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BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 10, 2011

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Animal cruelty arrest made

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

A Big Spring man was arrested Tuesday and charged with cruelty to livestock animals in connection with the July 13 seizure of several

horses suffering from malnourishment.

Joel Venegas Estrella, 51, was booked into the Howard County jail on a charge of cruelty to livestock animals just before midnight, follow-

ing an investigation by the Howard County Sheriff's Office, according to Sheriff Stan Parker.

"He was taken into custody without incident," Parker said.

Parker said his office received a complaint July 12 while firefighters were battling several blazes in the Crossroads area, including one believed to have begun near the intersection of

Kenneth and Jill roads in the Sand Springs area.

"We received a complaint from a citizen regarding some horses they believed

See **CRUELTY**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Robert Griffin

Members of the Big Spring High School football team practice this morning. The action will heat up a bit Saturday when the Steers scrimmage the Mustangs in Andrews, beginning at 10 a.m.

Police seek suspect in local attack

Victim said recovering in a Lubbock hospital

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The investigation into an attack involving a machete early Sunday morning is ongoing, according to law enforcement officials, with the suspect not yet identified.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the BSPD, the victim — Ernest Gomez of 1507 Sycamore — is still recovering from his wounds in a Lubbock hospital following a beating at the hands of an acquaintance.

"Officers were dispatched to 1502 Tucson at approximately 4:35 a.m. Sunday in reference to the attack," Everett said. "Gomez was attacked at his residence in the 1500 block of Sycamore. It's still unclear how he got to the residence on Tucson, however, he was transported to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center with numerous wounds to the head.

"According to the report, Gomez was having a drink with an unidentified acquaintance when the man — a white male with a slender build —

See **ATTACK**, Page 3A

Redistricting on table

Big Spring ISD board convenes at 5:15 p.m. Thursday

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Big Spring school trustees are expected to put their formal stamp of approval on the district's single-member redistricting plan when they hold their monthly meeting at 5:15 p.m. Thursday in the high school board room.

Redrawing the seven single-

member trustee districts to adequately reflect population and demographic changes in the last 10 years has been a months-long process, involving lawyers, demographers and an advisory committee comprised of both school officials and local citizens.

The end result of all that effort, however, is a boundary map that reflects a growing Hispanic voting presence within Big Spring ISD, officials said.

The new boundaries will

increase the number of predominantly minority districts from two to three, while the other four will remain mostly Anglo in demographic makeup.

Once trustees give their approval of the plan, it will be forwarded to the U.S. Department of Justice for a final OK. That action is expected to come in either late September or October.

Also Thursday, trustees will

See **BSISD**, Page 3A

City tax rate to drop 5 cents

The bad news? Your water rate could double

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

That's a wrap ... On the city's 2011-2012 budget work sessions, that is, as the council cancelled its second night of deliberations on the fiscal plan Tuesday in favor of adopting the budget as presented by City Manager Gary Fuqua a day earlier.

Mayor Tommy Duncan polled the council — District 2 Councilman Manuel Ramirez Jr. was absent, but had already given his thumbs up earlier in the day — on whether to accept the budget as presented and move forward with any necessary public hearings, an offer that drew unanimous approval.

The fiscal plan — which is certainly lean, but by no means a bare-bones effort

See **TAXES**, Page 3A

Water restrictions 'relaxed' a bit

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Continued efforts by Big Spring citizens to conserve water are paying off, allowing the city to ease back ongoing restrictions and allow the watering of lawns two days each week, City Manager Gary Fuqua announced Tuesday.

Residential customers can water from 7 p.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday and 7 a.m.-10 a.m. Saturday.

"We've been monitoring (water usage) in two series. We look at what the commercial users are averaging and then we look at the residential averages," Fuqua said. "Our residents have really embraced the water conservation program and they are doing an excellent job with it.

"We're monitoring this and we've been allowing them to water on Saturdays between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m., which is four

See **WATER**, Page 3A

INDEX

Comics	6B
Classified	3-5B
Features	5A
Obituaries	2A
Opinion	4A
Sports	1-2B

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Obituaries

Charletta Parchman

A memorial service for Charletta Parchman, formerly of Big Spring, will be held Saturday, Aug. 13 at 1:30 p.m. at Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. She is survived by children Jerry, Carol, Danny, Nancy, Jennifer and Sister Jo Tate. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Medina Childrens Home or Birdwell Lane Church of Christ.

Elsie Nobles

Elsie Nobles, 90, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2011, at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Take note

• Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union is raising money to benefit Maurine Pittman, who is undergoing cancer treatment in a Dallas-area hospital. For more information, call the credit union at 263-8393.

• A benefit fund has been established at Western Bank for Eric Kelly, a 24-year-old Big Spring resident with cystic fibrosis who is recovering from a double lung transplant in Dallas. All donations are appreciated. For more information, call 432-213-0795

• The Salvation Army is holding its annual fan drive and is in dire need of fans. Community members can donate new or used fans. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Donations can be made at the main office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

• The Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) is an independent national nonprofit dedicated to helping distressed homeowners navigate financial challenges and avoid mortgage foreclosure. If you want to stop foreclosure and are in need of foreclosure help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now.

The Homeowner's HOPE hotline is a counseling service provided by HPF to work with you to find a solution to your problem. HPF can provide counseling free of charge, in English and 170 other languages, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Free free foreclosure help, call the hotline.

• Fridays are live band dance nights at Big Spring Senior Center, 1901 Simler. Senior adults are invited to an evening of fellowship (and good exercise) from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. each Friday. Cost is \$6 per person. For more information or to find out what band is playing, call the Senior Center at 432-267-1628.

• A benefit fund for Chris Johnson (account 5945033396) has been established at Wells Fargo Bank to help defray expenses from a house fire. All donations are appreciated.

• Big Spring High School Class of 1981 will have its 30-year reunion Sept. 30-Oct. 1. For information, contact Mark Warren at 903-283-3326 or 903-843-5927, or e-mail mwarren@etex.net

• The Salvation Army has funding for Texas Military Personnel now serving or has served in Iraq or Afghanistan. The military member or their family member may apply at 811 W. Fifth St. or call 267-8239. The grant is funded by the TRIAD Fund of Permian Basin Area Foundation.

Police blotter

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

- JIMMY FRANCIS GARRARD, 37, of 303 S.E. Ninth St., was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for assault – family violence.
- DENA GAYE COKER, 54, of 1403 S. Nolan, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- ISAAC DANIEL CHAVARRIA, 25, of 1504 Nolan, was arrested Tuesday on charges of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- REBECCA RIVAS, 32, of 904 Rosemont, was arrested Tuesday on two warrants from another agency.
- THEFT was reported: In the 2400 block of E. FM 700. In the 1600 block of Main Street.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 700 block of Anna.

Sheriff's log

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 75 inmates at the time of this report.
- JOSE MANUAL RUBIO, 50, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on Arizona warrants for fugitive – possession of narcotic drugs for sale, possession of drug paraphernalia and forgery.
 - JIMMY FRANCIS GARRARD, 37, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of assault – family violence.
 - RICHARD FLORES, 58, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
 - ROBERT COBLE, 22, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of assault causing bodily injury and public intoxication.
 - DENA GAYE COKER, 54, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
 - JOEL VENEGAS ESTRELLA, 51, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of cruelty to livestock animals.
 - ISAAC DANIEL CHAVARRIA, 25, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of driving with license invalid with previous conviction/suspension without final restitution and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
 - REBECCA RIVAS, 32, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of bondsman off bond/possession of controlled substance more than or equal to one gram and less than two grams.
 - ADAN CHAVERA, 41, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD charges of driving with license invalid with previous conviction/suspension without final restitution and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

Fire/EMS

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

- TRAUMA was reported in the 900 block of Runnels. Service was refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of Settles. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1000 block of W. Main. One person was transported to SMMC.

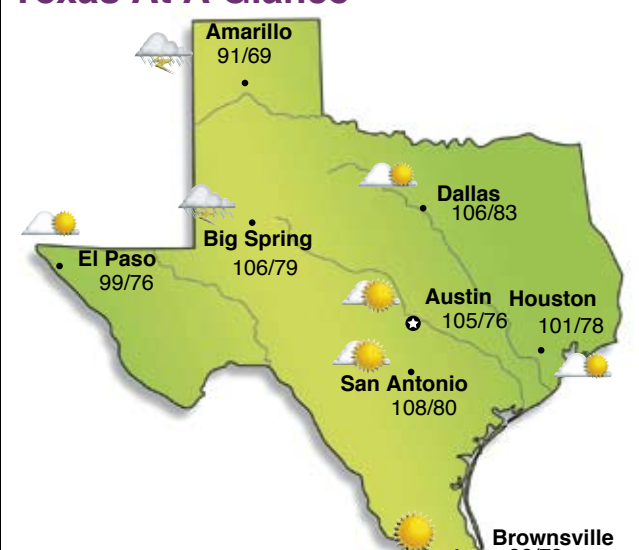
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Thu 8/11	Fri 8/12	Sat 8/13	Sun 8/14	Mon 8/15
106/79	104/78	102/77	102/77	103/77
Scattered clouds with the possibility of an isolated thunderstorm development.	Scattered thunderstorms. Highs 102 to 106F and lows in the upper 70s.	Partly cloudy. Highs 100 to 104F and lows in the upper 70s.	Partly cloudy. Highs 100 to 104F and lows in the upper 70s.	Partly cloudy. Highs 101 to 105F and lows in the upper 70s.
Sunrise: 7:07 AM Sunset: 8:35 PM	Sunrise: 7:08 AM Sunset: 8:34 PM	Sunrise: 7:09 AM Sunset: 8:32 PM	Sunrise: 7:09 AM Sunset: 8:31 PM	Sunrise: 7:10 AM Sunset: 8:30 PM



Texas At A Glance



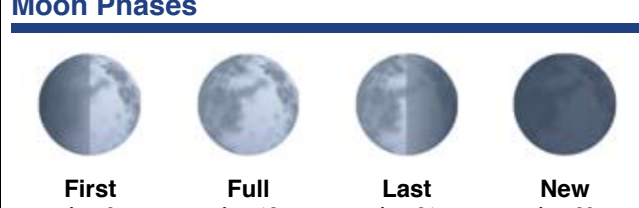
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	104	79	t-storm	Kingsville	103	78	mst sunny
Amarillo	91	69	t-storm	Livingston	104	76	mst sunny
Austin	105	76	mst sunny	Longview	105	80	pt sunny
Beaumont	97	76	pt sunny	Lubbock	98	75	t-storm
Brownsville	98	79	sunny	Lufkin	105	77	pt sunny
Brownwood	106	78	pt sunny	Midland	105	79	t-storm
Corpus Christi	99	79	mst sunny	Raymondville	102	78	mst sunny
Corsicana	105	81	pt sunny	Rosenberg	101	77	pt sunny
Dallas	106	83	pt sunny	San Antonio	108	80	mst sunny
Del Rio	106	82	t-storm	San Marcos	105	77	mst sunny
El Paso	99	76	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	105	82	pt sunny
Fort Stockton	103	77	t-storm	Sweetwater	103	78	t-storm
Gainesville	104	81	pt sunny	Tyler	105	78	pt sunny
Greenville	105	80	pt sunny	Weatherford	106	81	pt sunny
Houston	101	78	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	107	81	t-storm

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	90	70	t-storm	Minneapolis	82	64	mst sunny
Boston	81	60	mst sunny	New York	84	67	sunny
Chicago	81	62	sunny	Phoenix	99	80	pt sunny
Dallas	106	83	pt sunny	San Francisco	62	54	pt sunny
Denver	90	60	mst sunny	Seattle	74	56	mst sunny
Houston	101	78	pt sunny	St. Louis	85	68	mst sunny
Los Angeles	73	59	pt sunny	Washington, DC	87	71	pt sunny
Miami	89	79	t-storm				

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BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

hear a report on how BSISD fared in the recent Texas Education Association accountability rankings report. That report, released July 29, listed the school district and all but one campus as "academically unacceptable," the lowest possible rating bestowed by the agency.

