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92  
LOW  
72



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### Texas baseball

Astros,  
Rangers  
fall ...

— PAGE 6



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# THE PAMPA NEWS

Monday, August 7, 2006

Volume 102 • No. 105

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## Administration pushing for okay of cease-fire

CRAWFORD, Texas (AP) — President Bush said today he recognizes that Israel and Hezbollah are objecting to parts of a Mideast cease-fire resolution but said “we all recognize that the violence must stop.”

The president said the United States and its allies were pressing for a comprehensive solution that would restore Lebanon’s sovereignty and provide a lasting peace.

Bush and Secretary of

State Condoleezza Rice spoke about the Mideast during a meeting with reporters at his Texas ranch. Rice is expected to go to the United Nations for deliberations on twin resolutions for a cease-fire and the establishment of

a peacekeeping force.

She called the resolutions “a reasonable basis that I think both sides can accept” once details are worked out.

Bush said he understood that both parties “aren’t going to agree with all parts

of the resolution.” He said the intent of the measure was to strengthen the Lebanese government and address the root cause of the violence, which he said was the fact that Hezbollah was acting as a state within a state.

### SCHOOL BOARDS

**PISD to meet**  
The Pampa Independent School District board of trustees will meet Wednesday to discuss the district’s facilities master plan.

They will also consider bids concerning the volleyball program and deliberate the real estate acquisitions.

The school board is also expected to hire several more teachers.

The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday at the Pampa High School Library.

**Lefors ISD to convene**  
LEFORS — Lefors Independent School District board members will meet at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 8 at Lefors High School Library.

The board will consider the budget and proposed tax rate for 2006-07 as well as budget amendments for 2005-06.

Other business will include accepting the resignation of an unnamed employee and the hiring of Jennifer Schroeder to teach second grade and Sarah Gattis to teach third grade.

The board will look at the repair of a facility at 321 N. Main and hear a parent’s request to present attendance/retention concern.

The student handbook for the coming school year is also expected to be approved.

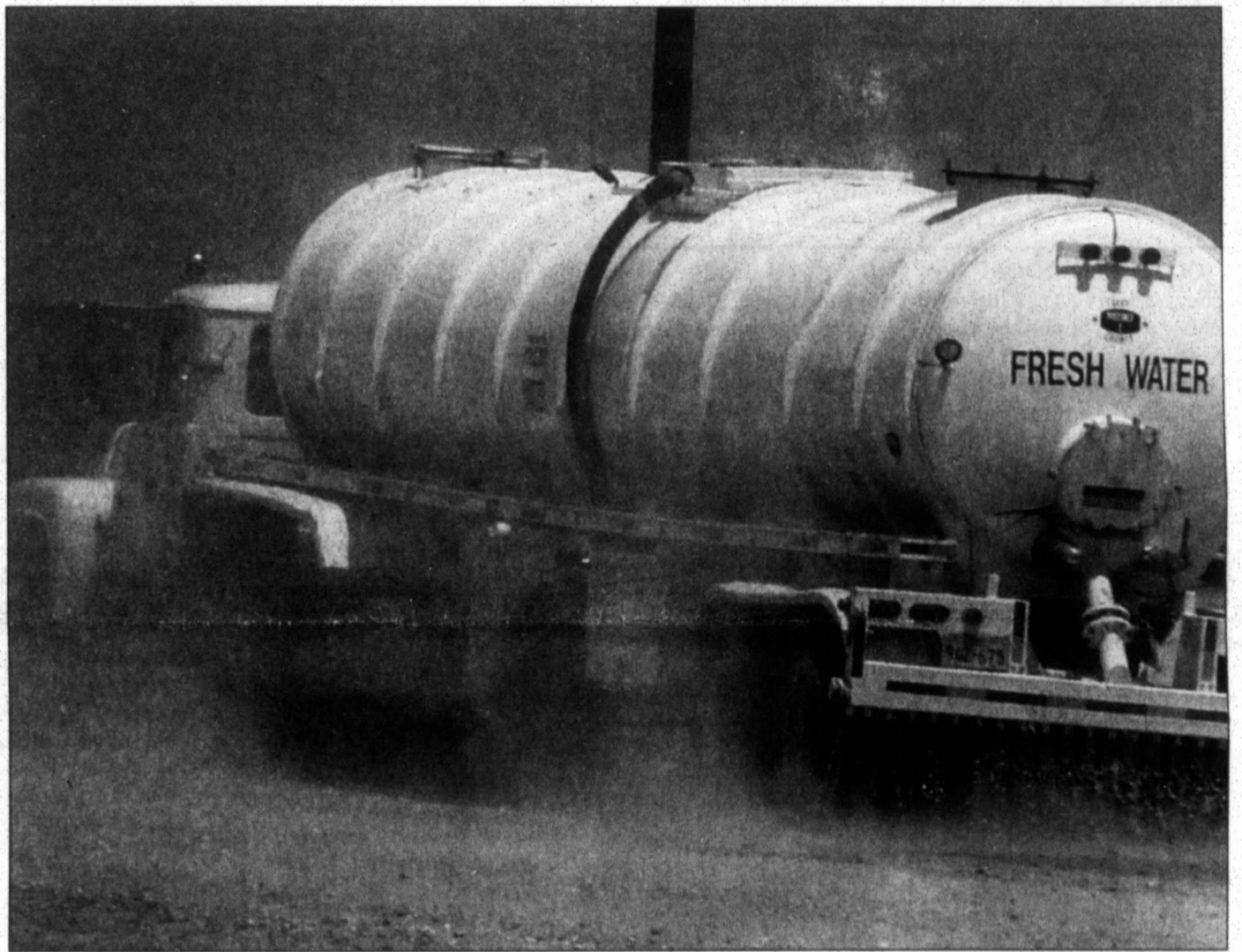
### Candidates differ on ‘futile care’ law

