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BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2016



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Never forget

Sunday ceremony to honor those killed in war against terror

By LYNDEL MOODY
 Staff Writer

A community wide ceremony to remember 9-11 and those who have lost their lives in the war on terrorism will be held this Sunday, on the 15th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

The event will begin at 2:30 p.m. at the Spring Town Plaza Mall near the Sears store. Sponsoring the event are the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 47, Spring Town Plaza, and the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department.

The guest speaker for the ceremony is Robert Volker. Robert is the father of SPC Robert J. Volker, one of the nine men with Howard County connections whose photo hangs on a memorial wall display at the mall. Volker was killed in 2007.

A poem by Big Spring resident Mamie Lee Dodds titled "Remembering 9-11" will be read during the ceremony.

Nine Howard County connected men have died in the fight against terrorism. They are: Steven Evard, civilian contractor who also served in the

See 9/11, Page 3A

Opening their doors



West Texas Centers held open house ceremonies for its new 16-bed Crisis Respite Program facility Wednesday afternoon. In the photo at left, Shelly Smith, West Texas Centers CEO, addresses visitors as Big Spring Mayor Larry McLellan listens to her remarks. In the above photo, WTC Chief Operating Officer Landon Sturdivant leads visitors on a tour of the facility.

HERALD photos/Steve Reagan



Big Spring resident Scott Emerson addresses Howard College trustees during their Wednesday public hearing on the college's proposed tax rate for the coming fiscal year.

HC tax hearing draws dissent

By LYNDEL MOODY
 Staff Writer

A public hearing held by Howard College trustees over its proposed tax rate Wednesday drew one vocal dissenting opinion from a local resident and business owner.

"I, personally, since I saw you last year, we just announced layoffs again at Superod. Pay cuts again at Superod. My third one since the downturn started and property taxes as listed as the reason why. Not the only reason but they are listed," said Scott Emerson, who works for the fiberglass sucker rod manufacturing company as well as owning a local business.

"I know you got \$1.2 million in extra (tax revenue) last year, \$600,000 of that was subject to the rollback and y'all won," Emerson continued. "At that point, you didn't know what you were going to use that \$600,000 for but assuming from your comments they were not used for raises. But you got that \$1.2 million again this year. So that's that \$600,000 that you didn't know what to do with last year that you got this year. To ask for another \$500,000 in this economy I think is wrong and I wish you would reconsider."


The college's proposed rate for the upcoming tax year

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To reach us:
 Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Call made for county fair queen contestants

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer

Who wants to be a queen? The call has been made for entries to this year's Miss Howard County Fair contest, which will be held on opening night of the fair, which runs from Sept. 22-24.

The contest is open to girls in their freshman year of high school to their freshman year of college.

According to information on the fair's web site (www.hcfair.com), contestants may be sponsored by a local club, religious group, business, or civic organization. Entry fee is \$35 and can be paid by either the sponsor or the contestant.

The contest will begin at 5:30 p.m. that Thursday. Contestants are asked to arrive an hour early and their attire should be some type of dress, including evening gown, prom dress, or Sunday church dress.

Judges will grade contestants

See QUEEN, Page 3A

Eleventh Annual 9/11 Memorial Service
"Memorial At The Plaza"
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Spring Town Plaza in front of the Yellow Ribbons
Sunday, Sept. 11, 2016 • 2:30 p.m.

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News in brief

Clinton, Trump confront weaknesses in security forum

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton confronted their key weaknesses in a televised national security forum, with the Republican defending his preparedness to be commander in chief despite vague plans for tackling global challenges and the Democrat arguing that her controversial email practices did not expose questionable judgment.

Trump also renewed his praise of Russian President Vladimir Putin and his disdain for President Barack Obama, saying that the Russian enjoyed an 82 percent approval rating. "The man has very strong control over a country," Trump said. "It's a very different system and I don't happen to like the system, but certainly, in that system, he's been a leader, far more than our president has been a leader."

The candidates spoke back-to-back Wednesday night, each fielding 30 minutes of questions. While the candidates never appeared on stage together, the session served as a preview of sorts for their highly-anticipated presidential debates.

By virtue of a coin flip, Clinton took the stage first and quickly found herself responding at length to questions about her years in government. She reiterated that she had made mistakes in relying on a personal email account and private server as secretary of state and in voting for the 2003 invasion of Iraq as a senator. But she defended her support for U.S. military intervention to help oust a dictator in Libya, despite the chaotic aftermath.

Hawaiian seafood caught by foreign crews confined on boats

HONOLULU (AP) — Pier 17 doesn't even show up on most Honolulu maps. Cars whiz past it on their way to Waikiki's famous white sand beaches. Yet few locals, let alone passing tourists, are aware that just behind a guarded gate, another world exists: foreign fishermen confined to American boats for years at a time.

Hundreds of undocumented men are employed in this unique U.S. fishing fleet, due to a federal loophole that allows them to work but exempts them from most basic labor protections. Many come from impoverished Southeast Asian and Pacific nations to take the dangerous jobs, which can pay as little as 70 cents an hour.

With no legal standing on U.S. soil, the men are at the mercy of their American captains on American-flagged, American-owned vessels, catching

prized swordfish and ahi tuna. Since they don't have visas, they are not allowed to set foot on shore. The entire system, which contradicts other state and federal laws, operates with the blessing of high-ranking U.S. lawmakers and officials, an Associated Press investigation found.

The fleet of around 140 boats docks about once every three weeks, occasionally at ports along the West Coast, including Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco, but mainly at Piers 17 and 38 in Honolulu. Their catch ends up at restaurants and premium seafood counters across the country, from Whole Foods to Costco, and is touted by celebrity chefs such as Roy Yamaguchi and Masaharu Morimoto.

Obama: Americans will reject Trump's 'whacky' ideas

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP) — President Barack Obama said Thursday that Republican Donald Trump confirms his belief that Trump isn't qualified to be president "every time he speaks," adding that he was confident Americans would ultimately reject the brash billionaire on Election Day.

Obama, closing out his final presidential trip to Asia, said his meetings with foreign leaders during the trip had illustrated that governing is "serious business" requiring knowledge, preparation and thought-out policies that can actually be implemented. He urged Americans not to allow the "outrageous behavior" seen amid the campaign-season din to become the new normal.

"The most important thing for the public and the press is to just listen to what he says and follow up and ask questions to what appear to be either contradictory or uninformed or outright whacky ideas," Obama said.

Throughout the campaign, Obama has repeatedly denounced Trump and deemed him "unfit" to serve as commander in chief, while arguing that his controversial positions and comments are a step beyond what Republican nominees have embraced in the past.

Despite Katrina lessons, flood plan in Louisiana shows gaps

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Eleven years ago, Sam Barbera hooked up his boat and headed to New Orleans to ferry people from Hurricane Katrina's floodwaters. Four weeks ago, he found himself in another boat for rescues — this time at home in Baton Rouge, when a massive rainstorm ravaged the area.

It was "night and day," he said. "Katrina was

kind of baptism by fire. It was just people showing up, everybody doing their own thing."

But during the catastrophic flooding in mid-August, police directed volunteer boats and their owners — nicknamed the "Cajun Navy" — to neighborhoods where water was rising, and social media postings offered guidance on where victims needed help.

"You didn't have that in Katrina. Katrina was kind of like you just put your boat in. Katrina was mayhem," Barbera said.

In 2005, the monster storm exposed huge gaps in disaster response plans on local, state and federal levels. More than 1,500 people were killed in Louisiana alone. After the levees failed and inundated New Orleans and surrounding communities, thousands were plucked from rooftops and attics.

Real-life investigators object to portrayal in 'Sully' movie

WASHINGTON (AP) — Losing thrust in both engines but still managing to land an airliner full of people in the Hudson River without the loss of a single life is plenty dramatic. But the drama in 'Sully,' the movie about the "Miracle on the Hudson" ditching of U.S. Airways Flight 1549, doesn't stop there.

And that's a problem, say the former government accident investigators involved in the real-life investigation into the 2009 accident. The public, as well as pilots and others in the aviation industry, who see the movie may get the wrong impression that investigators were trying to smear the pilot, Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, they said.

"We're not the KGB. We're not the Gestapo," said Robert Benzon, who led the National Transportation Safety Board's investigation. "We're the guys with the white hats on."

The film, scheduled for release in theaters on Friday, portrays investigators as more like prosecutors looking for any excuse to blame Sullenberger for the mishap. Could the plane have made it back to LaGuardia Airport if Sullenberger, portrayed by actor Tom Hanks, had turned it around?

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TAX

Continued from Page 1A

is 31 cents per \$100 taxable valuation. It's about a cent increase from this year's effective rate of 30 cents per \$100 taxable valuation. The effective rate is the figure that raises the same amount of tax revenue as the previous year.

The proposed rate is also a 6 cent hike from the current rate of 25 cents per \$100 valuation. The increase is expected to raise slightly more than \$538,000 in new revenue.

Trustees have directed college officials to

use the extra revenue expected from the tax hike for employee raises and increase the college's repair and maintenance schedule. In past meetings, college trustee have voiced concern about losing quality employees to other educational entities for better wages.

Emerson touched on this subject during his time at the podium.

"I understand. I do. I know why you have to do it. It's hard for me to take after my third pay cut that it's time to give raises anywhere in this economy," Emerson said. "I think every one of us personally took a pay cut in one way or an-

other in rental property or any kind of income, business is down, sales tax is down, oil's down. We're where we were last year but worse. You know why I am here."

