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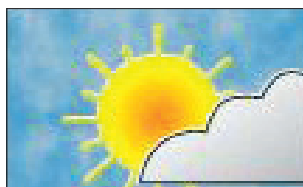


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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

From left, Fire Marshal Carl Condray, Big Spring Fire Department Chief Brian Jensen and Bob “Tumbleweed Smith” Lewis talk during a Tuesday reception marking the start of an exhibit at Heritage Museum honoring 100 years of firefighting in Big Spring.

Fire Department exhibit opens at Heritage Museum

By **BILL McCLELLAN**
News Editor

Did you know Big Spring was the first city in Texas to have a motorized fire truck?

Did you know that no Big Spring firefighter has been killed in the line of duty?

Were you aware that firefighters from the surrounding area come to Big Spring for training?

Citizens can learn more about the history of the Big Spring Fire Department and its current operations during a special exhibit which



Schrecengost

opened Tuesday at the Heritage Museum.

“We have a lot of very interesting pieces of equipment on display and some incredible photographs, both from our collection and some the fire department has provided for us,” said Tammy Schrecengost, curator.

“The fire department has loaned us a lot of firefighting equipment they have used

through the years, including a hose cart that has been restored and the fire pole that was at the old Central Headquarters built in 1910,” Schrecengost added.

After three fires destroyed much of the downtown area in 1907 and 1908, citizens groups petitioned the city council to establish fire zones and purchase better firefighting equipment. In September 1909, a Thomas Flyer arrived by rail in Big Spring — the

See **EXHIBIT**, Page 6

Pool gains outpouring of support

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Tuesday night’s meeting of the Big Spring City Council saw a strong showing of support from area residents in favor of building a new, more up-to-date municipal swimming pool, a plan the council has been wrestling with for months.

“We have four options before us,” said Mayor Russ McEwen. “First, we can get out of the swimming pool business and just say we’re not going to provide a swimming pool to our kids. Second, we can renovate what we have... and the preliminary numbers I’ve seen on that situation is about \$1.5 million. The third option would be to build another rectangular pool, to build basically what we have right now. Finally, we can build what we’ve talk-

“I think we’re going in the right direction with our city, and we need the water park. We need to keep people coming to our city. We need to keep it fresh.”

—Gene Piercefield

ed about, which is a water park.

“We’re going to be considering the tax rate tonight, and unless our decision is to get out of the pool business, then we’re going to need money for preliminary engineering on any one of the other options. And we need this tax rate to

See **POOL**, Page 6

Girl Scout awareness event set Saturday at Big Spring State Park

Fabulous Fall Fun Day is set from 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday at Big Spring State Park for girls in grades 2 to 5 to learn about Girl Scouts.

There will be opportunities to learn about environmental awareness, healthy living and more. Hay rides will be available as the park is hosting its annual Harvest Saturday event during the same time.

Parents are asked to call Kristen Brown at (432) 570-9188, ext. 513 or e-mail Kbrown@gsdsw.org to register.

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



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Council OKs budget and tax rate

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Members of the Big Spring City Council unanimously indicated they are in favor of staying in the “swimming pool business” Tuesday night, but how to go about it remains up in the air.

The council gave final approval to its 2009-2010 budget on a 6-1 vote — with Councilwoman Stephanie Horton the lone dissenter — during the meeting. Horton indicated



Horton



Ramirez

she voted against the budget because of “water waste.”

The council also gave final approval to its ad valorem tax rate for the coming year — \$1.0132 per \$100 valuation, the

same rate as last year — during the meeting on a similar 6-1 vote, with Councilman Manuel Ramirez Jr. voting against the measure.

However, after the vote was recorded there seemed to be some confusion about whether

See **BUDGET**, Page 3

Medians about to go in along Main Street

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Main Street will be getting new medians but lose a traffic light, according to officials with Price Construction, the local contractor charged with city street reconstruction efforts in the downtown area.

According to Jake Whitehead, spokesman for Price Construction, the engineering firm in charge of the downtown street reconstruction has given the go ahead to begin work on medians city officials hope will bring a touch of beauty to the down-

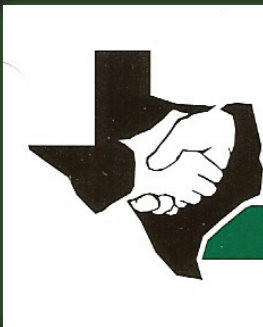
town area.

“We finally have new direction from Parkhill, Smith and Cooper, engineering firm for this project, on the design and placement of the center median that is going to run down Main Street from Fourth Street to the mid-

block of Ninth Street,” said Whitehead. “We’ve had our surveyor out there adjusting alignment and marking its final resting place.

“The overall median width will be 8 feet wide, leaving

See **MEDIANS**, Page 3



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Obituaries

Joyce Marie Cook Grigg

Joyce Marie Cook Grigg, 77, a resident of Big Spring for 50 years went to be with her Lord and Savior Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009, at the home of her daughter and son-in-law whom she had lived with since July of 2006. Visitation will be at Myers & Smith Funeral Home Sept. 23, 2009, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Graveside services will be held Thursday, Sept. 24, 2009, at 1 p.m. at Trinity Memorial Park with her grandson-in-law, Gregory Lee, officiating.

Mrs. Grigg was born May 16, 1932, in Ackerly and married Billy Fred Grigg June 6, 1951. She was preceded in death by her one and only love of 43 years, Billy Fred Grigg; her parents, J.T. and Irene Graham Cook; brother, James V. Cook; sister, Margie Cook Weaver; and her father-in-law and mother-in-law, C.C. and Rosamond Cottrell Grigg.

Mom graduated from Ackerly High School in 1950 where she was a cheerleader, member of the glee club, was voted most likely to succeed and was on the basketball team. She worked for Tidwell & Pollard Chevrolet in the late 50s and early 60s. She later went to work for Bettie-Womack Pipeline Construction from March 10, 1964, until Aug. 8, 1988. She always said she had the most wonderful bosses and friends in Clayton Bettie and Red Womack.

She and her husband, Bill, were loyal members of the Big Spring Bass Club, where she served as secretary and treasurer and often caught more and bigger bass than her husband. She enjoyed RVing, fishing, working cross word puzzles, eating and visiting with her friends from Herman's Restaurant, visiting with her neighbors, her yard and her family. She and Bill spent many a weekend at Colorado City Lake with their dear friends Red and Edna Womack, where they loved fishing and playing gin till the wee hours of the morning.

After they began bass fishing, they often met Debra and her family at Lake Procter where they enjoyed weekends and holidays together. She was a member of College Baptist Church.

She became ill in July of 2006 and had to leave her home of 33 years and went to live with her daughter, Debra Joyce Grigg Holley, and son-in-law, Gary Randell Holley, in Forney. There she was able to get to know and enjoy her great grandchildren. She loved it when all her "family" got together, and they got together often enjoying cookouts, holidays and just spending time together playing and laughing. She occasionally attended Fellowship Baptist Church in Forney with her kids.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, granddaughter and husband, Stacy Renee and Greg Lee of Garland; grandson and wife, Billy Dan and Beth Prock Holley of Nevada, Texas; one great-granddaughter, Meagan Faith Lee of Garland; three great-grandsons, Brandon Gregory Lee and Parker Stephen Lee, both of Garland, and Cody Alan Holley of Nevada, Texas; one sister, Jane Cook Hawk of Clyde; one brother, J.T. (Joe) Cook Jr. and wife, Sue Davis Cook, of Granbury; a very special brother-in-law, Ray Weaver of Clyde; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersand-smith.com

Paid obituary

Gavin Wright

GRAPEVINE — Gavin Wright, our beloved cowboy, rode off to Heaven Monday, Sept. 21, 2009.

A gathering of close family and friends will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25, 2009, at J.E. Foust Funeral Home, located at 523 S. Main St. in Grapevine.

Gavin was a loving husband, father, brother and grandfather. He loved his grandkids and was an avid hunter.

Survivors include his wife, Betty Wright; children, Kevin Wright, Kim Wright Nichols, Kristi Wright Newville, Jennifer Woods, Tray McPherson, Blair Rosenbaum and Joshua Rosenbaum; sisters, Linda Wright and Judy Reed; grandchildren, Keeley Wright, Kyra Wright, Timothy Nichols, Lexie Nichols, Nolan Newville, Haleigh Newville, Brooke Nash, Meagan Nash and Tina Woods.

Arrangements under the direction of J.E. Foust & Son Funeral Directors, Grapevine, 817-481-2525.

Paid obituary

Take Note

• The Ackerly Lunch Bunch will be meeting Saturday at 10 a.m. at the 14th & Main Church of Christ fellowship room, 1401 Main St. in Big Spring. A catered barbecue lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. Everyone is invited. Please RSVP to Betty Pitts at (432) 267-1449.

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201022

Reba 'Pat' Furlong

Reba "Pat" Furlong of La Vernia passed away Sept. 21, 2009, at the age of 77. Her parents, George and Myrtle Miller, and son, Ricky Furlong, preceded her in death.

Pat is survived by her son, Kenneth Furlong and wife, Mariann, of Hewett; daughters, Patsy Ritchey and husband Bim of La Vernia, and Lisa Zilly and husband, Jim, of San Antonio; a son-in-law, Jim Coates of San Antonio; a daughter-in-law, Jamie Furlong Schovajsa of Grape Creek; grandchildren, Clay Furlong and wife Lucy of Kent, Logan Furlong of Aspermant, Shane Furlong and wife Nena of Albany, Ore., Michael Furlong and wife Linsey of Comanche, Jaylynn Schumpert of Hewitt, Sharie Ritchey of La Vernia, Cassie Coates and Ralston Coates, both of San Antonio, Robert George Furlong of Grape Creek, Bubba and Trista Furlong of Hewitt; great-grandchildren, Summer and Dylan Furlong, Mary Fru and Eleonor Furlong; extended family, Benny and Jayne Mansfield of Big Spring, Mysti and Jason Mims and Huntley, also of Big Spring. The family will have a private service to be held at a later date.

Memorial donations may be made to the hospice of the donor's choice. You are invited to sign the online guest book at www.finchfuneralchapels.com.

Paid obituary

Katie Martin Evens

Mingus — Katie Martin Evans of Mingus died Sept. 21, 2009, at her home. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Sept. 24, 2009, at Mingus Baptist Church where she was a member, officiated by the Rev. David Milmo and Sean Ferry. Burial will be at New Gordon Cemetery, directed by Edwards Funeral Home in Strawn.