HOUSTON (AP) — Two candidates for Texas governor have called for abolishing a state law that allows hospitals to stop life-sustaining treatment against the wishes of the patient’s family.

Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn and Kinky Friedman, both running as independents, said the law should be repealed. Democratic nominee Chris Bell said the law should be reformed, while Republican Gov. Rick Perry said he supports a legislative review of the law.

The controversial “futile care law” allows hospitals to remove life support in cases deemed medically futile. It requires that a hospital committee review the decision and give the family 10 days notice to find another facility to take the patient.

The 1999 law has been scrutinized during the past 18 months as a result of highly public conflicts between families and hospitals around the state.



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

A Gray County Precinct 2 employee uses a tank truck to water down the caliche on County Road E, just east of Pampa. The water helps the caliche bond to the road surface and stay in place, said Precinct 2 Commissioner Gary Willoughby.

### Possible zoning changes to occupy commissioners

Adult businesses will be the topic of conversation Tuesday afternoon at the Pampa City Commission meeting.

The commission will hold public hearings over zoning changes that provide for regulation of adult businesses and topless establishments and a rezoning request by the First Hartford Realty Corporation of

Manchester, Conn. They are requesting a change in zoning from office to retail at Kentucky and Coffee for the new CVS Pharmacy.

During their regular meeting, commissioners will hear the first reading of zoning ordinances concerning adult businesses and topless establishments.

The commission is also expected

to accept bids for tax delinquent properties at 703 Foster, 519 S. Somerville, 918 S. Sumner, 702 S. Gray, 301-305 S. Ballard, 309 S. Ballard, 311 S. Ballard, 1064 Varnon Drive, 715 Octavius, 405 Maple and 315 S. Ballard.

Commissioners will also review the proposed 2006-2007 city operating budget.

### Chautauqua

► Charles Henry, from left, Dennis Palmitier, Lloyd Harvey and Jan Lively are shown here putting up the tent for the Woody Guthrie booth at last year’s Chautauqua celebration in Central Park. Chautauqua is staged every year by Pampa Fine Arts Association on Labor Day, Sept. 4, in the city’s Central Park.