Howard College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks said in a previous meeting college employees did not receive any raises in the current year budget and the college ranks 45th in salary rates compared to the 50 state community college.

College trustees will host a second public hearing over the proposed tax rate at 12:30 p.m. Monday in the Student Union Building's Tumbleweed Room.

9/11

Continued from Page 1A

Big Spring Police Department (1971-2007); PFC Clayton Hensen, U.S. Army (1983-2004); PFC Kristian Menchaca, U.S. Army (1983-2006); PFC Chad Metcalf, U.S. Marine Corp, (1982-2003); SPC Robert J. Volker, U.S. Army (1985-2007); Staff Sgt. Clinton Newman, U.S. Army, (1979-2006); Cpt. Ellery "Ray" Wallace,

U.S. Army (1977-2010); SPC Braden Long, U.S. Army (1987-2007); and Sgt. Conrad Alvarez, U.S. Army (1986-2008).

On Sept. 11, 2001, 19 al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four planes. Two planes crashed into the World Trade Center in New York, eventually collapsing the buildings causing thousands of deaths. One flew into the U.S. Pentagon. A fourth plane — United Airlines Flight 93 — was brought down in a field in Shanksville, Penn.,

as passengers fought with the terrorist to regain control of the airplane after learning of the three other crashes. Nearly 3,000 people lost their lives that day.

For more information on the local memorial ceremony, contact Mike Tarpley at 432-556-2227.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or email citydesk@bigspringherald.com.

QUEEN

Continued from Page 1A

on poise, personality, and response to questions asked by the master of ceremonies.

A queen, first runner-up and Miss Congeniality will be selected during the contest.

Scholarships to Howard College will be awarded to the winners — the queen will receive a \$600 scholarship,

while the first runner-up earns a \$400 scholarship. Organizers say other prizes have been donated by local businesses.

Whoever is selected as queen must be available during the fair's run to present awards as needed.

Entry forms can be obtained at the fair's web site and must be returned and the entry fee paid by close of business Sept. 21. Forms and en-

try fee can be returned to BBVA Compass, 1500 Gregg St., or the United Way office located in the Chamber of Commerce building at 215 W. Third St.

For more information, contact Cindy Jones at 432-517-9115, or Sandy Stewart at 432-935-1604.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 432-263-7331, ext. 235, or email reporter@bigspringherald.com

NOTICE OF TAX REVENUE INCREASE

The Howard County Junior College District conducted public hearings on Wednesday, September 7, 2016, and Monday, September 12, 2016, on a proposal to increase the total tax revenues of the Howard County Junior College District from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 3.32 percent.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised last year at last year's tax rate of \$0.251623 for each \$100 of taxable value was \$8,442,826.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of \$0.313798 for each \$100 of taxable value, excluding tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is \$8,686,494.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of \$0.313798 for each \$100 of taxable value, including tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is \$8,785,689.

The Board of Trustees of the Howard County Junior College District is scheduled to vote on the tax rate that will result in that tax increase at a public meeting to be held on September 26, 2016, at Howard College, in the Tumbleweed Room of the Student Union Building, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, Texas 79720 at 12:30 p.m.

The Howard County Junior College District proposes to use the increase in total tax revenue for the purpose of maintenance and operations such as personnel costs, fire alarm building upgrades, capital outlay, coliseum chiller, deferred maintenance projects and marketing.

Opinion

"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.

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Hillary's untrustworthy temperament

NBC "Meet the Press" host Chuck Todd began his pundit-panel segment on Sept. 4 by remarking: "Nobody cares about the damn emails. That's what Bernie Sanders famously said. I couldn't believe when I looked at the time stamp, October of 2015. ... We are now at September of 2016. Somebody cares about them."

Apparently the political director at NBC News isn't in that "somebody" camp. When it comes to Clinton scandals, he has what Donald Trump calls "low energy."

The latest CNN poll showed an honesty number that would really ruin a journalist's day. When asked whether Clinton or Trump is more trustworthy, 50 percent of voters picked Trump, and only 35 percent chose Clinton. Do the math. Over a quarter of her own voters find her deceitful!

You'd never know it watching NBC. After Todd grilled vice president candidate Mike Pence that same day about Trump releasing his tax returns, Todd asked the panel, "Don't you

want to know if your president is going to use his presidency to enrich himself or not?"

Trump, yes. Clinton, not so much.

What were the Clintons doing during her tenure as secretary of state, and during these months of the promise of a second Clinton presidency? They released their tax returns. It's all there, in black and white. They enriched themselves for access. They peddled their influence to the highest bidder. One education magnate even paid former President Bill Clinton more than \$17.6 million as "honorary chancellor." They've raked in enough tens of millions of dollars to make a Third World potentate green with envy.

And yet, a week before that, when he was interviewing former Obama campaign manager David Plouffe, Todd didn't talk about the Clintons enriching themselves. He asked Plouffe, "Why wasn't there thought of former president Bill Clinton stepping down from the (Clinton) Foundation eight years ago?"

That's easy — because no one in the media would ever make such a demand of who NBC has presented as America's "royal family." NBC News was also a player in the enrich-the-Clin-

tons sweepstakes, hiring their daughter, Chelsea Clinton, for \$600,000 per year to be what we could call an "honorary journalist" on prime-time TV. (Quick. Tell us what she did to deserve that salary.)

In the same vein, Hillary Clinton's media defenders are cheering that she's holding little gaggles on her press plane, as if that puts all her problems to rest. Clinton has made it her top talking point that Trump doesn't have the temperament to be president. But her very long and definitive record of lying and obfuscating and hampering cellphones to delete her scandals demands that the media question her temperament. But they won't. She expects to be honored and obeyed like a tyrant, not questioned like the leader of a democracy. And they will comply.

But then, the media's general lack of interest in Clinton scandals also shows that most journalists have a "temperament" problem. They present themselves to the public as ornery, nonpartisan watchdogs, but in reality they're the aggressively obsequious partisans that swoon over Clinton when she buys a burrito. Is it any wonder that trust in the media is so low?



The worst case for Republicans: Trump wins

Republicans enter the fall campaign in moods ranging from grim foreboding to howling despair. They fear that Donald Trump will not only lose but lose so big he will take hordes of other candidates down with him, costing the GOP control of the U.S. Senate and even the House. This election could be the party's worst debacle since 1964.

Republicans don't seem to have prepared for an even bigger catastrophe that could occur Nov. 8: a Trump victory. In that case, they wouldn't be stuck with him for the next two months. They would be stuck with him for the duration of his presidency, and they would have to answer for him forever.

They are in the position of a bride who, on the eve of her wedding day, knows she's making a mistake. If she backs out, she'll bring a mess down on her head. But if she doesn't, she'll be caught in a snare that will be painful and hard to escape, with consequences she will have years to regret.

The first harm from Trump is that he would be the new identity of the party. Forget the mind of Ronald Reagan. Never mind what Mitch McConnell and Paul Ryan propose. He would be the one defining the national agenda. If President Trump wanted to intern Muslims, launch drones against Mexico or put David Duke up in the Lincoln Bedroom, his fellow Republicans

would wear the stain.

One of the miseries they have suffered in recent months is waking up each day anxiously wondering what new folly their candidate is about to commit. It's bad enough having to put up with his insulting of a gold star mother, not knowing that Russia has invaded Ukraine, accusing Barack Obama of founding the Islamic State, and retweeting white supremacists.

But all this amounts to an ignorant egomaniac running his mouth. In the White House, Trump would be acting, not just talking. He would possess powers that can be wielded in all sorts of destructive ways. As Republicans have learned from Obama's use of executive authority, it's hard to stop a determined president from doing whatever he damn well pleases.

Scrap NAFTA? Carry out indiscriminate bombing of the Islamic State? Refuse to come to the aid of a NATO ally attacked by Russia? Bring back torture, using methods that would make Dick Cheney weep?

Turn over decisions to advisers who couldn't find their way out of an elevator if you gave them a map and a compass? Dump Melania and start dating? The question is not whether Trump would make bad choices in the White House — only which ones and when.

Since he wrapped up the nomination, Republicans have been hoping Trump would change his reckless style, listen to people who know more than he does, avoid pointless fights and generally behave like a responsible adult. Their hopes have been in vain. He either can't change or sees no reason to.

Winning the election would turbocharge Trump's worst impulses. He would have new grounds to ignore GOP leaders and indulge his every whim. If that approach gets him elected, why would he behave any differently as president?

Maybe Trump would drag the country through four years of chaos and stagnation, trailing broken promises and aborted schemes. Or maybe he would handle the job so irresponsibly that he would provoke his impeachment and removal — an eminently plausible scenario.

The latter outcome would have some special downsides for Republicans. One is that it would saddle them with the herculean chore of defending him at his worst. Another is that it would derail any policy ideas they hope to advance. Then there's the political cost in the next election.

Compared with these nightmares, a Hillary Clinton presidency would have all sorts of advantages. It would give Republicans a unifying focus, mobilize them to block liberal policies, open the way for new conservative leaders to emerge and offer the party a chance to rebound at the polls in 2018. If she were to be embroiled in a White House scandal brought on by her own disregard for the rules, even better for the GOP.

Republicans might remember British statesman Benjamin Disraeli's explanation of the difference between a misfortune and a calamity. For his chief rival to fall into the river, he said, would be a misfortune. The calamity would be if someone pulled him out.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. We ask you to follow these guidelines:

- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com or mailed to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

DAILY PRAYER

You, Lord, enrich our lives with both
Your expected and unexpected
blessings. Amen.