She was born May 18, 1941, in Flagler, Colo., to Richard and Martha Forbes. She was preceded in death by her parents; sister Janey; and husband, Lee Martin.

Survivors are husband, Jimmy Evans of Mingus; a daughter and son-in-law, Angie and Thad Sneed of Midland; son and daughter-in-law Ray and Rhonda Martin of Amarillo, and son, Andy Martin of Strawn; brother, Richard Forbes, and sister, Dixie Rooney; a son-in-law, Greg Williams of Big Spring; nine grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

James Nelson

James Nelson, 86, of Terlingua died Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009, in a local hospital. Memorial services will be held at a later time.

He was born Nov. 22, 1922, in Marshall County, Okla., and married Hattie Marie Piearcy in July of 1965. She preceded him in death Dec. 5, 2006.

James was a member of the American Legion Post #653 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He served in the United States Army during World War II in a glider combat attack unit. James worked as an RV mechanic for many years. He moved to Terlingua in 1974 from Odessa.

Survivors include three daughters, Neta Naomi Gillihan and Donna Carnathan, both of Mena, Ark., and Linda Sue Padgett of Odessa; three sons, Billy Nelson of Alpine, and William Redfern and Anthony Redfern, both of Odessa; two brothers, Wade Nelson of Riverside, Calif., and David Nelson of Moore, Okla.

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

Gertrude Smith Nettles

Gertrude Smith Nettles, 77, of Big Spring died Monday, Sept. 21, 2009, in Sweetwater. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Robert Wanner

Robert Wanner, 62, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009, in a local hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Vernon Wolf

Vernon Wolf, 79, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Support Groups

TODAY

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

THURSDAY

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



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Police

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

- LEROY TREVINO, 23, of 1312 Wood, was arrested Tuesday on a local warrant.
- LEVI PATRICK CARTER, 31, of 2911 W. Highway 80 Apt. 248, was arrested Tuesday on a local warrant.
- JULIE LAWSON, 26, of 2911 W. Highway 80 Apt. 248, was arrested Tuesday on seven local warrants.
- ESTEBAN MARTINEZ, 66, of 503 N.W. Eighth St., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance – more than 4 grams, less than 200 grams.
- ANDREA HILARIO, 22, of 510 N.W. Seventh St., was arrested Tuesday on three local warrants.
- UNATTENDED DEATH was reported in the 1000 block of Main Street.
- THEFT was reported: in the 1900 block of Johnson.
- in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS OF A HABITATION/SHELTER CENTER was reported in the 300 block of Tulane.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1900 block of Highway 87.

Sheriff

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 78 inmates at the time of this report.
- STEPHEN AROCHA, 19, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of failure to maintain financial responsibility and failure to appear.
- LEVI PATRICK CARTER, 30, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a contempt charge for a local warrant.
- ANDREA LEEANN HILARIO, 22, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of failure to maintain financial responsibility, unrestrained child under 5 years of age and driving while license invalid.
- JULIE LACHELLE LAWSON, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on contempt charges for weedy lot, failure to appear (three counts), accumulated items, rodent control and driving while license invalid.
- ESTEBAN M. MARTINEZ, 66, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance – more than 4 grams, less than 200 grams.
- LEROY TREVINO, 23, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance – more than 1 gram, less than 4 grams.
- TIMOTHY WILSON, 48, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 2500 block of Collins. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of N. Main Street in Coahoma. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3800 block of Rice Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3600 block of W. Highway 80. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of Todd Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the area of S. Highway 87. Service refused.

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MEDIANS

Continued from Page 1

31 feet for the angled parking and driving lanes on both sides. There will be access across the median for entering and exiting the post office, as well as the bank facilities on both ends.”

Whitehead said the placement of the medians has held up a large part of the construction on Main Street.

“The end result will

have trees and landscaping along this boulevard in the center of the median,” said Whitehead. “Overall, this median placement has delayed the remaining roadwork from 11th Street to Fourth Street on Main. Now with this new direction, our intent is to focus on its placement with the completion of the final paving surface to follow.”

While new medians will be an addition to the Main Street landscape, Whitehead said

the street will be losing a traffic light.

“The traffic light at Third and Main will be discontinued and removed permanently this week. This will allow non-stop traffic to continue westbound on Third Street,” said Whitehead. “Stop signs will be placed on both sides of Main. Drivers will need to use caution when approaching this intersection from the north and south.

“The traffic light at Fourth and Main will

remain in place until sometime in November, and then will be removed as well. Essentially, in the future — a few years — the only lights to remain on Third and Fourth will be at Owens, Goliad, Runnels and Gregg Street in the downtown area.”

The changes are a result of a study conducted by the Texas Department of Transportation, according to Whitehead, and should improve traffic through the downtown area.

“This is a result of TxDOT traffic studies done and a future project by TxDOT to maximize auto travel capacity on the business routes through town,” he said. “There is still some minor cleanup and a few grade issues for the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) ramp locations at Seventh Street and Main, and 10th and Main. However, we have received direction from PSC on that and will get that taken care of as well.

“We started working last week on the ADA requirements on Lancaster from 20th Street to 17th Street and should finish up that proposal of the Street Bond Project sometime this week. After that, we’ll work on the proposal for getting City Hall more ADA accessible as described in the City Street Bond.”

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

BUDGET

Continued from Page 1

er Ramirez had intended to vote against the tax rate. Horton stopped the proceedings, saying she believed Ramirez had misunderstood what the council was voting on.

“Can we have another vote on (agenda issue) 9? Because Manny (Ramirez) misunderstood that,” Horton told Mayor Russ McEwen.

“If you want a recorded vote in favor of the tax rate, I don’t mind doing that at all,” said McEwen. “If you’re opposed to it, what would you rather do?”

Ramirez said the confusion on the matter had to do with plans to renovate or build a new swimming pool.

“I want the pool to be built, just like everybody else. I just don’t want to raise taxes,” said Ramirez, drawing a bevy of laughs from both

the audience and fellow members of the council. Ramirez then decided to leave his vote in opposition of the tax rate.

The finalized tax rate — which is 6.246 cents above the effective tax rate, 3.3 cents above the rollback rate and the same rate used during the previous tax season — was agreed on by the council in August on a 6-1 vote, with Horton opposing then as well. According to City Finance Director Peggy Walker, the proposed rate will generate approximately \$300,000 more than the effective tax rate, money the council plans to use to begin design efforts on a new municipal swimming pool, a project that has drawn criticism from some residents.

The council also approved final reading of an increase in water and sewage rates for municipal customers on a 5-2 vote, with both Horton and Ramirez opposing

the measure.

With a cost hike of approximately 6 percent being passed along to the city by its water supplier — the Colorado River Municipal Water District — City Manager Gary Fuqua told the council earlier this month it would take an increase of \$1.75 on the base rate of all city water customers will pay for the \$175,000 shortfall.

“To get that \$175,000 back, we would have to pass it along to our customers. That would be an increase of \$1.75 per month on the base rate of the water utility system, which would bring us \$178,500, which allows us to break even,” said Fuqua. “This rate could fluctuate some, depending on the sale of water. If we have a dry year and buy more water, then it’s going to cost us more.”

The council also gave a nod to increases in sewer rates, with reve-

nues from the increases set to be used to replenish a city utility fund that has been declining for several years.

If approved in the coming months, residential customers can expect to see an increase of \$1.25 in the base rate for sewer service, bringing the total rate to \$13. The increase in the base rate would equal \$125,000. The plan also calls for a 20-cent increase in consumption, bringing that rate to \$1.50, generating \$95,000.

Commercial customers will also see an increase in their sewer rates, with \$3.25 added to their base rate, bringing it to \$20. The increase is expected to generate \$30,000 in revenues. Commercial customers will also see a 30-cent increase, bringing the consumption charge to \$2, with an estimated increase in revenue of \$100,000.

While Tuesday night’s lengthy meeting should

put a wrap on the city’s fiscal plans for the coming year, one local group has already indicated it plans to try to block the tax rate by calling for a rollback election.

Shannon Thomason, chairman of the Concerned Citizens Council, indicated last month the local organization will start a rollback petition if the council moved ahead with the \$1.0132 tax rate, citing plans for a multi-million dollar pool as its reason.

According to the Texas Comptroller’s Office, the group would have to collect petition signatures from no less than 10 percent of the registered voters in the city, and submit that petition within 90 days of the adoption of the tax rate. Once the petition is turned in, city officials would have 20 days to determine if it is valid and contains enough valid signatures to force the issue before the voters.

Neither Thomason or any other member of the Concerned Citizens Council spoke on behalf of the organization Tuesday night or indicated if the group still intends to pursue a rollback petition.

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Joyce M. Grigg, 77, died Tuesday. Graveside services will be at 1:00 PM Thursday at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Gertrude Smith Nettles, 77, of Big Spring died Monday, September 21, 2009, in Sweetwater. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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2009 Mercury Grand Marquis-Ultimate - Silver With Light Gray Leather, 16,438 Miles.
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2009 Ford Flex SLE - Black With Tan Leather, Third Row Seating, Rear Air, Only 22,000 Miles On This Beautiful Crossover SUV.
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2009 Ford Fusion SEL - Beautiful Red, V6, Fully Equipped, Only 28,000 Miles, Special Program Buy.

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2004 F250 Crew Cab XLT Powerstroke Diesel - Blue/Silver, Local One Owner, 92,000 Miles
2004 Ford Ranger S/C XLT - White w/Cloth, Local One Owner, w/62,000 Miles.
2003 Ford F250 Crew Cab XL - White, 5.4 V-8.
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2006 Saturn ION3 - Silver w/Gray Leather, One Owner, Great Gas Saver, Make Great First Car, Low Miles.
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2006 Nissan Sentra 1.8S - Special Edition, Silver With Aluminum Wheels, Local Trade In, 73,000 Miles, Economy And Price.
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2004 Nissan Maxima - Solid Black With Gray Leather, Nissan's 4 Door Sports Car,
2004 Ford Freestar SE - 7 Passenger Seating, A/C, 7 Passenger Seating, 77K Miles, Silver With Light Gray Cloth, Excellent Value.
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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.

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OTHER VIEWS

Which facts need to be taught?

What, exactly, does a young Texan learn about the world and its history? The State Board of Education has until spring 2010 to answer that question. They'll need every minute.

Early rounds of the debate have been highly political, heavy on ridiculous points of contention. Should sixth-graders know what Christmas is? Should Thurgood Marshall and Cesar Chavez be removed from our history books, and Rush Limbaugh and Newt Gingrich inserted? Should we stop telling fourth-graders that the United States has a “democratic” form of government and instead describe it as “republican”?