Photo by THELMA BRAY

## JOB RECRUITING FAIR

A National Customer Service Company Will Conduct A “Job Recruiting Fair” In Pampa  
Tue., Aug. 8 - 4-8pm & Wed., Aug. 9 - 8am-8pm. At The Clarendon College Pampa Center 1601 W. Kentucky

For More Information Contact The Pampa Chamber Of Commerce At 806-669-3241



Tree struck



Courtesy photo  
Blake Fry of Lefors stands next to the cottonwood tree in front of his home that got hit by lightning on last Wednesday. The lightning also damaged two other cottonwood trees in his yard, and impaled a piece of wood through the wall of the home and broke the glass out of the front storm door. Large wood splinters were reported found as far as 1/2 block from the tree.

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**Report: Most convicted violent felons have prior criminal record**

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than half of those convicted of violent felonies in large urban areas between 1990 and 2002 had previous convictions, the U.S. Justice Department reported Sunday.

Nearly four in 10, or 38 percent, had some type prior felony conviction, while an additional 18 percent had a prior misdemeanor conviction, the Bureau of Justice Statistics said.

Fifteen percent were guilty of a prior violent felony — murder, rape, robbery or assault. Rapists were least likely to have a prior conviction.

The study released Sunday by the Justice Department examined crime figures from the nation's 75 most populous counties, ranging from Los Angeles and Pima County, Ariz., to Pinellas County, Fla., and Montgomery County, Md., just outside Washington.

About half of all the violent crimes reported nationwide occur in these areas, the report said.

The study found that 70 percent of violent felons convicted during the period had a prior arrest record, though not necessarily a conviction, and that 57 percent had at least one prior arrest for a felony. Sixty-seven percent of murderers and 73 percent of those convicted of robbery or assault had an arrest record.

Nearly all the violent felons, 91 percent, were male; 41 percent were black.

Majorities of the convicted robbers and murderers were below age 25 — 56 percent and 50 percent, respectively. Forty percent of those convicted of assault and one-third of the rapists were under 25.

**Majorities of the convicted robbers and murderers were below age 25 — 56 percent and 50 percent, respectively. Forty percent of those convicted of assault and one-third of the rapists were under 25.**

Youthful offenders were not a significant percentage of those committing violent acts.

Ten percent of the murderers and 12 percent of robbers

were 18 and under. In the categories of assault and rape, 4 percent of each of those crimes were committed by offenders under 18.

A total 180,298 crimes were committed between 1990 and 2002, but the largest category involved drugs. More than 69,000 drug crimes were reported, for 38.3 percent of the total.

Property crimes were next, with more 59,000 offenses or 32.7 percent of the total.

Violent crimes ranked third; more than 32,000 cases accounted for 18.2 percent of the total.

When it came time to judge cases and hand down punishment, most violent felons, 88 percent, were convicted through a guilty plea rather than at trial.

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| 40-49      | 40-49      | 16-19 40-49  | 16-19 40-49    |
| 50+        | 50+        | † 50+        | 50+            |

# Viewpoints

## Texas Tales: History of a Houston property

Austin real estate agent Susanne Lee has fond memories of the house in Houston where she grew up, but until recently she never knew it had much of a history.

Actually, it's the ground beneath her childhood home — and its succession of owners — that amounts to a history of Texas.

Built in 1947, the two-story house at 4340 Leeland St. was one of thousands of tract houses that went up in the boom years following World War II. The city continued to grow exponentially, leaving the house on Houston's near east side with a comfortable old-neighborhood feel.

With a purchase price of \$17,000, Gene and Hedy

Lee started making mortgage payments on the house in 1962. They had met when Gene Lee, an Asian American, was in the Army stationed in Germany and married there. Moving to Houston in 1955, they opened a small grocery at 3404 Leeland, living above their business before they bought their own house nine blocks down the street.