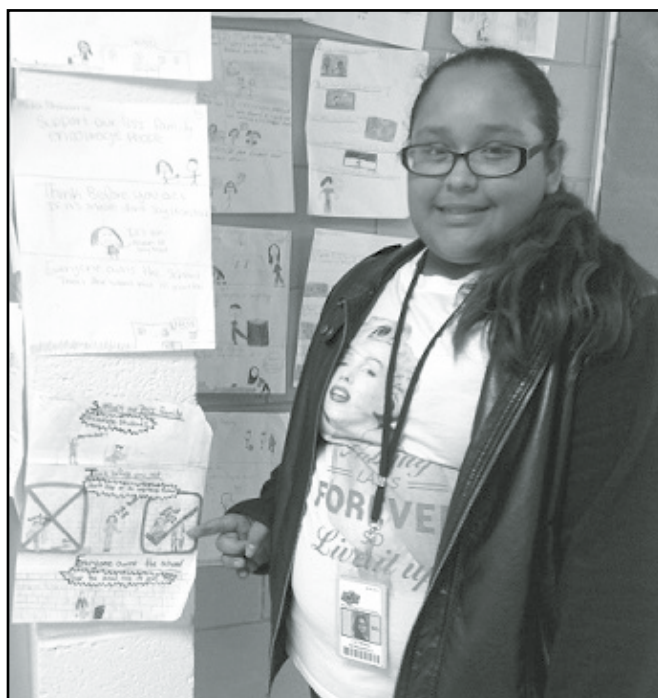
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Steer Pride Corner



Courtesy photos
Students at Big Spring Intermediate School (BSI) completed Steer Camp. The camp's main purpose was to teach students expected behaviors through their social studies classes as part of the PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention System). PBIS is a system designed to increase positive behaviors and decrease negative ones. The goal is to keep students in the instructional classroom setting. Students at BSI were asked to create Steer Pride posters indicating learned expected behaviors.

A contest was held for the best posters. Pictured clockwise are the contest winners: Gissele Holguin, 1st, Catirina Hernandez, 2nd, and Chloe Posey, 3rd.



Parents Corner: Patience, faith, trust, and love

During this summer heat, I thought you might enjoy a story about a bitter cold spell in Denver. It might not cool us off but it could bring a smile on our faces.

I understand that it was a really cold winter morning and a husband and wife were listening to the radio during breakfast. They heard the announcer say: "We are going to have 8 to 10 inches of snow today. You must park your car on the even-numbered side of the street today, so the Snowplows can get through."



DARRELL RYAN

So the good wife went out and moved her car. A week later while they are eating breakfast again, the radio announcer said, "We are expecting 10 to 12 inches of snow today. You must park your car on the odd-numbered side of the street today, so the Snowplows can get through."

The good wife went out and moved her car again.

The next week they are again having breakfast, when the radio announcer says, "We are expecting 12 to 14 inches of snow today. You must park..." and at that moment the electric power went out. The good wife was very upset, and with a worried look on her face she said, "I don't

know what to do. Which side of the street do I need to park on today so the snowplows can get through?"

Then with the love and understanding in his voice that all men who are married to blonde's exhibit, the husband replied, "Why don't you just leave the car in the garage this time?"

Now I would think that this husband is showing patience, but there are many ways we actually 'show' our feelings or emotions, for instance, I heard about a city that came together during a time of drought and decided to pray for rain.

On the day of prayer all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella.

That's what I call faith. And if you notice that when you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. Without a doubt, that's trust. Every night we go to bed we have no assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up. That is surely a situation of hope.

We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That's confidence. We see the world suffering, but still we get married and have children. What else could that be but love. And, I guess maybe the most startling one of all was a sentence on an old man's shirt 'I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.' Now that's what I call attitude.

Darrell Ryan is the Big Spring ISD director of school safety.

WHY IT MATTERS: Education

Note: This story is part of AP's "Why It Matters" series, which will examine three dozen issues at stake in the presidential election between now and Election Day.

WASHINGTON (AP) — THE ISSUE: Hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars are spent each year on the country's public schools. The U.S. has record-high graduation rates, 82 percent, but also stubborn achievement gaps and dismally lagging math and reading scores compared with other countries. And university degrees are leaving millions mired in debt. Few issues touch the lives of families like the state of education.

WHERE THEY STAND
Hillary Clinton has made the soaring costs of college her primary education focus. She has proposed free tuition at in-state public colleges and universities for working families with incomes up to \$125,000. Of course, that's only free for student and families, not for taxpayers. To counter the crush of student debt, she also wants to implement a three-month moratorium

on loan payments for all federal borrowers. During that time, borrowers would be able to consolidate their loans or enroll in other plans that could help cut costs.

Donald Trump has railed against the Common Core academic standards that have been adopted in more than 40 states, calling them a "total disaster." He's pledged to do away with them if elected, even though the standards were created and adopted by states, not the federal government. Trump says he wants to see more local control of education. He's vowed to give students choice, let charter schools thrive and end tenure policies "that reward bad teachers."

WHY IT MATTERS

Just look at the numbers.

About 100,000 public schools opened their doors to some 50 million students in kindergarten through high school in the new school year.

The bill for taxpayers: \$582 billion, or about \$11,670 per pupil each year, on average, to teach those students and set them on a path toward college or careers. About 10 percent of that money comes

from the federal government. The rest is from states and local districts, facing ever-tight budgets.

The Obama administration and others before it — both Republican and Democratic — have preached the importance of a quality education that opens the door to opportunity and success. Yet the cost of college is rising, leaving students saddled with debt. And some who have attended for-profit schools have seen their degrees rendered virtually worthless, with the government picking up the tab for discharging their student loans.

There's no doubt that better educated students more often get better paying jobs. The median annual earnings for someone age 25 to 34 with no high school diploma is \$40,000. For those with a bachelor's degree or higher, it's \$52,000.

The good news: High school graduation rates are up sharply and dropout rates are down.

The bad: Progress for the nation's schoolkids isn't nearly on pace with other countries. This has implications well beyond bragging rights. A country that's trailing others in education will lag in international com-

petitiveness and that will contribute to economic hardship. And within the U.S., there are challenging gaps by race and wealth, for achievement and more.

Globally, American schoolchildren trail their counterparts in Japan, Korea, Canada, Germany, France and more.

Education remains primarily the responsibility of the states, even though the federal government can use its pocketbook to influence policies and practices. The Obama administration issued waivers and grants through programs like Race to the Top to get its say on academic standards and other issues.

A law enacted last year with bipartisan support has vastly diminished the powers of the federal government in how the county's schools are run and their performance judged, but the Education Department still plays an oversight role. While the current administration has started putting the law into place, it will be up to the next president to finish the process.

What's happening in our schools

The *Herald* encourages public and private school teachers/administrators to send articles, photos, and upcoming events for publication on our Education page published Thursdays in the *Herald*.

Submit school news to:
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What Rhymes with...



List 10 words that rhyme with "bark."

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

Some answers: arc, ark, dark, bark, lark, mark, park, shark, spark, stark

Jokes
Jokes
Jokes

Q: Why do some fish live in salt water?

A: Because pepper makes them sneeze.

Q: How did the dog stop the DVD?

A: He pressed the paws button.

Fact or Fiction?

Animal Class Challenge



Scientists group animals into classes according to things they have in common. Here are some questions about those classes. How many can you answer correctly?

- 1) There are six basic classes: mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 2) Invertebrates have no backbones. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 3) People are mammals. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 4) Cats and robins are mammals. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 5) Snakes are amphibians. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 6) Frogs are reptiles. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 7) Mammals are cold blooded, whereas reptiles are warm blooded. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 8) Birds have feathers. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 9) Fish have gills. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 10) Most amphibians have gills as babies and develop lungs as adults. **Fact or Fiction?**

Answers: 1) Fact, 2) Fact, 3) Fact, 4) Fiction, cats are mammals while robins are birds, 5) Fiction, snakes are reptiles, 6) Fiction, frogs are amphibians, 7) Fiction, mammals are warm blooded while reptiles are cold blooded, 8) Fact, 9) Fact, 10) Fact

Name That Stinger

Some animals defend themselves by stinging. Fill in the blanks to name some of them.

1. B _ _ _ S
2. W A _ _ _ S
3. A _ _ T _ _
4. S P I _ _ E _ _ S
5. C E _ _ T I P E _ _ E S
6. S _ _ O R P I O _ _ S
7. J E _ _ _ Y F I S H

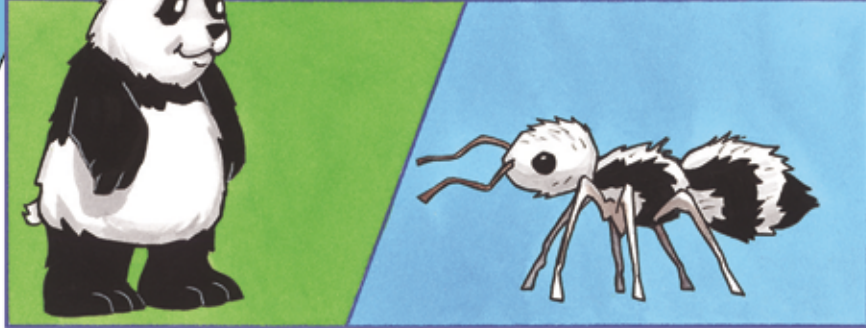


Answers: 1) Bees, 2) Wasps, 3) Ants, 4) Spiders, 5) Centipedes, 6) Scorpions, 7) Jellyfish

COLORING PICTURE



Panda Ants



Imagine a panda. Now imagine that panda as an insect. Strange, huh? There is an insect known as the panda ant, and it looks like an ant with a black-and-white panda coat.