The TEA ratings were based on students' performance in the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test, as well as other factors, including junior high dropout and high school completion rates.

While promising the district will do everything it can to earn future TEA upgrades, Superintendent Steven Saldivar

said BSISD will not place undue emphasis on the state test.

"We're focused on our students' education," Saldivar said the day the TEA ratings were released. "We're mandated by law to prepare our students for the TAKS ... but I feel we over-test our students. We try to focus on the whole child, not just a test they take on a certain day," he added. "We are not just a test-prep school district ... We're on a journey to make sure our children are learning at a high level."

In other business Thursday, trustees will consider:

- A lease agreement with Greater Opportunities of the Permian Basin to operate the local Head Start program at the Lakeview School building.
- Naming the district's "flagship" radio station.
- Personnel matters.

CRUELTY

Continued from Page 1A

weren't being properly cared for," Parker said. "We went out to look at the animals and found several horses which appeared to be malnourished. We began the process to get a warrant to seize the animals, which was completed the following day."

Estrella remained in the custody of the Howard County jail this morning after his bond was set at \$1,500, according to jail officials.

Parker said eight horses were seized from the residence. The fate of the animals remains unclear, he said.

"We need to meet with the veterinarian and go over the condition of the animals, but at this time none of them have had to be put down," Parker said. "In a situation like this you hate to see an animal put down, and we're doing everything in our power to see to it that doesn't happen."

ATTACK

Continued from Page 1A

simply went berserk. He began hitting Gomez with various tools that were laying around the home, including a machete."

Everett said the head wounds made it hard for officers to get a description of the suspect from Gomez before he was later transferred to a Lubbock hospital.

"Due to the nature of the wounds, the victim was unable to give officers a very detailed description of the suspect," Everett said. "All we really know at this point is he is a tall, white male with a slender build. We're hoping that after the victim recovers and comes home he will be able to give us more details that will help identify his attacker."

Anyone with information regarding this or any other crime is encouraged to contact the BSPD at 432-264-2550 or Big Spring Area Crimestoppers at 432-263-TIPS (8477) or 432-263-TIPS.

TAXES

Continued from Page 1A

is based on a 94.95-cents per \$100 valuation tax rate, a drop of 5 cents compared to last year's 99.95-cent rate. The proposed rate is also nearly 5 cents below the effective tax rate of 99.7 cents per \$100 valuation.

Despite cutting its tax revenue by approximately 5 percent, the budget still manages to provide for a number of much-needed projects, according to city officials.

One of those projects is \$1.5 million for a centrifugal sludge collection system for the city's water treatment plant, a project city officials are hoping will help raise the quality of water delivered by the municipality by lowering turbidity levels.

The budget also provides \$1.05 million for water line replacement in and around Third

and Fourth streets, as well as Birdwell Lane; \$1.7 million for the construction of a joint law enforcement center, a joint project with Howard County to house both the Big Spring Police Department and Howard County Sheriff's Office; and \$600,000 to begin the process of permitting and opening a new municipal landfill.

According to District 4 Councilwoman Gloria McDonald, the proposed budget meets the city's needs without slacking on essential projects, a philosophy vital to the survival of any municipality.

"I think the staff really outdid themselves with this budget. This was the hardest, tightest budget since I've been on the council, and this is my ninth budget," McDonald said. "It wasn't a lack of funds that made this year's budget so difficult, it was the lack of water. We have to pay

for a certain amount of water the users aren't buying, and the city doesn't get paid back for that. The ongoing water restrictions made this year's budget terrifically difficult to plan.

"We have to move forward. In any situation, if you don't move forward then you're dying and moving backward. So it's very important to keep moving ahead, even if it's slowly. We have to move forward and progress."

District 6 Councilman Terry Hansen said he's pleased with the proposed budget.

"I'm very pleased with the budget preparation the city has done. The city administration has cut back in ways to appropriately uncomfortable levels while still maintaining services and doing necessary and important work," Hansen said. "It's always a question of economics. The more you spend, the more revenue you

have to generate somewhere, and the city staff has done an outstanding job of balancing those things. They have been able to reduce the tax rate while still accommodating the day-to-day operations of our city."

Unfortunately, the proposed 2011-2012 budget doesn't provide good news for everyone, as city water customers will likely see their base rate nearly double in the coming year.

The base rate, currently \$16.75 a month, could go as high as \$31.75, according to city officials. The majority of the hike is due to a rate increase from the Colorado River Municipal Water District that adds approximately \$11 to the existing base rate to cover approximately \$140 million in new debt the district has taken on to develop its water transmission lines from the Ward County well field.

According to Fuqua, the city would also add

\$4 to the base rate to cover its cost increases, bringing the total base rate up to \$31.75. Consumption rates would also go up under the new fiscal plan, increased from the current rate of \$2.80 per 1,000 gallons to \$3 per 1,000 gallons.

"We started out looking at a \$5 increase in the base rate. However, I'm happy to say after meeting with the mayor, Todd (Darden) and (Peggy Walker, city finance director), we're hoping to bring back something a little different from the \$4 increase we're looking at here," Fuqua told the council. "What we're looking at is an \$11 per month increase for some of our large compound meters which are so expensive, which are probably not equitable to the residential (meters)."

"What we're looking at is possibly increasing some of the large commercial meters that are an inch or larger

at a pro-rated cost and bring (the residential increase) down to about \$3, which would bring it down to \$30.75, which is \$2 cheaper than I really thought it was going to be when we started this."

Water has been something of a sore spot for the city of Big Spring since use restrictions were put in place earlier this year. According to Fuqua, the city has purchased 125 million gallons fewer gallons this year, which has accounted for \$350,000 in lost revenue. And while using less of a utility usually translates into a smaller bill, that hasn't been the case for the city, which has seen its water costs from CRMWD eclipse last year's total cost by approximately \$200,000.

City employees won't have much to sing about this year, either, as Fuqua said the proposed budget does not provide for pay raises.

WATER

Continued from Page 1A

hours a week. We believe we can adjust that to allow for six hours a week. After talking to many members of the council, we've looked at changing this to allow residents to water twice a week, and split that six hours into two three-hour periods."

The new schedule will allow residential water customers to water their lawns and other plants from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. on Tuesdays and 7 a.m. until 10 a.m. on Saturdays. There will be no change to the schedule for commercial customers, who can water on Tuesdays from 6 a.m. until 10 a.m.

Fuqua said he hopes the new schedule will not only allow the city to remain under the 20 percent cut in water deliveries currently being imposed by the Colorado

River Municipal Water District, but also give area residents a better opportunity to water their lawns, shrubs and trees.

Two of the reservoirs that feed water to the Crossroads area — Lake Thomas and Lake Spence — have both reached critically low levels, while Lake Ivie is currently at or below 25 percent capacity.

And while CRMWD is currently working on a new pipeline to bring groundwater from the Ward County area to Big Spring, the lack of rain has most water district and city officials concerned there could be a serious water shortage in the area in the next year.

"If we don't receive rain to replenish our reservoirs, it's estimated we will run out of surface water completely by December of 2012," Fuqua said. "With the new pipeline

expected to be completed by January 2013, you can see what a crunch for time we're currently in. That's one of the reasons it is so important we meet these water quotas."

John Grant, general manager of CRMWD, said efforts to bring a second pipeline from the Ward County fields online are under way, with the project is expected to be completed by Jan. 1, 2013. The project, which he estimated at \$140 million, along with efforts to build a water reclamation plant in Big Spring, could generate 45 million gallons of water per day for the city.

A hotline for residents to report violations of the conservation regulations has been established as part of the ongoing water restrictions, and it has gotten its fair share of use, according to Fuqua.

"People can call 432-

264-2548 to report misuse of water," Fuqua said. "This hotline is available 24 hours a day."

City officials said they will do their best to work with those abusing the conservation regulations, however, those caught violating the ordinance repeatedly will face consequences, which could include a stiff fine in municipal court.

"We don't want to pull your water meter, but we can't let that water run down the street," Mayor Tommy Duncan said during a recent meeting.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Bill McClellan Managing Editor	Ron Midkiff Publisher	Steve Reagan Staff Writer
Amanda Moreno Staff Writer	Thomas Jenkins Staff Writer	

OUR VIEWS

Time to conserve our water and electricity

Times seem to be getting hotter, dryer and more frustrating.

There have been restrictions placed on water use — due to the lack of rainfall and shortage of usable water — and now, ERCOT (Electric Reliability Council of Texas) and ONCOR are informing the public rolling blackouts may be possible.

Water has been restricted to one day a week for businesses — Tuesdays from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. — and residential customers Saturdays from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Water levels are continuing to drop with each passing day and, with no relief in site from scorching temperatures or the dry conditions, will continue to drop.

It's important to adhere to the water restrictions in order to ensure a more dire situation does not occur, faster than it has to.

Of course, as if worrying about the lack of water for the community and surrounding areas wasn't a big enough problem ... it's time to tack on worrying about electricity usage.

The lack of rain has been causing swimming pools to go unfilled, lawns to go unwatered and cars to remain coated in dust. Now, the high temperatures might have to be endured without air conditioning — at least for 30 minutes.

Rolling blackouts — unexpected occurrences of electricity being shut off for 15 to 30 minute intervals across the ERCOT grid in order to defer the entire system from going down — are not only being talked about, but are being highly considered as high temperatures remain a constant.

The increased use of air conditioners has taken its toll not only on electric customers pockets, but on the grid itself. Higher electric bills are among the complaints, but there is a solution that can ease the pain of high electric bills and the strain on the system.

- keep air conditioners set at 80 degrees
- turn off and unplug all unused electricity using devices when not in use
- try to conserve as much energy until the later evening hours

During the week, demand is higher and the situation will remain the same until cooler temperatures grace us ... until that moment as long as everyone does their part in conserving it will be possible to manage the situation and make it through.

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
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A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We obtain favorable results in our life, Lord, when we trust it to You for heavenly guidance.