Susanne Lee's first inkling of the significance of the lot her parents own came when her mother handed her a 157-page abstract of title prepared in 1922 by the Harris County Abstract Co.

The legal-size pages, while not the most compelling reading, amount to a capsule history of Anglo settlement in Texas. Legally,

the document is a deed history of "All of Blocks Nos. Forty Nine (49) to Sixty Two (62), Inclusive, of Eastwood, an Addition to the City of Houston, on the South Side of Buffalo Bayou." More specifically, Lot 10.

The Lee family's piece of land first saw transit and tripod in 1824 when Texas was a province of the newly formed Mexican government.

On July 29 that year, a young settler named Luke Moore signed a document before Stephen F. Austin's "Honorable Commissioner,"

the Baron de Bastrop. Austin had gained permission to locate 300 colonists in the province.

In the paperwork, Moore said he was a native of the United States, a resident of the Mexican province of Coahuila and Texas, having come to Texas "with the intention of settling myself permanently in the colonial establishment permitted by the Superior Government of the Mexican Nation to the Empresario, Don Stephen F. Austin."

The same day, Austin signed a document attesting that he found Moore "wor-

thy of the favor which he solicits and can be admitted as a resident of this new colony on account of his good qualities and circumstances, and well known application to agriculture, stock raising and industry and in consideration of this you can concede to him a league of land."

Moore's land lay along Bray's Bayou, a branch of Buffalo Bayou, in what would become Harris County. The land began on the south side of the bayou "where a landmark was planted at the distance of nine varas from an Ash tree to the south eighty-six-and-a-half degrees west, and of ten varas from a white oak."

Whether Austin took Moore to see his land or

whether his assistants John Austin and Samuel M. Williams handled the chore is not clear from the paperwork, but true to Spanish and then Mexican custom, an unthen ceremony took place:

As Austin's document averred: "We put the said Luke Moore in possession of said tract, taking him by the hand, leading him over it and telling him in loud and distinct voices that in virtue of the commission and of the powers we have and in the name of the Government of the Mexican Nation, we put him in possession of said track (and) Moore in token of finding himself in real and personal possession of said track without any contradic-

See COX, Page 8

**Mike Cox**  
Columnist



## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Aug. 7, the 219th day of 2006. There are 146 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 7, 1942, U.S. forces landed at Guadalcanal, marking the start of the first major allied offensive in the Pacific during World War II.

On this date:

In 1782, George Washington created the Order of the Purple Heart, a decoration to recognize merit in enlisted men and noncommissioned officers.

In 1789, the U.S. War Department was established by Congress.

In 1927, the Peace Bridge between the United States and Canada was dedicated during ceremonies attended by the Prince of Wales and Vice President Charles Dawes.

In 1934, the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld a lower court ruling striking down the government's attempt to ban the controversial James Joyce novel "Ulysses."

In 1947, the balsa wood raft Kon-Tiki, which had carried a six-man crew 4,300 miles across the Pacific Ocean,

*'You must learn day by day, year by year, to broaden your horizon. The more things you love, the more you are interested in, the more you enjoy, the more you are indignant about — the more you have left when anything happens.'*

— Ethel Barrymore  
American actress  
(1879-1959)

crashed into a reef in a Polynesian archipelago.

In 1959, the United States launched Explorer 6, which sent back a picture of the Earth.

In 1964, Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, giving President Johnson broad powers in dealing with reported North Vietnamese attacks on U.S. forces.

In 1976, scientists in Pasadena, Calif., announced that the Viking 1 spacecraft had found the strongest indications to date of possible life on Mars.

In 1989, a plane carrying Congressman Mickey Leland, D-Texas, and 15 others disappeared over Ethiopia. (The wreckage of the plane was found six days later; there were no survivors.)

In 1998, terrorist bombs at U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania killed 224 people, including 12 Americans.