Panda ants are part of a group of wasps known as velvet ants. They have a dense coat of hair on their backs that looks like velvet, hence their name. Velvet ants come in a wide range of colors, including orange, red, silver, gold and black and white. The black-and-white ones are called panda ants.

While panda ants may be small, they can be dangerous. When provoked, panda ants will sting, and it can be very painful.

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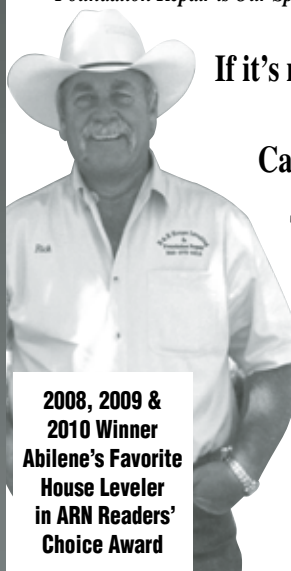
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Tomorrow's Horoscope



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Critical Cosmos

You were born with a critical brain, and so were the other humans you know. Whether you run for president, get canonized, become a bank robber or a world-class agoraphobic couch potato, (SET ITAL) you will be criticized (END ITAL). It's just part of the human experience. The Sagittarius moon urges you to ignore the comments from the peanut gallery today.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). By taking only one or two actions a day toward a goal, you will land in a significantly different future from the future you'd have were you to take no action at all. Go back to the plan you abandoned and rework it into smaller chunks.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your loved one's happiness needn't come at the expense of your own. Keep looking for a mutually satisfying arrangement. This can be struck without either party feeling at all compromised.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Though you're not trying to be and don't want to be, you can't help it: You're charming, and they are under your spell. The attention is not to be squandered. You've a responsibility to use your distracting qualities for good.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your sense of connection extends joyfully to all you touch and even what you don't touch. You can feel the energy of the people who paved the roads you drive on, the man out walking his dog and the bird soaring above it all.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're not shallow or small-minded; nor are you the least bit petty. It is therefore hard for you to imagine the mindset that some are coming from, but try. Otherwise, they will surely

catch you off-guard. **VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Sometimes you feel like an extra sipping coffee in the background, and you're good with the ambient role. However, don't too get comfortable there. This is just a break before your next scene.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There are people around you who are underrated and under-appreciated time and again. You're the one who sees how brilliant and special they are, and you'll help them see it, too.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). To appease the powers that rule tomorrow, a sacrifice must be made today -- not just any sacrifice though. It doesn't matter if it's something hard or easy to give, it only matters that it's the right thing to give.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Like a homing pigeon, you'll explore vast distances, traveling far and wide to complete your mission, which, at the end of the day, always wraps up in the same place.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

You expect much of yourself and often deliver on these expectations. Frustration is natural, but immature. As for self-directed anger... who has time for the drama? Quietly pull it together and try again.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Money is a motivator, but not a big one. Your true desire is for knowledge, experience and wisdom. More than money, this what will ultimately help you move beyond your limitations.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There is no greater thrill for you today than the excited buzz that comes with putting something in the world that wasn't there before. Bonus: Your creativity will delight all around you.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 8). You wouldn't guess who will become enamored by joie de vivre this year. Take a chance on love and see where it leads. This month will bring a financial breakthrough. There will be a family expansion in January. Going above and beyond the call of duty will

earn you an honored position. Capricorn and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 7, 14, 20 and 19.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION: "My 12-year-old daughter has hit puberty and has the attitude to prove it, with a sassy mouth and frequent 'ditz' spells. Any insights about Aries teens?"

For many teen girls, rebellion is a natural part of growing up. For headstrong Aries, it's a stage of development that is practically unavoidable. Your daughter is expressing her right to an opinion and she is building the self-confidence to make her own choices. You'll help her learn to do this while maintaining a respectful attitude toward you and others in her environment. There is so much changing in her world, and as she deals with all of these changes it will be challenging for her to focus. It may seem to you that her common sense has flown out the window. It will return. But for this time, it will be necessary for you to

cater your communication to a person who may be perpetually only half listening. Let her know very clearly what is expected of her, and be specific about it. For instance, if she's expected to do certain chores around the house, tell her exactly what they are and when they should be done. This will be much more effective than telling her to "help out around the house."

CELEBRITY PROFILES: In the spirit of typical Virgo perfectionism, Adam Sandler writes and produces many of his own movies, and in doing so has developed a signature style. Perhaps not so typical is the amount of Virgo energy Sandler has flowing through his natal chart, with the sun, Mercury, Venus, Uranus and Pluto all in this diligent sign. Sandler's career-oriented Mars is in Leo, the sign of entertainment.

To write to Holiday Mathis, visit www.creators.com/author/holiday-mathis and click "Contact." COPYRIGHT 2016 CREATORS.COM

Annie's Mailbox

Not Doing His Fair Share

Dear Annie: My first husband was a workaholic with little time for me or any enjoyment, so when I divorced and met my current husband, I was thrilled to find such an optimistic, fun-loving man. He is affectionate, extremely clever and a real people person. However, as years go by, he seems to have

less and less ambition and isn't doing his fair share to keep us out of debt.

When we first met, he was working two jobs to cover his expenses and pay child support. He now works one job and thinks nothing of knocking off early to go home and watch sports and goof off on the computer.

A large percentage of my personal paycheck is spent covering his insur-

ance, his past-due taxes, his kid's college loan payments, etc. There's little money left for me to get a haircut or have lunch with friends once in a while. I'm now facing some health challenges, and he hasn't stepped up to help me. I'm constantly juggling overdraft notices and selling things to keep us out of hock.

My resentment is starting to destroy any affection I had. I just want to be treated fairly. Seeing as that's not happening, I'm ready to separate. I am self-sufficient and would be better off financially on my own; however, I'm hoping a separation might make him wake up and start doing his fair share.

Am I fooling myself thinking a separation might help him grow up? Do I need to accept that I married Peter Pan? -- Overworked Wendy

Dear Wendy:

Don't send Peter Pan packing to Neverland just yet. He's fallen into a lazy slump because it's been easy for him to do so, and now he needs a push to get moving again. Being honest and open is your best shot at a happily-ever-after ending.

Tell him that if this marriage is to continue, it needs to start functioning like a true partnership. Perhaps he should pick up a second job again, if that's what it takes to cover his expenses. I would also talk to a

financial adviser, as it might be wise to keep your finances separate until he demonstrates that he's ready to grow up. And if that never happens? He can fly away to another couch.

Dear Annie: Two years ago, my son's stepson died very suddenly and tragically. Now my son's wife is in the depths of depression.

She does things to try to feel better, such as going on trips, but when she returns, she seems sadder than ever. She unloads on me out of the blue and makes me feel terrible. I try to help her but end up so upset and feeling down on myself. Then later I hear that she has done something fun, and meanwhile I am still reeling from her tirade of negativity.

My son loves her but is basically living a solitary life. He works 40-plus hours a week but still has to do his laundry, the cooking and other household chores. They have other children, who I don't think are getting adequate attention.

I have offered to do anything I can to help her. I have found grief support classes and offered to pay for them. I have offered to take her to church, but I think she blames God for what has happened. I have spoken with

her mother, but she is exasperated also. Nothing in my family can be normal now. I never know whether she is going to show up at a family function, and if she does, I don't know whether I will do something to upset her.

I feel so sorry for everyone. It seems my son and his family are living in a dark, depressing cave. Any suggestions? -- Got the Blues

Dear Blues: I am so sorry for your family's loss. Your daughter-in-law is experiencing every parent's worst nightmare. Continue being empathetic and letting her cry on your shoulder, as draining as the roller coaster of emotions may be for you. Spend time with their other children to show them love and attention. Talk to your son about attending marriage counseling specifically for parents who have lost children. Contact the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy for more resources.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. To find out more about Annie Lane and read features by other Creators Syndicate columnists and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com. COPYRIGHT 2016 CREATORS.COM

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker
Sylvia

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ K 9 6 5
♥ K Q J
♦ 9 7
♣ K 8 6 3
WEST
♠ —
♥ 10 9 8 7
♦ A 8 6 4 3
♣ 9 7 5 4
EAST
♠ 7 4
♥ 5 3 2
♦ Q 5 2
♣ A Q J 10 2
SOUTH
♠ A Q J 10 8 3 2
♥ A 6 4
♦ K J 10
♣ —

The slam would surely be made, and that if West had the A-Q, it would surely not be made. The only cases that mattered were those where West had the ace and East the queen, or West the queen and East the ace. In these cases, I would have to guess the right way to play the diamonds. In order to improve my chances, I won the heart, drew trumps and led dummy's king of clubs. I was sure that this play would locate the ace of clubs, and I would then assume that the other player had the ace of diamonds.

Unfortunately, when I led the king of clubs, Sylvia, despite her magnificent clubs, played the deuce! As I have since learned, Sylvia had a stubborn streak, and she held firmly to the view that if I wanted her to play the ace on the king, she would not oblige me by doing so.

I ruffed, of course, now certain that West had the ace of clubs. This in turn convinced me that West could not also have the ace of diamonds, since with two aces he surely would have led one of them.

So I entered dummy with a heart, led a diamond and confidently played the king after Sylvia followed low. Much to my chagrin, West took the ace and returned a diamond, and down I went!