So far, it's been conservatives who've called to make the curriculum more specific, with more points that teachers, textbooks and standardized tests would be required to cover. That specificity often goes over the top.

One reviewer, for instance, suggested that classes should study not just the major Founding Fathers, but 250 others, such as John Witherspoon and Gouverneur Morris.

At that level of detail, summer would come before U.S. history classes reached the War of 1812.

But that doesn't mean that a detailed curriculum is bad — or in the interest only of conservatives.

In his new book, “The Making of Americans: Democracy and Our Schools,” E.D. Hirsch Jr., argues powerfully that our schools overemphasize “learning strategies” at the expense of actual content.

“Reading comprehension,” for instance, isn't just a matter of knowing words and parts of speech, but of understanding the concepts that lurk beneath every sentence.

Most Americans, for instance, can't make sense of stories covering rugby. What's a wicket? What does it mean to be “leg-before” or “shown the dreaded finger of an inside edge”?

To function as citizens, Hirsch argues, our kids need a shared body of background knowledge. That knowledge is especially powerful for immigrant kids, or kids whose parents aren't well-educated — kids less likely to have picked up that information at home.

The devil, of course, is in the details: Which facts need to be taught? What things do we, as Texans and Americans, all agree are true and important?

Those are hard questions to answer. But we need to be specific.

THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE

LETTER POLICIES

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we take a leap of faith toward You, Lord. Amen

Don't hold the bacon

After almost 10 years with my daughter, I have to admit there's little she can tell me that's surprising. In fact, during the past two years she's made it a daily practice to ask me silly questions, like “Daddy, can I have a pet tiger?” or even “Daddy, can we move to Alaska?”

However, as children often do, she managed to surprise me with a question regarding something a relative recently told her while on a visit to her mother's home. According to my little munchkin, she was told you could get the swine flu (H1N1 influenza) by eating undercooked or infected bacon.

Now, if you can picture me with my jaw on the floor, you'd have a pretty good idea what my reaction was to my daughter's statement, which I might add even she didn't believe. Bacon? Someone would go so far as to attack bacon?

Anyone who knows me will testify to my love affair with swine, albeit “the other white meat.” Why, it's my belief bacon can make any dish better. Peanut butter and jelly sandwich? Add bacon, and it's at least 10 times better. Quesadillas? Why, a quesadilla without bacon should be a felony. Ice cream? OK, so this might be pushing it, but unlike a number of other concoctions involving ice cream, I wouldn't hesitate to try it.

And with racist lobby groups attacking our neighbors to the south by calling swine flu the “Mexican flu,” I suppose I shouldn't be so surprised someone, somewhere would take aim at one of the few perfect foods on this planet and try to ruin its good name by associating it with swine flu.

Unfortunately, this correlation

between H1N1 influenza and bacon — honestly, I get hungrier each time I type the word — isn't the only swine flu myth floating around out there. So, with a little help from the Federal Center for Disease Control (referred to as the CDC around the newsroom) and World Health Organization (WHO), I figured it's as good a time as any to dispel some common swine flu myths:

You can get swine flu from eating pork, bacon or other pig products.

Absolutely false. According to recent WHO reports, swine influenza has not been shown to be transmissible to people through eating properly handled and prepared pork or other products derived from pigs. The swine flu virus is killed by cooking temperatures of 160°F, corresponding to the general guidance for the preparation of pork and other meat.

So back off my bacon, people. **Wearing a face mask can protect you from the swine flu.**

OK, so there's little doubt you'll end up looking like one of the hypochondriac Chinese businessmen hurrying down a Tokyo street, but the truth is the masks actually work. Since swine flu is an airborne virus, it can help decrease your chances of contracting the virus if you wear a face mask.

Currently, the CDC is only recommending that people in contact with a sick person wear the mask. They advise that the mask be N-95 to keep out small, infectious particles. But, it's important to know that the mask isn't a 100-percent guarantee, so you should still do what your mother told you and wash your hands and cover your mouth.

If someone has a pet pig, they should get rid of it.

Not true. Pigs get swine flu from other pigs. So, unless that pet pig has recently traveled to Mexico to visit friends — I suddenly get visions of huge pig par-

ties for spring break — or been around other pigs that may be infected, it should be OK. Still, monitor the pig and call your vet if it develops flu or other abnormal symptoms. And, as I mentioned above, if it does get sick, it's fine to eat the pig as long as you cook it properly.

You can't get swine flu if you weren't near pigs.

Not even close. Even if your only contact with pigs was on the Muppet Show, you can get swine flu if you're around someone who has been in contact with pigs. And, it's an airborne virus, so you can pick it up if an infected person coughs or sneezes. To be clear, human-to-human transmission is generally limited to close contact and closed groups, the WHO says. But, the window is wide: You can catch it from an infected person one day before their symptoms develop and up to seven days — or more — after they become sick.

Avoiding travel will prevent infection.

Nope. While the CDC advises travelers to avoid any unnecessary trips to Mexico until the outbreak is under control, you can still catch it right in your own back yard. If a neighbor, colleague or classmate traveled to Mexico and was infected, you could be infected after having contact with that person.

Both the CDC and WHO advise doing as your mother told you: Wash your hands in hot, soapy water, stop touching your face, and cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you sneeze. Plus, get your rest, eat well and drink plenty of water to stay healthy. When you're run down, that's when you're more susceptible to any flu virus.

So the next time you're cooking up a mess of hamburgers or cheeseburgers, don't hesitate to add bacon. And if you do, and somehow contract the swine flu, don't blame the swine, blame the cook who sneezed on your super-value combo meal.

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Enough is enough

Conservative loudmouths are crowing that they are driving Barack Obama's popularity ratings below 50 percent. They are very proud of themselves. They shouldn't be.

Destroying what is best about our country is not something to brag to your children about. And the other shoe is dropping.

“I've stopped using Claritin,” one of my friends told me. “Zyrtec is just as good, and besides, you can buy generic versions of Claritin.” This is not a column about allergies. I really don't know if Zyrtec is just as good or not. But they don't advertise on Fox News. Claritin is, I am told, No. 1 on this month's boycott list.

Getting rid of Van Jones, the co-founder of one of the groups now organizing the boycotts, is not going to slow the movement. Quite the contrary. It may strengthen the cause. When folks start telling someone who has been a contributor at Fox for 10 years (me) to cut out the Claritin, you know it's spreading.

The same day, I found myself sitting with a group of people who share my strong commitment to the security of the state of Israel. To a one, they support-

ed Hillary or McCain.

To a one, they have “issues” with President Obama: These folks are worried about the economy and the deficit, worried about terrorism around the world and, yes, deeply worried about what they see as ambivalence from this administration to the threats faced by Israel.

But — and this is my point — despite all of that, every one of these people is now an angry Obama supporter. Not just an Obama supporter, but an angry one.

The right may be mad as hell, but I've got news for Congressman Joe Wilson and his know-nothing cronies: You have turned your natural allies, people who might have agreed with you on properly raised criticisms, who might have agreed with you on substance, into your enemies.

Not critics, enemies. Not people who won't vote for you or contribute to your cause or watch your show, but people who would like to see you driven from the television, driven from office, recognized as pariahs in a culture of civility, respect and decency.

New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd was right when she said out loud what so many of us have been thinking.

“Boy.” That's the subtext here. I don't use the term lightly. Just because you disagree with someone who is black doesn't

make you a racist. John McCain is not a racist. Cal Thomas is not a racist. Mike Huckabee is not a racist. These are men I know, whose integrity I respect, even if we disagree.

But Joe Wilson? And others who shall remain nameless here, but you can easily fill in the blank?

Obama has made mistakes. Every president does. But thousands of brave men and women died as a result of George W. Bush's mistakes, and no Democrat ever stood in the back of the Congress and attacked him as a liar during a joint session of Congress.

Respect? Dignity? Integrity? Honor?

These people have none.

It's too bad. At a time when the country might be proud of its commitment to equality, we are torn apart. At a time when the country so needs to pull together to deal with the problems we face, the divisions among us are becoming deeper and uglier.

At a time when those of us who are parents struggle to teach our children to live with honor in a difficult world, powerful men are celebrated for acting like the worst kid on the playground.

May God protect this president, not only for his sake, but for all of ours.

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BULLDOG News: Starting off the new year in style

Special to the Herald

Coahoma Independent School District officials are thrilled to announce that the elementary, junior high and high school campuses have all earned “Recognized” distinction from the Texas Education Agency.

In addition, the district and campuses all “Met AYP” on the No Child Left Behind report. AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) is the federal standard of accountability.

The Coahoma High School class of 2009 graduates outperformed their peers from across the state on all areas of the ACT test. The ACT consists of curriculum-based tests of educational development in English, mathematics, reading and science designed to measure the skills needed for success in first year college coursework.

Coahoma High School students taking dual-credit courses at Howard College received a pleasant surprise when they went to pay their fall semester bill. The district is now paying for one class each semester for every student taking dual-credit classes.

Once again, CISD received a “Superior Rating” on our Financial Integrity Rating Sys-

tem of Texas Report (FIRST). The FIRST report is an indication of the financial status of the district.

“Superior” is the highest rating a district may receive. The rating system is designed to ensure that the district is being held accountable for the quality of its financial management practices.

Coahoma Junior High’s library has received a \$5,000 grant from Dollar General. We are very thankful to Dollar General for their generosity. We look forward to purchasing some much-needed resources.

Coahoma’s Future Farmers of America chapter is already starting its year off with excitement and enthusiasm as 35 students and prospective FFA members attended the Fall Leadership training seminar in Stanton Sept 8. This is the biggest group they have ever taken to the fall meeting.

Brayden Iden (district president) and Brent Wright (district first vice president) were the presenters of a presentation for our district membership entitled “Chapter Toolbox,” in which they gave other FFA members ideas on how to make their own chapters better.

Coahoma FFA also won



Courtesy photo

All three Coahoma Independent School District campuses recently received “Recognized” rankings from the Texas Education Agency. Shown receiving their plaques from Superintendent Randy Brown, second from right, at a recent school board meeting are, from left, High School Principal Jay Kennedy, Elementary Principal Patricia Bennett and Junior High Principal Dean Richters.

the spirit stick again for the chapter with the most participation, more than doubling the closest competition.

A ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate the comple-

tion of the \$16 million construction project will be held Tuesday, Oct. 27 at 6:30 p.m. All of the renovated and newly constructed facilities will be open for the public to tour.