Amen

Their ways on the airways

On Wednesday, congressional Democrats were doing everything in their power not to end the legislative stalemate that shut down the Federal Aviation Administration, but to make sure everyone blamed Republicans. So they did what they always do; they held a news conference to denounce Republicans' "my way or the highway" approach when they wanted their way for the airways.

But the Democrats' usual tap dance didn't click. The news conference backfired. The next day, the Senate announced a deal to keep the FAA in business temporarily.

The stalemate began July 20, when the House passed a bill to extend FAA funding through Sept. 15. Even though failure to pass a bill would mean a shut-down and the temporary loss of 75,000 federal and construction jobs, Senate Democrats blocked passage because the House measure cut \$16.5 million of funding from a pork-rich rural-airport subsidy program.

The news conference was meant to prompt the media to blame Republican recalcitrance. Instead, a reporter asked Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, "Why not just accept this short-term extension and live to fight another day?"

The Dems were dumbstruck. Reid replied, "Live to fight another day (on) Sept. 15 and — what will the hostages be then?" Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., chided the reporter for "a certain naivete" in not understanding that "this is about government threats." Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., pointed out that House Republicans had targeted politically powerful Democrats and

taken away "things that were necessary for them." Rockefeller should know. He is one of them.

Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., sputtered, "It's the issue of hostage taking. It's as if someone puts a gun to your head and says, 'Give me your money,' and then you say, 'Why won't you give them their money?'"

Clearly, Schumer and company see your tax dollars as theirs to spend. As The Washington Post editorialized, the Essential Air Service program is "notoriously wasteful." It subsidizes half-empty flights to rural airports, many within 100 miles of larger airports. Its funding quadrupled from \$26 million in 1997 to \$109 million in 2007. It now costs some \$200 million annually.

In holding Wednesday's news conference, Reid, Boxer, Rockefeller and Schumer were trumpeting their decision to put pork and perks ahead of other people's paychecks.

The deal announced Thursday allows the Senate to pass the House bill with the cuts to the Essential Air Service program — thanks to an understanding that Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood can grant waivers and throw money at hard-pressed airports.

On the one hand, the deal makes you wonder whether Washington can cut anything.

On the other hand, the shut-down prevented the government from collecting more than \$350 million in taxes on airline tickets. If the House Republicans' idea of economy is to forfeit \$350 million to save \$16 million, I don't think the public will have much of an appetite for more "savings" when Congress reconvenes.

The irony here is that House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman John Mica, R-Fla., now faces increased pressure to go after rural-airport funding — whether

he wants to or not. And it may well be that saving taxpayers money was not his top priority.

According to Aviation Daily, Mica told the American Association of Airport Executives that his committee was using the rural-airport program as "a tool" to pressure Democrats to agree to an "anti-worker" labor law.

(After President Barack Obama named two former union officials to the three-member National Mediation Board, the labor panel changed the rules for airline and railroad union elections to allow a workforce to unionize by winning a majority vote. The decision overturned the 76-year practice of counting non-votes as "no" votes. House Republicans want to overturn the labor panel's ruling. Delta Air Lines has lobbied for the GOP provision.)

Senate Democrats oppose the GOP's attempt to block changes that would have made it easier to organize unions in airlines. Though the temporary FAA bill did not include the GOP labor provision, they contend that the maneuver is part of a long-term strategy to hold FAA funding hostage in order to accommodate one private airline.

"We're not doing this for Delta," Mica spokesman Justin Harclerode told me. "We want the NMB issue to be resolved in negotiations," just as Mica wants to negotiate "reform" of rural-airport funding.

"We're not really trotting out there with press conferences," he added. That is probably a good thing. Because sometimes press conferences backfire.

Email Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

Obama bends to blackmail

A six-shooter lies gleaming on the table. There are five bullets in its chambers. You spin the cylinder and hold the gun to America's head.

"Stop, don't pull the trigger!"

says Barack Obama. "We can't risk America's future."

"Aww, go ahead and shoot," say the Republicans. "Maybe it will reduce the size of government ... permanently."

And that was the debt ceiling debate. President Obama was not willing to risk a default that might ruin the American economy and topple the world's financial system.

The Republicans, or more specifically the tea party Republicans in the House, simply did not care. Some said that they wanted default. It would be healthy. America could sell off its national parks and the gold reserves in Fort Knox. I kid you not. You didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

Or we could simply not pay the military. Now there was an idea! There are 1,137,568 members of the military currently stationed in the United States. They have rifles, tanks, artillery, jets and missiles. And we're not going to pay them? I don't think so.

In the end, the Republicans got what they wanted.

America will get massive spending cuts borne by the poor, the sick, the elderly and the middle class. But there will be not a penny in tax increases on billionaires or the closing of tax loopholes that helps multimillionaires become billionaires.

And jobs? There is not a penny for jobs. Were you so angry at the lack of jobs in America that you voted for tea party Republicans in 2010? Congratulations. You just got your reward: the

back of their hand.

Think I exaggerate? Take a look at who was happy on Tuesday and who was angry.

"When you look at this final agreement that we came to with the White House, I got 98 percent of what I wanted; I'm pretty happy," Republican House Speaker John Boehner told CBS News.

"They have acted like terrorists," Vice President Joe Biden said of the tea party Republicans. (The quotation was reported by Politico based on sources; Biden has denied saying it.)

The White House is not supposed to negotiate with terrorists, but in this case what choice did it have?

If it expected to be rewarded for doing what it had to do, it was mistaken. The opinion pages of The New York Times have done everything except take out a contract on Obama.

Columnist Ross Douthat says that "we're living through yet another failed presidency."

Columnist Paul Krugman says: "Republicans will surely be emboldened by the way Mr.

Obama keeps folding in the face of their threats. ... Make no mistake about it, what we're witnessing here is a catastrophe on multiple levels."

A New York Times editorial calls it "a nearly complete capitulation to the hostage-taking demands of Republican extremists. It will hurt programs for the middle class and poor, and hinder an economic recovery."

Columnist Thomas Friedman says that if we cannot get a deal "that requires cutting, taxing and investing as part of a single nation-building strategy ... then I'll hope for a third party that does get it and can take us where we need to go."

And the Progressive Caucus of the California Democratic Party passed a resolution to explore "a possible primary challenge against President Obama."

Whew. Imagine what his enemies think of him.

But there will be no serious

third party challenge in 2012.

Nor will there be a serious primary challenge to Obama. (Though it would be interesting to see how well Howard Dean, Russ Feingold or even Dennis Kucinich might do.)

Even the late-night comedians are upset. "This was the same kind of compromise Custer had with Sitting Bull," David Letterman said Monday night.

Republican Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said Tuesday what Americans had witnessed over the last weeks "was the will of the people working itself out. It was never meant to be pretty."

It was never meant to be blackmail, either.

White House spokesman Jay Carney came much closer to the truth when he said, "This was a mess; it was a circus at times."

But a circus is supposed to be fun, and this was a draining, debilitating and shameful example of how democracy can sometimes stumble.

As President Obama said in his address to the nation on Sunday, the most important thing about the deal is that it will allow us "to end the crisis that Washington imposed on the rest of America."

And make no mistake, Washington did impose it on us.

While Congress slaps itself on the back for a job well done and blows town for a lengthy vacation, it should keep in mind that to avert a crisis is not to fix a broken system. All our lawmakers have done is slap more duct tape on a structure that wheezes lamely from one calamity to the next.

In a new CNN poll, 77 percent of Americans said that the elected officials who dealt with the debt ceiling acted like spoiled children.

Spoiled children everywhere should be insulted.

To find out more about Roger Simon visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com.



DEBRA SAUNDERS



ROGER SIMON

Why not check this out at the library?

I have never understood the fascination of watching poker tournaments on television. But you should know the most complicated card game I can play is Go Fish; and that probably explains it. I do not have a mathematical brain.

"Cowboys Full," (AUCD 795.412 MCM J) by James McManus is the story of poker, from its roots in China, the Middle East, and Europe to its ascent as a global, but especially, American, phenomenon. Presidents from Abraham Lincoln to Barack Obama have deployed poker and its strategies to explain policy, to relax with friends, to negotiate treaties and crises and as a negotiating tool.

"Cowboys Full" shows how what was once accurately called a cheater's game has become a mostly honest contest of cunning, mathematical precision and luck. Plus it examines poker's remarkable hold on American culture from paintings, movies, language and plays.

Perhaps from a different direction comes Neale Donald Walsch's book, "Conversations with God" (BOCD 211 WAL N).

Suppose you could ask

God the most puzzling questions about existence and God would provide you with clear, concise, understandable answers. Walsch composed a letter to God in which he vented his frustrations and to his surprise, God answered.

Two new books from John Grogan who brought us "Marley and Me."

The first is "Bad Dogs Have More Fun" (AUCD 814.6 GRO J); a compilation of 75 of his newspaper columns about (what else?) dogs.

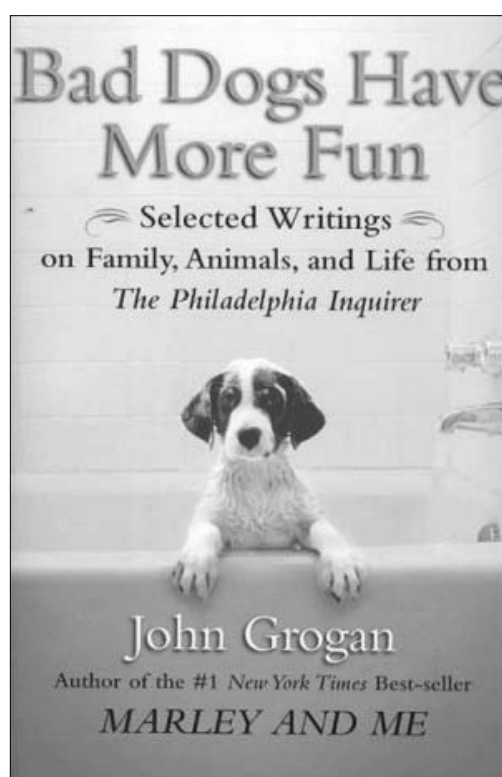
The second book is "Life Is Like a Sailboat" (AUCD 814.6 GRO J), in which Grogan shows us the quirks and foibles of the human condition.

From avoiding the shoals of adolescence, to avoiding death at the crosswalk, to turning the tables on a telemarketer and the war in Iraq coming home to a small town in Pennsylvania, each story is laced with heart and sometimes grief.

In large print, we have just received a James Bond novel by Jeffery Deaver, "Carte Blanche" (LP F DEA J).

James Bond is in his early 30s and is a veteran of the Afghan war and is recruited to a new organization.

This is post 9/11 and it is a very covert organization. Electronic whispers hint of a massive attack scheduled for later in the week and, of course, Bond, along with a beautiful woman, has been



given carte blanche (by any means necessary) to prevent it from happening.

I haven't read much of Tom Clancy in recent years, but it appears he is partnering with various people and exploring different sorts of thrillers.