The bidding:
South West North East
1♠ Pass 3♠ Pass
6♠
Opening lead — ten of hearts.
Very few people ever forgot their first encounter with Sylvia. It wasn't that she played so well or so badly, but that she played so differently. Her conception of the game was, to say the least, unique, and it never took long for an opponent to become aware of her proclivities.
The first time I played against her, I held the South hand and got to six spades. West led a heart, and I saw at once that the slam hinged on losing only one diamond trick. It was obvious that if East (Sylvia) had the A-Q,

sudoku

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

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

KMID 3 Midland	UNI 4 Spanish	KPEJ 5 Odessa	KOSA 7 Odessa	KTLE 8 Telemundo	KWES 9 Midland	KMLM 12 Odessa	KPBT 13 Odessa	KWWT 14 Odessa	KWES2 15 Midland	WTBS 33 Atlanta	TNT 34 Atlanta	ESPN 35 Sports	ESPN2 36 Sports	FSN 38 Sports	USA 55 New York	A&E 58 New York	DISC 60 Discovery
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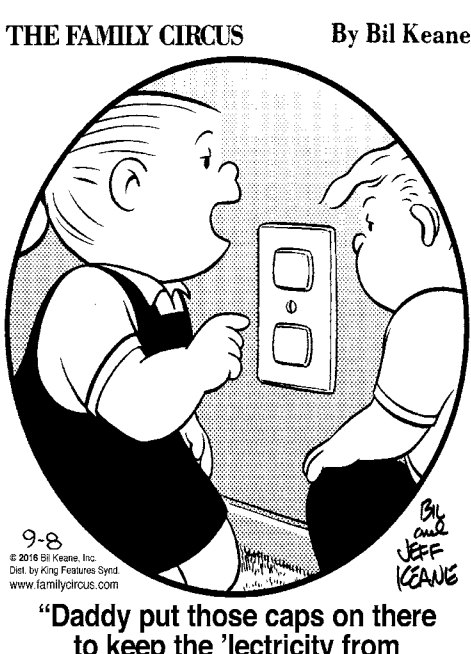
THURSDAY

	KMID 3 Midland	UNI 4 Spanish	KPEJ 5 Odessa	KOSA 7 Odessa	KTLE 8 Telemundo	KWES 9 Midland	KMLM 12 Odessa	KPBT 13 Odessa	KWWT 14 Odessa	KWES2 15 Midland	WTBS 33 Atlanta	TNT 34 Atlanta	ESPN 35 Sports	ESPN2 36 Sports	FSN 38 Sports	USA 55 New York	A&E 58 New York	DISC 60 Discovery	
5:AM	Good Day	Rosa de Guadalupe	Shepherd's Chapel	CBS 7 Early	Suelta la Sopa (SS)	Newsweek 9	R. Booker Ministerios Vida	(Off Air)	Mister Ed Lucy	Paid	Married	Charmed	SportsCenter	Mike & Mike	BestPan! Paid	Queen of the South	Paid	Paid	
5:30		¡Despierta América (SS)	Feldick Robison	News	Un Nuevo Día (SS)	Newsweek 9 Sunrise	World Upd	Ready Jet	Brady	There	Married	Charmed	SportsCenter			College Football: Missouri at West Virginia.	Movie: It's Complicated, Alec Baldwin	Parking Dog	Paid
6:AM	Good Morning America		Business Wom	CBS This Morning		Today	Light of the Southwest	Nature Hillbillies	Cheaters	Married	Charmed	SportsCenter							
6:30			Divorce	LIVE with Kelly	De'siones Más Sabe el Diabolo (SS)	Today	Justice Discovery Peg	Nature Hillbillies	Cops Rel.	Married	Supernatural	SportsCenter							
7:AM			Divorce	LIVE with Kelly	De'siones Más Sabe el Diabolo (SS)	Today	Justice Discovery Peg	Nature Hillbillies	Cops Rel.	Married	Supernatural	SportsCenter							
7:30			Divorce	LIVE with Kelly	De'siones Más Sabe el Diabolo (SS)	Today	Justice Discovery Peg	Nature Hillbillies	Cops Rel.	Married	Supernatural	SportsCenter							
8:AM	The 700 Club		Divorce	LIVE with Kelly	De'siones Más Sabe el Diabolo (SS)	Today	Justice Discovery Peg	Nature Hillbillies	Cops Rel.	Married	Supernatural	SportsCenter							
8:30			Divorce	LIVE with Kelly	De'siones Más Sabe el Diabolo (SS)	Today	Justice Discovery Peg	Nature Hillbillies	Cops Rel.	Married	Supernatural	SportsCenter							
9:AM	The View	Como Dice el Dicho	Judge Mathis	The Price Is Right	Today	McDonald	Dinosaur	Diagnosis Murder	Crazy	Cleveland	Supernatural	SportsCenter							
9:30			Judge Mathis	The Price Is Right	Today	McDonald	Dinosaur	Diagnosis Murder	Crazy	Cleveland	Supernatural	SportsCenter							
10:AM	Paid	Como Dice el Dicho	TMZ Live	Young & Rubicam	Império (SS)	Ellen DeGeneres	Yohanán Super	The Big Bang Theory	Cheaters	American	Supernatural	SportsCenter							

DENNIS THE MENACE



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



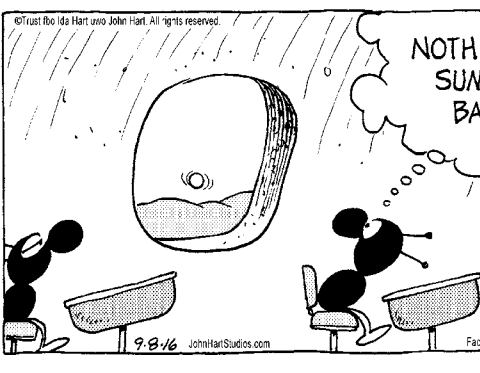
HAGAR



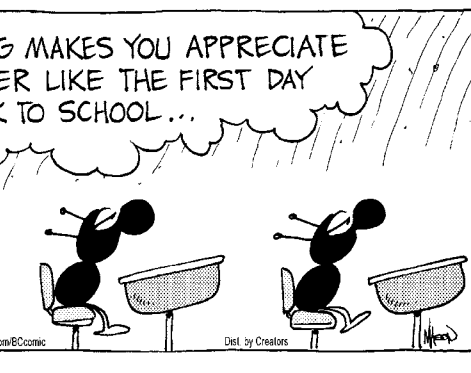
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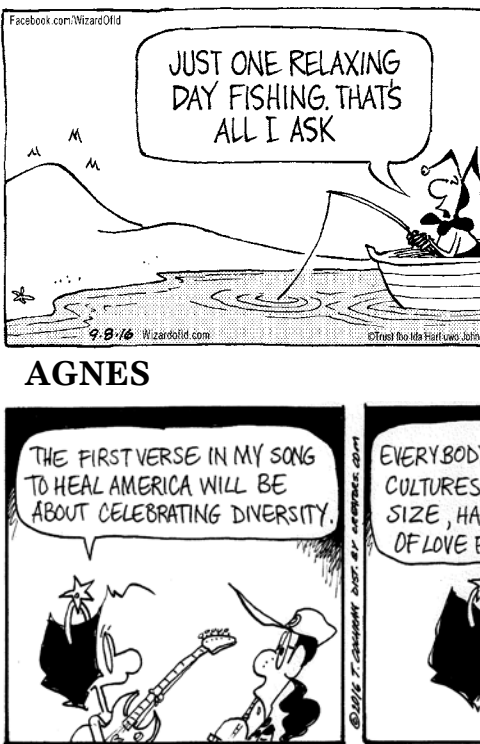
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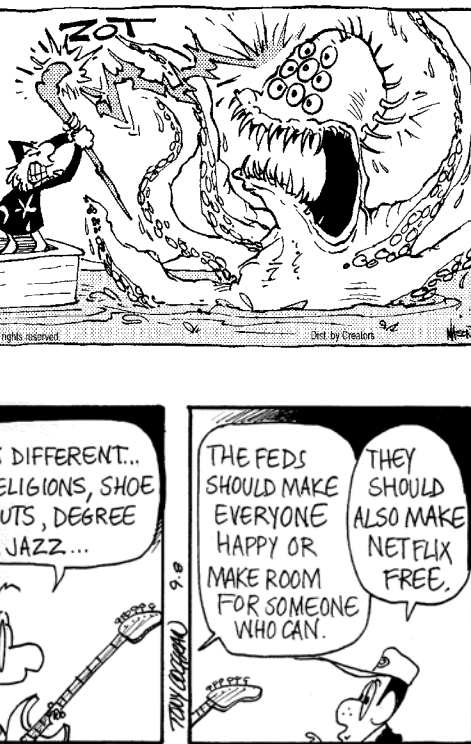
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AGNES



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This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Sept. 8, the 252nd day of 2016. There are 114 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Sept. 8, 1966, the science-fiction series "Star Trek" premiered on NBC; the situation comedy "That Girl," starring Marlo Thomas, debuted on ABC.

On this date:

In 1565, a Spanish expedition established the first permanent European settlement in North America at present-day St. Augustine, Florida.

In 1761, Britain's King George III married Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz a few hours after meeting her for the first time.

In 1892, an early version of "The Pledge of Allegiance," written by Francis Bellamy, appeared in "The Youth's Companion."

In 1900, Galveston, Texas, was struck by a hurricane that killed an estimated 8,000 people.

In 1921, Margaret Gorman, 16, of Washington, D.C., was crowned the first "Miss America" in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

In 1935, Sen. Huey P. Long, D-La., was shot and mortally

wounded inside the Louisiana State Capitol; he died two days later. (The assailant was identified as Dr. Carl Weiss, who was gunned down by Long's bodyguards.)