To see the full version of the fall Bulldog Newsletter and to find more information about Coahoma ISD, please visit our Web site at www.coahomaisd.com

Why not check this out? At the library

The Friends of Howard County Library’s Book Sale continues! Come on down and find some real bargains on some great books.

There are lots and lots of children’s books that are only a dime! Best sellers go for \$3 and older best sellers are \$1 or \$2. Paperbacks are 50 cents — you can’t beat that even at Wal-Mart! The Friends will have a booth at the County Fair, too.

While not a new book, “Cold Case” (F WIL K) by Kate Wilhelm is a fast moving lawyer thriller. Twenty-two years ago, controversial author David Etheridge and ambitious State Senator Robert Mc-

Crutchen were investigated in the death of a young coed. But a circle of secrecy guaranteed the case was never solved. When Etheridge returns to Eugene, Ore., Mc-Crutchen is his grudging host — until the senator is found shot dead. Now Etheridge is back where he was two decades ago — suspected of murder. Only this time, with the cold case reopened, he’s facing a double charge. Barbara Holloway must battle the prosecution and the court of public opinion, which has already

tried and convicted Etheridge for both murders. As the pressure mounts, Barbara ties the past and present together, risking her own life to preserve justice.

In a review from Publisher’s Weekly, near the start of bestseller Christopher Reich’s sequel to “Rules of Deception,” Dr. Jonathan Ransom flies from Africa to London for a medical conference. That same day, intermediaries arrange for him to meet his fugitive wife, Emma, once a secret agent with the Pentagon group known as Division, in a cheap hotel. The next day, Jonathan’s world is literally and figuratively torn apart after a large car bomb explodes in Westminster, seriously injuring the Russian interior minister. Jonathan is sure Emma is behind the car bombing, but the police, led by Dep. Chief Insp. Kate Ford, think Jonathan is responsible. Thus begins a convoluted chase — Jonathan hunting his wife, Kate and the cops along with MI5 agent Colonel Graves tracking Jonathan. Everyone, including the reader, remains clueless, except for master spy Emma, as to who is really the guilty party. A blinding twist at the end adds a spectacular fillip to a masterful performance by one of the genre’s elite. Check out “Rules of Vengeance” (REI C) by Christopher Reichs.

Dan Brown’s newest

book is here for check-out: “The Lost Symbol” (M BRO D) has really been advertised as a must read. It begins with an ancient ritual, a shadowy enclave, and, of course, a secret. Readers know they are in Dan Brown territory when, by the end of the first chapter, a secret within a secret is revealed. To tell too much would ruin the fun of reading this delicious thriller, so you will find no spoilers here. Suffice it to say that as with many a series featuring a recurring character, there is a bit of a formula at work (one that fans will love). Again, brilliant Harvard professor Robert Langdon finds himself in a predicament that requires his vast knowledge of symbolism and superior problem-solving skills to save the day. You will need to put your name on the reserve list, but your name should come up quickly; the library has four copies available.

With the army base at Guantamano in the news, it is not surprising someone has written a book about it. Erik Saar and Viveca Novack have written “Inside the Wire” (355.343 SAA E). In an explosive news break that generated headlines all around the world, a document

submitted by Army Sergeant Erik Saar to the Pentagon for clearance was leaked to the Associated Press in January 2005. His account of appalling sexual interrogation tactics used on detainees at Guantanamo Bay was shocking, but that was only one small part of the story of what he saw at Guantanamo — and the leak was only one more strange twist in his profoundly disturbing and life-changing trip behind the scenes of America’s war on terror. This description is from the book flap, I have not read the book.

Other new non-fiction that is in: “Same Kind of Different As Me” (976.453 HAL R) by Ron Hall and Denver Moore; Laura Ingraham’s “Power to the People” (306.097 ING L); and “Please Send Money: Financial Survival Guide for Young Adults on their Own” (332.024 DUG D) by Dara Dug-uay. This is an amazing book — sort of like Dave Ramsey, but you read it. Full of examples of how to live within your means, save for retirement and other needs, it also show what happens when you live ABOVE your means.

Our Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us. Howard County Library hours are 10

a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. The Internet/Video room closes one-half hour before closing. The library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260. If you need to renew or request a book, e-mail Johnny at hcrhref@hotmail.com

Hollis McCright is

director of the Howard County Library.



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POOL

Continued from Page 1

be able to do that. Is it (the tax rate) tied to a swimming pool? I suppose you could say it is.”

The council began holding work sessions near the beginning of the summer to discuss the construction of a new city swimming pool, a move made necessary by the recent closure of the existing pool due to its inability to meet federal regulations. The current cost of a new swimming facility — a water park design which includes a number of improvements over the existing facility and a major increase in capacity — has been presented as \$4.2 million.

“During budget sessions, we talked about a water park. I seemed to feel most people up here (on the council) were in favor of that,” said McEwen, looking toward the council members. “Obviously, people can change their opinions. However, I don’t want anyone to feel like they

are painted into a corner, boxed in or anything else. That’s why I had this item put onto the agenda, so we could discuss the direction we want to take.”

Local resident Deanna Fraser made her opinion heard during the meeting, supporting the idea of a water park in hopes of improving the quality of life for Big Spring’s youth.

“I read in the newspaper where a man said this is a retirement community, and we don’t want anything like that here. Well, me and my husband do,” said Fraser firmly. “And we have a little girl we think would absolutely love it. We think a water park would bring so much revenue to the city, and would attract so many more people coming through Big Spring.

Fraser’s husband, Joe, also spoke in favor of the water park, asking the council to consider the fiscal boon a high-caliber facility could be.

“I’m in favor of the water park, and I believe the water park will create jobs and a new

source of revenue for the city,” said Fraser.

While some area residents have called the water park a bad fit for a city recently certified as a Texas retirement community, local resident Walter Ward said a new swimming facility could be a huge asset for retirees.

“I am in favor of the water park option, primarily because of its tie-in with the certified retirement community,” said Ward. “If you go with the full-blown deal and put in some other swimming lanes ... it gives retirees the opportunity to get their exercise in a low-impact method, which is mostly recommended at 55 to 60 years old. Walking is good exercise, but swimming is better.”

Gene Piercefield likened the need for a new swimming pool facility to a much-needed surgery, saying it’s simply avoiding the inevitable.

“Earlier this year I had to have surgery on my shoulder and both of my hands done. I didn’t want to have it done, but you know what? Some things have to be done,” said Piercefield. “And

that’s where we’re at with our city ... I think we’re going in the right direction and we need the water park. We need to keep people coming to our city. We need to keep it fresh. If we have the state of mind to just let it go like I did my shoulder, and put it off another year, then put it off another year ... we keep putting it off thinking its going to get better, but it’s not going to get any better. I think our priorities need to be in our community and in our kids.”

And while adults argued their case in the matter, none of them had the insight young Kendra Cook offered the council, speaking on behalf of the city’s children and teens in favor of the water park.

“I am for the water park because I am the youth of this city,” said Cook. “We do need this. I’m not very knowledgeable about money, I’m a sophomore (in high school). But there are a lot of kids out on the streets, and I see that every day. It’s right in front of my eyes. I think this water park would take a lot of kids out of

what they are into and bring them into the more positive things they can get into. We need more things for the kids to do. There just aren’t enough things for the kids to do.”

Tommy Duncan, who has spoke out against the water park design since its inception, said it’s not enough to want things, you have to be able to afford them.

“I, too, want these two beautiful young girls to have a place to go and a place to play and have a swimming pool, and those sorts of things,”

said Duncan. “I want my wife and children to have things, and my grandchildren to have things. I want them to have the things we can afford. The county is raising taxes and you’re (the council) raising taxes, you’ve raised the water rates and you’ve raised the sewer rates. You said there were four options, but I think you left one out, and that’s the option of a bond. To have a certain type of bond that doesn’t take the money out of the taxes that continue forever.”

EXHIBIT

Continued from Page 1

first motorized fire truck in Texas, according to research done in 1978.

“We’re doing this to honor the arrival of the first motorized fire truck and also to honor our firemen and all they

have done in our community,” said Schrecengost. “Today, they not only serve as firefighters but as our EMS. Any time there is an accident, a fire, an emergency, they are there.”

Local Fire Marshal Carl Condray said he hopes the public will take time to browse

through the exhibit, which will remain in place for almost two months.

“The museum staff has done an incredible job with this. I just can’t say enough about them. It’s a very interesting exhibit and I believe people will really enjoy it,” he said.

The Fire Department exhibit will be on display through Nov. 13. Heritage Museum is located at 510 Scurry and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday at 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. For more information about the exhibit call 267-8255.

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.

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

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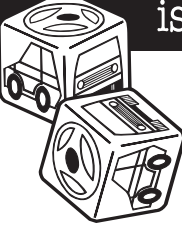
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HC women's rodeo team takes 3rd in Portales

By **CINDY SMITH**

Special to the Herald

PORTALES, N.M. — The Southwest region is as tough as always and competition is strong in every event, but the Howard College rodeo team got off to a good start, competing at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, N.M. over the weekend.

Howard was represented well as the Hawk women nailed down a third place finish.

Leading the ladies team were newcomers Maegan Hillhouse and Rylee Lamson alongside sophomore Jana Jasper.

All three ladies qualified to the short round of competition in the breakaway roping. Hillhouse posted the fastest time of the first round with a 2.5 second run then came back and posted a 4.3 to finish fifth in the short round and average.

Lamson had a 3.2 for ninth in the

first round and duplicated that time in the short round to finish second in the average. Jasper posted a 3.1 for eighth in the first round and had a no time in the short round.

The men's team also showed some spark over the weekend as Jason Schaffer, Broadus, Mont., posted times of 4.9 and 5.1 in steer wrestling to finish third.

Newcomer Coton Kreider placed fourth in the first round of the tie

down roping with a 10.1 and ended the weekend in seventh in the average.

Josh Siggins, a freshman from Ruidoso, N.M., stopped the clock in 7.3 seconds in the first round of the team roping and then had to use three loops in the short round to hold on to fifth in the average. Siggins roped with Seth Hall of Odessa College.

See **RODEO**, Page 8

Lady Steers swept in 3 by Fillies

By **JONATHAN HULL**

Sports Editor

Big Spring's Lady Steers had one final tune up Tuesday before the start of the District 4-4A season and they probably couldn't have asked for any better competition than the Denver City Fillies.

The Fillies (30-5), led by highly-recruited junior Breeann David, swept the Lady Steers in straight sets, 25-19, 25-15, 25-17, dropping the Lady Steers overall record to 9-17 heading into 4-4A play.