In "Against All Enemies" (LP F CLA T), written by Clancy with Peter Telep,

A terrorist bombing in Pakistan has wiped out Max Moore's entire CIA team.

With Moore the only survivor, the former SEAL plunges deeper into tribal lands to find the terrorist cell.

Imagine his surprise when he finds ties between the Middle East terror cells and a Mexican drug cartel.

As Texans know only too well, a fierce war is being fought along the border between the various cartels from Juarez south along the border. Moore selects a group of agents who are determined to strike a crippling blow against those who would injure the United States.

For another sort of war, there are the ever popular Westerns. William Colt MacDonald in "Thunderbird Trail" (LP W MAC W) has Gregory Quist as a special investigator for a railroad. When Quist

rides into Cenotaph, he is approached by Mrs. Harmon, who wants to hire him as a guard for her husband. Turning down the job, he is shocked when Gideon Harmon is deemed a "suicide" and a train has been derailed and looted. Determined to find justice, he will track down the killers for Mrs. Harmon and for the railroad.

Ray Hogan is a very well-known writer of Westerns. In "Outlaw's Promise" (LP W HOG R), are a couple of short stories: in "Tenkiller Flats," Hannah Bradford has written Dave Keegan that his father died and he has inherited the Lazy K

Ranch. Problems will brew when Dave seeks to sever the ranch from the Seevert Syndicate. The second story was Hogan's last Western tale. In "Outlaw's Promise," Wayne Trevison is wanted in Montana for killing a lawman. However, it will be hard to keep his identity a secret when he is named permanent foreman of the huge Triangle W Ranch in Texas. Between two resentful sons and his reputation as a killer, Wayne will have a tough time of it.

Remember the library is open on Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with the internet/video room closing at 5:30 p.m.

Our website has changed; it is now: <http://wtls.tsl.state.tx.us/howard-county>.

We are trying to decrease the amount of electricity we use by shutting off some of our lights, so if it looks sort of dark during the day, we are open. We're just trying to do our part during this hot time of the year.

Do come in to the library and stay out of the heat.

We have a brand-new color scheme; new books (and old favorites); newspapers to read; magazines; movies to check out and books on CD to listen to on vacation trips. Come on down.

Hollis McCright is Howard County Librarian.



HOLLIS McCRIGHT

There is no endless supply of tomorrows

The problem with waiting until tomorrow is when it finally arrives, it is called today.

Today is yesterday's tomorrow. Or as Yogi Berra would say, "It's like deja vu all over again."

The question is, what did we do with its opportunity? All too often we will waste tomorrow as we wasted yesterday and as we are wasting today.

All that could have

been accomplished can easily elude us, despite our intentions, until we inevitably discover the things that might have been slipped from our grasp has done so one day at a time.

Each of us must pause frequently to remind



PARENT'S CORNER
DARRELL RYAN

ourselves the clock is ticking. The same clock that began to tick from the moment we drew our first breath will also someday cease.

Time is the great equalizer of all mankind. It has taken away the best and the worst of us without regard for either. Time offers opportunity, but demands a sense of urgency.

When the game of life is finally over, there is

See RYAN, Page 6A

Facts on Bullying

The facts on bullying reveal it is a growing problem among teens and children. There are several different types of bullying including cyber bullying, bullying in schools as well as other forms of harassing. Continue reading to learn the facts on bullying.

Bullying can happen anywhere. Many children and teens are regular victims of bullying, which can lead to serious emotional scarring and problems with the victim's self-esteem and self-image. Correcting these behaviors before they start or get out of hand are important for parents and educators to keep in mind. In this article we are discussing the facts on bullying and how you can watch for warning signs in victims of bullying as well as in children who might be bullies themselves.

Types of bullying:

- **Verbal.** This type of bullying usually involves name calling and or teasing
- **Social.** Spreading rumors, intentionally leaving others out of activities on purpose, breaking up friendships are all examples of social bullying.
- **Physical.** This traditional form of bullying involves hitting, punching, shoving and other acts of intention physical harm.
- **Cyberbullying.** This method of bullying involves using the Internet, texting, email and other digital technologies to harm others.

Facts on bullying:

- **Imbalance of power.** Typically those who engage in bully-like behaviors use their strength, popularity or power to harm, control or manipulate others. They will usually target those who are weaker in size or may have a difficult time defending themselves.
- **Intent to cause harm.** A bully is a person who does not do things by accident. The bully intends to physically or emotionally injure a person or group of persons.
- **Repetition.** Typically incidents of bullying are not a one-time thing. Bullies target the same person or group over and over again.

It is important for parents to discuss the facts on bullying with their children to help teach them how to watch out for bullying and to avoid being bullied. There are several signs parents can look for when evaluating if your child is a victim of bullying.

- Comes home with unexplained injuries or with damaged or missing clothing or other belongings
- Has change in eating habits
- Makes excuses not to go to school
- Has fewer friends
- Feels helpless
- Talks about suicide
- Acts out of character
- Avoids certain places or playing outside alone
- Feels like they are not good enough
- Has trouble sleeping
- Blames themselves for their problems

The facts on bullying also provide information on what types of signs to look for in children who might be bullying others.

- Becomes frequently violent
- Has trouble controlling anger
- Is manipulative and controlling of others and situations
- Is quick to blame others
- Does not accept responsibility for their actions
- Needs to win or be the best at everything

Understanding these warning signs can help parents prevent their children from becoming bullies or help them not become a victim of a bully. Counseling or therapy are good methods in helping to treat a child who exhibits symptoms of bullying. Children who are victims may also need some kind of support or counseling to help resolve underlying issues of emotional feelings of inadequacy. Children who are confident and have higher self-esteem are less likely to fall prey to the attacks of bullying.

Sources: mychildsafety.net, <http://www.stopbullying.gov/>

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Butter sculptures churn 100-year legacy

By MICHAEL J. CRUMB

Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Life-size butter sculptures of everything from cows to space heroes and Hollywood stars are among the most beloved traditions of state fairs, drawing thousands of admirers each year from Iowa to Ohio and as far south as Texas.

In Iowa, where the tradition started, the fair will celebrate the 100th year of its butter cow when it begins Thursday. While other state fairs may mimic the butter cow or tout other creamy creations, none has gained as much fame as the original, Iowa State Fair President Gary Slater said.

"None of the others have become that one thing that when you think of the fair, you think of it like you do here at the Iowa State Fair," Slater said. "It's become our icon."

Other states with butter cows include Illinois, Kansas, New York and Utah, while the Wisconsin and Indiana state fairs feature mammoth cheese carvings.

But Minnesota may come the closest to Iowa in celebration of its dairy sculptures. The state's dairy queen — Princess Kay of the Milky Way — and her court are immortalized in butter busts. Other state sculptures have

included Darth Vader and, in his home state of Illinois, former President Abraham Lincoln.

But it's Iowa where the rich history was born, confirmed Gary Welling, head of the pastry program at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, R.I.

There, sculptor Sarah Pratt works in a cooler where the air lingers in the low 40s, applying 600 pounds of butter over a metal, wood and wire frame to create a slick and fatty cow that's 5 1/2-foot tall and about 8-foot long.

The 34-year-old elementary school teacher took over the job in 2006 from the late Norma "Duffy" Lyon, who was Iowa's "Butter Cow Lady" for 46 years.

The butter in the cow may have been around longer than Pratt: It can be reused for up to 10 years.

Pratt, who apprenticed with Lyon for 15 years, said she strives to achieve the same level of success in both her sculpting and promotion of the butter cow.

"I try to hone my skills more and more each year," said Pratt, who lives in West Des Moines.

"She was very good and strived to make the perfect cow. That is what I strive to do and honor what she did,

Pratt added.

Along with the cow, Lyon's butter works for the fair included Grant Wood's famous painting "American Gothic," Leonardo d Vinci's The Last Supper, John Wayne and Elvis Presley. She died earlier this year.

"To be able to carry on this tradition, it's a huge honor," Pratt said.

Minnesota's reigning dairy queen, Katie Miron, 20, said she's honored to be the subject of a butter sculpture.

"I think every farmer's daughter dreams of being a butter head one day," said Miron, who's from Hugo, Minn.

The fair has had butter sculptures since the late 1800s but it wasn't until 1965 that the tradition of carving the heads of the dairy princesses began.

They remain one of the fair's most popular attractions, spokeswoman Brienna Schuette said.

Princess Kay and her court each spend one day sitting in a revolving cooler while Linda Christensen, an artist who now lives in Oceanside, Calif., carves their likenesses in 90 pounds of butter.

"It's like opening your refrigerator, climbing inside and staying there," Miron said.

The princesses take their sculptures home after the fair. Some keep them in coolers for years, taking them out only for their wedding, where guests are invited to spread the artwork on bread or eat it in some other fashion.

Others have used the butter to bake cookies for charity, or as Miron plans to do later this month, melt it on corn at a hometown corn feed.

Butter sculptures date back to ancient Tibet, where monks carved animals and deities out of yak butter, said Sherry Newell, a spokeswoman for the Midwest Dairy Association.

The tradition spread to North America in the early 1800s, and today there's a Facebook application where people can create photos of themselves carved in butter and have it printed on a postcard from one of nine Midwestern states, she said.

Welling said butter sculptures really took off in the early 1900s, when the dairy industry began using them as marketing tools.

"They really could rival great sculptures of art in their detail and as elaborate as they've become," he said.

Ohio's tradition started with a butter carving competition in 1903, and its cow eventually became a permanent display.

The cow is accompanied by a companion piece, which over the year has included Darth Vader and astronauts John Glenn and Neil Armstrong, both Ohio natives. There have been tributes to the Ohio State Buckeyes football team and golfer Jack Nicklaus.

This year, the sculpture was a space shuttle with a floating astronaut enjoying freeze-dried ice cream.

The sculpture honored the end of the shuttle program in the state that has produced more astronauts than any other.

"I think it's really cool, with the shuttle mission being over," said David Cunningham, an 18-year-old Ohio State University business student. "It keeps the program in a good light."

Nancy Walcutt, 60, a retired teacher from Lewis Center, Ohio, marveled at the butter cow during her recent visit to the fair.

"To put so much butter together and manipulate it in so many ways to come together and make a cow — the muscles and the veins and just the detail that goes into it," she said. "It's really skillful."

Associated Press writer Andy Brownfield contributed to this story from Columbus, Ohio.

RYAN

Continued from Page 5A

no second chance to correct our errors. The clock ticking

away the moments of our lives does not care about winners and losers.

It does not care about who succeeds or who fails.

It does not care about excuses, fairness or equality.

The only essential issue is how we played the game. Regardless of our current age, there is a sense of urgency that should drive us into immediate action.

We should be constantly aware of the value of each and every

moment of our lives; moments that seem so insignificant their loss often goes unnoticed. At the current moment, we still have the time; we still have lots of chances; we still have lots of opportunities; we still have time to show

what we can do. For most of us, there will be a tomorrow, a next week, a next month and a next year. But unless we develop a sense of urgency, those brief windows of time will be sadly wasted, as were the weeks and

months and years before them.