Ten years ago: NASA researchers formally presented their case for the existence of life long ago on Mars. More than 6 million American Online customers worldwide were left

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## Cease-fire difference between life and death

There are two proposals for a cease-fire in Lebanon. One is French and is backed by the European Union and most of the Muslim world. The other is Israeli-American and backed only by Israel and the United States.

There is one main difference. The French proposal is for an immediate cease-fire followed by negotiations on the points in the American plan, including deployment of an international force. The Israeli-American proposal is that there shall be no cease-fire until all the other points — disarmament of Hezbollah, return of Israeli prisoners, deployment of an international force — are all done.

The kernel of the nut is this: Under the French proposal, the killing on both sides stops while the politicians and diplomats wrangle. Under the Israeli-American proposal, the

killing goes on for weeks, if not months.

The difference is mighty important if you are one of those people destined to die. According to the Lebanese government, 1,000 civilians have already been killed, more than 3,000 wounded, and \$2 billion worth of damage has been inflicted on the Lebanese infrastructure. In Israel, about 27 civilians have been killed, along with 30 or so Israeli soldiers. The imbalance is so lopsided, one almost flinches at the use of the words "on both sides."

Nevertheless, every single life is precious — especially the lives of children, and children are dying on both sides. I realize many

Americans don't give a hoot about the Middle East one way or the other. Some Americans have a blind devotion to Israel. Well, I do not wish to argue with either. I want only to talk about our selfish interests.

To the rest of the world, it is plain as a Cape buffalo at a bridge party that the Bush

administration has given the green light to Israel to make war on Lebanon. It is plain that the only reason the United Nations has not passed a cease-fire resolution is because the U.S. threatens to veto it. You should remember, in this age of propaganda, that the definition of an "ineffective U.N." is a U.N. that won't do what our government tells it

to do. Therefore, people in the Muslim street correctly hold us accountable for the killing and destruction done by Israel. You can forget about any talk of "winning hearts and minds." We've lost that already. You should realize, too, what additional danger we are putting our own troops in by backing Israel's war against Hezbollah. Many of those troops are trying to survive in a sea of Iraqi Shiites.

That's point one. Point two is that the rationalization peddled by the Bush administration for holding up a cease-fire is patently false. The Bush administration claims it wants a permanent solution, meaning the disarmament of Hezbollah and the stationing of an international force. What is permanent about that? First, you

See REESE, Page 8

**Charley Reese**  
Columnist



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## Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

July 31

Fort Worth Star-Telegram on Texas power plants:

Texas has an excellent shot at becoming a leader in "clean coal" technology at a time when there are escalating environmental concerns about plans for a spate of new coal-fired power plants in the state.

The U.S. Department of Energy announced Tuesday that four sites — two in Texas and two in Illinois — have been named to compete for the world's first coal power plant designed to have "near-zero" polluting emissions.

The public-private venture is dubbed

FutureGen because it would represent a new generation of technology. The winning site is to be announced in September 2007 and potentially operational by 2012.

The nearly \$1 billion project is a collaboration between the federal government, which is providing \$700 million for it, and 10 coal and electric companies ponying up more than \$250 million.

The 275-megawatt plant would convert coal into a hydrogen gas that would be used to generate electricity. The gas would burn much cleaner than the coal used as fuel in a traditional plant.

This project should excite Texans because it offers the prospect of developing a power plant that virtually elim-

inates a variety of traditionally regulated polluting emissions. But the FutureGen plant also would go a big step further by reining in emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2), a greenhouse gas that scientists believe is contributing substantially to global warming.

Coal-burning plants produce slightly more than half of the electricity produced in the United States and about 88 percent of carbon dioxide emissions, according to the federal Energy Information Administration.

The FutureGen facility would sequester carbon dioxide underground and enable it to be used for beneficial purposes.