In 1941, the 900-day Siege of Leningrad by German forces began during World War II.

In 1951, a peace treaty with Japan was signed by 49 nations in San Francisco.

In 1974, President Gerald R. Ford granted a "full, free, and absolute pardon" to former President Richard Nixon covering his entire term in office.

In 1985, Pete Rose of the Cincinnati Reds tied Ty Cobb's career record for hits, singling for hit number 4,191 during a game against the Cubs in Chicago.

In 1986, "The Oprah Winfrey Show" began the first of 25 seasons in national syndication.

In 1994, USAir Flight 427, a Boeing 737, crashed into a ravine as it was approaching Pittsburgh International Airport, killing all 132 people on board.

Ten years ago: A Senate report faulted intelligence gathering in the lead-up to the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq, and said Saddam Hussein regarded al-Qaida as a threat rather than a possible ally, contradicting assertions President George W. Bush had used to build support for the war. A suicide car bomber struck a convoy of U.S. military vehicles in Kabul,

Afghanistan, killing 16 people, including two American soldiers.

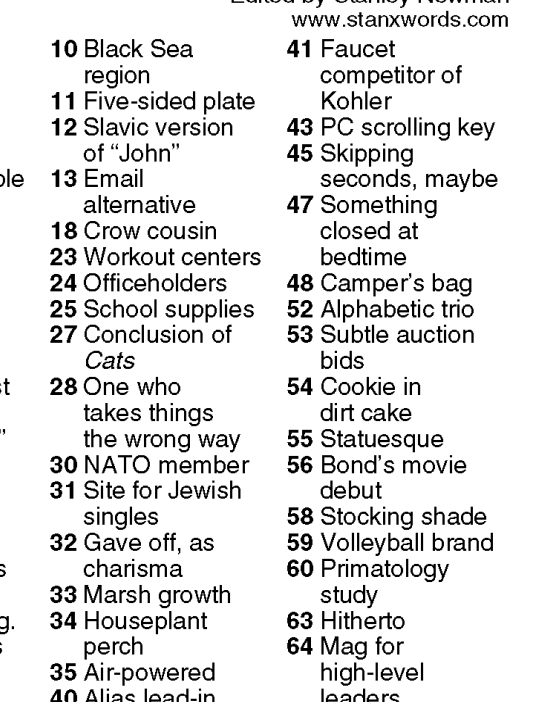
Five years ago: Ten oil workers were forced to abandon a crippled 94-foot research vessel in the Gulf of Mexico and pile into a life raft during Tropical Storm Nate; by the time rescuers arrived three days after, three of the men had died, and a fourth died later at a hospital.

One year ago: After resisting apologizing for using a personal email account run on a private server to conduct government business as secretary of state, Hillary Clinton shifted course, telling ABC News, "That was a mistake. I'm sorry about that. I take responsibility." Kim Davis, the Rowan County, Kentucky, clerk jailed for refusing to issue marriage licenses to gay couples, was released after five days behind bars.

Newsday Crossword

WHISTLE WHILE YOU WORK by Greg Johnson

- Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com
- ACROSS**
- 1 Diagonally-cut pasta
 - 6 "Fine" or "lost" things
 - 10 IOU
 - 14 Arrive by Dreamliner
 - 15 Good source of protein
 - 16 Give in to wanderlust
 - 17 ... at a football game
 - 19 Film format
 - 20 Parlor design
 - 21 What Teslas don't take
 - 22 Constituent
 - 24 Landlord, on rent checks
 - 26 Soap-making chemical
 - 27 Teeny bit
 - 29 ... at band practice
 - 34 Tough trek
 - 36 Merchandise advisory
 - 37 Female rabbit
 - 38 Brief affirmation
 - 39 Twangy attraction
 - 42 Whopper
 - 43 Short dog, for short
 - 44 Plundered
 - 46 ... on the beach
 - 49 Financial aid consideration
 - 50 "Dee-lish!"
 - 51 Chad neighbor
 - 53 Reporter's accessory
 - 57 No longer hungry
 - 58 French actress Green
 - 61 Verbal
 - 62 ... in the city
 - 65 Section with slicers
- DOWN**
- 1 Fizzling-out sound
 - 2 British essayist
 - 3 Dmitri's denial
 - 4 "No goals yet," in soccer
 - 5 Chess denouement
 - 6 Exhibiting a smirk, perhaps
 - 7 Cabernet Sauvignon, e.g.
 - 8 License plates
 - 9 Automaker supplier
 - 10 Black Sea region
 - 11 Five-sided plate
 - 12 Slavic version of "John"
 - 13 Email alternative
 - 18 Crow cousin
 - 23 Workout centers
 - 24 Officeholders
 - 25 School supplies
 - 27 Conclusion of Cats
 - 28 One who takes things the wrong way
 - 30 NATO member
 - 31 Site for Jewish singles
 - 32 Gave off, as charisma
 - 33 Marsh growth
 - 34 Houseplant perch
 - 35 Air-powered
 - 40 Alias lead-in
 - 41 Faucet competitor of Kohler
 - 43 PC scrolling key
 - 45 Skipping seconds, maybe
 - 47 Something closed at bedtime
 - 48 Camper's bag
 - 52 Alphabetic trio
 - 53 Subtle auction bids
 - 54 Cookie in dirt cake
 - 55 Statuesque
 - 56 Bond's movie debut
 - 58 Stocking shade
 - 59 Volleyball brand
 - 60 Primatology study
 - 63 Hitherto
 - 64 Mag for high-level leaders



Answer to previous puzzle

GRUB	SHOD	FACES
RUSE	TAPE	INANE
ABET	ORES	EGRET
SODACRAKERS		
PUT	OKS	TACTICS
STORM	SCORE	TOO
AID	APT	MEOW
POPCORN	SHRIMP	
PERT	MOO	YAM
ALE	CAPER	DEALS
STOOLIE	USA	LIT
CANDY	STRIPER	
COPEP	OAHU	NILE
ALIAS	FLED	KNOW
PENNY	FEDS	SEWS

9/8/16



Buffalo tales



Courtesy photos/FISD

Forsan High School football team members and cheerleaders visited with Forsan Elementary School students, including welcoming them to school at the drop off point. The elementary building is located near the junior/senior campus.



Courtesy photo

Local business owners Mike and Sheila Abusaab presented Howard College with a check for \$3,000 for the scholarship fund. "We are so grateful to the Abusaabs not only for their support of Howard College but more importantly their support of Howard County students! They have been making the commitment to support students seeking higher education for over 25 years and continued the tradition again," said Dr. Cheryl Sparks, Howard College President. Pictured from left: Keith Fontana, Sheila Abusaab, Dr. Cheryl T. Sparks, Mike Abusaab, and Tommy Moore.

Education briefs

State reports recommends capping pre-K classroom size at 22

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A report commissioned as part of Texas' sweeping new prekindergarten initiative recommends capping classroom size at 22 students — something most pre-K programs statewide are already doing.

The Texas Education Agency report was mandated by the Legislature when it approved a major pre-K funding boost last year.

The report recommends limiting pre-K classrooms to 22 maximum students, while estimating that between 13 and 16 percent of existing pre-K classrooms

are exceeded that.

It also found that the best pre-K programs had student-to-teacher ratios of 11:1 or less. In classroom observations, the report found the existing average ratio to be 12:1.

Gov. Greg Abbott had pledged that school districts implementing stricter pre-K standards would receive up to \$1,500 extra per student. But qualifying districts are actually only getting \$734 per pupil.

Mother's efforts bring cameras to special-needs classrooms

KELLER, Texas (AP) — A North Texas mother's efforts to get cameras installed in classrooms with special needs students for increased safety are finally coming to fruition.

Breggett Rideau had been lobbying the Texas Legislature for several years to require school districts around the state to install and operate video cameras in some special education classrooms if requested by parents, a trustee or a staff member, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported

Big Spring High School homecoming entry parade deadline

The deadline to enter a float in the Big Spring High School annual parade is Tuesday, Sept. 20.

All entries must be turned into the high school's main office, 707 11th Place, by noon on the deadline date. To enter, call the high school office at 264-3641, and talk with Mrs. Sotelo.

Please remember:

- No candy will be thrown or handed out during the parade,
- The theme for homecoming is "It's Showtime" (Steers v. Mustangs, The Movie),
- All those that enter need to pick up packets on Wednesday or Thursday,

Sept. 21-22, at the high school's main office.

Homecoming is Friday, Sept. 23.

Community-wide activities scheduled for the week are as follows:

Thursday, Sept. 22

- Pep rally and bonfire 8 p.m., 229 Airbase Road (old Anderson Kindergarten School).

Friday, Sept. 23

- Pep rally, 3 p.m.
- Homecoming parade, 4:30 p.m., route wraps around the high school campus block.

- Varsity game, Steers versus Mustangs, 7:30 p.m. Memorial Stadium.

Volunteers commit to long-term mentoring

By Simone Jasper

Midland-Reporter Telegram via AP

Susan Atchison has mentored Midland ISD students for more than five years. Now, she's recruiting volunteers for a long-term mentoring program so other children in the school district have extra support.

Midland Academic Guides pairs one adult mentor with an at-risk student in third or fourth grade at an MISD school. Each mentor signs a form to indicate a commitment to guide the child until high school graduation.

"That's the goal for these mentors," said Atchison, founder and chairman of MAGs. "It's not just a mentoring thing — it's a true relationship."