We must remember there isn't an endless supply.

Darrell Ryan is director of federal programs for Big Spring Independent School District.



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Polygamist gets life in prison for assault

SAN ANGELO (AP) — Polygamist leader Warren Jeffs recorded everything he said. Thousands of pages, written with Biblical flourish, about God wanting him to take 12-year-old wives. About those girls needing to sexually please him. About men he banished for not building his temple fast enough.

Facing his last chance to keep his freedom, Jeffs didn't say a word.

He was sentenced to life in prison Tuesday for sexually assaulting one of his child brides — among 24 underage wives prosecutors said Jeffs collected — and received the maximum 20-year punishment on a separate child sex conviction. Jeffs, 55, will not be eligible for parole until he is at least 100 years old.

The head of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints made no plea for leniency. He ordered his attorneys not to call witnesses during the sentencing phase, and forbade them from making a closing argument Tuesday.

Less than half an hour lat-

er, jurors returned with the harshest punishment possible.

"He's a pervert, and the crazy thing is, he perverted his own religion," his sister, Elaine Jeffs, said after the sentencing. Nearby, police escorted her brother into a waiting patrol car.

Elaine Jeffs, who left the FLDS in 1984, watched the end to an often bizarre and graphic two-week trial. Other onlookers included one of Jeffs' top lieutenants and state caseworkers who rounded up nearly 400 children during a 2008 raid at the sect's Texas ranch. There were a handful of spectators as well, including a retired couple who also sat in on the Casey Anthony trial in Florida.

Despite the convictions and life sentence, Jeffs remains in control of the FLDS and its roughly 10,000 followers. His most devoted consider him God's spokesman on earth and a prophet, but his followers were absent in court for the bulk of the trial.

Jeffs sometimes was, too. He boycotted the sentencing

phase, remaining in a courthouse holding cell, and refused to answer state District Judge Barbara Walther when directly questioned Tuesday. Jeffs had represented himself during the conviction phase, and often interrupted court proceedings by contending that he was being persecuted for his religious beliefs.

The FLDS is a radical offshoot of mainstream Mormonism and believes polygamy brings exaltation in heaven. In closing arguments, prosecutors rejected the idea that the sect had been targeted.

"The evidence in this case shows that this isn't a prosecution of a people," prosecutor Eric Nichols said. "This is a prosecution to protect people."

Jurors ignored reporters after the sentencing, quickly walking to their cars that were parked single-file in a blocked-off street and driving away.

Willie Jessop, a former FLDS spokesman who railed against Texas authorities following the raid but has since disavowed Jeffs, said the

heinousness of the charges has left a fractured FLDS community. He said his first goal would be tearing down the guard tower and gates at the Yearning for Zion ranch, which authorities stormed in 2008 and where they collected a trove of evidence against Jeffs.

That included photos of him kissing the young brides he took in "spiritual marriages" and scratchy audiotapes of him giving girls explicit instructions for sex. His journals speak of casting out men for not being humble, written around the same time Jeffs was photographed in a leather jacket atop a Harley Davidson motorcycle.

"Everyone in the church has got to take a responsibility for what has taken place," Jessop said. "In order for this to be fixed going forward, we have to take responsibility. This is a crisis for every single member in the church."

Jeffs rose to power in 2002 following his father's death, and has run the church despite being in police custody in either Arizona or Texas

since 2006.

He'll be more restricted in whatever Texas prison he ends up in. Jeffs was flown to a prison intake across the state hours after being sentenced. It's there that prison officials will decide where he will serve his sentence and whether to assign him to the general prison population, safekeeping or protective custody. His telephone calls will be limited to a list of 10 people, and Jeffs will be prohibited from receiving any visitors under age 17.

Jeffs stood quietly Tuesday as the sentence was read. He must serve at least 45 years in prison: at least 35 years of a life sentence on one of the child sex charges.

During the trial, prosecutors used DNA evidence to show Jeffs fathered a child with a 15-year-old girl and played an audio recording of what they said was him sexually assaulting a 12-year-old.

"If the world knew what I was doing, they would hang me from the highest tree," Jeffs wrote in 2005, according to one of his journals.

News in brief

Officials say mother kills her 2 children

HOUSTON (AP) — Harris County Sheriff's Office officials say a woman has killed her two children and then apparently tried to kill herself.

The Houston Chronicle reports that the boy and girl — each under 5 years old — were killed Tuesday night.

The woman suffered a gunshot wound to the head and was taken to Memorial Hermann Hospital.

The further information was released.

Gang member set to die

WEDNESDAY (AP) — Huntsville — Condemned Texas prisoner Martin Robles (ROE'-bless) is set to be executed for a double slaying nine years ago in Corpus Christi.

Thirty-three-year-old Robles is set to be executed Wednesday evening.

Robles led several members of his drug-dealing street gang into the home of rival gang members who were gunned down while asleep.

One gang member who avoided becoming a victim identified Rob-

les and a companion as the shooters.

Robles' court appeals are exhausted. His lethal injection would be eighth this year in Texas. At least five others are set for the coming weeks.

Man gets 4 years for restaurant-related fraud

TYLER (AP) — An East Texas man has been sentenced to four years in prison over credit card numbers scammed from a restaurant and the Internet.

The U.S. attorney's office says 26-year-old Christopher Michael of Malakoff pleaded guilty in May to access device fraud. Michael, who was sentenced Tuesday in Tyler, also must pay nearly \$95,000 in restitution.

Law officers, during a raid last August at Michael's home, seized counterfeit charge card making equipment and hundreds of fake cards.

State revokes approval for career school programs

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Workforce Commission is revoking the certificates of approval for 22 programs taught at career schools run by ATI Enterprises, Inc.

The agency said Tuesday the company misrepresented the employment rates of graduates in those programs, with a review finding rates below 60 percent minimum rate.

The agency is requiring that ATI either refund tuition of those enrolled in the programs or offer them options to complete their training in compliance TWC.

TWC has set terms requiring ATI to ensure accurate reporting of graduate employment rates in the future.



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News in brief

Global stocks higher as rally continues on Fed low rates pledge

LONDON (AP) — A pledge by the Federal Reserve to keep extremely low interest rates for another couple of years has calmed investors' jitters, sending stock markets around the world higher Wednesday.

The Fed's surprise announcement Tuesday that it would likely keep its Fed funds rate at near zero percent through 2013 to help the ailing U.S. economy helped Wall Street surge late in the session — the Dow Jones industrial average rallied 6 percent just in the final hour of trading, one of the biggest turnarounds ever seen.

That continued into the Asian and European trading sessions, although traders remained nervous after the market turmoil of recent weeks, which has sent many global markets officially into bear market territory — falling 20 percent from recent peaks.

"There is an effect of technical rebound but it is too early to say that the crisis is over, or that's the end of the crash," said Olivier de La Ferriere, a fund manager at KBL Richelieu in Paris.

In Europe, the FTSE 100 index of leading British shares was up 1.3 percent at 5,232 while Germany's DAX rose 2.3 percent to 6,049. The CAC-40 in France was 1.1 percent higher at 3,207.

Police flood London streets, halt violence

LONDON (AP) — Thousands of extra police officers on the streets kept a nervous London quiet Wednesday after three nights of rioting, but looting flared in Manchester and Birmingham, where a murder probe was opened when three men were killed after being hit by a car.

An eerie calm prevailed in the capital, where hundreds of shops were shuttered or boarded up as a precaution, but unrest spread across England on a fourth night of violence by brazen crowds of young people.

Scenes of ransacked stores, torched cars and blackened buildings have frightened and outraged Britons just a year before their country is to host next summer's Olympic Games, bringing demands for a tougher response from law enforcement. Police across the country have made almost 1,200 arrests since the violence broke out over the weekend.

In London, where armored vehicles and convoys of police vans patrolled the streets, authorities said there were 16,000 officers on duty — almost triple the number present Monday night.

Pakistani intelligence officials: U.S. drone strike kills 20 militants

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — American-fired missiles killed 20 Islamist militants in northwest Pakistan on Wednesday, most of them members of a powerful insurgent network fighting the U.S. presence in Afghanistan, Pakistani intelligence officials said.

Two missiles slammed into a house close to the town of Miran Shah in North Waziristan, a militant hotspot that lies just across the border from Afghanistan, the officials said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

They said 14 of the dead were Afghan militants belonging to the Haqqani network, a Taliban-linked militant faction fighting the U.S. in Afghanistan.

Six were Pakistani militants supporting the group, which America regards as one of its deadliest foes in Afghanistan, they said.

U.S. military begins investigation into deadly helicopter crash

WASHINGTON (AP) — Military investigators are trying to determine what went wrong in the downing of a U.S. helicopter in Afghanistan last week that killed 30 American troops and eight Afghans.

Questions remain about why the troops were called in to aid other U.S. combatants engaged in a firefight, what they knew about the situation on the ground and what role the flight path or altitude may have played in the disastrous crash.

Pentagon officials would not discuss the details of the probe, but it no doubt will include a look at the insurgent threat and the instructions given to the special operations team that crowded into a big Chinook helicopter as it raced to assist other U.S. forces.

According to officials, the team, which included 22 Navy SEAL personnel, three Air Force airmen, a five-member Army air crew and a military dog, was flying in to help U.S. Army Rangers who were going after insurgents on the ground. Seven Afghan commandos and an Afghan interpreter were also on board.

Wis. GOP's stand against recall effort could reverberate elsewhere

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A stand by Wisconsin Republicans against a massive effort to oust them from power could reverberate across the country as the battle over union rights and the conservative revolution heads toward the 2012 presidential race.

Democrats succeeded in taking two Wisconsin state Senate seats away from Republican incumbents on Tuesday but fell one short of what they needed to seize majority control of the chamber.

Republicans saw it as a big win for Gov. Scott Walker and a confirmation of his conservative agenda, the hallmark of which was a polarizing proposal taking away most collective bargaining rights from public workers.

"Republicans are going to continue doing what we promised the people of Wisconsin — improve the economy and get Wisconsin moving back in the right direction," Republican Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald said in a prepared statement after the victory.

Gadhafi son shown on Libyan TV, testing rebel claims of his death

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP) — Libyan state television on Wednesday broadcast images of a man it said was Moammar Gadhafi's youngest son, foot-

age that looks to undercut rebel claims of his death at a time when the opposition is showing signs of strain and disarray six months into its battle with the Libyan leader.

The images of Khamis Gadhafi, who commands one of the best trained and equipped units in the Libyan military, come as the rebel leadership, known as the National Transition Council, grapples with fallout from the killing of its top military chief, Abdel-Fattah Younis, possibly by other rebels.

The rebels had claimed on Friday that the younger Gadhafi was killed in a NATO airstrike on the western front-line town of Zlitan.