For example, the new technology

See POWER, Page 8

# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** I am 21 and have a complicated problem. My mother, whom I love very much and who is one of the most wonderful women ever, has, at 41, found herself in a very difficult situation. She recently confided to me that her marriage of almost 12 years to my stepfather has been extremely unsatisfactory -- especially in the bedroom. He has absolutely no interest in the deed at all, and, as a normal, red-blooded woman, she does. I suggested they seek professional guidance, but they have yet to do so. To further confuse the situation, Mom has found herself attracted to a 28-year-old co-worker who is also very attracted to her and has made his feelings known. I am not sure how to advise her about this. On the one hand, it's wrong to have an affair. But on the other hand, you only get one life, and I want her to be happy. Mom is a wonderful woman and deserves everything good in life, and I don't know what to tell her. Please help, Abby. — **IN A HOT SPOT IN TUCSON**

**DEAR IN A HOT SPOT:** Your mother may be a "wonderful woman," but it was extremely inappropriate of her to try to involve you in her sex life. Please don't give this your blessing, or the person who will get the blame for it later is YOU. Tell her again that she needs to resolve this problem with her husband and a marriage counselor. It's the mature way of handling the kind of problem she's dealing with.

**DEAR ABBY:** My sister and I are throwing a large 40th anniversary/60th birthday party for my parents and sending them on a trip as our gift to them. In lieu of gifts, my sister sent out invitations that stated we would instead be graciously accepting donations to help pay for the trip. Because the range of donations will vary from per-

son to person, my sister has decided to give Mother a list detailing the amount given by each guest. She feels that because some folks may go "above and beyond" what others donate, our mother needs to know who the most generous gifts come from. I am vehemently opposed to the idea. I feel that any donation that helps to pay for the trip is "above and beyond" anyone's obligation, and that their being part of the celebration is enough -- regardless of how much they give. I see no reason for my parents ever to know who gives what, and think that my sister sharing the information is in terrible taste. Your thoughts, please? — **EMBARRASSED IN PITTSFORD, N.Y.**

**DEAR EMBARRASSED:** If the party and trip are a gift from you and your sister, I am mystified as to why the guests are asked to make contributions to foot the bill. I agree that any donation that will help to pay for the trip is above and beyond anyone's "obligation," and for your sister to give your parents an accounting of what each guest forks over would be tacky in the extreme.

**DEAR ABBY:** A good friend of mine from work and her family are from Romania. They moved to the United States nine years ago. She, her husband and son have all just become U.S. citizens. I am happy for them and proud to know them. I would like to get them a gift in celebration, and I'm not sure what would be appropriate. Could you suggest something that you think would work? I'd appreciate any input you would give. — **PROUD OF MY FRIEND, BROWNTOWN, WIS.**

**DEAR PROUD:** How about giving them an American flag?

## For Better Or For Worse



## Zits



## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## B.C.



## Haggar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Blondie



## Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 37 Major
  - 1 Bed board
  - 5 Gate
  - feature
  - 10 Luau
  - dance
  - 11 Banished
  - people
  - 13 Shortly, in
  - poems
  - 14 Current
  - unit
  - 15 Amateur
  - publica-
  - tion
  - 17 X-ray's
  - cousin
  - 18 Trample
  - neighbor
  - 19 Confes-
  - sional
  - item
  - 20 Opposite
  - of "oui"
  - 21 Map
  - region
  - 22 Knight's
  - quest
  - 25 Throne
  - occupants
  - 26 Pro —
  - (propor-
  - tionately)
  - 27 Border
  - 28 Vinegar
  - partner
  - 29 Splotchy,
  - as a
  - horse
  - 33 "Cat —
  - Hot Tin
  - Roof"
  - 34 Worth
  - something
  - 35 Great
  - Roman
  - poet
- DOWN**
- 1 Mine
  - part
  - 2 Moon-
  - based
  - 3 Isolated
  - 4 Zambia
  - 16 Fan's
  - favorite
  - 21 Zambia
  - neighbor
  - 6 Company
  - firms
  - 7 Gratuity
  - 8 South
  - Carolina
  - 24 Like an
  - university
  - escapee
  - 36 Bar staple
  - 9 Smoked
  - fish
  - 12 Fishing
  - nets
  - 29 Pencil
  - part
  - 30 UFO pilot
  - 31 Competed
  - in a sled
  - race
  - 32 Office
  - furniture
  - 36 Bar staple
  - 25 Ukraine's
  - capital
  - 27 Hunting
  - weapons
  - 29 Pencil
  - part
  - 30 UFO pilot
  - 31 Competed
  - in a sled
  - race
  - 32 Office
  - furniture
  - 36 Bar staple