"Kills and digs were hard to come by," said Big Spring Head Coach Lynn Osborne. "This was the most athletic group of girls we have seen all season. I feel almost guilty for being excited about a loss. I was so happy to see how we played with them. I am very proud of the effort this team put forth."

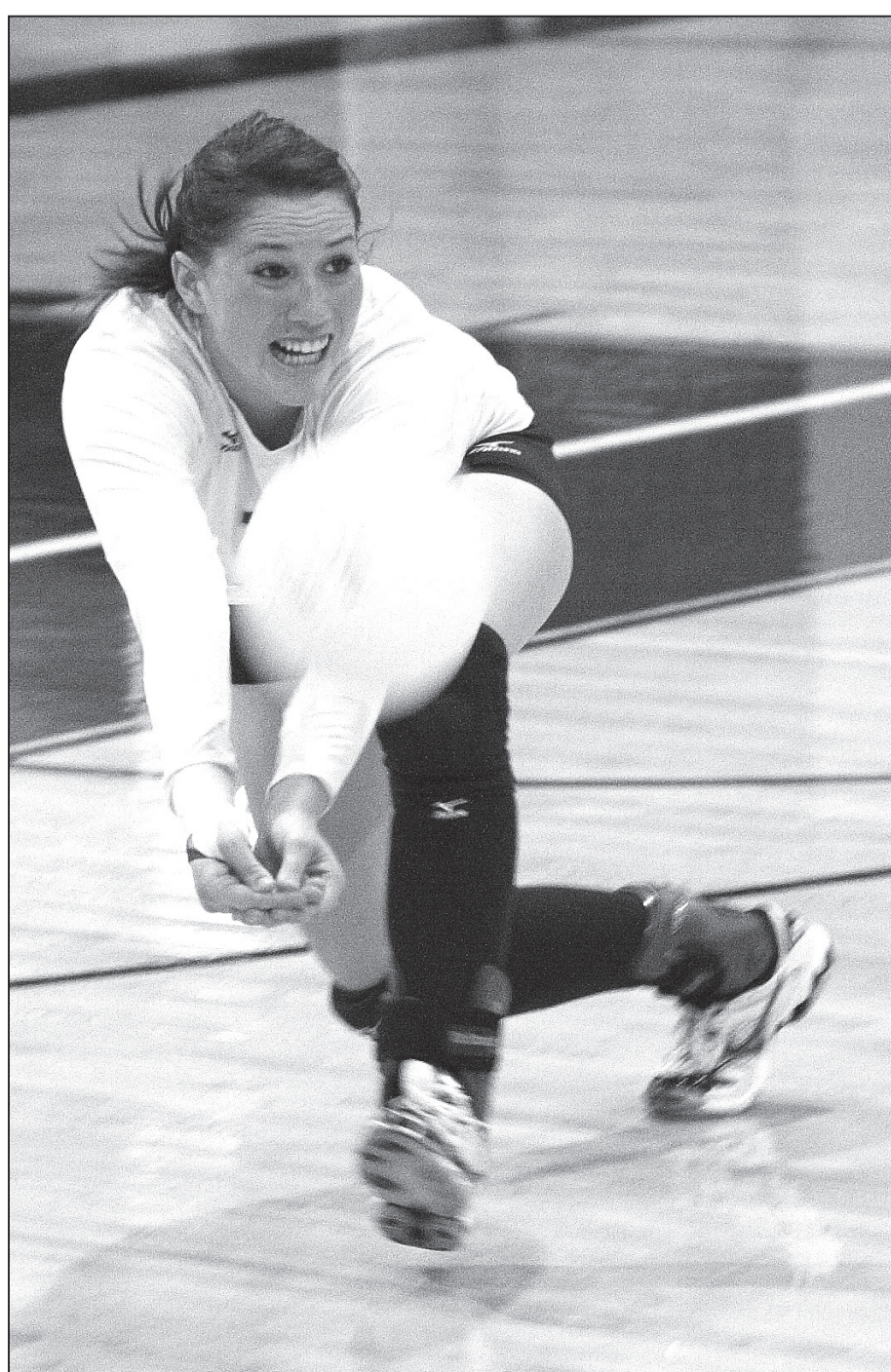
Big Spring opens district play at 1 p.m. Saturday, traveling to Wolfforth to take on the Frenship Lady Tigers.

The Lady Steers played neck and neck with the Fillies in the first set until a 4-0 spurt lifted Denver City to an 18-14 advantage. The separation was enough for the Fillies to take the opening game, 25-19.

The Lady Steers played evenly with Denver City in the second set to a 10-10 tie. However, Denver City won 15 of the next 20 points for a 25-15 win and a 2-set advantage.

The Fillies went on a spurt at the same point in the third and final set as well. With the score tied at 10, Denver City

See **LADY STEERS**, Page 8



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring Lady Steers libero Valerie Ross digs a serve in a non-district volleyball match against the Denver City Fillies Tuesday at Steer Gym. The Fillies defeated the Lady Steers in straight sets.

Rangers' loss leads to Yankees clinching playoff spot

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Trevor Cahill reached his target of 10 wins. Now Oakland's rookie right-hander is aiming for more.

Cahill scattered six hits over 5 2-3 innings to win his fourth straight decision and got plenty of support from his teammates, who stayed on a roll offensively in a 9-1 victory over the Texas Rangers on Tuesday night.

"It's one of those goals you set at the beginning of the year," Cahill said of his 10 wins, three of which have come against the Rangers. "I've gotten lucky and had I've had my good stuff two or three times against them. Tonight I didn't have my best stuff but kind of got lucky, got some double plays when guys were on. Sometimes it just works out that way."

Kurt Suzuki and Daric Barton drove in two runs apiece for Oakland, which had 12 hits against five pitchers. Five players had two hits each as the A's clinched their first winning month in more than a year.

Texas' loss kept the Rangers 6½ games behind Boston in the AL Wild card and it clinched a postseason

berth for the New York Yankees.

"They are a pretty good young team and they finally put it together," Texas manager Ron Washington said of his former team, the A's. "Their pitching staff is young and those kids have gotten their feet wet and they are showing their ability that they have."

Oakland improved to 14-6 in September, tied with Colorado for the best record in the majors. It's the first time since June 2008 the A's have had a winning record in a month.

Suzuki hit a two-run double and scored on Barton's RBI single during a five-run seventh when the A's broke the game open to win for the 10th time in 12 games.

Barton had two hits and is batting .393 (11 for 28) over his last nine games.

"Daric really the last couple of weeks has been our hottest hitter, quietly doing it because there hasn't been the big homer or whatever," Oakland manager Bob Geren said. "But if you're looking for the most consistent guy for the last 15-20 days, he's been the guy."

David Murphy had two hits and an RBI while Ivan Rodriguez singled twice for the Rangers, who lost for the eighth time in 11 games.

Texas carried a four-game road winning streak into the game and had scored at least 10 runs in each of the four victories, one shy of the major league record. But the Rangers weren't able to get much going against Cahill.

In addition to extending his career-best winning streak to four games, Cahill improved to 3-1 against the Rangers and hasn't lost to any team since falling to Baltimore on Aug. 11.

The A's right-hander became Oakland's second 10-game winner this season. Cahill (10-12) retired the first seven batters and got some help from Oakland's defense, which turned double plays in three straight innings and four overall.

Jack Cust walked with one out in the fifth and scored when Nelson Cruz misplayed Barton's sinking liner into a triple. Barton was running to third when the relay throw

See **RANGERS**, Page 8

Cowboys fans split on value of party pass

SCHUYLER DIXON

Associated Press Writer

ARLINGTON — Joe Dogan had a standing-room-only ticket for the Dallas Cowboys home opener at their gleaming new \$1.15 billion stadium. He headed for the exits at halftime, fed up with fighting the largest regular-season crowd in NFL history.

The 58-year-old truck driver from Fort Worth had some advice for Cowboys owner Jerry Jones about those \$29 tickets: "Don't sell as many the next time."

The Cowboys probably will heed that advice after Sunday night's game drew 105,121 people. The team sold some 30,000 of those tickets to fans willing to watch the game without a seat on spacious, three-level platforms above the end zones.

At times, fans stood a dozen or more deep on the lower platforms. Only a few could see the field, while the rest watched on huge TV screens hanging above the turf. There were good viewing areas along staircases and elsewhere, but those were taken minutes after the gates opened four hours before kickoff.

Ultimately, only a fraction of the "party passers" saw the field. Some were OK with that. Others weren't.

"I didn't get a chance to walk up to the field and take a picture," said Charles Manhard of Dallas, a 38-year-old valet company owner. "What's the purpose of this? I can do this at home. I've got a 64-inch TV."

Team spokesman Brett Daniels said the Cowboys and Arlington city officials were discussing possible limits on the number of standing-room tickets, which was one of the buzz-generating features at the stadium and a rarity in the NFL.

Daniels said the team had sold about 8,000 standing-room tickets for the second game Monday night against Carolina. That's a far cry from 30,000 — and that's probably a good thing.

Authorities nearly lost control of Sunday's crowd not long before the game started because they tried to restrict the flow of fans amid concerns that there were too many people on the end zone platforms. Once the barricades were removed and fans could come and go, tensions eased.

Jeff Parks, a 25-year-old Baylor law student, and his buddies were in good spirits when they grabbed their spot on a stairway landing. But the long wait and the stress of hanging on to their spot tested their resolve.

Parks had a view above the main platform, probably about the same vantage point as Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban when he tweeted that "watching the sardine section" was fun. Parks said he saw one fan offer someone on the railing \$100 for the spot.

"We were saying they were trying to make a collegiate-like

See **COWBOYS**, Page 13

Sports in brief

Harley Street Rally being held in support of Steers Friday

The Big Spring High School cheerleaders are inviting the public to a Harley Street Rally at 3 p.m. Friday in support of the Big Spring football team's game against the Sweetwater Mustangs at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Anyone wanting to ride their motorcycle — doesn't have to be a Harley — during the rally, he or she simply needs to meet at the Trinity Baptist Church gym parking lot by 2:50 p.m.

For more information, call Cheer Sponsor Shannon Stuteville at 264-3641, ext. 1416, or e-mail her at sstutevi@bsisd.esc18.net

Big Spring boys basketball team carhopping at Sonic Saturday

The Big Spring Steers basketball team will be raising funds as they tend to carhopping duties at Sonic from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

Tips and donations will be accepted by the

squad.

Local man hits first hole-in-one at Comanche Trail's Tuesday scramble

Jay Woolf made Tuesday's weekly scramble at Comanche Trail Golf Course a memorable one for himself by acing the third hole.