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HERALD photo/Robert Griffin

Big Spring's tennis team practices basic hitting techniques. The varsity squad will schedule after the Midland tournament Aug. 26-27 to start their fall season. This is a late addition to the schedule after a scrimmage match set for Saturday was cancelled. The team, coached by Dana Jones, will play their first matches at home Sept. 1 against Sweetwater and Sept. 6 against Midland High School.

Lady Steers start season perfect 1-0

By **ROBERT GRIFFIN**
Sports Editor

The Lady Steers got their season off to a good start last night, defeating Abilene High School in four matches. Scores of 25-14, 25-22, 21-25 and 25-22 allowed the team to avenge last season's loss at the hands of the Lady Eagles.

The Steers got off to a fast start in the match, taking it first-round win easily 25-14, but Abilene seemed to get stronger as the game progressed and made things a bit more competitive. As the Lady Steers' opening night went along.

The 11 point win in the first round dwindled to a three point 25-22 win in the second, as the Lady Eagles seemed to find their footing on their

home court.

The close second round was followed by a Big Spring loss in the third, as Abilene made their biggest run of the night, scoring nine unanswered points during one stretch to claim the match 22-25, forcing a fourth game. But instead of allowing the game to go to five matches, Big Spring bounced back and ended in the fourth match 25-22.

Big Spring, 1-0, will next be playing in a tournament in Monahans Thursday through Saturday, before returning for their home opener Tuesday night against Frenship.

The varsity squad is scheduled to play at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at Steer Gym.

Hamilton's RBI single pushes Rangers past Mariners in 9th

ARLINGTON (AP) — Chalk up another comeback win for the Texas Rangers.

Josh Hamilton drove in the winning run with a single in the ninth inning and the AL West-leading Rangers rallied for a 7-6 victory over the Seattle Mariners on Tuesday night.

The Rangers have overcome deficits of three or more runs in three of the first five games of the current homestand and have six wins in their last at-bat this season.

"We never think we're out of a game in any way, shape or form," Hamilton said. "We never say die until it's over."

Ian Kinsler and Endy Chavez homered for the Rangers, whose division lead over second-place Los Angeles remained at 1½ games with the Angels beating the Yankees.

Jeff Gray (0-1) walked Kinsler leading off the ninth. Aaron Laffey relieved and Chavez reached on a bunt single that sent Kinsler to

second.

Hamilton followed with a single to left, and Kinsler scored easily from second ahead of a short throw from left fielder Trayvon Robinson before being mobbed by teammates who began running onto the field immediately after Hamilton made contact.

"We just have a lot of confidence in ourselves and our teammates," Kinsler said. "We know we have guys up and down the lineup that are capable of getting something started or finishing something off. When you have that feeling it's very easy to stay calm. It just relaxes everyone."

The Mariners took a 6-5 lead into the eighth, but Gray couldn't hold it.

Kinsler's two-run homer in the seventh off Josh Lueke had pulled Texas within 6-5, and Gray got himself in trouble when he walked Nelson Cruz with one out in the eighth.

Cruz was picked off first, but he'd already taken off and slid

safely into second ahead of first baseman Mike Carp's throw for a stolen base. Cruz scored when Yorvit Torrealba doubled over the head of right fielder Ichiro Suzuki to tie it.

Upton came back to haunt the Mariners, both of which scored.

"That's what killed us," manager Eric Wedge said. "You can't give a team like that free passes. They have too many good hitters and do a good job in scoring position."

Neftali Feliz (2-3) pitched the ninth for the victory.

Mariners rookie starter Michael Pineda allowed three runs and five hits over six innings and seemed to be on track to win his 10th game before the Rangers rallied. Pineda hadn't started since July 30 as the Mariners try to limit his innings, and he said he felt strong, finishing with four strikeouts and two

See **RANGERS**, Page 2B

Upcoming varsity events

Steers football

The Steers will play a scrimmage game at Andrews Saturday. The Saturday game is set for a 10 a.m. kick-off.

The Steers will play a scrimmage game against Lubbock Estacado in Big Spring Aug. 19. The time for this game has not been announced.

The Steers will kick off their regular season with a home game versus Fort Stockton Aug. 26. That game is scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m.

Lady Steers volleyball

The Lady Steers will be back on the road as they travel to Monahans for a tournament Aug. 11-13.

The home opener for the Lady Steers will be Aug. 16 versus Frenship. The varsity plays at 5:30 p.m.

Big Spring tennis

The varsity tennis team will compete in a tournament in Midland Aug. 26-27.

The team will play host to Sweetwater Sept. 1 and then Midland High School Sept. 6.

Team Daniel takes BSCC golf tourney

By **ROBERT GRIFFIN**
Sports Editor

Jerry Dudley and Joan Daniel took first place in the championship flight of Big Spring Country Club's Guys and Gals scramble tournament recently. The pair turned in a score of 126, with rounds of 64 and 62 to take the top spot. In second place in the flight were Kevin Glaspie and Kelly Holland with a 127, while the 133 shot by Rawleigh and Abby McCullough was good enough to take the third spot.

The first flight saw Danny and Kerri Whitehead come from behind in the first round, making up two strokes, to tie team Sharpnack, Joe and Patsy, for first place with a 141. It was a day of ties in the flight as three teams turned in identical scores behind the top two teams. Jimmy and Irene Newsom, Jim and Georgia Harris and the team of Vicky Purcell and Dickie Bailey all turned in a 143.

In the second flight, the only tie was for third place, as Kyle Ditto and Linda Dewaters took the crown with a score of 145 and a team consisting of George Powell and Rachael Swan took second with a 148. The two teams that tied for third were Brent Howard/Paula Timm and the team of Allen and Janell Davis. each shot a 150.

Astros gives up huge lead in loss

PHOENIX (AP) — Justin Upton kept his cool and was able to provide the spark the Arizona Diamondbacks needed.

Upton had three hits, including a home run, and drove in four runs and the Diamondbacks rallied from a six-run deficit to beat the Houston Astros 11-9 on Tuesday night.

"I've been awful for a week now," Upton said. "I wasn't seeing the ball all that well but tonight I was seeing it better."

Upton wasn't seeing eye-to-eye with home plate umpire C.B. Bucknor. He was discussing a pitch Bucknor called for a strike before Upton lined out to first base for the final out of the third inning.

Upton slammed his helmet while walking away from the plate and later in the game dropped his head in his hands after a pitch to Chris Young.

"I didn't think things were going our way and I got a little upset about it," Upton said. "These things happen."

Arizona manager Kirk Gibson gave Upton credit for knowing where to draw the line to stay in the game.

"I told him he had two choices," Gibson said. "Do what you need to do but don't get in a bad confrontation. We don't want to lose him for more than a game and who knows, maybe he can come back and win it for us."

Gerardo Parra had his fourth career four-hit game, Miguel Montero doubled and had three RBIs and Willie Bloomquist added a two-run single for the Diamondbacks.

Micah Owings (6-0) threw three innings of two-hit relief and allowed one run for the victory. He struck out four and added a single. J.J. Putz allowed a run and three hits in the ninth for his 27th save.

"Just leave us where we were at, that was my focus," Owings said.

Brian Bogusevic and Jimmy Paredes hit their first career home runs

for the Astros, who have lost four of five. Wilton Lopez (2-5) allowed Upton's go-ahead two-run homer in an inning of relief.

"There were a lot of positives because of the hits and runs but they were able to dig back into the game and keep on scoring," Astros manager Brad Mills said.

The Diamondbacks scored eight runs in the fifth and sixth innings to overcome a 7-1 deficit, matching the largest rally in franchise history.

"That game was exhausting," Gibson said with a slight smile.

Parra, Owings and Bloomquist led off the fifth with consecutive singles to load the bases against Jordan Lyles. One out later Upton doubled off the wall in left, scoring Parra and Owings, and Montero followed with a two-run single to make it 7-5.

"I thought I threw the ball where I wanted to for the most part but they happened to hit it over a couple of guys' heads,"

Lyles said. "At the same time I can't give up a big lead like that making pitches or not. I can't let it happen."

Bloomquist tied the game in the sixth with a one-out, two-run single and Upton homered to give the Diamondbacks a 9-7 lead.

Paredes homered with two outs in the seventh to cut the lead to 9-8. Diamondbacks reliever David Hernandez let the first two batters reach and loaded the bases with two outs but struck out the side to escape the jam.

Ryan Roberts and Kelly Johnson had RBI doubles in the eighth for Arizona.

Jason Marquis struggled in his second straight start since being acquired by the Diamondbacks from Washington on July 30. Marquis allowed seven runs — four earned — and nine hits with two walks and two strikeouts over four innings.

See **ASTROS**, Page 2B

Yao Ming possibly to enter Basketball Hall of Fame as contributor, not as player

HOUSTON (AP) — Retired Houston Rockets center Yao Ming could enter the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame as early as next year — not as a player, but as a contributor to the game.

John Doleva, the president and CEO of the Hall, said Tuesday that Yao has been nominated by a member of the Chinese media and his credentials will be considered by an international panel.

As a contributor, Yao would bypass the usual five-year waiting period for retired players.

The 7-foot-6 Yao retired in July after leg and foot injuries ended his eight-year NBA career. The eight-time All-Star averaged 19 points and 9.2 rebounds in the NBA.

He'll also be remembered for his global impact on the league, almost single-handedly expanded its reach throughout Asia.

Doleva said a panel of seven "experts on the international game" will

consider Yao's credentials, and six of the seven will have to approve Yao's election.

The panel is only allowed to select one individual, and Doleva said Yao will be facing about 12-15 other candidates for induction next year.

The deadline for nominations is Nov. 1. Doleva says a member of the Chinese media contacted him to ask about the categories available for individuals, and submitted a formal application this week on Yao's behalf.

"It has to go through the process," Doleva said. "There is no guarantee when someone is nominated that they will be elected in their first year. That's kind of what makes the process work. The committee takes a look at the pros and cons."

Yao can certainly make a compelling argument.

His charisma and popularity helped spike merchandise sales and prompted record TV ratings for games after the

Rockets made him the top overall pick in the 2002 draft.

NBA commissioner David Stern called Yao "a transformational player and a testament to the globalization of our game."

Yao also donated \$2 million to set up a foundation to rebuild schools destroyed by the earthquake in Sichuan province in May 2008.

He carried the Olympic torch through Tiananmen Square and his country's flag during the opening ceremonies at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Former Rockets coach Jeff Van Gundy, now a television analyst, said Yao deserves Hall of Fame consideration, not just for his statistics, but for his unprecedented impact on the game. Van Gundy coached Yao from 2003-07.

"He's been one of the greatest ambassadors to ever set foot on an NBA floor," Van Gundy said. "This guy touched so many people."

nedy's two-run triple into the right field corner and Olivo's sacrifice fly.