Last year, Ron Moss, director of guidance and counseling for MISD, helped Atchison implement the program.

"We always welcome these folks who are willing to be mentors," Moss said. "Research indicates by having one additional caring adult in their lives, test scores go up. Anything that can help students, we certainly welcome that."

MAGs mentors helped students at Fannin, Houston and Lamar elementary schools last year. But mentors can choose to volunteer with students who need academic and social support at any MISD elementary school.

Eight mentors participated in MAGs last year, and the program is looking to expand. Atchison said it's challenging to find people who are willing to be long-term mentors.

"A lot of my friends didn't want to be committed," Atchison said. "They didn't know what they were going to be doing in nine years."

But some were willing to make the pledge. Jill Spannaus, a MAGs mentor and retired guidance counselor for MISD, said she recognized the need for students to have stable relationships with adults.

"Kids have so many people in and out of their lives — principals change, counselors change, teachers change," Spannaus said. "With me, it's just like having a big sister — someone to be accountable to in a loving way."

Darla Taylor, another mentor, said she wanted the opportunity to impact children starting in third or fourth grade.

"That's when they start forming who they want to be and start making plans about college," Taylor said. "That was something exciting about this program. Maybe I did have a chance to make a change."

MAGs focuses on guiding students toward college. Atchison encourag-

es mentors to meet with students at least once a week in school. During that time, they work on school assignments or activities to improve social or organizational skills. Mentors also have access to students' grades and teachers so they can monitor progress.

Outside of school, mentors are encouraged to form relationships with students' family members. Mentor Whitney Ellis said she's noticed a difference between this program and tutoring she's done in the past.

"I wasn't getting to know families, getting to know the kids," Ellis said. "It was more of, 'Whitney's here to tutor you.' With this, I can be more creative, more flexible."

Ellis uses creativity to devise scenarios to help her mentee solve fractions. She said last year, her mentee's confidence toward math improved.

"Her grades were reflective of that," Ellis said.

Inspiration for the program came from the relationship between Atchison and two of her mentees — siblings William Snipes and Miranda Medrano. As Atchison started getting to know the siblings in 2010, she realized they needed a push academically.

But the relationship extended beyond help with homework. The siblings became integrated into the Atchison family. The Atchisons invited them to family dinners and vacations, using each event as an opportunity to teach the children something new.

"They're seeing the world in a whole different way," Atchison said. "When a child only learns about things in a book, it's a whole different way to experience it."

Atchison's friends saw how she impacted her mentees, and they wanted to help students in a similar way. She thought MAGs would benefit others in MISD schools.

"It would be awesome if that group of hers would grow and help other kids," said Helena Medrano, the siblings' mother. "My kids are in the right direction."

Tierney Hamilton, guidance counselor at Lamar Elementary, also hopes more people choose to become MAGs mentors. Hamilton worked with teachers at her school to identify a student who needed extra guidance to pair with a mentor.

"It was really hard to narrow to just one student," Hamilton said. "I hope we have lifelong mentors for these children — someone else to be responsible."

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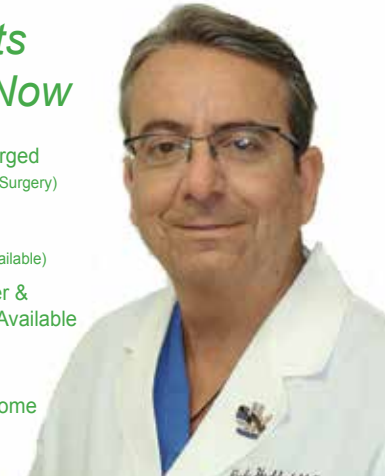
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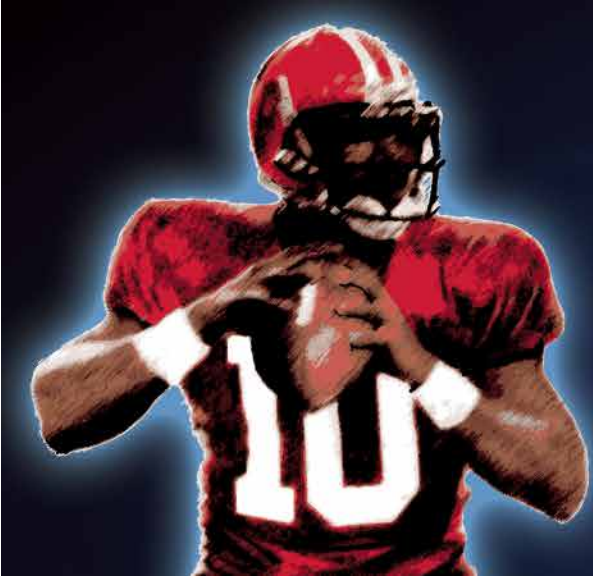
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FRIDAY NIGHT UNDER THE LIGHTS

High School Football In Howard County

Coahoma's Dietz wants faster start from Bulldogs

By DREW WILLIAMS
Sports Editor

Coahoma Bulldogs head coach Fred Dietz almost saw his team pull off an incredible comeback Friday night.

Down 33-7 at the half, Coahoma got the score within seven points at 33-26 with two minutes left in the fourth quarter. McCamey eventually scored to give them a 40-26 win, and Dietz was disappointed in his team, saying even though the comeback

attempt was admirable, he thought they played worse than they did in their 42-19 loss to For- san.

"We've got to just get off to a better start and come out ready to play at the beginning of the game and we'll be fine. We just didn't start the game very well the other night. It snowballed on us before we could get it under control. So we need to keep the game manageable and not do things that are going to allow our op-



Courtesy photo/Karen Moore

ponents to have extra opportunities. If we get lined up and play hard, we should be fine," Dietz said.

Against Reagan County this weekend, they'll have to stop the ground game.

"They're a Wing-T-

based football team. They want to run the ball. They have a couple of really good offensive linemen that they try to run behind and a couple of good blocking backs that can run hard," Dietz said.

If Coahoma can execute, they should have plenty of opportunities for their Air Raid-based offense to thrive as Reagan County likes to have five players on the defensive line.

"They're kind of a get-after-you style on de-

fense. They run what I call an old 50 front with a nose guard, five down linemen, and those ends are not really playing a spread football type of defense. They're coming after you and getting a bunch of guys around the ball. So we're going to try and take advantage of the space that they give you out there," Dietz said.

He also said he liked what he saw from his offense last week against

See **DOGS**, Page 2B



HERALD Photo/Drew Williams

Big Spring wide receiver CJ Harris returns a kick during the Steers' 60-20 loss to Sweetwater Friday. Big Spring head coach Clint Finley praised the special teams unit for their performance in the game.

Determined Steers look for first win

Eliminating mistakes is number one priority for Big Spring coaching staff against Monahans

By DREW WILLIAMS
Sports Editor

After the Steers' 60-20 loss to Sweetwater Friday, Big Spring head coach Clint Finley said Tuesday that the key will just be getting better every day.

"They're not happy about what happened, but we're trying the best we can and we're working every single day to try and get better on the small things, the things that make a good team. We're trying to be a team that's going to get better week by week, day by day, that's going to be where you want them when it's all said and done," Finley said.

"We definitely have a ways to go yet, so we're going to have to continue to get better and

work."

Though the team didn't perform well on the offensive and defensive sides of the ball, Finley was happy with the showing from his special teams unit. Adding to their game-long impressive play, the Steers' special teams blocked an extra point attempt in the fourth quarter and returned it for two points. After a conference between the officials, they determined that the ball was only tipped and not blocked, disallowing a return, but it did show off the athleticism Finley sees in his special teams group.

"I think special teams are coming along. Our extra points are getting better, we're covering pretty good on our

kicks, both our punt and kickoff teams. That pays dividends for you later on in the year, especially at this level," Finley said.

Friday the Steers take on Monahans, a much different style of offense than last week's matchup with the Sweetwater Mustangs. Monahans will be featuring primarily the running game in their Wing-T offense, compared to Sweetwater's spread offense that was able to post 60 points against the Steers.

"We're going to have tackle, and that's one of the things that we really struggled with last Friday night. Of course, when you're trying to tackle athletes like they (Sweetwater) had, it makes it a whole lot

more difficult. But this group (Monahans) has some good athletes, too. They're going to play smash-mouth football, they're going to come right at you. There's no secret to how they play. They play the Wing-T, and they've got two running backs that run really tough. I think we match up a little better, but we'll see," Finley said.

He added that the Steers will know what to expect, they're just going to have to execute.

"We know what they're going to do, everybody in the state knows what they're going to do. They're going to try and run it down your throat. They've been doing it for years and years and years, it's no secret. We know

what we have to stop, it's just a matter of going out and getting the job done," he said.

On the offensive side, the Steers first and foremost will be looking to cut back on turnovers. Big Spring has committed nine turnovers compared to three take-aways. The Steers have also not had a chance to show off their big play ability though the air, something they worked on in both preseason scrimmages against Pecos and Lubbock Estacado. Finley acknowledged that it's something they want to do, but that it also comes with the risk of more turnovers.

"Those deep balls are not near a high percentage, and they're hard to hit. It's something that

we want to be able to do. We want to be able to take the big shot and get man coverage out there and take advantage of it, but we've got to find something that we can do well and kind of hang our hat on. We're searching for our identity right now to see who we are and to see what we're going to be good at. We're making adjustments every day to get it put in place. We made some adjustments in the way we're practicing, and trying to build depth in certain areas. We're trying to get our best 11 on the field so we can find some success," he said.

The Steers will kick off against the Monahans Lobos at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Memorial Stadium.