**CONGAS SPIN**  
**AMOEBARN**  
**RESTED GUST**  
**AGILE PASTA**  
**TARO CENSOR**  
**SLAPICY**  
**SOTOSPEAK**  
**BIN STYX**  
**ABATES WOVIS**  
**DELIS LILAC**  
**OREL DIVIDE**  
**FIRE UNEVEN**  
**FATS DESERT**

**Saturday's answer**

## Marmaduke



## The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



## Flo & Friends







# Iraq is not sliding into civil war, Secretary of State Rice says

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration continues to insist Iraq is not heading toward a civil war, even as some senators and military leaders have expressed concerns that such a conflict may be

inevitable. "It would be, really, erroneous to say that the Iraqis are somehow making a choice for civil war, or, I think, even sliding into civil war," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

said Sunday on ABC's "This Week." But Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., an influential member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, sounded more pessimistic and questioned whether the U.S.

should keep sending more troops to Iraq. Hagel said this country cannot "ask them to do the things that we're asking them to do in the middle of a civil war, and that's where it's headed."

## Cox

Continued from Page 4

tion whatever, shouted aloud, pulled up herbs, threw stones, planted stakes, and performed the rest of the necessary ceremonies."

The most interesting verbiage included in the abstract is Austin's will, written in 1828 as the empresario prepared to "depart on a journey to the City of Mexico on a mission to procure the approbation of the National Congress for the admission of Texas into the Mexican Union as a State, and considering the uncertainty of life and the casualties of such a journey."

In the event of his death, Austin stipulated that his land on Bray's Bayou

would go to his sister, Emily M. Austin Perry. Austin survived his trip to Mexico, but neither he nor Moore would live to old age.

Meanwhile, on March 10, 1829 - for reasons not stated in the paperwork -- Moore sold Austin the western half of his Harris County land for \$165.

Little is known of Moore, other than he was one of the so-called Old Three Hundred. Eleven years after coming to Texas, he helped fight for Texas independence from Mexico, participating in the siege of Bexar in 1835. Though he survived the revolution, by December 1837 he had died. The administrator of Moore's estate had the rest of his land up for sale.

By then, Austin, too, had died, losing a struggle with pneumonia on Dec. 27, 1836. At the time of his death at 43,

Austin still owned the Bray's Bayou land he had purchased from Moore.

The land remained in Austin's estate until March 10, 1862, when the family sold it to pay off some of the estate's creditors who had been "importunate in their demands for payment."

After that, the land, as duly recorded in the yellowing abstract now owned by Susanne Lee, passed through a succession of owners both individual and corporate. Eventually platted and subdivided, Lot 10 became the home of a 20th century couple who, like Austin and Moore and many others, came to Texas as immigrants hopeful of better lives.

Mike Cox, a member of the Texas Institute of Letters, is the author of a dozen Texas-related books.

## Reese

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can't disarm Hezbollah, or at least not keep its members disarmed. Secondly, what international force, parked on foreign soil, is going to be permanent? Thirdly, Bush is avoiding addressing the root cause of the Middle East conflict.

That goes back to 1947, when the newly established state of Israel -- established on Palestinian land by the U.S. and Europe -- forced out of their

homes, farms and businesses some 700,000 Palestinians. More were forced out in the 1967 war. Israel today occupies Palestinian territory, Lebanese territory and Syrian territory. Every war and conflict involving Israel since then has been over the issue of Israeli occupation and the Israeli refusal to allow Palestinian refugees to return or even to file claims for lost property. It's strange that Jewish refugees from Europe in the 1930s and 1940s can file claims for lost property, but Palestinian refugees cannot.