NOTES: Seattle 1B Justin Smoak sat out his sixth straight game with a left thumb injury. Smoak is eager to get back in the lineup, and Wedge said he expects Smoak to be available by Friday. ... Former Rangers C Bengie Molina threw out the ceremonial first pitch and was presented with his ALCS ring before the game. Molina helped the Rangers reach the World Series for the first time in club history last season before retiring in the offseason. ... Mariners LHP Jason Vargas will try to get his season back on track in Wednesday night's start against

Texas. Vargas is 0-5 with a 5.57 ERA in his last five starts. LHP Derek Holland will start for Texas, trying to recover from his last outing when he lasted only 1 2-3 innings (allowing six runs and five hits) in a no-decision against Cleveland last Friday. ... Rangers SS Elvis Andrus got the night off, replaced in the starting lineup by Omar Quintanilla. Beginning on Friday, Texas has games on 17 consecutive days and manager Ron Washington wants his regulars rested for a key stretch that includes seven games against division rival Los Angeles and four vs. AL East-leading Boston.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

walks.

Adam Kennedy drove in three runs for the Mariners, who started the night with a major league-worst team batting average of .228, having scored three runs or less in 18 of its previous 28 games.

But the Mariners broke out against Rangers starter Alexi Ogando for six runs and eight hits in 2-3 innings, his second shortest outing of the season behind 1 2-3 innings in a 12-4 road loss to the Yankees on June 14.

The Rangers reinstated the right-hander from the paternity leave list before the game and placed utility infielder Andres Blanco on the 15-day disabled list with lower back inflammation.

Ogando went on paternity leave on Saturday, going to the Dominican Republic following the birth of his child.

Seattle took a 2-0 lead in the first on Carp's RBI groundout and Kennedy's run-scoring single.

In the bottom of the first, Chavez hit his fifth homer of the season with the bases empty, and Michael Young added an RBI double off the wall in center.

Seattle grabbed a 3-2 lead in the second when Miguel Olivo scored from third on Kyle Seager's double-play grounder, but Chavez's RBI single in the bottom of the second drew Texas even at 3.

The Mariners went back in front with a three-run third on Ken-

ASTROS

Continued from Page 1B

"Obviously things didn't turn out the way I wanted them to but the team battled," Marquis said.

"I have to do a better job of putting batters away when I'm in control of the count. I'm not trying to put too much pressure on myself. I just want to go out there and pitch the way I have all year."

Upton singled and scored on a double by Montero to give the Diamondbacks a 1-0 lead in the first.

Houston tied the game on the second on three singles, the last a run-scoring infield hit by Humberto Quintero.

The Astros added three in the third on Martinez's one-out homer, his second in as many nights, and Bogusevic's two-run homer.

Lee hit a two-run single in the fourth and Bogusevic doubled to left to extend Houston's lead to 7-1.

Lyles allowed seven runs and 12 hits in five-plus innings, both career-highs. He struck out two.

NOTES: The Diamondbacks have rallied from six-run deficits twice this season, both against Houston.

After the game, the Astros optioned LHP Wesley Wright to Triple-A Oklahoma to make room for Wednesday's starting pitcher, RHP Henry Sosa.

Sosa will be recalled from Triple-A before the game.

Marquis has

a 12.38 ERA in two starts for Arizona.

The Diamondbacks play their next 15 games against non-division opponents.

Paredes and Bogusevic are the fifth set of teammates since 2005 and first Astros teammates to hit their first career homer in the same game, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Diamondbacks RHP Josh Collmenter will be looking to end a two-game personal losing streak and win his second straight over the Astros on Wednesday night.

Collmenter lasted just 2 1-3 innings in his last start Aug. 5 against Los Angeles, allowing six runs, eight hits and a walk.

He has posted a 16.50 ERA in his past two starts.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Making the Most of Your Chances

East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.
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♥ Q 9 6
♦ A 8 7
♣ A K 8 2
WEST
♠ Q 7 6 4 3 2
♥ 3 2
♦ 5
♣ J 7 4 3
EAST
♠ J 9 8 5
♥ A
♦ K J 10 6 4 3
♣ Q 10
SOUTH
♠ —
♥ K J 10 8 7 5 4
♦ Q 9 2
♣ 9 6 5

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

Opening lead — four of spades.
Some contracts stand or fall essentially on the opening lead. Consider this deal where South got to six hearts on the bidding shown.

South made the slam after West chose a spade as his opening lead. West reasoned that — given the bidding — his opponents were prepared to cope with a diamond lead, the suit East had bid, so he decided to surprise them by leading a spade.

This highly speculative lead did not work out well when declarer proceeded to make the most of his chances. After discarding a diamond and a club on the A-K of spades and ruffing a spade, South cashed the K-A of clubs and ruffed a club. He was hoping the clubs would be divided 3-3, in which case he would have had smooth sailing the rest of the way.

But East showed out on the third club, discarding a diamond, and South was left with only one more hope — that East had started with the singleton ace of trumps. South's prayers were quickly answered: When he next led a trump, poor East was forced to win with the ace and had to return a diamond, allowing South to score the queen. As a result, South lost only one trump trick and so made the slam.

Had West led a diamond initially, there would have been no way for South to make the contract. In general, it is much safer to lead partner's suit than to make a blind lead in another suit, unless the circumstances strongly indicate otherwise. West had no good reason in this case to vary from the general rule, and in the actual deal, it cost him a slam.

Tomorrow: It takes two to tango.

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su | do | ku

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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com


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

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New Pastor/ Minister looking for a House to **Rent**. Prefer to be in Forsan or Big Spring School District. Need 3-4 bedrooms, 2 baths and garage. Have Good References. Call Michelle (469)247-4458.

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SAVE\$ MONUMENTS/Markers. The Little Red Barn across from Mt. Olive Cemetery. 432-264-7722.

SAVE\$ CEMETERY Lots. Pay-outs welcome. The Little Red Barn across from Mt. Olive Cemetery. 432-264-7722.

Garage Sales

"BIG GIVEAWAY" Thanks to all the community support Spring Tabernacle Ministries has on over abundance of clothes and household items and we are having a "Big Giveaway" Saturday 8:00am-12:00pm. 1209 Wright St. (First left after the new jail) Just bring your own bags or boxes.

HUGE Family Garage Sale: 2400 North Birdwell, Thursday-Friday & Saturday 7am-Noon. Antique ringer washer, antique quilt box, cafe dishes, clothes \$1.00 sack all pants & jeans 50c, furniture, dishes, TV's, books, glassware, brass, Christmas & Halloween decorations, Barbie doll stuff and lots more.

YARD SALE

LOTS of clothes (new, gently worn, brand names), boys & girls 0-3 years and adult sizes. Baby bedding, strollers, toys, and more. 1729 Yale Ave., Saturday 7:00AM-5:00PM.

PUBLIC AUCTION

Saturday, August 13th @ 9:00am, 240 East Currie St., Garden City. All contents of storage unit will be sold. (432)270-0544 FMI

Help Wanted

FARM HAND Wanted! Experience only apply. \$550.00 Weekly plus Bonus. Call after 7:00p.m. (432)684-5418.

DRIVERS NEEDED
Professional Transportation, Inc. is seeking local drivers for 7-passenger mini-vans in the Big Spring, TX area. Drug screen, driving record and criminal background check required. 432-923-1363. www.professionaltransportationinc.com

Help Wanted



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Apply at **Domino's Pizza** 2111 S. Gregg St. Big Spring 220136

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InHome Care Inc.
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Big Spring, TX 79720



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Help Wanted

BIG SPRING Country Club is accepting applications for Experienced Bookkeeper. Experienced in Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable and Payroll. Apply in person at Big Spring County Club or e-mail resume to landshark12000@yahoo.com

BLAST MASTERS has positions available for:
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Must have valid Texas Drivers License.
Come by 1711 Snyder Hwy., Pick up application. No phone calls please.

CHILD CAREGIVER & VAN DRIVER POSITIONS
1:30pm-6:30pm, 3pm-6:30pm, 3pm-7pm. Apply Jack & Jill 1708 Nolan.

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Utility Service Worker
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Compost Light Equipment-Operator
Streets Heavy Equipment-Operator
Water Treatment Plant-Operator
Parks Maintenance Supervisor
Senior Center Coordinator
For more information go to www.mybigspring.com, or apply in person in the Human Resources Office located at 310 Nolan. (432)264-2346.

COASTAL TRANSPORT is seeking **Owner-operators** with a Class A CDL. Must be 23 years, X endorsement with 1 year experience. **For More Information, Call 888-527-7221 between 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday.**

Coastal Transport
We now have a **\$2000.00 Sign On Bonus!**
We are now hiring drivers to deliver petroleum products in and around the Permian Basin. Qualifications:
*Class A CDL drivers w/hazmat and tanker endorsements
*23 years of age or older
*1 year verifiable tractor/trailer experience
*Scheduled Days Off
*Home Everyday
Please contact 1-888-527-7221

CROSSROADS HOSPICE is hiring for the position of HME/DME tech pt/ft. On-call is required with this position. Please come by our office at 421 S Main to apply. (EOE)

DAY'S INN needs Housekeeping person and part-time maintenance. Apply at Front Office @ 2701 South Gregg Street.

Great Horn Carriers, Inc.
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REQUIRES:
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Local Hauling, No Nights.
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HILLCREST CDC has a Part-time Position Available, Mon.-Fri. If you are energetic and love kids please come apply. Must have high school diploma or GED. Hillcrest CDC, 2000 West FM 700.

Help Wanted

HIRING IMMEDIATELY- Ophthalmic technician. No experience necessary. Please apply at Fish Ophthalmology-207 East 7th St.



HIRING EXPERIENCED CDL drivers. 1-2 yrs experienced required, with clean driving record. Pay DOE. Health, vision, and dental ins. 100% paid! Apply in person: 9400 S. Service Rd., Coahoma, TX.



HIRING EXPERIENCED heavy equipment operators. 1-2 yrs experienced required. Pay DOE. Health, vision, and dental ins. 100% paid! Apply in person: 9400 S. Service Rd., Coahoma, TX.

HOUSEKEEPERS WANTED at Super8. Apply in-person. Looking for detail-oriented person, team player with minimum 6-mos experience in housekeeping. Starting \$7.50 per hour. Accepting Interviews.



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Johnny Tidwell @ 1-806-495-3254
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PART-TIME MAINT Tech needed for property in Big Spring. Applicant must have strong organizational skills and enjoy working outdoors. 20 hrs/week plus Vacation. Fax resume to (432)264-1761.

Help Wanted

LINEMEN/FOREMAN/EQUIPMENT OPERATOR WANTED, must have experience. CDL license required. Top pay. 401K, vacation, insurance, uniforms. Must pass drug test. DOT background review. Apply at TESSCO 3217 E. FM 700 between 8am-4pm or call 432-263-0633.

MAINT TECH needed for Property in Big Spring. Applicant must have strong organizational skills and enjoy working outdoors. Ability to work independently with minimal supervision. 40 hours/wk. Hourly. Benefits, & Vacation. Fax resume 432-264-1761.

NEED A Pusher, Roustabout & Backhoe Operator. Must have years of experience, pass a drug test & a valid drivers license. Apply at 2000 North Birdwell Lane.