Woolf used a 3-iron to accomplish the feat. Witnesses were Mark Hedges, Steve Hedges, Bob Patel and Jason Ortega.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 7

home from Texas second baseman Ian Kinsler skipped past catcher Rodriguez for an error, so Barton kept going and scored to make it 2-0.

The A's added another run in the fourth on Barton's RBI single then broke it open in the seventh with five straight hits and six overall. Rajai Davis had an RBI

single to start the inning, Suzuki and Cust added run-scoring doubles and Mark Ellis also knocked in a run to give the A's a seven-run lead.

Texas starter Brandon McCarthy (7-4) pitched effectively but lost for only the second time in his last six decisions. Both losses have come against Oakland, which has won eight of the last 10 games between the teams.

The Rangers' right-hander gave up five hits but was done in by

Kinsler's throwing error in the second and by Texas' offense which went 1 for 7 with runners in scoring position.

"I should have done a better job backing up bases," McCarthy said. "I have to be a little better than I was tonight."

NOTES: Oakland is 5-1 on its current homestand. ... The A's won despite leadoff hitter Adam Kennedy getting ejected in the first inning for arguing with home plate umpire Eric Cooper after being called out on strikes.

LADY STEERS

Continued from Page 7

used a 9-2 rally to pull ahead 19-12. From there, the Fillies coasted to a 25-17 win to claim the match.

Sophomore Cerbi Ritchey led the Lady Steers with six kills and eight assists. Junior Valerie Ross had a team-high 14 digs, while senior Selena Gonzales had 10. Senior Halee Thomas had four kills and four blocks. Junior Desiree Anderson had a nice all-around game with three kills, four digs and three aces.

"We had some lulls in each match that allowed to come away with the win. We gave them too many points as well with far too many service errors," said Osborne. "We've got to clean that up, but this is a game we can go back, watch on film and get some confidence from. I don't think we're going to see a team this athletic in our district."

The Lady Steers open district play Saturday with what seems like a daunting task. Frenship has not lost a district match in three seasons.

Osborne feels the Lady Steers could be up to the job.

"We've got some advantages

going into the district season," said Osborne. "For one, no one is expecting much from us. I think a lot of teams don't quite realize the talent we're developing here. We're going to catch someone off guard and it might be Frenship. I really believe we could upset them."

Denver City d. Big Spring 25-19, 25-15, 25-17

Kills (18): Desiree Anderson 3, Cerbi Ritchey 6, Taylor Seaton 1, Valerie Ross 1, Callie Shafer 3, Halee Thomas 4.

Assists (15): Ritchey 8, Shafer 7. Digs (36): Anderson 4, Ritchey 1, Shafer 4, Selena Gonzales 10, Ross 14, Tiffany Gonzales 3.

Aces (4): Anderson 3, Thomas 1. Blocks (6): Thomas 4, Ritchey 1, Seaton 1.

RODEO

Continued from Page 7

D.D. Spratt was the only HC bull rider to make the whistle. Spratt marked a 79-point ride to split fourth in the first round of competition. Only one rider qualified on two head and Spratt finished the weekend in that fourth slot.

"We had a good week. We had lots of folks do good things and allow themselves the opportunity to win," said Head Coach Greg Kernick. "We are a young team and had a lot of our freshmen step up and do well. I'm proud of them."

The Hawk rodeo teams will continue working

through their fall schedule by competing next at Sul Ross State University Sept. 24-26.

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In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



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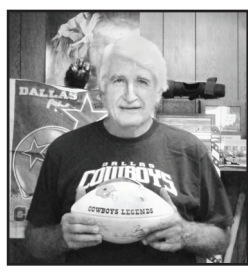
Although NFL quarterback and Superbowl winner Kurt Warner looks like a champion in the eyes of football fans, he and his wife Brenda tell kids that looks can be misleading. Plus, Woolly Willy and honey-spiced Bundt cake.

American Profile

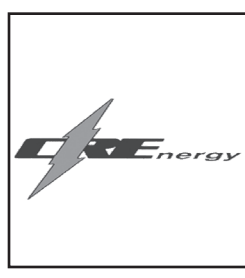
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Legals

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
The Big Spring Independent School District shall receive sealed bids until 4:00 p.m., October 8, 2009 for the following:

Student Letter Jacket Awards
Specifications and bid documents may be secured from the school district's Business Office, 708 East 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas 79720-4648, phone number (432)264-3620. Bids will be publicly open and read immediately following the deadline for receiving the bids in the Business Office of the Big Spring Independent School District. Bidders are invited to be present at the bid opening. Bids received after the opening date and time will be returned unopened. Bids will be presented for consideration to the Board of Trustees on October 12, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.. at their regularly scheduled board meeting. The Big Spring Independent School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.
#6271 September 23 & 30, 2009

Mercury, still retrograde in Virgo, opposes Uranus, which for some could cause a moment of weakness. Maybe it's a secret burning on the lips or dollars that sizzle a hole in the pocket -- something wants out and will require more than the usual force to restrain. The best way to control our impulses is to recognize and question them.



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). An argument between two people you know is making everyone tense. It's not your job to fix the problem, but you do have an angle on the situation that could be useful. This afternoon brings the perfect moment to speak up.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Transactions are still a bit dicey. Ask questions so you can get the most out of your money. As a buyer, you should feel comfortable and confident in your choice. If you don't, you have the right to call the whole thing off.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You might not completely understand how something works, but don't let that keep you from moving to the next step. A simple wish to learn more makes you smarter. A trip to the library helps, too.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You admire someone and will notice things about this person that you never noticed before. For now, keep your quiet observations to yourself and your diary. Let this

Tomorrow's Horoscope

fascination grow.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). People who make you nervous will have you spilling information you didn't mean to share. You might later feel self-conscious about all you said, but your humanity excelled through it all -- you're really quite endearing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Whatever you want to stop doing or thinking you will only do and think more of. Work quickly to get your mind and habits in a new place. Think of what you are going to do and say instead.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). This is ground control asking you to come back to Earth. Living in a space of infinite possibility has its advantages, but at some point you need to touch your feet to the ground and get to work. This is that moment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). A song you haven't heard in years is suddenly floating around in your head. Take a moment to write down the words you remember. Is this old chestnut telling you something?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You find yourself becoming interested in something completely unrelated to anything else in your life. Give the new fancy a little attention and money, and watch how it restores your sense of play.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You will be especially susceptible to the influence of others, so make sure the people you are around are caring, respectable and winning. It's better to make no new friends today than to make the wrong ones.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Someone who has a difficult time opening up will confide in you. Be trustworthy and keep the secret, no matter how juicy it is. This is a matter of character, and you'll feel much better about yourself when you pass the test.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A physical challenge is on the horizon. Get ready with a good stretch. Yes, you're busy, but a little limbering up in the morning will be time well spent. Your body will serve you well all day long.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 23). You show pluck and initiative and will sparkle in the eyes of potential loves, employers and friends. The brilliant work you do through October will satisfy your quota and net you a better position. A positive move in your personal life starts with a new alliance in November. December brings lucky travel. Aries and Cancer people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 5, 44, 28 and 14.

BE A STAR THIS SOCIAL SEASON: For the socialites of New York City, the social season kicks off with the opening of the Metropolitan Opera in late September. Is it a coincidence that this usually occurs within a few days of the autumnal equinox? There's a need to pull together under the Libran sun -- to mix, mingle and foster a real sense of belonging among those whose company you enjoy. Here's a tip to warm you to the social swirl. **ARIES:** You do tend to

be direct, but sometimes a less pointed question brings about a more interesting response from others. Instead of saying, "Where did you go on your trip?" Say, "Tell me about your vacation." Instead of, "What classes are you taking?" Say, "What's your class like?" And don't forget the classic: "How do you feel about...?" It's a cliché for a reason -- it works! **TAURUS:** Eat before the party. Yes, even when the food promises to be fantastic. If the food isn't available upon your arrival and you have to wait for it, you're likely to get grumpy. Furthermore, it's hard for you to get into socializing with a plate in your hand.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Will Smith went from being a Fresh Prince on television to being a king in the entertainment industry. Smith has the distinction of being the only leading actor in history to have eight films in a row open as No. 1 at the domestic box office. With three luminaries in Libra and four in Virgo, Smith has a winning combination of charm, relationship savvy and a diligent work ethic.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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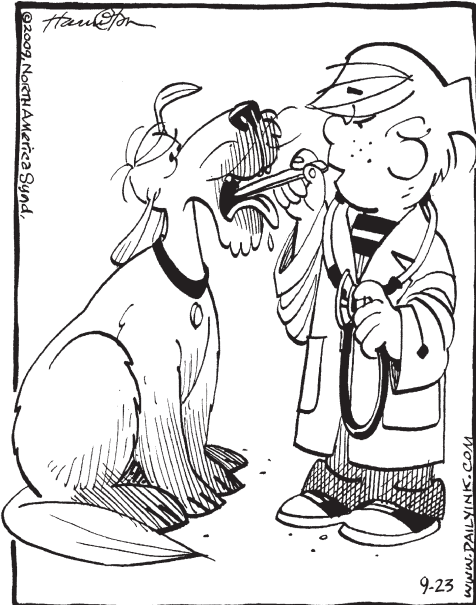
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5:PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Seinfeld Office	Cortes	BBC Business	Cash Cab	that Weapon 3, Joe Pesci	CSI: Crime Scn	NUMB3RS	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Suite Life	Horn Interrupt	SportsCenter
6:PM :30	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Gancho	Lopez	News CBS	12 Cora-zones	News NBC	Office Harris	Harris	Cash Cab	MythBusters		CSI: Crime Scn	NUMB3RS		Wizards of Waverly Place	Football NFL Live	MLB Baseball: Teams TBA.
7:PM :30	Entertain	Fortune		Two Men	Entertain	Christine Más Sabe el Diabolo	Mercy	Name Swallow	Payne Upd	Great Lodges-	MythBusters	Movie: Bat-man Begins, Liam Neeson	UFC Un-leashed	NUMB3RS	Movie: Menace II Society, Vonte Sweet	Movie: The Cheetah Girls 2		
8:PM :30	Dancing-Stars	Nombre-Amor		You Can Dance	Christine Más Sabe el Diabolo	Pobres	Law & Order: SVU	Browns Browns	Light of the Southwest	Great Lodges-	Man vs. Wild		UFC Un-leashed	NUMB3RS				
9:PM :30	Family Cougar	Family Cougar		Glee	Criminal Minds	The Jay Leno Show	Payne Payne	Payne Payne		Wallace Stegner	Man vs. Wild	Movie: Catwoman, Sharon Stone	The Ultimate Fighter	Leverage	Game Game	Phineas Montana	WNBA Basketball	MLB Baseball: San Francisco Giants at Arizona Diamondbacks.
10:PM :30	Eastwick	Eastwick	Don Francisco	Simpsons Friends	CSI: NY	Victorinos	Seinfeld Upd	Seinfeld CCM	BBC	Man vs. Wild	Movie: Highlander, Roxanne Hart		The Ultimate Fighter	Dark Blue	W. Williams	Wizards of Waverly Place		
11:PM :30	News Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto	Raymond	News TMZ	Noticiero	News Tonight Show	Seinfeld Dr. Young	Smiley (Off Air)	Man vs. Wild	Movie: Disorderly Con.	The Ultimate Fighter	Dark Blue	W. Williams	Replay	Baseball NHRA Drag Racing: Carolinas Nationals		
12:AM :30	Insider	Jimmy Kim-mel Live	La Casa de la Risa	Law & Order: SVU	Late Late Show	Decisiones	Late Night-Jim	News Sanchez										
1:AM :30	Work	Paid Prog	Mujer	Entertain	Pagado	Poker After Dark	Bloopers	Light of the Southwest										