All Israel has to do to get peace treaties with every Arab country in the

region is to return to its 1967 borders, as a United Nations Security Council resolution ordered it to do. I laugh out loud every time an Israeli or American talks about enforcing U.N. Resolution 1559. No country on Earth has ignored more U.N. resolutions than Israel, and no country in the world has vetoed more U.N. resolutions to protect Israel than the United States.

Slavish devotion to Israel will make Americans the target of hatred and violence for generations. So stay alert, my fellow targets.

Write to Charley Reese at P.O. Box 2446, Orlando, FL 32802.

## Power

Continued from Page 4

could expand the use of carbon dioxide to enhance oil recovery. It already is being injected underground into oil-bearing formations in the Permian Basin of West Texas to coax more petroleum out of the ground.

The two potential FutureGen sites are at Jewett, in east central Texas about halfway between Fort Worth and Houston, and at Penwell, southwest of Odessa in West Texas.

The Jewett site has the advantage of being at the mouth of a coal mine. The

West Texas site is attractive because it is in the oil patch, where the plant's carbon dioxide output could stimulate increased petroleum production.

If coal can be made less polluting, it will be an extremely attractive long-term power source because it is America's most abundant fossil fuel, with an estimated 250-year supply nationally. Contrastingly, U.S. oil and natural gas production is expected to decline even as energy demand rises.

Texas has become far more reliant than most states on burning natural gas to generate electricity. That has proved costly to consumers in the past two years, with skyrocketing gas prices resulting in household budget-busting

electric bills.

North Texas' largest electric provider, TXU, maintains that the 11 coal-fired plants it plans to build would pollute far less than older generating units. But environmental critics counter that the plants would substantially increase the company's carbon dioxide emissions.

Gov. Rick Perry, Texas Railroad Commission member Michael Williams and other state officials deserve praise for their strong efforts to bring the FutureGen project to Texas. If Texas wins the project and it proves successful, both the state and the nation could benefit in terms of energy and environmental policy.

# Shut down of nation's biggest oil field triggers fears of higher gas prices

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Oil giant BP has indefinitely shut down the nation's biggest oilfield after finding a pipeline leak, removing about 8 percent of U.S. oil production and stoking fears that already high gas prices will shoot up further.

Steve Marshall, president of BP Exploration Alaska, Inc. said Sunday night that the eastern side of Prudhoe Bay would be shut down first, an operation anticipated to take 24 to 36 hours. The company will then move to shut down the west side, a move that could close more than 1,000 Prudhoe Bay wells.

Once the field is shut down, BP said oil production will be reduced by 400,000 barrels a day. That's close to 8 percent of U.S. oil production or about 2.6 percent of U.S. supply including imports, according to data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

The shutdown comes at an already worrisome time for the oil industry, with supply concerns stemming both from the hurricane season and instability in the Middle East.

A 400,000-barrel per day reduction in output would have a major impact on oil prices, said Tetsu Emori, chief commodities strategist

*'Oil prices could increase by as much as \$10 per barrel given the current environment.'*

— Tetsu Emori  
Commodities strategist

at Mitsui Bussan Futures in Tokyo. A barrel contains 42 gallons of crude oil.

"Oil prices could increase by as much as \$10 per barrel given the current environment," Emori said. "But we can't really say for sure how big an effect this is going to have until we have more

exact figures about how much production is going to be reduced."

But Victor Shum, an energy analyst with Purvin & Gertz in Singapore, said he expected the impact to be minimal since crude inventories are high.

"So while this won't have any immediate impact on U.S. supplies, the market is in very high anxiety. So any significant disruption, traders will take that into account, even though there is no threat of a supply shortage."

Light, sweet crude for September delivery was up \$1.23 to \$75.99 a barrel in mid-afternoon Asian electronic trading Monday on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

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