leadoff single to Vladimir Guerrero in the second inning but erasing him with a double play. He stranded a runner in scoring position in the sixth.

ASTROS

Continued from Page 13

The scattered fans rose to cheer the Nationals after that third out. Tuesday's announced paid attendance of 11,893 was a slight improvement on Monday's crowd of 10,999, the smallest in Washington since baseball returned to the city in 2005.

"Sooner or later, we're going to be past the honeymoon period here," Rigglesman said before Tuesday's game. "These fans have been tremendous, and we're going to have to start winning some ballgames."

Well, his team came through in this one, even after a poor start.

Houston went ahead in the first on Jeff Keppinger's RBI single and

Jason Michaels' two-run homer off John Lannan. That lead stood up for quite a while, thanks to Happ's six shutout innings.

But Houston's bullpen ran into trouble. Lannan, meanwhile, wound up retiring 12 consecutive batters, and Tyler Clippard (10-6) threw a scoreless eighth, setting up the comeback.

"We're in last place in the standings. We only have a couple more weeks left in the season. But at the same time, it's going to be good for this club to see what we're made of," Clippard said. "We've been going through some tough times lately. Everybody in this clubhouse is kind of looking around and seeing who's going to step up and who isn't. Today was a great sign."

Notes: Astros 1B Hunter Pence hurt his right hip flexor running to first on a groundout in the first inning, then didn't come out to play the field in the bottom half. Pence said he hopes to be able to play after a couple of days of rest. ... Astros 3B Chris Johnson hit his 11th homer, a solo shot off Drew Storen with one out in the ninth. ... With a strikeout of Keppinger in the eighth, Clippard became the first Nationals reliever with at least 100 Ks in a season. The team said it's also the first time any reliever for a Washington-based major league team reached that many strikeouts in one year. "It's a nice thing to have on your resume," Clippard said. "It's not something I kind of set out to do."

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