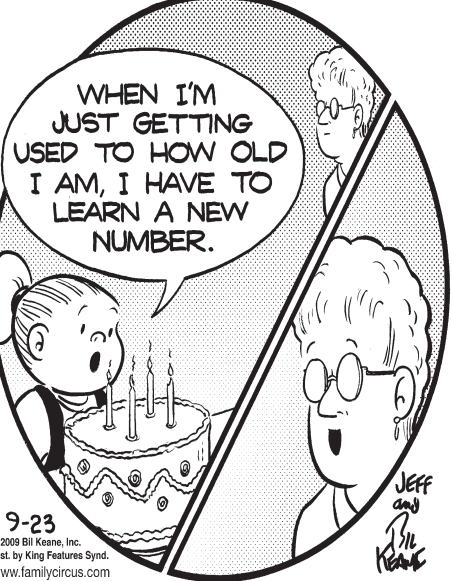
DENNIS THE MENACE



"REMEMBER, DON'T BITE IT. I STILL HAFTA GIVE DAD A CHECK-UP, TOO."

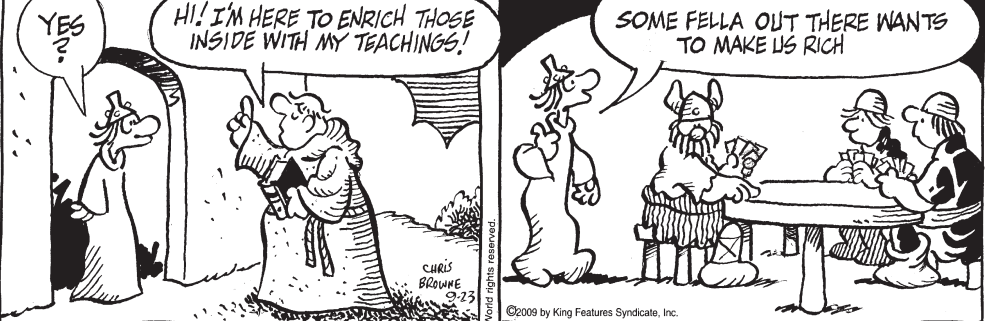
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

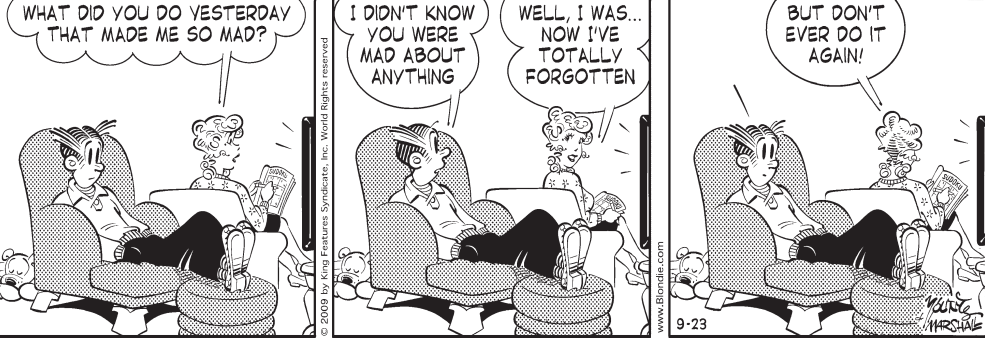


"Tell me about it, Dolly."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



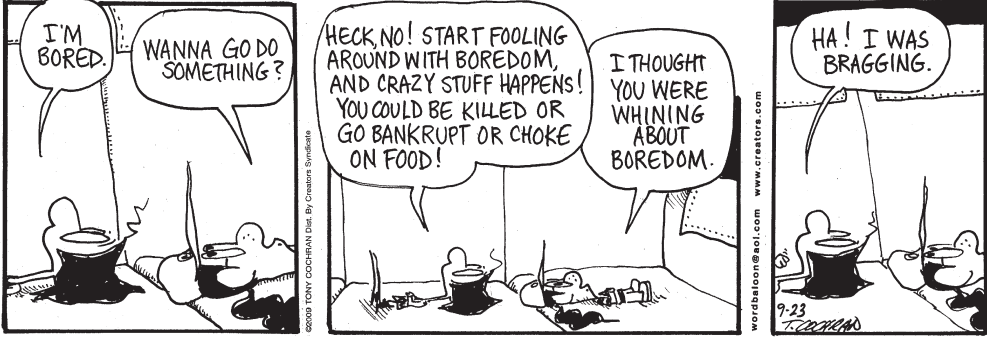
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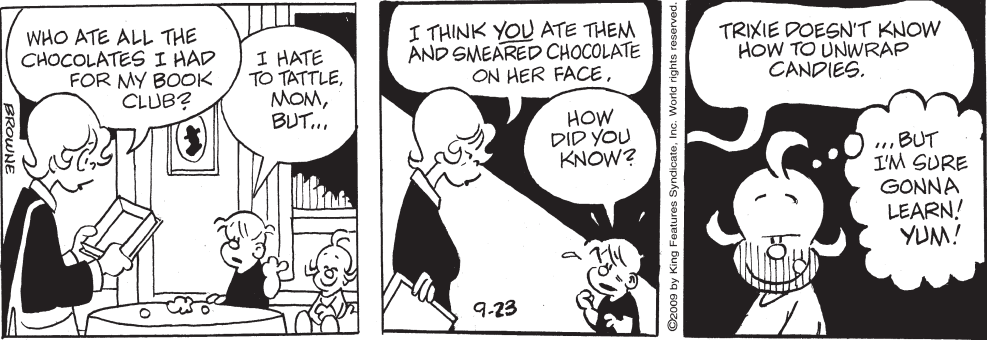
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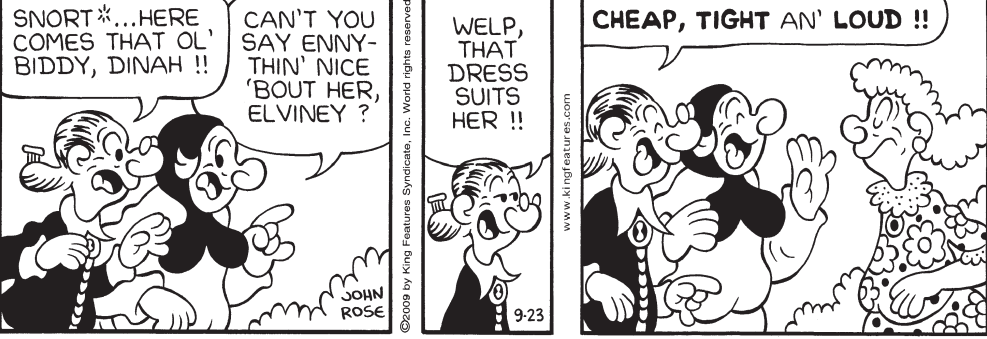
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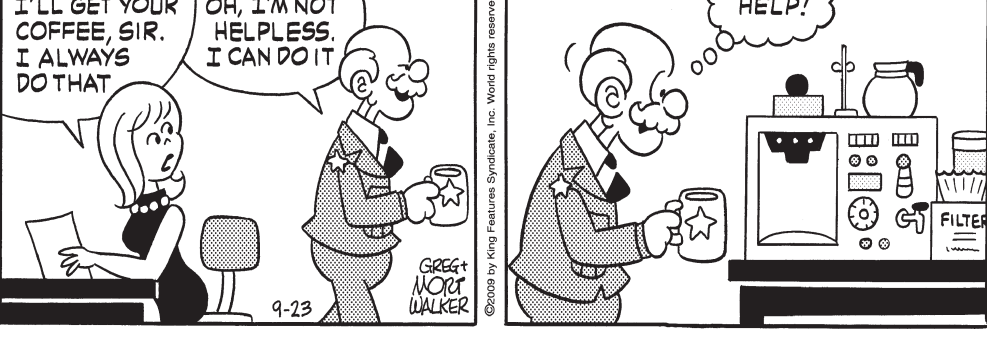
THE OTHER COAST



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This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 23, the 266th day of 2009. There are 99 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Sept. 23, 1952, Sen. Richard M. Nixon, R-Calif., facing calls to withdraw as Dwight D. Eisenhower's running mate, went on television to defend himself against allegations of improper campaign fundraising. The address, which came to be known as the "Checkers" speech because of Nixon's on-air reference to a dog given to his family as a gift, proved highly successful in rallying public support for keeping Nixon on the GOP ticket.

On this date:
In 1779, during the Revolutionary War, the American warship Bon Homme Richard, commanded by John Paul Jones, defeated the HMS Serapis in battle.
In 1780, British spy John Andre was captured along with papers revealing Benedict

Arnold's plot to surrender West Point to the British.

In 1806, the Lewis and Clark expedition returned to St. Louis more than two years after setting out for the Pacific Northwest.

In 1846, Neptune was identified as a planet by German astronomer Johann Gottfried Galle.

In 1908, an apparent base-running error by Fred Merkle of the New York Giants cost his team a victory against the Chicago Cubs and left the game tied 1-1. (The Cubs won a rematch game and with it, the National League pennant.)

In 1939, Sigmund Freud, the founder of psychoanalysis, died in London at age 83.