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Cantu's starting role not in jeopardy, says Finley

By DREW WILLIAMS

Sports Editor

Growing pains are expected of a first-year starting quarterback at the varsity level, but when junior quarterback Dylan Cantu, who is 12-of-24 with a touchdown and five interceptions through two games, was replaced by sophomore quarterback Jack Everett in the fourth quarter of Friday's 60-20 loss to Sweetwater, some eyebrows in the stands were raised.

Big Spring head coach Clint Finley was quick to denounce any speculation of a quarterback change, or any consideration of it from the coaching staff.

"There's a lot on his plate," Fin-



Cantu

ley said of Cantu. "He's just trying to work his way through this tough spot right now, and he's no different than anybody else, really. It's not just him, he doesn't deserve any more of the blame than anybody else. They've got to protect him so he can throw and block for him so he can run. We need to improve in a lot of areas."

Finley said Everett entering the game on Friday was just a matter of trying to mix things up.

"I was just trying to get Jack some reps in there, looking for a spark. See if we can get a spark out of him, anything we can do to get something positive going," he said. "There's not a change or anything like that, we were just looking for a little something different. Jack's a good athlete. He's got a little speed about him and some quickness, so we'll be trying to utilize him however we can."



Tony Claxton photo (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Big Spring quarterback Jack Everett runs for a first down as his shoe slips off in Friday's game against Sweetwater.

Q&A with Monahans Lobos head coach Mickey Owens

Q: How does your practice schedule change when the first day of the week is a holiday?

A: It was just another Monday, just didn't go to school. We had a little more time to get ready for the next opponent, and I thought we had a good workout.

Q: What kind of offense will fans see from Monahans?

A: We're a Wing-T. Some spread, but we pretty much operate out of the Wing-T.

Q: What defensive schemes do the Lobos run?

A: Ours is a 4-2-5, very similar to what Big Spring does. And we move them around quite a bit.

Q: How hard is it to practice for spread offenses when

your offense is based out of the Wing-T?

A: We see spread every week, so our kids are used to being a scout team and preparing for that. Now what they (Big Spring) do is a little different. They run the ball really well out of it, so you've got to prepare for that also. Their running back is really good, so it's hard to get a good picture of a kid that

big, but we try to do as good as we can during the week.

Q: How do you remind your players that even though Big Spring comes in at 0-2 and on the wrong side of two lopsided losses, anything can happen on Friday nights?

A: At the varsity level, you better be mature enough to know that. Plus, the last two years Big Spring has come

in 1-1, and I think one year 0-2, and they've beaten us the past two years. So you can kind of throw the records out, those guys always play us really well.

Q: How familiar are you with first-year Big Spring head coach Clint Finley?

A: I've met coach Finley a couple times, but I've never played against him.

'Quiet leader' Pearson produces in fast-paced Coahoma offense

By DREW WILLIAMS

Sports Editor

This week's Star Athlete of the Week, Braden Pearson, has earned himself a crucial role in the Bulldogs' offense.

"Braden's a great athlete. He's a kid that we're counting on a bunch, and he's kind of a quiet leader. He doesn't talk much, he's a real quiet kid. Unless you go out of your way to try and talk to him, you don't really realize he's there sometimes. But he's a really good football player and we're counting on him on both sides of the ball," Coahoma head coach Fred Dietz said. "It was a big night from him (Friday). He's a guy that's

going to have the ball in his hands a lot for us, and hopefully those nights continue."

Despite possibly the best performance in all of Howard County Friday night, 31 carries per game might be a lot to handle for a running back of Pearson's size. Dietz said he could probably handle it, but that 30-plus carries per game isn't necessarily ideal.

"If we needed him to, I think he could. We're not going to lean on him that heavily all year long. We are going to make it a point to roll some other running backs in and get him some rest and get him some breaks. Right now we've been giving him his

breaks on defense. He hasn't been out there every single snap on defense. He's playing part-time on defense, if not a little less than that even, just because he means so much to us offensively," Dietz said. "We will ease up on Braden a bit, but he's still going to be the guy we want to have the ball in his hands more often than not."

Luckily for the Bulldogs, they do have other running backs with experience.

"We do have some other capable running backs. Joe Isaack Escobedo, who never comes off the field on defense, is a guy that we can put in there and he'll do a good job,"

Star Athlete of the Week

Braden Pearson Coahoma Bulldogs

Despite a 40-26 loss to McCamey Friday, Coahoma's Braden Pearson had quite a game.

He finished with 164 rushing yards on 31 carries, finding the end zone twice in the process. He also added two receptions for five yards.

On defense, he tallied two tackles, a sack, and an interception.



Dietz said. "We've got another one in Justin Cuellar, who's been battling a bit of a knee injury. Before the season started, I didn't know if Braden or Justin was going to be the starter. To me, they

were pretty equal and both really good running backs. But Justin has been dealing with a bit of a knee injury, and he's one of our starting secondary guys that we have to have back there."

DOGS

Continued from Page 1B

McCamey, but that they need to start converting successful drives into success on the scoreboard.

"We had over 500 yards of offense last

week. To me, that's a good night offensively. We've got to finish a few more drives and have drives turn into points in the future, but we're doing some good things offensively," he said.

Dietz has also been impressed with junior quarterback Mason Moore, and his offensive line's ability to protect him. Moore, starting his

first two games since eighth grade in the first two weeks of the season, showed major improvements on that stat sheet. In Coahoma's first game against Forsan, he was 11-of-25 with three touchdowns and three interceptions. Against McCamey, he was 23-of-44 for 255 yards, a touchdown, and no interceptions.

"I really think they've (offensive line) done good. The one or two times he's (Moore) gotten hit, it's been one time on a screen play where we're kind of intentionally letting guys through there, and then he's gotten hit as a runner by keeping the ball on read plays. Other than that, he's really stayed up on his feet

and hasn't dealt with a lot of pressure, which is a great thing. I kind of expect Reagan County to pin their ears back a little and come after us this week, that's kind of their M.O. They have some good, quick pass rushers, so I expect them to come after us, and hopefully our O-line plays as good as they have been. And I

think we will," Dietz said. "Mason is a good athlete in his own right. He kind of avoids some pressure on his own and extends some plays, being pretty elusive back there. But the offensive line has really protected well."

Coahoma and Reagan County will kick off at 7:30 p.m. in Big Lake.

Q&A with Reagan County head coach Ken Campbell

Q: When did preparation start for Coahoma?

A: We started looking at it (film) early, early Saturday.

Q: What do you expect to see from the Coahoma offense?

A: They definitely are in the spread. More and more teams that we play are in the spread, so it's something that we're used to seeing. Our two previous opponents were in the spread, so now it seems like we're the ones doing something different because most teams are running the spread. It's pretty popular right now.

Q: How does your scout team handle preparing for the spread?

A: Our scout guys are used to doing it because they do it just about every week.

Q: What kind of offense will Coahoma fans see from Reagan County Friday?

A: We're Wing-T.

Q: What kind of defense will you guys base out of?

A: We base out of a 50 and 5-2. Then we'll throw in some 3-4 stuff.

Q: Does your team have a lot of experience against the 3-3 stack formation that Coahoma runs?

A: We've played Coahoma the past few years, and they were

definitely in a 3-3 stack last year. We haven't really faced anyone this year who has run the 3-3 stack.

Q: How is this year going for Reagan County?

A: We're 2-0 right now. We handled McCamey 55-13, and then we beat Mertzon, or Irion County, 57-7. So we've gotten off to a pretty good start. We've got a pretty good group of seniors that have been here for a while, so things are going pretty well right now.

Q: With such a big win against McCamey, and knowing that Coahoma lost to McCamey last weekend, how do you keep your athletes in the mindset that this

game is still going to be a tough one?

A: That's what we're trying to get across to them. One of the things that helps with their mindset is that Coahoma beat us last year, so I'm hoping we have in our mind that we've got to show up and play. We can't go by records or scores. We got to see Coahoma against Forsan, and I thought they looked pretty decent against them even though Forsan beat them. So I know that they're capable of being pretty good. We've just got to make sure we show up ready to play against a team that's kind of stinging from being 0-2, and they're going to be wanting to come out swinging.



Steve Riley, M.D.

Brad Dyrstad, M.D.

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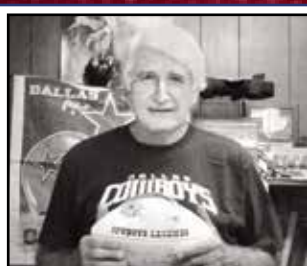
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Pigskin Picks Football Contest

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Enter To Win \$50 At These Participating Merchants

Rules: Find this week's games between the merchants' ads on this page. Choose the teams you think will win. Clip and fill in the official entry blank on this page with your team choices. The entry with the most correct picks will win \$50 and a Pizza Inn Gift Certificate. You must be 18 to enter. *No Photo Copies Accepted.* In the event of a tie, the tie breaker will determine the winner. For the tie breaker, the entry with the correct team will win. If both entries have guessed the same team, the second tie breaker will be the one closest to the total points. Decisions of the judges are final. Employees and family of *The Big Spring Herald* are ineligible. All entries must be received at one of the participating merchants by 1 p.m. Friday of the week played. Do not drop your entry form at the Big Spring Herald. Winners will be announced in the next *Pigskin Contest Page*.

Pigskin Picks Entry Form

Team

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____ 9. _____ 10. _____ 	Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone Number: _____ Tie Breaker - Circle the winner and note total points scored MIAMI vs. SEATTLE Score: _____ + _____ = _____
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