NOW HIRING experienced Class A CDL Drivers with tanker endorsement, Big Spring area. Great Pay. Contact SJO Services (432)213-0908.

OFFERING a rare opportunity for a Licensed Nursing Facility Administrator for Sterling City Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. This Community offers a unique family oriented facility. For consideration, please call (903)571-3872 You may Fax resume to (903)657-8960.

PIZZA INN
NOW HIRING DELIVERY DRIVERS. MUST HAVE CLEAN DRIVING RECORD AND INSURANCE. MUST BE ABLE TO PASS DRUG TEST. MAKE UP TO \$12.00 PER HOUR. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG.

THE COLORADO River Municipal Water District, regional raw water supplier for the Permian Basin, is accepting applications for following position in Big Spring area.

Meter Technician/ Electronics Assistant- Responsible for installing, repairing, and calibrating flow, level, and pressure metering equipment. Position also provides assistance in repair of communication equipment supporting the District's SCADA system. Intermediate level position, basic understanding of electronics/electricity needed. CRMWD is an equal opportunity employer. Benefits include health insurance, retirement plans, sick, vacation and holiday leave. Applications are required and are available at the District's office, 400 E. 24TH Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, by calling (432)267-6341 or www.crmwd.org



SCHOOL BUS Drivers needed. Must have CDL with Passenger and School Bus Endorsements. Competitive pay. Fill out application online at bsisd.esc18.net For further info please call (432)264-4108.

SHOP HAND needed preferred constructional experience. Call (432)267-4700.

Help Wanted

SECURITY OFFICERS Needed for Hospital Federal Inmate Protection detail. All positions are Part-time and PRN.

Physical Requirements: Must be in general good health and vision must be correctable to 20/30 (SNELLEN) in one eye. The ability to distinguish basic colors is required. Emotional and mental stability is required.

Other Requirements: Must be able to pass State and Federal Backgrounds and Credit Checks.
Experience Requirements: One year (2040) hours of experience in the armed forces or coast guard which involved significant performance of guard duty of detainees or prisoners; or the equivalent experience in a federal, state, or local government, or private organization which involved protecting/police duties, or college level training in courses such as corrections or police science may be substituted for experience at the ratio of two hours of instructions for one hour of experience. Apply at Workforce Center (in the Post Office), KEYWORD: PARAGON. EOE.



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FOR RENT large 1 bedroom, 1503 Scurry-B. All bills paid. \$575. month, \$500. deposit. Call (432)212-3646.



FIELD MECHANICS

Exline, Inc., Odessa Field Services Division a national leader in the repair of large stationary engines (1,500hp to 15,000hp) and reciprocating compressors is expanding its **Field Service Division.**

We have immediate openings for **Mechanics** at all skill levels. Experience on Low & High Speed Engines Helpful. **This position requires extensive travel.**

Does this interest you?

- Working at different locations across the United States instead of the same service bay.
- Competitive salary with pay increases after your first three months, and six months, then annually.
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- **Other benefits include**, sick leave, personal time off, vacation, Uniforms, 401 K program, annual bonus, and annual pay for any sick time allowed and not used.
- Being paid for your travel time.
- Earning a generous per diem.
- Having Exline provide the tools...not you.
- Advancement opportunities.
- Drivers license is required
- Base of operations is Odessa

If you meet the requirements, we would like to visit with you about becoming a member of our team. Drug screen required. Send resume to **EXLINE INC., ODESSA FIELD SERVICES DIVISION, P.O. BOX 69239, 3524 N. FM 1936, ODESSA TEXAS 79769-0239** or Exline, Inc., PO Box 1487, Salina, Kansas 67402. You can apply on-line at www.exline-inc.com or by e-mail to s.sizemore@exline-inc.com or FAX 785-826-4425. E.O.E.



FIELD MECHANICAL FOREMAN

Exline, Inc., a national leader in the repair of large stationary engines (1,500 hp to 15,000 hp) and reciprocating compressors is expanding its **Field Service Division.**

We have an immediate opening for a **Field Mechanical Foreman** who not only has mechanical knowledge, but can lead a crew to ensure the job is done right. **This position requires extensive travel.**

Does this interest you?

- Working at different locations across the United States.
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- Being paid for your travel time
- Earning a daily per diem
- Having Exline provide the tools...not you.
- Compensation based on mechanical and leadership experience
- A comprehensive benefit package, including medical and dental insurance.
- Base of operations is Odessa

Pre-employment physical and drug screen required. Send resume to Exline, Inc., PO Box 1487, Salina, Kansas 67401 or e-mail to s.sizemore@exline-inc.com 785-826-4477 FAX 785-826-4425 EXLINE, INC. IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER.

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Apply at **3112 N. Hwy. 87 Big Spring, TX 79720** or call **325-575-9907** or at **306 W. THORNE ST. WESTBROOK, TX 79565** or call **325-575-9919**

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Real Estate for Sale

COAHOMA ISD- 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage, 1 carport, 1/2 acre. Totally fenced. \$74,950.. Call (432)268-3571.

FORSAN ISD- 815 Angela Road. 'Secluded'- 4/3, 2600 square feet, 16+ acres, granite counter tops, stainless steel appliances, hardwood floors. \$245,000.00. NO OWNER FINANCE. (432)466-3880.

REMODELED- 3 Bedroom, 2 bath. 1447 sq. feet. New AC/Heat pump. Beautiful back yard with pecan tree. \$115,000.00. Cathy (432)264-0585, 816-6074. View pictures at zillow.com

Real Estate for Sale

HERE'S FLORIDA! Florida Manufactured Home Magazine. A guide to finding and buying a manufactured home in the Sunshine State. Call to request your FREE copy today! Toll Free: 1-888-739-3530 Or Visit our website www.flmanufacturedhomes.com

LAKE FRONT Home, Lake Hinkle Waldron Arkansas. \$118,000.00. Evenings (432)923-4236.

PRICE REDUCED..... Owner will finance 4/1 new paint, new carpet, new ac unit was \$55k now \$50k. 4207 Dixon. Call 325-277-4923

RENT to OWN- 1204 Stanford 3/1, \$5000.00 Down, \$468. month. Under Remodel. Call (432)212-3646.

WATERFRONT LAKE LBJ in granite shoals 700ft open water peninsula lot. Approximately 1.1 acres. Price to sell by owner 512-755-1978.

Vehicles

1996 CHEVY Extended Cab Pickup Z71 Dark Blue, low mileage, Good Condition. \$7,000.00. Call 432-557-5863.

2001 OLDSMOBILE Aurora V8, leather, moon roof, 54,000 miles. \$5,975 CASH ONLY... Call Bob 806-759-8082 Lamesa.

34 FOOT Admiral Motor Home by Holiday Rambler, 39k. Fully Stocked, Call (432)267-8930.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Whatever you have to do, get it done as early in the day as possible. The afternoon brings a void-of-course Capricorn moon that will slow productivity markedly. At least Mercury retrograde in Leo will factor in to make sure there will be entertainment in the misadventures that occur while we're waiting around for progress to resume.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Anything worth having is worth working for. Yet those who are doing the work are not always the same ones who are doing the "having." Today, you'll rectify an unfair situation in keeping with this theme.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You will be well equipped to meet the demands of your current social environment. It will feel nice to be among people you can relate to and interact with easily.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You will be free of the limitations that come with self-consciousness. You know better. Other people are not evaluating you, as they are too concerned with their own personal dramas to care.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You put family first, partially because you're a responsible individual and partly because you love to feel that swell of inner confidence that comes from contribution.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You want to succeed for your loved ones. They will provide you with far more motivation than you would ever have if you were merely intent on succeeding for yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You have a special interest that you are falling more and more in love with every day. Being able to follow this interest has been a luxury in the past, though now it feels more like a necessity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's so important to

you that things get done and done right. You will provide quality control for your group. You may be inspired to create a system that people can follow when you're not around.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You may feel less purposeful than before. You still have good reasons for doing what you do and wanting what you want, but you need to take a break. Rejuvenate by doing very little tonight.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your soul needs freedom. Otherwise, it feels like doors to your true potential are being closed. When you feel constricted, speak up. Express yourself. You'll be respected.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You will be in a studious mood, though finding the time to actually indulge your intellect will be challenging. If you aren't in a position to sit and read or research, then look for the learning opportunities in everyday life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Someone will be acting differently around you, and it won't take you very long to figure out just why. You're an expert detective and a keen observer of human behavior.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When you do what you really want to do, you will be surrounded by helpful supporters. That is because people can feel your earnest devotion, and they want to see you succeed.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY: (August 10). You will go through a happy transformation this year. Mix and mingle through the next six weeks. You'll increase your number of connections and decrease the obstacles to furthering your interests. A love connection grows stronger through October. You'll play a part in some kind of big production in December. Cancer and Gemini people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 25, 30, 11 and 50.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "President Obama told children to watch what they say on Facebook, and some of

my classmates are not doing that. I'm a 12-year-old Scorpio, and my parents won't even let me have a Facebook account. I feel like a total outsider. But when I hang out with my friends who have an account, I see what everyone is saying, and some of it is really hurtful, stupid or lame. When I turn 13, I can have an account, but I'm not sure I even want one. But if I don't get a page, I'll probably miss out on all the fun."

Scorpios like you are famously private people. You are also a deep thinker and highly empathic -- you feel what others are going through, and you always try to help. Because of this, you need layers of emotional protection around you; otherwise, you will be too influenced by the moods and energy of others. Maintaining your privacy is something you can do to stay powerful and in control of your own life. If you do decide to get a Facebook page, be sure to learn all about the privacy settings. Learn how to use "Friends Lists" so that you can control who sees what on your page.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Rising star Lucas Till has co-starred with the likes of Miley Cyrus and Taylor Swift and recently appeared in "X-Men: First Class." This Leo had Hollywood success at a young age, but Mercury, Mars, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune all in earth signs shows that he's also quite grounded. He opted to stay in public high school in Atlanta, fitting movie projects in where possible -- and he graduated with honors.

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WEST TEXAS - Mule deer, Brewster County, 334+ acres, \$88,584. White tail, Terrell County, 240+ acres, shared well, \$84,231. Owner financed, 1-210-734-4009; www.westernTEXASland.com

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5:PM ABC	News	Alma	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	King	Swallow	News	King	Cash Cab	Movie:	Deadliest	Bones	Live	Phineas	Final: Teams	SportsCenter
6:PM 30	Jeopardy!	Quando Me	Two Men	News	Caso Cer-	News	King	House	Business	King	Cash Cab	Rambo: First	Deadliest	Bones		Good	TBA.	SportsCenter
7:PM 30	Wheel		Two Men	Ent	Caso Cer-	News	King	Dr. Diana	PBS News-	Seinfeld	Sons of	Blood Part II	Deadliest	Bones		Good	Little League	MLB Base-
8:PM 30	Family	Teresa (SS)	So You Think	Big Brother	Ent	Millionaire	Seinfeld	Baruch	Hour	Seinfeld	Guns		Deadliest	Bones		ANT Farm	Baseball:	Teams
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