In 1949, President Harry S. Truman announced there was evidence the Soviet Union had recently conducted a nuclear test explosion. (The test had been carried out on Aug. 29, 1949.)

In 1957, nine black students who had entered Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas were forced to withdraw because of a white mob outside.

In 1962, New York's Philharmonic Hall (since

renamed Avery Fisher Hall) formally opened as the first unit of the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

In 2001, 13 coal miners were killed in explosions at the Blue Creek Mine No. 5 in Brookwood, Ala.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Mickey Rooney is 89. Actress Margaret Pellegrini ("The Wizard of Oz") is 86. Singer Julio Iglesias is 66. Actor Paul Petersen ("The Donna Reed Show") is 64. Actress-singer Mary Kay Place is 62. Rock star Bruce Springsteen is 60. Rock musician Leon Taylor (The Ventures) is 54. Actress Rosalind Chao is 52. Golfer Larry Mize is 51. Actor Jason Alexander ("Seinfeld") is 50.

Answer to previous puzzle

SOFA	COED	MAPLE
EVER	HAVE	OTHER
PETE	ASIA	SWEAR
TREADMILL	LANDS	
UPS	HERO	
ASIDES	ROOM	MCC
STRUT	ROPE	PERU
PERSONAL	TRAINER	
INIT	EYES	STATE
COG	BASS	STYLES
ATOP	AAA	
DATES	DUMBBELLS	
RUINS	OPAL	REAL
AROSE	DOZE	ANTE
WANES	ONES	STEW

Newsday Crossword

UNREAL by David W. Cromer
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**

1 Minor quarrel

5 Narrow strip of wood

9 Lee of cakedom

13 Muscle or musical quality

14 Walk back and forth

15 Give notice

17 ___-Seltzer

18 Hitchhiker's hope

19 Transitional state

20 Whodunit plot element

23 At will

24 Knee protection

25 Give it a go

26 Swindle

29 Sched. notation

31 Japanese sport

35 Jackson of country music

37 Jelly served with meat

41 Childhood playmate

44 Generous one

45 ___-Ball (carnival game)

46 Lacking

47 Corner keyboard key

49 Wild guess

51 "Six-pack" muscles

54 "Caught ya!"

56 Kitchen strainers

61 Funny money

65 Raring to go
- 66 One in a flock

67 Western tie

68 Hourlong TV show, often

69 Malicious

70 Yale students

71 Let go of

72 Fill completely

73 Short race
- DOWN**

1 Office group

2 Arctic or Antarctic

3 Lower joint

4 Poke fun at

5 Paint container

6 Secular

7 Electrically flexible

8 Prepare to drive

9 Diner offering

10 Came to earth
- 11 Send in, as payment

12 Ann __, MI

16 Stage award

21 Ernie of the PGA

22 Made a lap

27 Word of woe

28 A's and B's, e.g.

30 Thrift-store phrase

31 Bro's sib

32 Ballpark figure

33 Chinese chairman

34 Mythical beast

36 Tatiana's turnaround

38 Spherical veggie

39 Bed and breakfast
- 40 DJ's collection

42 Words of warning

43 Likely to occur

48 Friend of Fidel

50 Drill piece

51 Served perfectly

52 Surfer's need

53 Confectioner's need

55 City on the Rhone

57 Receded

58 String quartet member

59 Immigrants' island

60 Splash through mud

62 Title fish of filmdom

63 Variety of bean

64 Send out

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
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Clemson prepped for chance against No. 15 TCU

CLEMSON, S.C. (AP) — Clemson coach Dabo Swinney called playing No. 15 TCU a good chance to “check the oil” on his young program.

His players, though, see a bigger opportunity out there Saturday..

“Obviously, if we win this game, it puts us on the map,” tight end Michael Palmer said.

It’s a destination Clemson hasn’t reached in quite some time.

Swinney was still the team’s receivers coach in August 2008 when the ninth-ranked Tigers were manhandled by Alabama, 34-10, at the Georgia Dome. The Tigers dropped from the rankings for good four games later when they blew a 17-6 lead at home to Maryland to lose 20-17.

Longtime coach Tommy Bowden left one more loss to Wake Forest and Swinney became interim coach. Swinney has spent most of his efforts since regaining Clemson fundamentals and restoring the team’s confidence.

Topping the Horned Frogs (2-0) at Death Valley would go a long way. “It’s a good opportunity for us

to just kind of check the oil, see where we are as a program,” Swinney said.

Swinney has made sure to remind his players, however, what’s at stake and what it could mean to the Tigers. Defensive end Da’Quan Bowers said the coach told them it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Clemson’s defense showed its muscle by holding Boston College to 55 yards — the second fewest in school history against an Atlantic Coast Conference opponent — while Tiger special teams continued to excel with C.J. Spiller’s 77-yard punt return touchdown and a school-record tying six field goals from Richard Jackson.

But the offense stumbled again, unable to punch in a touchdown despite great field position and the stellar defensive effort. Three of the Tigers’ eight TDs this season have come from special teams while Jackson has 11 field goals.

“We’ve got to get more touchdowns if we want to be a legitimate contender” in the ACC this season, Swinney said.

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 7

atmosphere, and it just wasn’t really happening,” Parks said. “Because you had people standing around, milling about and drinking — heavily.”

Keith Evashevski came alone from Wyoming and was afraid he’d never get his spot back if he left for the restroom or anything else. The 38-year-old Cowboys fan held on for eight hours until Giants kicker Lawrence Tynes won the game with a 37-yard field goal as time expired.

“My legs and feet, I kind of forgot about them for a while and got into the game,” Evashevski said.

Whatever the number of party pass tickets are sold for the next game, it will be split equally between each end zone to help with crowd control — a fact the team struggled to communicate before the opener.

Some groups were forced to separate once they were told their ticket gave them access to just one side of the stadium.

“I can understand it’s the first time, but it would have been nice for them to let us know,” said Patsy Alvarez, a 34-year-old from Fort Wayne, Ind., whose family was split up.

Because the cheaper seats costing \$75 and \$99 have sold out, single-game prices range from \$129 to \$239. That’s why the \$29 party pass has won universal praise from fans.

“The tickets are stupid expensive, so it opens it up to a bigger fan base,” said Keith

Murray, a regional manager for an electrical supplier who was in town on business from Tampa, Fla.

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said in an e-mail the league had heard no complaints and called the party pass chatter a “Cowboys issue.” It was a prominent topic on radio talk shows, including one where the host referred to standing-room tickets as “peasant passes.”

“I’m probably just stating the obvious, but the best feature was simply the price,” said Evashevski, who works for the University of Wyoming. “To be involved in an NFL game in 2009 and spend

just about or under \$30, I think that’s pretty good.”

Assuming the crowd sizes go down, perhaps more thumbs will go up.

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4. Vehicles of a strictly commercial nature will not be permitted.
5. Parade entries not in line by the start of the parade will be placed at the end of the parade and will not be eligible for awards.
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Astros fire manager Cooper

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Astros couldn't wait until the end of the season to fire manager Cecil Cooper.

The Astros made the move on Monday and promoted third-base coach Dave Clark to interim manager. Clark made his major-league managing debut in Houston's 7-3 loss to St. Louis, the Astros' eighth straight loss.

"This is really bittersweet for me," Clark said. "I enjoyed my time with Coop, and you hate to see anybody lose their job. He brought me along to be his third-base coach, and here I am replacing him. It's not a real good day for me in that perspective. But the opportunity and chance I'm getting to manage the next two weeks is outstanding."

General manager Ed Wade said the team decided to fire Cooper before the end of the year for practical reasons, and to see what Clark could do in the job. The Astros have five home games this week, then play their final seven games on the road, in Philadelphia and New York.

"I thought it was going to be awkward to go all the way to the end of the season, come back from New York and make a move," Wade said. "The

practicality of it didn't make sense and now we can put Dave in place, we can have a different set of circumstances working here for two weeks.

"Hopefully this creates a spark and gets us on a run so we can finish on a high note."

Wade added that more changes could be coming for a franchise just four years removed from its only World Series appearance.

A number of offseason moves fizzled and All-Star first baseman Lance Berkman and pitching ace Roy Oswalt have had subpar seasons.

"We're tasked with evaluating all aspects of our situation," Wade said. "At the end of the day, we're going to try to address those off-field issues that exist. We're not walking away from it. The issue we had to address here, in the short term, was the managerial issue and that's why we moved forward today."

The 59-year-old Cooper was hired on Aug. 27, 2007, to replace Phil Garner. Houston went 171-170 under Cooper, who was the bench coach under Garner between 2005-07.

Monday's loss dropped Houston to 70-80 and Berkman said the players are taking much of the blame for Cooper's dismissal.

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7 out of 10 women complaining of irritability have a hormone imbalance

TCU

Continued from Page 13

"When people ask me (if he'll play), it's a waste of breath," he said. "I'll be full speed for the game."

The Horned Frogs will present Clemson's toughest challenge this year. TCU defensive end Jerry Hughes led the nation with 15 sacks a year ago and has 4½ already this season.

Ford said Hughes is a bigger, faster version of Georgia Tech lineman Dwayne Morgan, who dominated the Tigers in a 30-27 win two weeks back.

TCU "actually looks a lot like Clemson because of the way they play the game," Ford said.

Swinney, 39, has lost to the three ranked opponents he's faced so far in his 10-game head coaching career. He's seen plenty of positive signs from his ballclub so far and knows what this game can mean for his Tigers.

"If you want to have a special year, these are the games you've got to do well in," Swinney said.

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Bright Red w/Pueblo Gold Accent, Tan Leather, 5.4, V-8, Auto Temp., 6 Speed Auto, Limited Slip, Lariat Plus, Rear-View Camera, Reverse Sensing System, Chrome Pkg., Heated And Cooled Seats - Bedliner.

\$4,500 Customer Cash Back
OR **0% APR Interest For 60 Mos. PLUS**
Dealer Discounts**



STK# 2133

2009 Ford F150 Supercrew Lariat 4X4

Amber Gold w/Tan Leather, Elect A/C, 6 Speed Auto, Privacy Glass, Moonroof, Power Sliding Rear Window, Limited Slip Axle, Chrome Pkg, Sony Navigation, 20" Wheels, Heated And Cooled Seats.

\$5,000 Customer Cash Back
OR **0% APR Interest PLUS**
Dealer Discounts*

*Dealer Retains All Customer Cash Back
**Must Finance Thru Ford Motor Credit

Bob Brock

Ford Lincoln Mercury Nissan

500 W. 4th St.

267-7424

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